

Annual Report 2018 - 19



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

Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation (CWCF)

Murugappa Educational and Medical Foundation

Nagarathar Sangam of North America (NSNA)

Bharathi, K

Krishna Thenappan, NSNA, USA

Krishnamoorthy, E. S

Mullai Arunachalam, Malaysia

Narayana Kumar

Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam

Rarthasarathy, R

Senthilnathan & Muthu family, NSNA, USA

Subramanian, C

Uma Narayanan

Vijaya Sundram

And all the donors who have generously supported the library

Annual Report Narrative

Activities centered around the functioning of the library were the focus of the year 2018-19. While the year did not yield any significant projects, several strategic planning activities marked the year. The most important among them was the planning for the 25th anniversary seminar to be held in August 2019. RMRL has been contributing to the library's corpus fund since 2014. The AMM Foundation had pledged to donate Rs. 25 lakhs each for five years towards the corpus fund. The final installment of this contribution was made this year, bringing their total contribution to Rs. 1.25 crores. This is the single largest donation to the corpus so far. In addition to this, few years back, Shriram Capital had donated Rs. 25 lakhs and Pari Washington Company Advisors Pvt. Ltd had donated Rs. 5 lakhs. An appeal was circulated to several individuals, and this has yielded some results as many individuals also have contributed to the corpus. Additionally, funds have come in from the Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation and Nagarathar Sangam of North America for infrastructure improvements such as buying compact shelves, replacing LED lights, and upgrading UPS. Nearly 60% of the conventional shelves have been replaced with compact shelves.

Project proposals have been sent to a few agencies and their response is awaited. Two proposals sent to the Endangered Archives Project were accepted in the preliminary round, but were not accepted in the final round as the agency did not consider the material at stake to be endangered. Also, because of a change in their policy, and they wanted us to take up smaller pilot projects rather than large ones. More deliberations are taking place around this to prepare ourselves to apply again next year.

The Directorate of Public Libraries, Government of Tamilnadu, has approved a project in creating a Union Catalogue of Public Libraries in Tamilnadu. The RMRL has taken up this project to standardize the MARC entries and provide unique entries for each book along with holding details of the libraries in Tamilnadu. The project is expected to start only after April 2019.

During the year, new cataloging web-interface has adapted to a new platform for the users of the book and periodical database. This platform, where the entries are displayed in Tamil and Roman script in Unicode, has won widespread user appreciation. The system is robust and has been working trouble-free since it was installed. The eminent epigraphist and Indus scholar Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan, who was associated with the library, passed away during this year, which is a major loss for the institution. Mahadevan was a significant source of support for steering research work in Indus script, civilization and early Tamil Epigraphy. During the year two endowments were instituted: one for P. Sankaralingam, the first director of RMRL, by his family and the other one for Father Henry Heras by Iravatham Mahadevan. As far as the monthly lectures are concerned, they are well supported, and we are hoping to get similar support for other activities as well.

RMRL has also taken up the publishing of a major compendium of research work as part of the Indus Research Centre of the Library. Crowd funding has helped to publish this work, and it is expected to be released by the end of 2019. Earlier RMRL has brought out a couple of reprints, and it has been publishing the Bulletin of the Indus Research Centre from time to time.

G. Sundar
Executive Trustee
June 2019

Reference Services

A total of 626 scholars have used the RMRL collection this year. As in the past, M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars as well as writers, freelance researchers and journalists have used the collection. A total of 3237 titles of books and periodicals have been put to use multiple times.

A new updated online catalogue has been created. Many scholars have now started using the new online catalogue provided in our website www.rmrl.in in addition to accessing the catalogue searching facility available in the Library premises.

Donors List*

Individuals

Ameena Inkulab	Anand Amaladass, S. J
Arasu, V	Balakrishnan, R
Balammal, R. V	Balasubramanian, T. R
Ilango, Siva	Kamalalayan
Karthikeya, K. S. M	Kasthuri, S
Krishnamoorthy, C. G	Krishnan
Krishnaswamy, K. K (late)	Mahmood Naina
Malayaman	Mohanasundaram, Ira
Rangarajan (Smt Kshams)	Vijaya Thiruvenkadam
Muthiah, S (late)	Muthukumar Erulappan
Natarajan, K	Natrajan, C
Nivethidha	Premeela Gurumurthy, M
Pushparaj, B. J. W (late)	Radhakrishnan, K. S
Ramakrishnan, B	Saravanan, Pa
Selvaganapathi, Pon	Sembai Xavier
Senkamalathayar, Naka	Shanthi
Siva Subramaniam	Sivalayam Mohan
Stalin	Subagunarajan, V. M. S
Sundaram	Suresh Babu, P. B
Takadur Tamilkkadir	Tamilamallan
Venirselvan, S. A	Venkatachalapathy, A. R
Vijaya	

