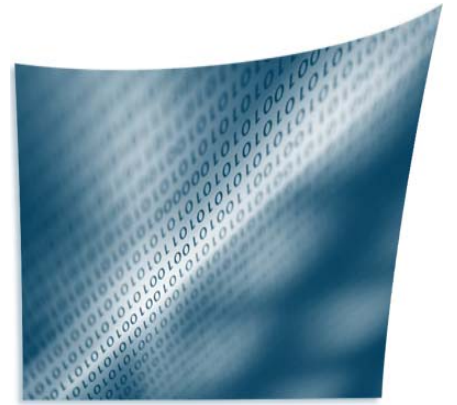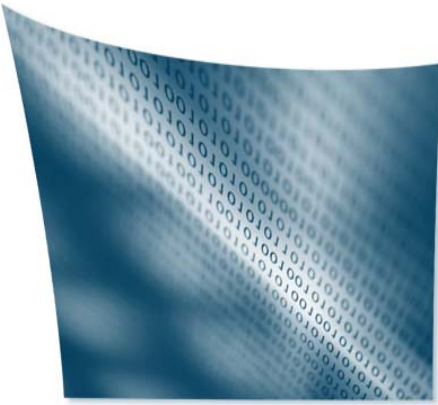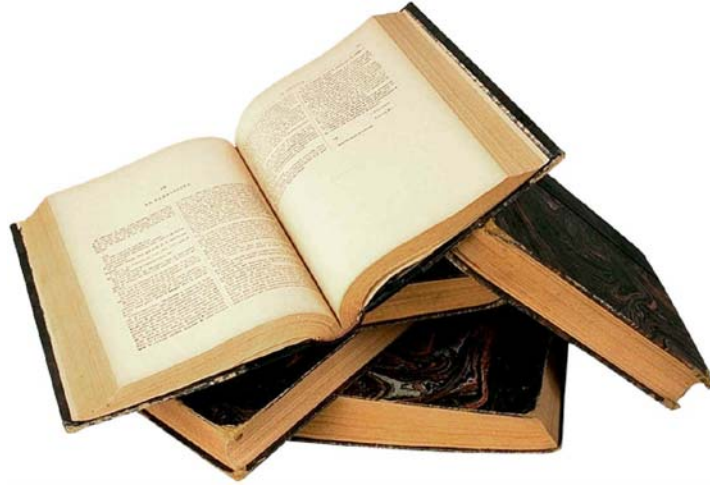நூலகம்

www.noolaham.org

Noolaham Foundation

Annual Report | 2008

About The Noolaham Foundation

Noolaham Foundation is the non-profit, charitable foundation that facilitates Project Noolaham (PN) and operates other sub archives cum documentation projects.

Project Noolaham is a non-profitable, collective and voluntary endeavor aimed at preserving Sri Lankan Tamil related publications and research papers in digital format in order to make them available to and for the benefit of all those who are able to access the internet. It was established by January 2005. The Model of the Noolaham Foundation was established in 2008, three years after the internet based archiving and documenting were commenced. The Model was aimed at building a long-term future for Sri Lankan based Tamil digital library projects on the internet. The Foundation maintains the technical infrastructure and servers of PN.

The Foundation also manages programs that strive to archive every document concerning the Sri Lankan Tamils around the world. It is also responsible for conducting a range of fund raising activities.

The Noolaham Foundation

Annual Report 2008

This annual report covers the Foundation's 2008 fiscal year
January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Main Objectives of the Foundation

To preserve printed documents and research papers related to Sri Lankan Tamils

by archiving them; to create a Tamil digital library accessible to all; to engage in

research; and to collaborate with similar efforts.

The People

Message from the Chairperson
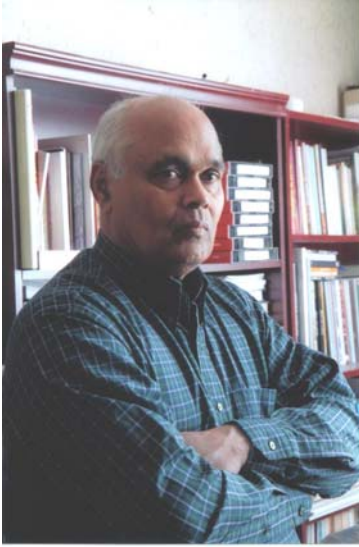
I consider it a great privilege in sending this message on the occasion of the completion of four years of Project Noolaham which aims at preserving the Tamil identity by archiving the published works of, and related to Sri Lankan Tamils, for free reference and for future generation.

Looking back, Dr. Narayanan Kannan introduced Project Madurai to me in late 1999 and also suggested that Sri Lankan Tamil books should be included in Project Madurai. I got a little over 40 books digitized in Chennai for the purpose and thirteen books found their way into Project Madurai between March 2000 and November 2001. Thanks to Kandiah Ramanitharan(USA), Govardhanan Ramachandran (USA), Geetha Ramaswami (Singapore) and Mukundaraj Munisamy (Woburn, USA) who helped with the proof-reading. Thanks also to Dr. K. Kalyanasundaram (Switzerland) and Dr. P. Mallikarjunan (USA) for their support.

" I trust more volunteers, authors and publishers will come forward to build up this project efficiently and faster in the coming years."

When Project Noolaham was started in 2005, all earlier Sri Lankan Tamil related digitization efforts were consolidated. More than 80 volunteers have since joined the project and are very keen in preservation of Tamil works. I am glad that Project Noolaham is progressing well despite the volatile situation in Sri Lanka.

Currently, 3000 works have been posted: magazines rank first and then come books and newspapers, with some books in English. With the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora spread all over Europe, North America, and Australia, works of, and related to, Sri Lankan Tamil origin are appearing in European languages as well. For instance, we now have a French–Tamil Dictionary, a Dutch–Tamil Dictionary, and also a German–Tamil Dictionary. French poems of Kalamohan have been published and also translated into Danish. This means that we can look forward to many more books in European languages in the near future from writers of Sri Lankan Tamil origin, and such books should also find their way into PN.

I am also glad that many academics and intellectuals from both Sri Lanka and abroad have consented to be on the Advisory Board, and we at PN look forward to their suggestions and guidance for the advancement of this Project. Without the help of the many volunteers, and financial contributions from various well wishers, we could not have reached the present level. Our thanks to all volunteers and well-wishers.

Most important of all, without the help of the authors, publishers of magazines and newspapers, we might have found it very difficult to post the 3000 materials that are found in PN. Our thanks to the authors and publishers who helped us achieve this.

With the experience gained in the last four years and with proper planning, we should be able to progress twice as fast as in the past, provided we have more financial contribution. I would encourage and welcome more well-wishers to support this project by making generous financial contributions. Finally, I trust more volunteers, authors, and publishers will come forward to build up this project efficiently and faster in the coming years.

