In this issue:

Editorial

Assalaam A'laikum.

Welcome to the second issue of MLA newsletter meet.learn.acquire for 2011.

The months between the last issue and this has been considerably quieter in terms of the bang effect. However, very important initiatives have been taking place that will have a lasting impact on the Maldives LIS sector.

The automation and digitalization initiatives taken by the MGN in 2010 has been embraced by the MLA, with plans in place to automate 10 libraries throughout the country by end of 2011. This issue's library profile page has been replaced with brief information about the libraries selected for the project.

On page 4, read profile on our very hardworking LIS personnel Fathimath Nashath, followed by a bibliography of LIS and related publications on the Maldives. This highlights the opportunities and the information gaps in the Maldives' LIS sector. We have also included highlights from international conferences and workshops attended by MLA members, including CDNL conference held in Soul, EIFL General Assembly held in Belarus, LIS leadership program held in various states of US, and International Workshop on Health Information Literacy held in Dhaka.

The library day of the year was marked on 12 July at various libraries throughout the country. Further, Read a new topic on OH&S series as well as from classification series. Also read an informative article on LIS's interdisciplinary approach.

I take this opportunity to thank all our readers, members, & 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 leaving a comment on our blog @ http://infomalias.wordpress.com

Thank you.

Aminath Riyaz (Editor)

Note from the MLA President

May this year continue to bring prosperity and happiness to all our readers and supporters. We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as you did the last.

It is exciting to realize that MLA is working very hard to achieve one of our main aims: establishing a sustainable LIS network. Well, the hot news is that this year's major focus has been the MLA Koha Pilot project which was an initiative of MLA in an effort to establish a library network and provide a Library Integrated System (ILS) which will in time lead to the creation of a country wide union catalogue.

The project is still ongoing and we are making tremendous progress. I believe, a special thanks goes to the National Library of Maldives for their continuous support and cooperation. Also it was interesting to know that libraries from all over the country were eagerly waiting for a chance like this to come by.

News spread fast and the interest shown by the Education Ministry and Educational Development Centre in being a major stakeholder in this pilot project has been a huge success for the MLA. The passion shown by the Minister of Education, Ms. Shifa Mohamed has been a great encouragement for us. Therefore, a great big thumbs up for her in taking the initiative to improve the school libraries in the country.

In this instance, I would also like to acknowledge the fact that, this project has seen the creation of a local Koha and Greenstone Digital Library software expert.

Yes! One of our very own MLA member, Nashfa. We are very proud of what she has been able to learn and achieve so far. We wish her great success in creating digital libraries and also with the KOHA pilot project. Way to go!! MLA is with you ☺

I would like to congratulate those of last year's ACLIS graduates who have managed to secure jobs finally! I hope that the rest of the graduates will successfully be employed by the end of this year. If not, do not be upset. Keep fighting for your rightful profession. We librarians were never quitters ☺

On a happier note, many thanks to all who attended this year's MLA social event "Maahefun" right before Ramadhan. The event could not have been such a success without you guys.

Even though this year lacks last year's rush of activities, we are still making milestones. I hope this news brings hope to MLA members and friends for the prosperous year ahead and stay with us to witness MLA making history.

I hope that all of you will stay with us and take the rough and tough ride with us this year as well. Visit our blog for an update on the activities calendar for 2011. Become an MLA member. Help us spread the word. Let's Meet.Learn.Acquire. ☺

~ Aishath Shabana, MLA President ~

Maldives Library Association
meet.learn.acquire

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Day celebrations @ MNU Library

The Maldives National University Library celebrated the National Library Day on July 12, 2011.

The day was celebrated to recognize the importance of library and information services as providers of information to the user community. For the University community, the library plays an integral part in their academic excellence.

Special activities were organized for the day and visitors were given the chance to win prizes!!!

MNU Health Sciences Library

MNU Business Studies Library

MNU Central Library

MNU Central Library

Library Day Prize winner

LIBRARY PROFILE:

Brief profile of the libraries selected for the MLA Koha pilot project 2011

MLA's Library Automation and Digitization project, initiated in March 2011 as the "MLA Koha Pilot Project" with four libraries, has now been expanded to include a total of ten libraries from the Maldives. This has been facilitated in collaboration with the National Library of Maldives, the Education Development Centre, and the Maldives National University Library. The following is a brief introduction to these ten libraries.

