



ACADEMIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Annual Report of the Academic Library Association For the Period April 2024 – March 2025 Presented at the Annual General Body Meeting held online on 14-05-2025

Annual Report of the Academic Library Association (ALA) for the period **01 April 2024 – 31st March 2025** is given below:

The Academic Library Association (ALA) was initially formed on 1st November 1996. The Association secured registration under the Travancore-Cochin, Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act 1955 on 31st March 2014 with Reg. No. TSR/TC/267/2014.

ALA is particularly interested in establishing a robust school library system because school libraries serve as the foundation for the development of a successful reading culture in society, which in turn serves as the basis for the expansion and development of all library types, including academic, special, and public libraries.

1. **Office Bearers 2024-25**:-The General Body meeting of the Academic Library Association held online on 18-04-2024 and elected the following professionals as new office bearers for the period 2024-25:

Office Bearers 2024-25

Sl.No.	ALA Office Bearers for the Year 2024-25	Designation
1	Dr. A.T. Francis, Professor & Chief Librarian & Head, Dept. of Library and Research Documentation, Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, Thrissur, Kerala	President
2	Mr.C. Abdul Razak, Former Librarian, Kerala Agricultural University, Choondathodi, Amayoor, Pattambi, Palakkad	Vice-President
3	Dr. Muthumari P., Alagappa University, Model Constituent College of Arts and Science Paranakudi, Tamil Nadu, Pin-623707	Vice-President
4	Dr. V.S. Swapna, Librarian, College of Agriculture, Thrissur	General Secretary
5	Mr. Sanjo Jose, St. Thomas College, Thrissur	Joint Secretary
6	Dr. Nithin S. Joshi, Librarian, MIT World Peach University, Pune, Maharashtra	Joint Secretary
7	Dr. P.A. Pradeep, Dairy Science College, Kerala Veterinary University, Wayanad	Treasurer
8	Ms. Mini T.N., Librarian, Koduvayoor Grama Panchayath, Palakkad	EC Member
9	Dr. Susan Mathew, Former Professor, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Ernakulam	EC Member
10	Sri. T.M. Saji, Librarian, St. Peter's School, Kolenchery	EC Member
11	Dr. Chriss Thomas, Librarian, Govt. Nursing College, Ernakulam	EC Member
12	Dr. Mercy Lydia, Librarian & Research Guide, Karurya University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	EC Member
13	Dr. Kavitha R., Mother Theresa Womens University, Kodaikanal, TamilNadu	EC Member

14	Dr. Kasilingam K., Lee Chengalvaraya Naicker College of Engg. & Tech, Kanchipuram-631502, Tamil Nadu	EC Member
15	Dr. Patricia Robin, Librarian, St. Michael's College, Cherthala	EC Member
16	Mr. Mujib Rhiman, Librarian, Kenriya Vidyalaya, Palakkad	Special Invitee
17	Dr. Veeraan Kutty C., University Librarian, Cochin University of Science and Technology	Special Invitee
18	Dr. Humayoon Kabir, S., Professor (Rtd.), Dept. of Library information Science, University of Kerala, Tvm	Special Invitee
19	Dr. Prasad Rao, G.A., Librarian, Andhra Layola College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh	Special Invitee
20	Dr. Hussain K.H., Scientist (Rtd.), Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi	Special Invitee
21	Dr. Ajithan K.R., Librarian (Rtd.), Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad	Special Invitee
22	Dr. Smitha C. Elayadom, U.C. College Aluva, Ernakulam	Special Invitee
23	Dr. Rony Sebastian, Govt. College, Kozhikode	Special Invitee
24	Mr. N. Narayanan Kutty, Former Scientist "G" & Head, Library, VSSC, ISRO, Thiruvananthapuram	Special Invitee
25	Mr. S.L. Faisal, Librarian, Kenriya Vidyalaya, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram	Special Invitee

The ALA carried out the following significant programmes during the period 2024–2025:

