



NNL News

The Newsletter of the Nepal National Library



Issue No. 14/15 June 2006; Ashadh, 2063

NNL observes Golden Jubilee

Nepal National Library (NNL) observed its 50th year of establishment amidst a function organized on 3rd January 2006. Actually the NNL was established on January 2, 1957 (19 Poush 1313), however according to Nepali calendar 19th Poush fell on 3rd January this year.

The then Honourable Assistant Minister for Education and Sports Bhuwan Pathak inaugurated the function by lighting the candle. The Minister also formally inaugurated the official website of Nepal National Library (www.nnl.gov.np) and Kaisher Library (www.klib.gov.np) at the same time by clicking on the button.

certificates to the winners of essay competition. Mr. Harilal Shrestha, Mr. Bharat Mani Risal and Mr. Madhusudan Sharma Subedi were the ex-Chairmen of the library who were felicitated at the occasion. Similarly Ms. Mithila Pradhan, Mr. Arjun Bahadur Karki, Mr. Sharad Chandra Acharya, Mr. Shanker Kumar Shrestha, Ms. Alka Khadka and Mr. Ratna Bahadur Dangol were the retired and working staff of the library who were honoured at the function. Ms. Nisha Rai and Mr. Bhuwan Neupane were the winners of essay competition.



Joint Secretary chairing the programme



Ex-chairmen and Chief Librarian of NNL

On the same occasion, the Minister felicitated three ex-Chairmen of Nepal National Library, provided certificates to the staff of NNL who had started their service at this library and retired from the same and also to those staff who have served the library continuously for more than 15 years and lastly handed over

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Speaking as Chief Guest Mr. Pathak shed light on the importance of libraries in this age of information and communication. He thanked library professionals and Ex and present staff of NNL for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the library. He further assured that he will try his best to provide a separate land for National Library at some suitable place during his tenure. He also highlighted the role played by library and information centres in the development of nation by preserving and conserving the reading materials as literary heritage.

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Sujeet Memorial Library: an introduction

Introduction:

Sujeet Memorial Library was established in memory of a youth named Sujeet Kumar Hamal in one of the remote part in Far-western development region in 2050 B. S. The library was established in the initiation of Jwala Youth Club, Bir Singh Hamal - father of late Sujeet Kumar Hamal and other personalities of the society with a view to help to increase the literacy rate of the region. Jwala Youth Club was chaired by Mr. Sjeuet Kumar Hamal during his life time. The library was the first to be registered in District Education Office, Kanchanpur in 2050 B.S. Presently, the library is situated at Mahendranagar-4, Kanchanpur.



Users in the library

Objectives of the library:

- to provide library and information service to the general public;
- to provide free education to rural people; and
- to help in the scientific and modern education system.

Services:

The library has been providing reading and reference services to the public alongwith its members. Besides this the library also organises other programmes like quiz contest on some special occasions. The library opens 4.00 to 7.00 in the evening.

Physical infrastructure:

The library does not have its own building and lacks modern equipment like computer and other audiovisual materials. It has been occupying two rooms and possesses 20 chairs, 5 tables and 5 racks.

Present situation:

The library has been providing library services to the students, teachers, women, business persons and general public. At present it has a total collection of about 4,000 books on different subjects and it subscribes 10 daily newspapers. About 150 users visit the library daily for reading books and newspapers. There are two non-professional staff in the library.

The library does not have its own building, however Bir Singh Hamal has provided two rooms for reading and other services. There is an eleven-member library management committee under the patronage of Bir Singh Hamal. The committee comprises representatives from different fields to provide better services of the library. The duration of the committee is 5 years. The members of the committee are doing their best for the betterment of the library.



Quiz contest organised by the library

Membership:

Anybody can read the reading materials and use other library resources within its premises. However, there is a provision of 3 types of membership for those who want to borrow books. The types of member and the amount they have to pay for is as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| - Life member | Rs. 750.00 |
| - Yearly member | Rs. 300.00 |
| - Monthly member | Rs. 30.00 |

There are 112 life members, 63 yearly and 1061 monthly members till now.

