



Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust

ANNUAL REPORT '06-'07





ROJA MUTHIAH  
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST





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## Main Objective of the Trust

To undertake and enable development of research libraries and archives relating to south Indian studies with a view to serve the needs of scholars; to preserve and conserve documents of value for research; to gather and generate knowledge about libraries and archives; to disseminate that knowledge; to train librarians and archivists; to engage in international collaborative efforts for the betterment of services to readers; and to engage in research in the areas of humanities and social sciences.



## We acknowledge with gratitude the support of

Library of Congress, New Delhi and Washington D.C.

University of Chicago, USA

Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, Kolkatta

German Consulate, Chennai

Francke Foundation, Halle, Germany

University of Wisconsin, USA

Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

Center for Research Libraries, USA

Chennai Heritage, Chennai

State Bank of India, Tidel Park Branch, Chennai

Mr. M V Subbiah, Chennai

Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan, Chennai

Mr. Moses Gladson, Coonoor

and all the donors who have generously supported the library



## Annual Report Narrative

In the Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL), the word Library has an inclusive meaning. It is an archive and also a library. Owing to the nature of the collection it continues to be a reference library though. 2006-07 is yet another year of developments. RMRL has set up a research centre, namely the Indus Research Centre with the collection of Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan, an expert in Indus Script. He has agreed to be the Honorary consultant of the Centre. The Library continues to be supported by the South Asia Union Catalogue Project and a few smaller projects for preservation. There are plans to take the functioning of the library from a project based funding to a sustainable model. The service rendered by the library has proved that there is a potential to raise funds through outsourcing other libraries documentation, preservation and digitization work.

The trustees meet quarterly to decide the activities and the direction of the library. The monthly lectures have been streamlined and more activities like running exhibitions and seminars are being planned.

RMRL Trust applied for a permanent registration number with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Foreign division and it has been granted. Now the Library can receive contributions from foreign sources too. 80G Exemption has been given by the Department of Income Tax. RMRL has received some donations by cash and kind.

The RMRL pays a monthly rent to the Local Library Authority. The Trustees have presented a request to the Minister of School Education, Tamilnadu Government to let the building on a long lease so that RMRL could expand further. The Minister has promised to support this cause.

There were many new insights, learning experiences and also challenges that the library faced during this year. Insights like the possibility of running thematic workshops, seminars and exhibitions did come up. In October 2006, monsoon posed a challenge. Fortunately the water did not enter the Library building though there was water logging outside the building. Necessary precautions were taken round the clock during this time. The media was brought and the problem was highlighted to the local authorities based on which some action was taken. Electricity is a major factor that continues to be a challenge.

Library surveys conducted by the RMRL team has proved that there is much more documentation to be done. RMRL has received large volume of books through gifts and donations. Publishers, editors and authors continue to support by sending copies of their publication.

The services of RMRL can be seen as Documentation, Reprographic services, Reference services and Extension activities. The activities of each of these services are presented in a narrative format in this annual report.