1 Jalaaludheen School, HDh. Kulhudhufushi

Jalaaludheen School Library holds a collection of approximately 18,000 books on a variety of subjects. The majority is made up of fiction for school children. Some work has been carried out in the past to have a searchable book inventory using Microsoft Excel. The library is managed by a library assistant.

2 Baa Atoll School, B. Dharavandhoo

The Atoll School library located in Dharavandhoo, Baa Atoll, holds a collection of 9627 books. The library is managed by one library personnel. At the initiation of the MLA Koha pilot project, data for some of the collection is now available in Microsoft Excel format, ready for migration to Koha ILS.

3 Lhaviyani Atoll Education Centre, Lh. Hinnavaru

The library at Lhaviyani Atoll Education Centre holds a collection of approximately 22,000 books. About 18,000 books are in the English language and 4,000 books in Dhivehi language. Attempts have been made in the past to compile a searchable inventory list of the books using Microsoft Excel.

4 Maldives Polytechnic, Malé

The Maldives Polytechnic library collection is made up of approximately 2,400 books. The collection is already searchable on the MNU Library's online catalogue as this collection was part of the former MCHE Library until December 2010. Polytechnic is now a separate entity and the institute is now trying to establish their library, functional with integrated library software.

LIBRARY PROFILE: (... continued from p. 2)

5 ### Aminiya School, Male'

Aminiya School Library holds a collection of approximately 60,000 books with more than half of it in Dhivehi language. Some work has been carried out to have a searchable book inventory using Microsoft Excel. The library is among the oldest school libraries in the country. It is currently managed by four library personnel.

6 ### Dhaalu Atoll Education Centre, Dh. Kudahuvadhoo

The Library of the Atoll Education Centre in Dhaalu Atoll holds a collection of approximately 15,000 books and about half the collection is now searchable using Microsoft Excel. A database was setup in Microsoft Access in the past, however this did not work out well attributing to lack of know how coupled with computer failure.

7 ### Hamadh bin Khalifa Al Thani, L. Gan

The library at Hamadh bin Khalifa AlSani school is reasonably small with about 3,000 books. At present, the library does not have a record of the holdings in a searchable format. Some attempts have been made earlier to have their book inventory in Microsoft Excel format. The library is managed by two library personnel.

8 ### Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll Education Centre, GDh. Thinadhoo

The library at the Atoll Education Centre of Gaafu Dhaal Atoll, in Thinadhoo, is made up of approximately 9,000 books with about one third of the collection searchable in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format. The library is managed by one library staff at present.

9 ### Gnaviyani Atoll Education Centre, Gn. Fuvah Mulah

The library at the Education Centre of Gn. Fuvah Mulah is comparatively in a better situation compared to others. The library already uses a library software called "library manager", which with the cataloguing module, also provides for automated circulation. The catalogue is a standalone software hence the changeover to Koha will provide an online presence to their collection.

10 ### Muhibudheen School, S. Hithadhoo

The library at Muhibudheen School holds approximately 10,000 books and the collection is electronically searchable using a custom made online catalogue available within their Intranet. The changeover to Koha ILS would facilitate in automated circulation as well as the possibility of catalogue search from anywhere with an Internet connection.

LIBRARY NEWS

Cont. from p.2

Library Day celebrations @ MNU Library – Staff event

The annual library staff event in conjunction with the library day was held on July 15, 2011. The MNU library annual staff event is held to show appreciation to the hardworking library team by giving out special staff awards for the year. The winners from the library day activities were also announced and awarded the prizes.

The National Library of Maldives marks its anniversary

The 66th anniversary of the NLM was marked on July 12, 2011.

A local book titled "library"

The book "library" was released on July 20, 2011, at a special ceremony held to honor the founder of the National Library, Mohamed Amin Didi.

The book is written by Hon. Habeeba Hussain Habeeb. Habeeba was the first person to have held the position of Librarian in the Maldives. In recognition of her valuable service to the country, she was awarded with the National Service Medal by the President of the Maldives.

Source: NLM website

http://www.nationallibraryofmaldives.com/node/476

PROFILE: Maldives ILS Professionals –

Fathimath Nashath is the Librarian at the National Library of Maldives and holds the Assistant Secretary post at the Council of the Maldives Library Association

Fathimath Nashath is the **Librarian** at the National Library of Maldives, where she has been working for the last 23 years. She is among the senior officials at the Library and highlights that she is very proud to be a library professional.

Nashath completed Diploma in Library & Information Science offered by the Sri Lanka Library Association in 2003 and takes an active role in training library personnel in the Maldives.