Institutions & Publishers

Kalachuvadu Pathippagam
Kilakku Pathippakam
Putiyaputtakam Pesutu
Thiruvalluvar Valviyal Mandram

Gukhan Offset Printers
Perur Adhinam
Putu Eluttu
Ulavar Ulagam

Documentation

RMRL has undertaken the project 'Union Catalogue for Public Libraries' funded by the Government of Tamilnadu. RMRL is now involved in checking the catalogue entries received from a few Public Libraries. RMRL has also been working on indexing the complete run of Mylapore Times. The Library also helped the University of Texas in cataloguing a few Tamil periodicals and novels for their collection.

Preservation and Conservation

The digitization of early Grantha books, funded by the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) of the British Library, was completed this year. A total of 1100 Grantha books were digitized under this project. All the digital files along with the metadata were submitted to the British Library. The digital files are also archived in RMRL and made accessible to scholars.

Syed Sajjad Zaheer was a writer and poet from Delhi. His family collection comprising letter correspondences, single sheet material, photographs and audio spool tapes are archived as Sajjad Zaheer & Razia Sajjad Zaheer Archives in New Delhi. Mr. R. Prakash from RMRL visited the Archives to pack and bring the collection to RMRL premises for digitization. All the material, comprising around 50,000 items, were digitized by RMRL and the original material were carefully packed and sent back to New Delhi. This project was jointly funded by the University of Texas and Centre for Research Library.

The South Asian Open Archives provided financial assistance to digitize microfilms of 'Reports on Native Newspapers of Bengal and Bombay presidencies'.

Two years ago, RMRL digitized the souvenirs, journal and photographic collections of the Music Academy, Chennai. During this year, RMRL digitized and conserved their newspaper clippings collection.

RMRL digitized and conserved two volumes of an eighteenth century dictionary for the Women's Christian College. This was done with the support provided by Mrs. Uma Narayanan. RMRL also conserved few rare books for the Madras Christian College. Conservation of land documents, floor plans and maps for few individuals was also undertaken.

Indus Research Centre

The Indus Research Centre is involved in a book project "Journey of a Civilization" authored by Mr. R. Balakrishnan, honorary consultant of IRC. Maps required for the book were generated in-house using GIS software. Through this project RMRL has equipped to have a GIS cell. The book is scheduled to be released in November 2019.

Two lectures were organized by IRC this year.

1. R. Balakrishnan delivered his lecture "The Pot Route: From Indus to Vaigai" on 20 September 2018. This lecture was organized as part of Dr. Gift Siromoney Endowment Lecture Series.
2. Dr. Naga Ganesan delivered his lecture "Some K initial Dravidian loan words in Sanskrit: Preliminary observations on the Indus Language" on 15 September 2018. This lecture was organized as part of Durai Arasan Endowment Lecture.

A memorial meeting for Iravatham Mahadevan, the first honorary

consultant of IRC, was organized on 5th December 2018 at the Library. R. Balakrishnan, V. Arasu, R. Champakalakshmi, P. R. Subramanian, Soundaravalli Kulandaisamy and Sundar Ganesan shared their memories in the meeting.

Infrastructure

The Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation has made a donation to install 23 numbers of compact shelves in the ground floor stack area of the Library. With these, all the conventional steel racks at the ground floor were replaced by the compact shelves, thus providing additional space for newly arrived books. Restacking of the books in the new compact shelves was done by the staff of RMRL along with volunteers from SSN College of Engineering. Additionally, two units of compact shelves were donated by Nagarathar Sangam of North America Senthilnathan & Muthu family (Kilasevalpatti), from USA & Nagarathar Sangam of North America (NSNA) provided financial assistance in replacing all the existing lights with LED lights and installing a new UPS for the Library.

Lectures / Seminars / Exhibitions

RMRL Lecture Series / Endowment lectures

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan Endowment Lecture series

Dr. J. B. P. More delivered his lecture “New Evidences of Subhash Chandra Bose’s Last Days in Vietnam and the First Tamil Steam Navigator of South India” on 6th April 2018

Mr. Suresh Balakrishnan delivered his lecture “Eardley Norton and the Indian National Struggle” on 7 July 2018

Dr. Karu Arumuga Thamizhan delivered his talk சென்னையின் சித்தர்கள் – பட்டினத்தார், குணங்குடி மஸ்தான் சாஹிபு & வள்ளலார் on 23 August 2018

Torsten Tschacher delivered his lecture 'Extraordinary Translations' and 'Loathsome Commentaries': Early Quranic Translations in the Tamil World on 4 September 2018

Father Henry Heras Memorial Endowment Oration

Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan endowed the Father Henry Heras Memorial Endowment Oration this year before his demise. RMRL organized the first oration on 11 September 2018. The talk "Father Henry Heras: The Humane Motivator & Innovator" was delivered by Dr. Joan Dias, Director, Heras Institute of Indian History and Culture, St. Xavier's College, in Mumbai.

