



# ALA Newsletter

(ASSAM LIBRARY ASSOCIATION)

August 12, 2009

Editors: Sri Nabajyoti Das  
Sri Dhiman Seal

## *From the editors' desk*

The services and conditions of libraries in Assam are not satisfactory. Almost all libraries of Assam have been organized and maintained by traditional methods. It is observed that users are not attracted by the libraries of the state of Assam except a few.

In case of school library we have found two pictures in our state. The services of the libraries in Central Govt. Schools, missionary schools and some schools in private sectors have emphasized on good library services and they have appointed qualified professionals for their library management. On the other hand the libraries of the schools under Govt. sector have no qualified librarian as well as required collection. These schools have some collection of books which are not for the students, but kept in the Headmaster's room or teacher's common room.

The district libraries and sub divisional libraries have neither provide documentation and information service nor have any electronic database. In this age of ICT these libraries have no access to other databases; even they are not providing internet service. Still Assam has no State Central Library. It is observed that there is no proper policy for the betterment of the public library services in Assam.

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## **Role of library association in developing library profession**

■ *Dr. Narendra Lahkar*

Association is the union of people with common goals. For the growth and development of professional activities association has to take necessary initiative which is not possible at the individual level. Library association is much for the over all development of the library profession. Such association cannot be treated as the trade unions. The basic purpose of library association is to create social awareness on the importance of library establishment, enabling users for optimum utilization of resources, flow of literary output among those who are in need of information and creating a congenial atmosphere for the knowledge workers. It provides a common platform for professionals for exchange of information, ideas, experiences and expertise for furthering the social, intellectual, scientific causes.

Library associations are organized at various geographical levels. Also associations are coming up with library system inclination, discipline inclination and so on. There are number of international, national, state and also at local levels library association. Irrespective of their area of activities, they have common goals of developing library professions for the great cause of social development.

At the national level in Indian, the Indian Association of Libraries and Information Centers (IASLIC), Kolkata is working for the right cause of librarianship by organizing number of national and regional levels programmes. Its publications in the field of LIS are immensely benefiting not only to the LIS professionals but also to the planners, decision makers, and other intellectuals. The Indian Association of Teachers in LIS, Indian Library Association and such other library association at national level doing their best for the cause of librarianship. During recent decades, in India also, various library networks mostly at the metropolitan levels are coming up. These networks, though cannot directly be categorized as library association, are extending

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## ALA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President** : Sri Bhaba Prasad Chaliha  
**Working President** : Dr. Narendra Lahkar  
**Vice President** : Sri Wooma Sankar Devnath  
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Sri Hemanta Narayan Das (Guwahati)  
Sri Uma Kanta Gogoi (Dibrugarh)  
Sri Apurba Kr. Baruah (Jorhat)  
Sri Kishore Kr. Sarma (Nagaon)  
Sri Bhaskar Barooah (Lakhimpur)

## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

*It gives me great pleasure to be with you as president of Assam Library Association since August 2004. As in the past years this time also ALA is going to Celebrate Librarians' Day with a day-long programme in the sacred memory of late Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the architect of modern library science and library services in India and has also organized the convention of ALA. We are very happy that the Indian Association of Special Library and Information Centers (IASLIC) and the Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University have come forward to cooperate with us and encouraged us to organize a symposium on 'Role of Library Associations in the Development of Libraries', which would be quite relevant for the occasion.*

*I hope that all of you the library professionals will extend your cooperation in moving towards the goal of Assam Library Association.*

Bhaba Prasad Chaliha

## Ph D AWARDED

S Kannan has been awarded Ph D by Guahati University. He carried out research under the guidance of Professor Narendra Lahkar, Head of the Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University was awarded Ph.D on the topic **Public Library system in Bhutan: A systematic approach for future development.**

Mahtab Hussian, District Librarian, Golaghat has been awarded Ph D by Guahati University. He carried out his research under the guidance of Professor Narendra Nath Sharma, Retd. Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University. His research area was - **Public libraries in a multicultural society and their role in promoting solid harmony: a critical study with special reference to Assam.**

