



Roja Muthiah
Research Library



Years of RMRL

(1994-2019)

Annual Report |

2019 - 20

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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

Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian
Mr. A. Chandrasekar
Mr. Murugan
Mr. Rajamani David
Dr. A. Sankarammal
Mrs. Sathyabhama
Mrs. Tara Murali
Dr. Siva Sankari
AMM Foundation
Anna Centenary Library
Chatnath trust
Murugappa Educational and Medical Foundation
Ramco Cements
Revive Chettinad Society

And all the donors who have generously supported the library

Annual Report Narrative

2019 was marked with two major events for the Roja Muthiah Research Library. The Library turned 25, last year. To commemorate this, a two-day international conference, “Past Forward”, was organized. Scholars from various parts of the world had been invited to present papers in the conference. Mr. Graham Shaw, former Head of Asia, Pacific, and Africa Collections, British Library and Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit, Senior Journalist, Nepal, presented their Keynote addresses. The conference was well received by the academic and friends of RMRL. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the “Murugappa Educational and Medical Foundation” for their financial support to organize this international conference.

The second one was publishing a major compendium in the area of Indus and Tamil Studies, titled the “Journey of a Civilization: From Indus to Vaigai”, a research book authored by Mr. R. Balakrishnan, honorary consultant to the Indus Research Centre. The book was published through a crowd funding initiative. I would like to thank all the donors, whose contribution made this publication possible. I also must thank Mr. Balakrishnan who has turned the proceedings of the book sale to be utilized by the Library. A bronze bust of Iravatham Mahadevan was installed in the Library, on 20th September 2019, on the occasion of the day of announcement of the Indus Civilization to the World by John Marshall. This was done to honour the Dravidian scholar. The bust was sculpted by the renowned artist and sculptor, Mr. G. Chandrasekaran and I thank him for agreeing to install the bust in the Library premise.

The demise of one of our beloved trustee, S. Muthiah, last year, is a major loss to the Library. He was a great supporter of the Library and its activities. He always told people that this is the most accessible library and where staff would wear a smile. A memorial meeting was organized in the Library and as per his wish a selection of his collection has been placed in the reference hall and named as "S. Muthiah's corner".

The Library has initiated the work of the Union Catalogue of Public Libraries in Tamilnadu. This is indeed a challenging task as more than 70% of the catalogue records don't follow standards and most of the fields are inconsistent. In the preservation front, the Library has been digitizing the Madras Legislative Assembly debates and Official Publications of Bombay Presidency.

We are also happy to announce that Mr. Balakrishnan has joined us as a trustee and we warmly welcome him.

The financial year ended with the national lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic. With the global slowdown expected because of the pandemic, we will be having a challenging year ahead and I hope we will overcome this with the support of our well-wishers.

G. Sundar
Executive Trustee
August 2020

Reference Services

A total of 641 scholars have used the RMRL collection this year. As in the past, M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars as well as writers, freelance researchers and journalists have used the collection. A total of 3587 titles of books and periodicals have been put to use multiple times. The simplified online catalogue was welcomed and put to use by many new users.

Book/Periodical Donor List*

Individuals

Annal, Aru
John Jeyanandan
Kalachuvadu
Mohana Sundaram, R
Narasiah, K. R
Padmanaba Iyer
Pavendhan, Ira
Prema, R
Radhakrishnan, K. S
Ramani Natrajan
Sembai Xavier
Senkamalathayar
Sivasankari
Sriram, V
Suradha Kalladan
Swatanthira Kumar
Theodore Baskaran, S
Uma Narayanan
Venkatachalapathy, A. R

Institutions & Publishers

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems
Kalachuvadu Pathippagam

Documentation

RMRL along with Anna Centenary Library (ACL) took up the work of creating a union catalogue for the public libraries in Tamil Nadu. 4,05,588 MARC records from ACL were exported from the ACL database system by deploying the MSSQL server. These records were reviewed and inconsistencies were corrected. Since the ACL database was not in the ISO 2709 database system, we had trouble in exporting them as an ISO file. Many plans were devised to export these records as MRC file. The remaining records of 27 lakhs from 21 libraries were received in Feb 2020. Merging of these records as a single database is in progress. We have developed algorithms for checking capitalization errors, inconsistency in publications, and duplication checking. We also employed several macro programs to correct the records.

Preservation and Conservation

Volumes of Madras Legislative Assembly Debates and Official Publications of Bombay Presidency were taken up for digitization last year. A total of 101 debate volumes and 153 volumes of Official Publications of Bombay Presidency were digitized.

