

Session on Professional Development

By Ms. Miriam, a Creative Arts Practitioner, U.K.

A session for librarians was conducted on 19th November 2016 by MLA about creative expression and reflection, facilitated by a visiting guest, Ms. Miriam a creative arts practitioner from the U.K. who integrates reflective practice into her sessions.

"Reflective practice can be a support for behavioural change, be it for professional or personal development, and is across many fields, including education. Creative expression (sound, movement, art or words) followed by reflection links emotion to thought, enabling action to be underpinned and strengthened by a deeper and fuller understanding of oneself and others used in a group format to address specific needs, it is especially effective" said Ms. Miriam.

There was a supportive, inclusive and responsive attitude throughout, with some very positive conclusions reached by the group. Feedback expressed unanimous satisfaction with the session, and its "helpful" and "interesting approach".

Ms. Miriam expressed her feedback as:

"It was surely worth taking a small portion of time away from a leisure break in your beautiful country to respond to this impromptu invitation, and to share some reflective tools with such dedicated and professional ladies. I was certainly impressed with each and everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, from those with long experience to those who are fairly new to the field. I had a delightful time with you all.

Thank you!

To each of you, keep going well!"



Participants are library staff from Dharumavantha School, Hiriya School, Attorney General's Office library, National Library and some members of MLA council.

"The body is the primary means of learning (Jennings,1990), and all other learning is secondary"

"This is the paradox of drama: that I come closer by being more distanced (Jennings, 1998)"

Jennings S. (2004:58,56) *Creative Storytelling for children at risk* Speechmark Publishing.

"Reflective Practice strives to recognise, work with, and support the emotional aspects of behavioural change..

(It is) rooted in experience – and particularly the problematic experience – of the learners"

Osterman & Kottkamp (1993:12,15), *Reflective Practice for Educators*, Corwin Press, SAGE

"Tell me, and I will listen. Show me, and I will see. Let me experience, and I will learn."

17C philosopher, Lao Tzu.

(Rob Weiner - sociodrama/action methodology: "a deep action method dealing with intergroup relations & collective ideologies" J.L. Moreno)

www.mpv-sam.com

In September 2016, Dspace software was installed and training was given to library and IT staff, plus 50 records of Faiythoora collection were entered into the database by MLA. Research Library managed to enter more than 300 issues by December.

DSpace is the software of choice for academic, non-profit, and commercial organizations building open digital repositories. It is free and easy to install "out of the box" and completely customizable to fit the needs of any organization.

DSpace preserves and enables easy and open access to all types of digital content including text, images, moving images, mpegs and data sets. And with an ever-growing community of developers, committed to continuously expanding and improving the software, each DSpace installation benefits from the next.

Some of the top reasons to use Dspace: Largest community of users and developers worldwide; free open source software; completely customizable to fit your needs; used by educational, government, private and commercial institutions; can be installed out of the box.

<http://www.dspace.org>

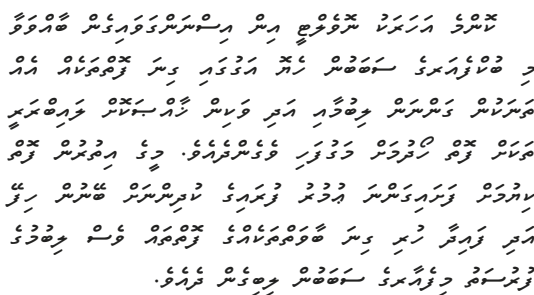
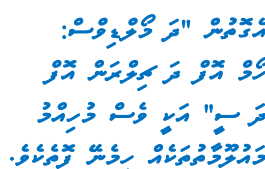


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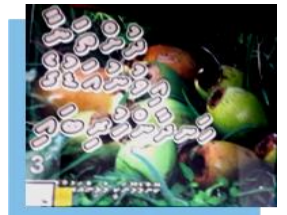
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تَزَوُّجُ الْمَرْءِ رَجُلٍ رَجُلٍ رَجُلٍ

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 ۞ فَأَقْبِرْ فِي ظُلُمٍ أَمَّا جَبْهَتُكَ فَاصْطَلِبْ إِنَّهُ بِصِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

In August, 2016 MLA recognized and proposed valuable work of Mr. Mohamed Nizar Ibrahim, the founder of "Naifaru Public Library", Lh. Naifaru, to "Maldives National Award 2016" who is providing continuous library service to the public for the past 36 years. As a result of this attempt, Mr. Nizar received the award for Special Achievement in serving the community, by H.E. President Yameen Abdul Qayoom at the Republic Day function held for National Award 2016.