Shri Sanjib Kumar Deka, Senior Library Information Assistant of Central Library, IIT Guwahati has been awarded Ph D by Guahati University. He carried out his research under the guidance of Professor Narendra Lahkar, Head of the Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University. His research area was **Search engines and their search performance in retrieving internet resources: an evaluative study.**

## SECRETARIAL ADDRESS

*Assam Library Association (ALA) was established in 1938 due to the relentless efforts of some individuals like Kumudesar Borthakur, Ayadhya Prasad Goswami, Benudhar Sarma, Tankeswar Chutia, Tirthnath Sarma, Suren Bharali, Purna Goswami, Harendra Nath Baruah, Gopinath Bordoloi and many others.*

*In August 12, 2003 and again in August 2004 the responsibility of the General Secretary of the ALA was vested upon me. However, I have no hesitation to accept the fact that I could not initiate some bold steps at per your aspiration in the tenure of present Executive Committee. ALA has been celebrating Librarians' Day every year (except in 2006) and organized programmes like special talk with some appointed speakers, felicitation to library professional in recognition of his contribution to the library profession.*

*To increase the organizational strength a special drive has been taken under the guidance of the President of ALA Sri Bhaba Prasad Chaliha for enrolling Life Member. To cope up with the present day situation and to re-structure the organizational pattern the Constitution of ALA is amended and passed in the General Body Meeting held in August 2004.*

*It is hoped that ALA will ultimately deliver the goods to the people of Assam as required and desired by them in the field of library services. In this eve, I would like to make an appeal to all of you the library professionals to extend a united efforts to build ALA as a common platform of all library professionals, readers and well wishers for the acceleration of the Library Movement in Assam and for upliftment of the library profession in the greater interest of the state.*

**Nabajyoti Das**

## NEWS

Professor Narendra Lahkar, Head of the Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati university is elected as the Vice President of zone 5 of the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) for three years term 2008-2010.

Professor Narendra Lahkar, Head of the Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University has taken the charge of Librarian In charge, Krishna kanta Handiqui Library of Gauhati University on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh was promoted to Reader in the Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University and joined on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009. He is also elected as Joint Secretary, Gauhati University Teachers' Association (GUTA), for 2009-2010.

Mrs Zabin Ahmed, Librarian, Cotton College, Guwahati has got the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for poster presentation at IASLIC Conference held during 10-13 December, 2008 at Bose Institute, Kolkata.

Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University has started internship programme as a part of MLISc syllabus from the session 2009-2010. Currently the students are working in KKH Library of Gauhati University.

To mark the 50 years of library services, Tezpur District Library has celebrated Golden Jubilee celebration during March 27 – 29, 2009 at the Tezpur District Library premises. Among other programmes a seminar was held on "Role of Libraries for developing Reading Habit". A large number of library users and professionals attended.

Institute of Advance Study in Science and Technology (IASST), a multidisciplinary S & T Institute located at Pachim Boragaon, Guwahati has been taken over by the Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India from the month of March 2009. Among others the post of Asstt. Librarian is upgraded at per with UGC recommendation.

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## Role of library association in developing library profession

services to the users by sharing library resources among the member libraries of respective network. Resources are made available one's doorstep irrespective of geographical distances results due to emergence of such networks. Library networks (like DELNET, CALIBNET, HYLIBNET, PUNENET, etc) are the results of initiatives taken by different library associations at various levels and in different directions.

In Assam, different library associations are in existence: Assam Library Association (1933), Assam College Librarians Association (1973), Sodou Asom Grammya Puthibharal Sangha (All Assam Rural Library Association) (1983), Guwahati Library Association (1993), Golaghat Library Association (1994), Jorhat Library Association (1994) are some of them. These associations are engaged for the improvement of library services in this region at various levels. Of course, workings of these associations are encouraging except two three.