The Library has been digitizing the year on year volumes of Mylapore Times issues. Last two year issues were digitized last year. Damaged books from the Library's collection were repaired and conservation of land documents, floor plans and maps for few individuals was undertaken.

Indus Research Centre

The book "Journey of a Civilization: Indus to Vaigai" authored by R. Balakrishnan, Honorary consultant of the Indus Research Centre was published by the Library and the book release event was held in December 2019. Publishing the book was a mammoth task and

we involved illustrators and designers in this work. All the maps in the book were completely developed inhouse with a GIS software. Complete bibliography and comprehensive index were prepared. Photographs from multiple sources were used. Tamil translation of the book is in progress.

Lectures / Conferences / Other events

Past Forward - 25 Years of RMRL

To commemorate the 25 years of the establishment of the Raja Muthiah Research Library, a two day international conference, “Past Forward”, was organized in the Library premise. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. T. Udhayachandran IAS, Commissioner, Tamilnadu State Archaeology Department, on 1st August 2019. He also delivered the inaugural speech. Special address was delivered by Mr. R. Balakrishnan. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Graham Shaw and Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit. The Conference was organized with the funds received from Murugappa Educational and Medical Foundation.



Clockwise from top left: Guests attended the conference inauguration, Prof. Anandakrishnan presenting memento to Mr. T. Udhayachandran, Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit and Mr. Graham Shaw

The following papers were presented in the conference:

A collaborative model for collection development:
celebration and assessment after 25 years by
Mr. James H. Nye



Tamiḻil viḷamparam: oru varalāru by
Prof. A. R. Venkatachalapathy

Prof. A. R. Venkatachalapathy

Pachaiyappa Mudaliar and the poetics of extreme
generosity by Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy



Prof Sumathi Ramaswamy



Genealogies of return: Tamil culture and the Bay of Bengal
in 1940s-1950s by Dr. Bhavani Raman

Dr. Bhavani Raman

Syncretic traditions & kinship in the Tamil Muslim
society by Mr. Kombai Anwar



Mr. Kombai S. Anwar



Prof. V. Arasu

Popular culture: RMRL- Agathiar / vekucaṇap
paṇṇpātu : Rōjā Muttaiyā Ārāycci Nūlakam –
Akattiyar by Prof. V. Arasu

The political is personal by Mr. A. S. Panneerselvan



Mr. A. S. Panneerselvan

Poompavai (1944): writing about a nonextant film text by Dr. Sundarkaali



Ms. Paroma Sadhana

Sustaining archives: an act of editing by Ms. Paroma Sadhana



Dr. Sundarkaali

RMRL Lecture Series / Endowment lectures

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan Endowment Lecture series

Mr. Muthu Nedumaran, Founder & CEO, Murasu Systems, delivered his lecture “தமிழ் வரிவடிவத்தில் அழகியலும் அறிவியலும்”.



Mr. Muthu Nedumaran

Dr. Appasamy Murugaiyan, a linguist, delivered his lecture “A Tamil Linguistic Continuum - From South India to West Indies Usage of Tamil Language among the Old (indentured) Tamil Diasporic Communities”.

Mr. Karthikeya Sivasenapathy, Founder, Senaapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation delivered his lecture “நீரின்றி அமையாது உலகு”.



Mr. K. S. M. Karthikeya Sivasenapathy

Mr. Arun Mahizhnan, Special Research Advisor with the National University of Singapore, and Ms. Nalina Gopal presented their talk “Telling the tales of Tamil across the oceans”.



Mr. Arun Mahizhnan

Dr. Brenda Beck, researcher and author, delivered her lecture “An oral folk history of Kongu Natu”.

P. Sankaralingam Memorial Endowment Lecture Series

Prof. S. Parthasarathy, Founder-Trustee of the Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies, delivered his lecture “What does the Library Profession owe to S. R. Ranganathan”

Prof. V. Arasu Endowment Lecture

Mr. Ilya Padmanathan, a writer and performing artist, delivered his lecture “எனது அரங்கப் பயணம்”.



Mr. Ilya Padmanathan



Ms. Nrithya Pillai

Lecture & Bharatanatyam Demonstration

The lecture “Voicing a self” was delivered by Bharatanatyam dancer Ms. Nrithya Pillai. Few Bharatanatyam performances were demonstrated by her.

Book Releases

The book “ஓளியில் எழுதுதல்” written by cinematographer Chezhan was released by Mr. Trotsky Marudu in the Library. A discussion was also arranged after the release function.

