

Annual Report '08



ROJA MUTHIAH RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST

*Gramophone record player in cover page  
Images are from RMRL collection*



ROJA MUTHIAH  
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST

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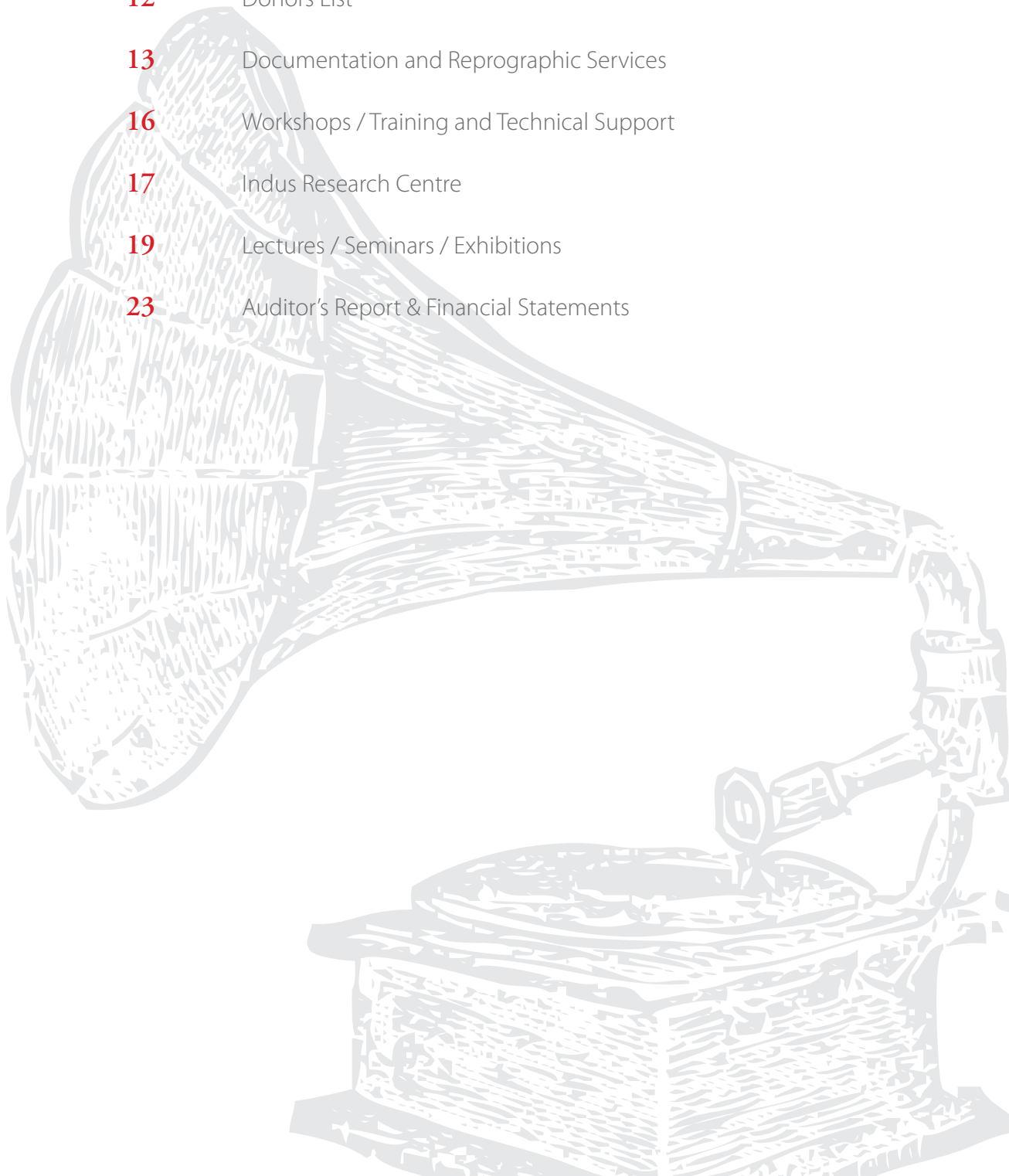
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## Main Objectives of the Trust

The Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust exists 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**

