

# ROJA MUTHIAH RESEARCH LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



# Annual Report 2016 - 17



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

Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian

Chatnath Trust

National Archives of India

Pari Washington Company

S R V Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Trichy

Sriram Capital Limited

And all the donors who have generously supported the library

## Annual Report Narrative

In the year 2016-17, Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) completed two major projects. The two year paper conservation project funded by the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust and digitization of south Indian publications funded by the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) were completed successfully. The modern conservation lab that was established with the help of funds from the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust was effectively utilized in achieving the proposed targets in the last two years. I am happy that a part of rare print material in RMRL has been conserved through this project. A workshop was also organized as part of the project and it was attended by many. This is a commitment to disseminate the knowledge gained by RMRL. We are planning to organize more such workshops in future. A manual for the paper conservation has also been developed for a practical approach to conservation.

As part of preservation activities, rare early Grantha books through digitization has been taken up this year. This project is funded by the EAP. Both field survey and digitization has been taking place parallelly. We hope this effort will preserve the books written in nearly obsolete Grantha script. RMRL has ventured into preserving material from private institutions this year. RMRL digitized the magazines of Women's Christian College (Sunflower), magazines of Madras Christian College, back issues of Mylapore Times and papers of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan. We also setup a digital library for MCC magazine, which enables the users to search and retrieve articles from the magazine through an interface. We have taken up digitizing and cataloguing of books and periodicals from the Music Academy. After this, Music Academy's journals, souvenirs and photographs shall be taken up for digitization and to setup a digital library.

Another area RMRL ventured this year is the reprint of Tirukkural book published in the year 1812. This is the first classical text that went on print. This book has been printed as a collector's edition. We are thankful to Sriram Capital Limited for extending a major portion of financial support in bringing this publication.

I am happy to share that RMRL received its first grant from National Archives of India. This is to install compact shelves in the Library. Financial support to purchase compact shelves also came from the students of SRV Matriculation School, this year. The School students collected money from the public and donated it to the Library for purchasing compact shelves. This support allowed us to mitigate the space issue in a big way. I hope such financial support from the Government organizations and the public will continue to augment the activities for future. We are also happy to inform that RMRL's FCRA certificate has been renewed last year. This enables to get funding for preservation through out the world in the next five years without any interruptions.

G. Sundar  
Executive Trustee  
June 2017



## Reference Services

363 new scholars have used RMRL collection this year. A total of 1,491 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. 3,275 books and 4,928 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](http://www.rmrl.in) in addition to accessing the catalogue searching facility available in the Library premise.

## Donors List\*

### Individuals

Akila Vijayakumar	Anaimuttu, V
Annamalai, C	Aracu, V
Balasubramaniam, T. R	Balasundaram, S
Baskaran, S. T	Cauntar
Dhandapani, G	Ganesh, P. S
Helina, Te	Iramaiyan, Ta
Iravatham Mahadevan	Jegan, M. D
Jeyaletcumi, Na	Kanakacuntaram, I. P
Karuppan Chetty	Maturai Paparaj
Meera Grimes	Mohana Sundaram
More, J. B. P	Muthiah, S
Ñana Cantira Jancan, Y	Nattarca, Ha. Mu
Pañcavarnam, Ira	Paparaj, Cu. Pe
Parati Kirusnakumar	Perumal, P
Prakash, R	Prameela Gurumoorthy
Putukai Verrivelan	Radhakrishan, K. S
Raghunathan	Ramaswamy, S
Sembai Xavier	Stalin, K
Subbiah, M. V	Subramanian, C
Subramanian, K	Sudhandira Kumar
Sumathi Ramaswamy	Sundar, G
Sunil Kumar Patnaik	Tacaratan

Thulasai Ramaswamy  
Turiyanantam, Ka  
Venkatachalapathy, A. R

Tulacitacan  
Vasudevan, P. R  
Vincent Kumaradoss, Y

### **Institutions & Publishers**

Kalachuvadu Pathippagam  
Kaumara Matalayam  
Noolaham Foundation  
Sri Vidyatheertha Foundation

Kanthalagam  
Mullai Patippakam  
Parati Puttakalayam  
Tamilman Patippakam

### **Documentation**

RMRL database is continuously growing in numbers, now it has grown to 105207 records. This year 2172 records were added into the database. We have extended support to create new MARC records for the holdings of Cornell University Library, University of Texas Libraries and Stanford University Libraries of United States of America for books in English, Tami and Malayalam.