The book “Journey of a Civilization: Indus to Vaigai”, was released in the Anna Centenary auditorium on 16 December 2019. The book was released and presidential address was delivered by Hon'ble Justice R. Mahadevan and received by Mr. Tony Joseph. Special addresses were delivered by Mr. N. Gopalaswami, Mr. Subroto Bagchi, Prof. K. Rajan, Dr. P. J. Cherian and Mr. T. Udhayachandran.



From left : Prof. P. J. Cherian, Mr. Subrato Bagchi, Mr. N. Gopalaswami, Mr. R. Balakrishnan, Hon'ble Justice R. Mahadevan, Mr. Tony Joseph, Mr. T. Udhayachandran, Prof. K. Rajan and Mr. G. Sundar

Memorial Meeting

A memorial meeting for the S. Muthiah was organized in the Library. Mr. MV Subbiah, Ms. Shoba Menon, Mr. V. Sriram, Mr. Kombai S Anvar, Mr. K. R. A. Narasiah and Mr. Sundar Ganesan have shared their memories of S. Muthiah

Documentary Film Screening

Tamizhi, a documentary movie, directed by Pradeep Kumar and produced by Hiphop Tamizha had its inaugural screening in the Library on 2nd October 2019. Nearly 200 people attended the screening.

Unvieling of Bronze Bust

The bronze bust of Iravatham Mahadevan, sculpted by the senior sculptor Mr. G. Chandrasekaran, was unveiled on 20th September 2019, which marks the 97th anniversary of the announcement of the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization by John Marshall. Commemoration of the



From left : Mr. G. Sundar, Mr. R. Balakrishnan, Mr. G. Chandrasekaran, Mr. N. Ram and Mr. Gopalakrishna Gandhi

day was started in the year 2018 by Mr. R. Balakrishnan and Mr. Sundar Ganesan at the Library, where Balakrishnan delivered his talk "The Pot Route".

The bust was unveiled by Mr. N. Ram, Chairman, THG Publishing Pvt. Ltd. He also delivered the presidential address.

Board of Trustees

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Education, Chennai
R. Balakrishnan, Civil Service, Odisha
Ramani Natarajan, Law, Chennai
M. V. Subbiah, Industry, Chennai
G. Sundar, Library & Archives, Chennai
S. Theodore Baskaran, Cinema, Wildlife, Bangalore
Uma Narayanan, Social Work, Chennai

Consultant

Mr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS
Honorary Consultant, Indus Research Centre

Staff

G. Sundar, Director	R. Prakash, Assistant Director
M. Manikanda Subbu, Development Executive	
S. Muthu Malathi, Technical Officer	E. K. Mohan, Conservationist
A. Sathiyamurthy, Conservationist	M. Ravi, Technical Assistant
Naresh, Technical Assistant	Thangam, 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, 2020 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, 2020
- (ii) in the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting period ending 31st March, 2020

for Bhaskaran & Ramesh
Chartered Accountants

Chennai
29 October 2020

A Bhaskaran
Partner

Audited Financial Statement
Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2020

Particulars	31.03.2020		31.03.2019	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCES OF FUNDS				
Capital Fund		51,599,131		52,049,479
Endowment Fund		1,198,150		948,150
		52,797,281		52,997,629
APPLICATION OF FUNDS				
Fixed Assets				
Gross block	43,836,492		43,617,257	
Less: Depreciation	9,693,452		8,684,637	
Net block		34,143,040		34,932,620
Current Assets, Loans & Advances				
Cash and Bank balances		18,144,488		21,844,439
Interest accrued on Deposits		418,265		478,283
Loans & Advances		184,058		49,525
		18,746,811		22,372,247
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions				
Other Liabilities		92,570		2,557,238
Grant Received in Advance		-		1,750,000
		92,570		4,307,238
Net Current Assets		18,654,241		18,065,009
		52,797,281		52,997,629

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2020

Particulars	31.03.2020	31.03.2019
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Contributions Received	5,046,673	4,034,825
Donations Received	3,832,913	3,294,345
Other Receipt	1,352,033	1,482,208
Total Income	10,231,619	8,811,378
EXPENDITURE		
Operating expenses	1,652,762	85,958
Employee expenses	5,565,185	5,407,727
Administrative expenses	2,455,206	2,082,135
Depreciation	1,008,815	1,085,876
Total Expenditure	10,681,967	8,661,696
Excess of income over expenditure	(450,348)	149,682

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.