



**ROJA MUTHIAH RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2011-12**

Cover Page : In commemoration of 125th birth anniversary of  
mathematical genius Ramanujan

# ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12



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**

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan

Mr. Chidambaranathan & Family

Dr. R. Champakalakshmi, Chennai

Mr. Durai Arasu, Chennai

Government of Tamilnadu

Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai

Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan, Chennai

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA

Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal

Mrs. Mina Swaminathan

Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, Chairman, MSSRF, Chennai

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai

And all the donors who have generously supported the library

## Annual Report Narrative

The year 2011-2012 proved to be a challenging one for Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL). Three major projects conceived by RMRL did not receive funding to date and currently, there are no new projects in hand. The OCLC credits from the University of Chicago are yet to come. As some project grants have ceased, it is necessary for RMRL to revisit its objectives and come up with a long term plan for other sources of income to ensure the sustainability of the library. RMRL's current status makes a generous corpus fund necessary.

RMRL ventured into the digital restoration of manuscripts this year. On the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of the mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) approached RMRL to restore the manuscripts for publication. The note books that were originally written by Ramanujam were restored digitally and published in colour. The volumes were released by the Honorable Prime Minister of India in December 2011.

RMRL's most noteworthy achievement in recent months was the acquirement of the personal collection of Dr. Mu. Arunachalam - a revered scholar and the author of 14 volumes of Tamil literary history. His family generously gifted this collection to RMRL, not because they could not maintain it but it will be accessible to more people.

As part of its collaboration with the University of Chicago, RMRL acquired IRENE - a state-of-the-art piece of audio equipment. This was developed at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, United States, to digitize the gramophone records. The equipment copies images of the grooves and has software that acts as a virtual stylus to convert the image files into audio files.



RMRL released the first issue of its quarterly newsletter "Roja Itai" in January, 2012. In addition to updating its users about its activities, the newsletter carries articles written by eminent scholars in Tamil Studies. It is hoped that it will be received well.

After Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan relinquished his position as the Honorary Consultant to the Indus Research Center (IRC), Mr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS, was approached by the Trustees of RMRL. He accepted RMRL's invitation to this position and is serving in this capacity since January 2012.

The Library organized two exhibitions, 'Early Tamil imprints' - on the eve of Madras week celebration - and a travelling exhibition in association with Francke Foundations, Germany. In addition to the exhibition, a workshop, 'Science as a cultural dialogue' was organized in association with the Francke Foundations. With the funds contributed by Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Trustee, RMRLT, an endowment in his name has been started to run a lecture series under the banner. With the establishment of this endowment, RMRL becomes self sustained as far as this activity is concerned.

Over the last eighteen years, RMRL has built a sizeable collection in South Indian Studies, and recently in the area of Harappan Studies as well. It has also trained its staff to maintain and preserve its collection as per international standards. Till date, the Library has been able to achieve this through project grants but will not be able to sustain its activities in this manner much longer. It has been difficult to strike a balance between attracting projects and maintaining enough staff while carrying on its tasks. While it has done its part, now it is for the society to ensure that what has been consolidated remains forever. On behalf of the Trustees of RMRLT, I appeal to philanthropists, corporates, individual donors, institutions, state and central governments to appreciate the major work done so far and realize the dream of preserving the culture and heritage of this country for future generations.

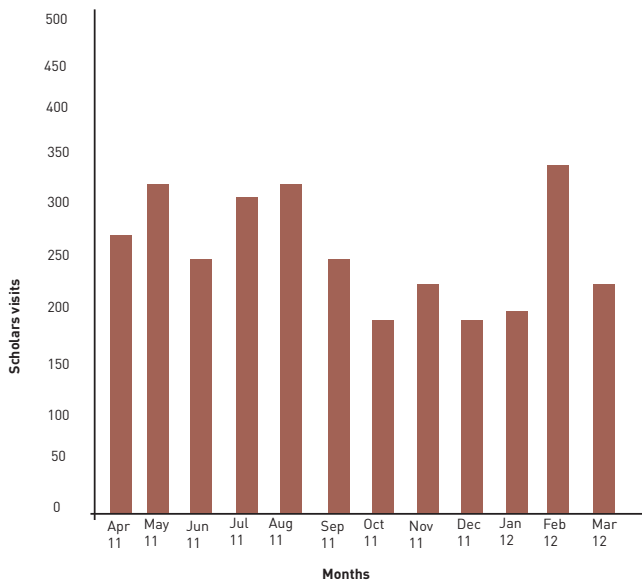
G. Sundar  
Executive Trustee  
June 2012

## Reference Services and Acquisitions

998 scholars have visited RMRL 3,075 times 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. 10,426 books and 20,726 periodicals have been put to use multiple times. In addition to the above figures, 172 scholars have received support over the telephone. More scholars than ever before have used the microfilms for their research work. In reference service, more than 50,000 index entries from periodicals such as *Navacakti* and *Ujjan* have been opened to scholars. Several books and theses have been produced making use of the RMRL collection.

