

ANNUAL '21-'22 REPORT



ROJA MUTHIAH
REASEARCH LIBRARY TRUST

Annual Report 2021 - 22



ROJA MUTHIAH
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST

Cover Page: Kalaivanar N. S. Krishnan, to signify the inauguration of Centre for Study in Public Sphere in 2021

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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 sincerely thank the generous support and contributions of the following organizations and individuals:

Chatnath Trust (General)

Marapachi Trust (Endowment)

URC Construction Ltd (General)

Mr. N. R. Elango (Endowment)

Adopt a book program

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

IP Rings

Rane Foundation

Saint Gobain India Foundation

Sundaram Fasteners Ltd

Sundaram Finance Ltd

Thirukkural Trust

Mr. R. Elangovan

Mr. Gopal Srinivasan

Dr. Jayashree Sharma

Mr. A. Jeyakumar

Ms. S. Malathy

Dr. N. Muthukumar

Ms. E. Nalini

Mr. G. T. Paramagurunathan

Mr. M. Rajarathinam

Mr. G. Ravikumar

Prof. V. Sangeetha

Mr. K. Senthilkumar

Ms. Sivasankari

Dr. S. P. Thiruppathy

Mr. L. Venkataraman

Dr. Vidyasankari

And all the donors who have generously supported the library.

Annual Report Narrative

In 2021, we saw the second breakout of the Covid Pandemic which led to lockdowns. This time most of the staff were affected by Covid and all of them managed the illness quite well. The library was opened intermittently as there were some pending work which had to be completed as we had taken a project from the Government of Tamil Nadu. While the situation was getting better, even though at a slow pace, RMRL started functioning with a thin attendance first. From July we started working with full attendance. The staff and people who visited RMRL were asked to take vaccination.

During the Covid times, the published Concordance of Iravatham Mahadevan was taken up for codifying electronically to be turned into an electronic concordance. This was opened for public access without any costs. This was inaugurated by the Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archeology. The School Education Minister inaugurated the Union Catalog for public libraries. This project was given to RMRL to standardize catalog entries in the Public Library system. The Finance and HRD Minister inaugurated the Centre for Study in Public Sphere (CSPS), a research centre that would focus on the modern period. We already have the Indus Research Centre that looks into the question of antiquity. The CSPS will look into modernity. So, there was back-to-back activities in the library. The Reader's Hub was started during the same time to review books that were published based on evidence. The first book that was taken up was Journey of a Civilization. The book has gone for its third edition in two years.

Only one new project was in hand from the Endangered Archives Program of the British Library. The library had sent proposals to the Government of Tamilnadu for recurring grant. The Government announced in the legislative assembly about a recurring grant for RMRL. RMRL also requested an additional space to extend the library building for having more activities. The Government has sanctioned this, and the land has been given on a long lease to RMRL. This reflects the Government acknowledging the work of RMRL all these years. A plan has been made by senior architect Mr. Rajendran. RMRL will have to raise funds for the building. An appeal is being made to individuals, philanthropists, Corporates and the Government for this purpose.

We hope the following year also will see more projects and funding coming in for the activities of the library.

G. Sundar
Executive Trustee
July 2022

Reference Services

The reference service was interrupted because of the second wave of Covid19 and subsequent lockdown in the months of May, June and July 2021. User footfall to the Library was reduced because of this. A total of 110 new scholars used the collection this year. 1221 titles of books and periodicals have been put to use multiple times. As usual, reference service was also extended through telephone.

Book/Periodical Donor List*

Individuals

Ananda Sundararajan, Po. Ve.	Narasimhan, U
Arasu, V	Natarajan, S. K
Balasubaramanian, T. R	Padmasini Kannan
Balasundaram, S	Palaniyappan, Mullai M
Chitra Sampath	Pichchai, A
Chokkalingam	Prabhakaran, S
Gunanidhi, T	Prameela Gurumoorthy
Gurunathan, G	Prasanna
Kambapatha Sekaran	Radhakrishnan, K. S
Kantalakam	Sambasivam, V
Kattalai Kailasam, Ve	Sandhiya Pathipakam
Ramasamy, Su	Sathasivam, T
Kumar, S. S	Selvakumari, A. P
Lena, Valampuri	Senthilnathan, Siva
Mageshwari	Stalin, Kovai
Mallikarjana Rao, K	Subramanian, P.
Manivasagam	Suresh Babu, P. B
Marimuthu Mariappan, Va. Su.	Usha Mahadevan
Mohamed Ismail	Valavan, S
Mohana Sundaram, Ira	Velmurugan Periyavan
Mugamadu Ibrahim, S. A	Venkatesan, R
Murugan, Pa	Visalam, Pa
Muthu, Nellai Su	Viswanathan, Pulavar
Namasivayam, M	
Nanjil Natarasan	

Institutions & Publishers

Ashvidha

Azhi Publication

Azhisi Pathippagam

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems

Islamic Foundation Trust

Kalachuvadu Pathippagam

Manal veedu

Newsman Publication

Thamizhaga Institute of Educational Research & Advancements

Documentation

Progress of the project 'Union Catalogue for Public Libraries' (for Government of Tamil Nadu) was slowed down in June and July, 2021, due to the Covid lockdown. Catalogue records in Tamil were taken first and clusters were identified with manual data cleaning and also through an automation software program. With the initial 10 lakhs corrected catalogue records, the 'Union Catalogue' portal was launched by Hon'ble School Education Minister, Thiru Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, in December 2021. Correction of the entire set of Tamil records, (consisting of 24 lakh records), was completed and submitted as Marc records in March 2022. Correction and clustering of English records are in progress and it would be completed by August 2022.