National Social Science Documentation Centre, ICSSR, New Delhi

Tata Institute for Fundamental Research, Mumbai

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, Kolkata

Chennai Heritage, Chennai

Amalgamations Group, Chennai

Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore

State Bank of India, Tidel Park Branch, Chennai

Canara Bank, Thiruvanmiyur Branch, Chennai

Profaids Consulting, Chennai

The Hindu, Chennai

Sundram Fasteners Limited, Chennai

Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal

Center for Research Libraries, USA

Ms. K. Kanimozhi, Chennai

Prof. M. S. S. Pandian, Chennai

Prof. Thomas R. Trautmann, Michigan, USA

Prof. Edward Montgomery, Washington D.C., USA

Mr. James H. Nye, Chicago, USA

Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan, Chennai

Mr. V. Sriram, Chennai

Dr. Indira Chowdhury, Bangalore

*And all the donors who have generously supported the library.*

## Annual Report Narrative

The Roja Muthiah Research Library has learnt fruitful lessons in the year 2007-08 and made significant progress under the guidance of the Trustees. While consolidating its expertise in the areas of documentation and preservation, it has spread itself in training professionals in the area of archiving and organizing exhibitions.

So far RMRL has shown its commitment to the scholarly world by organizing 32 lectures (monthly) in the last two and half years without any interruption. The lectures were well balanced, both academic and of popular in nature, both academics and public showed patronage.

There is an increase in the visibility of RMRL and its activities. This is seen from the coverage the print and electronic media has done. RMRL was in news in the dailies, both in Tamil and English, on several occasions. Dailies such as *The Hindu*, *The New Indian Express*, *Dinamani*, *Dinamalar* and *Dinakaran* highlighted the library's facilities, activities including its regular lectures.

The new areas that RMRL has ventured into this year is curating exhibitions. So far two exhibitions have been curated by RMRL through sponsorship. Eminent people like Prof. A. R. Venkatachalapathy, Mr. V. Sriram and Mr. Sanjay Subrahmanyam have extended their support in curating these exhibitions. Acknowledgements are due to Mr. C. Annamalai, BBC, Chennai for his support in translation of the exhibits. Of course there was always the support of the Library staff. These exhibitions were extremely beneficial to the library as it was able to show cause the rare gems in the collection. It has thrown open the items that were not earlier used by scholars. After the exhibition, usage of these items have increased.

The Indus Research Centre has been there for a year. It has attracted a number of scholars and it has revived a serious interest in research related to Indus Script. RMRL has forged partnership with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai and also enjoys technical support from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore has funded the IRC with a grant of rupees ten lakhs. Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan serves as the Honorary Consultant and has extended his association for another year. He has formed a team in the IRC which takes forward this research work. Seminars, and a number of lectures have been conducted. Prof. Asko Parpola, eminent Scientist in the field of Indus Script research was invited to present his views. This has reinforced the commitment in the research work undertaken.





Documentation department has shown remarkable progress, especially in the cataloguing front. In addition to Tamil records, retrospective conversion of Kannada records were taken which brought some revenue to RMRL. An important part of documentation work in this year was completing the cataloguing work of the U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer Library. The Library had no formal catalogue in print or electronic form. RMRL is in the process of making a printed catalogue for the Library which can be used by scholars. This will also be a part of the South Asia Union Catalogue (SAUC).

RMRL has taken a significant step in creating its own corpus for the long term commitments. It has invested in authorized Mutual Funds. This year the finances were in a better position. Accounting procedures has been streamlined on professional grounds.

RMRL has not purchased books in the past for shortage of funds. However, there has been a continuous inflow in the library through gifts and donations. This is quite encouraging. An evaluation has been made to the gifts that was received and taken to the books of accounts. The value has been determined close to seventy three lakhs.

The detailed activities of the Library and the progress can be seen under its different departments in the following pages.

