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UNESCO hails

Dumbara Kalala as a traditional cultural asset

Dumbara mats or Dumbara Rata Kalala as it is popularly known is a traditional cottage industry unique to Sri Lanka for its exquisite motifs renowned worldwide.

It has gained a pride of place by its inclusion in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at the 16th session of UNESCO Intergovernmental committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held on 13th - 18th December 2021 in Paris, France. The nomination dossier was compiled and submitted to UNESCO in 2020 in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sri Lanka. Dumbara Rata Kalala are traditional hand woven mats used as wall hangings, tapestries,

or cushion covers. The mats are turned out in two villages namely, Kalasirigama in Kandy District and Alokagama in Matale District by a community called kinnara. Traditionally they had supplied ornamental mats to the royal palace as part of *rajakariya* (an obligatory service) to the crown and to the ruling elites between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries. Today, artisans weave mats to cater to the local buyers and tourists. Dumbara mats are made using fibers of the Hana plant as raw material and decorated with symbolic motifs and designs. The fibers are separated from the leaf by pressing it against a log with a

sharp-edged piece of wood to scrape away the fleshy parts. The fibers are then washed, sun-dried, combed and dyed using traditional herbal dyes prepared with natural materials collected from the Dumbara valley. The mat is woven with a loom, and motifs and designs are added using a lath, a flat, narrow strip of wood with a hole at one end. The weaver inserts strands of fiber into the hole, then pulls the lath through the yarns on the loom to create the desired motif. Dumbara mats are a traditional item of great cultural significance for Sri Lankans, and the practice is transmitted from parents to children through observation and practice.

National Reading Month Awards Ceremony - 2021



The National Reading Month Awards Ceremony organized by the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) was held on 29th December, 2021 at the NLDSB Auditorium under the patronage of Dr. Suren Raghavan, Hon. Member of Parliament.

National Reading Month was first introduced in 2004 to be held as an annual event in October each year to promote reading habits among Sri Lankans.

The following Libraries were adjudged as the performance and won awards in order of their merite. First Place - Chunnagam Public Library, Valikamam South Pradeshiya Sabha – Jaffna , Second Place - Hendala Public Library, Wattala Pradeshiya Sabha, Third Place - Alaveddy Public Library, Valikamam North Pradeshiya Sabha - Jaffna. Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman, Mr. W. Sunil, Director General NLDSB also graced this event.

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC263Gyih_Jp0sodYT3wYAGQ

Public libraries automated

Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Public Libraries in 18 Districts were signed on 30th November 2021 at the Auditorium of the National Library in connection with the islandwide public library automation programme . This event was implemented jointly by the National Library of Sri Lanka and the Information Communication Technology Agency (ICTA). Automation of 7 public libraries in those districts was successfully completed already during the initial stage of project. With the implementation of this project,

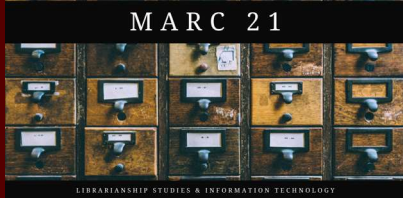


readers will be able to easily reserve and find the book they need. Moreover it will help to complete one aspect of library digitization. This programme can be introduced as one of the steps

towards digitization of libraries as mentioned in the Prosperity Vision Policy Statement.

The National Library of Sri Lanka will follow up activities with these libraries in maintaining their online catalogue. Chairpersons, Secretaries, Librarians and Officers of Local Government Institutions representing 18 districts including of the Chairman, Director General National Library of Sri Lanka , Heads and the Project Officers of ICTA also present on the occasion.

MARC - 21 Descriptive Cataloguing Framework



A project has initiated by the National Library of Sri Lanka to bring all MARC 21 based bibliographic data under one uniform platform national wise. This uniform model has named as “Selected list of MARC Tags for the Descriptive Cataloguing Framework Recommended by The National Library of Sri Lanka”. A team comprising professionals, is working to identify the model. Yet a common model has introduced for the first step for monographs and serials, and able to download the model from the national library website.