Acquisitions	2010-11	2011-12	Total (as on 2012)
Books	3446	12882	106805
Periodicals (issues)	5963	9998	121712
CDs / DVDs (Audio / Video)	773	7	1386
Palm leaves	-	23	164

### Scholars visits to RMRL in 2011-2012: An overview



## Donors List

### Individuals

Mr. S. P. Ambrose, IAS (Retd.)	Mr. B. Muthuraman
Mr. Aru. Annal	Mr. S. Muthiah
Mr. L. Rm. Arunachalam (late)	Mr. K. R. A. Narasiah
Mr. Bakiam Ramaswamy	Mr. E. Ve. Ram Mohan
Mr. P. Balasubramanian	Ms. Ramani Natarajan
Mr. S. Balasundaram	Mr. A. Rayappan
Mr. S. T. Baskaran	Mr. Sembai Xavier
Dr. R. Champakalakshmi	Ms. Sharada J Schaffter
Mr. Chidambaranathan & Family	Mr. S. Sivaram
Ms. Geetha Rajagopalan	Mr. C. Subramanian
Mr. E. S. Hariharan	Mr. G. Sundar
Dr. John Grimes	Mr. Swathanthira Kumar
Dr. M. A. Kalam	Mr. M. P. Swathanthira Kumar
Mr. Kaviri Natan	Mr. Valampuri Somanathan (late)
Mr. V. Kumar	Ms. Vatsala
Ms. Lakshmi Ramachandran	

### Institutions & Publishers

India Today, Chennai  
 Kalachuvadu Pathippakam, Chennai  
 Kanthalakam, Chennai  
 Kizhakku Pathippakam, Chennai

\* This list provides the names of donors who have donated more than 10 times of print or audio records

## Documentation

RMRL has been continuously engaged in creating new records for the books received by donations at the library. One of the major achievements during this year was the migration of 65194 PC-ISCII encoded Tamil records into Unicode Tamil records. Along with the Tamil records, a total of 81292 MARC records were imported into the online Koha database which is accessible by logging into [www.rmrl.in](http://www.rmrl.in). Images of title pages have also been incorporated into the bibliographical records in the online Koha database. Now, users can search bibliographical records in Tamil script and the results will appear in Tamil script with details of holdings. This is the single largest Tamil records database on Koha.

RMRL has contributed a few unique records and upgraded its master records on WorldCat this year. The last batch that was uploaded constitutes 2,400 records, which were converted from the Kannada *Grantha Suchi*.

52170 index entries were created for very important periodicals namely *Kumaraṇ*, *Cūriyōtayam*, *Nāṇacākaram*, *Naṇapānu*, *Nāṇapōṭiṇi*, *Navacakti*, *Pañcāmirtam*, *Pālapārati*, *Maṇikkoṭi* and *Vittiyāpānu*. The interesting aspect of the index entries are that it covers advertisements, new items, obituaries, illustrations, poems and notes apart from articles and editorials.

## Reprographics Services

### Microfilming

RMRL received a second grant from the Endangered Archives programme in 2011 to digitize 1,40,000 pages of newspaper and periodicals from Tamilnadu and Pondicherry, and around 50% of the

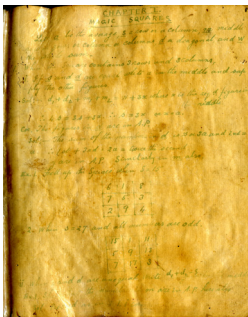
work has been completed using a state of the art (Bookey) overhead scanner.

The microfilming and digitization of the Homi Bhaba papers, a project for Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, was also completed during this period.

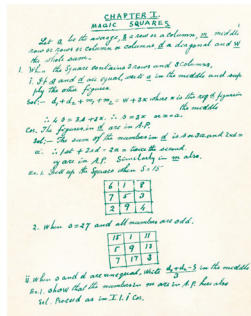
## Conservation

### Restoration of Ramanujan Manuscripts

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai approached RMRL to restore the manuscripts of the acclaimed mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. RMRL explored the available technologies such as microfilming, digital photography and flatbed scanning. Digital restoration of the manuscripts was carried out at RMRL and TIFR published a two volume book. The books were faithfully reproduced



Before Restoration



After Restoration

in the two volumes of the manuscripts, including the page numbers, the color of the ink, page sequence and orientation. The book was released on December 26, 2011 by the Honorable Prime

Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at a function at the University of Madras, Chennai.

### Workshops / Training and Technical Support

As part of the Germany-India Year 2011-12, the Francke Foundations in Halle, together with the RMRL in Chennai, and in cooperation with the ZMO, Berlin, hosted a workshop. In light of the Francke Foundations' 300- year relations with South India, the workshop aimed at analyzing

the sources of our common cultural history, which are preserved today in Indian and German archives and are studied by scholars from all over the world.