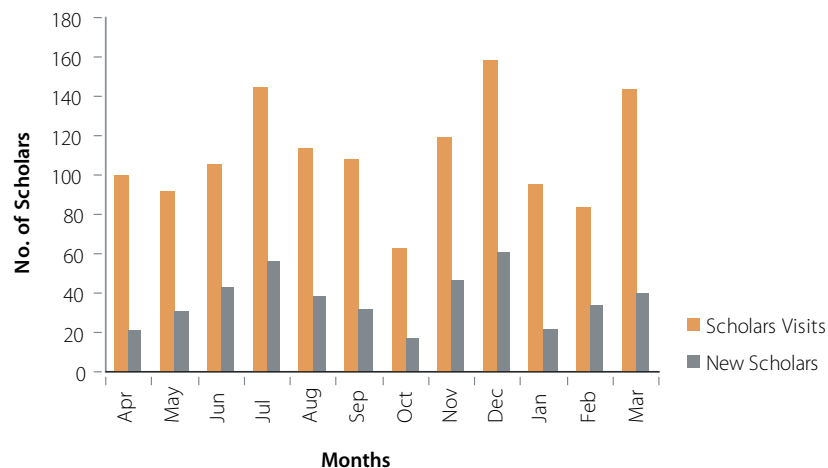




## Reference Services and Acquisitions

The Library continues to enjoy an increasing patronage from users. This is considered to be the most important of RMRL's services. There has been a 25% increase in the usage of the service from last year. So there is an upward movement in the graph over the years. The users are research scholars – M. Phil., Doctoral, post doctoral; writers; journalists and the general public. The library therefore is meant for all and functions in the spirit of a Public Library. As the library caters to a gamut of social science subjects, the maximum researched areas are Tamil literature, history, folklore and popular culture. Tamil films continue to be a topic of interest for many scholars. Interdisciplinary research is also on the increase. The areas that are less utilized are in the fields of anthropology, sociology, fine arts and psychology. A fund of secondary source material including theoretical texts lies in the collection. Scholars continue to use the library's reprographic services. Though microfilms remain as archivists passion scholars prefer only digital images or print copies. The staff at the reference desk has been hopping to carry out the task with deadlines from scholars as there is an increase in the demand for more material. The Library has acquired a mine of material both rare and contemporary items. Notably, the newspapers, journals and dissertations from the University of Madras, has been acquired. A huge collection of printed books in English related to south Indian studies by South Asian scholars have been gifted by the University of Chicago Library. Bernard Cohn, A. K. Ramanujan, Milton Singer and Dimmock's collection's are a part of this gift. The library is seen as a repository library by publishers. As a result there is an increase in the number of publishers depositing their books with the RMRL. A graphical representation of the number of visits can be seen from the illustration given below.

### Scholars visits to RMRL in 2006 - 2007 - An Overview



## Acquisitions

Books	3499
Periodicals (issues)	4195
Single sheet material*	1940
Others**	506
Dissertations	651
Cassettes	6
Sound recordings	160
Tapes	27
CDs	18
Posters	71
Documentary films (CDs/DVDs)	5
Documents (CDs/DVDs)	16

## Cataloguing

Madras Presidency quarterly list	6357
Books – RMRL	3453
Books - Other Libraries	7461
Audio spools	369

## Reprographics

(Microfilming, Duplication and Digitization)

Microfilmed	14
Duplicated	112
Digitized	12848

\*Invitations, Handbills, Posters...

\*\*Pamphlets, Booklets, Clippings...



## Donors \* (Print / audio records)



*Jacket of a Gramophone Record  
- from the film  
Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje*

### Individuals

Mr. Anantasundararajan Po. Ve  
Ms. Annapoorani Veerappan  
Mr. Balasubramaniam, T. R  
Mr. Durairajan, I  
Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan  
Mr. Jaisakthivel, J  
Dr. Kalam, M. A  
Mr. Kumar, V  
Mr. Lakshamanan, M  
Mr. Manavalan  
Mr. Kavignar Tamiloviyar  
Ms. Muthumalathi  
Mr. Narasiah, K. R. A  
Mr. Pala. Palaniyappan  
Mr. Prabhakaran  
Mr. Prakash, R  
Mr. Ramanathan  
Mr. Senthoo Pandian  
Dr. Sumathi Ramaswamy  
Mr. Sundar, G  
Ms. Suvidha, S  
Mr. Swaminathan  
Mr. Theodore Baskaran, S  
Mr. Thirunavukarasu  
Mr. Vasudevan, P. R  
Mr. Vikraman  
Dr. Vincent Kumaradoss  
Mr. Visweswaran, S (Chitti's collection)  
Mr. Yakkam

### Institutions & Publishers

Chatnath Trust  
Eluchi Talitmurasu  
India Today  
Kalachuvadu Pathipagam  
Kanthalam  
Katha (Ms. Pavithra Srinivasan)  
Kilakku Pathipagam  
Mullai Patipakam  
Tamil Man Patipakam  
University of Chicago Library