I wish Project Noolaham All Success!

R. Pathmanaba Iyer

Chairperson , Noolaham Foundation

Leading Contributor, Project Noolaham

Message from the Founding Coordinator

We are in the midst of a total transformation in the ways we generate, distribute, access and use information. In similar periods in the past, humankind has lost a significant amount of information because they were not preserved properly. We, Tamils, have lost quite a lot of our lore at certain periods, such as the compilation of the Sangam anthologies and transformation from palm leaves to print, etc. We don't even know what we have lost. Now, yet another radical change is occurring as the world goes digital. Whatever we have now, but fail to preserve, may get lost forever.

In the initial stages, PN was more or less a repository of books in machine readable format. Since then the project has progressed in leaps and bounds to become a digital library. This will serve the needs of scholars and research students now But in the long run, PN is more than a digital library. It is the   preservation of knowledge gathered over centuries.

When PN was started, a lot of groundwork had to be done. We had to work relentlessly to   gain   technical expertise, to identify and build relationships, to get involved in collaborative partnerships, to gain more support, to create awareness, to enable openness and to get more volunteers involved.

" In the long run, Noolaham is more than a digital library. It is the preservation of knowledge gathered over centuries. "

Since taking over as the project coordinator, Shaseevan has worked tirelessly to implement and adopt new strategies. The enduring and   meaningful   transformation has been facilitated without any deviation from the core values of the project.

I am excited about the future of the project. But, of course, there is a lot to be done. The Foundation has to identify organizational priorities and allocate more resources to achieve them. A   flexible, non-bureaucratic, innovative, transparent, and professional approach has to be promoted.

I also take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to PN. We have just taken one step forward and there is a long journey ahead of us.

T. Kopinath

Co-Founder, Project Noolaham

Project Coordinator (January 2005— June 2007)

Message from the Project Coordinator

Noolaham Foundation is the organization that facilitates Project Noolaham (PN), a non-profit, collective, and voluntary endeavor. PN has been specifically set up to enable Sri Lankan Tamils to digitize printed materials in the internet and to enable them to be accessed with ease when needed.

Project Noolaham is a digital library as well as a preservation initiative, and it is hard to say which of these two is the priority. But various other objectives have been amalgamated into the project as well. The success of PN is due to its unique approach based on multiple objectives. Noolaham serves as a learning center where local knowledge is incorporated, enables social interaction for the achievement of constructive social outcomes, functions as a repository for various institutions, and supports cognitive work of scholars and research students. Noolaham is committed to a multifaceted developmental approach.

" Success of PN is due to its unique approach based on multiple objectives. "

Those who have observed the continuous progress of PN have remarked that the success of Noolaham is due its ability to integrate people who are active in the various strata of society. But the obvious truth is that PN is a representation of society and a collective effort. The selection criteria are simple: any Sri Lankan Tamil related work that is published in physical form should be included at PN if requested. No authors can be marginalized and all contributions are welcomed. Thus it is not surprising that individuals from distinct backgrounds are actively involved in PN

Though PN received different contributions from various people, a system to organize the efforts was not in place. A systematic approach was needed to fulfill the expectations of clientele from various social and geographical backgrounds. Reactive as well as assertive service had to be provided to users. The contribution had to be streamlined to extend and enhance the functions of PN.

Thus, as an effort to integrate and organize all the contributions of the various volunteers, I formed the Model of the Foundation, consisting of various contributors. By means of the Foundation, the contributions to PN technologically, financially, and in digitization are being coordinated. Thus the Foundation plays a vital role in facilitating PN.

Noolaham Foundation has a Board of Trustees consisting of leading volunteers and an Advisory Council consisting of scholars. The Technical Committee of the Foundation is responsible for technical issues and maintenance of the web site.

The Noolaham Foundation also has international correspondents who maintain contact with the Sri Lankan Tamils spread over various countries. The Foundation receives its funds from individual donors.

Even though PN's scope is limited to printed documents, the Foundation looks forward to including other media such as images, audiovisual materials, and personal papers at the web site. But this cannot be achieved without sufficient participation. So it is entirely in the hands of the volunteers to accelerate the creation of a 21st century digital library.

In 2008, five digitization projects were carried out and four of them were sponsored by the Foundation. The details can be found elsewhere in this report. The first audio books were produced during this year as well. When feasible, more effort will be directed to the development of a collection for print-impaired patrons. Another important development of 2008 was the wikification of the project. The whole PN web site was transformed into a Wiki site to facilitate even greater and easier contribution by volunteers. Further, though a user-centered design is promoted, uniformity of practice is maintained by the administrators. The wiki web site is just the first step in implementing a library 2.0 model. But more end user participation has to be encouraged to foster the model.

Project Noolaham moves into a new year with a lot of expectations. It is important for the Foundation to interact with contributors from widely diverse backgrounds. A better framework to promote more interaction and public outreach is sought. There are plans to build an active community around PN as well. Another important task is to incorporate a better information retrieval system. Searching has to be formulated with varied search experience interface levels.

Once again I have to emphasize that the project needs more contribution from more volunteers. The full potential of the project cannot be harvested without sufficient participation. The wiki site in particular requires more knowledge work. At this juncture, I would like to express my heart felt thanks to all the people – the volunteers who have been helping the project in various ways, the donors for providing financial support to the Foundation, the Thamizha who has donated a server, the technical support personnel, advisors, patrons, and all well wishers of Project Noolaham.
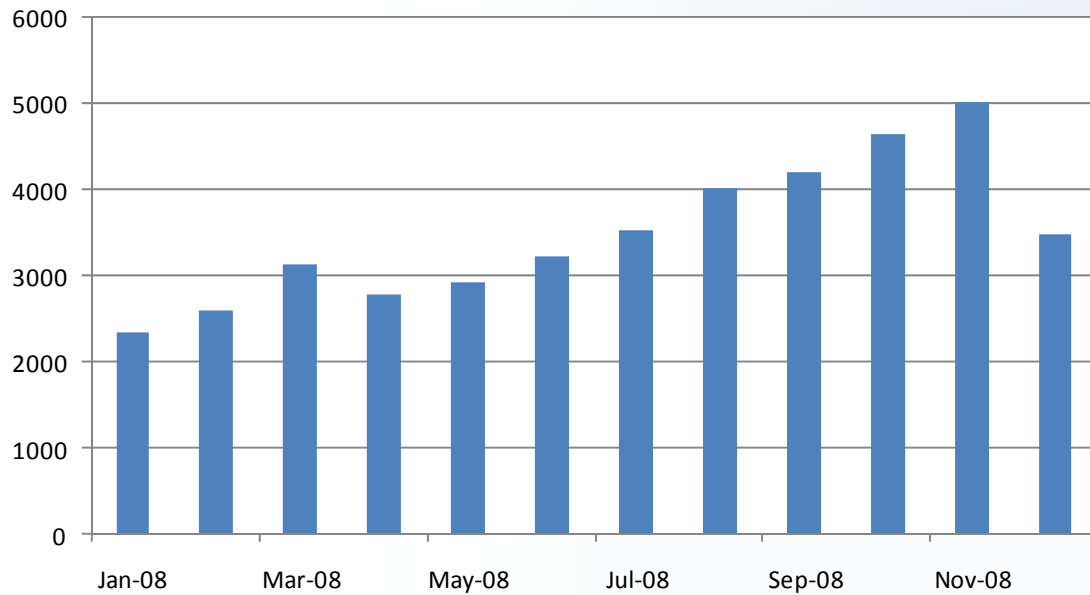