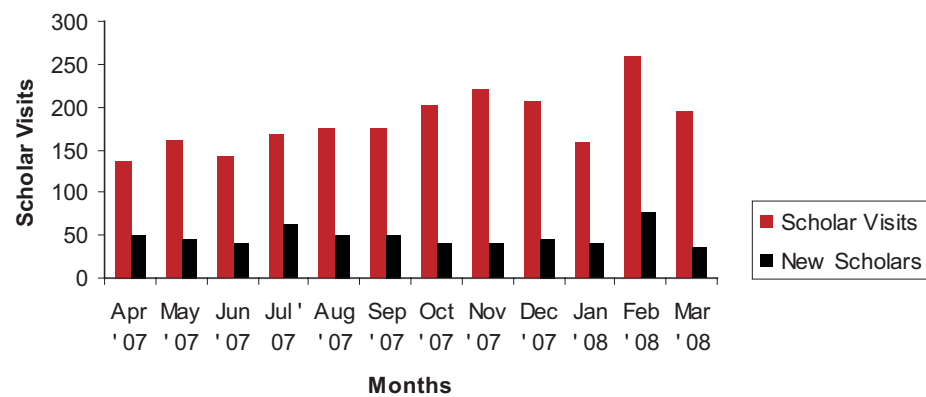
G. Sundar  
Executive Trustee  
June 2008

## Reference Services and Acquisitions

RMRL has witnessed a 29% increase in the usage of the library services from the previous year. This year 764 users have utilized RMRL's reference services out of which 590 were new users. They are research scholars – mostly, M.Phil (24%); doctoral candidates (17%); writers (3%); journalists (2%); and others (54%). Scholars feel that without using the RMRL collection their research in Tamil Studies is not complete. Film Studies enjoys maximum patronage as this subject is the most utilized one, followed by Tamil literature. Though the Library also possesses ample materials in the fields of Anthropology, Sociology, Fine arts and Psychology, they have been less utilized. While scholars prefer to use the printed material directly, a number of them have opted for digitizing. RMRL considers this as a contribution by the scholar for preservation for posterity. Scholars like Prof. Lakshmi Holmstorm, Dr. Takaka Inoue, Dr. Perumal Murugan have used the library this year. RMRL also takes pride in receiving its youngest user, Selvi. Nandhini Priya, a sixth class student of a nearby Govt. High School. Foreign scholars continue to use the email services to acquire research material from RMRL. So the number of visits by foreign scholars to the library is lower than Indian scholars. A huge collection of books in English related to Tamil Studies and Official Publications of pre-independent India were gifted to RMRL by the University of Chicago. The number of book donors has increased along with the number of publishers sending us their new imprints. RMRL is considered to be a private repository for imprints on Tamil Studies. Audio, video and photographic slides were also received during this year. Notably the collection of Edward Montgomery, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington who had earlier worked in Tamilnadu for his Doctoral studies, has been added to the library. Another interesting collection of "Swadesamitran C. S. Narasimhan's collection" has been gifted by his wife Dr. Premila Narasimhan who lives in the USA. A number of books, periodicals and audio recordings is available in this collection.



### Scholars visits to RMRL in 2007-2008 : An overview



### Aquisitions

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Books                                       | 4,915 |
| Periodicals (issues)                        | 5,632 |
| Official Publications of India              | 1,671 |
| Ephemera                                    | 5,028 |
| Dissertations                               | 347   |
| Cassettes (Audio / Video)                   | 256   |
| Sound recordings                            | 709   |
| CDs / DVDs (Audio / Video)                  | 74    |
| Photographic slides                         | 1,146 |
| B/W photographic negatives                  | 2,678 |
| 16 mm Motion picture films (100 feet reels) | 15    |
| Audio tapes – Interviews (1000 feet reels)  | 23    |

## Donors List

Donors \*(Print / Audio records)

### Individuals

Dr. Annie Thomas  
Mr. Ca. Pa. Arulanandam  
Mr. Arunagirinathan  
Mr. P. M. Belliappa  
Mr. Ci. Pi. SIRRASU family  
Mr. Pon. Dhanasekaran  
Dr. G. Edward Montgomery  
Ms. V. Geetha  
Ms. Geetha Priya  
Dr. E. S. Hariharan  
Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan  
Mr. James H. Nye  
Mr. G. Jeyaraman  
Dr. M. A. Kalam  
Mr. V. Kumar  
Mr. Kurinjivelan  
Mr. D. Madhavan  
Mr. Mohana Sundar Pandian  
Mrs. S. Muthumalathi  
Ms. Nanda  
Mr. S. Narayan  
Mr. K. Natarajan  
Dr. Natarajan  
Mr. R. Prakash  
Dr. Premila Narasimhan  
Mr. Rajul Padmanabhan  
Mr. S. Ramesh  
Mr. S. Sampath  
Mr. P. Saravanan