Nashath is concerned at the low level of support shown by superiors of library organizations towards librarians and the profession. She highlights that there is a need to raise awareness in paying greater recognition to this service sector, as libraries are the basic grounds that breed intellectuals.

Nashath is keen in developing her knowledge base as a library professional to be a recognized person in the field. She actively seeks "opportunities to share knowledge and experience".

Among her biggest achievements, she highlights: attending IFLA conference and EIFL General Assembly.

The scope of her work at the National Library of Maldives (which is also the Public Library of the country) has been remarkable. Her involvements range from her role in the NLM corporate management committee, acquisition committee,

public programs unit, children's multimedia library, human resource committee, steering committee of the 2011-2012 Reading Campaign, media coordination, editorial and authorship of library in-house publications, UNESCO project 2011, coordination of EIFL activities in Maldives, contributions in the development of & implementation of the Library's strategic plan and action plan, overall administration of the implementation of the library software, and teaching role at the NLM's Institute of Library and Information Services.

She identifies the compilation of Maldives national bibliography retrospective edition as the greatest struggle so far in her professional activities. This was challenging given that there was no legal depository law at that time and it was the first time a national bibliography was compiled.

In addition to her official role at the NLM, she has contributed to the development of library profession in the country by her active involvement in the Maldives Library Association. She has worked with the MLA on various occasions and currently holds the post of Assistant Secretary.

One of her greatest interest within the disciplines is in the area of library classification and classification schemes. She aspires to compile and introduce a

Dhivehi version of the Dewey Decimal Classification abridged edition, of which "35% of the work is complete".

According to Nashath, if there is anything that she regrets in her professional development, it is "not putting real effort to do higher studies". This she attributes to the lack of local study opportunities in LIS field in the Maldives and the lack of funding opportunities for study overseas with the high costs involved in it. She is hopeful that this shortcoming will be overcome by creating more local opportunities in the Maldives.

Her vision for the library and information sector of Maldives is to develop fully fledged librarians who could raise the level of acceptability of the library as a respectable profession among the Maldivian community.

For *"want to be"* librarians she wants to highlight that, librarians are important to the community "because we are the information professionals"

As parting comments she adds "My beloved colleagues! Do not waste time in your job, do something good that could benefit our librarians and library users as well. Be a prestigious librarian and work hard to make your superiors proud of you". ∎

~ Aminath Riyaz ~

Information provision and use in the Maldives: a bibliography

Introduction

Information is seen as one of the basic components that lead to the empowerment of a populace. Inadvertently it is one which plays a significant role in democracy. Library and information agencies are the institutions which play or can play a major role in the provision of the said resources.

Libraries collect nation's history and carry forward the heritage in the form of recordings, writings, and audiovisual media. In addition to the archival role, libraries play the provider role and safekeeping role of the valuable resources.

The following is a collection of articles and books that documents some aspects of **information provision and use** in the Maldives. Information provision and use depends heavily on Information Communication Technologies (ICTs). Furthermore, the use and the need for information are interconnected with culture and belief system of a populace. Therefore, attempts have also been made to include these two concepts (ICTs & Maldives anthropology) in this bibliography.

This list is not comprehensive. There could very well be other significant writings of this nature. Readers are requested to supplement this list by sending us an e-mail to info.malias@gmail.com or by leaving a comment on the MLA blog.

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~ **Aminath Riyaz** ~

EIFL 2011 General Assembly June 26-28

National Library of Belarus hosted the EIFL 2011 General Assembly, June 26-28

Aminath Shiuna with Conference participants

Paper on Maldives Library situation – presented by Aminath Shiuna

From the group discussion session

Maldives represented at the CDNL-AO, Korea by Aminath Shiuna

To begin with, I would like to thank the Maldives National University, Maldives Library Association, and the National Library of Maldives for facilitating my participation in this conference and for providing the required economic resources that made my attendance possible. I should also say that these three organizations has been closely related to my professional training and has expanded my future possibilities to work in the library field in many ways.

When I heard about this conference I found the idea of attending a library and information management discussion very appealing. This experience would involve librarians or information managers from different countries gathering to express their ideas, fears, doubts, hopes and points of view on the role of national libraries in today's world and in the future.

The 19th **Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania** (CDNL-AO) took place on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at the International Conference Hall of the National Library of Korea. CDNL-AO has been held since 1979. Twenty-four delegates from 18 countries participated in this conference. The theme for the conference was "**Envisioning the Future: the Role of National Libraries in the New Era**".

