

Message from the President



Dear Members,

It's difficult to believe, it's been a year since my first column as President for the newsletter. Time flies away before you realize, it seemed as though I have just made a beginning, getting in to the role, networking, getting to know professionals, making new friends, and having fun!

Friends, it has been a great honor to serve as President of SLA – Asian Chapter the year 2013 and which is truly international in nature, considering it has more than 150 members from across 30 Asian countries and a wonderful mix of members on the executive board. This whole year I breathed and soaked in culture from across countries and I find myself richer and wiser in knowledge, understanding and respectful of various cultures with similarities within dissimilarities.

The support I received from the team on executive board, advisory board and the various functional committees was abundant and immeasurable. I've been fortunate to work with them and strengthen my bonds. These wonderful people on board, made my job easier. Thank you friends, it is wonderful to have known you and for having the opportunity to have interacted with you.

During the year, we focused on a number of specific goals, including implementation of ICOASL's bidding SOP and had it implemented too; expanding Chapter's membership base; capacity for fundraising and reaching out to fellow professionals through Chapter's E-Newsletter.

The chapter reached out to several academic and special librarians, through collaborations with a number of events organized by individual libraries, state organizations and used this platform to promote SLA Chapter, its activities and of course expand membership.

It's been an exciting and rewarding year, as we have a long list of accomplishments.

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The highlight of the year was our bi-annual conference the third ICOASL 2013, in Pasay City, Manila, Philippines, attended by about 140 participants. The conference organizers Ms. Shirley- Ingles Cruz and Joseph Yap and their teams, worked diligently towards success and satisfied the aims and objectives of the ICOASL, fulfilling the conference theme,“ Special Libraries towards Achieving Dynamic, Strategic, and Responsible Working Environment, 10 -12 April 2013.” It provided ample opportunity to learn and network. The ICDL 2013 at Delhi was another feather in the cap of the chapter activities. It joined as ‘Associate’ sponsor for ICDL: Vision 2020 – Looking Back 10 Years and Forging New Frontiers, the national conference of Society for Library Professionals at IEG, Delhi, several individual efforts of SLA members for networking through events were also observed – like KRM 2013 at TMH, Mumbai where chapter members participated as faculty.

The thought that Chapter should join at planning level with events was well promoted, as it received several offers for collaborations at events for either as a whole or for sessions and special workshops, firmly establishing the chapter.

ICOASL is a unique feature of the Asian chapter. Truly international, it travels across Asian countries, has organizers across borders and gives experience of different cultures.

In order to establish our biannual conference as a brand, a standard plan for bidding to host the ICOASL was initiated and implemented post rigorous discussion. This helped everyone to understand the planning details expected by the chapter, the expenses and program. Korea being the first one to use this and is now ready to host the ICOASL 2015!

It had been my wish to have an e-newsletter, loaded with content of relevance and become a medium of update information. The objective of the newsletter should not only be related to carry news across, but help in generating visibility amongst members, other divisions and other Professionals. With this in mind, members were encouraged to share their activities, success stories, experiments and experiences. This would keep members informed about the happenings across the member nations and encourage participation increasing visibility. I am glad; this issue has all of this. The KOHA workshops, write-ups, success stories, the announcement of ICOASL, Chapter Awards, are adding value to the content.

I am deeply touched by the Editorial team who acted upon such ideas promptly and developed a wonderful issue. I take this opportunity to appreciate the editorial team’s efforts and congratulate all for taking up good activities.

I wish to thank and record here my appreciation for all executive board members, advisory members and of course the chairs of various functional committees and their teams, for their support, good discussions and prompt actions.

I wish success to our incoming President Shirley Ingles Cruz and to next year’s executive board. I also extend best wishes to the organizers of ICAOSL 2015, - Ms. Kay Sook Park (President KSLA) and Dr. Ho Nam Choi (Immediate Past President, KSLA), and National Assembly Library. Friends start preparing for your participation in the event and add value to its content by contributing.

I had a wonderful time as President and am happy I could contribute to the chapter’s development.

Thank you very much for allowing me this amazing opportunity!

Best wishes to all,
Medha

Book Released

Rejuvenated Libraries for Empowered Users: Essays in honor of Dr. T. A. V. Murthy
By PK Jain

A volume is published in honor of Dr. T A V Murthy (the former INFLIBNET Director, former SIS President, former National Librarian, former Registrar EFLU, and former Librarian IARI) by Digital Information Research Ltd, UK.

This book is edited by J. K. Vijayakumar and P. Pichappan and foreword by Ingrid Parent, President of IFLA. The book contains six parts with 40 chapters contributed by authors from 16 countries.