Mr. Sembai Xavier  
Ms. S. Sivakami  
Mr. V. N. Srinivasa Desikan  
Mr. M. V. Subbiah  
Mr. Subramaniam Kandaswamy  
Mr. G. Sundar  
Ms. S. Suvidha  
Mr. S. Swaminathan  
Mr. S. Theodore Baskaran  
Mr. Thiagarajan  
Mr. Vikraman

### Institutions & Publishers

India Today  
Islamiya Ilakiya Kazhakam  
K. R. D. Prasath Trust  
Kanthalam  
Kilakku Pathipagam  
Mazhai Matha Arulthalam  
Bharathi Puthakalayam  
The University of Chicago Library

\*This list provides the names of donors who have donated more than 10 items



## Documentation and Reprographic Services

### Documentation

#### RMRL and WorldCat

WorldCat (the OCLC Online Union Catalog) at Dublin, Ohio, USA, is the world's largest and most comprehensive database of bibliographic information. In 1995-96 the Tamil records were 18,016 (before RMRL's contribution to WorldCat). Currently WorldCat has 87,498 Tamil records<sup>1</sup>. As a significant contribution by a single library, RMRL has contributed 57,512 records (includes a few English and other Indian language records) in the period 2000 to 2008. In the year 2007-08, RMRL has contributed 10,971 records. The break-up as per language is Tamil records 8550; Kannada records 961; and other languages 1460.

#### RMRL and SAUC

RMRL is playing a leading role in South Asia Union Catalogue project (SAUC). As a follow-up of library survey conducted at Dr. U. Ve. Swaminatha lyer Library, Chennai, RMRL took up the cataloguing work in their library. The total book collection in their library is 23,604 volumes out of which 10,617 unique books were catalogued by hand and also title pages were digitized using a digital camera. These were later used for creating MARC records (work is in progress). See statistics below:

#### Dr. U. Ve. Swaminatha lyer Library collection statistics

| Language | No. of books | Unique titles | Other editions | Identical titles |
|----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Tamil    | 21756        | 9447          | 941            | 11368            |
| English  | 1848         | 1170          | 62             | 616              |
| Total    | 23604        | 10617         | 1003           | 11984            |

<sup>1</sup> OCLC annual report 2006-2007: p. 13

44% of the U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer collection was found to be unique (*there are many more libraries in Tamilnadu which would have many more unique items*). RMRL sees several advantages in such accomplishments - (1) this will be a part of the SAUC programme (2) the printed catalogue will be useful to scholars visiting their library and of course RMRL (3) from one place scholars could plan their research work (4) this will be a good will gesture, both for scholars and to the library community.

This work is part of a larger plan of bringing in the bibliographic data of published items in Tamil so far from the year 1556. As the RMRL team moves in to different collections one after the other, the unique items identified are still encouraging. This means the documented items for Tamil has just begun and would take several more years to accomplish this task of documenting all published items so far.

#### RMRL database

RMRL database is growing and there is significant progress as there are a number of gifts and donations. The book stock has expanded to 84998 volumes (*the last accession number for the year 2007-08*). There is an additional stock of 23,000 books for which the documentation work is in progress.

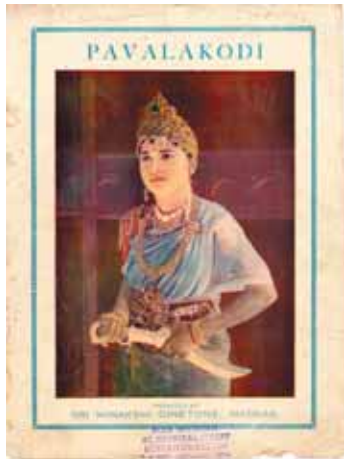
#### Cataloguing Statistics

|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Madras Presidency quarterly list | 1,260 |
| Books – RMRL                     | 1,079 |
| Books – Other Libraries          | 6,131 |
| Kannada granthasuchi for SAUC*   | 3,920 |

\* SAUC – South Asia Union Catalogue



### Reprographics



Cinema handbill

RMRL offered its services for duplicating reels of Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal, under the 'Endangered Archives Programme' (EAP) of British Library. RMRL also extended its services to Centre for Research Libraries, USA and Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. The services undertaken were for duplicating and digitizing their reels.

