



# Maldives Library Association

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Assalaam A'laikum.

Welcome to 2016 with  
meet.learn.acquire.

After overcoming many challenges  
MLA brings to you, the first issue of  
2016, by launching the 11<sup>th</sup> volume  
of the newsletter

I commend my predecessors for their courageous and continuous aspirations of making MLA and its newsletter worthy of the world of knowledge. With the start of 2016, a new council was elected and I take this opportunity to congratulate all the council members, and hope to work with them for bigger and better things.

This year has brought great joy to the association by getting the unparalleled honor of awarding a shield to one of longest serving members of the Library world. The proud owner of the Naifaru Public Library has a collection worthy of honor, with rare gems of time such as the original issues of the first newspaper to be published in Maldives. I take this opportunity to congratulate him for his service.

The negligence on part of all the stakeholders involved in the Koha Project has led to the disintegration and made it insignificant where it was supposed to be useful. However, MLA strives to correct this by taking every measure available in order to restart the project with a new vigor.

This issue also comes with the celebration of the World Book and Copyright Day, which is marked in honor of all those who gave their lives and knowledge to the field of literature and library. As such the purpose of this day is to promote reading habits among the younger generation by raising awareness about the benefits of reading.

I take this opportunity to thank all our readers, members, and contributors for the continued support in article contribution and for the encouraging feedback for the newsletter.

Please do let us know how we are doing by writing to us. You can leave a comment on our blog @ <http://infomalias.wordpress.com>

Enjoy Reading  
Thank you.



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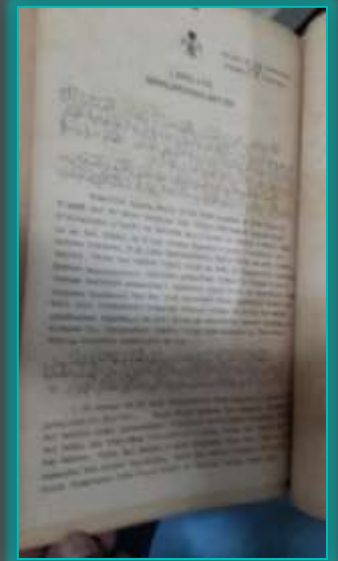
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سَبَّحْ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ  
وَمَا يُدْرِكُ الْبَصَرُ ۚ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

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- سر جو سر -





سَمَاءُ تَزِدْ بُرْجًا تَزِدْ تَهْجَةً تَحْمِلُهَا وَكَأَنَّهُ خُبْرٌ يُفْرَسُ

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تو ایستاده ای و می‌پرسی که چرا؟

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خود را به خود می شناسی و این را می بینی؟

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Khadeeja with colleagues  
Aishath Nazeeha and Aminath  
Azza



Khadeeja at the annual Prize  
Day for the year 2013



Aminiyan's showing their love for  
the nation by supporting the  
Dhivehi football team



Aminiya School Parade 2014



## PROFILE: Maldives LIS Professionals

### Khadeeja Mohamed; a legacy of Aminiya School Library

32 years ago today, Ms. Kahdeeja Mohamed made one of the most important life changing decisions in her life by joining the Aminiya School library. She was driven to take this step for several reasons. When asked why, she stated;

"I was working in STO, but as I was a woman, I had to face discrimination within the work environment. I was also a mother of 2 children, so I decided to work in the academic section, hoping it would have a positive impact on the lives of my children"

Thus Aminiya hired one of its longest serving staff members and Khadeeja found not only a job, but a passion for a lifetime. After working as a Librarian in Aminiya School for a few years, she realized that the field was very appropriate for working women. Furthermore, her vision of benefitting her children through her job became true when both her children grew up to be avid readers. Talking about her children with gentle pride and happiness, Khadeeja shared;

"I did not have to bring tutors for my children until they were in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. I would always bring them books that were related to their grade and they would learn for themselves."

While the Dhivehi saying "A book alone cannot provide a person with knowledge" is true in its literal context, having a book, and devouring a book is quite different. Khadeeja's children learned the latter from their mother and today they are quite successful in their respective fields.

Once she realized that being a Librarian was indeed her dream job, being the open-minded person that she was, Khadeeja aspired to improve herself in the field and get certified in order to validate

over the first three years of working in Aminiya School. This attempt also served the purpose of filling in whatever gaps of knowledge she had about the field. As such in 1985 she gained a Diploma in Library Sciences from Sri Lanka and become of the first librarian staff to undergo formal training in this field.

After studying, Khadeeja came back to Aminiya in order to implement the knowledge that she had gained. As such, she too the responsibility of ensuring that the school's books were organized according to a specific system, and made sure there were no confusions within the cataloguing system. She taught the rest of the staff the complex science of classifying books and oversaw the complete organization of the Aminiya Library. Even today, it is one of the well-organized libraries in Male'.

Nevertheless, she did not achieve all this without facing any challenges. Quite to the contrary, there were times that made her question her proficiency, and there is still one challenge that she has to face on a daily note. With a look of regret and subtle pain in her eyes she explained;

"Books are not given importance anymore. They have become a source of waste paper for many people, and is not given the proper respect that they deserve. People are reluctant to read books and open their minds."

Consequently she feels that an appropriate budget for libraries are not established. According to her, the amount of new books that the library receives each year seem to dwindle. Subsequently, students have less new material to read and the latest edition of many important textbooks are also missing from the library. Thu she wants to make

Yet, her aspirations do no end there. When asked about her long-term and short-term goals, Khadeeja responded with an impish smile and said;

"Before I retire I want to digitalize the Aminiya School Library. This would be my contribution to the place I have worked in for many years. I have already started the work, and hope to succeed soon."