The welcoming speech was given by Woo Jin Yung, the chief executive of the National Library of Korea. This was followed by the introduction of the participants, approval of minutes from the 18th conference, and presentation of country reports. The conference also focused on current issues being addressed by national libraries on the cooperative fields of libraries and other matters. The representatives held discussions in a lively manner and exchanged opinions on the legal deposit act, standards for digitizing audiovisual materials, open access, and unified search.

At the very end of the meeting, Malaysia was selected as the host nation for the 2013 CDNL-AO. The conference was officially closed with a speech by the head of the National Library of Indonesia, the host for the upcoming 2012 conference.

Having had the chance to be part of it, I want to say that the conference has completely lived up to my expectations. I did put forward my ideas during the conference and also during lunch, coffee breaks and dinners.

At the end of the session, all participants were invited to visit the main building of the National Library of Korea and the Digital Library. It was an overwhelming experience.

National Library of Maldives at EIFL 2011 General Assembly

This is the major, most intensive and forward looking EIFL knowledge-sharing event. National coordinators and library representatives come together to discuss EIFL activities and strategies and to debate state-of-the-art issues and developments with resource persons, publishers and representatives from many relevant sectors and international initiatives. EIFL Open Access programme wins SPARC Europe Award.

Meetings of the EIFL General Assembly took place on June 25 to 28 at the National Library of Belarus.

An official opening ceremony of the EIFL General Assembly took place on 26 June at the conference hall of the National Library of Belarus. Director of the National Library of Belarus, Roman Motulsky, welcomed participants of the event.

Fathimath Nashath, Maldives coordinator for EIFL, represented Maldives at the General Assembly.

Rima Kuprite, Director of the EIFL Consortium, shared the latest news with attendees. Meetings held on the same day gathered 85 representatives of consortiums – members of the EIFL and the major aggregators and suppliers of electronic information resources from 47 countries.

The EIFL Consortium (Electronic Information for Libraries) is an international non-profit organization incorporating library consortiums in more than 45 countries of Central, Eastern and South-East Europe, the former USSR, Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia. Its major tasks are promotion of knowledge sharing on the global scale, building of continuing education network, and also promotion of national library consortiums. ∎

~ Fathimath Nashath ~

CDNL-AO

The second day was scheduled to attend an open seminar entitled "Leadership, Governance and Policy in National Libraries" The seminar also took place at the International Conference Hall of the National Library of Korea. In addition to the CDNL-AO delegates, about 300 people participated in the seminar. All seven presentations were knowledgeable and informative. A question and answer session was organized with experts and officials from academic and library fields who attended the seminar in order to promote in-depth discussion and exchange information on the leadership and cooperation schemes of libraries as well as projects being pursued by each library.

At the end of the seminar we were taken to view some of the land marks and also to watch the very entertaining one and only NANTA show.

Finally, I hope that the future brings more conferences and opportunities like this for our library professionals. With the help of such programs we will be able to continue providing librarians from all over the world with the chance to meet and share their ideas to help the development of the Library field. ∎

~ Aminath Shiuna ~

MLA workshop series 2011: Workshop on Classification using DDC

A classification workshop was organized by the Maldives Library Association on May 14, 2011. This session was held from 19:30 – 22:00hrs at the Institute of Library and Information Services of the National Library of Maldives.

The main objective of the workshop was to help the participants identify subjects for a given work, and to assign Dewey numbers accordingly. This session was conducted by the Assistant Secretary of the MLA, & the Librarian of the National Library of Maldives, Ms. Fathimath Nashath.

A total of 13 people participated in the workshop including staff from the National Library of Maldives and some students of the Advanced Certificate in Library & Information Services currently studying at the Faculty of Arts, the Maldives National University.

This session briefly explained about the structure and the summary of DDC numbers, how to assign subjects for a given item and to identify the parts of a book which helps to indicate the subject. During this session, the number range 300 and 600 from the first summary of the DDC were compared and discussed extensively as numbers can be assigned to a single item within this subject range using these two number ranges.

Most of the participants showed a lot of interest in this area and questions were answered by the session conductor.

Throughout this very practical session, participants shared their knowledge, past experience in classifying items and were encouraged to present their opinions regarding classification in general.

However, it was noticed that due to the time limitation, participants were not given enough time for hands on practice. Therefore, as a future recommendation when planning practical workshops such as these, the duration needs to be stretched to at least two days. Despite the time limitation, the workshop was a huge success and very fruitful for all the participants.

