

ALA

Newsletter

An organ of Assam Library Association

Volume I

Issue I

January 1999

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Reader,

I convey my greetings and good wishes to you on the occasion of publication of this newsletter—the first venture of this kind by us. Our association, some of you may not be aware, is an old one and has a record of past activities of which its members can legitimately feel proud. The association did a lot in the past for development of library culture in Assam and can claim to have spearheaded a library movement in this part of the country once. This was done under the able leadership of eminent scholars like late Maheswar Neog.

Unfortunately however, the activities of the association gradually slowed down and ultimately came to a halt. After remaining in a moribund state for quite a few years the association started functioning again in 1997 since when we have been trying to revive its activities. I must admit that we have not been able to do much till now, but I am sure that with active co-operation of all members of the association we can not only bring back our pristine glory but also give a new direction to the library movement in Assam. Let us all

devote ourselves to this task. At the same time, let us also do a little introspection to find out why our association lapsed into a dormant stage and guard ourselves against such a situation occurring again.

It is high time that the libraries of Assam be modernised to cope with the changes that are taking place in the present times. As against the traditional role of libraries as conduits of knowledge, libraries of to-day have to serve for both knowledge and information. Acknowledging this need library science has been broadened into Library and Information Science. With the advent of the electronic information system we are witnessing an explosion of information and we find that Information Technology has engulfed every walk of life. To-day's libraries therefore, must play the role of information centres in addition to their traditional role. The Assam Library Association should take the responsibility of finding ways and means for bringing the desirable changes in our libraries. I call upon every member of the association to give some thoughts to this challenge and send suggestions to help us in formulating a plan of action.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- N.K.Choudhury

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ASSAM LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE HELD

A special conference of Assam Library Association (ALA) was held on February 22, 1997 at Guwahati. The ALA established in 1938 was inactive for a long time and this special conference was the result of efforts made from different angles, individuals and library associations. The Gauhati Library Association was trying to activate the ALA since its inception in 1993 by various means specially generating public opinion for ALA's revival.

A total of 140 delegates from all over Assam participated in the Conference.

An Executive Body with the following office bearers was formed in the conference.

President:	Dr N.K.Choudhury, Ex. Vice Chancellor, GU
Working President :	Prof. Bhadra Borah,
Vice Presidents :	Prof. N.N.Sharma, Shri Mahendra Nath Borah,
General Secretary :	Dr. Narendra Lahkar,
Office Secretary :	Sri Chakrapani Medhi.
Asstt. Gen Secretaries:	Sri W.S. Debnath Sri Ramesh Ch Goswami
Treasurer :	Dr. R.K.Barman

Members:

Prof. Alaka Buragohain, Sri Bhupen Goswamee, Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Sri Prakash Gogoi, Sri Hemanta Gohain, Sri Ranjit Rajbongshi, Sri Priyabrata Sanyal, Ms Gitasri Bordoloi, Sri Bhrigu Ram Bharali, Sri Bibhujit Patwari, Sri Dinesh Patwari, Sri Uttam Kumar Barua, Sri Khargeswar Bora.

CONVENORS OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF ALA

Ranjit Rajbongshi (Nagaon), Sudhin Dutta (Nalbari) Prakash Gogoi (Dibrugarh), Chakrapani Medhi (Barpeta), J.A Md. Iqbal (Mangaldoi) Srimanta Madhav Bora (Golaghat), Rajendra Nath Sarma (Sibsagar), Bibhuti Choudhury (Silchar), Hemanta Gohain (Jorhat), Dharanidhar Das (Dhubri), Rajini Kanta Barman (Goalpara), Manik Bora (Lakhimpur), Bhaskar Barua (Dhemaji), Ananda Sarma (), Wooma Shankar Debnath (Guwahati).

THE EXECUTIVE BODY OF THE GLA

President	Shri Ramesh Chandra Goswami, AAU Library Khanapara,
Vice Presidents	Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh Sri Nila Sarma,
General Secretary	Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman,
Joint Secretaries	Sri Nityananda Pathak Ms Anu Saikia,
Treasurer	Shri Wooma Shankar Devnath.

Members :

Shri Bhupen Sarma, Shri Hemanta Narayan Das, Shri Biman Das, Shri Anup Talukdar, Shri Gokul Sarma, Shri Mahesh Ch. Goswami, Shri Bidyut Patowary, Shri Dilip Kalita, Shri Nabajyoti Das, Ms Sabita Haloi, Ms Minu Devi, GS, LIS Students' Forum, GU, Ms Bina Medhi Lahkar and Ms Rupali Goswami.