\* This list provides names of donors who have donated more than 10 items



## Documentation

RMRL's documentation work broadly falls into two categories – MARC (Machine readable) cataloguing and the indexing of periodical articles. The MARC cataloguing is performed into two levels. The first one is regular cataloguing of books acquired by the RMRL with the book in hand. The second one is retrospective conversion of printed bibliographies into searchable electronic format. So far RMRL has converted seven volumes of the Madras State Tamil Bibliography and Publications Proscribed by the Government of India by Graham Shaw. The conversion of the South Asia and Burma retrospective bibliography, Catalogue of books printed in the Madras presidency (commonly known as quarterly list) and Classified catalogue of Tamil printed books by John Murdoch is in progress. RMRL has contributed 5904 MARC records to the OCLC through the University of Chicago this year. Tamil Catalogue finds its place in the first twenty positions in the OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre is the largest electronic database in the world). RMRL continues to be a Nodal agency for the South Asian Union Catalogue project. Under this project RMRL's work involves training the cataloguers and quality control apart from documentation and preservation of its own resources. Madras Musings, a fortnightly published from Chennai is being indexed on a regular basis. Kudiyarasu, a Tamil periodical is also being indexed under a project from Centre for Periyar Studies.



*Digitizing Glass Negatives*

## Reprographic services

University of Chicago has generously supported with gifts of following reprographic equipment: a deep tank film processor, a microfilm reader, a microfiche reader and a densitometer.

RMRL has offered services to the Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal and Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, Kolkatta to duplicate and digitize their microfilm reels. RMRL has generated modest revenue towards these services. These two institutions are part of the Centre for South Asia Libraries of which RMRL is a member. RMRL also has offered its services to South Asia Microform Project at the Centre for Research Libraries. RMRL jointly with the Centre for Periyar Studies has preserved a few Tamil periodicals related to the Self Respect Movement. RMRL also has used its resources to microfilm the Madras Christian College Magazine. A near complete run of this important magazine is with the RMRL on microfilms.

The reprographics support the reference services and has brought some revenue to the library. Reference items are mostly microfilmed and digitized so that the original is not damaged.



A new facility with infrastructure to digitize audio spools and tapes have been installed in RMRL. A unique collection of spools from Mrs. Annapoorani Veerappan, Chennai were acquired to be digitized. A spool player and the necessary hardware to digitize the tapes were acquired. The collection was digitized and a copy was given to the family of Mrs. Annapoorani Veerappan. The spools and a copy of the digital version are held by RMRL for preservation.

## Workshops/Training and technical support

A workshop on cataloguing of Serials was organized at RMRL. Resource persons were brought from Library of Congress, New Delhi. Participants from Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal, Urdu Documentation Centre, Hyderabad and participants from Pune attended the programme. Another workshop on Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACRII) for cataloguing was organized at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. The same participants attended this programme. The resource persons were from RMRL.

One senior Staff was sent to Library of Congress, Washington D.C. for training. He was trained in Name Authorities. He is the first Indian from an Indian institution to be trained in this. He in turn would train other librarians in the country.

A Cataloguing manual has been compiled and posted on the web page by RMRL.

MARC records created by the participant institutions were reviewed and quality assessment was done.

A unique Marathi collection has been acquired by the University of Chicago. Staff has been recruited by UoC to take up documentation work. Training was given to the Marathi cataloguers at Pune by RMRL staff.

RMRL staff visited Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal based on their invitation to train them on reprographics. They also sent a person who was with RMRL for a month to learn the technicalities in reprographics.

## Library Surveys

The following libraries and private collections were visited by the RMRL team:

Gnanalaya, Pudukkottai, Kampan Trust, Kovilur Mutt, Hindu Matapimana Sangham, Kunrakkudi Atinam, Tulavur Adinam, Alagappa University in the Karaikkudi region, Sundararamaswamy Library, Nagercoil and Tamil Nul Kappakam, Vridhachalam. The cataloguing works were started at Gnanalaya and Kampan Trust. Nearly 9000 books were catalogued. The work needs to be continued in these regions.