RMRL took up the project of cataloguing the Tamil pulp fiction books for the University of Texas. A total of 230 books were catalogued and shared with the University.

Preservation and Conservation

One of the major preservation projects undertaken by RMRL in the year 2021 was the "Preservation of Communication material of an Early Cinema

Distribution Company in South India”, funded by the Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library. In this project, RMRL lists and digitizes the communication material of the South Indian Pictures, which are dated from the early 1940s. Around 10,000 items have been captured and preserved under this project.

Another digitization project undertaken by RMRL is the digitization of British India’s official Publications of Madras Presidency. A total of 283 volumes were digitized and submitted to the Centre for Research Libraries, USA, which funded the project.

Full-fledged conservation process started again in RMRL’s conservation studio through the funds received through the ‘book adoption’ program. This was launched to raise funds for the preservation and conservation of rare and important print material in the Library, through which individuals and corporates can adopt books by giving financial donations to the Library. Along with many individuals, Corporate organizations such as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company, and Saint-Gobain India Limited have contributed to the programme. There were two people who supported this cause. One by Mr. R. Balakrishnan who has been advocating this program and also wrote as a part of a series in Ananda Vikatan. Subsequently individuals and important people participated in the program. Second by Mr. Kabir Subbiah who wrote to Companies with CSR programs. Both brought in good traction for the library.

Indus Research Centre

One of the significant contributions by the Indus Research Centre in 2021 is the web enabling of IM77 Indus concordance. Since the book “Indus Script: Script, Concordance and Table” published in 1977, is out of print now, it was difficult for scholars to access the Indus script dataset and concordance. Understanding this need, the portal was envisaged and developed by the Indus Research Centre with the funds received from the Government of Tamil Nadu. The site

indusscript.in was launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, Tamil Development in August 2021. Tamil translation for the book "Journey of a Civilization" is in progress.

Research Writing Course

A 35 hours research writing course was organized in RMRL from 17 September to 30 October 2021. The course was anchored by Ms. Nancy Needhima. The course received a great reception. Eleven people benefitted from the program. RMRL has planned to organize this course for underprivileged students and submitted a proposal to the State Planning Commission to make it as a State-sponsored course.



Students attending the research writing workshop.

Events/Lectures

Launching of IM77 Web Concordance

IM77 Indus concordance and the site indusscript.in was released by the Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Culture and Archaeology, Mr. Thangam Thennarasu on 17 August 2021. A special lecture was delivered by Mr. N. Ram, Hindu Publishing Group. Mr. R. Balakrishnan gave a talk on the future of Indus Studies.



Hon'ble minister Mr. Thangam Thennarasu launching the portal

Inauguration of Centre for Study in Public Studies

Centre for Study in Public Sphere, a centre to study the public intellectuals of modern Tamil Nadu (from 1857) was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Human Resources Dr. PTR Thiaga Rajan on the 1st November 2021. Dr. J. Jeyaranjan, Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission delivered the keynote address. The centre is headed by A.S. Panneerselvan.

Inauguration of Union Catalogue for Public Libraries



From left: Mr. G. Sundar, Dr. PTR Thiagarajan, Dr. J. Jeyaranjan, Mr. A. S. Panneerselvan and Mr. Pugazh Gandhi

Inauguration of Union Catalogue for Public Libraries

Union Catalogue for public libraries portal was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Mr. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi on 28th December 2021. A special address was delivered by Mr. T. R. B. Raaja, Member of the State Planning Commission in the event.



Hon'ble minister Mr. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi launching the portal

Release of Calendar 2022

A calendar for the year 2022 was printed based on the book "Journey of a Civilization". Our Trustee Mrs. Ramani Natarajan released the calendar on 7th February 2022. Artist Mr. Trotsky Marudhu delivered a special lecture on calendar art.



From left : Mr. G. Sundar, Mr. Trotsky Marudu, Mrs. Ramani Natarajan, and Mr. A. S. Panneerselvam

Endowment Lectures

Mrs. Santhanalakshmi Sugavanam Memorial Lectures

Three lectures were organized as part of the Mrs. Santhanalakshmi Sugavanam Memorial Lectures, namely

- Early Historic Ports of Tamizhagam and the Trade Networks by Dr. Selvakumar, Tamil University
- பண்டைய தமிழ் சமூகம் by Dr. Marxia Gandhi
- சங்க அரக்களின் வீழ்ச்சியும் களப்பிரர் எழுச்சியும் by Dr. A. Padmavathi

The funds for organizing the lectures were contributed by Mr. Sugavana Murugan, son of Mrs. Santhanalakshmi.

