

ROJA MUTHIAH
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

Annual Report 2015 - 16



ROJA MUTHIAH
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST

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Main Objectives of the Trust

The Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust endeavors to:

- undertake and enable development of research libraries and archives relating to south Indian studies in order to serve the needs of scholars;
- preserve and conserve documents of value for research;
- gather and generate knowledge about libraries and archives;
- disseminate that knowledge;
- train librarians and archivists;
- engage in international collaborative efforts for the betterment of services to readers; and
- engage in research in the areas of humanities and social sciences.

The Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust's principle current objectives are maintenance and development of the Roja Muthiah Research Library and affiliated bodies such as the Indus Research Centre.

We acknowledge with gratitude the support of

AMM Foundation

Chatnath Trust

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems

Mrs. Mina Swaminathan

Mylapore Times

Pari Washington Company

Mrs. S. Sathyabhama

Mr. K. Subramanian

Late. Mr. K. R. V. Subrahmanian

Mr. P. Venketeswaran

And all the donors who have generously supported the library

Annual Report Narrative

In 2015-16 Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) added a new facility to its infrastructure. With the funds received from the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, a full fledged paper conservation studio was setup. Rare imprints from RMRL are conserved through this project. For the first time in India a nitrogen disinfection system has been installed. I hope this project will become a model to undertake conservation work for printed material in a tropical country like India.

As part of digitization of endangered material for the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP), RMRL has been digitizing rare imprints from various parts of south India. We expect more work to be done through such collaborations in future.

RMRL digitized a private collection that belongs to Mr. K. R. V. Subrahmanian (now late). In addition to the donation of the spools, Mr. Subrahmanian also funded to digitize them. Unfortunately, Mr. Subrahmanian passed away in a few days after hearing that his collection has been digitized and have found a permanent home. RMRL salutes his spirit and would ever remember his gesture.

Roja Muthiah Research Library has become a founding member of the Open Archives Initiative. Institutions such as University of Chicago, University of Texas, University of Berkley and few other universities in America, Madan Puraskar Pusthakalaya, Nepal, Center for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta are part of this initiative. Through this project RMRL hopes to take part in the global effort in documentation and preservation.

I am thankful to all the donors who donated generously last year, both for corpus and other activities. As in the past, many people have donated books and periodicals. As space has become a constraint to archive all the material RMRL has been sending appeals to philanthropists to support purchase of compact shelves to optimize the available space. RMRL is looking forward for the approval from the School Education department for the expansion of Library building with the funds allocated by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan through MPLAD scheme. It has been six years since the grant was made. The expansion will solve a major part of the space issue.

We are also very happy to announce the graduation of its first Ph. D. scholar, Mr. C. Subramanian at the Indus Research Centre of RMRL. The Ph. D. was awarded by the University of Madras. We hope more research will be taken up at RMRL and shall become an affiliating body for researchers.

G. Sundar
Executive Trustee
June 2016

Reference Services

290 new scholars have used RMRL collection this year. A total of 1,471 visits were made by all the scholars for their research work during this year. As in the past, M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars as well as writers, freelance researchers and journalists have used the collection. 4,477 books and 5,185 periodicals have been put to use multiple times. Many scholars have received support over the telephone. Many scholars started using the online catalogue provided in our website www.rmrl.in in addition to accessing the catalogue searching facility available in the Library premise.

Donors List*

Individuals

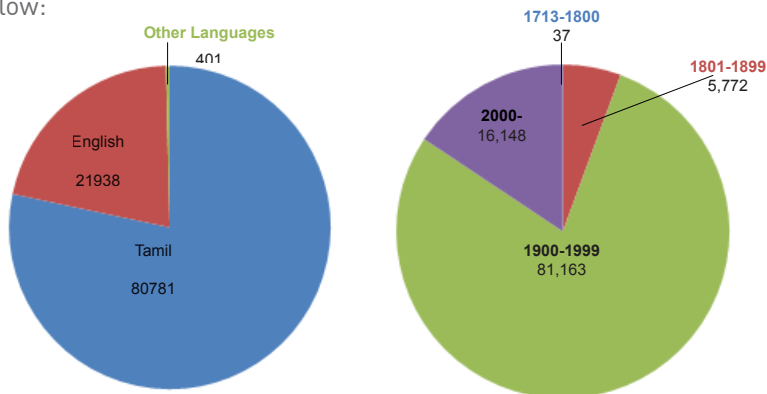
Anaimuttu, V	Annamalai, C
Balamurugan, Palani	Balasubramaniam, T. R
Balasundaram, S	Baskaran, S. T
Dinakaran, A	Hariharan, E. S
Jayalakshmi, N	Jayanthi AL. S. Kannappan
Kanakalatha Mukund	Kandasamy, Sa
Karuppan Chetti	Kesavan
Kirusnamurtti, Vai	Lakshmi Vijayakumar
Lakshmi patty, Pc	Mohana Sundaram, Ira
Muthiah, A. C	Muthiah, S
Nandakumar Joshi, R (late)	Narasiah, K. R. A
Nattharsa, H. M	Padmanaba Iyer
Radha/KRV Subrahmanian (late)	Radhakrishnan, K. S
Ravi Subramaniam	Sathya Bama
Sembai Xavier	Stalin, K
Sumathi Ramaswami	Venkatachalapathy, A. R