G. Shaseevan

Founder, Noolaham Foundation

Project Coordinator (July 2007— Present)

Highlights 2008

Unique Visitors per Month

New Documents Added by Projects

- Trincomalee Scanning Project, 2008
- Project Ithazhagam
- Front Page Scanning Project
- Scanning Project, Colombo 2008
- Thamizham Pollachi Nasan Scanning Project
- Others
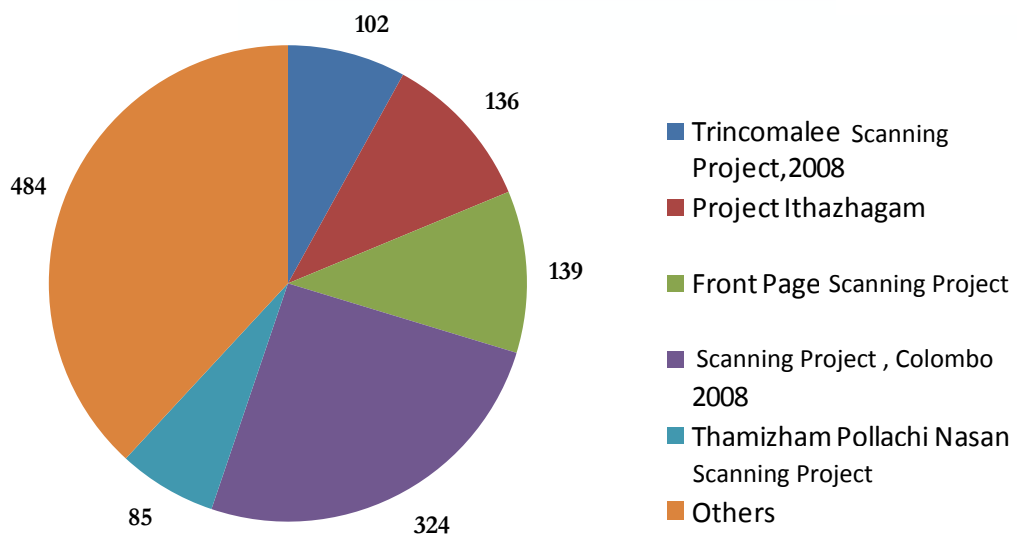
Total Documents Added: 1270

Projects—2008

1. Muhappu Seyattiddam (Front Page Project)

The aim of this project is to present new ebooks in the opening page of the web site continuously. An ebook-everyday project digitized one book per day, and it was presented on the front page with a short introduction. But after 4 months, an ebook-everyday approach could not be continued due to lack of resources, and hence it morphed into 'an ebook every week.
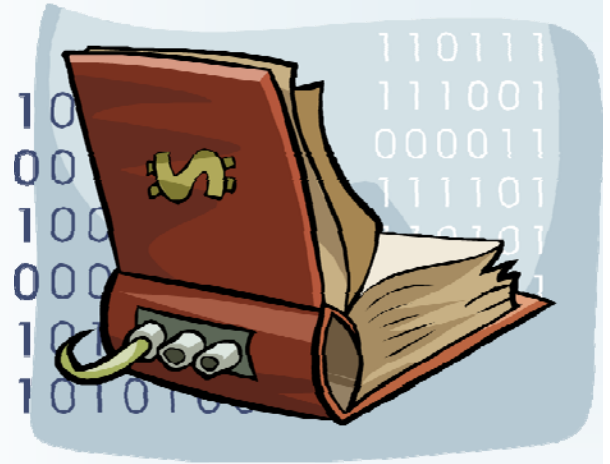
Deviating significantly from earlier practice, most of the digitization and related tasks were outsourced. Equipment, equipment-related expenditures, scanning and other associated resources were managed by those handling the project. Thus arranging the infrastructure, scanning and post-processing were outsourced. The first and last steps of digitization, namely, selection of documents and delivery were done by the project volunteers.

This project will continue in 2009 as well.

2. Ithazhagam Project

The aim of this project is to digitally archive all the issues of certain magazines. Under this Project, about 30 Sri Lankan as well as Sri Lankan Tamil related diaspora magazines were selected. Most of these magazines are in Tamil and some are in English. The initial digitization comprises digitizing all past issues of the selected magazines. The second part of the project is to release and archive the digital version of those magazines as soon as they are published.

The initial stage was not completed in 2008 and the project will continue in 2009 as well.

3. Colombo Scanning Project, 2008

Documents sent by various writers and those donated by friends and well wishers of PN were archived under this project. A notable collection digitized under this project was a set of diaspora magazines collected by Pathmanaba Iyer.

4. Trincomalee Scanning Project, 2008

The Trincomalee Scanning Project was carried out in Trincomalee and Colombo. Documents on Trincomalee and a part of Malligai Magazines were digitally archived. Even though this project had started in 2007, it was revamped and completed in 2008.

5. Thamizham Pollachi Nasan Project

Sri Lankan Tamil books and magazines are also digitized by the Thamizham Digitizing Project, a private digitizing effort by Pollachi Nasan based in Tamil Nadu. Even though the Foundation did not sponsor this project, technical support was provided by PN volunteers on behalf of the Foundation. Pollachi Nasan has been digitizing Sri Lankan Tamil related documents that have not been digitized by Project Noolaham. This project will continue in 2009 as well.

Financial Statements

Costs relate to digitizing and hosting of PN is borne by donations. So far the only source of revenue is volunteer donations. During the year ended 31st December 2008, Rs. 269,660.75 was received as donations. These donations were utilized for the following activities.

1. Funding the digitizing projects

2. Paying hosting costs

3. Paying backup expenses

4. Printing Expenses

All the donations contribution. were received as unrestricted. Before initiating a project, volunteers not directly involved in it estimate the costs.

Non-cash contribution

Volunteers' contribution to PN is still substantial compared to monetary ones. These contributions are not reflected in the financial details.