Book can be purchased online at <http://socio.org.uk/reju.php>
ISBN- 978-0-9926566-0-7; e-ISBN- 978-0-9926566-1-4

Special Price for India - INR 1300 (Print) and INR 500 (eBook). A Pre-publication offer of 25% discount is available for orders received before Jan 31, 2014.

International Conference of Asian Special Libraries (ICoASL -2015)

Seoul / Korea / 2015

By PK Jain

Organizer: Asian Chapter, Special Libraries Association (SLA Asia), Korea Special Library Association (KSLA); Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI); and National Assembly Library (NAL), Seoul

Dates: 22nd – 24th April, 2015

Theme: Strategies to Create a New Value of Libraries in the Digital Era

Venue: National Assembly Library (NAL), Seoul, Republic of Korea

ICoASL Background: The First ICoASL was held in November 2008 in New Delhi, India and it was attended by about 400 participants from 22 countries. The second ICoASL was held in February 2011 in Tokyo, Japan which was attended by more than 200 participants. The Third ICoASL was held in April 2013 in Manila, Philippines which was attended by about 250 participants. This is the fourth conference in the series.

ICoASL 2015 Background: These days our society is swiftly changing and everything around the world is in fierce competition with one another for ‘sustainable development.’ Libraries, too, are facing new changes of opportunities and challenges at the forefront of digital era where everything is becoming digital.

In today’s radically changing times, library environment is chaotic and the identity of librarianship is threatened. Librarian is one of the oldest professions in the human history and librarians have been working every corner in the world. To ensure the sustainability of the librarian’s profession, we need to establish our global identity and make it firmer than ever.

For this purpose, we must create new values for the future as well as discover library’s unrevealed values, and then let the whole world know about that. Hence it is very important to actively develop and share ideas through international communication among librarians and try to shape the future together.

We hope that this conference will trigger lively discussions over the current library issues, identify and generate new values of libraries in the digital era, develop strategies for libraries to survive in the future, and thereby contribute to the development of library science and all humankind.

About Seoul: It is a unique city full of character and qualities that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Throughout its 600 year history as the capital of Korea, the city has been awash with tradition and culture. It is a city that boasts great natural beauty, from its mighty Han River, majestic Nam Mountain to the many refreshing streams that flow throughout the city.

UNESCO has recognized Seoul for its rich culture and modern beauty and in 2010 designated the capital a UNESCO City of Design. One of the most attractive features of Seoul’s design is its integration with the city’s cutting-edge IT industry, which can be experienced and observed in the everyday routines of all Seoulites.

Seoul is a city that is constantly developing and full of delightful surprises. Visitors to the city will discover that beautiful sights and exciting streets await them around every corner. It is a city that offers a new adventure for all who come to visit, whether they arrive for business or pleasure.

Asian Chapter 2014 Awards Notification

By K V Satyanarayana, 2014 Award Committee Chair

SLA and its various divisions and chapters regularly honor members contributing to the Information profession, association and also early career members who likely to provide leadership for SLA programs in the future. The recipients are honored at the annual conference by respective divisions and chapter events. The SLA Asian Chapter also started awarding to recognize achievement of individuals at different career points. In the past, it jointly offered Early Career Award with Business & Finance Division, Asian Librarian Award with IEEE, Asian professional Award with Balani Infotech and Asian Student Travel Award with S & T Division.

Xiang Yuanyuan, winner of 2009 Asian Student award says – “excellent information professionals I met helped to reinforce my confidence that librarians are charming, knowledgeable, helpful, and important.” Lata Suresh, winner of 2012 Asian Professional award felt “attending SLA Annual Conference was really a lifelong and amazing experience for me.”

Over 10 professionals from Asia received awards sponsored by Asian Chapter so far. In short, SLA Asian Chapter awards provide Asian professionals with opportunities to attend one of the largest gatherings of Information Professionals event mostly organized in the USA. SLA offers continuous learning opportunities to keep up with current trends in the information industry, showcase of the latest technologies from leading industry partners in the INFO-EXPO Hall and many more.

2014 SLA Annual Conference will happen in Vancouver, Canada from June 8-10. Asian Chapter is happy to inform all its members that this year it will be offering "SLA Asian Librarian Award 2014" sponsored by IEEE & Asian Chapter and likely to offer one more award. You can visit <http://units.sla.org/chapter/cas/> for more details and how to apply for the awards.

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IISER Bhopal implemented the KOHA

By Dr. Sandeep K. Pathak

The Central Library of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal has become the second Library (after IISERM) in the IISER System in India to implement the Open Source Library Management Software (KOHA) successfully under the stewardship of Dr. Sandeep K. Pathak, Deputy Librarian who is also a webmaster and member of Editorial committee of the SLA-Asian Chapter.