We have documented the oldest in-house publications from the Madras Christian College and Women Christian College. Madras Christian College magazine was started to publish from 1883 and continue to publish till date. Sunflower is magazine of the Women Christian College from 1916.

Library located in Music Academy, Madras was reorganized based on the music, dance, literature and other subjects. The library has 6000 books and 4900 records were created as a bilingual catalogue records. The database was installed at the library.

J-isis, an open source software was deployed to create index databases well as digital repositories for these collections.

## Reprographics Services

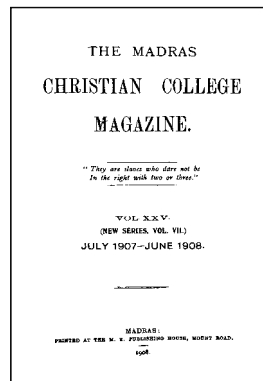
Digitization of Kannada books for the Endangered Archives Project (EAP) has been completed this year. Through this project the Library has preserved the most important rare (copy right free) Kannada imprints. Now, the Library has been digitizing Grantha books for another EAP Grant received this year. Around 300 books have been digitized so far in this project.

The complete set of research papers, articles and books of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan have been digitized by RMRL this year. This comprised of 30,000 pages.

Regarding preservation of institutional material, magazines of Madras Christian College (MCC) and Women's Christian College (WCC) have been digitized this year. 83 issues of Sunflower magazine (WCC magazine) and 126 issues of MCC magazines were digitized.



*Cover page of a Sunflower magazine issue*



*Cover page of a Madras Christian College Magazine issue*

## Paper Conservation

The paper conservation project which was started last year with the funding received from The Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust was completed this year. We are happy that we conserved more than the proposed number of pages. With the facilities and skill available RMRL is planning to approach other archives to conserve their collection. With the nitrogen disinfection system in place, it will also be used to disinfect other collections.

As proposed a workshop on paper conservation was organized in February. People from all part of India such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Coimbatore have attended the workshop. This workshop focused manly on the practical aspects of the paper conservation processes. Hands on training was given to all the participants on all the processes. Similar workshops are planned to be organized frequently in the future.



*Participants in the conservation workshop*



*A conserved book kept in a book cradle*

## **Indus Research Centre**

During 2016-17 the Indus Research Centre (IRC) did not receive any new projects or funding. However, IRC completed and presented to the review committee of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), a completed version of the Indus Glossary. The review committee suggested a few minor changes to the Glossary. These were quickly incorporated and the final version was delivered to CICT in January 2017. IRC is continuing its collaboration with Institute of Mathematical Sciences in the area of Indus text analysis in general and text segmentation in particular.

## **Conferences / Training Programmes / Collaborations**

Sundar was invited for attend the inaugural meeting of International Association of Printing Museums in Seoul, South Korea. Sundar presented a paper on “Making a case of print museum in Tamilnadu” in the event. Sundar and Prakash participated in the workshop “Metadata for Audio and Images of South Asia:Sonic and Visual South Asian in Space and Time – Connecting Objects, Texts, People, and Places.” held in Colombo in July, 2016. The workshop was organized by the University of Chicago, New Delhi centre.

Sundar and Prakash were invited to provide training on digitization to staff in Sikkim Palace Archives collection. The archives received funding from EAP, British Library and aim to digitize their collection. Sundar and Prakash visited the archives and provided the training.

RMRL has signed an MoU with British Library for colloaboration in preservation, documentation, conservation and in training institutes in these areas. RMRL also collaborating with institutions such as University of Texas and Cornell University in US.

## Lectures / Exhibitions / Events

RMRL Lecture Series / Endowment lectures

### Prof. M. Anandkrishnan Endowment Lecture series

5 August 2016: Prof. Vinay Lal delivered his lecture in the title “What’s in an image? Gandhi and the politics of Visual Representation”.



