



Book of Abstracts



SAARC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
DEVELOPMENT OF
ARCHIVES
IN SOUTH ASIA

THE FUTURE OF ARCHIVES &
ARCHIVES OF THE FUTURE

3 - 5 December 2013

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Message from the Minister of National Heritage



It is with great pleasure that I issue this message in the volume of abstracts for the SAARC International Conference on Development of Archives in South Asia: ‘The Future of Archives and Archives of the Future’ organized by the SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo in collaboration with the Department of National Archives, Sri Lanka. As Minister of National Heritage, I applaud the initiative taken to shed light on the importance of Archives, the soul of the past.

Archives is not merely an accumulation of historical records. It is the voice of the past. A voice that brings to life the story of our forefathers. A voice that relates the happenings of a disappeared past. A voice that relates the memory of a nation. In this sense, archives are an incredible resource of human past, of what mankind did, thought or accomplished in foregone years. Therefore, the role of archives is paramount in building national identity. What we do today becomes archives tomorrow. The role of archives thus never ends.

South Asia, with its unique and diverse blend of different communities has evolved over the years with a rich cultural heritage. This heritage is reflected by its archival records in respective member states. However, the region as a whole faces the issue of successfully adopting to the ongoing revolution of digitisation in the field of archives. This mainly stems from the lack of aptitude and skill in handling new formats. However, there is no clear-cut solution to digitisation

related issues faced by South Asian archives for different repositories face different issues.

The proposed conference, I believe will act as the starting point of future endeavours of addressing challenges and problems faced by archivists in general and South Asian archivists in particular.

I wish the conference a success.

Dr. Jagath Balasuriya
Minister of National Heritage

Message from the Director, SAARC Cultural Centre



It is with great pleasure that I forward this message on the occasion of ‘SAARC International Conference on Development of Archives in South Asia: The Future of Archives & Archives of the Future’. South Asian archives host a large collection of archival material of historical importance. Sustainability of such archival material has become a challenge due to the constant changes that take place in Information and Communication Technology tools. This Conference provides an opportunity for the stakeholders in the field of archives and records management of the region to present their current status of archives, share their problems and voice their concerns for better management of archives.

The SAARC Cultural Centre, since its inception in 2009 has been making diligent efforts for bringing together academics, practitioners, and policy makers on to a common platform to discuss issues of common interest in South Asia.

I thank all the paper presenters, resource persons and other participants who helped make this Conference a success. I also hope this Book of Abstracts will be welcomed as an important reference work for all concerned.

G.L.W. Samarasinghe
Director, SAARC Cultural Centre

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Introduction

Archives are memory of a nation. They are an incredible resource of human activities and an irreplaceable witness to the past events that are crucial for underpinning democracy, the identity of individuals and communities, and human rights. But these are also fragile and vulnerable. In recent years, there has been a sea-change in the creation, management and use of records and other archival resources.

The on-going shift from manual to electronic records, the emerging trends of democratization of information, development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, changes in the structure and distribution of knowledge caused by mass digitization, etc. has revolutionized the archives management. At the same time, it has also made the task of future archivists and records managers more arduous than ever before. Archivists everywhere now find themselves at a crossroads, caught between their mandate to preserve the best of the analogue past, and the growing need to capture the vital ephemera of the digital world – from emails and social media chat sites to image sites, and from Twitter exchanges between public figures to the propaganda websites of the political parties, NGOs, Citizen Forums and the like.

The Conference

In most of the South Asian Archives, there is a general lack of appreciation or incapacity to accept archives in non-traditional formats, especially digital, and also film and sound at present. Most of these repositories also lack the competency and skills to take proper care of such formats, even if they take them in. Though there can be no single solution for various common and specific challenges faced by the archival repositories in the region, yet developing their digital capacity lies at the core of the strategic planning for the future.

With the twin objectives of ensuring optimal utilization of –

- a) the new conservation tools for preservation of the existing archival collections for future generations and that of the computer technology for their best academic exploitation for future research, and,
- b) to review the existing archives management system and assess their preparedness for meeting the challenges of the archives of the future – the SAARC Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the Department of National Archives, Sri Lanka, would organize the SAARC International Conference on Development of Archives in South Asia, entitled, ‘The Future of Archives and Archives of the Future’ in Colombo (Sri Lanka).

This Conference will provide a platform to the key stakeholders in the field of archives and records management in the region to assess their preparedness, share their challenges and problems, showcase their achievements, voice their concerns and learn from the experts for effectively managing their existing and future collections over the long-term.

The objectives of the conference are to discuss the country situation with regard to their initiatives and preparedness to face the challenges of the digital environment; to explore the feasibility of evolving a Digital Vision for the South Asian Archives consisting of a coherent policy laying down strategies, standards, guidelines and action plans; to develop and adopt a shared document on documentation and conservation methodology; and publication of the Conference Proceedings in a book form.

Themes identified for the conference include

- Future of the Conventional Archives (including paper, film and sound) in Digital Age
- Managing Digital Records: Rhetoric vis-à-vis Practice
- Digital Preservation of Conventional Archives: Democratising and Privileging
- Digital Archives: Data Preservation vis-à-vis Data Retention
- Access to Archives in Information Age: Risks and Responsibilities, User Management, and Right to Privacy and
- Electronic Records and the Legal Framework: Authenticity and Admissibility.

The Conference would have Paper Reading Sessions. Each of the themes will have one Resource Person (in Chair) plus 2-3 speakers. In addition, the Conference will also organize Round Table Session(s).

The Conference will be held at the National Archives, No. 7, Philip Gunawardena Mawatha, Colombo, Sri Lanka for 3 days from 3 to 5 December 2013. A full day Post-Conference tour will be organized on Friday, 6 December 2013 to the World Heritage City of Galle, for the participants of the Conference.

Associated Activity- Photographic Exhibition

An Exhibition of digital prints of historical documents and photographs of archival value in South Asia will be mounted at the Conference venue. The proposed Exhibition will showcase selections from the historical documents and photographs of archival value that are the best examples of the documentary heritage of the Member States. The exhibits may be chosen so as to cover a wide chronological range of the archival holdings of each Member State.

References

Organizations

The International Council on Archives (ICA)

The ICA is dedicated to the effective management of records and the preservation, care and use of the world's archival heritage through its representation of records and archive professionals across the globe. It strives to protect and ensure access to archives through advocacy, setting standards, professional development, and enabling dialogue between archivists, policy makers, creators and users of archives.

<http://www.ica.org/3/homepage/home.html>

South and West Asian Regional Branch of the ICA (SWARBICA)

SWARBICA is responsible for carrying out the policy and programmes of ICA in this region. Sri Lanka holds the Chair of this body at present.

<http://www.ica.org/2185/about-south-and-west-asian-regional-branch-swarbica/about-swarbica.html>

International Records Management Trust (IRMT)

The IRMT was created in 1989 as a UK registered charity. Over the years it has worked with dozens of governments all over the world to help them strengthen their records systems. Its ongoing programmes of development research and educational and consultancy services offer new solutions to records issues, particularly as governments make the transition to working in the electronic environment.

<http://irmt.org/>

The British Library Preservation Advisory Centre (BL_PAC)

The BL_PAC supports the preservation of library and archive collections of all types through the provision of preservation management tools, training and information services.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/index.html>

The Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Records Managers (ACARM)

ACARM was founded in 1984 to provide a link for archival institutions, archivists and records managers across the Commonwealth.

<http://www.acarm.org/>

Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA)

The ARMA was established in 1955 as a not-for-profit professional association and the authority on governing information as a strategic asset. Its approximately more than 10,000 members include information managers, information governance professionals, archivists, corporate librarians, imaging specialists, legal professionals, IT managers, consultants, and educators, all of whom work in a wide variety of industries, including government, legal, healthcare, financial services, and petroleum in the United States, Canada, and more than 30 other countries around the globe.