The evening was concluded with a small in-session ceremony with all thirteen participants receiving a certificate for the successful completion of the workshop.∎

~ Athiyya Shakeel ~

MLA Workshop on Library Classification, 2011 held at the Institute of Library and Information Services, NLM

Workshop on Classification - participant list

Abida Ahmed

Nadheema Hussain

Aishath Aliya Ibrahim

Aishath Nazima

Aminath Shazina

Aminath Shifza

Vilma Rasheed

Hawwa Shiuna

Khadeeja Mohamed

Maryam Maha

Mohamed Yashraf

Shiuna Ibrahim

Rugiyya Sajidha

International Health Information Literacy Workshop, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Aminath Riyaz, Council member of the Maldives Library Association and Chief Librarian of the Maldives National University, represented the Maldives at the International Workshop on Health Information Literacy (IWHIL) held in Dhaka from July 27-30, 2011.

The workshop was organized by the East West University Library, Bangladesh, headed by Ms. Dilara Begum. The workshop was funded by International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) under Action for Development through Libraries Program (ALP).

Dr. Jagtar Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala, India, was the lead resource person of the workshop. Along with Professor Singh, other esteemed personnel including Dr. D.V. Singh, Professor I.V. Malhan (both from India), Professor Faiz, and Mr. K.A. Reza (from Bangladesh) delivered workshop sessions.

Maldives Greenstone support Network (MGN)

MGN is the national node of the Digital Library Network of South Asia (DLNetSA) established to guide the development of digital libraries in the Maldives (using Greenstone Digital Library Software & Koha ILS) with a focus on creating awareness of local literature. MGN was set up with a grant from the Mellon Foundation received by the University of Waikato, New Zealand.

The Greenstone Digital Library is a suite of software for building and distributing collections allowing for new ways of organizing information. The software empowers users to build their own digital libraries. Greenstone has several notable functionalities such as full-text and multilingual searching. The New Zealand Digital Library Project provides a demo site with many collections.

MGN is coordinated by the National Library in collaboration with the MNU Library[1] (of the Maldives National University), National Center for Information Technology and the Department of Heritage.

This is the first of its kind network to develop digital libraries in the Maldives. Dr. John Rose, Research Associate from the Greenstone Team has been pivotal in starting this process of communication and has given immense feedback for the establishment of the network.

With the initial invitation for proposal, the network members worked on developing the greenstone proposal to submit to the National Planning Council (NPC) of the Maldives, as all projects require confirmation from the NPC.

The proposal was well received by the Council as it aligned with the National Strategic plan for the Information Sector in 2010 where public access to create awareness to online digital media has been identified as a top priority.

The MGN proposal was endorsed at the co-coordinators meeting of DLNetSA held in Nepal in July 2010. In addition to the Maldives, this meeting was attended by other members of participating countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, & Bhutan.

Steering Committee of DLNetSA 2010-2012

Top (from left to right): Prof. K.S. Raghavan, Mr. M. Shafiq Rana, Dr. Mohan Pradhan, Dr. M.G. Sreekumar

Left to right: Ms. Aminath Riyaz, Mr. M. Shafiq Rana, Ms. Dilara Begum, Mr. M.C.M. Azwer, Ms. Kesang Dechen

Project Milestones

Local meetings with focal points were held to identify MGN's committee obligations and this achieved the first milestone of the project.
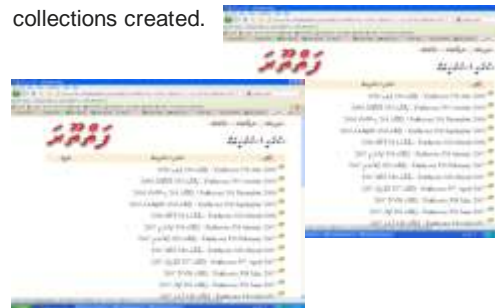
The next milestone was the training for the software at a National level. Invitations were accepted from the Ministry of Education, North and South Province and from various offices in Malé. This training was structured as a Training of Trainers which will lead to further trainings. The certificate awarding ceremony for the participants was held on December 6, 2010 where the Chief Guest Ms. Jameela Ali, Secretary General of the UNESCO Commission, highlighted the importance of such trainings to the Maldives.

The end of training together with the translation of the greenstone interface marked the achievement of the second milestone for the program.

The project will be completed once we submit the final report together with the publicity of the collections created.