*Dr. S. Suresh delivering his lecture*



*Prof. Vinay Lal delivering his lecture*

22 August 2016: Dr. S. Suresh delivered his lecture “Digging the Past : Archaeology Norms, Practices and Legislations in India and The U.S.A.”.

23 August 2016: Mr. K. Thirunavukkarasu delivered his lecture in the title “சென்னையும் திராவிட இயக்கமும்”.



*Mr. K. Thirunavukkarasu delivering his lecture*



*Mr. K. R. A. Narasiah  
delivering his lecture*

24 August 2016: Mr. K. R. A. Narasiah delivered his lecture “South Indian Languages during Colonial rule - History and growth” / “காலனி ஆட்சியில் தென்னக மொழிகள் - வளர்ச்சியும் வரலாறும்”.

26 August 2016: Mr. Kyungsoo KIM delivered his lecture “Cultural exchange between India and Korea from Antiquity”.



*Mr. Kyungsoo KIM  
delivering his lecture*

### **Prof. V. Arasu Endowment Lecture series**

2 September 2016: Dr. Kudavayil Balasubramanian delivered his lecture “தமிழ்க் கலை மரபு” as part of this endowment lecture series. The book அறியப்பட வேண்டிய நூற்பதிப்புகள் was released as part of this event.



*Prof. P. R. Subramanian releasing  
the book அறியப்பட வேண்டிய  
நூற்பதிப்புகள்*



*Dr. Kudavayil Balasubramanian  
delivering his lecture*

### Book release function

The book *சிந்துவெளிப் பண்பாட்டின் திராவிட அடித்தளம்* authored by Mr. R. Balakrishnan, Honorary consultant of IRC, was released in the Library on 13 April 2016. An exhibition on the idea behind the book was also organised in the Library.



*Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan and Mr. Sivakumar at the exhibition*



*Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan releasing the book*

RMRL reprinted the first edition of Tirukkural published in the year 1812. The book was released in the Nattukkural event organized in November, 2016. The book was released by Needhi Arasar Mahadevan and the first copy was received by Mr. Sivakumar.



*Needhi Arasar Mahadevan releasing the book*



*Chief guests with the books*



### **Documentary film screening**

3 October 2016: RMRL in association with Umar screened the award winning documentary film “Salma” directed by Kim Longinotto.



*Mr. Salma interacting with the audiences*

25 October 2016: RMRL in association with Ranga Mandira Academy Of World Dance/ Performance and Indic Studies & Ek Potlee Ret Ki screened the documentary film “Life and Freedom” directed by Anyurag Singh.

**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, 2017 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, 2017
- (ii) in the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting period ending 31st March, 2017

for Bhaskaran & Ramesh  
Chartered Accountants

Chennai  
08 September 2017

A Bhaskaran  
Partner

**Audited Financial Statement**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2017**

Particulars	31.03.2017		31.03.2016	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>				
Capital Fund		49,156,581		46,653,035
Endowment Fund		768,150		768,150
		<b>49,924,731</b>		<b>47,421,185</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Gross block	41,766,925		41,432,933	
Less: Depreciation	6,470,382		5,106,978	
Net block		35,296,543		36,325,955
<b>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances</b>				
Cash and Bank balances		14,014,205		11,853,381
Interest accrued on Deposits		199,893		135,347
Loans & Advances		143,433		169,408
Other current assets		375,000		-
		14,732,531		11,440,136
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions				
Other Liabilities		822,343		1,062,907
		822,343		822,343
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		13,910,188		10,377,230
		<b>49,924,731</b>		<b>47,421,185</b>

**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2017**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>31.03.2017</b>	<b>31.03.2016</b>
	<b>Rs.</b>	<b>Rs.</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions Received	6,535,923	3,503,974
Donations Received	920,000	667,000
Grant Received	2,371,324	9,471,779
Other Receipt	1,450,345	608,603
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,277,592</b>	<b>14,251,356</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Operating expenses	962,989	1,379,512
Employee expenses	6,243,568	5,303,598
Administrative expenses	2,822,206	2,692,550
Depreciation	1,363,403	1,566,878
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>11,392,166</b>	<b>10,942,537</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>(114,574)</b>	<b>3,308,819</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

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*

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*

## Research Fellow

C. Subramanian, Indus Research Centre