A long time pending task of duplication of reels for the University of Chicago under the National Endowment for the Humanities project was taken up and nearly 16% of the reels were duplicated and sent to them. Another major project, funded by the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine has been completed.

RMRL collaborated with Centre for Periyar Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli in microfilming and digitizing material related to Self Respect movement. The project was successful. The understanding is that the University would make these digital images available online for the use of scholars.

RMRL did not undertake any major preservation project this year. However, as and when rare items were located they were microfilmed and are being preserved in the RMRL's environmentally controlled storage.

RMRL has been involved in archiving audio records for nearly three years since 2005. Recently, RMRL was invited to take up a project for digitizing the audio recordings at the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai. These are rare recordings as they go back to the early years of founding the Kalakshetra itself. Nearly 50% of their collection has been digitized.

### Reprographics Statistics

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Microfilmed (Reels) | 50       |
| Duplicated (Reels)  | 922      |
| Digitized (Images)  | 1,70,474 |

## Workshops / Training and Technical Support

### SAUC Workshops

RMRL has been coordinating / organizing workshops for SAUC participants. A number of workshops have been going in a series since 2004. The fifth in the series was held at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC), Kolkata in April 2007. Presentations were on "Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules II and ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Transliteration Schemes for Non-Roman Scripts". The sixth workshop was on the "Cataloguing Process" at the Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya in Nepal between 10th and 12th of March 2008. Participants were from India, Pakistan and Nepal. Training was provided in MARC 21 format, OCLC Connexion, Name Authority and Library of Congress Subject Headings.



*Participants at SAUC workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal*

### Sponsored workshops

RMRL, along with the National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC), ICSSR, New Delhi, organised a workshop on "Documentation of Printed Resources for Libraries & Archives" between 2nd and 4th August 2007. Sixteen Library and Information professionals from different locations in India participated in this workshop and 8 of them were from the ICSSR supported institutions. This workshop was funded by NASSDOC.

A one day workshop was organized at RMRL for a group of 25 journalism students from S. R. M. Deemed University, Kattankulathur near Chennai. They were given an overview in using the information sources available in different formats and locations. More emphasis was on the print and web media.

### Training

For the first time, RMRL conducted a fee based training programme this year. A three week long training programme in June 2007 was organized for Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Archives and Godrej Archives. The programme was titled as "Documentation and Preservation of Archival Material". Ms. Ratula Dutta from TIFR Archives and Ms. Sanghamitra Sen from Godrej Archives participated in this training programme. They received both theoretical knowledge and hands on experience on various aspects of documentation, preservation, conservation and digitization of library material. Dr. Indira Chowdhury, Historian and Consultant Archivist, Bangalore, was instrumental for such a programme. She first visited RMRL in 2005 and saw the professional expertise available in RMRL and suggested that such training programmes be conducted at RMRL. RMRL has also been involved in organizing internal workshops and seminars periodically to enrich the knowledge of staff on a monthly basis.





## Indus Research Centre (IRC)



*Indus seal portraying bull-vaulting*

RMRL Trust has set up an Indus Research Centre in January 2007 for undertaking scientific investigations into various aspects of the Harappan or Indus Civilization, especially the Indus Script. The IRC will function as a unit of RMRL. IRC has been organizing lectures, seminars (*see lectures and seminars*) and has undertaken research work under the guidance of Iravatham Mahadevan, Honorary Consultant, IRC. A corpus of material for the study of the Indus Script is being built with Late Prof. Gift Siromoney and Iravatham Mahadevan's collection at the IRC and this collection includes a number of books and documents collected by them on the Indus Script. The photographic collection (*slides and black and white photos*) of the Indus seals collected by Mahadevan is a unique aspect. A volume of Indus Texts as computerized data file with numerical codes has been compiled by Mahadevan for use of scholars at IRC. He has also prepared a companion volume which is a code manual for the input data file. This manual contains detailed codes to understand the numerical data file and relate it to the pictorial version in the book. In addition to these two volumes the entire source material collected by Mahadevan relating to the Indus Script including photographic card catalogues and unpublished statistical tables are now with the IRC and available for consultation by scholars.