The workshop explored avenues for closer cooperation between Indian institutions and the Francke Foundations, Halle, in training young scholars in the humanistic disciplines. To this end, the workshop should help to deepen existing partnerships, but also to establish new contacts between potential partners in order to strengthen the academic bridges between Germany and India in the humanities, and, in particular, to introduce young scholars to the rich cultural-historical collections in Halle and India.

The inaugural function on February 23, 2012 was followed by a seminar on February 24, 2012 during which prominent persons from various institutions from all over India delivered their lectures on the preservation of the manuscripts and early printed volumes that was kick started by the Danish Mission in the early 18th century.

### **Indus Research Centre (IRC)**

During the year, IRC submitted four project proposals to the Central Institute for Classical Tamil (CICT) and other agencies for project funding. Some of the proposed projects were strategic - not only for IRC but applicable to the field of Indus Script research itself. Unfortunately, none of these proposals were approved. As a result, IRC has been focusing on identifying additional avenues of project funding and developing project proposals for them. In addition, IRC has been working on utilizing all available resources to position itself in a way that project activities can be initiated as soon as the financial resources become available.

The honorary consultant and founder of IRC Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan expressed his desire to relinquish his position, and the trustees of the library reluctantly agreed to his request. However, Dr. Mahadevan will continue to contribute to the IRC through his research work and

shall continue to be a patron of the RMRL. Based on Dr. Mahadevan's recommendations, the trustees approached Mr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS, who is an expert in the field of Onomastics and is also an Indus researcher. Mr. Balakrishnan gracefully accepted the invitation and became the honorary consultant of IRC with effect from January 1, 2012.

### **Collection Building and Research Activities:**

IRC continues to build on its collection of Indus research and reference materials by acquiring Indus related books and research articles directly from journals. A number of articles, papers and journals have been acquired for research work. IRC has created a database of all known Indus sites along with their geographical coordinates, size, period, etc. The data is expected to be very useful in our proposed new concordance and Indus Atlas projects.

Sixty books, originally given to Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan on loan by the International School of Dravidian Linguistics (ISDL), have been, on Dr. Mahadevan's request, given to RMRL on a permanent loan. IRC has embarked on a project to find new signs and variants of the Indus script based on new data. At the same time, it has embarked on properly identifying sign variants at the individual text level. Additionally, as part of the collection donated by Dr. Champakalakshmi, IRC received books related to the Indus civilization and script.

RMRL's collaboration with the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) continues in the area of Indus Script analysis. Regular meetings with the researchers at IMSc are being held to discuss the work.

### **Papers Published:**

The second issue of the Bulletin of the Indus Research Centre was published in August and it carried a paper titled "The Indus Fish Swam

in the Great Bath: A New Solution to an Old Riddle” by Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan. This paper offers new insight into the interpretative approach to the Indus script. Due to requests from multiple quarters, IRC reprinted the first issue of the bulletin containing the paper “The Indus Script : Text and Context : A Statistical – Positional Analysis of Significant Text Segments”. This paper provides textual and contextual statistical analyses of the most frequently occurring signs, sign pairs and sign triplets and has been found useful by many scholars in their study of the Indus script. Both issues of the bulletin were distributed free of cost.

An article about the IRC and its activities, written by C. Subramanian, Research Associate, was published in the inaugural issue of *Roja Ital*, a quarterly newsletter of the RMRL.

## Lectures / Seminars / Exhibitions

RMRL Lecture Series / Endowment lecture

### Mahavidwan Ra. Raghava Iyengar Endowment Lecture series

Professor R. Prema presented a lecture on “ரா. இராகவையங்காரின் எழுத்துப் பரப்பும், ஆய்வுப் பரப்பும்”.

### Prof. M. Anandkrishnan Endowment Lecture series

Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, trustee of RMRLT contributed Rs. 4,50,000 towards an endowment for monthly lectures to be held at RMRL.

Under this lecture series, four lectures were organized last year.

Dr. Uday Balakrishnan, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, presented a lecture: “A Civilizing Force? The Struggle to De-West the Past?”

This was the first lecture under this Series.



Dr. Uday Balakrishnan delivers his lecture





Dr. John Grimes delivers his lecture on Advaita Vedanta

Dr. John Grimes delivered his lecture on Advaita Vedanta.

Mr. K. R. A. Narasiah delivered his lecture on “The “Great Poet” Debate: Mahakavi Yaar?”

Dr. Sitabhra Sinha, Professor, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, delivered a lecture titled “New Approaches to Understanding the Indus Inscriptions”.