We hope that MGN will be a moving force in bringing more local digital information to everyone and narrowing the digital divide.

~ Fathimath Shiham ~

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[1] At the time of the initiation of the network in June 2010, the MNU Library was known as the MCHE (Maldives College of Higher Education) Library

މަސައްކަތްކުރުމުގައި ސަލާމަތްވުން:

ބަރުކަމުޖެހިކަމާއި އެކު ޗޮއްވެންޏަސް އުފުލުން

ތިރިޔަށް ބަހައްޓާފައިވާ ޗޮއްވެން އުފުލުން

ތިރިޔަށް ބަހައްޓާފައި ހުރި ޗޮއްވެންލައިވެސް އުފުލުމުގައި ބަރުކަމުޖެހި ނުވުވެއްނަ ބޭނުންވާނެ އެންހާވެސް ފަރަން ގާތް. މިގޮތަން މިޔަ ތަންމަތިޔަ ހުރި ޗޮއްވެންސް އުފުލާށް :

1. ފޮނިވެންޏެ ބަހައްޓާފައި ހިސާބާ އޭގެ ފައިނަ އިސްނދު ފޮނިވެންޏެ ހަރުވެންޏާ ގާދެ ގަނެއްވެޖާ، ފޮނިވެންޏެ އުފުލުން.

2. ބޭނުނ ހިފައްކުރުވެ ގޮދަން ޗޮއްވެންޏެ އުފުޅާއިޖ ކޮނޑެއެ ފުޅަދިނަން ފައި ބެހައްޓުން.

3. ފޮނިވެންޏެ އުފުޅާއިޖ، ފޮނިވެންޏެ ދިޔަ ދ ފަޔަހައް ފޮނިވެންޏެ ފަރަން އަ ފަޔަހައްފަ އުފުޅުން.

ޗޮއްވެންޏެ އުފުލުމުގައި ބައި ގައްވުން ފިޔަ ޗޮއްވެން

1. ޖ ބަރުކަން ނާނެ ފާ ފާ ނެއެގެން ފައި ބަހައްޓާފައި ފޮނިވެންޏެ އުފުޅުން

2. އަޑިޔަކަން ނާއެފެ ފައިގެ ބަހައްޓައިން ޗޮއްވެންޏެ އުފުޅުން

3. ފޮނިވެންޏެ ހަރުވެންޏޭ ފަން ފޮނިފުޅޭ ފޮނިވެންޏެ ފައި ފަ ފޮނިވެންޏެ ފޮނިފުޅުން

4. ޔެނޑުފެ ޗޮއްވެންޏެ އުފުޅުން

5. ބަރުވެފައި ޗޮއްވެންޏެ ފައި ނިފަން އެނެ ޗޮއްވެންޏެ އުފުޅާއިޖ ފައި، ފ ކައިވެފައި ބަހައްޓުން.

އަޑިޔަ ފަރަން ޗޮއްވެންޏެ ފޮޮ އުފުލުން

• އަޑިޔަ ފަރަން ފޮނިވެންޏެ ފޮޮ އެފުޅައެ ފައިފ ފައި ޑުރިނޑު ކައެވެ. ފޮނިވެންޏެ ބޭ ކައެފެ ވިނަޑޭ އަޑި ފަރަން ފޮޮ އަހުޅުން ޗޮއްވެންޏެ އެއެފަނަން އަނެއެފަނަން އުފުޅުމުގައި ފަސޭވެފަން ފަނައެފ.

ބަރުފަހާއި އުފުޅަނަން ނިފަ ފަ ވިނަޑޭ

ބަރުކަންފަން އެނައެ ޔެތަ ފައި ފަ ފ ފައި ކަނެ ޑޮއެ ފާ ކަންފަން ފެއެ ކަންފަން ފޮޮ ފ ފަ ފޮޮ ފ ފެއެ ޑުރިނޑޭ. ފައި ޗޮއްވެންޏެ ޔެ ފެ ފަ ފ ޑިނަނެފ.

އުފުޅަ ޑިޔަ ހަރުޖޮޮ	އުފުޅަނެ ޑިނަޑޭ
ފައެ ކަޑޮރުޑި	16 – 20 ކިޅޮގެނަ ޑޮޑެ ޑޮޑެ
އިޔަނަ އިނަޑު	4·5 ކިޅޮފެ ޑޮޑެ ޑޮޑެ

IWHIL, Dhaka

The workshop was a valuable opportunity to network with professionals within the region and provided insights on health information literacy aspects ranging from its impact on general health and wellness of a society, criteria for evaluation of health information resources, public access to health information, the importance of health information literacy, strategies for improving health information literacy, and the role of libraries in promoting health information literacy.