Dr Gift Siromoney Endowment Lecture

Ms. Bahata Ansumali Mukhopadhyay delivered her talk “Pilu: Harappan Elephant-word’s voyage to Mesopotamia and its Dravidian root” on 20th September 2021. This was organized on the occasion of the 97th anniversary of the announcement of the discovery of the Indus valley civilization.

Nallasiriyar C. Nallathambi Endowment Lecture

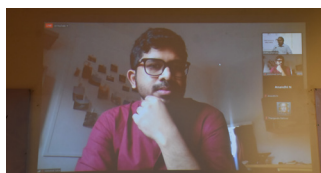
Dr. E. Muthiah delivered his lecture “நிகழ்த்துதலின் மெய்யியல்: தொல்காப்பியத்தை முன்வைத்து” on 6th August 2021 as part of Nallasiriyar C. Nallathambi Endowment Lecture.

Reading Hub

Reading Hub, an initiative by the Centre for Study in Public Sphere was jointly organized and inaugurated by RMRL and the Dravidian Professional Forum. The conversational lectures were curated by A. S. Panneerselvan and G. Sundar.

The following events were organized as part of Reading Hub activities.

- R. Balakrishnan's Journey of a Civilization, by G. Sundar.
- Home in the World: A Memoir by Amartya Sen, a review by A. S. Panneerselvan
- Interrogating Numbers, conversation with Rukmini S, Author of Whole Numbers and Half Truths and Prof. Arvind Subramanian
- A conversation with Suchitra Vijayan about her book Midnight's Borders
- A conversation with Prof. S. Irudaya Raj and Prof. Bernard D'Sami, authors of the book Tamil Migrants: A Demographic , Social and Economic Analysis
- A conversation with Mr. Abishek Saha about his book No Land's People



From top left (clockwise) : Ms. S. Rukmini, Ms. Suchitra Vijayan, Mr. Abishek Saha, Prof. Bernard D'Sami & Prof. S. Irudaya Raj.

Exhibition

The exhibition “Maps of Disquiet” curated by the Chennai Photo Biennale was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister for Tourism, Dr. M. Mathiventhan and opened to the public in RMRL from 9th December 2022 to 6 February 2022. The exhibition was organized in many locations across Chennai including RMRL.



From left: Mr. Varun Gupta, Mr. G. Sundar, Dr. B. Chandra Mohan, Dr. M. Mathiventhan, Mr. Sandeep Nanduri

Board of Trustees

R. Balakrishnan, Civil Services (Retd.)

Karumuttu T. Kannan, Industrialist

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S. Theodore Baskaran (Founder Trustee), Film Historian, Author

Uma Narayanan, Social Worker

Dr. Urvashi Butalia, Author, Publisher

Prof. M. Vijayabaskar, Faculty, Madras Institute of Development Studies &

Member, State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu

Consultant

Mr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS (Retd.)

Honorary Consultant, Indus Research Centre

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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

A. S. Panneerselvam, Centre for Study in Public Sphere

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, 2022
- (ii) in the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting period ending 31st March, 2022

For R. Subramanian and Company LLP
Chartered Accountants

Chennai

R.Sudarshan
Partner

Audited Financial Statement
Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2022

Particulars	31.03.2022		31.03.2021	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCES OF FUNDS				
Capital Fund		5,41,48,398		5,40,74,650
Endowment Fund		15,98,150		13,98,150
		5,57,46,548		5,54,72,800
APPLICATION OF FUNDS				
Fixed Assets				
Gross block	4,60,20,525		4,40,33,766	
Less: Depreciation	1,15,92,352		1,06,13,957	
Net block		3,44,28,173		3,34,19,809
Current Assets, Loans & Advances				
Cash and Bank balances		2,08,93,375		21,844,439
Prepaid Expenses		11,929		23,566
Interest accrued on Deposits		3,70,554		3,31,672
Loans & Advances		1,53,542		2,88,049
		2,14,29,400		2,21,45,633
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions				
Other Liabilities		1,11,025		92,642
Grant Received in Advance		-		
		1,11,025		92,642
Net Current Assets		2,13,18,375		2,20,52,991
		5,57,46,548		5,54,72,800

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2022

Particulars	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Contributions Received	29,14,128	41,73,207
Donations Received	53,63,106	32,98,332
Other Receipt	46,11,894	34,02,381
Total Income	1,28,89,128	1,08,73,920
EXPENDITURE		
Operating expenses	4,18,221	7,483
Employee expenses	62,38,102	58,28,100
Administrative expenses	51,80,662	16,42,313
Depreciation	9,78,395	9,20,505
Total Expenditure	1,28,15,380	83,98,401
Excess of income over expenditure	73,748	24,75,519

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.



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