<http://www.arma.org/>

National Archives in South Asia

Afghanistan

National Archives of Afghanistan, Salang Wat Shahr-e Nau, Kabul.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.af/>

Bangladesh

Directorate of Archives & Libraries, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, 32, Justice S.M. Murshed Sarani, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207.

<http://www.nanl.gov.bd/>

Bhutan

The National Archives, The National Library & Archives of Bhutan, GPO PO Box 185, Kawangjangtsa, Thimphu.

<http://www.library.gov.bt/archive/index.html>

India

National Archives of India, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001

<http://nationalarchives.nic.in/>

Maldives

To be established under the National Archives Act, 2011.

Nepal

National Archives, Ramshahpath, Kathmandu.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.np/>

Pakistan

National Archives of Pakistan, Block-N, Pakistan
Secretariat, Islamabad.
<http://www.nap.gov.pk/>

Sri Lanka

Department of National Archives, No. 7, Philip
Gunawardena Mawatha, Colombo 7
<http://www.archives.gov.lk/web/index.php?lang=en>

Online Resources

Universal Declaration on Archives (17 September 2010).

<http://www.ica.org/download.php?id=2407>

Principles of Access to Archives (ICA, 2013).

<http://www.ica.org/download.php?id=2642>

Manus, Susan, 'Fifty Digital Preservation Activities You Can Do', (9 May 2013).

<http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2013/05/fifty-digital-preservation-activities-you-can-do/>

Knowing the Need: Optimising Preservation for Library and Archive Collections, (February 2013).

<http://www.bl>

Keynote Speaker

Mr. G.P.S.H. de Silva



G.P.S.H. de Silva holds a BA (Hons.) (Ceylon) in History and an Academic Postgraduate Diploma in Archives Administration (London), and in 1967 he became the first non-British to receive that Diploma. He served the National Archives, Sri Lanka for 30 years from 1960 and was its Director from 1983 to 1990, when he took early retirement. He is currently an Honorary Member of the International Council on Archives (ICA).

Mr. de Silva has attended many programmes, seminars and conferences of the ICA from the 1970s to 1989, and was a Member of the Executive Committee of the ICA from 1987 to 1990. He was also Secretary General of the South and West Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (SWARBICA) from 1982 to 1990. During the same period he served as an ICA Resource Person and Consultant in Nepal to further its archival work and in Abidjan, Cote de Ivoire to initiate the establishment of Archives in a few West-African countries. In 1991 he prepared a report on the status of Archives in Kabul, Afghanistan.

After retirement Mr. de Silva conducted a one year research programme in North India (1990-1991) for the Genealogical Society of Utah, USA. He was a Consultant in Records Administration and Archives, for the Superior Courts of Sri Lanka during the period 1991-1992.

He has a number of publications to his credit and many articles on historical and archival subjects published locally

as well as in international journals. Additionally, he has also been the Editor of a number of reputed Sri Lankan journals.

Keynote Speech

Development of Archives in South Asia: ‘The Future of Archives and Archives of the Future’

Abstract

Archives can be formed by any organization or individual. But when it is termed State or National, it invariably means the records of the state or of its government. As I understand, the SAARC International Conference on Development of Archives in South Asia is on the State or National Archives.

The concept of State, Government or National Archives as it is understood today, is of Western origin, derived from ancient Greek practices. That qualification carries with it certain requirements, namely, that the records or archives of such Archives are of state origin, have had unbroken safe custody and had been transferred to an Archives in terms of legal requirement. The objective of maintaining such archives for posterity, is primarily to defend state interests, either nationally or internationally, and of individuals in their manifold problems. Thus, the unbroken custody of the archives is of vital importance. In general, they will also be the official source material for future historians or other research workers.

*As seen above such Archives do not **collect** records, but **receive** them in terms of legislative requirements. That applies to both traditional (paper) records as well as modern formats created in state institutions. The accessioning, maintaining and intellectual control of them, need trained personnel and equipment, and interaction*

among the members of the SAARC region too will be of great benefit.

This conference could lead to providing such training facilities and to an increased interaction among its members.

Mr. Chairman and honoured members at the head table, Excellencies, distinguished members of visiting delegations, distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen, friends.

Let me first thank the organizers of this SAARC international conference on Archives for inviting me to present the keynote address, this morning. The organization known by the acronym SAARC stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. It was established in the year 1985. I believe this is the first time SAARC is organizing an international conference on Archives, providing at the same time a very challenging and futuristic theme, namely, 'Future of Archives, and Archives of the Future'.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before I get to the brass tacks let me also have a very quick look at the Archives in this region, based mainly on the Websites given in the SAARC's handouts, except on Sri Lanka, which is based on my personal knowledge.

Archives in the Region

Afghanistan has a National Archives and Record Administration established sometime in 1975, and sited in Kabul. I was not able to get its present status from its website, but back in 1991 I saw a large collection of documents in a record room in the centre in Kabul city. I do not know whether they are still there or whether they have been moved into the Archives building, a couple of kms away.

Bangladesh merged together its National Archives and National Library in 1973, and apparently gives equal prominence to administrative records, historical documents and creative works.

Bhutan established a National Library in 1967, but has not opened a section for archives till now. The Library of course is said to have the largest collection of Mahayana Buddhist literature.

India's National Archives, is a continuation of the 1859 Imperial Records Department of Calcutta, shifted from there to New Delhi in 1911, and now, as the National Archives continues its very professional activities in the buildings constructed in 1926.

Maldives Islands still has no Archives.

Nepal introduced an Archives Preservation Act in 1989. It was very encouraging to read that it has royal decrees, orders and treaties of the monarchical period, and that the Act has made provision for the transfer of modern administrative records.

Pakistan's National Archives dates back to 1951, that is shortly after it was established as a separate independent state in 1947, when independence was granted to India.

Sri Lanka's National Archives too continues from the period of its Dutch administration of the coastal areas from 1640 to 1796 and, from 1796 to 1947 by the British under the wings of the Chief Secretary. It was established as a separate department in 1947, on the eve of independence in 1948.

Nature of State Archives

The term archives, is of western origin, developed from the ancient Greek practice of depositing their judicial records in a government house called '*Archaeion*'. Now, Government or State Archivists are the custodians of state records of permanent value. The criteria followed for the transfer of non-current records from a state department to its National Archives are,

- that they have significant evidential and historical value,
- had been created or received in the state institution during the conduct of its legitimate business,
- that they had been held in that office without a break in their custody,
- and that they have been transferred to its National Archives for permanent keeping, in terms of legal requirements, or prior to legislation in terms of government rules and regulations.

In some western countries such records are available from about the 11th century or sometimes even from an earlier date. What I am talking about is not of historical mss, private records, or creative works, unless the latter had been done under the aegis of a state organisation. Historical manuscripts and private records, undoubtedly have historical and cultural importance, but do not fall within the category of state archives, in terms of the criteria just mentioned a moment ago, i.e. amongst other things, containing evidential value.

In today's context state archives are available not only in the traditional file format, but also as microforms, audio-visual tapes, cine films, compact discs, digital records, or electronic records, eye-copies of inscriptions and rubbings,

legal deposits of printed matter in terms of various legal enactments, and the like. Such material need different techniques of intellectual control and of preservation and conservation.

Except for Bhutan and Nepal, all other member countries in the region are newly independent countries, in the sense that some colonial power, not necessarily western, had interfered with the independence of those countries from about the 14th century. Hence a question that arises is do those countries have their own pre-colonial archives, or records of administration, whether monarchical, tribal or of regional administrations?