In addition to the participants of the workshop, the time in Dhaka assisted in networking with academics as well as librarians in LIS discipline in the Dhaka region.

The opportunity to meet members of the Department of Information Science & Library Management of University of Dhaka was of particular significance. So was the exposure to the active LIS professionals working in both associations: Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) and Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists (BALID).

Interdisciplinary context of Library and Information Science

Overview

Interdisciplinary approach is becoming ever more prevalent in every academic discipline that one studies. From interdisciplinary PhD's to Interdisciplinary Minors offered in undergraduate degrees, interdisciplinary methods and subjects are becoming the norm in many departments in universities. As a matter of fact it is becoming increasingly rare to have a pure one discipline degree that just uses the methodologies and theories from one subject area. Today most academic disciplines borrow from other disciplines the theories and methodologies; and if they do not, questions arise as to how their research fits into what else is going on in the society around them. As no discipline or academic field is unto themselves an island in the vacuum for them to be meaningful, they need to include other relevant aspects from other disciplines.

Garbay (2003) looked at the role of information science in an interdisciplinary research context. In her writing she looks at the importance of the interdisciplinary approach in the development of scientific research and how information sciences have been the leading force in this area for quite some time (Garbay, 2003). So in the course of this essay I hope to look at the interdisciplinary approaches more in-depth as it applies to my professional field of library and information sciences (LIS).

History of Interdisciplinary Approaches in LIS

The notion of interdisciplinarity has been applied to the field of library and information sciences for some time now. According to McNicol (2003) this concept can be traced back to 1920s when US council for social science research was formed. But it wasn't until 1950s when practical examples of interdisciplinary programs in fields such as communication and social work were established, did the interdisciplinary goals were at last realized (McNicol, 2003). It was much later in the 1960s and 70s the interdisciplinary approach began to be really appreciated as a way of thinking that was necessary and relevant in answering the big question of the day such as poverty, environment concerns and peace/war issues.

In social sciences, unlike the pure sciences the interdisciplinary approaches are not as widely accepted (McNicol, 2003). But unlike most other social sciences, library and information science is a subject that combines theoretical and applied knowledge as a general practice and as such is by necessity expected to be more open minded about working in an interdisciplinary context.

As for when interdisciplinary approaches began to be incorporated in to LIS, it is suggested that in one way or another LIS has always had to work in an interdisciplinary context since its very conception (McNicol, 2003). Therefore whether it was sharing research methods with linguistics, cognitive psychology or systems analysis or the social contexts for the research based work of LIS researchers across disciplines such as law, business studies or management; all these aspects have always played a significant role in making library and information science interdisciplinary (McNicol, 2003).

The interdisciplinary nature of library and information science is also highlighted by the fact that most of the sub-disciplines of library and information science are also clearly interdisciplinary in nature, for example information society studies have stakes in sociology, political philosophy and communication studies to name a few (Duff, 2002). According to Borko (1968), library and information science is essentially interdisciplinary. He defined it as an "interdisciplinary science that investigates the properties and behaviors of information", the forces that govern the flow and use of information, and the techniques, both manual and mechanical processing of information for optimal storage, retrieval and dissemination (Borko, 1968, p.5).

Therefore we could conclude LIS from its very inception had an inherently interdisciplinary flavor to it. This interdisciplinary nature has only gotten more embolden and it is becoming increasingly crucial to the LIS field.

This is a multi-part essay, in this part (part one) of the essay I have looked at the historical context of interdisciplinary approach in library and information sciences. In the next part I will be looking at the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in LIS.

~ Amman Adam ~

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ފަސޭހަކޮށް ޑީޑީސީއާއި އެލްސީސީ ކްލެސިފިކޭޝަން ސިސްޓަމް