- Annual General Body Meeting of the Academic Library Association:** - The Annual General Body meeting of the Academic Library Association 2024-25 was held online on 18-04-2024.
- School Libraries:** - ALA is taking all efforts to establish libraries in schools, especially in Kerala State Schools and urged the state governments to establish good libraries in all schools and appoint qualified librarians with provision for library hours.
- UGC Scheme for all College Librarians:** - As envisaged in the UGC Scheme, the meeting also decided to represent the UGC, Govt. of India, State Governments and Universities to implement the UGC Scheme for librarians and provide academic status for librarians.
- UGC Librarians in all Universities and Colleges:** - The meeting discussed the issue of vacant position of University Librarians for several decades in Kerala and noted that some universities not even created this important post. All Government colleges in Kerala, except 12 are running without UGC qualified librarians. The meeting urged the universities, UGC and Govts. to sanction UGC Librarians in all colleges and universities.
- Recruitment to Universities:** - ALA has taken earnest efforts to fill up the vacant posts of library professionals in all colleges and universities in India. The Association through formal and informal efforts taken strong actions and filled most of the vacant posts of Professional Assistants in universities in Kerala.
- Endowment towards ALA Award:** - Prof. (Dr.) A.T. Francis, Professor & Chief Librarian, Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, Thrissur and President, ALA and Prof. (Dr.) S. Humayoon Kabir, Former Professor & Head, DLIS, University of Kerala and Executive Committee Member of ALA offered during March 2024 Rs. 3.00 Lakhs and Rs. 1.00 Lakhs respectively for instituting an Endowment Fund towards ALA Award and for investing the same in Shares and Mutual Funds as per Govt. of India Regulations. During March 2025, Dr. K.R. Ajithan, Former Chief Librarian, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad has offered Rs. 40,000/- towards the Award Endowment Fund. The ALA Executive Committee decided to Top-Up the Fund by Rs. 50,000/-.

8. **Investment of ALA Award Endowment:-** Rs. 4.50 Lakhs, contributed to the ALA Award Endowment Fund has been invested in selected 49 Indian Stocks through the De-mat Account No. A18QS in Kodak – Sharewealth Securities Ltd., Thrissur. Though we have received Rs. 5829.69 as Dividend from these shares during 2024-25, the overall performance of the shares were not good due to the reduction in share price indices world over.

9. **ALA Best Librarian Awards:-** ALA Awards are presenting from 2018 onwards. But, it is decided to present 03 Awards from 2025 onwards, (1). One Best Librarian–Life Time Achievement Award with a Cash Award of Rs. 20,000/-, Citation and a Certificate; and (2) Two National Librarian Awards with Citation and a Certificate, but without Cash Award. It was also decided to present at least one of three awards to a professional from out of Kerala. Accordingly, 2025 Awards were presented as per this decision.

10. **ALA Librarian Awards 2025 Onwards:-**

From the year 2025 onwards, the Titles of ALA Librarian Awards have been modified as follows:

- (i). **ALA National Best Librarian–Life Time Achievement Award (01 No) with a Cash Award of Rs. 20,000/-; and**
- (ii). **ALA National Best Librarian Award (02 Nos.)**

Out of these three Awards, at least one award will be presented to an Out of Kerala Professional.

11. **List of ALA Awardees:-**

a. The following Senior Library Professions were presented the ALA National Best Librarian – Life Time Achievement Awards:

- i. 2018: Mr. C. Abdul Razak, Former University Librarian, KAU
- ii. 2019: Mr. V.C. John, former College Librarian, St.Thomas’ College, Thrissur
- iii. 2020: Not Presented due to Covid-19.
- iv. 2021: Dr. M.D. Baby, Professor & Head & Dean, DLIS, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences and Former University Librarian, Cochin University of Science & Technology.
- v. 2022: Dr. K.H. Hussain, Scientist (Rtd.), Library, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur.
- vi. 2023: Mr. N. Narayanan Kutty, Scientist G & Head (Rtd.), VSSC Library, ISRO, Trivandrum.
- vii. 2024: Prof. Dr. S. Humayoon Kabir, Former HoD, Dept. of Library & Information Science, University of Kerala.
- viii. 2025: Dr. K.R. Ajithan, Former Chief Librarian, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad, Kerala

b. The following Library Professionals were presented the ALA Best Young/National Librarian Awards:

