

SALIS Newsletter

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Editor: Chitra M Hariharan

Associate Editors: M. Mymoon, R. Srinivasan

B2-Solai Apt, Mount-Poonamallee Road,
Chennai – 600 089

E-mail: salis_info@yahoo.co.in

Tel: 044-22522234/22522448

Web: <http://autolib-india-net/salis.html>

New Year Greetings

*SALIS wishes all its members and fellow professionals
A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year & Pongal*

SALIS News

Annual General Body of SALIS will be held on 29.12.2004 at Bishop Heber College Library, Tiruchy at 6 P.M to discuss and finalize the activities, programmes, statement of income and expenditure, etc.

Dr. Harish Chandra Sushila Chandra Best Librarian Award

Dr. T.A.V.Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET was selected for the Dr. Harish Chandra Sushila Chandra Best Librarian Award for the year 2004 based on the criteria set by the award committee which was constituted by SALIS to select a suitable candidate for the award. Applications were sent to all major libraries and to various Depts of Library and Information Science in India. The details of the award was published in the SALIS web site and also sent to all the E-Groups.

More than 20 applications were received from leading institutions/universities. Selection was based on several criteria set by the committee. The selection procedure was totally transparent. The Best Librarian award and the Citation was presented to Dr. T.A.V. Murthy in person by Prof. Rajaram Nagappa, a well-known aerospace scientist on 18th Dec 2004 at the inaugural function of the seminar on Content Creation and Management in the Digital Era at Tagore Engineering College, Chennai. The convener of the award committee Ms. Sakthi Regha, read out the bio-data and the achievements of Dr. T.A.V. Murthy. About 250 LIS professionals from all over India participated in the function.

Dr. Harish Chandra, sponsor of the award, Mr. A.Hariharan, President, SALIS, Prof. S. Thayumanavan, Principal, Tagore Engineering College and Dr. S.Muralidhar, Chairman, SALIS Chennai Chapter felicitated Dr. T.A.V. Murthy.

Membership Renewal

Members whose annual membership has expired are requested to take up life membership. Contact the respective regional chapters of SALIS at the earliest.

SALIS Chennai Chapter

The following lectures were organized by the SALIS Chennai Chapter

12.09.2004 *Building E-Resources for an Academic Library*

Speaker: Dr.K.Nithyanandam, University Librarian, Anna University

10.10.2004 Knowledge Management

Speaker: Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan, Assistant Librarian, MIT, Anna University

Forthcoming Lectures

Topic : Expert systems for Indian pharmaceutical drugs

Speaker: Dr. S.Palani, Assistant Librarian, University of Madras, Marina campus. Date: 11 Jan 2005

National Workshop on Building Digital Libraries using DSpace

Central Library, IIT Madras & SALIS, Chennai Chapter organized a National Workshop on Building Digital Libraries using DSpace between 16.12.2004 and 17.12.2004 at IIT, Madras. 39 LIS professionals from various places such as Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Gulbarga, Chennai, etc attended.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof S.V. Raghavan, Dean, Planning, IIT, Madras. Dr. Harish Chandra, Programme Director delivered the welcome address. Mr.A.Hariharan spoke about SALIS and the workshop. He thanked the Director, IIT Madras and Dr. Harish Chandra for accepting the proposal to conduct the workshop at IIT. Ms. V.Sakthi Regha, Secretary, SALIS Chennai Chapter proposed the vote of thanks. Dr.A.R.D.Prasad, Associate Professor and Ms. Dimple Patel, DRTC, ISI, Bangalore delivered lectures on various topics of DSpace and also handled the lab sessions. Dr.Harish Chandra delivered a lecture on 'Building Digital Libraries: Issues and Solutions'.

In the valedictory session, participants interacted with the resource persons and appreciated the efforts taken by Dr. Harish Chandra and SALIS to conduct the workshop successfully. Dr. S.Muralidhar, Associate Workshop Director proposed the vote of thanks.

Seminar on Content Creation and Management in Digital Era

SALIS, Chennai Chapter and Tagore Engineering College organized a one day seminar on Content Creation and Management in Digital Era on 18th Dec 2004 at Tagore Engineering College(TEC). About 250 LIS from various places participated in the seminar.

The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Rajaram Nagappa, Chairperson, Prof. K.A.V. Pandalai Memorial Chair, M.I.T., Anna University. Mr. A.Hariharan delivered presidential address and he thanked the Chairperson Ms. M.Mala, Tagore Engineering College, for giving an opportunity to SALIS for jointly organize the seminar successfully. Prof. S. Thayumanavan, Principal felicitated the participants. Dr. Harish Chandra delivered the keynote address and Mr. L.Rajendran, Librarian and the Organising Secretary proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. Ganapathy, CEO, Dr. Dr.K.Nithyanandam, Dr. S. Muralidhar and others were present on the occasion.