Private collections were also visited – Mr. Velsamy, Dr. Perumal Murugan and Mr. Na. Pa. Ramasamy's collections in Salem. There were nearly five hundred items with Velsamy and he has agreed to give away his collection to RMRL. Ramasamy has been collecting books for nearly forty years and has a fairly large collection. This is a very important collection but remains unorganized and visited by very few scholars very rarely.

Back in Chennai, the Dr. U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer Library's collection is being catalogued. Fifty percent of the book collection has been catalogued and it has been identified that nearly 10% of unique items are there in the collection. With more staff the cataloguing work could be completed in short time.



*Indus Signs - a potsherd from Kalibangan*

## Indus Research Centre

The RMRLT has set up an Indus Research Centre (IRC) for undertaking scientific investigations into various aspects of the Harappan or Indus Civilization, especially the Indus Script, which still remains undeciphered. The Centre will function as a unit of RMRL and is open to all bona fide scholars who wish to undertake research in this field.

IRC is intended as a forum for scientific investigations without any ideological bias. To begin with, the resources at IRC will include computerized data files and photographic card catalogues gifted by Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan (a well known researcher in the Indus script, who has consented to be Honorary Consultant to the Centre), and books, monographs and research papers collected from various sources in India and abroad. RMRL already has the collection of Dr. Gift Siromoney on this subject, donated by his wife Dr. Rani Siromony. In due course, IRC hopes to build an exhaustive specialized library covering all aspects of the Indus Civilization including especially the Indus script.

In October 2006 Mr. Iravatham Mahadevan consented to give away his collection and presented the idea to set up the IRC at RMRL. RMRL organized the inauguration in a grand manner in January 2007. The inaugural address was given by Mr. Mahadevan and Mr. N. Ram presided over the function and gave the presidential address. An exhibition was also organized with displays such as the Seals and the manuscripts of Mr. Mahadevan. It was well covered by the media. Following this, an article was published in the Hindu and an interview with Mr. Mahadevan in the Himal, a South Asia magazine published from Nepal.



## Seminars / Lectures / Exhibitions

### Lectures

Twelve lectures were organized and successfully accomplished. The topics were chosen after discussing with the speakers. The speakers were from India and abroad. South Asian scholars visiting India were also invited to lecture on the topics they were researching. Freelance and young upcoming scholars were provided space to lecture at RMRL. So it is a mix of popular, senior scholars and young upcoming researchers. The speakers and the topics they talked are provided below:

Dr. A. Srivathsan (*Asst. Editor, The Hindu*) on The Future of Streets.

Prof. S. Swaminathan (*former Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi*) on Ancient Writings: Meeting Challenges.

Dr. V. Geetha (*Historian*) on Re-reading Gandhi: Issues of Gender, Caste and Faith.

S. Muthiah (*Historian*) on The Church Tradition in India: a Historical Perspective (on the occasion of the Tercentenary Celebrations of Tranquebar Mission in India).

Dr. Sumathi Ramaswamy (*Professor of History, University of Michigan, USA*) on Maps, Mother Goddesses & Martyrdom in Modern India.

Dr. R. Champakalakshmi (*formerly Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi*) on Cosmos and Territory: Symbolism and Sacred Geography of the South Indian Temple.

N. Muthuswamy (*Founder, Koothu-p-pattarai*) on Contemporary Theatre and Stage Acting.

S. Anwar (*Journalist and writer*) on Roots of Tamil Muslim Identity: An Illustrated Talk.

Indira Viswanathan Peterson (*Professor, Asian Studies Program, Mount Holyoke College, USA*) on Becoming a Chola Monarch in 19th Century Thanjavur: The Maratha Ruler Serfoji II and the Brihadisvara Temple.