Mailing Address:

Sujeet Memorial Library
Mahendranagar-4, Kanchanpur
Tel: 099521411



News in Brief

Training Materials to READ Nepal

Mr. Flored Burnett, Country Representative of Letter de Saint, an American institution to Nepal handed over advanced training materials to Rural Education and Development (READ) amidst a function at READ premises on November 15, 2005. The training materials include photocopier, multimedia projector, overhead projector, laptop computer, digital camera, sound system furniture etc.

Mr. Burnett, speaking on the occasion, expressed his hope for proper use of those materials. He further assured of providing his individual as well as institutional assistance in near future. Receiving the training materials, Mr. Sharad Babu Shrestha, Executive Director, READ Nepal said that those materials would be highly useful for producing manpower required for library. Mr. Dasharath Thapa, Chief Librarian, Nepal National Library, Mr. Sudha Lal Mulmi and Mr. Prakash Thapa, Chief, American Centre Library also spoke on the occasion highlighting different works done by READ Nepal for the development of library field in Nepal.

READ Nepal is engaged in the field of educational development by running community libraries at local level. READ Nepal in association with local community has run 39 community libraries in 33 districts. It aims to run 250 local community libraries throughout the kingdom.

Book Released

A book release programme was organized by Boudhik Bikash Mandal Library on September 25, 2005 at Siddhi Memorial Hall, Bhaktapur. On the occasion, chief guest the senior critics Mr. Krishna Chandra Singh Pradhan released a story book (Laghu katha) entitled "Antardwanda" written by Mr. Rajuram Munakarmi. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pradhan shed light on the importance of story in our society. Other speakers also spoke about the book on the occasion. The book contains 36 stories.

Model Library in Western Region

Laxmi Memorial Community Library, established in 2040 B.S. (1983/84) in Syanja has become a model library of Western Development Region after its renovation. The library has well managed reading room and modern equipment. It subscribes national and local level newspapers and purchases other books and journals. About 50-60 visitors visit the library daily.

Model Libraries in Schools

The Nepalese Association of the School Libraries, in cooperation with Danida and Department of Education, has established libraries in 12 different community schools of Kathmandu Valley. Six schools have been covered from Kathmandu district while three others each from Lalitpur and Bhaktapur have been selected for the purpose.

Priority was given to those schools having poor economic condition and backward educational activities. Total number of three hundred books, furniture and other necessary equipment were handed over to each school to run their own library.

Tin-trunk library in Baglung

World Education, in cooperation with local NGO, Ama Milan Kendra has established altogether ten tin-trunk libraries in 4 different VDCs of Baglung district. Each library possesses 110 books on different subjects like child right, girl trafficking, HIV/AIDS etc. The materials have been collected keeping in view the interest of children and women. Library committees have been formed in each library representing girl child, teacher, parents and others to run the library smoothly.

Largest library of South Asia

A documentation centre, started eleven years ago aimed at providing reading and research services to those interested in forestry, environment and animal sciences, was inaugurated by Ambassador of India H. E. Shiva Shanker Mukherjee on May 29, 2006. The documentation centre is located within the premises of Institute of Forestry, Hetauda covering an area of 4,800 square metre. The building has 20 rooms for reading and research for students ranging from proficiency level to Ph.D. The building has been built with financial assistance of the Government of India.

Children Section in DKRM Library

The then Minister of Education and Sports Mr. Radhakrishna Mainali inaugurated a children library section of Dilliraman-Kalyani Regmi Memorial Library, a public library on December 18, 2005. December 18 is the birth anniversary day of late Dr. Dilliraman Regmi, a senior politician and historian of Nepal. Room to Read, an INGO has supported to open the children section. On the very inaugural function, Mr. Mainali made a formal beginning of library's website www.drkrmlibrary.org For children to visit, study, use the educational materials and have entertainment from audio visual show in the section is free of cost.



Bibliographic Officer attends workshop on PAC

Mr. Damodar Bhattarai, Bibliographic Officer of Nepal National Library attended workshop on Preservation and Conservation of Library and Information Materials, July 3-5, 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was focused on providing general information upon the topic to the library professionals and other related individuals of different countries. Mr. Bhattarai also participated in an international seminar on National Library in the Knowledge based Society, 6-8 July 2005 organised on the occasion of centennial ceremony of National Library of Thailand. The programmes were organised by National Library of Thailand.