Budgets for the year

There were no annual plans or budgets at the beginning of the year. So reactive as well as proactive digitization models were followed during the year. Short term budgets/ estimates were used.

As the timing and amount of donations were unpredictable, digitizing projects had to depend on the availability of funds. A piece rate approach was implemented during 2008.

Summary of Accounts 2008

(All amounts are in Sri Lankan Rupees)

Revenue

Donations	**269,660.75**
Bank Interest	**990.85**
TOTAL	**270,651.60**

Expenditure

Projects	**234,320.00**
Hosting	**26,040.75**
Backup	**9,300.00**
Bank Charges	**351.40**
TOTAL	**270,012.15**

Balance as of 31.12.2008   **639.45**

Additional Information

The Summary of Accounts presented above does not include a Balance Sheet or Cash flow Statement. The project does not have any substantial assets or liabilities. But some expenses are prepaid in 2008 as elaborated below.

Hosting costs include Rs. 18,245.00 which was paid for 2008 and 2009 for a server space. So the prepaid expense amounts to Rs. 9,122.50. The domain name payment of Rs. 7,795.75 was made for 9 years. Thus it is prepaid for 8 years.

WERC digitizing project and Colombo digitizing Project - 2007 incurred some expenses during the first few months of 2008. But they were not included in the financial statements of 2008 as those projects fall under the fiscal year 2007.

During 2008, a savings account of two volunteers was used whenever necessary. That account earned a small amount of interest over time. Bank charges such as debit tax were deducted. Thus Rs. 639.45 was earned as bank interest after deductions. That amount was not used during 2008 and it is carried forward.

Projects – 2008

Trincomalee digitizing Project, 2008	29,388.00
Ithalaham	28,116.00
Muhappu Seyattiddam	75,486.00
Colombo digitizing Project, 2008	101,330.00
TOTAL	**234,320.00**

Summary of Accounts 2005 - 2008

(All amounts are in Sri Lankan Rupees)

Revenue

Donations	**702,962.00**
Bank Interest	**990.85**
TOTAL	**703,952.85**

Expenditure

Projects	**633,890.00**
Hosting	**58,772.00**
Backup	**9,300.00**
Printing	**1,000.00**
Bank Charges	**351.40**
TOTAL	**703,313.40**

Balance as of 31.12.2008   **639.45**

Expenses

Overall Expenses—2005 -2008

61,958.25

269,660.75

371,343.00

- Expenses 2008
- Expenses 2007
- Expenses 2006
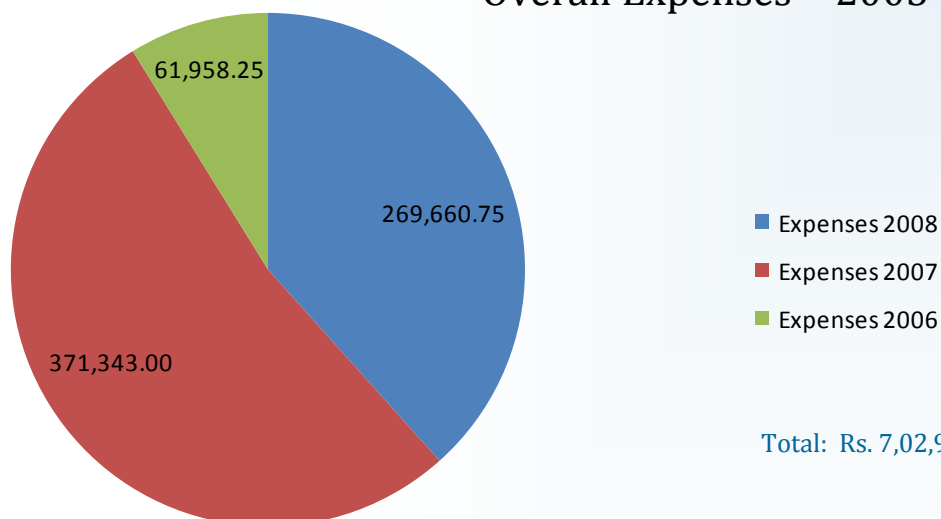
Total: Rs. 7,02,962

Detailed Expenses—2008

18,245.00
7%

7,795.75
3%

9,300.00
3%

101,330.00
38%

29,388.00
11%

28,116.00
10%

75,486.00
28%

- Server (2008, 2009)

- Domain Name (.org 2008-2017)

- Backup

- Trincomalee Scanning Project, 2008

- Ithazhagam

- Front Page Scanning Project, 2008/2009

- Scanning Project, Colombo 2008
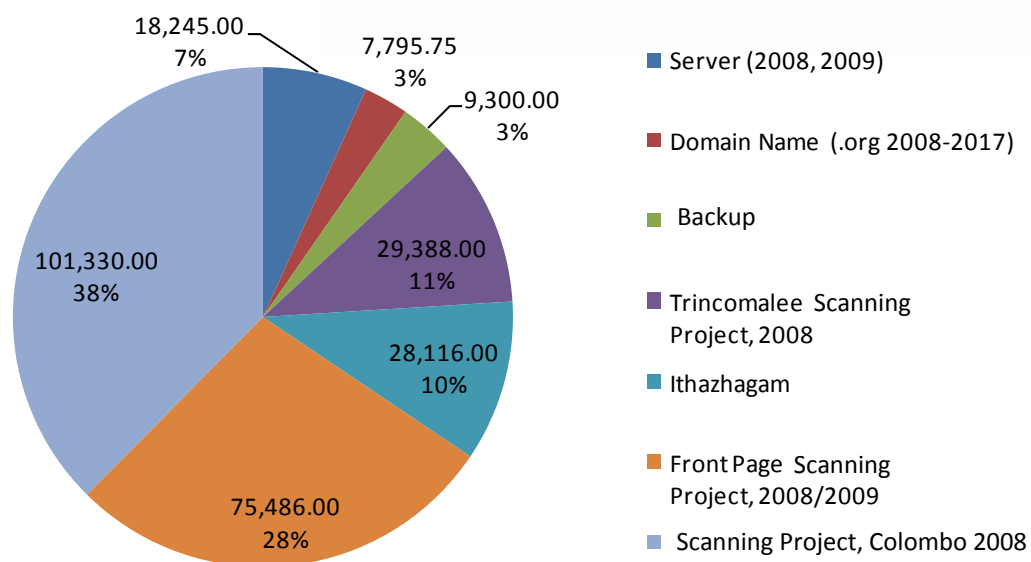
Total: Rs. 2,69,660.75

Donors 2005—2008

Major Benefactor (Rs 200,000 or more)

R. Pathmanaba Iyer

Patrons (Rs 50,000 to Rs 199,999)

