

Noolaham Foundation

Project Report



Project title	Digitization and Dissemination of Contemporary Tamil Newspapers
Project number	NF/PG/2011/0003
Project Location	Colombo and Jaffna
Sector	Digital Library, Collection Development and Print Publications Archive
Implementing agency and contribution	Noolaham Foundation
Grant Agency and Contribution	Noolaham Foundation
Total Budget and Expenditure	Not Recorded
Project Period	2011 - 2013
Responsible Stakeholder/s	Local Newspaper publishers

Summary

The **Digitization and Dissemination of Contemporary Tamil Newspapers** project was carried out by Noolaham Foundation during the period between 2011 and 2013 to digitize the current and past issues of contemporary newspapers that have readership among the Tamil speaking communities of Sri Lanka. It was a collaborative project undertaken by Noolaham Foundation in coordination with various publishers. The project aimed at preserving, and disseminating digital copies of the print, published documents. The main objectives of this project were to provide open access of contemporary and past issues of newspapers, preserve and create wide global visibility of the information they carried.

Totally 372 issues of contemporary newspapers under 14 titles were digitized through this project and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library at www.noolaham.org. Table of contents were manually inputted to enhance the search ability of the content. A web portal was also created at the digital library so that users could identify and access the issues easily and could download them in the user friendly interface.

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.

Newspapers are typically published daily or weekly and document all the current news of that particular time as they happen. They contain news articles and feature articles on national and international news as well as local news. The news includes political events and

personalities, business and finance, crime, severe weather, and natural disasters, health and medicine, science, and technology, sports, and entertainment, society, food and cooking, clothing and home fashion, and the arts. Printed newspapers have been four centuries the most popular source of information for the public and feature of democracy itself, connected with the freedom of expression of people, political parties, social and financial groups, scientists and artists. Even after the introduction of broadcasting technology and the popularity of television, newspapers remain important source of news, Newspapers greatly influence the formulation and the expression of the public opinion by providing the necessary podium for journalists to express their personal views and to analyze political, economic, business or cultural events.

Digitization makes such primary information sources available for all and the search ability of digital libraries makes it even easier to access the desired information. Noolaham Foundation has been digitizing all publications related to Sri Lankan Tamil speaking 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.

Objectives and Achievements or Results

The main purposes of the 'Digitization and Dissemination of Contemporary Tamil Newspapers' was to promote wider access of newspapers among a large number of users, to preserve and conserve the national, regional and cultural heritage through digitization of back volume of newspapers, which constitute the raw materials of history, to provide user-friendly interface to access the news content and enhancing indexing and searchability of the newspapers, to search across the different newspaper titles and to draw together materials relating to a wide range of research and learning topics and to access to all or part of the content of different newspapers on the World Wide Web.

High quality digital images of 300dpi in 24bit color 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. During the project NF followed guidelines based on digital library standards and best practices. Descriptive metadata including table of contents were indexed for each documents to enable easier information retrieval. Dedicated portals were also created where all digitized issues of the newspapers can be accessed with ease.

Totally 372 valuable past issues and contemporary newspapers under 14 titles were digitized through this project and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library at www.noolaham.org. Digitalization initiatives will allow users to search collections rapidly and comprehensively from anywhere at any time. These precious collections are related to the Tamil speaking communities of Sri Lanka. It is a great cost effective opportunity to bring and link quality information and reading resources to Tamil speaking community and also they can access these e-papers from anywhere and anytime. These collections will be a repository where information seekers of all kinds, all over the world

Number of Documents digitized by Title

Title	Number of newspapers digitized
IthuNam Thesham(இதுநம் தேசம்)	7
Irukkiram (இருக்கிறம்)	23
Uthaya Sooriyan (உதயசூரியன்)	17
Emathu Kural (எமதுகூரல்)	2
Karai Athittiyar (காரைஆதித்தியன்)	3
Sudar Oli (சுடர்ஓளி)	99
Cenchsakthi(செஞ்சக்தி)	1
Thinamurasu	70
Thelivu (தெளிவு)	20
Paathukavalan (பாதுகாவலன்)	37
Puthiya Samadharmam (புதியசமதர்மம்)	1
Meellparvai(மீள்பார்வை)	18
Yarl Osai(யாழ்ஓசை)	18
Vijay	56
Total	372

Constraints / Challenges and lessons learned

During this digitization project NF has been confronted by a number of challenges:

- 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, though NF provided metadata and content as well.
- During the project the project staff faced some difficulties on scanning, because the used A3 size scanner was not enough in size to scan this newspaper as a whole. Usually this news papers' middle page was printed on an A2 size broadsheet. When it was scanned by an A3 scanner, news and pictures that ran up to the middle of the page were broken and appeared onto the following page when converted to pdf. Sometimes, viewers might be disappointed due to this problem.
- Due to the unstable political situation in Sri Lanka some publications are not available at the publishers' and at the community level and an enormous amount of valuable information in published formats remains uncollected and risks being permanently lost. The recollection of rare publications seemed to be a hard task during this project period.

Suggestions and Recommendations





- Once the digital image has been created they need to be made searchable and accessible. The images are processed with optical character recognition software to make the newspaper text searchable. But there is no such software available in the market to satisfactorily offer the required results in Tamil. Still a better solution needs 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.

- Noolaham Foundation should allocate proper funding to buy A2 size flatbed scanners or sophisticated scanners to implement this type of project without any technical interruption.
- The publications left out should be digitized and made available to the Tamil speaking community 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.