Mr. Bhattarai presenting country report

Library Assistants Training in Malaysia

Mr. Durga Prasad Pathak, Library Assistant of Kaiser Library participated in Basic Course for Library Assistants under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) of the Government of Malaysia August 8-27, 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. The training programme was aimed at providing basic knowledge about different aspects of library such as sources of information, technical skills and knowledge needed for the management of library and taking care of library materials etc. There were 17 participants from different countries. The course was organized by National Library of Malaysia.

World book day

Nepal has been observing World Book and Copyright Day since last two years on April 23 as UNESCO designated this day as World book day. As usual Nepal National Library in cooperation with Copyright Registrar's Office and other institutions was to organise a programme on this occasion, however due to people's movement it could not be held.

However, British Council in Kathmandu organised a week-long book exhibition from May 14-20, 2006 on the occasion of World Book day. Inaugurating the programme the British Ambassador read some portions of "Family matters" written by Robinson Mistri. Exhibition of 150 fiction books for children and adults, quiz and story reading for children and competition of "My Favourite Book in the British Council Library", reciting poems were organised within exhibition period.

KVPL starts services

Kathmandu Valley Public Library has started its services from July 9, 2005 at Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu, the centre of Kathmandu city, from a reading room provided by Social Welfare Council on rent.

At present, the library has about 22,000 books, reports and bulletins including those donated by VVIPs, other individuals and institutions. The collection of the library have been classified using DDC and their records have been put into computer using WINISIS software. The printed catalogues of books in English and Devnagari languages are also available for ready reference.

Presently the library has been providing reading and reference services to the general public of Kathmandu valley. Photocopy service at subsidized rate has been providing.

About 130 visitors visit the library daily which includes students, researchers, teachers etc. The library opens at 10:30 AM and closes at 5:00 PM.

Library and Information Science Level 3 Training

A 35-day long Library and Information Science, level 3 training course was jointly organised by Nepal Library Association, Kathmandu Valley Public Library and Nepal National Library from January 1 to February 4, 2006.

The training programme was organised with a view to produce mid-level human resources of library science.

Thirty one participants successfully participated in the training programme among which 16 were female and 15 were male. There were 14 participants from different institutions while 17 were new to library field.

Dr. Narayan Khadka, Chairman of Society for Kathmandu Valley Public Library and Ex-Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission gave away certificates to the participants.



Establishment of Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations (REFSALA)

A regional federation namely Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations (REFSALA) has been established with a view to uplift the existing situation of libraries by sharing idea among librarians of the region. The establishment of REFSALA was declared during a meeting held in September 20-22, 2005 in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.

Nepal Library Association and Tribhuvan University Central Library had jointly organized a 3-day meeting to establish Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations (REFSALA) with full support of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)/Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP).



Inauguration programme

The programme was inaugurated by the then Minister of Education and Sports Mr. Radhakrishna Mainali and chaired by Mr. Krishna Mani Bhandari, Chief Librarian of TUCL. The Minister focused on the effective use of libraries.

On September 21 and 22, 2005 closed sessions were held in Nagarkot attended by Dr. M.D. Abdussattar, President of Bangladesh Library Association, Mr. Dorjee Tshering, Director of National Library of Bhutan, Dr. Muttaya Koganuramath, President of Indian Library Association, Ms Habeeba Hussain, President of Maldives Library Association, Mr. Sahin Mohammed Malik, President of Pakistan Library Association, Ms. Deepali Talagala, President of Sri Lanka Library Association, Mr. Bholu Kumar Shrestha, President Nepal Library Association and other library professionals from different institutions of Nepal. The meeting was facilitated by Prof Russell Bowden, IFLA Fellow, Ms Kalpana Das Gupta, India and Ms. Rashidha Begum, former chairman of RSCAO from Malaysia.

On the 3rd day the meeting was concluded with the declaration of the establishment of REFSALA. Mr. Bholu Kumar Shrestha,

President of Nepal Library Association was elected President of REFSALA for the term of two years.

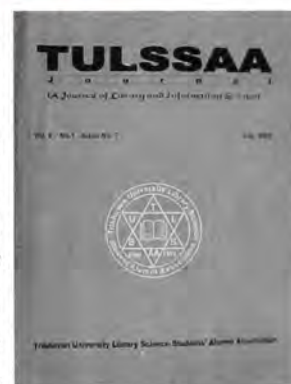
The REFSALA Council Members are all the presidents of National Library Associations of SAARC region. As host nation, Nepal nominated two more officers namely MR. Prakash Thapa and Ms. Anju Rajbanshi as Secretary and Treasurer as per the constitution.