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Best Practices

Building a better team with Google

Hangout: *Experience of SLA Asian Chapter Editorial Team*

By Dhanukumar Pattanashetti

We were six professionals spread across the country, united by the challenge to create a newsletter in our new role as SLA volunteers. We didn't expect the job would be easy, tracking ideas and discussions over emails & telephone chats could be frustrating, and at times, counter-productive. It was time to try out the video chat capabilities of Google Hangout, so that we could erase the miles and collaborate "face-to-face" in real time. We tested our first Hangout post on 15th May, 2013 and it proved just the right tool to make us a real team.

Any new technology has its challenges, but by sharing our collective know-how, we found the process relatively easy and the payout worth the effort. Being able to see one another while discussing and sharing documents added an important personal dimension that was missing when using many other online tools. Besides being more effective, it was great fun, and made the extra time devoted to these professional activities even more rewarding. As information professionals, it's both a calling and a pleasure to stay on the cutting edge of new ways to collaborate. We highly recommend professionals to try and enjoy the benefits of this free online tool: <http://www.google.com/hangouts/>

A "best practices" guide is available, if you plan to use Google Hangout: <http://www.wikihow.com/Use-Google%2B-Hangouts>

Try it out and share your success stories!

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A success story of Hybrid Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Implementation at Central Library, IIT Madras

By Mahendra N. Jadhav (Dy. Librarian) and Dr. Harish Chandra (Librarian)

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) is one of the prime national importance institutes. The Central Library manages knowledge, both in print and digital formats with approximate 4 lakhs documents, ensures seamless discovery and access to these scholarly resources, and provides faculty, students, and staff with professional support to find, evaluate, manage, and use such resources. The Central Library has 9001:2008 certifications by TUV NORD of Germany. The mission of the Central Library is to provide information services to achieve the institute goals. In recent years, with the development of RFID technology and the reduction of application cost of it, many libraries have implemented the same.

Under the first phase in the year 2004-05, following RFID hardware were procured - (1) Two panel EAS security gate (2) One self-check-out station (3) One electronic book drop box (4) One inventory unit with PDA and (5) Two multipurpose tagging stations. Along with that one lakhs RFID passive tags I-CODE chips manufactured by NXP (formerly Philips Semiconductor Product name: SL1 ICS30 01, Common name: I.CODE1) were also purchased.

The RFID Implementation was successfully carried out in first phase with integration of Electronic Library Management System (ELIMS) middleware software with VIRTUA-VTLS library management software through SIP2 protocol. All the RFID modules tagging, circulation, EAS security check, self-check-in/out through drop box and sorting station were working perfectly. Suddenly central library faced a major disaster with VIRTUA-VTLS server crashing in the year 2006. Up to that date, 70% tags were deployed to the books. Since Library Management Software was not functioning and the dispute with third party vendor over backup and maintenance issues, all the RFID hardware was lying ideally for more than a 2 years.

The software issue was resolved after re-installation of VTLS server in the year 2009. In the next 3-4 months' period, remaining 30% tagging was completed. With this the RFID system became operational.



Fig. 1 Self-Check-Out Stations

The real problem started with the invitation of tender for procurement of new RFID tags SL1 ICS30 01, Common name: I.CODE1. All vendors in India as well as abroad were unable to supply the I.CODE1 tags. Because, all companies stopped manufacturing ICODE1 tag and it was obsolete in the market. The only version of SL2 ICS20, Common name: I.CODE2 is fully conforming to ISO/EC15693 and was available in the market. The existing RFID hardware was not supporting both the ICODE1&2 tags.

This left with only two choices - to procure all the new hardware to take care of ICODE1& 2 tags or to discard old ICODE1 tags. In both the situations, the loss was around 30-40 lakhs INR.



Fig. 2 Self-check-in through book drop box and security cross check issued books with RFID reader antenna.

In the second phase, after the continuous efforts and through literature survey we came to know that in Australia also 2-3 libraries have experienced the same problems. Finally, we found that the RFID Hybrid System solution from ST LogiTrack Company Singapore may help in this situation. To take care of both the tags, an upgrade of firmware of all the existing RFID hardware's (EAS Gate, Book drop box, Self-check-in station, multipurpose stations and inventory unit) was needed. The RFID Hybrid solution saved the cost as well as human resource efforts.

