

# Noolaham Foundation

## Project Report



<b>Project Title</b>	Gnanam Digitization Project
<b>Project Number</b>	NF/PG/2008/0003
<b>Project location</b>	Colombo
<b>Sector</b>	Collection Development, Digital Archive
<b>Implementing agency and contribution</b>	Noolaham Foundation
<b>Grant Agency and Contribution</b>	Noolaham Foundation
<b>Total Budget and Expenditure</b>	Not Recorded
<b>Project Period</b>	2008
<b>Responsible Stakeholders</b>	Volunteers of Noolaham Foundation, and Gnanam Publishers, Colombo.

### Summary

The **Gnanam Digitization Project** is a collaborative project between Gnanam Publishers and Noolaham Foundation as part of Noolaham Foundation's long term efforts to develop digital resources of contemporary magazines and make them freely accessible. This project extends the usefulness of the Tamils bibliographic and digitized assets by increasing access to this valuable information and provides an opportunity for institutions to select and contribute digitized information resources.

The first issue of *Gnanam* Magazine was published in June 2000 and it is published monthly. *Gnanam* issues contain poetry, creative essays, short stories, fiction, and political blogs and columns, as well as news about contemporary literary events and readers' opinions. This magazine gives space to young innovative writers and their thoughts. Also Gnanam publishers brought out some collections of work by Sri Lankan writers. They have also been digitized by NF during this project.

Totally 91 monthly issues and 6 books were digitized through this project and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library at [www.noolaham.org](http://www.noolaham.org). NF has created a special web portal to increase search ability. The magazines and books digitized date back to the 2000s. Noolaham Foundation has established plans to collect and digitize the future issues on a regular basis.

### Introduction and Background

Magazines are loaded with information; if they are not systematically archived, finding past issues is not that easy. Only a few libraries such as the National Archives keep past issues of newspapers, but accessing them from various geographical locations is not possible as they are usually not available through interlibrary loan and they are not going to be reprinted. Even with access to a newspaper, unless the paper has been indexed, searching for the desired information can be a tiresome quest. Because of their vast amounts of hard-to-access information, local magazines are often suggested as prime candidates for digitization.

At its best, a digitized magazine makes all its information searchable and accessible to anyone with internet access.

Gnanam publishers is a Colombo based nonprofit organization and it was established in 1996. They publish a monthly magazine (*Gnanam*) and books. Their main activities are producing good literary works and promoting young innovative writers and their thoughts. Gnanam publishers engages and supports in various activities such as research and publication on war literature, migrant (Diaspora) literature and modern Eelam literature. These great innovative works have to be made available freely, anywhere and anytime to the Tamil speaking community.

### **Objective/s and Achievements or Results**

This project was carried out under Noolaham Foundation's objective of enhancing collections to maximize the usage of the collections. These publications are now not available for public view or access through the usual libraries reading rooms; however, through this project they are made available for viewing by the public on Noolaham Foundation's website at [noolaham.org](http://noolaham.org).

### ***The digitized Gnanam magazines year wise***

<b>Year of publications</b>	<b>No of digitized magazine</b>
2000	07
2001	12
2002	12
2003	12
2004	12
2005	12
2006	12
2007	12
2008	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>

Totally 91 Gnanam magazines and 6 books (Gnanam publishers published) were digitized through this project and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library at [www.noolaham.org](http://www.noolaham.org). NF has created a special web portal and provides enough metadata to increase searchability.

NF has also planned to continuously update the collection by digitizing each issue of the magazine on a monthly basis. This digitization work will be carried through our future collection development projects. It is a great cost effective opportunity to bring and link quality information and reading resources to the Tamil speaking community. They can access these e-magazines from anywhere and anytime. These collections will function as a

repository where researchers of all kinds, all over the world, turn to magazines and books for information relating to their needs.

### **Constrains / Challenges and lesson learned**

- Offering scanned images without any fully searchable text would only partially fulfill users' needs, as many (if not all) desire to search all of the texts available to them. It is necessary to consider providing navigation within the digital data through the use of indexing software. However NF provides enough metadata and brief contents for each digitized documents.
- The resulting digital image quality of original magazine and books are slightly lower than that of the ones produced by paper scanning; however, it does have the benefit of being much faster to digitize.

### **Suggestions and Recommendations**

- Once the digital image is created it needs to be made searchable and accessible. The scanned images are processed with optical character recognition software to make the full text searchable. But there is no such software available in the market which satisfactorily provided the required results in Tamil language. Still best solution of the system need to be discussed and metadata must be created for each title, issue, image, and possibly article to help the users find what they are looking for.
- The past few years have seen a significant expansion of activity in making copies of older runs of magazines available via the internet. It is anticipated that as commercial and public body investment grows, far more will be available soon. It is also likely that there will be far greater ease of access to texts available as a result of the application of sophisticated software. This will significantly increase the ability of researchers to search quickly through huge quantities of printed magazines, which will be a vast improvement over the former manual process.
- Noolaham Foundation should collaborate more and more with other publishers and groups in creating digital content to share information and resources.

### **Acknowledgments**

Noolaham Foundation takes immense pleasure in expressing its gratitude to Mr. T. Gnanasekaran, the editor and director of Gnanam publishers for his assistance and support during the project period. NF would like to acknowledge its volunteers for their valuable work for this project and for their dedication towards all the activities of Noolaham Foundation.

## Relevant Attachment:

### Annexure 1 - The web portal for Gnanam monthly magazine:

<http://www.noolaham.org/wiki/index.php/%E0%AE%B5%E0%AE%B2%E0%AF%88%E0%AE%B5%E0%AE%BE%E0%AE%9A%E0%AE%B2%E0%AF%8D:%E0%AE%9E%E0%AE%BE%E0%AE%A9%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%8D>

புருபுதுலகம்

www.noolaham.org

செல் தேடுக

நூலகம்

முகப்பு நூலகம் பற்றி நிதியுதவி அண்மைய மாற்றங்கள் உசாத்துணை பகுதி English

வலைவாசல்:ஞானம்

Share / Save

### ஞானம் தொகு

ஞானம் இலங்கையிலிருந்து தற்போது வெளிவந்து கொண்டிருக்கும் ஓர் இலக்கிய இதழ். 2000 ஆம் ஆண்டு யூன் முதல் மாதந் தவறாமல் வெளிவருகிறது. பல சிறப்பிதழ்களும் வெளிவந்துள்ளன. இதன் ஆசிரியர் தி. ஞானசேகரன்.

நூலகத்தில் ஞானம் தொகு	மலர் தொகு
<p>நூலக நிறுவனம் ஞாமனம் சஞ்சிகையின் இதழ்களை மின்வடிவாக்கிப் பாதுகாப்பதோடு தடைபற்று அவற்றை எவரும் படிப்பதற்கும் பகிர்வதற்கும் எளிதாக இணைபத்தில் வைத்திருக்கிறது.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ ஞானம் இதழ்களைப் பார்வையிடுங்கள்</li><li>■ ஞானம் பதிப்பக வெளியீடுகளைப் பார்வையிடுங்கள்</li></ul>	
ஞானம் ஆசிரியர் தொகு	
<p>தி. ஞானசேகரன் ஈழத்தின் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க எழுத்தாளர்களுள் ஒருவராக ஞானம் ஆசிரியரின் அசிரிய பதம் அவர்</p>	