Prof. T.N. Shanmugam, Anna University, Prof. B. Muthkumaran, Sri Venkateswara Engineering College, Mr. Srinivasan, MD, Kryon, Graphics, Mrs. V.Sakthi Regha and Mr. A.Hariharan were the resource persons for the seminar and delivered lectures on various aspects of Content Creation and Management.

Mr. Muniyasamy, Chairman, Madurai Chapter, Mr. G. Dhanasekaran, Deputy Librarian, M.K.University, Mr. S.Swaminathan, Mr. Manikandan, Joint-Secretaries and Mrs. V.Sakthi Regha spoke about the seminar and also about SALIS activities during valedictory function. Mr. G.G..Sivakumar, Vice-Chairman, Seminar Co-ordinator proposed the vote of thanks.

Mr. L.Rajendran, his library colleagues and also many SALIS members such as Mr. Karunai Raghavan Treasurer, Mr. Abdunnasar, Mr. Sasikumar (E.C Members) Mr. Joel (PRO), Ms. Esther worked hard for the success of the seminar.

National Library Week

A committee was formed to celebrate the National Library Week and also conduct a speech competition on 'Library as a learning centre' *in order to promote the reading habits of the school children in government and corporation schools in Chennai.* Dr. R.Ramasamy, RRLF was the Chairman, Ms. Esther Hemalath, Joint-Secretary and Librarian, Alpha Arts & Science College was the Co-ordinator and Ms. Sakthi Regha was the member of the committee. Invitations were sent to all the above schools at Chennai. Preliminary selection was made on 14th Nov 2004 at AutoLib Software System and four children were selected for the final round by the committee.

On 14th Nov 2004, a function was arranged jointly by SALIS and the Readers Forum of Ashok Nagar Circle Public Library, Chennai at 4.30 P.M. at Circle Library, Ashok Nagar to celebrate the National Library Week. Mrs. V. Sakthi Regha gave the welcome address and Dr. R. Ramasamy, RRLF delivered the presidential address. The whole programme was organized under the guidance Dr. R. Ramasamy. Mr.A. Hariharan mentioned that the programme was organized to promote the reading habits of the public and the school children. He also mentioned that SALIS has organized the speech competition for the govt and corporation schools as they will not get opportunities unlike others.

Mr. S.Ramalingam, Assistant Director and District Library Officer, Chennai spoke about the activities of the Public Libraries. Mr. P. Kulasekaran, Director, Public Libraries, Tamil Nadu was the chief guest of the function and he delivered a special address. He stressed the importance of libraries. Speech competition for the students of corporation and government Schools, Chennai was held. Mrs. Kalaivani, a well known writer and poetess distributed the cash awards to the following students and felicitated the children.

Selvi. Vayala Mary, Govt Higher Secondary School, MGR Nagar received Rs.1000, **Selvan M. Vijay**

Rathnam, Corporation High School, Mylapore received Rs.750, **Selvi. V.Iswarya**, Corporation High School, Subarayan Street and **Selvi N.Sankari**, Govt.High School, MGR Nagar received Rs.500 each.

M/s. AutoLib Software Systems, Chennai sponsored all the cash awards totally worth of Rs.2700/-

Mr. K. Jeevabharathi, a well known writer also felicitated the gathering. Mr. K.Dheena Dayalan, Librarian, Circle Library, Ashok Nagar proposed the vote of thanks. Mrs. R. Esther, Joint Secretary and Coordinator of the Programme was the event manager for the function. Mr. N.Avadiappan, Joint Director, DPL, Dr. S.Muralidhar and more than 150 members and readers of Ashok Nagar Circle library also attended the function. Mr. G.G.Sivakumar and Mr. Joel made other arrangements for the programme.

SALIS Coimbatore Chapter

A programme cum lecture on **Internet & Intranet** was conducted by the Coimbatore Chapter on 10th Dec 2004 at PSG College of Technology Library, Coimbatore. Mr. V Ram Mohan Network Engineer, P S G College of Technology was the resource person. Dr. M.Kanakaraj, Librarian and Chairman, Coimbatore Chapter presided over the meeting. Many library professionals in Coimbatore attended the programme.

Know a Librarian - Dr. T.A.V. Murthy

He is presently the Director, INFLIBENT(UGC) at Ahmedabad since 2001. He obtained his B.L.Sc from Osmania University, M.L.L.Sc from University of Delhi, M.S.L.S from Catholic University, Washington DC, (USA) (ALA Accredited) in 1974 and Ph.D from Karnatak University, Dharward. He is the present President and Fellow of SIS and life member of many professional bodies including SALIS. He got many awards including Satkal award for the year 2003. He has been recently awarded Dr. Harish Chandra Sushila Chandra Best Librarian award for the year 2004 by SALIS.