In addition to this, before she leaves this field, she hopes to conduct some activities that would inspire the younger generation to read. Having been given the chance to join the MLA council as Vice-President this year, she affirms that she has realized that there are many things that she can do to encourage people towards books and knowledge.

While her vision for the field is broad and ambitious, she also has an important message for all new members who will be joining this field. She asks them to work, not only with diligence, but also pride and passion. In her own words she said;

"Be eager in what you do. Don't think of it as just another job. It is not. It's a way of life. It's an infatuation. It becomes a guide in life and it helps you raise your children well, with knowledge and wisdom. Take pride in the fact that you would be providing such a significant service to students."

Thank you, Ms. Khadeeja for the long years of service that you have given to this field and the nation. You have become a role model to many students who pass through Aminiya School, you have become their 'Library Dhatha'. Likewise you have guided and comforted many lost souls in your years of service. We here at MLA wish you all the best in all your endeavors.

## Library Profile: Islamic Library – A Hidden Gem



The Islamic library in Maldives is housed in the Islamic Centre which consists of the grand mosque Mohamed Thakurufaanul Auzam, the then Islamic Affairs, a conference hall etc. The Islamic Centre was established in 11<sup>th</sup> November 1984 and the library was open to the public on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1985. The library was then managed by Ministry of Justice and at present by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. It has a collection of about 30,000 books.

The library has a wide range of books mainly focusing on Islam. It also has a collection of English and Dhivehi books. The subject areas of Islamic books consist of Islamic History, Literature, Law, Fiqh, Aqidah, Hadith, Shari'ah, etc. written by well-known authors such as Ibn Hanbal, Ibn Maja and Qurtubi. The English collection is mostly Law and History books.

The library has all the Friday sermons since its establishments and all magazines, journals and leaflets that contains Islamic values and culture published in the country are available, namely Dharuma, Dheenugemagu etc.

Saudi Arabian government and some tourists arriving from that country donates lot of books. The staff of the library takes responsibility in procuring and updating the collection of books.

Library is maintained by trained staff and the books are arranged and organized in Dewey Decimal Classification system. The management seeks to upgrade its services by automating from a manual system so that they can give a quality service to its users. The ultimate goal of the library is to digitalise their collection.

Though the library space is much smaller than when it was initially opened the staff ensures usage of space for book arrangement is well accessible to the customers.

The library is open for everyone however books can be borrowed by members. A nominal fee of Mvr 20.00 is for registration and an annual fee of Mvr 60.00 is charged to become member. The library is open during week days from 0800hrs – 15:00hrs and on Saturdays from 09:00hrs – 15:00hrs.

Other services given by the library are photocopying services and assists to translate Arabic language to Dhivehi for the patrons who requires it. A lot of library users are University students and teachers. The library also has its own activities planned annually and marks their anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> May very eventfully.







# World Book and Copyright Day – 23rd April 2016



Mohamed Ami Didi

Greetings and best wishes to all authors, publishers, booksellers, librarians, readers and book lovers on the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day. Since 1995 the United Nations Educational Cultural and Social Organisation (UNESCO) has marked the 23rd of April as World Book and Copyright Day. The day is auspicious for fans of literature as it marks the death anniversaries of Miguel De La Cervantes (whose book Don Quixote is widely considered the first modern novel) and William Shakespeare.

In the Maldives, the day is being marked by the Maldives Library Association in association with the Dhivehi Bahuge Academy and the National Library of Maldives. This is also the first time the event is being publicly held in the Maldives. Congratulations to the organisers for taking this important measure as it will certainly foster greater interest in reading and bring literature, especially Dhivehi literature, to a larger audience. The event will likewise give greater exposure to Maldivian authors and their works.

Books (be they novels, short stories, histories, philosophies or other references) are one of the most important ways through which we make sense of our life world. They inform us and, in turn, shape who we are. In the Maldives, books have had an exalted place throughout our long history. In early days books were expensive items and remained the exclusive preserve of the nobility and well-to-do. The most common book in most Maldivian homes pre-Twentieth Century would be the Noble Quran.



William Shakespeare

Some of the earliest pre-Twentieth Century books in the Maldives would be Bodu Thaaheedhu, The History of Maldives by Hassan Thaaajudeen and the verse book Dhiyoage Raivaru by Bandeyri Hassan Manikufaan. The advent of cheap paper and the modern printing press (as elsewhere) had been nothing short of a revolution for Maldivian writing. Much of the Maldives' current literary tradition goes back to the mid Twentieth Century. Advancements in printing technology made it possible, for writers such as Mohamed Ameen, Meerubahurugey Ismail Didi, Hussain Salaahudeen, Ibrahim Shihab, and Mohamed Jameel among others to write and publish great works of literary, cultural and historical significance. This was the golden era of Maldivian letters.

In those early days there was not much need for intellectual property rights. The high speed flow of information in the Twenty First Century, where boundaries demarcating ownership often get blurred (with written work often being reproduced and disseminated all over the Internet without the consent of the original author), it is imperative to have the appropriate legislative and institutional framework in place to ensure that writers and publishers get recognition of ownership. Furthermore, a robust intellectual property rights regime would ensure that the uncompensated and unsanctioned use of authors' intellectual property is brought to a halt. In this regard, World Book day is a most opportune time for us to kick start this debate and find out the ways and means for Maldivian artists to protect and promote their work.

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