As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, unfortunately, it does not have any such archival records, although it had been a monarchy from the 3rd cent. BC to 1815 AD. Herein lithic records are not considered archival records, but would be considered an end format of a monarchical decree, if their protocols or drafts had been found in monarchical Archives.

Records of centuries past, may or may not have evidential value in the eyes of a judicial officer, but certainly will have historical value, like for instance the private archives of individuals, archives in our temples, or of similar organizations in the region. The question 'Future of Archives' should extend to those categories too, for information purposes and historical research. But, let me get back to state archives.

State Archives

For the accrual of state archives the symbiosis between the state administration and the National Archives is of great importance. Where evaluating records for archiving has been done for centuries, that requirement invariably comes to the administrators. But in newly independent countries like Sri

Lanka that outlook, namely, to see the future importance of their records, after their administrative requirements are over, needs to be inculcated gradually.

The creation of that sensitivity among administrators will be a cardinal factor for the comprehensiveness of future archives, for before the archivist can preserve the records the archivist will need to have them. Thus, one great need of the archivists of the region will be the improvement of the rapport between administrators and archivists.

Preservation and conservation of traditional records, which means records on paper, as well as of new formats, depend on trained personnel, technology and the availability of funds. This fact is common to all Archives the world over. But, as I said earlier, strategies have to be developed for their receipt at the Archives. This is one area where the various practices of Archives in the region will be of great value to one another.

After all, state archives will contain the official history of the country, and on which the state and individuals will depend to claim their rights on various matters, **both nationally and internationally**. In today's context of a globalized economy, and a global political culture, the preservation of state records has assumed greater importance than in the past.

Transfer and Destruction of Non-current Records

Today, there are thousands of records of great historical or other value, or perhaps of little or no such value among state records. Such accumulations are because authorised destruction schedules have not been properly carried out, or regular transfers of important records to the Archives have not been so done. Although, the primary responsibilities of the archivist is to those records in his custody, at the same

time, he has to concern himself with the entire gamut of state records, to ensure their proper transfer or disposal according to accepted principles. With the expansion of the government to practically every aspect of the socio-cultural structure of a country, I leave the imagination of the enormity of the problem to the distinguished delegates and the high level invitees at this conference.

Now, a still more problematic aspect for Archivists and administrators is that archivists have opted to take only a 3 to 5 percent of all records created in the state sector. The determination of that quantity is a vast, complicated and sensitive responsibility to be shared between archivists and administrators, in consultation with many professional bodies of varying disciplines. It is another of the crucial functions of an Archives.

Archives of the Future

Archives of the future would be a mind boggling problem for future archivists. Technology has crashed into the rather quiet and peaceful world of the archivist where he would interact with administrators and do his best to record the progress or otherwise of the nation, as evidenced by state records. Now, the administration has gone digital or is going digital. Accruing and preserving them are gargantuan tasks for archivists, especially of this region.

As far as the nature of digital records are concerned, one could ask how comprehensive and stable are the data in the creating agency itself? To pose another question, apart from the technicalities of metadata and the like, is what has been received at the Archives: a draft or a final version of a document?

Therein, who did the draft and who authorised the final version? The two – or more stages - will be clearly visible in

the case of paper records; but is it so in the digital format as well? Who were the administrators behind them? Are short signatures available to identify the officials? To the Archivist and the judiciary, especially when a record is needed to establish the rights of the state or of an individual, such questions become vitally important.

And, a whole range of such questions in dealing with digital or electronic records will baffle the future archivist. After all how authentic, transparent and true will the picture be? Questions of similar nature have been extensively discussed in professional fora of the ICA and continue to engage their attention.

Digitising administration does not necessarily mean the end of the paper world. It would only mean the archivist will be confronted with both paper records, and digital records, where a whole lot of computer equipment, software and hardware will be needed to use and process them. To that end staff too will necessarily have to be increased, and more funds will have to be sought from state coffers. Thus, the archivist will have to be both a marketer and diplomat, and be able to present his case, suavely and effectively to the treasuries to receive necessary funds.

Perhaps the end of an era where the archivist is a reclusive scholar, buried in his archive tomes and publishing learned volumes may not be too far away. Instead there will be a scholar peering at a screen to get his material, but more often than not, would be frustrated about the requirement to find cross references to substantiate his work, references not found in the same mode, or is just not available either at the Archives or in the originating office. These would be problems not only for archivists but also to future scholars and professionals as well.

As for the receiving, management, preservation, conservation and intellectual control of such material the ICA has published detailed guidelines. Thus the archivists of the region would not have to re-invent the wheel. But the problem would be how to use the wheel. Considerable funds will be required for training of personnel in both traditional and modern formats of archives, purchase of equipment, and perhaps more funds for safe disposal of unusable equipment due to fast changing technology.

Requirement of a Training Centre for Archivists

SAARC should consider establishing a training centre for archivists in the region. At present only India provides training facilities for archivists, but they are not associated with any university. In fact, when the ICA, in 1976, established SWARBICA, its South and West- Asian Regional Branch, comprised all the countries in the present SAARC region, except for Maldives at that time, but included Iran. One of its objectives was to establish such a training centre, but it has not materialised to date. An organisation of the region, like SAARC, may perhaps succeed, if it could pursue that object. But the most crucial questions are from where will the funds come, and from where the teaching faculty. Of course, all problems will have solutions, but they will have to be persistently and systematically pursued to reach that end. I hope this conference will make a start in that direction.

Progress comes with a price, and those who cannot afford or are insensitive to them will travel fast in the reverse direction. State archives are unique documents, there are no duplicates. **Once lost they are lost forever!** The more one lags behind in the adoption and application of new technology, and provides for receiving and preserving the

traditional as well as the modern formats of records, the faster they will get back to the Stone Age in the administration of state archives.

I hope that will not happen in the SAARC region.

Abstracts for Paper Presentations

Ms. Tahmina AKTER

Digital Preservation of Archival Materials

Digital Preservation has been recognized as one of the urgent challenges in our digital information society. It is the current trend in all modern archives and libraries and is recognized as a vital part of managing information. A number of archives and libraries have thus started to invest in intensive research and development to provide solutions that allow us to maintain digital objects in accessible ways. Most of these solutions, however, are aimed at larger institutions that have a dedicated mandate and can build up expertise, resources and systems. Yet, we increasingly find that many archives and libraries are faced with the challenge to preserve their material. This paper will present the goal of automated digital preservation activities in handling a process of full digital preservation and also discuss why digital preservation is required.

Mr. Wadudul Bari CHOWDHURY

The future of Archives & Archives of the future: A Bangladesh Perspective

History of modern archives dates back to 1891 when it functioned as the Imperial Record Department in Calcutta. Then in 1911 it was shifted to Delhi as National Archives of India. In 1951 after the partition of India it was named as Directorate of Archives and Libraries of Pakistan and was shifted to Karachi. After the Bangladesh Liberation War, the Directorate of Archives and Libraries, Bangladesh was set up in Dhaka on 6 November 1972. Compared to advanced

countries Bangladesh is far behind in archival records management due to lack of awareness, proper education and training. Both public and private organizations are currently working together to create awareness and skills development pertaining to the archival system. Simultaneously, the present government emphasizes technological development of Bangladesh National Archives as an important further step to be taken in the field. National Archives of Bangladesh (NAB) has already procured many modern equipment. NAB along with three other non-governmental organizations jointly conducts trainings, seminars and symposiums etc. to create awareness. In fact we are passing the transitional period and entering into a digital era. In this context, we emphasize both the digital preservation and updating of the manual system for proper awareness and proper management of records. Special instructions have already been issued by the government to all government agencies in this regard. Other legal and administrative reforms are underway. Encouragingly the private sector especially the corporate sector has started establishing archives in their respective agencies and the National Archives of Bangladesh is in close contact with them.