He is serving as a member of Editorial Board for more than 4 journals which includes Journal of Digital Information Management, an international peer reviewed journal.

Dr. T.A.V. Murthy began his career as Professional Assistant at Administrative Staff College of India Hyderabad in 1971. Since then he worked in many reputed organizations such as Librarian, Institute of Defence Management, Secunderabad (1971-73), Professional Bibliographer, Science Libraries, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, USA, (1973-74), Senior Librarian, Information Assistant, Cleveland Health Sciences Library System of CWRU, Cleveland, Ohio, USA(1974 -76), Assistant Librarian, Central University of Hyderabad(1976-78), Senior Information Officer/Faculty Member, Small Industry Extension Training Institute (SIET), Hyderabad(1978-81), Head, Library Services, IARI, New Delhi (1981-86), Librarian, National Library, Calcutta (1986-87),

University Librarian, Central University of Hyderabad(1987-89), Librarian and Project Director, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi and Librarian, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad. He introduced many innovative services wherever he worked.

Dr. T.A.V. Murthy has visited more than 18 countries and has undertaken several research project works. He has been the resource person, selection committee member, research guide for many leading organizations and universities. He has guided more than 15 students for their Ph.D work. He was nominated by UGC as a Member of the High Power Expert Committee for awarding Deemed University status to various Regional Engineering Colleges and Institutions across the country.

Dr.T.A.V.Murthy has organized about 35 national and international conferences/seminars, delivered more than 125 invited lectures and presented more than 80 papers at both international and national level. He has also attended number of training programmes. He has published around 15 and 25 journal articles at international and national level respectively and published 3 books, edited 7 books and reviewed 10 books.

His areas of specialization include library automation/networking, digital libraries, content creation, multimedia, library consortia and electronic publications and subscriptions.

Know a Library – Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library is one among the few medieval libraries that exist in the world. It is an unbounded repository of culture and inexhaustible treasure house of knowledge built up by the successive dynasties of Nayak and Maratha Kings. The Library was formed during the reign of Raghunatha Nayak(1600-1633) and developed by the successive Nayaks and Maratha Kings of Tanjore(1676-1855). Among the Maratha Kings, Serfoji II(1798-1832) was an eminent scholar and he employed many Pandits to collect and copy a vast number of works from all renowned centers of learning. Till 1918, this library was Palace property, after that it was converted to a public library.

Collection – The Library has more than 49,000 manuscripts in Sanskrit, Tamil, Marathi and Telugu which reflects the history and culture of South India. It also has 65,000 books in various Indian languages which includes the King Serfoji's personal collection in English, French, German etc printed before 1832. The earliest manuscript of this library is belongs to 10th century in Sanskrit, earliest dated manuscript is of 1430 and earliest printed book is dated back to 1692. It has also many paintings, drawings, pictures and modi records.

Catalogues – The first catalogue for Sanskrit manuscript in palm leaf of this library was prepared by the order of Serfoji II in 1801. Dr. A.C. Burnell an orientalist and sessions Judge of Thanjavur prepared

and published a catalogue for Sanskrit manuscript of this library in 1880 at London.

Publication Rare and unpublished manuscripts are being published as books by this Library. 473 books were published from the manuscript till date.

Preservation – The manuscripts are being preserved in many ways. Rare and unique manuscripts are preserved by means of copying on paper and also in microfilm form. A separate Conservation Dept is functioning with a trained Conservator for preservation of the manuscripts and books. An indigenous insect repellent powder mixture made with the powders of sweet flag, pepper, balackcumin, bark of cinnamon, cloves with camphors has been in usage from 1882 A.D.

Museum This library has a museum with rare artifacts, manuscripts, old books, drawings and paintings which is open on all days except government holidays.

The Library is conducting a short term Workshop on *Conservation of Library Materials* to the librarians and also courses on ancient scripts regularly. It is a **reference library** and manuscripts are issued for reference only to the bonafide scholars. The library is situated at the center of the Palace and functions six days in a week from 10.00 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. and it remains closed on Wednesday and govt. holidays.

For further details please contact **Mr. P.Perumal**, Conservator cum Librarian or the Administrative Officer, Sarasvathi Mahal Library, Tanjore – 613 009
Web:www.nictn.sml.org E-mail: tnj-sarsvath@sansarnet.in.
Ph: 04362-234107, 233568

Know a Book – Ethaladaivu (Directory of Tamil Periodicals), Mr. M. Kauthaman(Library, Tamil University, Tanjore), Tanjore: Ram Publishers, 2003, 144p, Rs.60.