An awareness seminar on this model was conducted on 11th September, 2021 from 9.30 am to 12.00 pm online via Zoom space. Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Senior Lecturer, National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, and Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya were contributed as resource persons for the event. Around 120 participants joined the seminar including library professionals, library staff and academics.

Opening of Defence College Library



The Library of the National Defence College, established under the guidance and support of the National Library of Sri Lanka, was opened on 11th November 2021 by His Excellency President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the President of Sri Lanka.

National Reading Month Lecture series

To celebrate the National Reading Month on October the NLDSB organized a online lectures series covering a diverse themes relating to literature as follows ;

1	ප්‍රවීණ ලේඛිකා සමමාති විජේසිංහ	ළමා සාහිත්‍ය රසවින්දනය	2021 ඔක්. 01
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3	සමමාතික මහාචාර්ය රෝනිති පරණවිතාන	වර්තමාන පොදු පාඨකයා හා සමභාවය සාහිත්‍ය කියවීම	2021 ඔක්. 08
4	ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ කට්ටාචාර්ය නංසමාලා රට්තපොල	නූතන කවිය රසවිඳීම හා පාඨකයා	2021 ඔක්. 12
5	ප්‍රවීණ ලේඛික ජයතිලක කම්මෙදෙල්ලවිට	කෙටිකතා රසවින්දනය	2021 ඔක්. 15
6	ආචාර්ය ප්‍රනීත් අභයසූන්දර	ජනලාභීය සහ සිංහල සාහිත්‍යය	2021 ඔක්. 18
7	චාර්යවරුන් සහ. ඩී. ඩයාකරාඥා (මහාචාර්ය එස්. ජේ. සෝභරණ)	මුහුණතකින් තර්කානන්ද තරුණ මුහුණතකින් තරුණ මුහුණතකින් චාර්යවරුන් සහ. ඩී. ඩයාකරාඥා. (වර්තමාන ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය දේශීය සාහිත්‍ය නිර්මාණ හා භාෂා භාවිතය)	2021 ඔක්. 22
8	ප්‍රවීණ ලේඛික දෙනගම සිරිවර්ධන	පාඨකයා උදෙසා යොවන සාහිත්‍යකරුවාගේ යුතුකම	2021 ඔක්. 25
9	Dr. Nirosha Paranavithana	Reading literature in translation	27 th Oct. 2021
10	මහාචාර්ය ලියනගේ අමරසිරිනි	නූතන සිංහල නවකතාව	2021 ඔක්. 28

A Series of Storytelling Programme in Collaboration with The Asia Foundation

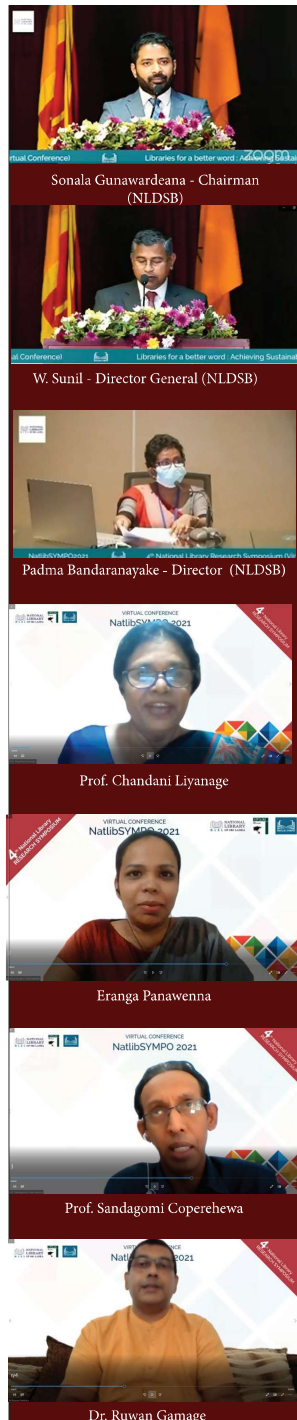
A series of online story lecturing programmes in collaboration with The Asia Foundation was organized by the National Library of Sri Lanka.



