Project title	Text Digitization Project in Jaffna 2006
Project number	NF/PG/2006/0001
Project location (District, Division/s, Village)	Jaffna
Sector	Print Publications Archive
Implementing agency and contribution	Noolaham Foundation
Grant Agency and Contribution	Mr. R. PathmanabhaIyer
Total Budget and Expenditure	
Start and End date	2006
Responsible Stakeholder/s	Ms. Srikanthaluxmy Arulanantham (Team Leader); Mr. Kopinath Thillainathan

Summary

Modeled on the Project Gutenberg approach, the Project Noolaham was started in 2005 with a view to creating a fully volunteer contributed online e-book library for the Tamil speaking communities. **The Text Digitization Project in Jaffna 2006** was the first funded project initiated by Noolaham Foundation.

A total of 81 books were digitized through this project and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library: www.noolaham.org. This project was a successful initiative and received special appreciation from Sri Lankan Tamil writers and publishers.

Introduction and Background

The Text Digitization Project in Jaffna 2006 was the first funded project initiated by Noolaham Foundation. In fact, Mr. R. Pathmanabha Iyer was involved in 1999 in getting books typed, but that approach could not be implemented at Noolaham in the beginning due to financial restrictions. After that, some e-books were successfully created utilizing monetary contributions. Mr. R. Pathmanabha Iyer supported this project to get books typed and uploaded to Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library.

Typeset Digitization Project 2006 converted physical books into machine readable formats and made them available online through Noolaham Digital Library (www.noolaham.net)

As Unicode typing was new to professional typists, books were typed using Bamini font and then were converted to Unicode. After proof reading they were converted to html format and were uploaded at Noolaham Digital Library.

This project was implemented in Jaffna and Colombo. Ms. Srikanthaluxmy Arulanantham coordinated this project by organizing the infrastructure. She contributed towards quality control and proof reading aspects as well. The books were converted to Unicode and htm

formats by T. Kopinath. Suratha's Pongu Thamizh convertor was used to convert the Bamini text into Unicode. Some books typed through this project were not added to Noolaham because of copyright reasons, but various kinds of books were added to Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library with relevant permission and approval.

Objective/s and Achievements or Results

This project was taken place under the Noolaham Foundation's objective of engaging in and supporting preservation and digital archiving of written, print, multi-media and electronic resources related to Sri Lankan Tamil speaking communities. This project focused especially on Noolaham's objective of a Print Publications Archive

Eighty-one books of various kinds were digitized through this project. Books designated by the following *Noolaham number*s were uploaded to Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library www.noolaham.org: 66, 68, 70, 71, 96, 97, 98, 106, 110, 125, 151-164, 183-220, 325-342, 1021. (81 books)

Constrains / Challenges and lesson learned
- When Bamini fonts were converted to Unicode, the convertor automatically converted English texts into Tamil letters. Thus we had to identify those errors and retype them in English. This resulted in another full proof reading which we were unable to complete accurately within the expected time.
- Copyright issues were pointed out. The need for written permissions instead of oral permissions was explained.
- Noolaham Foundation was able to digitize only 81 books as we did not have enough resources at the time.

Suggestion and Recommendation:
- Adequate budget and human resources are necessary to enable quality outcome and to finish the project within the proposed time. These two factors should be given importance when we design projects in the future. .
- Getting permission from the relevant parties to digitize documents through proper legal procedure will prevent any legal issues that may arise.
- Scanning can be utilized for digitization; it will enable us to digitize more documents using a smaller resource pool.