L. Natkeeran

P. Piratheepan

P. Eelanathan

R. Mathubhashini

Leading Donors (Rs 10,000 to Rs 49,999)

N. Sabesan

M. Elanko

P. Srithar singh

V. Ganeshwara

S. Sreekumar

Y. Pirathapan

K. Narenthiranathan

Sustaining Donors (Rs 1,000 to Rs 9,999)

Kohila Mahendran

S. Varatharaj

V. Jeyachandran

M. Mauran

T. Kopinath

V. Thevarajah

T. Gnanasegaran

S. Niranjanan

T. Shenthan

G. Shaseevan

History

Once upon a time, in July 1945, Vannevar Bush of the U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development, in an article which appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, presented a technical idea named Memmex for new-generation libraries. In the 1960s, some serious efforts were made to store library documents in computers. J. C. R. Licklider, who researched at MIT during the 1960s, wrote the book The Library of the Future that contained ideas to create digital libraries. Project Gutenberg's 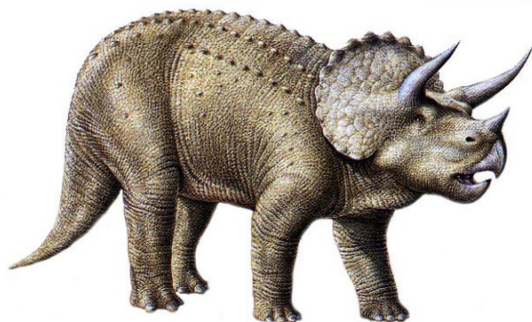efforts date back to the 1970s, but it was only after the introduction of the Internet in the 1990s that the fascinating era of digital libraries began.

In 1998, the first Tamil digitizing effort, Project Madurai, was started. Project Madurai followed the Project Gutenberg approach of volunteer contributions. Digitizing of Sri Lankan Tamil texts began in 1999 when R. Pathmanaba Iyer began to type in Sri Lankan Tamil writers' books for Project Madurai. He digitized about 40 books, and 13 of them were added into Project Madurai after proofreading. Some other individuals including Kanaga Sritharan typed in some books and made them accessible online as well.

During 2004, Eelanool, the first ever project solely for Sri Lankan Tamil digitization was started by M. Mauran and T. Kopinath. Later in the same year, E-Suvadi, a Sri Lankan Tamil archive project was started by U. Jeyatheepan, T. Thavaruban and M. Mauran.

"Sri Lankan Tamil digitizing efforts were started in 1999 when R.Pathmanaba Iyer began to type in Sri Lankan Tamil writers' books for Project Madurai."

Duplication of an ebook and the scarcity of resources urged radical changes in the approach. The need for collective effort was felt. Thus Eelanool was discontinued and Project Noolaham was started in January 2005 by T. Kopinath and M. Mauran. Server space of SEDOT was utilized.

Project Noolaham emphasized collective and voluntary efforts; The earlier digitized documents were added to the Noolaham archive; openness was vigorously promoted. S. Thevaraja, K. T. Pratheepa, P. Eelanathan, R. Pathmanaba Iyer, K. Raminitharan, Mathy Kandasamy, L. Natkeeran, Kanaga Sritharan and many others joined the project. Eelanathan bought the first own server for Noolaham. Once Pathmanaba Iyer joined as a volunteer and the advisor of the project, the PN efforts soared to new heights.

During 2005 and 2006, most input was voluntary contribution by typing in books. This approach yielded only a few hundred books. Even though Kopinath introduced scanning by the end of 2006, the volunteer centered approach was insufficient to accelerate the proceedings.

During 2006, Pathamanaba Iyer, with the help of A. Srikanthalakshmy, began utilizing funds to accelerate digitisation. Thus the first funded project of PN began in 2006. From 2007, direct monetary donations were accepted and utilised for digitisation . P. Piratheepan organized the first fund raising activity. V. Jasikaran arranged for an office place and equipment and they were utilized during the first half of 2007.

During the first two-and-a-half years, the website of PN was manually created one with HTML pages and links. By June 2007, Joomla was selected as the content management system and P. Piratheepan created pages for the site. After a couple of months Mediawiki software was installed and the site was once again transformed. M. Mauran, who advocates openness, was instrumental in selecting these content management systems. The structure of the wiki site was formed by Kopinath and many volunteers including Piratheepan and Mathubhashini began contributing. Vinodh Rajan's technical contribution integrated various web tools to the site. N. Selvarajah not only gave permission to add details about books from his Nooltheddam volumes at the wiki, but also extracted the relevant information and sent them to volunteers.

Shaseevan took over in July 2007 as the project coordinator and he began revamping the PN. To increase efficiency and effectiveness, PN was modified from a volunteer-centered approach to a project-centered approach. Thus PN was able to carry out bigger digitizing projects. Mr. Teliwatte Joseph offered his vast collection of magazines to digitize, and documents sent by many others were digitized as well.

The first collaborative digitization began in 2007. The Women's Education and Research Center (WERC) and PN joined hands in a milestone project to digitize the publications of WERC. Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran's contribution was notable in that project, and details are attached as an appendix to this annual report.

The digitizing method was also modified by Shaseevan to include editing. Scanning impurities were removed and readers presented with a cleaned version of the scanned images. Completeness of the documents was emphasized and digitizing all documents related to each other was given priority. Ithazhagam was a pioneer project in that it sought to be a 'complete' digital library. Editors of magazines including T. Gnanasekaran and Dominc Jeeva have contributed to this effort.

Shaseevan also sought to include all kinds of printed material into the project. Thus newspapers were added as well. Smaller books and publications were classified as a separate set of documents. Research papers also found their way into PN even when not published. They are included with permission to print them in the future.

By October 2008, Pollachi Nasan of www.thamizham.net started digitizing his vast collection and he has given priority to the digitization of Sri Lankan Tamil related documents. His participation is an example of the synergy effect on Tamil digitizing projects. By the end of 2008, the usage of PN had increased significantly and the server PN used was insufficient for the site. Mr. Mugunth of the organization Thamizha donated another server to PN.

The changes implemented later evolved into the model Foundation for PN. Representatives from all over the world were invited to the Foundation to interact with patrons and scholars of varied educational backgrounds to guide the project. And now, the first Annual Report of the Model Foundation is in your hands.

The Participation

Project Noolaham receives contribution in many ways from many people and organizations, and a number of dedicated volunteers and the Noolaham Foundation are the main contributors. Their direct participation in digitization, their monetary donations, wiki contribution and coordination of projects are the most obvious ones.

Other than the Foundation and volunteers, many other organisations work closely with PN. Publishers like Kalachuvadu, Thesiya Kalai Ilakkiyap Peravai, Tamiliyal, Vaikarai, Chinthanai Vaddam, Oodaru and Gnanam   reposit their work at Noolaham.