Prof. Kusuma Karunaratne lectured on 24th September 2021
Mrs. H a m s i de Silva, lectured on 26th October 2021
M. Samudrika Thevagowry lectured on 11th November 2021
Mrs. M. S. Deepali Talagala lectured on 16th November, 2021
Mrs. Deepali Talagala lectured on 29th November 2021
Dr. Amaal Ali lectured on 14th December, 2021

4th National Library Research Symposium 2021 (NatlibSYMPO 2021)

National Library & Documentation Services Board of Sri Lanka conducted National Library Research Symposium on Library and Information Science (NatlibSYMPO 2021) in collaboration with Asia & Oceania section of IFLA on 29th October 2021 as a virtual conference due to pandemic situation. NatlibSYMPO 2021 is the fourth of its series which is annually organized by Library Research Division to provide an excellent opportunity for researchers to discuss the issues and challenges relating to the fields of Library & Information Science and Social Sciences.



The theme of this year's conference was "Libraries for a Better World: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals". This year's symposium mainly focused on the contributions made by the libraries and library

professionals in implementing and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and main objective of NatlibSYMPO 2021 was to provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen the co-operation among libraries and providing a platform for emerging scholars to exchange and share their

experiences and research on all aspects in the fields of library and information science and social sciences.

Professor K. Kapila C. K. Perera, Secretary of Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka as the Guest of Honour, Mr. Robert Juhkam, Resident Representative of UNDP, Sri Lanka as the Chief Guest, Ms. Loida Garcia-Febo, Library Consultant and Chair, ALA 2030

Sustainable Development Goals Task Force as the keynote speaker and Ms. Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General of the Sustainable Development Council, Sri Lanka as the Guest Speaker graced the occasion. The inspiring keynote speech delivered

on "Libraries for a Better World: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals" was an eye opener to all library professionals who gathered at the symposium. A large number of participants representing various types of libraries such as academic, public, school & special libraries and institutions joined

the symposium virtually.

The symposium cherished with presentations of about twenty one selected research papers covering a wide range of subjects relevant to the theme of the symposium: Sustainable Development Goals.

They were presented in four technical sessions chaired by experts in research arena, such as Emeritus Professor K. A. P. Siddhisena from Department of Demography from University of Colombo, Professor Chandani Liyanage, Department of Sociology from University of Colombo, Professor Sandagomi Coperehewa, Department of Sinhala from University of Colombo, Dr. Ananda Chandrasekara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Applied Nutrition from Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Senior Lecturer from NILIS from University of Colombo, Dr. Saroja Wettasinghe, Former Director General, Department of National Archives and Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library & Information Science from University of Kelaniya. Valedictory Session was delivered by Ms. Padma Bandaranayake, Director of the National Library of Sri Lanka. The inspiring presentations and fruitful discussions were very useful for stakeholders in taking policy decisions and enhance Sri Lanka achieving SDGs.

Iranian Counsellor Visits



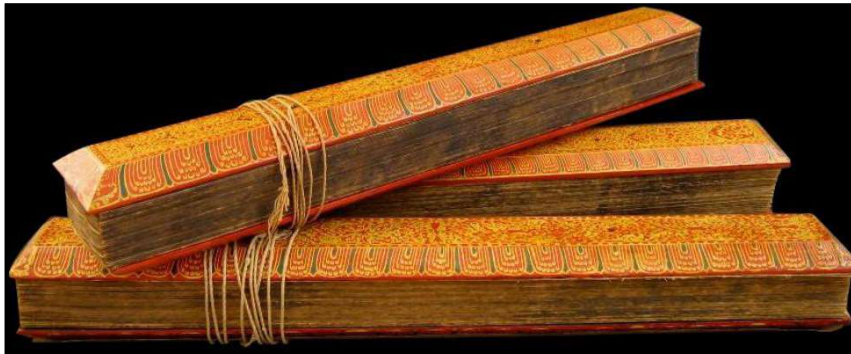
The Cultural Counsellor attached to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Moazami Goodarzi visited National Library of Sri Lanka on 5th October, 2021 to discuss matters pertaining to the strengthening of cultural ties between two countries.