Institutions & Publishers

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems
Consumers Association of India
Parati Puttakalayam
Tamilman Patippakam

Documentation and Acquisitions

RMRL database on books has crossed one lakh entries this year. This has become possible by the generous donation of books donated by scholars, well-wishers and publishers. 5398 books were added in RMRL's collection this year. As on March end 1,03,120 entries were in the database. Language-wise and year-wise breakup of the books are given below:



Cataloguing of Dr. Mu.Arunachalam's collection has been completed this year. This collection comprises of 9145 books and few periodicals titles. Out of 9145 books, 7785 are Tamil books, 1323 are English books and 37 other language books. An analysis of this collection is given below:

Mu. Arunachalam Collection - An Analysis

Year	Books	Identical books	Other editions	Unique books
1812-1899	667	183	76	408
1900-1940	2647	1036	223	138
1941-1960	2887	1112	326	1449
1961-1980	2237	752	165	1320
1981-2004	707	288	47	372
Total	9145	3371	837	4937

The entire collection of thesis/dissertations at RMRL was catalogued this year. Thanks to Meenakshi Karthikeya for volunteering to catalogue them. There were 1811 items out of which 1582 are post-graduate thesis, 172 are MPhil and 57 are Ph.D dissertations. The subject covers Tamil, politics, sociology, library science and psychology. Psychology and library science constitute major portion of the thesis collection.

Reprographics Services

90% of digitization of Kannada books for the Endangered Archives Project has been completed this year. Through this project the Library has preserved most important rare Kannada imprints. A copy of the books have also been given to the holding libraries. The project is planned to be completed in two months.

Apart from Kannada, the Library preserved Bengali periodical “Amuk” & Telugu periodical “Kranti” through digitization. These projects were funded by South Asia Materials Project. A total of 14,400 pages have been preserved through these projects.

RMRL digitized the complete back issues of periodicals of the Press Institute of India namely Grass roots, Vidura and RIND survey this year. RMRL is also planning to take up such digitization work in future thus preserving important publications of private institutions.

Paper Conservation



Staff in conservation studio

With the fund received from Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust for the major paper conservation project a full fledged conservation studio was setup at RMRL this year. Equipments such as nitrogen disinfection system, leaf casting machine and tools to undertake this paper conservation programme were purchased from Europe. With the conservation studio in place processes for carrying this work for Indian condition were experimented and developed. In the first year around 30,000 pages from the carefully selected list of books from RMRL collection have been conserved.

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Nitrogen disinfection system

Audio

Digitization of audio material donated by Mr. K. R. V. Subrahmanian, (now late) Mumbai has been completed this year. A total of 127 spool tapes of various dimensions such as 5, 5 3/4, 7 and 10 inches have been digitized and its digital copy has been sent to his son Mr. Ramesh in a Hard disc drive. The collection comprises of recording of the concert of Carnatic music, Hindustani and radio programme on Carnatic music.

Sundar and Suresh Babu attended the conference “Audio Media Preservation through Imaging” organised by the Library of Congress, US in July.

Sundar presented about the “Audio

Cultures of India: Rethinking the Sound Archive”, and Suresh Babu presented about “Experience of IRENE in Tropical Climate”.



Mr. Sundar and Suresh Babu in LoC, USA

Documentation of RMRL's gramophone collection has been resumed this year, which was stalled earlier because of the insufficient human resources.