 އެލްސީސީ އާއި ޑީޑީސީ ކްލެސިފިކޭޝަން ސިސްޓަމް ބޭނުންކުރާނެގޮތް

ޤަވާއިދު 21: ކްލާސް އޭ

ފޮތުގެ ޑިވިޝަން އިންޑެކްސް އަކުރު	ކްލާސް ނަން
A	އާއްމު މައުލޫމާތު
B	ފިލޯސަފީ، ނަފްސާނީ އިލްމް، ދީން
C	ތާރީޚާ ގުޅޭ ސައިންސް
D	ދުނިޔޭގެ ތާރީޚް
E	އެމެރިކާގެ ތާރީޚް
F	އެމެރިކާގެ ތާރީޚް
G	ޖޯގްރަފީ
H	އިޖްތިމާއީ އިލްމް
J	ޕޮލިޓިކަލް ސައިންސް
K	ޤާނޫން
L	ތައުލީމް
M	މިޔުޒިކް
N	އާޓްސް
P	ބަހާއި އަދަބު
Q	ސައިންސް
R	ބޭސްވެރިކަން
S	ދަނޑުވެރިކަން
T	ޓެކްނޮލޮޖީ
U	ޢަސްކަރީ ސައިންސް
V	ކަނޑު ސައިންސް
Z	ބިބްލިއޯގްރަފީ، ލައިބްރަރީ ސައިންސް

ޤަވާއިދު 2: ކްލާސް ބަހާލެވިފައި

ކްލާސް - Q (ސައިންސް) ކްލާސް	ފޮތުގެ ޑިވިޝަން އިންޑެކްސް އަކުރު
Q	ސައިންސް
QA	ރިޔާޟީ
QB	އެސްޓްރޮނޮމީ
QC	ފިޒިކްސް
QD	ކެމިސްޓްރީ
QE	ޖިއޮލޮޖީ
QH	ބަޔޮލޮޖީ
QK	ގަސް
QL	ޖަނަވާރު
QM	އިންސާނީ އެނަޓަމީ
QP	ފިޒިއޮލޮޖީ
QR	މައިކްރޮބަޔޮލޮޖީ

ޤަވާއިދު 3: ސަބްކްލާސް

QD (ކެމިސްޓްރީ) ކްލާސް - ސަބްކްލާސް	ފޮތުގެ ނަންބަރު
ކެމިސްޓްރީ	QD1-999
އާއްމު	QD1-65
އެނަލިޓިކަލް ކެމިސްޓްރީ	QD71-142
އިނޯގަނިކް ކެމިސްޓްރީ	QD146-197
އޯގަނިކް ކެމިސްޓްރީ	QD241-441
ބަޔޯކެމިސްޓްރީ	QD415-436
ފިޒިކަލް އަދި ތިއޮރެޓިކަލް ކެމިސްޓްރީ	QD450-801
ކްރިސްޓަލް ކެމިސްޓްރީ	QD625-655
ފޮޓޯކެމިސްޓްރީ	QD701-731
ކެމިސްޓްރީ އޮފް ރޭޑިއޭޝަން	QD901-999

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QD415-43

~ އަޙްމަދު ޝިފާޒް ~

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ކާއޯ، އެމް.އެލް. (2001). ކެޓަލޮގިންގ
އެންޑް ކްލެސިފިކޭޝަން ފޯ ފަސޭހަ
ޑިސިޝަންސް. 2ވަނަ އިޑިޝަން. ނިއުޔޯކް: ހަވާތް
ޕްރެސް.

Update on MLA activities 2011

• MLA workshop series – Classification workshop

The workshop on library classification organized by the MLA was held on May 14, 2011 at the National Library of Maldives.

• MLA get-together

An MLA get-together was held in conjunction with the MNU library staff as "maahefun" in recognition of the month of Ramazan. The event was held on July 28 at the MNU Central Library.

Upcoming Events

• MLA Library Workshop/Training Series

Workshop on publishing guidelines – scheduled for September 2011.

Koha ILS training - scheduled to be conducted on 11-13 September 2011.

Greenstone Digital Library training - scheduled to be conducted on 14-18 September 2011.

Workshop on media archival, preservation & conservation is scheduled to be conducted in October 2011.

• MLA General meeting

The next general meeting is scheduled to be held on December 17, 2011. New MLA Council for the Jan 2012-Dec 2013 term will be elected at this meeting.

• MLA Newsletter

The next issue of this newsletter will be coming out in December 2011. Send us your news, feedback/comments, articles relevant to the library association, libraries, and information gathering & dissemination activities in the Maldives.

• 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. We would also like your article contributions for this special edition. Write to us at: info.malias@gmail.com or leave a comment on http://infomalias.wordpress.com or call us at 7765181.

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Maldives Library Association
meet.learn.acquire

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National Library
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Phone: 7765181 (Editor)

From the MLA Photo Archive

Left & Top:
From MLA social event, 2011

MLA joins in the celebration of
the National Library's 50th Anniversary, 1995