PN also collaborates with other organizations in similar projects. The WERC and Thamizham digitization projects are examples of such collaborations. The report of the WERC digitization project is attached to this annual report.

PN being a project driven by volunteers, there are a lot of background and foreground discussions about its activities. These discussions are not restricted: anyone can take part. This reinforces the open nature of the project. The discussions are held at the web site, Noolaham google group, or Wiki contributors google group; visitors are encouraged to leave their comments in the guest book at the web site. Two blog sites create awareness about PN in the Tamil Blogosphere.

On the internet, various tools and sites such as Facebook are used to promote Noolaham. Even though these efforts are not directly linked to PN, they have contributed to creating public awareness.

There have been quite a few introductions about PN in print media such as Virakesari, Thinakkural, Mallikai, Theeranadhi and Dinamani, and in a few channels such as IBC and Netra TV. Introductions have been made by people who have been maintaining close contacts with Project Noolaham, like N. Selvarajah and A. Muttulingam.

The Volunteers

Project Noolaham is based purely on the collective effort of volunteers dedicated to the effective execution of this project. The project moves by coordinating the work of volunteers from around the globe. As of December 2008, more than 80 volunteers have contributed to PN. Contributions can be made in many ways: providing documents to be digitized, scanning them, creating an Ebook, making a Wiki contribution, coordinating, making donations, providing technical guidance and creating awareness about Noolaham. A full and updated contributors list, and documentation of their contribution can be found at the PN web site.

Wiki Contributions

The Noolaham site runs on Mediawiki software. This enables users to contribute easily to the development of the site by registering. Noolaham Wiki volunteers contribute by creating individual pages for each digitized document, correcting errors, checking ebook links, etc.

Donation to the Noolaham Foundation

Financial aid received by the Noolaham Foundation is spent in several ways. Most part of the donations is utilized to fund digitizing projects. Once a project plan is submitted by volunteers, its financial viability is considered and, if accepted, funds are allocated. Other expenses include payments for servers and domain names, back up costs, and public outreach costs. Donations are supervised by the Board of Trustees.

Digitizing Projects for PN

Apart from the direct donation of ebooks by volunteers, publishers and authors, all other documents are digitized by and received through projects coordinated by volunteers. Financial support for the digitizing projects is provided by the Noolaham Foundation. Up to December 2008, around 10 digitizing projects have been implemented, 5 of them in 2008. These digitizing projects have been coordinated by T. Kopinath, A. Srikanthalakshmy, G. Shaseevan, M. Mauran and Thamizham Pollachi Nasan. In these, projects coordinated by T. Kopinath and Pollachi Nasan were wholly voluntary, and they did not receive any financial assistance from the Foundation.

Project Coordination

T. Kopinath coordinated PN from January 2005 to June 2007, a period considered as the initial stage of Project Noolaham. Since June 2007 G. Shaseevan has been the coordinator. Both have planned and implemented crucial changes in the project. With regard to establishing policy, it must be pointed out that policies have evolved to resolve the day-to-day issues being faced. The project coordinators are to be credited for this.

A full and updated contributors list and documentation of their contribution can be found at the Project Noolaham website .

Content Highlights

New Documents added each Year

1400	
1200	
1000	
800	
600	
400	
200	
0	

100 — Year 2005
262 — Year 2006
1256 — Year 2007
1270 — Year 2008
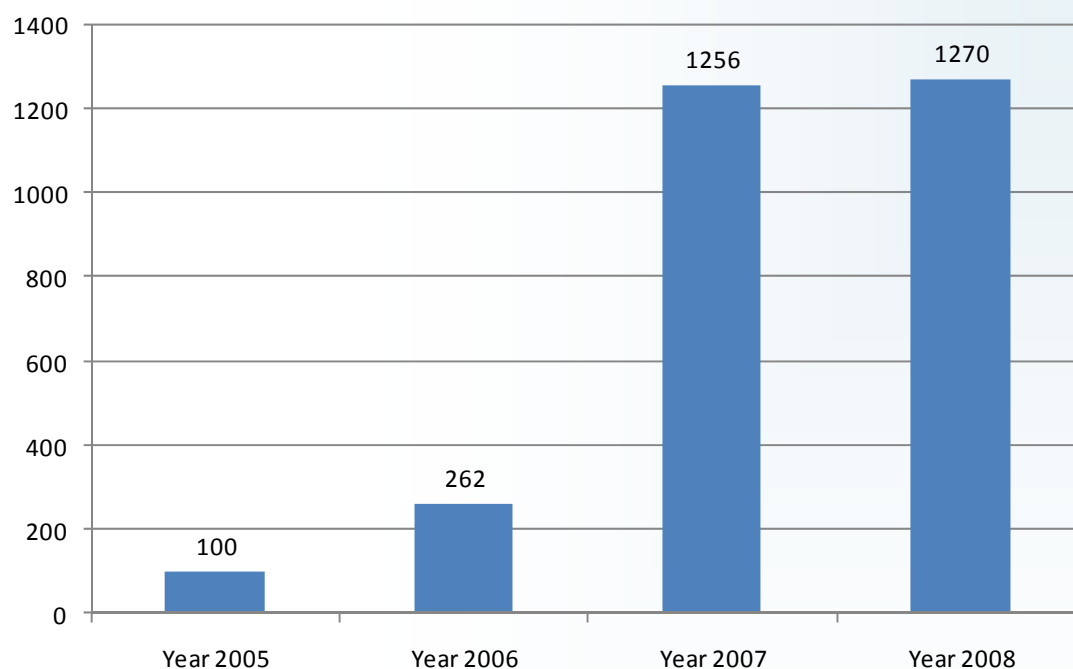
No. of Documents in Noolaham Categorywise

1
97
292
988
1510

- Magazine
- Books
- News Papers
- Research Materials
- Pamphlets
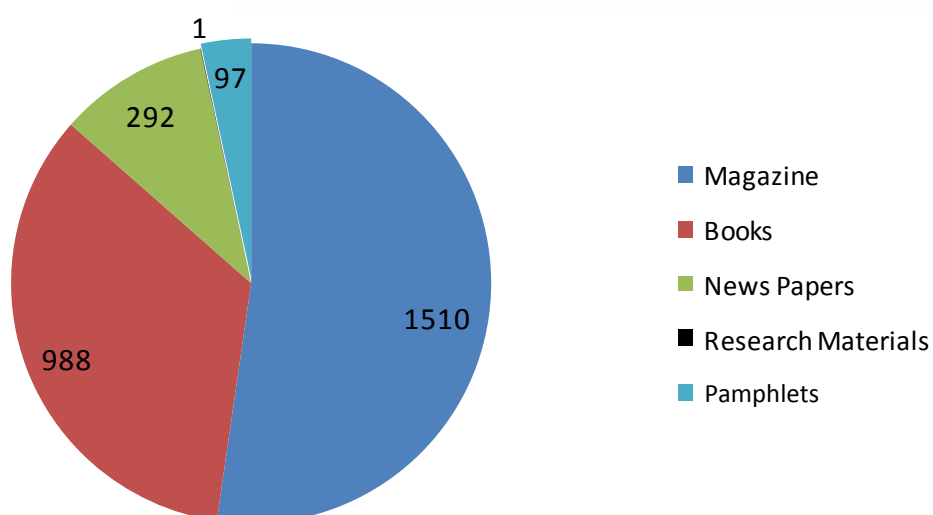
Total Documents: 2888