LIBRARY LEGISLATION FOR ASSAM

Prof. Alaka Buragohain, President, IASLIC, Guwahati Study Circle led a delegation of senior LIS professionals to the Commissioner, Education, Govt. of Assam on January 12, 1999 and impress upon him the urgent need of a legislation of Library for Assam. The delegation also stressed the need of implementation of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 of the Govt. of India for the state of Assam. Other members of the group included the Director of Library services, Assam Sri T. Bordolo, Dr. N. Lahkar, Shri B. Sarma, Shri R. C. Goswami and Shri U. Sarma.

SILVER JUBILEE CASH PRIZE

The Silver Jubilee cash prizes of Rs.1000/- each instituted by the Deptt. of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University and approved by the GU authority were awarded by the hon'ble Vice Chancellor of GU, Prof. Hiralal Duorah to Shri Mukut Sarma and Shri Gautam Sarma for securing 1st class 1st position in MLISc and BLISc Examination, GU respectively last year on 15th May, 1998 in a meeting largely attended by LIS students and professionals of the region.

It may be mentioned here that Library and Information Science Department celebrated the Silver Jubilee with various programmes in July 3-4, in the year 1992 for its 25th year of existence. The amount for the award was received from the interest of the surplus amount of the Silver Jubilee Fund, fixed deposited in the SBI, GU. This will be a regular programme of the Department every year.

REFRESHER COURSE IN LIS

The Academic Staff College, GU will organise one need-based refresher course in LIS during 1999-2000. This will meet a long standing demand of the College Librarians whose attendance in such a course is a must for their career development under the UGC scheme. This has been desired by the DHE, Assam also.

MLISc COURSE FOR COLLEGE LIBRARIANS

The proposal for conducting MLISc course, specially for the working College Librarians whose UGC pay scale is in stagnation without incremental benefits since 1986 due to lack of PG degree has been accepted by the Faculty of Arts, GU and now in the process of finalisation.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. (Mrs) Alaka Buragohain and Dr. N.N.Sharma have been appointed as professor in the DLISc, GU. Both Prof. Buragohain and Prof. Sharma are the first professors appointed since the inception of the DLISc, GU (1967).

Dr. R.K.Barman is appointed as Reader in the same Deptt.

Dr. N.Lahkar, Reader, DLISc, GU has been appointed Deputy Director i/c, Academic Staff College, Gauhati University.

IASLIC/NISSAT ADVANCE COURSE

One advance computer training course in LIS under IASLIC/NISSAT sponsorship was organised at the DLISc, GU in March 16-27, 1998. 16 professionals having basic training on computer application in LIS attended the course. Shri S.N.Sur from New Delhi acted as Chief Resource person. The valedictory session held on March 27, 1998 was chaired by Dr. N.N.Sharma, Prof. & Head, DLISc, GU. Prof. H.L.Duorah, hon'ble Vice Chancellor distributed the certificates to the participants. Dr. N.Lahkar was the programme director.

Three basic level ILA/NISSAT computer training courses in LIS were successfully organised by the Department earlier with Prof. A Buragohain as programme director in all three courses.

ADVANCE COURSE ON CDS/ISIS AND WINISIS

The National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), New Delhi in collaboration with Institute of Information Studies (IIS), Bangalore would conduct a series of advance course of micro ISIS in four cities of the country during 1999. These workshops aimed at developing skills in the use of advance micro ISIS and the Windows versions of CDS/ISIS- WINISIS are targeted to the Information Professionals, Librarians, Scientists, etc. having extensive knowledge on basic CDS/ISIS. Prof. A Neelamegha would be the Chief Resource Person.

Date and venue

Guwahati	:	February 15-26, 1999
Bhopal	:	May 4-14, 1999
Vadodara	:	August 16-27, 1999
New Delhi	:	September 6-17, 1999

Dr. N.Lahkar is the Course Co-ordinator at Guwahati.

ILA CONFERENCE AT HYDERABAD

The 44th All India Library Conference would be held from February 25 to 28, 1999 under the auspices of Academy and Library Science and Documentation, Telegu University, Hyderabad on "Library and Information Services in the Electronic Information era." Prof. J.L.Sardana, President, ILA has cordially invited LIS professionals and others to attend this conference to share their experience with other professionals.

SEMINAR

A seminar on "New challenge for Library and Information professionals" was held on 21.3.97 at the American Centre Library, United States Information Service, Calcutta. Shri B.Goswamee, Deputy Librarian, K.K.Handique Library GU attended the seminar.

LECTURE ON RECENT TREND IN LIS

Prof. N.Laxman Rao of Osmania University, Hyderabad and Prof. R.K.Rout of Sambalpur University, Cuttack delivered two lectures on Recent Trends in LIS to the students and teachers at the DLISc, G.U. on October 26, 1998.