These associations are rightly demanding, among others, for enactment of library legislation for Assam. Because of the demand made and also communication received from the Ministry of Culture, GOI, the Govt. of Assam had constituted a committee with Dr Narendra Lahkar, as chairman and Prof Alaka Buragohain, Sri Ram Goswami (later, Sri Abhoy Charan Borkotoky) as members and the Director, Library Services as Member Secretary for suggesting to the Government on library legislation. The committee has already submitted the Draft Library Legislation. The draft is now with the Govt. of Assam in the process of discussion/ clarification among relevant Govt. departments. We are very much hopeful that the library legislation submitted will be enacted shortly.

Library associations are to work for developing professional skills of their members. Professional activities like seminars, training programmes, workshops, etc need to be organized at regular intervals by these associations. Professional publications will be another positive factor for crediting one library association. Besides, for the welfare of the individual members, library associations are expected to take some measures at different levels. All these associations should have their policy so that one association coordinates with others in order to avail the benefits of different development taken place in and around. They should identify common areas of concern and jointly work for them at all levels.

At the end, it is noted that association should take a broad outlook in order to promote the library services and gain national and international recognitions.

### SEMINARS/ CONFERENCES HELD

#### Assam College Librarians' Association (ACLA) Biennial Conference at Nalbari, Assam

The 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial conference ACLA was held in Nalbari, Assam during November 27-29, 2008 at Mahendra Narayan Chadhury Balika mahabidyalaya. A one day state level seminar on **Role of College Library in quality education** was also held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008. On the very day the book entitled *Changing library scenario in digital era: prof Alaka Buragohain Festschrift volume* was released by noted Assamese writer Shri Shashi Sarma.

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## TRAINING PROGRAMME

### SOUL Training programme

INFLIBNET centre, Ahmedabad is organizing training programme on SOUL 2.0, the upgrade version of SOUL 1.0 for the librarians of the North-East India who are using the software. The programme has already started and to check the programme and the list of participants you can log into [www.inflibnet.ac.in](http://www.inflibnet.ac.in).

### NISCAIR Short term training course

National Institute of Science Communication And information Resources (NISCAIR), New Delhi is organizing thirty short term training courses during the session 2009-2010. In one of the courses on *Design and development of digital libraries using DSpace* during 13-17 July, 2009, seven participants from Guwahati have participated. They are Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Reader, Shri Dipen Deka, SRF, Shri Apurba Jyoti Majumder, JRF, all three from the Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University; Shri Gautam Kumar Sharma, Librarian i/c, Institute of Distance and Open Learning, Gauhati University; Shri Prasanta Kumar Deka, Librarian, K C Das Commerce College, Guwahati; Dr. Sanjib Kumar Deka, Senior Technical Assistant of Central Library, IIT Guwahati and Shri Gourisankar Karmakar, Librarian, Borbhag College, Nalbari. For the details of the courses and other details you can log into [www.niscair.res.in](http://www.niscair.res.in) and send email to [training@niscair.res.in](mailto:training@niscair.res.in).

## UPCOMING SEMINARS/ CONFERENCES

### XXVI IASLIC Conference 2009

The XXVII All India IASLIC Conference to be held at the KIIT/KISS, Bhubaneswar during December 26-29, 2009.

### Theme : Library/ Information Users in Digital Era

Papers are invited in the following areas for deliberation

#### (1) INFORMATION RESOURCES:

Types of information in digital era and their characteristics. Information as social needs of the citizen. Access to information resources (including

Internet resources). Providers of information resources.

#### (2) INFORMATION AND INDIGENEOUS KNOWLEDGE:

Organization of information resources on indigeneous knowledge. Availability and access to information resources on indigeneous knowledge. Use of resources on indigeneous knowledge. Needs for information on indigeneous knowledge.

#### (3) INFORMATION USERS:

Types and characteristics of information users. Users and Non-users. Potential users and non-potential users. Utilization of information by users. Users-Participation in collection building.

