



Professional Development

The Faculty of Arts (FA) at the Maldives College of Higher Education has introduced an Advanced Certificate in Library Studies course. This is the first accredited Library studies program being offered in the Maldives. The course is for one year duration, with its first intake in February 2010. FA informs that this course will be articulated to a Diploma level qualification with an additional year of study. For more information, visit www.mche.edu.mv

meet.learn.acquire Issue 01 April 2010

Upcoming Activities

• MLA General Meeting

The MLA second general meeting for 2010 is scheduled to be held on April 15, 2010.

• MLA Library Workshop Series 2010

Details of the workshop schedule due shortly. Keep an eye on our blog

<http://infomalias.wordpress.com> for updates

• The next issue of MLA newsletter

The second issue of this newsletter will be coming out in August 2010, with additional content. Send us your feedback and comments. Better yet, send us articles relevant to the library association, libraries and information gathering and dissemination in the Maldives. Send us news from your library. We accept articles in either the English or Dhivehi language.

• MLA Silver Jubilee Publication

We are collecting information to prepare a book to be titled "Quarter of a Century of MLA". We need your support in collecting any available information from the past years. Photos, letters, adverts etc. Write to us at: info.malias@gmail.com or leave a comment on <http://infomalias.wordpress.com> or call us at 7765181 / 7767707.



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Tribute – Outgoing Council

MLA council 2007-2009

President	Ms. Aishath Shabana
Advisor	Ms. Habeeba Hussain Habeeb
Vice President	Mr. Mohamed Rasheed
Vice President	Ms. Fathmath Shiham
Secretary	Ms. Aminath Shiuna
Assistant Secretary	Ms. Fathmath Nashath
Training Officer	Ms. Athiyya Shakeel
Editor	Ms. Zulfa Mohamed
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Introductory
Issue

Newsletter of the
Maldives Library Association
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Editorial

Hello everyone.

Welcome aboard a new journey with Maldives Library Association (MLA) through 2010 to 2011.

MLA is a 'space' to network. It provides a platform to meet, learn, and acquire knowledge from each other in this profession and those interested in "books", libraries and information centres in whatever form it comes.

In this issue we are bringing you:

- an inspirational piece of welcome note from MLA President, Shaba,
- highlights from 2007-2009 activities,
- news about MLA 2010 General Assembly,
- information about the social skills session on "mingling", and
- a brief listing of upcoming events.

Let us know what you think about the articles, the newsletter, the association, and its activities. Share your ideas and thoughts on any of our spaces; infomalias.wordpress.com, facebook MLA Friends, or e-mail info.malias@gmail.com

Enjoy reading.

Aminath Riyaz, Editor



this issue

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Welcome to a new term at MLA!!!

Hello and a big welcome to all MLA members and non-members.

First, congratulations to our new MLA Council (*Hingaa Committee*). I look forward to closely working with you.

A big thank you to all librarians, information managers and other interested parties who attended the first MLA event of 2010. I personally hope that all of us learnt something new and interesting that would help us in the long run from the "Mingling" session. I sure did!

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to the ex-MLA Council. The event wouldn't have been such a great success without the extraordinary efforts from Shiuna, Athiyya, Nashath, Fathmath Shiham, Aminath Riyaz, and Mohamed Rasheed. They were my team who inspired me to be the best I can be, at times of highs and lows. So, thanks team. ☺

Also, many thanks to our families whose direct involvement/support, without which we couldn't have gone this far. Special thanks to JCI Maldives (& JCI Moobeen for the training session and to Mr. Byn for providing us with a lovely meeting place and endless nights of unforgettable yummy coffee.

My vision for the future of MLA is to see the MLA members being actively involved in taking this Library Association forward and making MLA a strong voice influencing how the library and information science is being shaped, used and seen within our community. I would like to see MLA members (apart from the *hingaa committee*) take initiative and organize events all of us can participate in. I would like each MLA member to seek or take away at least one benefit from MLA during the next two years to come and always.