All the RFID Hybrid Systems are able to activate and deactivate the EAS security bit. The Reader/Antenna hardware are compliant with NXP i-Code1 and SL2 ICS20, I.CODE2) with ISO/EC15693 compliance and RFID Reader central carrier frequency $13.56 \text{ MHz} \pm 7\text{kHz}$. The reader host communication COM1 port can be communicated via RS-232C or RS485 interfaces. We have fixed two types of reader at EAS gate to take care of security bit of the ICODE1&2.

As a precautionary measure, another antenna / reader / desktop is fixed at security check point. To cross-check in any adverse condition, if un-issued book not detected at EAS gate, then security person checks with the help of reader and it shows on the desktop security module screen issued/un-issued books.

IITM Central Library is the first library in India that has implemented Hybrid RFID System Solution with five self-check-out stations, two book drop box, two stock taking inventory units, two multipurpose sorting and tagging stations. Our VIRTUA LMS RFID based circulation system takes care of more than 12000 users' transactions and inventory of more than 2.5 lakhs documents.



Rejuvenated Libraries for Empowered Users

By Jay Bhat

The world of information is going through immense changes, as new ways of information discovery, access and use are envisioned and developed. The need for implementing changes in scholarly communication, outreach and library instruction is evolving rapidly. It has become clear that both new as well as experienced librarians would benefit from guidance and mentoring to keep up with these changes. This article highlights and recommends some ways in which creative mentoring can be imparted to librarians with a focus on Scholarly Communication.

The evolution of scholarly communication, whether it is in the form of scientific literature or short communications, is accelerating to keep pace with the need for researchers worldwide to have access for further growth. The availability of open access literature has resulted in some concerns as well. Today's librarians will need to be aware of and able to address those issues and concerns from their clients.

Some of the following questions often come up when librarians meet with faculty members in their institutions:

- *How reliable is a particular Open Access journal?*
- *Where do I find high quality peer reviewed Journals?*
- *Should I submit my article in a particular Open Access journal?*

They will need to learn how to respond to such questions. A librarian who is an expert in scholarly communication can serve as a Mentor to fellow librarians needing help in this area.

Online consultation with various resources can also guide a librarian to develop insights into scholarly communication.

There is a growing number of high-quality, peer-reviewed open access journals such as those published by Public Library of Science – (<http://www.plos.org/>) IEEE's Open Access initiative is an example of another model of peer-reviewed open access (see http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/authors/open_access.html and <http://open.ieee.org/> for details).

To help navigate these new types of journals, here are a couple of useful resources:

- **Jeffery Beall's Scholarly Open Access blog** at <http://scholarlyoa.com/>

Beall, a librarian at University of Colorado, Denver, researches and writes about open access and predatory journal publishing. He maintains list of predatory publishers and stand-alone journals; here is a shortcut to the publisher list, widely known as "Beall's List": <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>

- **Directory of Open Access Journals** at <http://www.doaj.org/>

The aim of the DOAJ is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals, thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. The DOAJ aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use a quality control system to guarantee the content. In short, the DOAJ aims to be THE "one stop shop" for users of open access journals.

- **Thomson Reuters Links Open Access Journal Title List** at <http://science.thomsonreuters.com/cgi-bin/linksj/opensearch.cgi>

The TR Open Access Journal List includes free journal content that is available for linking from the Web of Knowledge. You can browse for a journal using this link. Alternatively, you can perform a search for a specific journal title by following the instructions provided in the search box.

Editorial policies for most journals, including review policies and processes, can be located on a journal's website. If such policies are not posted, or if they are but make no sense, consider it a red-flag against the journal's veracity.

American Libraries Association has a New Members Round Table Mentoring Program (<http://www.ala.org/nmrt/oversightgroups/comm/mentor/mentoringcommittee>) where new members can get answers to the questions such as "Do you sometimes feel you have professional questions to ask and no one to direct them to?" from other experts in the field.

STS Sci/Tech Library Mentors Program provides guidelines for mentoring at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/sts/stswebsite/mentors/mentorinfo>

The Mentorship Handbook: A Guide for SLA Chapters and Divisions to Establish Mentorship Programs, Special Libraries Association is available at <http://web.archive.org/web/20120914024552/http://www.sla.org/pdfs/mentorsh.pdf>

Managing Knowledge about the ‘Kala Pani’ period of the Indian Freedom Movement:

Glimpses into the Cellular Jail National Memorial in Andaman, India

By Dr. Susmita Chakraborty

Introduction: Cellular Jail in Andaman was constructed to house the exiled revolutionaries of the Indian Freedom Movement. Many of our celebrated freedom fighters inhabited the cells of the jail in the pre-Independence period. Bounded by the sea on all sides, with no escape routes, they were under rigorous labour and mental torture till death (natural or at the gallows) make their toll. The Andaman Cellular Jail bears the testimony of the notorious ‘Kala Pani’ chapter of the Indian Freedom Movement. In fact, the ‘Kala Pani’ period has become the identity of the whole Island Territory of the Andaman as revealed from its paying respect to the freedom fighters by naming the airport with the name of a very famous revolutionary

The Resource Base: The Cellular Jail in Andaman that housed the exiled revolutionaries is turned into the Cellular Jail National Memorial in Andaman in the post-Independence period by the Government of India.