An effective collaboration has been forged between the IRC and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. IRC team is headed by its Honorary Consultant Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan and the TIFR team is headed by Prof. Mayank Vahia, Professor, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the TIFR. The collaboration has resulted in the compilation of additional data files, statistical tables etc., which form the foundation for academic papers prepared at the IRC and TIFR.

Mahadevan visited the TIFR – in March, 2007 for a discussion and a series of presentations were made by both Mahadevan and the colleagues at TIFR. The details of the collaboration between IRC and TIFR were finalized. As a result of these discussions three research papers have been jointly authored by Mahadevan and Prof. Vahia and his associates, and these papers were published in various learned journals.

The TIFR team visited IRC twice in 2007 during which the TIFR team presented papers before an invited audience at RMRL. In their first visit in July 2007, a two day seminar was held at RMRL. During their second visit to IRC in November 2007 another seminar was organized and papers were presented. They also visited in February 2008 and a colloquium was organized where the IRC team, the TIFR team and a team from Institute of Mathematical Sciences met and discussed various issues related to Indus Script analysis.

With the research material provided by Iravatham Mahadevan and the papers of Gift Siromoney, a comprehensive bibliography for Indus Research is being constructed and the listed items are being acquired by the IRC.

















One of the most important activities of IRC is the creation of a "New Concordance of the Indus Script". This is another example of the collaborative work between IRC of RMRL and TIFR. IRC has started working on the validation of the major works of Iravatham Mahadevan's "The Indus Script: Texts, Concordance and Tables" and the "Corpus of Indus Seals and Inscriptions" volumes of Asko Parpola. These two works are consulted and the New Concordance will comprise the exhaustive scripts contained in these two volumes and the further excavated seals both in India and Pakistan. This is a much awaited work by scholars in the area of Indus Script research.



Iravatham Mahadevan (left) & Asko Parpola (right)

Scholars like Asko Parpola, Brian Wells, Rajesh Rao, Richard Sproat and a number of other experts have shown interest in collaborating with the IRC. So, with increasing interest of the scholars and the increasing activity of the Indus Research Centre, it is being considered as the centre for the study of the Indus Script. The IRC hopes the successful run to continue in all its future endeavors, with the continuing interest of new young scholars in the study of the Indus Script.

Agricultural Terms in the Indus Script \*

| Modifiers                          | Agricultural Signs   |   |  | Other Signs   |  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
|                                    | I  | II  | III  |   |  |
|                                    | <br>137<br>share (of grain) | <br>141<br>share of crop | <br>162<br>crop | <br>001<br>man |  |
| A. SKY<br>> god's                  | <br>139                     | <br>142                  |  |   |  |
| A. EIGHT<br>> State's              | <br>140                     | <br>143                  | <br>164         |   |  |
| C. UPPER<br>> landlord's           | <br>138                     |   | <br>163         |   |  |
| 149. STREETS<br>> city's           |  | <br>144                  |  |   |  |
| 176. HARROW<br>> tenant - farmer's |  | <br>145                  | <br>165         | <br>166          | <br>038 |

\* Extract from "Agricultural Terms in the Indus Script" by Iravatham Mahadevan



## Lectures / Seminars / Exhibitions

### Lectures

Fourteen lectures were organized during this year under two platforms. One under the RMRL lecture series with various topics and one under the Indus Research Centre with main focus on Indus Script. Scholars from India and abroad were invited so as to cater to the interests of scholars from various academic disciplines of the Social Sciences. The following list enumerates the eminent speakers and the topics they lectured.

