

# Noolaham Foundation

## Project Report



<b>Project Title</b>	Digitization and Display of Monographs 2008-2009
<b>Project Number</b>	NF/PG/2008/0004
<b>Project Location</b>	Colombo
<b>Sector</b>	Print Publications Archive and Digital Library
<b>Implementing agency and contribution</b>	Noolaham Foundation
<b>Grant Agency and Contribution</b>	Noolaham Foundation
<b>Total Budget and Expenditure</b>	Phase 1 - LKR60,198.00 Phase 2 – LKR 28,323.00
<b>Project Period</b>	May 2008 - April 2009
<b>Responsible Stakeholders</b>	Mr. Ganeshanathan Shaseevan (Project Coordinator) and volunteers

### Summary

The **Digitization and Display of Monographs 2008-2009** was conducted by Noolaham Foundation during 2008/09 in Colombo. The objective of the project was to digitize and display a series of books on the Noolaham Digital Library's home page. It was part of Noolaham's communication strategy of that period.

The project was implemented in two phases. During the first phase, a book was displayed each day for four months (May to August 2008) and during the second phase, a new book was displayed each week (September 2008 - April 2009). Through this project 155 various kinds of documents were digitized and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library at [www.noolaham.org](http://www.noolaham.org). After the digitization, those publications were either returned to the contributors or donated to libraries. This project was a successful initiative in introducing Noolaham digital library to users from diverse backgrounds.

### Introduction and Background

Documentation and archiving are keys to the knowledge profile of a community. These activities are important information providers to processes that influence the social and economic development of local communities. Documentation and archiving also influence in the manner in which the histories of local communities are written.

Noolaham Foundation is a legally registered (GA 2390), non-profit entity, founded to provide enhanced access to information sources and foster knowledge-based development in Sri Lanka. It maintains an online digital library, facilitates information preservation programs, provides financial assistance and technical guidance for digitization initiatives and actively participates in awareness-raising campaigns.

By the end of 2008, number of publications available via Noolaham Digital Library had passed 1000 and to attract more volunteers and other resources, we requested various

Tamil websites to post a link to Noolaham Digital Library. The front page which remained static was insufficient to attract continuous visitors as the site looked the same whenever a new user came. Thus a need to continuously update the front page was identified and this project was started.

### **The implementation process**

This project was implemented in Colombo. Mr. Ganeshanathan Shaseevan coordinated this project by organizing the infrastructure and contributed towards quality control and located the digitized documents on the digital library as well.

The project was implementation was handed over to a project team. Computer, Computer-related costs and expenses for the digitization process were organized and undertaken by the project's team. That means the entire process (acquiring books, scanning, quality checking, uploading the digitized documents and up to creation of articles) was implemented by the team. All the digitized documents were checked by supervisor before being uploaded. After uploading and creating articles then they were reviewed by the supervisor.

The source documents are provided by B.M. Punniyamin, N.Selvarajah, P. Shivaivaramakirusna Sharma, Lambotharan, Ganeshanathan Shaseevan and Thilainathan Kopinath. They are NF's volunteers.

### **Objectives and Achievements or Results**

The objective of the project was to digitize and display a series of books on the Noolaham Digital Library's home page. It was part of Noolaham's communication strategy during that period. The project was implemented as two phases. During the first phase, a book was displayed each day for four months (May to August 2008). But as it was a daily activity and needed substantial volunteer resources, the project was scaled down to introduce a new book each week. Thus from September 2008 to April 2009, every week a new book was introduced at the front page.

Through this project 155 documents were digitized and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library at [www.noolaham.org](http://www.noolaham.org). The detail of documents digitized are as follows:

<b>Month &amp; Year</b>	<b>Number of Documents digitized</b>	<b>NF number</b>
May 2008	31	1621 -1627, 1631 -1648, 1653 -1655
June 2008	30	168, 1201, 1656 -1682, 1684
July 2008	31	201, 371, 1734 -1756, 1761
August 2008	31	34, 69, 196, 368, 370, 374, 1809 -1831
September2008	4	1861 - 1864
October2008	4	1998 - 2001
November2008	4	2115 - 2118
December2008	4	2467 - 2470

January 2009	4	2889 - 2892
February 2009	4	3001, 68, 3003, 3004
March 2009	4	3144 - 3147
April 2009	4	3220 - 3223

### **Constrains / Challenges and Lessons Learned**

- This project was initially planned as A-book-a-day project for a year. But as it needed substantial resources, it had to be scaled down
- Copyright issues were pointed out. The need for written permissions instead of oral permissions was explained.
- 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.

### **Suggestions and Recommendations**

- Getting permission from the relevant parties to digitize documents through proper legal procedure will prevent any legal issues that may arise.
- Noolaham should plan projects in such a way that all activities can be carried out by staff if/when volunteers are unavailable.
- Noolaham Foundation implemented this project in Colombo which is the capital of Sri Lanka. The project location created a neutral space for this achievement.
- Adequate budget and human resources are necessary to enable regular outcome and to finish the project within the proposed time. These two factors should be given importance when we design projects in the future.