#### (4) USER STUDIES:

Needs for user studies. Studies with users as focus. Trends in users study. Methods and techniques of user studies. Evaluation of user studies. User studies in the digital environment. User survey-needs or types. User expectations & preferences. User-research.

#### (5) STUDY OF INFORMATION USE:

Use of information & information resources in different types of Libraries and Information Centres. Information dissemination & utilization studies. Research on information use. Reading habits in using information. Use-Promotion study.

#### (6) INFORMATION NEEDS OF USERS:

Needs for different types of information and information resources. Typology of information needs. Nature and type of information sought. Future information requirements.

#### (7) INFORMATION SEEKING AND GATHERING BEHAVIOUR OF USERS:

Motives & purpose of seeking information. Nature and types of information required. Delegation of information gathering work. Dependence on sources of information. Inter-personal information-sharing. Formal and informal communications behaviour.

#### (8) USER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES:

Planning for User Education Programme. Benefit from Educating the users. Techniques & methods of user education. User-Education programme in digital

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## IATLIS National Conference 2009

XXVI IATLIS National Conference 2009 will be held at the Department of Library and Information Science, The University of Burdwan, Golapbag, Burdwan – 713104, West Bengal during 25-27 November 2009. The theme of the conference is ENVISIONING EMPLOYABLE LIS COURSES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE MERGING KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY.

### Sub-themes:

Relevance of existing LIS courses to the job- market.

Developing LIS courses for the emerging job market.

Equity, diversity and expansion of LIS education.

Choice-based credit system and internship programmes.

Resource-based student-centred learning.

Accreditation, quality assurance and standardization with special reference to distance education.

Continuous Professional Education and Development for Faculty improvement.

Physical, technological, and learning support infrastructure.

Liaison with and feedback management from students, alumni, and employers.

Marketing of LIS courses.

Research agenda for future.

International Cooperation and collaboration  
Role of stakeholders in LIS education and research.

Papers on the above-mentioned facets of the theme and sub theme should reach Dr. Trishanjit. Kaur, General Secretary, IATLIS, C/o Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala - 147002 (Punjab) latest by 30 September 2009. The paper should not be more than three thousand words. You can send paper both in print and electronic form on a CD in Microsoft Word and also a soft copy through email to

[iatlis.patiala@gmail.com](mailto:iatlis.patiala@gmail.com). The paper should include title, name and address of author(s), abstract, and keywords. Use the APA Style Manual for preparing the paper. For further information about this check this link:

<http://www.wooster.edu/psychology/APA-crib.html>

Contd...XXVI IASLIC Conference 2009

era. Value of user-education. Evaluation of user education programme.

### Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings

SIG: Computer Application

Web-based Information Management

SIG-Library & Information Science Education

LIS Education in direct & distance mode - problems & prospects

SIG-Humanities Information

Humanities and impact of IT

SIG-Social Sciences Information

SIG-Informatics

Theme: Informetric Indicators

SIG-Industrial Information

Placement of the Industrial Information Centre/ Library/ Documentation Centre in the Organisation.

### Important Dates:

Submissions of Papers: August 17th, 2009

Acceptance of Papers: October 5th, 2009

Camera-ready copy of Papers: October 24th, 2009

For further detail, please visit [www.iaslic1955.org](http://www.iaslic1955.org)

# ASSAM LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

অসম পুথিভঁৰাল সংঘ

Regd. No. 88 of 1964 - 65

C/o Dept. of Lib. & Inf. Sc., Gauhati University, Guwahati - 781014 (Assam)

## 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 are furnished below: (Please use capital letters)

Mr / Ms / Dr. (Surname) \_\_\_\_\_ (Forename) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification : a) Academic \_\_\_\_\_

b) Professional \_\_\_\_\_ Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Experience (in Years) \_\_\_\_\_ Scale of Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pin \_\_\_\_\_