Indus Research Centre

During 2015-16 the Indus Research Centre (IRC) did not attract any new research projects or funding. Mr. C Subramanian, research fellow at IRC has completed his Ph.D thesis “Comparative Study on Indus Concordance”. IRC is continuing its collaborations with the Institute of Mathematical Sciences in the area of Indus text analysis, specifically in the area of text segmentation. IRC is working on Mr. R. Balakrishnan's Tamil book “சிந்துவெளி பண்பாட்டின் திராவிட அடித்தளம்” which is based on his paper “The High-West and Low-East: Dicotomy of the Indus Layout”.

Lectures / Seminars / Exhibitions

RMRL Lecture Series / Endowment lecture

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan Endowment Lecture series

23 April 2015: Writer Sa. Kandasamy delivered his lecture in the title “புத்தகம்”.

20 June 2015: Mr. T. S. Subramanian delivered his lecture “Recent Excavations at the Harappan sites in India and their significance”.



14 August 2015: Dr. Sethuraman Suresh delivered his lecture in the title “Ceramics and Celts - Stone Age Settlements in Chennai”.

*Dr. Suresh
delivering a lecture*



17 August 2015: Mr. S. Theodore Baskaran delivered his lecture “Early Tamil Cinema and the Devadasi tradition”.

*Mr. Theodore Baskaran
delivering lecture*



20 August 2015: Mr. R. V. Rajan delivered his lecture “The journalist who became a Consumer Activist”.

18 January 2016: Mr. Vikram Raghavan delivered his lecture “Granville Austin and the making of India’s constitution”

*Mr. Vikram Raghavan
delivering lecture*

11 March 2016: Mr. Siddharth Raja delivered his lecture on “The ‘Lost’ Bengali – Sir Albion Banerji (formerly, Dewan of Mysore (1922-26)) and the shaping of relations between the princely state of Mysore and the Madras presidency” .



Mr. Vikram Raghavan delivering lecture

Dr. Gift Siromoney Endowment Lecture

8 January 2016: Prof. K. Rajan delivered his lecture “Early writing system: Some issues and interpretations”.



Prof. K. Rajan delivering lecture

Prof. V. Arasu Endowment conference and lecture

As part of Prof. V. Arasu Endowment an one day conference was organized on early Tamil editions. The following papers were read in the conference.

பாரதப் பதிப்புகள் - இரா. சீனிவாசன்

கம்பராமாயணப் பதிப்புகள் - அ. சதீஷ்

தேவாரப் பதிப்புகள் - ஆ. மோகனா

பெரியபுராணப் பதிப்புகள் - கமலக்கண்ணன்

திவ்வியப்பிரபந்தப் பதிப்புகள் - ரெ. மிதிலா

திருமந்திரப் பதிப்புகள் - க. காமராசன்



Prof. V. Arasu with Prof. Vijayavenugopal

A special lecture “செவ்வியல் நூல் பதிப்பு முறைமை - புறநானூறு” delivered by Prof. Vijayavenugopal was arranged as part of the seminar.

Centenary celebration

Centenary anniversary of author Krithika was celebrated in the Library as “நூற்றாண்டில் கிருத்திகா: எண்ணங்களில் எழுச்சி கண்ட எழுத்தாளர்”. Mr. A. S. Panneerselvan moderated the event. Dr. Mangai, Dr. Perundevi, Mr. K. R. A. Narasiah and Ms. Nirmala spoke about writer Krithika in the event.



Mrs. Mina Swaminathan



Dr. Mangai, Mr. A. S. Panneerselvan, Dr. Perundevi, Mr. K. R. A. Narasiah and Ms. Nirmala at the function

Exhibition



visitors at the Exhibition

On the eve of the Madras week, the exhibition “History through Invitations” was organized. This was curated with the invitation collection of Mr. Sayeed Cassim & his family.

Board of Trustees

Uma Narayanan, *Social Work*, Chennai

S. Muthiah, *History, Heritage Conservation*, Chennai

M. V. Subbiah, *Industry*, Chennai

S. Theodore Baskaran, *Cinema, Wildlife*, Bangalore

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, *Education*, Chennai

Ramani Natarajan, *Law*, Chennai

G. Sundar, *Library & Archives*, Chennai

Consultants

Mr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS

Honorary Consultant, Indus Research Centre

Moses Gladson & George Mathew, *Design Consultants*

Staff

G. Sundar, *Director*

G. C. Suresh Babu, *Technical Officer*

S. Muthu Malathi, *Technical Officer*

A. Sathiyamurthy, *Conservationist*

R. Prakash, *Assistant Director*

M. Manikanda Subbu, *Development Executive*

E. K. Mohan, *Conservationist*

M. Ravi, *Technical Assistant*

Research Fellow

C. Subramanian, Indus Research Centre

Audit Report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions

We have examined the Balance Sheet of **Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust** as at 31st March, 2015 and the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said trust.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office of the above named trust so far as appears from our examination of the books.