Here's what I learnt during my first term of MLA presidency. No one else is going to give us the push we need except ourselves. No amount of whining will get the job done. We need to spend from our pockets and raise funds, so that we can build a better budget. We need a better budget so that we can help ourselves and others through this association.

So lets all volunteer and say YES! I can help...meet.learn.acquire. ■

- Shaba

MLA President 2010



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Commentary from
MLA blog

http://infomalias.wordpress.com

To me the word “library” means
wealth, prestige, freedom,
information, knowledge, power,
peace and preservation.

Origin might have come from
various Latin words. Some
believe that the word “library”
came from the Latin “Liber” – to
peel. There was a time when
information was recorded on
barks peeled from tree.

–Shaba

To me it represents “knowledge”,
“books”, “information source in
multimedia” etc. Above all, library
represents order, structure,
intellect and tells a story of a
culture, an individual, a
community, a country, and the
world. – Anthu Riyaz

It is interesting how this land
owner, Mr. Kasemtham
Sornsong decided to build his
resort based on the theme of “the
Library”. It is a resort!!! Of
course, it has a library called
“The Lib”, a restaurant called
“The Page”, and the props are of
books and reading figurines on
the beach and everywhere.

– Shaba

I’m in, and count me as a one
who will give full support and
enthusiasm to the association. I
personally thank the former
council members and well
wishers for all the support and
help. At the same time I would
like to congratulate the new
council members. This time as a
team we should have a blast 😊
- Aminath Shiuna



Highlights from
2007-2009
MLA
activities

2007-2009 Term was the first
time someone outside of National
Library was elected President.

Certificates awarded for Basic
Course

Certificates were issued to the eight
students who successfully completed
the Basic Course in Library Services
conducted by MLA in August 2006.
The ceremony was held on April 12,
2007 at 20:30 hrs at the National
Library. The Chief Guest at the
ceremony was Ms. Zulfa Mohamed,
Director of the National Library.

MLA assists Hiriya School
Library

Hiriya, a newly opened all girls
government school, requested
assistance in setting up their library.
In addition to training their library
staff, MLA provided professional
advice and practical assistance in the
establishment of the library. This was
carried out in July 2009. Ms. Athiyya
Shakeel, MLA training officer, took on
the project with zest.

Laamu Atoll Thauleemee
Marukazu Library

During 15-20 August 2009, MLA also
provided support in the re-
establishment of the Laamu Atoll
Thauleemee Marukazu Library at
their request. Ms. Aminath Shiuna,
MLA secretary, visited the library and

provided full-time support & training
to their library staff. The assistance
also included professional advice on
layout and setup of the library in their
purpose-built new library building.

MLA training policy drafted

The MLA Council realized the need
for a documented training policy in
order to maintain and increase the
quality of its training and also to
provide a fair and equitable service to
all interested parties. The draft is
ready for the MLA Council approval.
We are hoping that this would come
into effect early 2010.

Revision to the MLA
constitution

On the advice of the founder
member, also the MLA advisor for
the term, Ms. Habeeba Hussain
Habeeb, the work of revising the
constitution was started in 2007.
Changes were made to the number
of MLA Council posts, and
membership fees & payment policy.
Additionally, on the request of
Ministry of Home Affairs in 2009 for
all associations to resubmit the
constitution document in accordance
with their edited guidelines, further
changes were made and approved
on October 6, 2009.

Distribution of books to libraries

Distribution of the books that had not
been collected from 2005-2006
library aid program to the ‘2004
Tsunami’ affected libraries was
carried forward. The books had
already been nominally handed over
to the respective libraries by the end
of the year 2006. However, some of
the recipient libraries had to
physically remove the items from
where it was warehoused in the
National Library.