- i. 2018: Mr. Binoy Mathew, Librarian, Valapattanam Grama Panchayath.
- ii. 2019: Ms. T.N. Mini, Librarian, Kizhakkencherry Grama Panchayath.
- iii. 2020: Not presented due to Covid 19.
- iv. 2021: Mr. Jayan Avanoor, Librarian, Kodakara Grama Panchayath.
- v. 2022: Mr. MujibRahiman, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kanjikode, Palakkad.
- vi. 2023: Mr. S.L. Faisal, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattam, Trivandrum.
- vii. 2024: Ms. K. R. Surekha, Chief Librarian, Govt. College, Chittur, Palakkad, Kerala.
- viii. 2025 (a): Dr. V. Vimalkumar, Assistant Librarian, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
- ix. 2025 (b): Dr. Nitin Joshi, Deputy Librarian, MIT-ADT University, Pune, Maharashtra

12. **ALA National Best Librarian Awards 2025 Presented:-**

ALA has presented the ALA Awards 2025 to the following Library Professionals:

1. ALA Best National Librarian Award – Life Time Achievement 2025: -

Dr. K.R. Ajithan, Former Chief Librarian, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad, Kerala.

2. ALA Best National Librarian Award 2025:-

(i). Dr. V. Vimalkumar, Assistant Librarian, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

(ii). Dr. Nitin Joshi, Deputy Librarian, MIT-ADT University, Pune, Maharashtra

The Awards were presented by Prof. Dr. K.S. Anil, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Wayanad during the Seminar on 28-02-2025 at AIMS, Thrissur.

As entrusted by the ALA Executive Committee, the ALA Awardees 2025 were determined by a 06 Member Committee consisting of Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis, Dr. V.S. Swapna, Dr. P.A. Pradeep, President, General Secretary; and Treasurer respectively of ALA; Mr. Abdul Razak, Former University Librarian, KAU; Dr. P. Muthumari, Librarian & Research Guide, Alagappa University College, Paramakudi and Dr. Mercy Lydia, Librarian and Research Guide, Karunya University; Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

- 13. National Seminar on 28 February and 01 March 2025:-** Two-Day National Seminar on “Empowering Communities through Libraries for Sustainable Social Change” was Organized by AIMS, Thrissur, Kerala; Sponsored by Govt. of India, Ministry of Education, ICSSR In Collaboration with Academic Library Association (ALA) and Kerala Medical Librarians Association (KMLA) on 2025 February 28 and March 01. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. K.S. Anil, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Kerala Veterinary University. Fr. Julious Arakkal CMI, Director, AIMS presided over the inaugural function. Dr. Kannan CS Warriar, Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi delivered the Key Note Address. Mr. K. P. Sadasivan, Former Head, Knowledge Management Division, RRL-CSIR, Thiruvananthapuram and Mr. Wilson Cherukulath, Scientist "G" (Library) and Group Director, Naval Physical & Oceanographic Lab. (NPOL), DRDO, Govt. of India, Kochi jointly released the seminar volume, “Role of Libraries in Sustainable Development ICSSR – 2025” with ISBN: ISBN: 978-81-985708-9-5. The Seminar Volume is containing the Extended Abstracts of 63 Papers contributed by 101 authors and accepted to the seminar, edited by Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis, Fr. Dr. John Neelankavil CMI, Dr. P.P. Binitha and Dr. S. Humayoon Kabir.