The Digital Library

At the initial stages, Project Noolaham was engaged in digitally archiving only books. Since the end of 2006, the project has expanded to include magazines as well. As the project moved forward, newspapers and research theses were also included in the archiving process. Apart from these regular materials, pamphlets, guide books, memorial publications, reports, etc. are also being digitized. Now PN has matured to include all printed documents, and the Foundation looks forward to including material in many different media in the future.

Information organization and user interface

In physical libraries, books are arranged in shelves according to their subject classification. These subject classifications place the books into topic categories. But a digital library is not restricted to such a single linear arrangement.

The PN wiki lists the names of all documents by their PN number, and each has links to the relevant wiki pages. This enables volunteers or any regular user to identify newly added documents. These wiki pages (which are in some ways similar to catalog records in physical libraries) contain information about a particular document. Using wiki templates, these pages are classified into the following basic categories.

§ Books

§ Magazines (Magazines, Journals, Newsletters)

§ News Papers (Daily, Weekly, Monthly)

§ Research Papers (University Research papers)

§ Pamphlets (Memorial Publications, Reports, etc.)

Users may browse through these basic categories by selecting any of the following :

§ Year of publication

§ Author Name

§ Publisher Name

§ Keywords

Under the above mentioned categories and sub categories all pages are placed in an alphabetical order.

Further, a basic search function can be used as well, as the wiki pages contain a short introduction from Nool Theddam for books and Table of Contents for magazines .

Categories appear as hyperlinks at the end of the page. The User may easily further explore the category that may appeal to him.

Description of a eBook Page

நூலகம்

Top Bar

Search

முகப்பு   நூலகம் பற்றி   நிதியுதவி   அண்மைய மாற்றங்கள்   Font Help   உங்கள் கருத்து

மரணத்துள் வாழ்வோம் ──────▶ Book Title

வாசிக்க ──────▶ eBook Links   🖉 [தொகு]

- மரணத்துள் வாழ்வோம் (343 KB) 🔗 (HTML வடிவம்)
- மரணத்துள் வாழ்வோம் (3.75 MB) 📄 (PDF வடிவம்) -உதவி

நூல் விபரம் ──────▶ Summary about the Book   🖉 [தொகு]

31கவிஞர்களின் 82 கவிதைகளின் தொகுப்பு. சமகால ஈழத்து இனப் பிரச்சினையைப் பகைப்புலமாகக் கொண்ட கவிதைத் தொகுப்பு. மூன்று பெண் கவிஞர்களின் பெண்நிலைப்பட்ட அநுபவங்கள் உயிர்த்துடிப்புடன் வந்துள்ளமை சிறப்பம்சமாகும்.

பதிப்பு விபரம்
மரணத்துள் வாழ்வோம். உ.சேரன், அ.யேசுராசா, இ.பத்மநாப ஐயர், மயிலங்கூடலூர் பி.நடராஜன் (தொகுப்பாளர்கள்). யாழ்ப்பாணம்: தமிழியல், 36, கலட்டி அம்மன் வீதி, 1வது பதிப்பு, 1985. (யாழ்ப்பாணம்: புனிதவளன் கத்தோலிக்க அச்சகம்) xv+170 பக்கம். விலை: ரூபா 20. அளவு: 21*14 சமீ.

மரணத்துள் வாழ்வோம். உ.சேரன், அ.யேசுராசா, இ.பத்மநாப ஐயர், மயிலங்கூடலூர் பி.நடராஜன் (தொகுப்பாளர்கள்) கோவை 641015: விடியல் பதிப்பகம், உப்பிலிபாளையம், 2வது பதிப்பு, டிசம்பர் 1996. (சென்னை 600017: மாணவர் மறுதோன்றி அச்சகம்) 172 பக்கம். விலை: இந்திய ரூபா 25. அளவு: 21*14 சமீ.

-நூல் தேட்டம் (# 458)

Book Information Template

Book Front Cover

மரணத்துள் வாழ்வோம்	
நூலக எண்	5
ஆசிரியர்	சேரன், அ.யேசுராசா, இ.பத்மநாப ஐயர், மயிலங்கூடலூர் பி.நடராஜன் (தொகுப்பாளர்கள்)
வகை	கவிதை, போராட்ட இலக்கியம்
மொழி	தமிழ்
பதிப்பகம்	தமிழியல், விடியல் பதிப்பகம்
பதிப்பு	1985, 1996
பக்கங்கள்	நூல் விபரத்தைப் பார்க்க

Book Information

அறிமுகம்
- திட்ட அறிமுகம்
- வடிவப்பதிவு
- உரையாடல்
- பங்களிப்பு விபரங்கள்

ஆவண வகைகள்
- நூல்கள்
- இதழ்கள்
- பத்திரிகைகள்
- பிரசுரங்கள்
- ஆய்வேடுகள்

பகுப்புகள்
- எழுத்தாளர்கள்
- வெளியீட்டு ஆண்டு
- பதிப்பகங்கள்
- நூல்வகை

வடிவமைப்பு
- பிற மின்னூல்கள்
- இணைய ஊடாட்டம்
- வடிவப்பெட்டகம்

வடிவவாசல்கள்
- மல்லிகை
- சிற்றம்

Quick Navigation Bar

பகுப்புகள்: 1985 இல் வெளியான நூல்கள் | நூல்கள் | விடியல் | தமிழியல் பதிப்பகம் | 1985 | 1996 | கவிதை | போராட்ட இலக்கியம் | சேரன் | அ. யேசுராசா | இ. பத்மநாப ஐயர் | மயிலங்கூடலூர் பி. நடராசன்
மறைக்கப்பட்ட பகுப்புகள்: மின்னூல் வடிவம்:HTM | மின்னூல் வடிவம்:PDF | இரண்டு கோப்பு வடிவங்கள் உள்ள நூல்கள்

Browsable Categories

கட்டுரை | உரையாடல் | தொகு | வரலாறு | நீக்கு | நகர்த்துக | காப்புச்செய் | கவனி

இப் பக்கத்தை இணைத்தலை | தொடர்பான மாற்றங்கள் | கோப்பை பதிவேற்று | சிறப்புப் பக்கங்கள் | நிலையான இணைப்பு

Wiki Operations

The Technology

In the beginning, the PN site was modest and simple, and HTML pages and links made up the site. By June 2007, the site had switched to the Joomla content management system. Mediawiki was installed later in 2007 to cater to the need for more volunteers. Mediawiki is the most popular wikihosting package which is used in projects such as Wikipedia.