Book Donation



The book donation to 43 schools and 08 Pirivenas in the Thanamalwila Education Zone in the Monaragala District took place on 10th December, 2021 under the patronage of the Director General of the National Library and Documentation Services Board at the Thanamalwila Central College.

Mahawamsa Palm Leaf Manuscript nominated for the UNESCO MOW Register



In November 2021, a Mahawamsa palm leaf manuscript (dating from the 6th century BCE to 1815 CE) was submitted to the UNESCO MOW Register. The expert committee appointed by the National Library and Documentation Services Board conducted a survey island wide and selected a *Mahawamsa* Palm leaf manuscript deposited at the main library of the University of Peradeniya for this purpose. In the

evaluation process, UNESCO will notify their decision in 2022.

One of the world's longest unbroken historical accounts, the *Mahavamsa* is the first of its kind in South Asia, initiating a mature historiographic tradition presenting Sri Lanka's history in a chronological order from the 6th century BCE. The authenticity of the facts provided in the document has been confirmed through archaeological research conducted in Sri Lanka and India.

It is an important historical source in South Asia containing crucial information about the lifetime of the Buddha, the Emperor Asoka and the rise of Buddhism as a world religion. The document played a significant role in popularizing Buddhism in South East Asia and contributed singularly to the identity of Emperor Asoka in the Indian history. Existence of number of manuscripts of *Mahavamsa* in several countries as well as the transliteration and translation of the text to several South - east Asian and European languages stand testimony to its immense historical, cultural, literary, linguistic and scholarly values. The living significance of the *Mahavamsa* is reflected by the fact that the Sri Lankans, often look upon it as a proof of their origin evolution and cultural identity.

Calls for applications from library professionals



An intensive week-long International Library Leaders programme is launched by the British Library and calls for applications from working library professionals, aspiring leaders and mid-career

managers with a minimum of three years' relevant experience in a library, archive or cultural institution. The programme welcomes delegates from anywhere in the world. For more details: <https://www.bl.uk/projects/ILLP#>

The 2021 ISBN Annual General Meeting



The International ISBN Agency recently concluded its 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

It was held online because of the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19. This year, the sessions of the AGM took place twice on Wednesday 22nd September and once on Thursday 23rd September 2021.

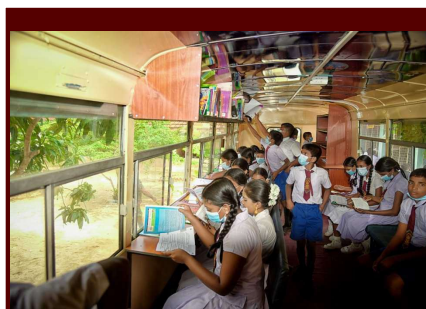
‘Basayen Anagathayata’ The Bus Library Project for Matara & Batticaloa



Donation of a Bus Library to Percy Abeywardena College, Pattigala, Urubokka, Matara District under the “Bus to the Future” Project. Dullas

Alahapperuma, Minister of Mass Media and Representatives of Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel, the Sri Lanka Transport Board, Manusath

Derana and the National Library of Sri Lanka, which are sponsoring the project, also participated in the event.



A Bus library that renovated under the programme ‘basayen Anagathayata’ was handed over to Ampilandurai Maha Vidyalaya, Batticaloa on 13th December, 2021. Officials of the National Library and Documentation Services Board were participated that moments.



