

Noolaham Foundation

Project Report



Project title	Thinamurasu Digitization Project
Project number	NF/PG/2010/0004
Project location (District, Division/s, Village)	Jaffna, Colombo
Sector	Collection Development, Digital Archive
Implementing agency and contribution	Noolaham Foundation
Grant Agency and Contribution	Noolaham Foundation
Total Budget and Expenditure	Not Recorded
Start and End date	2010-2011
Responsible Stakeholder/s	Volunteers of Noolaham Foundation, Thinamurasu Publishers

Summary:

The **Thinamurasu Digitization Project** was a collaborative project carried out by Noolaham Foundation and *Thinamurasu* Publishers to digitize the weekly issues of *Thinamurasu* newspaper. *Thinamurasu*, a weekly newspaper of Eelam Peoples Democratic Party, is published from Colombo and issued all over Sri Lanka. It contains news articles such as political commentaries, narratives about national events, as well as issues of local and regional importance, family notices such as family's birthday announcements and obituary notices and congratulatory messages, letters such as letters to the editor written by the newspaper's readers including and letters focusing on contemporary debates, aspirations and anxieties, information on the lives of notable individuals and ancestors, photographs, graphics, maps and editorial cartoons.

A total of 661 *Thinamurasu* issues dating from 1993 to 2007 were digitized through this project and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library www.noolaham.org. A web portal was also created at the digital library so that the users can access information about the magazines and read the issues easily.

Introduction and Background:

Newspapers are loaded with information, but 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.

Digitization makes such primary information sources available for all and the searchability of digital libraries makes it even easier to access the desired information fast. Noolaham Foundation has been digitizing all publications related to Sri Lankan Tamil communities since 2005. It has given special attention to digitizing periodicals archived by only a few other

institutions. These periodicals are harder to access in the long run. Digitization of periodicals enables long term preservation and enhanced access.

Thinamurasu is a weekly newspaper published by DD Enterprises in Colombo. The first issue of *Thinamurasu* appeared on 30th May 1993 and it is published on a weekly basis.

Objective/s and Achievements or Results:

The objective of this project was to digitize all available copies of *Thinamurasu* newspapers. It was expected that adding all volumes of this magazine will enhance the usage of Noolaham Digital Library collection and cater to the information needs of researchers and general public.

High quality digital images of 300dpi in 24bit colour were scanned using mustek A3 scanner and master copies were archived. Derivative images were converted to the pdf format and made available via the Digital Library. A dedicated portal was also created where all digitized issues of the *Thinamurasu* magazines can be accessed with ease. (Annexure 1).

Digitized issues

Year of publication	No of weekly issues digitized
1993	31
1994	51
1995	52
1996	26
1997	52
1998	50
1999	43
2000	50
2001	50
2002	52
2003	32
2004	45
2005	49
2006	49
2007	29
Total	661

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.

- The resulting digital image quality of the original newspaper is slightly lower than that produced by the paper scanning; however, it does have the benefit of being much faster to digitize.
- Due to the unstable political situation in Sri Lanka some publications are not available at the publishers and community level and an enormous amount of valuable information in all formats remains uncollected and risks being permanently lost. Re-collecting rare publications seemed to be a hard job during this project period.

Suggestion and Recommendation:

- Once the digital images are created they need to be made searchable and accessible. The images must be processed with the optical character recognition software to make the newspaper text searchable. But there is no such software available in the market which satisfactorily provided the required results in Tamil language.
- The past few years have seen a significant expansion of activity in making copies of older editions of newspapers available via the internet. It is anticipated that as commercial and public investment grows, many more will be available soon. It is also likely that there will be far greater ease of access to texts 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 newspapers, which will be a vast improvement over the former manual process.
- The publications that are missing should be scanned when resources are available and Noolaham Foundation should find those documents from the Tamil community and community based libraries with the help of its volunteers.
- Noolaham Foundation should collaborate more and more with other publishers and groups in creating digital content to share information and resources.

Relevant Attachment:

Annexure 1 - The web portal for Thinamurasu weekly news paper:

http://www.noolaham.org/wiki/index.php/%E0%AE%AA%E0%AE%95%E0%AF%81%E0%AE%AA%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%AA%E0%AF%81:%E0%AE%A4%E0%AE%BF%E0%AE%A9_%E0%AE%E0%AF%81%E0%AE%B0%E0%AE%9A%E0%AF%81

தினமுரசு பத்திரிகை வாராந்தப் பத்திரிகையாக மே 1993 இலிருந்து கொழும்பிலிருந்து வெளிவருகிறது. அற்புதன் அவர்களை ஆரம்ப ஆசிரியராகக் கொண்டு வெளிவந்த தினமுரசு ஈழமக்கள் அரசியல் கட்சியினால் நடாத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றது.

அண்மைய பதிப்புகள்

- தின முரசு 2012.04.19
- தின முரசு 2012.04.12
- தின முரசு 2012.04.05
- தின முரசு 2012.03.29
- தின முரசு 2012.03.22

மேலும்...

தொகு

செல்

தேடுக

பகுப்பு: தின முரசு

Share / Save

"தின முரசு" பகுப்பிலுள்ள பக்கங்கள்

இந்தப்பகுப்பின் கீழ் உள்ள 731 பக்கங்களில் பின்வரும் 200 பக்கங்களும் உள்ளன.
(முன் 200) (அடுத்த 200)

த

- தின முரசு 1993.05.30
- தின முரசு 1993.06.06
- தின முரசு 1993.06.13
- தின முரசு 1993.06.20
- தின முரசு 1993.06.27
- தின முரசு 1993.07.04
- தின முரசு 1993.07.11
- தின முரசு 1993.07.18
- தின முரசு 1993.07.25
- தின முரசு 1993.08.01
- தின முரசு 1993.08.08
- தின முரசு 1993.08.15
- தின முரசு 1993.08.22
- தின முரசு 1993.08.29

த தொடரும்.

- தின முரசு 1994.09.18
- தின முரசு 1994.09.25
- தின முரசு 1994.10.02
- தின முரசு 1994.10.09
- தின முரசு 1994.10.16
- தின முரசு 1994.10.23
- தின முரசு 1994.10.30
- தின முரசு 1994.11.06
- தின முரசு 1994.11.13
- தின முரசு 1994.11.20
- தின முரசு 1994.11.27
- தின முரசு 1994.12.04
- தின முரசு 1994.12.11
- தின முரசு 1994.12.18

த தொடரும்.

- தின முரசு 1996.01.07
- தின முரசு 1996.01.14
- தின முரசு 1996.01.21
- தின முரசு 1996.01.28
- தின முரசு 1996.02.04
- தின முரசு 1996.02.11
- தின முரசு 1996.02.18
- தின முரசு 1996.02.25
- தின முரசு 1996.03.03
- தின முரசு 1996.03.10
- தின முரசு 1996.03.17
- தின முரசு 1996.03.24
- தின முரசு 1996.03.31
- தின முரசு 1996.04.07