P. Sankaralingam Memorial Endowment Lecture series

Students of late Prof. P. Sankaralingam, the first director of RMRL, have organized the first P. Sankaralingam Memorial Endowment Lecture. Dr. K. S. Raghavan delivered the inaugural lecture "Education for Information Manpower: Challenges and Trends" on 16 November 2018. Subsequently the family of P. Sankaralingam has contributed to this endowment.

Prof. V. Arasu Endowment Lecture

Prof Sundar Kali delivered his lecture சங்ககாலமும் சமகாலமும்- சில பனுவல்கள், சில பார்வைகள் on 14 September 2018

Mr. Karthik Narayanan Endowment Lecture

Prof. Thomas R Trautmann delivered his lecture, 'The Madras School of Orientalism, its past and its future' on 28 January 2019.

Other lectures

Prof. A. R. Venkatachalapathy delivered the lecture தமிழ்க் கலைக் களஞ்சியத்தின் கதை on 14 December 2018 as part of M. S. Memorial Lecture. The Kalachuvadu Trust sponsored this lecture.

RMRL in association with Foundation for South Indian Studies organized the lecture திருமண உறவுகளும் அரசின் நிலைத்தன்மையும் – சங்ககாலம் முதல் 13ம் நூற்றாண்டு வரை on 28 March 2019, delivered by Dr. Marxia Gandhi.

Exhibition

An exhibition, இருநூற்றாண்டுத் தமிழ் அச்சப் பண்பாடு: இதழ்கள் (1800-2000), was organized as part of Madras Week Celebrations, 2018. The exhibition was curated by Prof. V. Arasu on 18 August 2018. The exhibition was opened for public from 18 to 24 August 2018.

Theatre Play

RMRL in association with Koothu-P-Pattarai organized the play “Kalam Kalamaga”, directed by D. Mohammed Umar. This was played for three days at RMRL, from 21st to 23rd February 2019. This was organized as a tribute to the late Na. Muthuswamy, founder of Koothu-P-Pattarai.

Board of Trustees

Uma Narayanan, *Social Work*, Chennai

M. V. Subbiah, *Industry*, Chennai

S. Theodore Baskaran, *Cinema, Wildlife*, Bangalore

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Mr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS

Honorary Consultant, Indus Research Centre

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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

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, 2019 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, 2019
- (ii) in the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting period ending 31st March, 2019

for Bhaskaran & Ramesh
Chartered Accountants

Chennai
29 August 2019

A Bhaskaran
Partner

Audited Financial Statement
Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2019

Particulars	31.03.2019		31.03.2018	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCES OF FUNDS				
Capital Fund		52,049,479		36,688,431
Endowment Fund		948,150		858,150
		52,997,629		50,257,947
APPLICATION OF FUNDS				
Fixed Assets				
Gross block	43,617,257		41,775,895	
Less: Depreciation	8,684,637		7,598,761	
Net block		34,932,620		34,177,134
Investments		718,000		718,000
Current Assets, Loans & Advances				
Cash and Bank balances		21,126,438		14,673,733
Interest accrued on Deposits		478,283		360,448
Loans & Advances		49,525		166,880
Other current assets		-		217,939
		21,654,246		15,419,000
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions				
Other Liabilities		2,557,237		56,188
Grant Received in Advance		1,750,000		
		4,307,237		56,188
Net Current Assets		17,347,009		15,362,812
		52,997,629		50,257,947

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2019

Particulars	31.03.2019	31.03.2018
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Contributions Received	4,034,825	2,914,807
Donations Received	3,294,345	171,526
Grant Received	0	685,410
Other Receipt	1,482,208	2,716,753
Total Income	8,811,378	6,488,495
EXPENDITURE		
Operating expenses	85,958	402,494
Employee expenses	5,339,440	5,407,464
Administrative expenses	2,150,422	1,806,942
Depreciation	1,085,876	1,128,379
Total Expenditure	8,661,696	8,745,279
Excess of income over expenditure	149,682	(2,256,784)

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.