Address for Communication : \_\_\_\_\_

Pin \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Yours Sincerely

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

Recommended By \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

ALA's Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Fee

**Patron:** A lump sum of Rs. 10,000.00 or an endowment of not less than Rs. 50,000.00

**Life Member:** Rs. 500.00

**Annual Member:** Rs. 25.00

Note: Cheque / Demand draft may be drawn in favour of Assam Library Association. All out side cheques must include Rs. 50.00 as bank commission charge

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Membership Granted: Yes / No. \_\_\_\_\_ Membership number \_\_\_\_\_

General Secretary

## ALA'S LIFE MEMBERS

Sl No.	Name	Membership No.
1.	Prof. Bhadra Bora	ALAL 001
2.	Dr. Alaka Buragohain	ALAL 002
3.	Dr. Nirmal Kr. Choudhury	ALAL 003
4.	Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma	ALAL 004
5.	Dr. Narendra Lahkar	ALAL 005
6.	Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman	ALAL 006
7.	Dr. Sanjoy Kumar Singh	ALAL 007
8.	Sri Mukut Moni Bhagawati	ALAL 008
9.	Sri Birendra Kumar Sarma	ALAL 009
10.	Sri Nila Sarma	ALAL 010
11.	Sri Nabajyoti Das	ALAL 011
12.	Ms. Zabeen Ahmed	ALAL 012
13.	Sri Wooma Sankar Devnath	ALAL 013
14.	Prof. Bhaba Prasad Chaliha	ALAL 014
15.	Dr. Monoj Kumar Sinha	ALAL 015
16.	Dr. Beena Medhi Lahkar	ALAL 016
17.	Sri Dhiman Seal	ALAL 017
18.	Dr. Dhruvajit Das	ALAL 018
19.	Sri Ramesh Ch. Goswami	ALAL 019
20.	Ms. Minu Devi	ALAL 020
21.	Ms. Manjusri Baruah	ALAL 021
22.	Ms. Nandita Chaliha	ALAL 022
23.	Ms. Aparna Goswami Mahanta	ALAL 023
24.	Sri Bichitra Chaudhoory	ALAL 024

*We regret for any missing. If any name is missed, he/she is requested to inform us so that such name(s) can be included in the next issue*

## Librarians' Day & Felicitations

On 12th August 2007 as well as in 2008 Assam Library Association (ALA) in association with Dept. of Lib. & Inf. Sc, Gauhati University observed Librarians' Day with a day long programme in a befitting manner at the Faculty House, Gauhati University. In connection with the function in August 12, 2007 Prof. Bhaba Prasad Chaliha, former Professor, Dept. of Assamese, Gauhati University, President of ALA and a great Bhaishnavite scholar delivered a talk on "Manuscript Preservation and Role of Libraries". Prof. Narendra Nath Sharma, Prof. Bhadra Borah, both former Head, Dept. of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University also spoke on the occasion. **Assam Library Association also felicitated Shri Birendra Kumar Sharma, former Librarian, Pragjyotish College** in recognition of his contributions to the library profession especially to the college library system of Assam with a Phulam Gamocha, Sarai and citation.

The programme was attended by a large gathering consisting of students, teachers and library professionals representing different libraries in Assam.

### Seminer & Workshop

National Workshop & Seminer on 'Management of Libraries in Digital Environment' was held from May 28 - 30, 2009 at the Central Library, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. A large number of Library Professionals, Subject expert, Faculty members of library schools, etc were attended the seminer.

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Due to the initiative of UGC guide line the college authority have given interest to modernize and develop their libraries. Some libraries have already made their computer readable database and some are in the process. However the college libraries in rural areas are yet to move for modernization.

Now it is a vital question, why the library services in Assam are so poor? Whether required fund is the only problem or lack of proper initiative from the library professional and library authority? Is there any demand is placed from the educationist, thinkers, associations, etc for better library services in Assam? Why the Library Legislation is still not been enacted? Let us join hand together to go forward for a library movement for the grater interest of the people of Assam.