Prof. Alaka Buragohain, DLISc, GU delivered talks at the orientation and Refresher courses for College and University Lecturers organised by Academic Staff College, G.U., at the workshop of Scientists organised by Deptt. of Biotechnology, AAU Jorhat and at the Institute of Mass Communication, Guwahati. She highlighted the modern trends in the lectures.

Prof. N.N.Sharma, DLISc, GU delivered a lecture on Translation; an effective components of information service on November 19, 1997 in the UGC sponsored seminar "Assamese Translation Into English" in Bilasipara College.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY AT GUWAHATI

The 29th annual conference of All India Association for Educational Technology (AIAET) and International Conference on "Educational Culture in the 21st Century: Knowledge, teacher and Technology" was held in Guwahati from Jan 29-31, 1999.

STUDY CIRCLE

The 11th Study Circle of Guwahati Library Association was held in AAU Library, Khanapara on 14th November, 1998 with Shri Ramesh Chandra Goswami in the chair. Ms Manjula Das, Documentation Officer, AAU presented her paper "Periodicals: its role and increasing demands: a dilemma of the Librarians" followed by a lively discussion participated by Prof. Alaka Buragohain, Dr. Narendra Lahkar, Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman, Shri Bhupen Goswami, Shri Lakshmi Narayan Das, Shri Dilendra Goswami, Shri M.C. Bhattacharjee. Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh offered vote of thanks.

Assam Library Association

Regd. No.88 of 1964-65

C/O Dept. of Lib. & Inf. Sc., GAUHATI UNIVERSITY, Guwahati 781014 (Assam), Phone (0361)571954 |

APPLICATION FORM FOR PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership No. _____
Receipt No. _____

To
The General Secretary,
Assam Library Association, Guwahati

Dear Sir,

Please enroll me as a Patron/Life/Annual Member of the Association. I am enclosing a cheque/demand draft/ Cash for Rs..... (Rupees.....) being the requisite membership fee.

My particulars furnished below : (Please use capital letters)

Mr./Ms/Dr.Surname _____ Fore name(s) _____

Date of birth _____ Qualification : a) Academic _____ (b) Professional _____

_____ Designation _____ Experience _____

_____ Years _____ Scale of Pay _____ Office address _____

_____ PIN _____

Address for Communication _____

I have read the rules and regulations of the Association and undertake to abide by them.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Date _____

Place _____

Recommended by _____

Signature _____

Name _____

ALA's membership No. _____

For Official Use only

Form Received on _____ Subscription received on _____ Date _____ General Secretary _____

Membership granted : Yes/No _____ Membership Number _____

LIBRARIANS' DAY OBSERVED

Assam Library Association and Guwahati Library Association observed the Librarians' day on August 12, 1998 at Guwahati synchronising the birth day of Dr. S.R.Ranganathan.

Great Assamese literature Smt. Nirupama Bargohain and Prof. Bhaba Prasad Chaliha spoke in the open session as the guests of honour. Dr. Nirmal Kumar Choudhury, Ex. Vice Chancellor, GU and president of ALA presided over the meeting. Eminent Librarians Shri Kripanath Baishya and Shri Uttam Ch. Deka were felicitated on this auspicious occasion.

NEC PROJECT ON SOCIO-CULTURAL & SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE AT ITS FINAL STAGE

The major research project on Socio-Economic and Socio-Cultural life of the people of North East India in machine readable format with the financial assistance of Rs.4.95 lakhs by North East Council, Shillong attached to the DLISc, GU under the directorship of Prof. A. Buragohain is at its final stage. UNESCO's programme package CDS/ISIS which is a very powerful and sophisticated package for information retrieval has been used for creation of the database. The database will help the research scholars, decision makers, planners and in any study on NE India.

INTERNET IN GU LIBRARY

The K.K.H. Library, GU has recently extended the facility in searching with INTERNET connecting with VSNL channel. Presently, though the system has served to restricted number of users with limited databases, the library has worked out a plan to extend the services sufficiently.

An Appeal

Assam Library Association appeals to library professionals in particular and public in general to enrol themselves as Patron/Life members/Annual members of the association.

Membership fee:

Patron	Rs.3000/-
Life member	Rs. 500/-
Annual member	Rs.25/-

(Application form for membership is attached)

FID CONFERENCE HELD AT NEW DELHI

49th Conference and Congress of International Federation for Informations and Documentation (FID) was held in New Delhi on 15-17 October 1998. A seminar on "Towards the new information society of tomorrow: Innovations, challenges and Impact" was organised in this connection. Prof. Alaka Buragohain, Dr. Narendra Lahkar, Dr. R.K.Barman, Shri Sanjay Kr. Singh, Shri Tankeswar Bardoloi and Shri Mahendra Nath Borah participated from Assam.

A pre-conference seminar was also held at Jaipur on 11-14 October, 1998 and Prof. A. Buragohain presented a paper.

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Editorial Board

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