MLA membership form
reformatted

The MLA membership form was
reformatted and modified to meet the
current needs. The form includes
information about membership fees
and it also collects a little more
information than we earlier collected.
We started using the new form in
February 2010.

2010 General Assembly

The General Assembly to elect MLA
Council for a new term was held on
February 27, 2009. According to the
very positive comments we received
from the participants, it was a huge
success. ■



Mingling – an important skill to acquire

Mr. Moobeen Jaleel from JCI
Maldives, delivered a presentation
on strategies that could be used for
managing mingling at meetings and
social events.

Do you get a bit nervous when
meeting new people, when in large
gatherings, or attending events with
strangers? With quite a few people,
the answer to these questions is a
“YES”. Some people may not agree
with it outright, but many agree that
they feel butterflies in their stomach
when faced with the prospect of
meeting new people.

The first MLA event for 2010 was a free
session for all participants on mingling
strategies. The purpose of the session
was to start MLA 2010 calendar with a
fun activity combined with a
development opportunity for its
members and non-members.

People’s fear of attending meetings
and social events were examined and
recommendations were made on
attitudes and strategies to derive
personal and professional benefits from
mingling.

Some strategies that were highlighted
were: importance of accepting event
invitations (as it gives the opportunity to

Network), preparing yourself for the
event, practicing self-introduction,
having some small talk topics ready,
adopting a positive attitude, keeping
eye contact, how to enter and exit from
conversations among a group,
importance of business cards at
business gatherings, and many more.
The importance of “mingling”, instead
of sticking with familiar faces(s) was
emphasized.

The session was positively received by
the participants. MLA hopes to provide
more professional and personal
development sessions throughout the
year. ■

MLA General Assembly 2010 - New MLA Council elected

The highlight of MLA General Assembly 2010 was the
election of Council members to a new term of office. The
election was carried out on a show of hands basis as
depicted in the MLA Constitution.

The General Assembly was held on 27 February 2010,
at the American Corner, National Library.



It was attended by 42 people representing 12 libraries and other
private bodies.

Elected MLA Council for Feb 2010 to Dec 2011 are as follows:

President	Ms. Aishath Shabana
Advisor	Ms. Habeeba Hussain Habeeb
Vice President	Ms. Fathmath Shiham
Secretary	Ms. Aminath Shiuna
Training Officer	Ms. Athiyya Shakeel
Editor	Ms. Aminath Riyaz
Public Relations Officer	Ms. Guleyfa Mohamed
Treasurer	Ms. Khadeeja Mohamed

2010 General
Assembly
attendees

Aishath Shabana
Aishath Aroosha
Aishath Sama Waheed
Aishath Zaha
Ajra Rafeeq
Aminath Nasiha
Aminath Riyaz
Aminath Shiuna
Aminath Sofa
Athiyya Shakeel
Dhooma Ahmed
Dunya Zahir
Fathimath Nashath
Fathimath Nashfa
Fathimath Shiham
Fathimath Hana
Fathimath Hana
Gulaifa Mohamed
Husain Naseer
Khadheeja Mohamed
Majidha Ali
Mariyam Ashfa
Mariyam Mohamed
Mariyam Nazeeha
Mariyam Saeedha
Mausooma Mohamed
Mohamed Aslam
Nasheedha Saeed
Nasih Jamaal
Naufath Zaki
Rishfa Ibrahim
Riyaza Mohamed
Samaaha Shaukath
Shahuzana Mohamed
Shamoonah Mohamed
Shifaza Mohamed
Sofa Ahmed
Thifla Umar
Thuzuhath Ahmed
Yumna Habeeb
Zafoora Zahir
Zibna Abdul Ghanee

Libraries represented

Aminiyya School Library
Children’s Multimedia Library
CHSE Library
Dh. Kudahuvadhoo School Library
Majeedhiyya School Library
Mandhu College Library
MCHE Central Library
MCHE Business Library
MCHE Health Sciences Library
Muhibudheen School Library
National Library
Villa College Library