Mr. Kunzang DELEK

Past, Present and Future of Archival Records of Bhutan

Creation of records in Bhutan must have been in practice since the coming of Monpas, the nomad herders who moved to the lower valleys of Himalayas along with their herds in Winters around 2000 BC. Earlier, when there was no written culture, most of the records must have been maintained by way of oral means of communications, and subsequently been recorded in written form during later stages. Since then,

records of Bhutan had been created on traditionally hand-made papers with gold, silver, vermilion and other special inks. Traditional Bhutanese papers are of archival quality by nature and records on these papers lasted centuries without the help of any scientific control systems.

The Archival records of Bhutan can be classified into 3 broad categories: Religious, Public and Private. Archival records have been and will be maintained in the 20 Dzongs (castle like buildings, the district headquarters), about 2000 monasteries and private houses across the country, because most of the religious records cannot be transferred to the National Archives Center, for religious and cultural sensitivities and sanctity reasons.

Archival science in Bhutan is quite a new topic and there has never been a record management system until recently. It is, therefore, a greater challenge for the National Archives of Bhutan to put in place a proper archival system.

Mr. Daya DISSANAYAKE

Creative Commons and the Future of Archives

The future of archives would depend almost entirely on the development of digital and electronic technology, and the cost of such technology. Archival material should be accessible by all, from anywhere, anytime, and for free. No one should have the right to monopolize, control, deny access or make a profit from archived material.

The cost of digital archives looks exceedingly high, for us today, but in the long term it would be very much less than the cost of maintaining archives with fragile, decaying material made available for reference, and the cost of travel and time consumed by the users to access these documents.

There is the opportunity cost of the valuable data we may not be able to access for a study, because of the physical restraints in reaching all the data on a subject available in all the archives around the world.

Any number of users could access the same digital record or document from anywhere, without waiting for their turn to use the one and only copy or one of the limited numbers of copies physically available. One example of the future of archives is the digitization of the Dead Sea Scrolls by the Leon Levy Foundation developing images in a user-friendly platform intended for the public, students and scholars alike.

When archives go digital the users will increase and the archivist's role changes. The user-friendly automated systems will help the user search and access the information he wants. The search engine is the gateway, but access could be free, or protected by firewalls, pay walls, subscription walls, which is unfortunate, because all such data should be free.

A major worry with creators is unauthorized use of their material when available on-line. But reusing data or information is not stealing, if copyright laws are followed, and due credit is given when borrowed.

Creative Commons is probably what we need for all archived material. Founded in 2001, CC vision is for "universal access to research, education, and full participation in culture for driving a new era of development, growth and productivity." By selecting one of the six CC licenses, copyright holders choose which rights they'd like to keep and what types of reuse to allow. The Creative Commons Affiliate Network includes more than 70 affiliate groups around the world, as well as many informal community groups and

individual volunteers, with over half a million licenses by now.

National Archives of several countries have made their content available for reuse under CC. Documents, and photos may be downloaded and reused without permission in any format for purpose of research, private study or education (non-commercial use) only, but giving due credit.

Digital is the immediate future, until man develops something more advanced. Digital curation and offering digital archives in the public domain is the need today, while honouring the rights of the creators and the users.

Ms. Asma FERDOUSI

Future of Conventional Archives in the Digital Age: A Bangladesh Perspective

This paper sheds light on the future of the conventional archives of Bangladesh in the digital age. In doing so it aims to investigate the genesis of Bangladeshi archives, present modalities, future challenges and initiatives to combat those challenges. At the same time the paper tries to explore a future model of archives for Bangladesh in light of the digital intrusion.

The digital era is bringing many changes to the archives system and its management continuously. In fact, the orthodox definition of archives and its dimensions have changed a lot because of the adaptation of technology in the last decade or so. It is true that modern technology and methods are contributing a lot to have a smart archives system in place which is more user friendly and more accessible than earlier but challenges are there in many regards like the

inviolability of the evidence, life cycle of the records, the macrobiotic nature of records, hierarchy in records and their descriptions, provenance and original order, and exclusive rights among others.

Immediately after the liberation war, the Bangladesh Government felt the need to establish an archives to preserve government files and other national historic documents and eventually Bangladesh National Archives was established in 1972. As a further step to ensure the preservation of archives the Government of Bangladesh enacted the Bangladesh National Archives Ordinance in 1983 to make Bangladesh National Archives more functional. Bangladesh National Museum has also set up an archives section with the objective to safeguard historical documents, files, books and records for future reference and research.

At present, apart from the traditional methods, Bangladesh National Archives uses different methods and applies different procedures to collect and preserve files and records like Reprography, Microphotography and Computer Documentation. However, the Bangladesh National Archives authority believes that more digitalisation is required to ensure the effectiveness of the operation of archives and to make certain the durability and longevity of the files and records. Simultaneously, they strongly believe that whatever impact digital age makes, the reality is that need for the conventional archives is inevitable and it should not be labeled as obsolete because of the influence of the digital epoch.

Dr. M.A. HAQUE

Public Record Act and Access to Records in National Archives of India

Liberalization of access to records is a continuously evolving process which has its variations from country to country. Some countries follow the 50 year rule some forty years but the 30 year rule is universally accepted. In India access to records has been closely linked to legislation. As early as 1930 there was a demand for legislation on public records, both at the Center and in the States so that scholars could be provided easy access. The process of legislation however proved to be cumbersome and in 1957 following the Bill moved by Dr. Raghubir Singh in Parliament, Government of India set up the Committee on Archival Legislation headed by Dr. Tarachand which made a series of recommendations regarding legislation on records. Pending enactment of the Act, Government of India (GOI) promulgated the Archival policy Resolution in 1972 and in 1993 the Public Record Act was passed. The Act is a comprehensive document which lays down rules and regulations for record management of Ministries, Departments and Offices of the GOI, and empowers the DGA to act as Coordinator for implementing the Act.

Meanwhile access to records continued to engage attention of the Government of India. In 1939 the first step towards an access policy was initiated and records up to 1880 were thrown open for consultation thanks to visionaries like Dr. S.N Sen, the first Director of Archives. Access rules were further liberalized in the Post-Independence period and we are now following the thirty year Rule. In order to harmonize the Act with the Right to Information Act (RTI Act), a Review Committee has been constituted to examine the feasibility of further liberalizing access.

This presentation will provide a backdrop to the National Archives of India and throw light on the salient features of the Public Records Act and the rules for Access contained therein. It will also throw light on the major activities of the Department.

Ms. Dilini Anthony LIYANAGE, Ms. Subodha ELLAWALA, Ms. H.M. DEEPANI, Mr. Sagara WIJESIRI, Mr. Urane ATUKORALA and Mr. Mahinda DHARMASIRI

National Archives of Sri Lanka: Digital Initiatives

This presentation evaluates the digitization of the Times Collection and Voters Registers of the Department of National Archives. This project was commenced in January, 2013, as the second digitization project of this Department. In 2008, the first digitization project of the National Archives was commenced by the digitization of temple land records. The long term aim of digitization is preservation to ensure accessibility and authenticity of information over time.

The activities undertaken prior to digitization such as preparation of tender documents, digitization material (numbering, restoration, etc.) and related works and past digitization work will be discussed. In addition, methods such as quality control too will be discussed. In this process, the problems encountered and the ways of dealing with them too will be deliberated.