The meeting also passed the constitution of REFSALA. The mission of the REFSALA is to encourage cooperation and development of the library and information services in the SAARC region; to develop, promote and strengthen the national library associations in the region and to promote high quality library and information services in accordance with SAARC areas of cooperation. Similarly the objectives of the REFSALA are preservation and access to the cultural and oral heritage of the region for research and other purposes; to assist networking efforts to improve user information access among the different LIS sector in the region through relevant agencies in the respective countries; to assist with relevant provision to bridge the gap between information rich and information poor in the region and within individual countries; and implementation of IFLA's policies and strategies relevant to the region's requirements.

The membership of the REFSALA comprises of different categories from the SAARC countries namely, national library associations, other library associations, corporate/institutional, and personal who support the objectives of the REFSALA. The council will meet at least once a year.

TULSSAA journal

Tribhuvan University Library Science Students' Alumni Association (TULSSAA), a professional association of library science in Nepal, published its journal *TULSSAA journal: a journal of library and information science* Vol.4 No.1 in July 2005. This issue contains 13 articles and other information about library and information science. Among the 13 articles 4 are in English language while 8 are in Nepali language. It also contains interview of Prof. Russell Bowden, IFLA Fellow.



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Chairman of the ceremony and the then Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports Mr. Chuman Singh Basnet, stressed that the library should play active role in this age of information technology. He shed light on the importance of library in the development of educational sector of the country. Mr. Basnet said that there should be at least one library at each ward to serve the local community. Speaking as the chairperson he wished that NNL can play a leading role in the development of libraries in Nepal. He further assured that he would work for the betterment of NNL and help in looking for its new location and building.



Mr. Basnet speaking at the function

Dr. Basudev Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, the then Royal Nepal Academy stressed the need of library in each governmental institutions. He further focused on public library service within the reach of community people. He also felt the need of policy related to book and information.

Mr. Ram Sarobar Dube, Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Committee and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports, expressed the need of library and its services. He further stressed the need of policy in the library sector.

Presenting progress report on the occasion, Mr. Dasharath Thapa, Chief of Nepal National Library highlighted the existing situation of libraries in the country especially Nepal National Library.



Mr. Thapa presenting progress report

He also underlined the problems facing by the library such as low level of the national library, low priority given to libraries, lack of library legislation, poor implementation of the provision in Press and Publication Act etc. Mr. Thapa also expressed the need of extending the library hour to provide better services.

Mr. Suresh Kumar Yadav, Library Officer of Nepal National Library presented welcome speech on the programme.

Mr. Damodar Bhattarai, Bibliographer of Nepal National Library presented vote of thanks.

Mr. Murari Binod Pokharel, founding-Chairman of Nepal Library Association, presented the conclusion of a half day workshop on National Policy on Library Development in Nepal. He also expressed the view that there should be coordination between library and Local Self Governance Act.

NNL organises a workshop on Library policy

On the occasion of its 50th Anniversary NNL organized a half day workshop on library policy on 3rd January 2006. The workshop was organized keeping in view the lack of library policy in Nepal even in this age of information and communication. The expected participants were about 40 including library professionals, policy makers, bureaucrats etc. However 25 participants took part in the programme. In the morning of 3rd January Mr. Dasharath Thapa, Chief of NNL presented a concept paper on library policy based on the policies of other countries.



Participants in group work

The participants shared idea on the subject and discussed upon the matter. The participants were divided into three groups for group discussion. Each group prepared their findings and the findings were presented to the floor for discussion. The conclusion of the workshop was presented on the ceremonial session by Mr. Murari Binod Pokharel.

Essay competition Organised

On the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, NNL organized on the spot inter-school essay competition on December 9, 2005 (Mangsir 24, 2062). There were 18 participants from 9 different government schools of Lalitpur district. There were two participants from each school of grade 9 consisting of one girl and one boy except from Madan Memorial High School and Adarsha Kanya High School which has only girls. The essay competition was aimed at creating awareness about library among the school children of government schools. The topic was "Importance of library to the student life".