The Valedictory Session was inaugurated by Sri. T.R. Anilkumar, Former Member, Kerala Public Service Commission. The Presidential Address was delivered by Rev. Fr. Deljo Puthur CMI, Joint Director, AIMS. Prof. Dr. S. Humayoon Kabir, Former HoD, DLIS, University of Kerala and Rapporteur General of the Seminar presented the Technical Report. Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis, Professor and Chief Librarian and Head, Dept. of Library & Research Documentation, AIMS and Seminar Director presented the Overall Summary and General Report of the Seminar.

- 14. Project on Reading, Library, Career and Excellence in Science:-** ALA in collaboration with NASI and other government and non-govt. agencies started a project to organize seminars, workshops, discussions, trainings, orientation, etc. in universities, colleges and schools. Several institutions have identified to propagate science through reading.
- i. ALA-NASI Seminar at ICA English Higher Secondary School, Namanengad, Thrissur: -** Seminar on "Reading, Library, Science, Career and Excellence" Organised by ICA English Higher Secondary School, Namanengad, Thrissur on 18-01-2025, Saturday 2025. Inaugurated by Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis, Professor and Chief Librarian and Head, Dept. of Library & Research Documentation, Amala Institute of Medical Sciences. Sri. Abdul Razak, Former University Librarian, KAU, Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis and Dr. K.R. Ajithan, Former Chief Librarian, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad, Kerala handled the seminar sessions.
- ii. ALA-NASI Seminar at Nehru College of Pharmacy, Pambady Thiruvilwamala:-** National Seminar on "Research Documentation, Plagiarism Control and Publishing" Organised by Nehru College of Pharmacy, Pambady Thiruvilwamala, Thrissur In Collaboration with the Govt. of India's National

Academy of Science India (NASI) and Academic Library Association (ALA) On 05-02-2025.). The seminar was inaugurated by **Inaugurated by Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis**, Professor and Chief Librarian and Head, Dept. of Library & Research Documentation, Amala Institute of Medical Sciences. **Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis**, Sri. C. Abdul Razak, Former University Librarian, Kerala Agricultural University, Dr. K.P. Shajihan, UGC Librarian, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad handled different sessions.

iii. **ALA-NASI Seminar at Govt. College of Nursing, Kozhikode:** - Govt. College of Nursing, Kozhikode has organized a One Day Seminar on Research Documentation, Plagiarism Control and Publishing" 11-03-2025, in collaboration with National Academy of Science India (NASI) and Academic Library Association (ALA). The seminar was inaugurated by Inaugurated **by Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis**, Professor and Chief Librarian and Head, Dept. of Library & Research Documentation, Amala Institute of Medical Sciences. Prof. Dr. A.T. Francis and Sri. Thomson KJ, Librarian, St. Joseph's Devagiri College, Kozhikode and Ms. Hena KB, Librarian handled the seminar sessions.

15. **Representation to Govt. of Kerala:** - ALA submitted detailed representations to the Govt. of Kerala on:(i). To speed up the direct recruitment of Library/Professional Assistants to universities by KPSC; (ii). To implement the UGC Scheme for librarians in government arts and science colleges; and medical, Ayurveda, nursing, engineering and poly technique colleges; (iii). To sanction the post of librarian in all schools under state government and post qualified librarians; (iv). To sanction start Full-Time Libraries in all Local Bodies and sanction the post of Qualified Librarian.

16. **Membership Campaign:-**The ALA Committee and members have done continuous efforts to enroll more library professionals as members of the association. During the period of 2024-25, 66 new professionals enrolled as ALA Life Members and the total members rose from 1006 1072 as on 31-03-2025.

17. **Assets as on 31-03-2025:-** As on 31-03-2025, ALA has Fixed Deposit of Rs. 99,879/- towards the Life Membership Fee collected and Rs. 2862.94 in Savings Deposit in State of Bank of India, Ollukara, Thrissur Branch, and Rs. 12758.80 as Cash in Hand.

We, here by submitting the Annual Report for the kind consideration and approval of the General Body held today on **14-05-2025**.

DR. A.T. FRANCIS
PRESIDENT

DR. V.S. SWAPNA
GENERALSECRETARY

14-05-2025