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view –

- (i) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named trust as at 31st March, 2015
- (ii) in the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting period ending 31st March, 2015

for Bhaskaran & Ramesh
Chartered Accountants

Chennai
29 August 2016

A Bhaskaran
Partner

Audited Financial Statement
Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2016

Particulars	31.03.2016		31.03.2015	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCES OF FUNDS				
Capital Fund		46,653,035		36,688,431
Endowment Fund		768,150		768,150
		47,421,185		37,456,581
APPLICATION OF FUNDS				
Fixed Assets				
Gross block	41,432,933		30,330,971	
Less: Depreciation	5,106,978		3,540,100	
Net block		36,325,955		26,790,871
Current Assets, Loans & Advances				
Accounts receivable				592,657
Cash and Bank balances		11,853,381		20,022,276
Interest accrued on Deposits		135,347		
Loans & Advances		169,408		117,183
		12,158,136		20,732,116
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions		1,062,907		10,437,334
Other Liabilities				347,073
Creditors for supplies		1,062,907		10,784,407
Net Current Assets		11,095,229		9,947,709
		47,421,185		37,456,581

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2016

Particulars	31.03.2016	31.03.2015
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Contributions Received	3,503,974	5,623,870
Donations Received	667,000	1,500,000
Grant Received	9,471,779	
Other Receipt	608,603	529,799
Total Income	14,251,356	7,653,669
EXPENDITURE		
Operating expenses	1,291,796	30,005
Employee expenses	5,303,598	3,547,406
Administrative expenses	2,780,266	1,665,729
Depreciation	1,566,878	463,245
Total Expenditure	10,942,538	5,706,385
Excess of income over expenditure	3,308,818	1,947,284

Accounting Policies

- i) The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention on accrual basis of accounting.
- ii) The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period reported.
- iii) The income from Digitization, Documentation, Reprographics, Reference Services and Training is accounted on accrual basis.

Donations are accounted on receipt basis. Interest is accounted on accrual basis.

Project work in progress (WIP) has been recognized on percentage of completion basis.

- iv) The Fixed Assets other than the Books owned by the Library are accounted at cost and depreciated over the useful life of the asset.

The books & periodicals purchased for the collection are recorded at cost and not depreciated.

The books and periodicals received as donation are valued at fixed prices depending on the age of the book or periodical. These rates have been approved by the managing committee after considering the practices followed by similar organizations. These assets are not depreciated.

- v) Depreciation on fixed assets is provided on written down value method at rates arrived at based on the useful life of the asset.

Depreciation in respect of additions made during the year and put to use for less than six months has been charged at 50% of the original rate for the block.

- vi) Investments in Mutual Funds being short term in nature are recorded at cost.

- vii) Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the rates prevailing on the date of transaction.

Notes

Books Collection

- a. Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust (RMRLT) has a large collection of books some of which date back to the 19th century, which are partly owned by the Trust and partly by the University of Chicago (UoC).
- b. The books owned by RMRLT were received as donations from various sources during the past several years. These books were not represented in the books of account earlier and it was decided by the committee of management to bring these books into the accounts. Subsequently, a formula was arrived by the management, based on practices followed by similar organizations and the books received as donations have been capitalized during the year.
- c. As per an MOU entered into between the UoC and RMRLT, the fourth transfer of ownership covers some of the items held by the University of Chicago Library and RMRL and duplicate issues of periodicals. There are 237 books and 14,410 issues of periodicals in this transfer. The approximate average value for books at Rs. 153 or \$2.84 per volume and for periodical issues at Rs. 162 or \$3 per issue yields a total value of Rs. 23,79,300 or \$44,061 for this transfer.
- d. RMRLT also has a collection of books and periodicals on Microfilm which were made using their own resources. These books and periodicals are owned by other organizations and only the microfilms are held by RMRLT. The value of this collection has not been reflected in the accounts.



ROJA MUTHIAH
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST

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