Noolaham Foundation
Final Report

Project title	Aaram: Jaffna Hindu College Digitization
Project number	NF/PG/2013/0004
Project location (District/s, Division/s, Village/s)	Jaffna and Colombo
Sector	Collection Development
Implementing agency and contribution	Noolaham Foundation (NF)
Grant Agency and Contribution	Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust (digitization)
Total Budget and Expenditure	LKR 52,000.00 (excluding digitization)
Start and End date	January 2013 – October 2013
Responsible Stakeholder/s	Volunteers of Noolaham Foundation, Jaffna Hindu College, Colombo Old Boys Association of Jaffna Hindu College

Summary

'The Aaram: Jaffna Hindu College Digitization' project was aimed at collecting, preserving, and disseminating digital copies of the published documents of Jaffna Hindu College, Jaffna and its community. This collection includes periodical publications since 1933 and materials such as magazines, newsletters, booklets, reports, souvenirs and felicitation, annual publications, leaflets, memorial publications, monographs and administrative documents. The main objective of this project is to provide open access of institution's printed collection, preserve and create wide global visibility.

Noolaham foundation has digitized 133 publications from 'By laws of the Jaffna Hindu College 1933' released in 1933 to 'Jaffna Hindu College Sivagnana Vairavar Koyil Kudamuzhukku Vizha Malar' released in 2013 by the Jaffna Hindu College. Noolaham Foundation obtained great support from the youth wing of Jaffna Hindu College in collecting the publications released by the College. Noolaham Foundation has made required facilities available for readers to view these digitalized publications on its digital library website, www.noolaham.org.

Noolaham Foundation and the Colombo branch of Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys' Association released all the documented publications as a DVD named 'Aaram' along with a handbook titled, 'Aaram- Inthuvin Aavanak Kalanjiyam' on 14th October 2013 at Saraswathy Hall, Colombo-04. The documented collections were gifted to school, so that the school can distribute these documents to their well-wishers, stake holders, and students for their use. This digitization project provides an opportunity to preserve these historical documents and share them with a wider community of scholars and students.

Introduction and Background

Noolaham Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization (GA 2390) 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.

The Sri Lankan Tamil Community has a long cultural history and institutions. Educational institutions (schools, universities, tuition centres), libraries, temples, community centers, livelihood related organizations etc. are such institutions which contribute immensely towards the well-being and existence of the communities. These institutions have rich cultural histories and institutional memories which are not properly documented. Therefore, Noolaham Foundation tries to preserve some of such cultural memories by preserving the documents of such institutions.

All the publications are not easily accessible to the users as they are not preserved at any repositories. Even though they are shared among the students, it is obvious they could be endangered over time. So at present, preserving and sharing knowledge and resources is the most unrivaled need as far as the Tamil community is concerned. Thus Noolaham Foundation strives to fill the gap and toiled for the last eight and half years in digital preservation. As part of Noolaham Foundation's activity of creating 'Institutional Archives', this project identified the publications of Jaffna Hindu College.

Objective/s and Achievements or Results

This project was taken place under NF's objective of collection development, provide knowledge and information services to ensure free and open access, and thereby supporting educational, research and development endeavors related to Sri Lankan Tamil speaking communities.

133 various kinds of documents were digitized and preserved through this project and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library (www.noolaham.org). The project contains eight ongoing publications as well. Noolaham Foundation has plans to digitize upcoming publications and update the collection periodically. The project helps to make outputs of the institution available to a worldwide audience, maximizing the visibility and impact of these outputs as a result, showcasing the institution to interested constituencies – prospective staff, prospective students and other stakeholders.

Constrains / Challenges

- During implementation of the project, NF faced some challenges in processes of digitization. The flow of the project was affected due to the poor condition of source materials.
- Due to the conflict and repeated displacement and unstable political situation in Jaffna, only few of the rare and endangered published documents are available in the school community, and an enormous amount of valuable material in all formats remains uncollected and risks being permanently lost.
- Lack of awareness of open access institutional archives among students, teachers and researches, and inadequate information and communication technology infrastructure are major problems in this area. The high cost of internet bandwidth in Sri Lanka is another big issue that affects the student community's to access to these open resources frequently.

Suggestion and Recommendation

Based on the aforementioned problems identified, the following suggestions were offered for possible improvement among others**:**

- The publications that are missed should be collected and preserved when resources are available. Noolaham Foundation and its volunteers should find those documents from old boys, school well-wishers, past principals and teachers, community libraries and community based organizations.
- Noolaham Foundation should collaborate more and more with other institutions and groups in creating digital content to share knowledge and resources. There is also a pressing need for training programs that will help administrators as well as special collections professionals to understand their responsibilities in this environment.

Case Stories / Quotes

> *One hundred years and more have passed since the founding of Jaffna Hindu College and yet the College stands aloft as a Premier Hindu Institution in the Island. Generations of students who had passed through its portals are spread all over the world. The old boys have all contributed to the college's success and engage in the the cultural life of the People of this country. As part of the contribution of the old boys association, Colombo, Noolaham Foundation digitized Jaffna Hindu College publications. I am extremely excited and thankful to Noolaham Foundation for their work. I hope this work will continue in the forthcoming years too.*
>
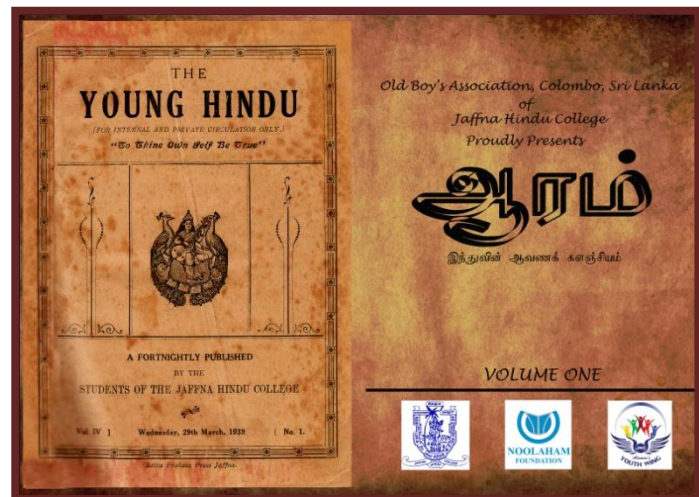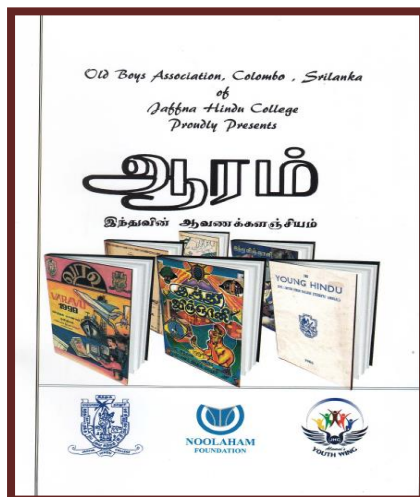> ***Mr. V. Ganesarajah***
> ***Principal, Jaffna Hindu College***

Relevant Attachments

News/2013/2013.10.14

"Aaram" by laws of the Jaffna Hindu College 1933 - DVD Release

http://noolahamfoundation.org/wiki/index.php?title=News/2013/2013.10.14

Some relevant Photos

Handbook - 'Aaram- Induvin Aavanak Kalanchiyam'

The Cover page of DVD - 'Aaram'

During the digitized documents publishing event on 14th October 2014 at 10.30 am at Saraswathy Hall, Colombo-04