Dr. James NYE

The Digital South Asia Library: A Web Resource Viewed as an Archive of Electronic Objects

This paper considers the Digital South Asia Library, <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/>, as an archival resource. Both past practices and plans for data archiving in the future are described. The Digital South Asia Library, an initiative led by the University of Chicago, is a well established Internet resource providing open-access resources since 1999. Digital objects are organized under the following headings: Reference Resources, Bibliographies and Union Lists, Images, Indexes, Maps, Books and Journals, and Statistics. Audio will soon be added to these. Over the past three years the number of searches doubled. Our server currently responds to four million searches per year. We have users from nearly every country of the world.

This paper describes the ways in which the University of Chicago Library has demonstrated its commitment to the Digital South Asia Library (DSAL) through generous support for data archiving and staff support to maintain the Web servers over the past decade. Also reviewed is planning at the University for a new and more robust system for archiving digital resources. The larger context of the new University of Chicago Library Digital Repository is reviewed. It will be a digital repository for preservation and promotion of the intellectual history and accomplishments of the University as well as providing critical services in support of current research and teaching activities. The relationship of the Repository to HathiTrust is also described as part of the archiving context for digital objects created under DSAL. HathiTrust is a very large collaborative repository of digital content and the University of Chicago is a founding member of HathiTrust.

The new Chicago Digital Repository, as it is about to be implemented, is described in detail including the scope of content to be included; the features and functions of the repository (including storage and management as well as service functions); the selection and depositing of material; and technical requirements for file formats and metadata.

Staffing required to realize data archiving for DSAL and for the larger University Library program is reviewed. This includes staff commitments to monitor developments in best practices and make appropriate adjustments to local practices. The importance is highlighted of ongoing staff involvement in organizations such as the Digital Library Federation, a body which is in the forefront of research and establishment of standards for the maintenance of data and data archiving.

The final portion of the paper includes an overview of plans for future developments for the Digital South Asia Library and scholarly programs for exploitation of DSAL resources.

Prof. K.D. PARANAVITANA

Towards a New Age of Partnership (TANAP) and shared Dutch Archives of South East Asia

The entire world is now closely interconnected with digital technology. It affects the world of archives as well. The archival heritage in South East Asia has been inseparably braided with the world history since ‘the epoch of Vasco da Gama’ that took place in the late 15th century. The European interaction with the East had left behind an unprecedented amount of archival heritage that require examination and study. These are now integrated into the ‘memory of the

respective nations'. This notion is being replaced by the idea of a 'collective memory' in modern times. A pioneering project launched in the recent past to address this notion is an initiative of the Dutch which is referred to as TANAP. The ultimate objective of the TANAP project was to enhance mutual cooperation among countries in the East which were former Dutch (VOC) settlements. This initiative opened the vistas to deal with sharing, preserving and disseminating the vast amount of knowledge embodied in the archives in respective countries, utilizing the modern technological developments including digitization.

Based on the TANAP initiative, this paper would examine possibilities of archival partnership between SAARC member countries not only related to the Dutch heritage but also in other fields as well. The possibilities of sharing infrastructure would also fall within the purview. Possible threats and remedies associated with interactive programmes will also be discussed.

Ms. Kamani PERERA

The Application of Web 2.0 Technology in Digital Archival Repositories: View from Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

The future of archives and archives of the future may depend on the actions pursued by archivists to bring archival representation system up to date to reflect the dynamic and multi-faceted digital reality. New technologies have changed the traditional archival system and digitized and born digital repositories have grown rapidly, raising an interest in organizing digital repositories. In this electronic era, computer hard drive has taken the place of file cabinet and more and more records have been created and stored digitally, reflecting

the image of archives of the future. Archives of the future will organize records in a different way and will not support physical files.

The simple definition of archive is the place where old things live. The archive is a place constituted of memories and yet, paradoxically it is also constitution of memory. Without archives, we cannot record memories; they have to be mediated through archives before they can be recalled. Our power of recall is contingent on how well we have classified and preserved the past in our archives (Narayan, 2013).

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) is an independent non-governmental, non-profit making organization centrally located in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Set up in 1993, RCSS is engaged in activities ranging from collaborative research, dialogue and networking, interacting with similar organizations on key regional and international issues relating to security, stability, conflict resolution, confidence building and regional cooperation and provides services of a Library with a wide selection of books and modern facilities for access to information. RCSS library maintains an extensive collection of electronic repository (e-repository) on South Asian Security Studies. The library of RCSS has created a blog (<http://kamani-strategicstudies.blogspot.com/>) on Strategic Studies and a Digital Reference Library Portal on South Asian Strategic Studies and International Relations (<http://rcss.asia/>) to provide effective information services regionally and globally. Based on the author's experience, this paper briefly reviews literature to demonstrate the importance of blogs in libraries.

RCSS library has created a blog and knowledge portal as a platform for online repository on South Asian security studies and International Relations. In contrast, a knowledge portal can be defined as a web page that provides an entry point to the Internet or Intranet. It supports working, learning,

teaching, research, and development. RCSS library knowledge portal has covered 35 research areas in the field of strategic studies and international relations. Further it has given annotations of the publications where users can decide whether the particular piece of information is relevant to their research study or not. In brief, it saves users' time and can access at anywhere anytime without any geographical barrier. The RCSS blog statistics reveal that 87,000+ users have accessed the blog within 2 years time.

Ms. Chamila RAJAPATHIRANA

National Archives of Sri Lanka: Managing Collection for the Future

Archives are builders of a nation. It is the duty of an archivist to take necessary actions to preserve valuable records for future generations. Some Western countries have already taken steps to preserve the documents by using modern techniques. The objectives of this paper are to discuss the present situation of the Department of National Archives of Sri Lanka and to highlight the future course it is to take in relation to modernization activities carried out by the department under the topics archives administration, records management, preservation of records and access to records.

Towards this end, the historical background of the Department of National Archives of Sri Lanka will be discussed from the origin of records keeping up to the establishment of a proper institutional structure. Furthermore, restructuring activities of the department along with major activities the department intends to carry out in future will be elaborated on.

Dr. Kavan U. RATNATUNGA

Digital Archives of Newspapers and Books of Sri Lanka

The role of archives is changing. It is no longer sufficient to just preserve documents so that a researcher can visit a national archive, access the book or newspaper, to look through it, and find the facts of interest. In the modern age, one expects to be able to find these same facts, instantly via few keywords, with an online search engine, at any time, from any place from which one can connect to the Internet.

This is the first era, when being able to do that was even considered possible, but we now almost take it for granted. Most of us are even losing the art and patience of finding the facts the old way by archival reference. If the facts are not online, they will soon be lost and rarely referenced.

The solution to the problem is to put all available archives online. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software is improving and the cost of online disk storage and Internet access is rapidly going down. Many large digital archives are a reality in the West, and it is important that South Asia is not left behind.

Many local Newspapers went online soon after the birth of the World Wide Web, 20 years ago, and Sri Lanka was linked properly to Internet in 1995. However how many of them have complete archives online? As a result of rapidly changing technology and software the older editions are being lost without any appreciation of the importance of keeping them online. Web developers find the reference links put to these stories get suddenly broken. Content management of a website to ensure pages will remain online over the long term, needs to be carefully planned and designed.

Public domain books are another important archival source. Many of them are getting scanned and put online. Rather than a labour intensive scanning process of manually turning pages of an original, it is simpler to cut up a reprint and feed it to an automated scanner and OCR. However, a copyright is then granted to the publisher who reprinted the public domain book and it remains outside full view on the Internet.

I will discuss how the Sunday Times, which has been on web since 1996, has been able to maintain online, the oldest complete newspaper web archive in Sri Lanka. I will also discuss how many Government documents in the public domain are now hidden from full online view, by a strict interpretation of the copyright Law. An association like SAARC can help resolve the copyright issues, so that Public domain archival documents are freely available on the Internet.