RMRL lecture series:

Dr. Mytheli Srinivas (Asst. Professor of History and Women's Studies, The Ohio State University, USA) on *"Women's Print Culture and the (Anti) Colonial Archive: Reading Emotion, History and Nation"*

Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam (Distinguished Fellow, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai and visiting Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore) on *"National Knowledge Commission and its Implication on Libraries"*

Dr. A. Marx (Professor, Department of Physics, Presidency College, Chennai) on *"The Relevance of Gandhi Today"* (in Tamil)

Mr. Lawrence Liang (Research Scholar, Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore) on *"Archival Documents and Copyright Issues"*

Dr. Job Thomas (Director, South Asian Studies Program, Davidson College, USA) on *"Botanical Drawings of 19th Century Madras"*

Dr. Indira Chowdhury (Historian and Consultant Archivist, Bangalore) on *"Collective Memory, Institutional History and the Institutional Archives"*

Dr. A. Mangai (Professor of English and Theatre artist) on *"Politics of Culture and Post Colonialism"* (in Tamil)

Ms. K. Kanimozhi (Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha) on *"My Experiences in Organizing Chennai Sangamam"* (in Tamil)

The following lectures were organized under the banner of Indus Research Centre:

Mr. Periannan Chandrasekaran (Director of Tamil Music Development, International Tamil Language Foundation, Chicago) on *"How Many Kaveris?: The Structure and Etymology of Minor River Names and the Implications for the Indus Linguistic Milieu"*

Prof. Asko Parpola (Professor Emeritus of Indology, Institute for Asian and African Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland) on *"Is the Indus Script indeed not a writing system?"*

Prof. Richard Sproat (Professor, Department of Linguistics & Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA) on *"Decipherment, Pseudodecipherment and the Phaistos Disk"*

Dr. R. Mathivanan (Director, Indus Script Research Centre, Chennai) on *"Indus Civilization: Recent Findings"* (in Tamil)

Prof. Mayank Vahia (Professor, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai) on *"India's Prehistory: New Evidence from Archaeology, Astronomy, Genetics, Genealogy and Linguistics"*

Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan, (Honorary Consultant, IRC, RMRL) on *"Agricultural Terms in the Indus Script"*

### Seminars

Two seminars were organized on the Indus Script:

Two day seminar on *"The Indus Script: problems and prospects"* was organized by IRC in July 2007. Participants included Prof. Mayank Vahia (Professor, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, TIFR), Mr. Hrishikesh Joglekar (TIFR), Ms. Nisha Yadav (Scientist, TIFR), Prof. Swaminathan (formerly Professor of Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi) and Mr. R. Venkatachalam (former Engineer of Public Works Department of Tamilnadu). Five working papers on Indus Script were presented in the seminar.

A half a day seminar was organized by IRC in collaboration with TIFR, Mumbai on *"Indus Script"* in November 2007 at RMRL.



## Exhibitions



Radha Parthasarathy  
Director, Madras Engineering Industries Ltd.  
delivering the inaugural address of  
an exhibition on Early Propagation of Music

On the eve of the Madras week celebrations, RMRL organised an exhibition in collaboration with *The Hindu*, national daily on "Early Imprints Published from Madras", between 15th and 28th of August, 2007. There were 28 exhibits displayed to represent old books, periodicals, logos of popular printing press, etc., from the RMRL collection. The *Madras Mail* newspaper was borrowed from the Amalgamations Group of Companies and were displayed. The exhibition was inaugurated by N. Murali, Managing Director, *The Hindu* on 15th August 2007. Dr. A. R. Venkatachalapathy of Madras Institute of Development Studies delivered a lecture on "Chennai Imprints". (RMRL acknowledges the support provided by Dr. Venkatachalapathy in curating the exhibition) Mr. S. Muthiah conducted the event. Around 376 people including students and teachers of different schools and colleges visited the exhibition.

The same exhibition was put up at the Santhome Higher Secondary School, Chennai as a part of Children's Day celebration in the school premises in November 2007. Minister for School Education was present at the function and took part in the exhibition.