Acknowledgements

Noolaham Foundation would like to thank everyone for their support to implement this project successfully. These contributors participated in various activities such as making contact with publishers and repositories, providing their newspaper collections to NF for digitization, finding missing newspapers, participating in scanning, and providing technical support and launching the digital copies on the digital library.

Relevant Attachment- The web portal for newspaper collections

<p>காரை ஆதித்தியன்</p>  <p>காரை ஆதித்தியன் கவிஸ்லாந்தில் இருந்து வெளிவரும் காலாண்டுப் பத்திரிகையாகும். காரை நகர் பிரதேசத்தினை மையமாகக் கொண்டு வெளியிடப்பட்டு வருகின்றது. 2002 ஆம் ஆண்டில் இருந்து வெளிவருகின்றது.</p> <p>அண்மைய பதிப்புகள்</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ காரை ஆதித்தியன் 2011.08 ■ காரை ஆதித்தியன் 2009.10 ■ காரை ஆதித்தியன் 2011.04 <p>மேலும்...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">கொடு</p>	<p>செஞ்சக்தி</p>  <p>செஞ்சக்தி மக்கள் விடுதலை முன்னணி (ஜே.வி.பி) யின் ஏடு. ஏகாதிபத்தியத்துக்கு எதிரான நடவடிக்கைகள் - தேசிய முதுலாளித்துவத்தை விமர்சித்தலும் எதிர்த்தலும் - வர்க்கநிலையில் சிங்கள, தமிழ், முஸ்லீம் தொழிலாளிகளை ஒன்றிணைத்தலும் செஞ்சக்தி பத்திரிகையினால் முன்னெடுக்கப்படுகின்றன. தமிழ் மக்களுக்குரிய பிரச்சினைகளை மக்கள் விடுதலை முன்னணி அங்கீகரிக்கின்றது.</p> <p>அண்மைய பதிப்புகள்</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ செஞ்சக்தி 2011.02 <p>மேலும்...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">கொடு</p>
<p>தெளிவு</p>  <p>தெளிவு இலங்கையில் இருந்து வெளிவரும் மாதாந்தப் பத்திரிகையாகும். இளைய சமுதாயத்தினரின் குறிப்பாக மாணவர்களின் வாசிப்புப் பழக்கத்தை மேம்படுத்தவும் அவர்களது எழுத்தாற்றலுக்கு களம் அமைக்கவும் கொடுக்கும் உயர் நோக்கிலும் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டதாகும்.</p> <p>அண்மைய பதிப்புகள்</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ தெளிவு 2013.01 ■ தெளிவு 2013.03 ■ தெளிவு 2013.02 ■ தெளிவு 2012.12 ■ தெளிவு 2012.11 <p>மேலும்...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">கொடு</p>	<p>புதிய சமதர்மம்</p>  <p>புதிய சமதர்மம் நவ சமசமாலக்கட்சியின் ஏடு. வர்க்க நிலையில் சிங்களவர்களையும் தமிழர் மற்றும் முஸ்லீம்களையும் ஒன்றிணைத்துப் போராடவேண்டிய தேவையை வலியுறுத்துவதோடு தொழிற்சங்கங்களை ஒன்றிணைக்கின்றது. தமிழ் மக்களுக்குரிய பிரச்சினைகளை ஏற்றுக் கொள்வதுடன் ஒன்றுபட்ட இலங்கைக்குள் தீர்வுகாணலும் வலியுறுத்தப்படுகின்றது.</p> <p>அண்மைய பதிப்புகள்</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ புதிய சமதர்மம் 2011.01-02 <p>மேலும்...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">கொடு</p>

பகுப்பு:பத்திரிகைகள் தொகுப்பு

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துணைப் பகுப்புகள்

இந்தப் பகுப்பில் மொத்தம் உள்ள 31 துணைப்பகுப்புகளில் பின்வரும் 31 துணைப்பகுப்புகள் இங்கு காட்டப்பட்டுள்ளன.

T

- ▶ The Morning Star (0, 37)

அ

- ▶ அல் ஜஹீரா (0, 2)

ஆ

- ▶ ஆதவன் (0, 29)

இ

- ▶ இது நம்தேசம் (0, 8)
- ▶ இருக்கிறம் (0, 23)

உ

- ▶ உதய சூரியன் (0, 17)
- ▶ உதயம் (0, 5)

எ

- ▶ எமது குரல் (0, 2)

க

- ▶ காரை ஆதித்தியன் (0, 3)

ச

- ▶ சரிநிகர் (0, 214)
- ▶ சுடர் ஒளி (0, 99)

ச தொடரும்.

- ▶ செஞ்சக்தி (0, 1)

த

- ▶ தாய்விடு (0, 31)
- ▶ திசை (0, 42)
- ▶ தின முரசு (0, 775)
- ▶ தினக்கதிர் (0, 165)
- ▶ தெளிவு (0, 20)

ந

- ▶ நவீன விஞ்ஞானி (0, 38)
- ▶ நாளை (0, 7)
- ▶ நிகரி (0, 10)

ப

- ▶ பாதுகாவலன் (0, 37)
- ▶ புதிய சமதர்மம் (0, 1)

ப தொடரும்.

- ▶ புதிய பூமி (0, 117)

ம

- ▶ மீள்பார்வை (0, 18)

ய

- ▶ யாழ் ஓசை (0, 18)

ல

- ▶ லண்டன் குரல் (0, 7)

வ

- ▶ வடலி (0, 17)
- ▶ விஜய் (0, 88)
- ▶ விளம்பரம் (0, 116)
- ▶ வெற்றிமணி (0, 38)
- ▶ வைகறை (0, 169)