Mr. Raju RIMAL and Mr. Jyoti NEUPANE

The National Archives of Nepal, Its Challenges and the Way-Forward

Nepal has been struggling to settle her political turmoil with many other cross-cutting issues since the movement of 2006. Constituent assembly failed to draft a constitution and the next election of the constituent assembly is yet to be held. The impact of this transition is felt all over the nation and no institution can be found that has not directly or indirectly being affected by this political instability.

The National Archives is one of the sub-systems of the whole system of Nepal. Therefore, it has also been facing difficulties over different aspects of the modern archival

management system such as forming and amending institutions, ensuring efficient and effective public service delivery, addressing the emerging challenges of record system, transforming conventional archives to digital, advancing the traditional storage system, implementing new innovations for the betterment of Archives and of course developing the human resource for effective conservation of old and rare global assets of documentary heritage.

Even the overall environment is not supportive to enhance the activities of the National Archives (NA). There exist some regulatory institutional frameworks such as Interim Constitution of Nepal (2006), Archives Preservation Act (1989) and Archives Preservation Rule (2006), Good Governance (Management and Operation) Act (2006), Right to Information Act (2007) and Right to Information Rules (2009), which are guiding the NA to perform its duty and to be transparent and accountable to the people seeking access to information preserved in the collection of the NA.

In this background, the paper will be divided into four sections. An introduction to the collection, functions and duties of the NA will be given in the first section. The process of collecting the documents, storage and preservation system and the legal procedures to get service from the NA will be discussed in the second section. Acting legal institutions and the provisions and guidelines within these institutions will be discussed in the third section. Finally, existing problems, challenges and the way-forward to address the challenges will be discussed in the last section.

Mr. Ibrahim WAHEED "Ogaru", Kalaavehi
*Archives in the Maldives: A Concerned Man's Quest for
National Memory*

In a quest to find out answers to some ordinary questions about the National Archives of the Maldives, some issues of extraordinary importance and some startling facts were revealed.

The quest sought answers to the following:

- Law on archives in the Maldives, and whether this law covers all aspects of international best practices on archives, and if so, in what manner?
 - a. If the relevant Act covers archiving of documentary, audio/visual/audio-visual, and electronic material, and how this Act covers future plans and in what manner?
 - b. If current practice in the Maldives complies with existing laws/regulations on the administration and maintenance of archives and how does reality match with the requirements of the law?
- What are the main challenges faced by the National Archives in the Maldives?
- What are the future plans for the development of National Archives in the Maldives?
- What sort of assistance is required from within and outside the Maldives for the development of National Archives? And if required, in what areas?
- How does the National Archives fit into the organizational structure of the Ministry of

Transport and Communications and what are the complexities arising from the same?

Dr. C. Saroja WETTASINGHE

Archives: Road to the Future

This paper will primarily be concerned about the present situation of archives with special emphasis on the SAARC region. The future and way forward for archives will be discussed accordingly giving special attention to the management systems.

Despite the prevalence of legal frameworks to govern and manage archives, there arise hardships in the practical management of archives. Therefore, such frameworks need to be strengthened with a view to empower authorities that carry out respective legislation and penalties should be introduced for violations. Furthermore, attention should be paid to legislation that deals with new forms of records. Accrual standards should be developed for traditional, audio-visual and digital archival records in the SAARC region and proper guidelines should be introduced for the accrual process.

Additionally, it is important to explore the possibility of using a common software such as ICA AtOM for the management of archives in the SAARC region by means of introducing databases and new methods for indexing and making summaries. Preservation and conservation of archives should be done taking into consideration the existence of electronic formats.

In a digital era where right to information is dominating popular discourse with a growing call for liberalization of information, it is important to alter the

traditional ways of accessing archives by utilizing the new formats and introducing new methods to access archival records. In order to develop such methods and techniques for the preservation and management of archives, infrastructure of respective National Archives and their human resources should be upgraded.

In drawing a conclusion, the paper will discuss a mechanism to tackle the challenges of the new digital era where access to archival material will be through the World Wide Web, immaterial of the formats and the location of the archives.

Dr. K.D.G. WIMALARATNE

Challenges Faced by Archivists and Record Managers in the Management of Electronic Records of Public Institutions

The increasing use of electronic records in public institutions has created many problems for both creators and users. Various types of hardware and software have made matters worse. Even though the use of digitization methods for access, space saving and preservation is considered as a panacea, the management of on- line, near –line and off –line current electronic records have posed more challenges than solving their management problems.

In this context, Archivists are called upon to play a dual role as record managers and Archivists in the management of current electronic records. Are they ready for this?

Electronic records are inherently sensitive, get obsolete with changing technology, have a short life span and can easily, willfully and accidentally be destroyed, erased, modified and manipulated. Therefore for an Archivist, there is

always the question of what the original and copy of a digital document is. Also what is worth preserving as an archive prompts the question as to whether the document/s in question is/are authentic and whether they have evidential value.

A series of other questions also have entered the world of the Archivist in a gradually digitizing world. Is the long standing life- cycle concept of the records challenged? Do Archivists have to re-modify their strategies? Should the present standards of Archivists be changed? Are the traditional evidential and informational appraisal values still applicable in appraisal? What are the new appraisal standards? When do Archivists appraise electronic records? Is it at the “Conception” stage or later? Is the traditional five levels of description valid for electronic records? Is a more organized, integrated and standardized system necessary? What are the legal grounds for the use of digitization in public offices?

Even though the migration from analogue to digital seems easy on the surface, these long term problems have to be addressed before undergoing a complete transformation in archiving methods. Towards this end, the theoretical principles of archiving should be re-formatted not refined; traditional Archival theories on appraisal should be improved, not completely set aside. Indeed, the new changes only pertain to strategy and planning.

Please Do Not Allow Digits To Become Dust.

The Archives and the SAARC

An Exhibition of Historical Documents and Archival Photographs

The South Asian region represents a vast cultural continuum. Its Member States – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – are bound by the ties of common history, religion, cultural traditions, and values. As premier cultural institutions, the archival repositories of the SAARC Member States contain a rich repertoire of original sources representative of the history and culture of that country.

As an associated activity of this Conference, an Exhibition of digital prints of historical documents and photographs of archival value in South Asia will be mounted at the Conference venue.

The Exhibition showcases selections from the historical documents and photographs of archival value that are the best examples of the documentary heritage of the Member States. For this purpose, each Member State was requested to select at least 5 exhibits (3 documents and 2 photographs), that are the best representative of their archival collection.

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Post-Conference Tour

Galle



Galle, the southern capital of Sri Lanka, features a curious and intriguing blend of history and modernity. Dutch presence in the city can still be experienced almost in the pristine form along with the cozy comforts of contemporary life and the many amenities it has to offer. Aptly declared a UNESCO world

heritage site, Galle is also blessed liberally with nature's grace that has found the most magnificent expression in the glorious coastal belt of Unawatuna. Colonial remnants of the city can be found in the Galle Fort, St. Mary's Cathedral and, in a more oblique form, the Galle International Stadium whose existence owes to the lasting British imprint of cricket.

Martin Wickramasinghe Folk Museum, Koggala



Martin Wickramasinghe was an illustrious Sri Lankan author whose works served to expose to the world the beauty and rural appeal of Sri Lankan life. Born on

May 29, 1890, Wickramasinghe spent his childhood and adolescence in Koggala, which is a mere 15 minute drive from Galle. The house in which he lived has been preserved thanks largely to the aesthetic sensitivities of a female officer of the British Royal Air Force, who during the Second World

War requested the house be spared abolition for a proposed sea plane fleet and made it her official residence.