Grading of Libraries

NLDSB has upgraded the following libraries to Grade II and Grade III

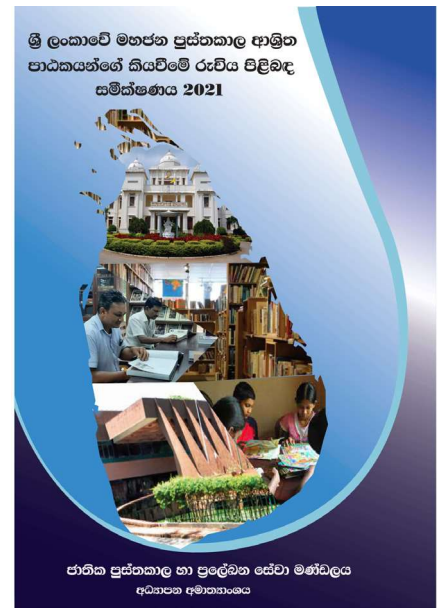
Name of the Library	Grade
Kandekubura Public Library Mahanuwara Kadawath Sathara & Gangawata Korale Pradeshiya Sabha Library	ii
Buddi Mandala Public Library, Polonnaruwa Municipal Council	ii
Beliatta Public Library, Beliatta Pradeshiya Sabha	ii
Pinnaduwa Public Library, Akmimana Pradeshiya Sabha	ii
Waligepola Public Library, Waligepola Pradeshiya Sabha	ii
Digana Public Library, Kunadasale Pradeshiya Sabha	ii
Manikhinna Public Library, Kundasale Pradeshiya Sabha	ii
Pallewela Public Library, Meerigama Pradeshiya Sabha	ii

Bharatilen Public Library, Madakalapuwa Municipal Council	iii
Madikkali Public Library, Madakalapuwa Municipal Council	iii
Sinna Urni Public Library, Madakalapuwa Municipal Council	iii
Nawathkuda Public Library, Madakalapuwa Municipal Council	iii
Bondary Road Public Library, Madakalapuwa Municipal Council	iii
Kotiyagala Public Library, Siyabalandua Pradeshiya Sabha	iii
Wimlanandi Tissa Nahimi Public Library, Balapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha	iii
Sri Darmawardana Momorial Public Library < Amabalangoda Municipal Council	iii
Kalawallagala Public Library, Thanamalwila Pradeshiya Sabha	iii

Survey Report on Reading Habits Released

Improving of reading habits in Sri Lanka at national level and conducting research and surveys in the library field is a responsibility of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. The publication of this report on “Survey on Reading Habits of Public Library Readers in Sri Lanka” has compiled by the Research Division of the National Library & Documentation Services Board with the objective of understanding the situation of reading habit of public library readers in Sri Lanka. This survey was conducted covering the libraries of Pradeshiya Sabha, Urban Councils and Municipal Councils attaching to all provinces in Sri Lanka. This survey report is very

important to public readers and other stakeholders because this kind of report has carried out after the 1997-98 as well as after the war situation that prevailed in the Northern and Eastern provinces. It includes demographic characteristics of the public library readers, media usage and preferred areas of reading, determining the level and present status of reading habits, identifying types of reading materials, identifying the most popular author/s and book/s among public library readers and identifying obstacles faced by public library readers when using public library, etc. This study is a comprehensive information source for policy makers, researchers, library professionals, provincial



council officers as well as other stakeholders who are engaged with public library sector of the country.



IASL Golden Grant Award - 2021

Ms. Wajira Rangika Silva, Deputy Director of Education, Western Province Provincial Department of Education is awarded the Golden Grant Award in 2021 from the International Association of School Libraries (IASL). This is awarded for her contribution to the development of school libraries in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. The NLSL congratulates her and wishes her good luck in her future endeavours.

A survey on the awareness of the SDG an 2030 Agenda of UN



This survey is conducted by Research Division of the National Library & Documentation Services Board, Sri Lanka to get information on awareness and perceptions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among Libraries in Sri Lanka and look forward your kind support

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323391987_Awareness_And_Perception_of_Sustainable_Development_Goals_SDGs_among_Library_Personnel_in_Edo_state_University_Library