The wiki model facilitates more community participation. Not only volunteers but also users of the digital library can edit the pages to suit their information needs. During 2008, the wiki site got fully developed by volunteers.

Technology Selection

PN chooses open and free softwares whenever possible. Universal portability is also considered. Joomla and Mediawiki are the content management systems used so far and both were non-proprietary ones.

Audio books are released as MP3 as well as OGG format. The digitized books are made available in PDF, an Open Standard and are typeset as HTML pages. There are plans to use DJVU format as well. The site occasionally uses Python scripting to perform Automated Tasks at the Noolaham website. PHP based scripting is also used to create filled in templates.

Project Noolaham Technical Team

The Noolaham Technical Team is responsible for the technical infrastructure. Right from the initial stages, M. Mauran has been in charge of the technical aspects. Vinodh Rajan and Nimalaprakasan joined in 2008. This team is responsible for the maintenance of the server and optimization of the sites.

In 2008, the wiki web site moved to a new server donated by Thamizha. M. Mauran, who played a major role in moving the site to new server, also created Chekkumaadu software to optimize the creation of wiki pages. Vinodh Rajan enabled automated tasks and optimized the wiki site. The technical team has the responsibility to update the software, maintain the server, take periodic back ups and to perform automated tasks.

Archiving Method

At the initial stages, all books were typed in. But the time and resources needed to type in were immense so that scanning was adapted by end of 2006. Now most of the documents are archived using scanning. The scanned images will be converted to text using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology when it is viable.

Steps involved in digitization

1. Selection of documents

The first step of archiving is to select the documents which have to be digitized. The acquired documents are checked for completeness. Then the lists of documents are compared with the archive to avoid any duplication and the documents to be digitized are ascertained. The criteria used for selection of documents are varying. The scarce and historically important documents are given priority.

2. Arranging the infrastructure

This aspect concerns the infrastructural needs such as venue, computers, scanners, and manpower. The Noolaham Foundation plays a major role in this step. Once the documents to be digitized are selected and a project plan prepared, the Foundation evaluates the proposal and arranges funds.

3. Scanning

Color documents are scanned at 100 dpi; if text enhancement is to be done, then at 300 dpi. The process of scanning is done with household scanners. As a part of standardization all scanning is done to A4 paper size (8.27 x 11.69 inches)

4. Post-process

The scanned pages are formatted, optimized, and cleaned. Cleaning consists of erasing the black smudges that may have formed during scanning. After the impurities are removed, the images are converted into PDF documents. The PDF format has again been chosen due to its universal portability and low subjectivity to tampering.

5. Delivering

Finally the given unit of document is checked for correctness and consistency. Any inconsistencies identified will be rectified at this point, prior to uploading. Uploading is the process of storing documents in the virtual server and recording their presence so that users can identify the new unit. Meanwhile, the scanned images are stored locally in compact discs (CD) to overcome possible catastrophes such as crash of the virtual storage space. This activity demands a high amount of due diligence and time

Appendix I

Digitizing at WERC, 2007
Project Report

1. Introduction

This report is on the digitizing project carried out by Project Noolaham (PN) and Women's Education and Research Center (WERC) in 2007 to digitize the publications of the latter. It was the first collaborative project undertaken by PN collective with another organization. The results achieved and experience gained are elaborated in this report.

The target audience of this report are the Board of Directors of WERC and all stakeholders of Project Noolaham. These stakeholders include but not limited to PN volunteers, funders, authors, publishers, media, policy makers, internet users and the general public.

This report does not include any lists of publications digitized or technical details of procedures followed. These details are also available online

2. Background

Project Noolaham is a non-profitable, collective, and voluntary endeavor aimed at preserving Sri Lankan books and magazines in e-format in order to make them available to and for the benefit of all those who are able to access the internet. Noolaham therefore is a digital library which provide free public access of ebooks online. The notion behind the entire project is to make information and knowledge available to future generations that will base the internet as one of the primary source for intellectual resources.

Women's Education and Research Center is a Colombo based non governmental organization focusing on gender issues. It conducts and supports various activities such as research, publication of books and journals, seminars, and information services.

In April 2007, PN volunteers met Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran and Ms. Mahesh Vairamuthu of WERC to discuss the possibilities of digitizing the publications of WERC. The proposal was wholeheartedly welcomed by WERC and the project was started in May.

3. Project Description

The objective of this project was to digitize the publications of WERC and Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran. It was coordinated by G. Shaseevan of PN .

WERC provided the publications, the computer, computer maintenance, and a space in their research library to carry out the scanning. PN paid for the labour and scanner. The first phase, completed during May, June, and July of 2007, included scanning and correcting human errors in scanning .

The second phase   consisted of removing the impurities caused during the scanning, creation of ebooks, finalizing and   uploading. Cleaning the scanning was a paid activity and others were done by volunteers.

The Second phase was completed early in February 2008, after the PN arranged sufficient funds for the purpose . The ebooks went online in March 2008

4. Project Outcome

This collaboration saw 140 publications being digitized, and 133 of them were made available online. The scanned images were double-checked by volunteers, and human errors corrected by scanning those pages again. But a few machine errors such as poor image quality were not corrected as sophisticated scanning equipment cannot currently be afforded by Project Noolaham .

5. Project Impact

One of the biggest advantages of information and communication technology is the possibility of distributed knowledge-based activities. Without sufficient digital content, users cannot utilize this possibility. 4

This project has enabled all who have internet connection to access a substantial collection of gender-related information. One of WERC's objectives is to "disseminate information relating to women and create awareness and increase consciousness on feminist issues". A big collection of information created by WERC is now online to cater to the information needs of all.

For PN, this can be a starting point for similar projects. The potential of collaborative effort has been realized and similar projects will be undertaken to create digital content.

6. Conclusion

A project in collaboration with another organization was a new and challenging experience for PN volunteers. For the first time in PN history, funding was utilized for scanning. Some standard practices were selected from this experience. PN volunteers who worked on this project agreed on the following:

§ The PN should work on realistic budgets and plans to avoid any delay.

§ English publications should be converted into text using OCR Softwares.

§ The publications missed out should be scanned when resources are available.

§ PN should collaborate more and more with other organizations and groups in creating digital content.

Noolaham Foundation

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