The house boasts a Hall of Life that depicts Wickramasinghe's years through photographs. A museum was added recently which features a private collection of folk cultural artifacts of the renowned author. The expansive garden and the scenic appeal of the general surroundings of the house provide valuable insight into the inspiration Wickramasinghe must have received at a young age that made him a great teller of the story of rural Sri Lanka.

Unawatuna Beach



Famous for its splendid array of colours and precious corals, the Unawatuna beach continues to capture the interest of thousands of tourists throughout the year. Boasting a rich heritage of bio-diversity, this coastline

offers its best from October through April during which time the waves merge with the heavens and monsoons will have moved away.

Maritime Museum



This museum provides valuable, and rare, information on the biological and anthropological aspects of the southern coastal area. Opened to the public on 9th May 1992, the Maritime Museum boasts extensive information on *inter*

alia evolution of fishing communities, techniques of fishing, and the coastal eco system with its flora and fauna. It was severely damaged by the Tsunami wave that hit Sri Lanka in December, 2004 and was reconstructed with the aid of the Royal Government of Netherlands under the Sri Lanka-Netherlands Cultural Cooperation Programme.

Galle Fort



Named as a UNESCO world heritage site for its “urban ensemble which illustrates the interaction of European architecture and South Asian traditions from the 16th to the centuries,” Galle Fort’s overwhelmingly European ambience is perfectly juxtaposed with the vibes of Sri Lankan life that pulse through the hustle of everyday activity. Built originally by the Portuguese in 1588 and fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century, the Fort today is home to a host of luxurious hotels and inns. It has become a major tourist attraction not only because of its architectural marvel and historic worth, but also because it now serves as a perfect place to shop, eat, and enjoy a panoramic view of the endless Indian Ocean.

Programme

Day 1: Tuesday, 3 December 2013

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|----------------------|--|
| 09.00 – 11.00 | Inaugural Session |
| 09.00 – 09.30 | Registration (Ground Floor) |
| 09.30 | Arrival of the Chief Guest |
| 09.30 – 09.40 | Inauguration of Exhibition and Poster Display (Main Foyer) |
| 09.40 – 09.45 | Arrival of the Chief Guest in the Auditorium; Announcement for/ Lighting of the Lamp |
| 09.45 – 09.50 | Welcome Address by Mr. G.L.W. Samarasinghe, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre |
| 09.50 – 10.15 | Keynote Address: Mr. G.P.S.H. De Silva, Former Director, National Archives, Sri Lanka |
| 10.15 – 10.25 | Address by the Chief Guest |
| 10.25 – 10.30 | Vote of Thanks by Ms. Soundarie David Rodrigo, Deputy Director, Programme, SAARC Cultural Centre |
| 10.30 – 10.35 | Group Photograph |
| 10.35 – 11.00 | Tea |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Academic Session – 1: Introduction Chaired by Mr G.L.W. Samarasinghe |
| 11:00 – 11:10 | Introduction of the Conference theme by Dr. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director, Research, SAARC Cultural Centre and Convener of the Conference |
| 11:10 – 11:40 | Paper 1: Saroja Wettasinghe (Sri Lanka) <i>Archives: the Road to the Future</i> |
| 11:40 – 11:50 | Discussion |
| 11:50 – 12:20 | Paper 2: James Nye (USA) <i>Digital Archives of South Asia</i> |
| 12:20 – 12:30 | Discussion and Chairperson's remarks |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch |
| 13.30 – 15.30 | Academic Session – 2: Country Reports (India and Sri Lanka) Chaired by Mr. Wadudul Bari Chowdhury |

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| 13.30 – 14.00 | Paper 3: M.A. Haque (India) <i>Public Record Act and Access to Records in National Archives of India</i> |
| 14.00 – 14.10 | Discussion |
| 14.10 – 15.10 | Paper 4: Dilini Anthony Liyanage, Subodha Ellawala, H.M. Deepani, Sagara Wijesiri, Urane Atukorala and Mahinda Dharmasiri (Sri Lanka) <i>National Archives, Sri Lanka: Digital Initiatives</i> |
| 15:10 – 15:20 | Discussion |
| 15:20 – 15:30 | Chairperson's remarks |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Tea |
| 16.00 – 17.00 | Round Table 1: Managing Digital Records: Rhetoric vis-à-vis Practice. Chaired by Dr. James Nye (Digital South Asia Library) |
| End of Academic Sessions for Day 1 | |

Day 2: Wednesday, 4 December 2013

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| 9.00 – 11.00 | Academic Session – 3: Country Reports (Bangladesh and Bhutan) Chaired by Prof. K.D. Parnanavitana |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Paper 5: Wadudul Bari Chowdhury (Bangladesh) <i>Future of Archives & Archives of Future: Perspective Bangladesh</i> |
| 09:30 – 09:40 | Discussion |
| 09:40 – 10:20 | Paper 6: Kunzang Delek (Bhutan) <i>Past, Present and Future of Archival Records of Bhutan</i> |
| 10:20 – 10:30 | Discussion |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Tea |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Academic Session – 4: Country Reports (Nepal and Maldives) Chaired by Dr. SinhaRaja Tamitta-Delgoda |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Paper 7: Raju Rimal and Jyoti Neupane (Nepal) |

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| | <i>The National Archives of Nepal: Its challenges and the Way Forward</i> |
| 11:30 – 11:40 | Discussion |
| 11:40 – 12:20 | Paper 8: Ibrahim Waheed "Ogaru", Kalaavehi (Maldives) <i>Archives in the Maldives: A Concerned Man's Quest for National Memory</i> |
| 12:20 – 12:30 | Discussion and Chairperson's remarks |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 14:50 | Academic Session – 5: Digital Preservation of Conventional Archives: Democratising and Privileging Chaired by Mr. Ibrahim Waheed "Ogaru", Kalaavehi |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Paper 9: K.D. Parnanavitana (Sri Lanka) <i>TANAP Initiative and the Shared Archives for South Asia</i> |
| 14:00 – 14:10 | Discussion |
| 14:10 – 14:40 | Paper 10: K.D.G. Wimalaratne (Sri Lanka) <i>Challenges faced by the Archivist in Managing Digital Records</i> |
| 14:40 – 14:50 | Discussion and Chairperson's remarks |
| End of Academic Sessions for Day 2 | |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | Visit to the National Museum, Colombo |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Tea at the National Museum. |

Day 3: Thursday, 5 December 2013

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| 09:00 – 11:00 | Academic Session – 6: Future of the Conventional Archives (including paper, film and sound) in Digital Age Chaired by Dr. K.D.G. Wimalaratne |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Paper 11: Tahmina Akter (Bangladesh) <i>Digital Preservation of Archival Material</i> |
| 09:30 – 09:40 | Discussion |
| 09:40 – 10:20 | Paper 12: Asma Ferdousi (Bangladesh) <i>Future of Conventional Archives in Digital Age: Bangladesh Perspective</i> |