The people of India are proud of the freedom struggle led by the revolutionaries in the-then Cellular Jail. There were many famous persons as well as not-so-well-known people among the Cellular Jail inhabitants. Scrupulous efforts were made to preserve and conserve all the objects from that by-gone era. The place with all its buildings, gallows, and workshops still leaves and breathes Indian freedom history. It has a unique ambiance that still affects significantly crowds from all over India and beyond. To capture, process, manage and disseminate the knowledge of those days gone by, the National Memorial authorities has taken the ‘LAM’ (Libraries-Archives-Museum) approach which is so very appropriate to create the sense of history.



Image: A Model of the Cellular Jail with all wings

The Knowledge Base in this National Memorial is composed of many levels –

Level 1: The building and its surroundings are objects of learning. They have been maintained as such. This constitute the following -

- 1.1 The Gallows
- 1.2 The Workshop
- 1.3 The Wings
- 1.4 The Cells
- 1.5 The Tower
- 1.6 The Banyan Tree as a character in history
- 1.7 The Sea Surrounding Port Blair Island of Andaman as a character in history

Level 2: Galleries are created to exemplify those glorious indomitable fighting spirits –

- 2.1 Netaji Gallery: On the centenary of Cellular Jail, famous artists as well as local artists shared an arts day where they tried to capture its history. The paintings thus drawn formed the basis of the ‘Art gallery’.
- 2.2 Art Gallery
- 2.3 Freedom fighters Photo Gallery:
- 2.4 Artifact Gallery
- 2.5 Gallery on Andaman in Olden Days

The artifact gallery and gallery on Andaman in olden days depict life as it was prevalent in the olden days in Andaman.

Level 3: Library on freedom movement is there to provide important books and documents to trace the salient points from the ‘Kala Pani’ period of Indian freedom Struggle.



Image: The Library

It also has a publication unit with select list of publications on this historical saga.

Contributions to next Asian Chapter Newsletter

We're always eager to receive articles for the Asian Chapter Newsletter.

Please send articles about your accomplishments, library developments, innovative practices, interesting websites, and trends in the information industry, the application of new technologies, book reviews, and upcoming events that you'd like to publicize to –

Mr. Dhanu Pattanashetti | e-mail: dhanu.p@ieee.org

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For information about advertising in the Asian Chapter News, please contact Dr. P K Jain | e-mail: pkjain1310@gmail.com

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Level 4: Statues and Inscriptions of People from Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra and other states of India took part in the freedom movement and deported here for exile. Many of them died under physical and mental torture. Statues of those martyrs are there to pay homage as well as to provide information. There are Inscriptions about the Revolutionaries who was Imprisoned and/or died in the Cellular Jail. These inscriptions are valuable sources of history for the period.

Level 5: The Oral History Documentation through Light and Sound - In the evening, an authentic Light and Sound presentation of the 'Kala Pani' period of Indian Freedom Struggle is done through the dialogue between the centuries-old Banyan Tree and the Sea Surrounding the Port Blair Island of Andaman. The Tree and the sea tell the spectators the history in all its gory as well as heroic details. Voices of important actors are used to implement the quality of drama of long-lost days. The clever use of light at the Tower, the Gallows, the Banyan Tree, the cell of Vinayak Savarkar, among other things lends a semblance of real time in the whole play-acting. The sound used judiciously as well as dramatically makes the captivated audience a party to the whole performance.

We Have Given Our Today For Your Tomorrow: After visiting this entire resource base that symbolizes a part of the heroic freedom struggle of the Indian revolutionaries against the colonial oppressors, two contradictory feelings struggle in one's heart. One is the sense of loss as well as pride about so many young talented people from Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra and other provinces of India who dedicated their lives (or a significant number of years) in the exile in Andaman. The other is a sense of pride that we come from the same lineage of the brave hearts. These revolutionaries laid down their lives or many years of it for our better tomorrow. The least we can do as Information Professionals is to disseminate the knowledge of this bygone heroic era to the generations to come.

Acknowledgement: *The author expresses her gratitude to the staff of the Cellular Jail National Memorial, Port Blair, Andaman, India.*

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