The objective of the directory is to compile and alphabetize the dailies, magazines and journals published in Tamil language. The directory consists of 797 entries which are 26 Dailies, 3 bi-weeklies, 44 weeklies, 42 Fortnightlies, 578 Monthlies, 29 Bi-monthlies, 53 Quarterlies, 2 once in 4 months, 6 bi-year lies and 12 without any periodicity.

Each entry consists of the name of the periodical, name of the author and address, year, periodicity, price or subscription rate and brief description . It has an index based on periodicity. The author has personally visited many libraries and compiled this directory and it is an useful reference tool

Know a Web Site: <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in> is the official website of INFLIBNET: Information and Library Network Centre is an autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of University Grants Commission (UGC) involved in creating infrastructure for sharing information among academic and Research and Development Institutions. INFLIBNET is set out to be a major player in promoting scholarly

communication among academicians and researchers in India. INFLIBNET Centre has been subscribing to quite a few Bibliographic Databases in CD-ROM covering different subjects. These have been subscribed with a view to provide Bibliographic Information Service on the topics of interest to the faculty members and researchers working in the universities and colleges.

The following services can be availed from the site

- Document Delivery Service for journal articles
- The Contents of Periodicals in Science and Technology
- Online Bibliographic service from various databases
- Offline database services through E-mail

This site allows to search bibliographical databases such as books, theses and serials holdings, current serials and secondary serials catalogue and non-bibliographic databases such as research projects, experts and university information system. The site also provides latest information about the UGC INFONET, Soul software and other activities of the centre. This is a very good site for getting information free of cost for those who are working in colleges and universities.

Forthcoming Conferences, Seminars

Workshop on Conservation of Library Materials, 21-23 Jan 2005, Sarasvati Mahal Library, Tanjore.
Registration Fee: Rs.100

Personalia

Mr. S.Palani, Assistant Librarian, University of Madras, Marina Campus, has been awarded Ph.D on the topic 'Expert systems for Indian pharmaceutical drugs', by the Dept of Library & Information Science, University of Madras under the guidance of Prof. Manorama Srinath.

Mr. M.Tamizhchelvan, Librarian, The New Indian Express, Chennai, has been awarded Ph.D on the topic 'OPACs in south Indian libraries: a study of their facilities and features', by the Dept of Library & Information Science, University of Madras under the guidance of Prof. B. Ramesh Babu.

Mr.S.C.Kumaresan, Librarian, Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore and our Governing Council Member has joined as a Senior Librarian at the BIT, Pilani Dubai Campus.

Congratulations to all !

META DATA

Dr.S.Muralidhar* and C.Jayakumar (CVRDE, Chennai)

Metadata is important in the information society. It is having a profound impact on most aspects of information work. Although the term 'metadata' is a recent one, many of the concepts and techniques of metadata creation, management and use originated with the development of library catalogues.

Origin of the term: Vellucci(1998) suggested that the term 'metadata' dates back to 1960s but became established in the context of Database Management Systems (DBMSs) in the 1970s. Woodley(1999) traces the first reference to 'meta-data' a Ph.D dissertation on 'An infological approach to data bases' which made the distinction between:

- objects (real-world phenomena)
- information about the object; and
- data representing information about the object (i.e.metadata)

What is metadata?

The simplest definition of metadata is "structured data about data". Metadata consist of information that characterizes data. Metadata are used to provide documentation for data products. In essence, metadata answers **who, what, when, where, why, and how** about every facet of the data that are being documented. Metadata is plural like data. Metadata can be understood data about data, a tool enabling users, seekers and owners of information resources to find and manage them (UK Office of the e-Envoy, 2003).

Importance: In answering the question 'Why is metadata important?' several arguments emerge:

- Metadata enhances retrieval performance
- Metadata provides a way of managing electronic digital objects
- Metadata can help to determine the authority of data
- Metadata is the key to interoperability
- Metadata is the future

Purposes: The seven purposes of metadata identified by Day can be summarized as follows:

- Resource description
- Resource discovery
- Administration and management of resources
- Record of intellectual property rights
- Documenting software and hardware environments
- Preservation management of digital resources
- Providing information on context and authenticity

Dublin Core is a popular metadata standard being used for cataloging the digital resources. It consists of 15 data elements such as title, creator, subject and keyword, description, publisher, contributor, date, resource type, format, resource identifier, source, language, relation, coverage and rights management

Reproduced from:

1. Haynes, David. Metadata for information management and retrieval. London, Facet publishing, 2004.

2.<http://geology.usgs.gov/tools/metadata/tools/doc/faq.html> (as on 20.12.2004)

3. <http://dublincore.org>

Book-post