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|----------------------|---|
| 10:20 – 10:30 | Discussion and Chairperson's remarks |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Tea |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Academic Session – 6: Future of the Conventional Archives (including paper, film and sound) in Digital Age (Contd.) |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Paper 13: Chamila Rajapathirana (Sri Lanka) <i>National Archives, Sri Lanka: Managing Collection for Future</i> |
| 11:30 – 11:40 | Discussion |
| 11:40 – 12:20 | Paper 14: Kavan U. Ratnatunga (Sri Lanka) <i>Digital Archives of Newspapers and Books of Sri Lanka</i> |
| 12:20 – 12:30 | Discussion and Chairperson's remarks |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 14:50 | Academic Session – 7: Digital Archives: Emerging Trends Chaired by Dr. Sanjay Garg |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Paper 15: Daya Dissanayake (Sri Lanka) <i>Creative Commons and the Future of Archives</i> |
| 14:00 – 14:10 | Discussion |
| 14:10 – 14:40 | Paper 16: Kamani Perera (Sri Lanka) <i>The Application of Web 2.0 Technology in Digital Archival Repositories: View from Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo</i> |
| 14:40 – 14:50 | Discussion and Chairperson's remarks |
| 14:50 – 15:00 | Collection of the Feedback Forms |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Tea |
| 15:30 – 16:30 | Round Table 2: Access to Archives in Information Age: Risks and Responsibilities, User Management, and Right to Privacy Chaired by Mrs. G.R. Ranawaka (National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka) |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | Plenary Session. Jointly Chaired by Dr. Sanjay Garg and Dr. Saroja Wettasinghe |
| 17:30 – 18:30 | Valedictory Session |

Programme

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 17:30 – 17:50 | Concluding Remarks by the Participants |
| 17:50 – 18:00 | Award of Certificates and Mementos to delegates and participants |
| 18:00 – 18:10 | Concluding Remarks by the Chief Guest |
| 18:10 – 18:20 | Concluding Remarks by Mr. G.L.W. Samarasinghe, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre |
| 17:20 – 18:30 | Vote of Thanks by Dr. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director – Research, SAARC Cultural Centre |

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| 20:00 onwards | Cultural Show and Farewell Dinner Hosted by the Director, SAARC Cultural Centre |
|----------------------|---|

Day 4: Friday, 6 December 2013

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|----------------------|---|
| 08:00 – 20:00 | Field Trip to Galle |
| 08:00 | Leave to Galle |
| 09:30 | Visit Maritime Museum, Galle |
| 10:30 | Tea at the Maritime Museum, Galle |
| 11:00 | Visit Galle National Museum |
| 12:00 | Leave to Koggala |
| 12:30 | Visit to and Lunch at Martin Wickramasinghe Folk Museum Complex |
| 15:00 | Leave to Residence of the Governor, Southern Province, Galle |
| 15:30 | Reception at the Governor's Residence |
| 16:15 – 18:15 | Visit to Galle Fort/ Shopping |
| 18:20 | Leave to Colombo |
| 20:00 | Arrive in Colombo |

Summary

Academic Sessions (7) – 17papers

Day 1

Academic Session – 1: Introduction: Chaired by Mr. G.L.W. Samarasinghe

Academic Session – 2: Country Reports (India and Sri Lanka): Chaired by Mr. Wadudul Bari Chowdhury

Round Table 1: Managing Digital Records: Rhetoric vis-à-vis Practice: Chaired by Dr. James Nye (Digital South Asia Library)

Day 2

Academic Session – 3: Country Reports (Bangladesh and Bhutan): Chaired by Prof. K.D. Paranavitana

Academic Session – 4: Country Reports (Nepal and Maldives): Chaired by Dr. SinhaRaja Tammita-Delgoda

Academic Session – 5: Digital Preservation of Conventional Archives: Democratising and Privileging Chaired by Mr. Ibrahim Waheed "Ogaru", Kalaavehi

Day 3

Academic Session – 6: Future of the Conventional Archives (including paper, film and sound) in Digital Age: Chaired by Dr. K.D.G. Wimalaratne

Academic Session – 7: Digital Archives: Emerging Trends Chaired by Dr. Sanjay Garg

Round Table 2: Access to Archives in Information Age: Risks and Responsibilities, User Management, and Right to Privacy: Chaired by Mrs. G.R. Ranawaka (National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka)

Plenary Session (1)

Jointly Chaired by Dr. Sanjay Garg and Dr. Saroja Wettasinghe

All Resource Persons and the Chairpersons of the Academic Sessions will be the Members of the Plenary Committee, which will summarise the main suggestions emerging out of the deliberations and prepare a document laying out a road-map in the form of recommendations for the SAARC Member States.

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Colombo: ‘The Host City’

Colombo is the largest city of Sri Lanka and is the commercial capital of the country. Its fame was known to the ancient world due to its large harbour and its strategic position along the East-West sea trade routes. The city is home to a majority of Sri Lanka's corporate offices, restaurants and entertainment venues.

Places of Interest in Colombo

National Museum

Established on 1 January 1877, the National Museum was originally known as the Colombo museum. Sir William Henry Gregory, British Governor to Ceylon at the time, was responsible for the inception of the museum.



Under Dr. P.E.P. Deraniyagala the Colombo Museum earned the status of a national museum and branches of it were opened in Jaffna, Kandy and Ratnapura. In 1942 the Department of National Museums was established and the number of branch museums has increased to nine hence. The ground floor of the National Museum has its galleries arranged in chronological order and those in the upper floors are arranged on a thematic basis.

Galle Face Green

Galle Face Green is a promenade stretching out for half a kilometer along the coast of Colombo. Sir Henry Ward, the then Governor of British Ceylon, initially laid out the

promenade in 1859, which was originally meant to be used for horse racing and as a golf course. The largest open space in Colombo, Galle Face Green is a popular destination for children, vendors, teenagers, lovers, kite flyers, merrymakers and all those who want to indulge in their favorite pastimes next to the sea under the open sky. The promenade is flanked by two of Sri Lanka's oldest hotels namely the Kingsbury (Ceylon Inter-Continental) Hotel and the Galle Face Hotel. The Galle Face Green is administered and maintained by the Urban Development Authority (UDA) of Sri Lanka.



Kelaniya Temple

Situated about six miles from Colombo, the Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara is a prominent Buddhist site in Sri Lanka, consecrated by a visit of the Buddha, chronicles record, in response to an invitation by the Naga King Mani Akkita to expound the Dhamma. The *Sthupa* of the temple contains sacred hairs of the Buddha and other utensils, making it an object of veneration among Buddhists. The original *Sthupa*, however, was destroyed by foreign invaders and what could be seen today is a re-construction of the original model by King Devanampiyatissa's brother Uttiya who is believed to have also built the first Quarters of the Monks (Sanghawasa) there.



Gangaramaya

The Gangaramaya temple is situated on the bank of Beira Lake, within the city limits of Colombo. It is both a *Seema Malaka* – an assembly hall for monks – and a vocational training institute. Founded by one of the country’s most celebrated



Buddhist monks Venerable Hikkaduwe Sri Sumanagala Nayaka Thera, the Gangaramaya has served Buddhism for over 120 years. Sri Sumangala Thera was also central to the inception of the Vidyodaya Pirivena, an institute of higher education for Buddhist monks later turned to a state university. The temple today is internationally recognized for the availability of sacred Buddhist scriptures, artifacts, etc. it offers.

Wolvendaal Church



The oldest Dutch reformed church in Colombo, Wolvendaal Church is a haven of tranquility amidst the hustle and bustle of Pettah. Commonly known as the “Old Dutch Church” it is a magnificent piece of Dutch architecture with some interesting old graves.

Mayurapathi Amman Kovil, Wellawatte



Marking the presence of Hinduism in the country, Mayurapathi Amman kovil stands as one of the most important places of worship for Hindus. Positioned in Wellawatte,

the kovil is attended by many Hindus with deep devotion and religiosity. The kovil has major Pujas and festivals.

Dawatagaha Mosque



One of the oldest mosques in Sri Lanka, Dawatagaha Mosque has a history of nearly 200 years. It is situated in Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo. Roughly two centuries ago, a lamp was lit at the mosque's premises after the discovery of the burial place of an Arab saint.