On the eve of Markazhi music season in Chennai, RMRL along with Sundram Fasteners Limited organised an exhibition on "Early Propagation of Music: Print & Gramophone". The exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Radha Parthasarathy, Director, Madras Engineering Industries Limited, Chennai. Mr. M. V. Subbiah in his welcome address emphasized the importance of preserving late Ambujammal's collection of manuscripts on musical compositions. Mr. Sanjay Subrahmanyam, eminent Carnatic vocalist, delivered a special lecture on "Impact of print revolution on music and musicians". The exhibition was curated by Mr. V. Sriram and Mr. Sanjay Subrahmanyam along with the RMRL staff. A booklet in Tamil was produced on the exhibition. This is the first publication of RMRL. The exhibitions were well covered by the print and electronic media.



Image of Tiruvalluvar as minted by F. W. Ellis





**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, 2008 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, 2008
- (ii) in the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting period ending 31st March, 2008

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

for Bhaskaran & Ramesh  
Chartered Accountants

Chennai  
9 June 2008

A Bhaskaran  
Partner

**Audited Financial Statement**

**Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2008**

| Particulars                                 | Rs.       | Rs.               |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| <b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>                     |           |                   |
| Capital Fund                                |           | 8,832,633         |
| Add: Excess of income over expenditure      |           | 1,533,505         |
|   |           | <b>10,366,138</b> |
| <b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>                 |           |                   |
| Fixed Assets                                |           |                   |
| Computers                                   | 103,620   |                   |
| Furniture & Fixtures                        | 69,879    |                   |
| Other Equipment                             | 217,266   |                   |
| Books                                       | 4,008,529 |                   |
| Periodicals                                 | 3,373,550 |                   |
| Exhibition material                         | 3,876     | 7,776,719         |
| Investments                                 |           | 1,658,525         |
| <b>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances</b> |           |                   |
| Current assets                              | 1,344,210 |                   |
| Loans & Advances                            | 169,741   |                   |
|   | 1,513,951 |                   |
| Less: Current Liabilities                   | (583,058) |                   |
| Net Current Assets                          |           | 930,893           |
|   |           | <b>10,366,138</b> |





**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2008**

| <b>Particulars</b>                       | <b>Rs.</b>       |
|--|------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                            |                  |
| Digitization                             | 1,210,753        |
| Documentation                            | 3,975,249        |
| Exhibition                               | 197,787          |
| Reference                                | 378,022          |
| Reprographics                            | 395,873          |
| Training Fee                             | 42,500           |
| Other income                             | 45,609           |
| Work in Progress                         | 106,000          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                      | <b>6,351,793</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                       |                  |
| Employee expenses                        | 2,227,533        |
| Administrative expenses                  | 1,544,080        |
| Operating expenses                       | 747,700          |
| Depreciation                             | 182,663          |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                 | <b>4,701,976</b> |
| <b>Excess of income over expenditure</b> | <b>1,649,817</b> |

**Accounting Policies**

1. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention on accrual basis of accounting.
2. 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.
3. The income from Digitisation, Documentation, Reprographics, Training and Reference Services is accounted on accrual basis.
4. Donations are accounted on receipt basis. Interest is accounted on accrual basis.



5. Work in progress has been recognized on percentage of completion basis.
6. The Fixed Assets other than the books owned by the Library are accounted at cost and depreciated over the useful life of the asset.
7. The books & periodicals purchased for the collection are recorded at cost and not depreciated.
8. 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.
9. Depreciation on fixed assets is provided on written down value method at rates arrived at based on the useful life of the asset.
10. 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.
11. Investments in Mutual Funds being short term in nature are recorded at cost.
12. Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the rates prevailing on the date of transaction.

### Notes

- a. Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust (RMRLT) has a large collection of books from the early 19th and 20th Centuries, 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 Board of Trustees to bring these books into the accounts. Consequently, a formula was arrived by the Trustees, 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 books and periodicals related to Tamil literature, indigenous medicine and folk literature were to be microfilmed by RMRLT and the material to the extent for which the microfilming was completed, would be transferred to RMRLT. This transfer was to be done on an annual basis and first such exercise was to be done on 1st January 2007. However, this has not yet been done although a substantial portion has been microfilmed and they continue to be owned by UoC as on date. The first such transfer is likely to be done during the current year and the same would be reflected in the next year accounts.
- 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. A policy in respect of the valuation of these would also be arrived at during the current year and the same would be reflected in the next year accounts.





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[www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/southasia/rmrl.html](http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/southasia/rmrl.html)