Iravatham Mahadevan (*Hon.' Consultant of Indus Research Centre*), Indus Script

R. Muthukumaraswamy (*Managing Director, South India Saiva Siddhanta Works Publishing Society, Chennai*) on Printing and Publishing in Tamil

K. Venkatachalam (*Researcher*) on Weights and Measures in Indus Civilization.



*Nā. Muthuswamy, founder, Koothuppattari delivering a lecture at RMRL*



## Exhibitions

To mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of landing of two Germans namely, Ziegenbalg and Pluteush, on Indian soil, the Franke Foundation brought an exhibition of visual material to India, commemorating the three centuries of peaceful intercultural dialogue between India and Europe. The exhibition consisted of 20 exciting visuals portraying artisans at work, portraits of historical figures such as Raja Serfoji and Rev. Schwartz, water colour botanical drawings, prints of ships and woodcuts. Facsimile of the title pages of the earliest printed Tamil books and manuscripts from Tamilnadu also formed a part of the exhibition. There were also pictures of the early printing equipment. These visuals were being show caused for the first time and provided a rare peep into the 18<sup>th</sup> century Tamilnadu. The Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chennai generously supported this event. Mr. Erwin Wendland, Consul, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chennai inaugurated the exhibition on 2nd July, 2006.



*Ziegenbalg, first Protestant Missionary to land in Tamilnadu*

Another exhibition was organized by RMRL on Print Culture at the Shankara School, Thiruvannamiyur. The request came from their heritage club. Mr. P. T. Krishnan inaugurated the exhibition. Fifteen exhibits were put on display covering the topics of the evolution of script and the introduction of Print technology in India and its development over the years. There is a possibility to take this exhibition to other schools.

The third exhibition was related to the Indus scripts. It was on the day of the inauguration of the Indus research centre at RMRL. ***See the section Indus Research Centre.***




## News Items

RMRL was in the print media. Some of the dailies that covered about RMRL were The Hindu, Frontline, The New Indian Express, Dinamalar, Dinakaran. They highlighted about the various facets of the library.





Audited financial statement

Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust			
Balance Sheet As at 31.03. 2007			
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>			
Capital Fund		1,453,883	
Less: Excess of expenditure over income		(116,312)	
		<b>1,337,571</b>	
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>			
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Computers	162,298		
Furniture & Fixtures	39,643		
Other Equipment	214,208		
Exhibition material	4,307	420,456	
<b>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances</b>			
Cash & bank Balances	716,780		
Loans & Advances	195,823		
Deposits	4,512	917,115	
		<b>1,337,571</b>	
for Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust		As per our report of date	
July 6, 2007		for <b>Bhaskaran &amp; Ramesh</b>	
Chennai		Chartered Accountants	
			
	<b>Executive Trustee</b>		<b>Partner</b>



<b>Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust</b>	
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2007</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Contributions Received	3,367,095
Donations recd.	100,000
Other receipts	33
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,467,128</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Employee Expenses	1,733,573
Microfilm & Chemicals	260,212
Electricity Charges	238,896
Rent	218,772
Transportation & Freight	57,607
Travel & Conveyance Exps.	125,065
Communication Costs	66,817
Security Charges	86,066
Vehicle Maintenance	96,774
Repairs & Maintenance	166,861
Office maintenance	85,630
Printing & Stationery	72,234
Postage & Courier	52,381
Equipment Insurance	61,529
Seminar Exps.	24,551
Honararium	13,450
Advertisement Exps.	17,380
Other Administrative Exps.	32,196
General Exps.	50,206
Depreciation	123,240
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3,583,440</b>
Excess of Expenditure Over Income	<b>(116,312)</b>

for Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust

As per our report of date  
for **Bhaskaran & Ramesh**  
Chartered Accountants



Executive Trustee




Partner



## Board of Trustees

R Vijayalakshmy, *Tamil Literature*, Chennai

S Muthiah, *History, Heritage Conservation*, Chennai

M V Subbiah, *Industry*, Chennai

S Theodore Baskaran, *Cinema, Wild life*, Bangalore

M A Kalam, *Social Science*, Chennai

G Sundar, *Library & Archives*, Chennai