**MLA team met Minister of
Education,
Dr. Aishath Shiham**

Current Librarian posts, salary scales and status of school libraries plus challenges in LIS field were addressed.

1. Lack of relevant reading materials in libraries, especially for leisure reading. Due to budget constraints some libraries did not purchase fiction books for 5 to 10 years.

2. Library staff who achieved Advanced Certificate and Diploma Certificate in Library Science did not get any salary increment.

3. Inadequate number of library staff in libraries which creates a barrier to provide a quality service.

4. Challenges facing in carrying out "Library Automation and Digitization Project" which was a collaborative work initiated by MLA in 2010 & 2011.

Librarian Profile:

Shamoon Mohamed

Assistant Librarian

Majeedhiyya School

1. Did you always aspire to be a librarian?

I have always pursued to become a librarian. Since library is one of the most important sources of information in the education system, the librarian plays a key role in this learning environment.

2. What is the defining moment that made you decide on the library career?

I have chosen this career in owe to the love I have for books and the keen in serving for young children.

3. What is your long term goal for your professional life?

My most significant goal is to move on further with this career by achieving a degree in this field.

4. What is your biggest achievement to date?

My biggest achievement, so far, I believe that is working and serving as a school librarian for 11 years.

5. What is your greatest struggle professionally?

One of my greatest struggles I've always gone through is serving as a Librarian with limited amount of resources.

6. Next biggest challenge?

My biggest challenge would be to upgrade our library with the advanced technology.



7. Regrets?

Lack of online-learning opportunities in Library and Information Science field.

8. My Vision for the library and information sector of the Maldives.

My vision is to create a well-maintained culture of reading especially for adolescents and youngsters, by converting libraries into an e-learning center.

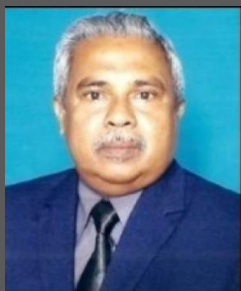
9. What would you say to want to be librarians?

Serving as a Librarian is undoubtedly a very good career, especially in the technological world. If you have either teaching or IT backgrounds why not become librarians. Cause the computer and the internet as well teaching skills are an essential part of school library life.

10. Anything else to add?

Reading books immensely gains countless benefits, hence, we Librarians should read and read as to develop our knowledge because we are the information professionals.

Thank you, Maldives Library Association.

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Update on MLA activities 2016

✚ Koha Integrated Library System

Koha ILS was installed in Thaaajudheen School. Training is to be conducted in January 2017.

✚ Library Consultancy was proposed to Islamic Library, Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Aminiya School as per their request which were approved to be carried out in the year 2017.

✚ Developed a soft copy of DDC 15th abridged edition to provide school libraries in order to support the library classification.

✚ A team of MLA council met Minister of Education, Dr.Aishath Shiham on 23rd November 2016 and addressed the needs, issues and concerns of school libraries and library staff.

✚ In August 2016 MLA recognized and proposed valuable work of Mr.Mohamed Nizar Ibrahim, the founder of "Naifaru Public Library", Lh.Naifaru, to "Maldives National Award 2016" who is providing continuous library service to the public for the past 36 years. As a result of this attempt Mr.Nizar received the award for Special Achievement in serving the community, by H.E. President Yameen Abdul Qayoom at the Republic Day function held for National Award 2016.

✚ MLA logo was re-designed and approved by the council. It would be submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval in January 2017.

Upcoming Events & Activities

✚ Koha Integrated Library System

Koha ILS to be installed in A.A.Ukulhas School Library and Kalaafaanu School Library.

✚ Library Consultancy

Consultancy to be started in A.A.Ukulhas School, and Islamic Library.

✚ Upgrading Koha ILS.

✚ Workshop on Big book writing skills

Workshop which was planned for the year 2016 has been postponed for 2017. Dates would be fixed according to the availability of the facilitators.

✚ MLA General Assembly

General Assembly is scheduled for 4th February 2017. Annual report 2016 will be presented and Activities Calendar for the year 2017 will be endorsed.

✚ MLA Newsletter

The next issue of this newsletter will be publishing in April 2017. Send us your news, feedback/comments, articles relevant to the library association, libraries, and information gathering & dissemination activities in the Maldives to info.malias@gmail.com



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