Participants in the essay competition

The essays written by the students were checked by three persons and the winners were selected calculating the numbers they secured. Ms. Nisha Rai from Madan Memorial High School stood first and Mr. Bhuwan Neupane of Patan High School stood second. The essays of first and second winners were selected to publish in the souvenir of Nepal National Library published on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

Souvenir of NNL

Nepal National Library published a souvenir containing articles written by library professionals, ex-chairman of NNL and others on the topic of library, national library and Nepal National Library. It contains 23 articles and among them 7 are in English and 16 are in Nepali language. The articles provide information on history, present situation and different activities being provided by NNL.



NNL News

Collection development

NNL has added 4113 volumes of books among which 3436 have been purchased and 677 volumes are received as gifts from different individuals and organisations during last year.

Users

According to the Gate register a total number of 5817 users visited the library.

Photocopy Service

Photocopy service is one of the services being provided by the library to the users at subsidized rate.

Visit Programmes

Mr. Mohan Chandra Joshi, Nayab Subba (Non Gaz I) visited different public libraries of Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur.

Ms. Bhagirathi Adhikari, Book Binder visited public libraries of Jhapa and Sunsari districts.

Mr. Shreenarayan Jha, Library Assistant visited public libraries of Dhanusha and Mahottari districts.

Mr. Atma Ram Thapa, Kharidar (Non Gaz II) visited public libraries of Dang.

Staff movement

Mr. Shanker Kumar Shrestha, Kharidar (Non Gaz II) has been transferred from NNL to the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction.

Mr. Binod Poudel, Kharidar (Non Gaz II) joined NNL on May 17, 2006. He was transferred from District Cooperative Office, Dhading.

Mr. Bekha Maharjan, Peon, joined the library on February 13, 2006. He was transferred from Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention.

Books to Registrar's Office

Nepal National Library handed over books, audio cassettes and other A/V materials received under copyright registration to the Copyright Registrar's Office. The Copyright Registrar's Office was established in Kathmandu under the provision of Copyright Act 2059 B.S. There were 478 titles of books, 559 audio cassettes and 137 other materials deposited under copyright act. One copy of each title of book has been kept at NNL for library purpose.

Since 2046 B.S. NNL acted as Copyright Registrar's Office according to previous Copyright Rules 2046 B.S.



News in Brief

Committee to draft policy

A nine-member committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Dasharath Thapa, Chief Librarian, Nepal National Library has been formed to draft national policy on library development in Nepal. The other members of the committee are library professionals representing different institutions, representative from Booksellers and Publishers Association of Nepal and representative from different other libraries.

The committee held meetings on different dates to discuss upon the matter.

Library Assistant post in Mid-Western Region

Government of Nepal has created a post of Library Assistant (Non. Gaz. I) in Mid-western Development Region. Public Service Commission has already selected a candidate conducting written and oral examination for the post. This is the second post of library assistant out of Kathmandu valley, the first of which was created in Western Development Region.

NepaLinux released

NepaLinux, a complete operating system in Nepali language, was released on December 22, 2005 which was developed by Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya under PAN localization project with the support of International Development and Research Centre (IDRC). It is a system based on open operating system linux.

The software can either be installed in the hard disk or run directly from CD without installation. The NepaLinux 1.0 has a spell-checker or nearly 22,000 widely used Nepali words and a thesaurus with 750 Nepali words.

Nepal National Library apologises for not being able to bring out issue number 14 on time which now has been combined with issue number 15.

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IFLA 2006 Seoul

The 72nd General Conference and Council is to be held in Seoul, Korea on August 20-24, 2006. The theme of the present conference is "Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society". Further information can be obtained from www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm

Sajha Publication agrees to provide books to NNL

Upon request of Nepal National Library, Sajha Publication has agreed to provide one copy of all its publications published since 2062 B.S. onwards to NNL free of cost. In connection to this, NNL has agreed to purchase one copy of all of its publications published from the same date.

Indian assistance to Surkhet Campus Library

Ambassador of India, H. E. Mr. Shiva Shankar Mukharjee laid the foundation stone of library building of Surkhet Campus, Birdendranagar, Surkhet on September 19, 2005. The building is to be built with Indian assistance of NRs. 2,91,13,414.

Library Science course in +2

Higher Secondary Education Board has taken initiation in making provision of library science course as optional subject in +2 curriculum in Nepal. The board has organised consultation meetings with concerned persons along with library professionals.

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