### **Dr. Gift Siromoney Endowment Lecture**



Prof. Michael Jansen delivering lecture

Professor Michael Jansen, Director, German Research Center Mohenjo-Daro at the RWTH Aachen University, Germany, delivered a lecture titled “Mohenjo-Daro, the largest city of the Third Millenium”. This was the second lecture under the Gift Siromoney Endowment lecture series. The first one was given by Prof. Asko Parpola in 2010.

### **Other Public Lecture**

Prof. Nirmal Selvamony delivered his lecture on “Contemporary tiNai Music”

Dr. Rajesh P. N. Rao, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington, delivered a public lecture titled “Indus Script : Computational Analysis and Challenges in Interpretation”.



Prof. Daniel Jeyaraj delivers his lecture

Prof. Daniel Jeyaraj, Liverpool Hope University delivered his public lecture under the title “Introducing Indian Teachings and Ways of Life to Europeans: Exchange of Ideas between Tamil Pundits and European Missionaries in pre-Colonial India”

## Exhibition

RMRL organized an exhibition on “Early Tamil imprints” from RMRL’s collections on the eve of the Madras week celebration from August 20 - 27, 2011 and also organized two special lectures. Prof. V. Arasu, Professor and Head of the Department of Tamil Literature, University of Madras, lectured on “தமிழில் அரிய நூல்கள் பாதுகாப்பு : சில உரையாடல்கள்” on 20 August 2011, and Dr A. Sathish, Fellow Researcher delivered a lecture on “அரிய ஆவணங்கள் : பதிப்பு - பதிப்பாசிரியன் - பதிப்பகம்”.

On February 23, 2012, a travel exhibition was inaugurated at the Roja Muthiah Research Library, with opening remarks by Dr. Stefen Weckbach, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chennai, Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke, Director of the Francke Foundations, Halle and Mr. S. Muthiah, Trustee, Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai.



Participants at a Seminar on “Science Transfer as Cultural Dialogue”

## Book Release Function

RMRL, in association with the Madras Book Club, released the book, “Early Interactions between South & South East Asia” on 15th December 2011. The book release function was held at the Raintree Hotel, Alwarpet.



Mr. S. Muthiah, Mr. M. V. Subbiah, Ambassador K Kesavapany and Mr. C. V. Karthick Narayanan in the picture

## Quarterly Newsletter – Roja Ital

RMRL released the first issue of its quarterly newsletter “Roja Ital” in the month of January, 2012. The newsletter is an initiative to update RMRL users about its activities. The newsletter also carries articles written by scholars in Tamil and Harappan Studies. RMRL is currently looking for endowment fund/sponsors for the sustainable issue of the newsletter.

**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, 2012 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, 2012
- (ii) in the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting period ending 31st March, 2012

for Bhaskaran & Ramesh  
Chartered Accountants

Chennai  
01 June 2012

A Bhaskaran  
Partner

**Audited Financial Statement**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2012**

Particulars	31.03.2012		31.03.2011	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>				
Capital Fund		24,897,934		21,447,573
Endowment Fund		668,150		115,000
		<b>25,566,084</b>		<b>21,562,573</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Gross block	23,731,524		20,401,442	
Less: Depreciation	2,093,342		1,470,069	
Net block		21,638,182		18,931,373
<b>Investments</b>		318,000		318,000
<b>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances</b>				
Accounts receivable		1,867,227	1,509,184	
Cash and Bank balances		1,759,139	4,486,594	
Loans & Advances		84,931	86,216	
		3,711,297	6,081,994	
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions				
Current Liabilities		101,395	3,768,795	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		3,609,902		2,313,200
		<b>25,566,084</b>		<b>21,562,573</b>

**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2012**

<b>Particulars</b>	31.03.2012	31.03.2011
	<b>Rs.</b>	<b>Rs.</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions Received	6,665,537	7,237,280
Donations Received	4,665	57,000
Other Receipt	443,130	794,091
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,113,332</b>	<b>8,088,371</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Operating expenses	112,156	986,675
Employee expenses	4,042,784	3,597,232
Administrative expenses	1,791,183	1,963,186
Depreciation	623,273	574,743
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>6,569,396</b>	<b>7,121,836</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>543,937</b>	<b>966,535</b>

**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.

## **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  
M. A. Kalam, *Social Sciences*, Chennai  
Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, *Education*, Chennai  
Ramani Natarajan, *Law*, Chennai  
G. Sundar, *Library & Archives*, Chennai

## **Consultants**

Dr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS  
*Honorary Consultant*, Indus Research Centre  
Moses Gladson and George Mathew, *Design Consultants*

## **Staff**

G. Sundar, *Director* R. Prakash, *Assistant Director*  
V. Kumar, *Technical Officer* G. C. Suresh Babu, *Technical Officer*  
S. Muthu Malathi, *Technical Officer* M. Manikanda Subbu, *Development Executive*



ROJA MUTHIAH  
RESEARCH LIBRARY

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