



ACADEMIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Reg. No. TSR/TC/267/2014; Office: 16/1875, Penta Street, Pananchakom

Mannuthy Post, Thrissur – 680 651, Kerala, India

e-mail: alakerala@gmail.com; Phone: 9496839409; 9995087645

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Annual Report of the Academic Library Association

For the Period April 2023 – March 2024

Approved at the Annual General Body Meeting held at
Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, Thrissur on 02-03-2024

Annual Report of the Academic Library Association (ALA) for the period April 2023 – March 2024 is given below:

The Academic Library Association (ALA) has started its functioning during 2013 and it became an official entity on 31st March 2014 as registered society according to the Travancore-Cochin, Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act 1955.

- Office Bearers 2023-24:** - The General Body meeting of the Academic Library Association held on 10-03-2023 elected the following professionals as new office bearers for the period 2023-24:

Office Bearers 2023-24

Elected in the Annual General Body Meeting held on 10-03-2023 at Rajagiri Business School, Kochi

Sl. No.	ALA Office Bearers for the Year 2023-24	Designation
1	Dr. A.T. Francis, Professor & Head, DLIS, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery, Ernakulam, 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-623 707	Vice-President
4	Dr. V.S. Swapna, College of Agriculture, Thrissur	General Secretary
5	Mr. Sanjo Jose, St. Thomas College, Thrissur	Joint Secretary
6	Mr. 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, 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, Govt. Medical College, Ernakulam	EC Member
12	Dr. Mercy Lydia, Deputy Librarian, Karurya University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	EC Member
13	Dr. Kavitha R., Mother Theresa Womens University, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu	EC Member
14	Dr. Kasilingam K., Lee Chengalvaraya Naicker College of Engg. &Tech, Kanchipuram - 631 502, 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 Layoja 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

During the period 2023-2024 the ALA conducted the following major programmes:

2. **Annual General Body Meeting of the Academic Library Association:** - The Annual General Body meeting of the Academic Library Association 2022-23 was held on 10-03-2023 at Rajagiri Business School, Kakkanad, Kochi.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **Recruitment to Universities:** - It also decided to represent the State and Central Governments, UGC and recruiting agencies to fill up all vacant posts of library professionals in all colleges and universities in India. The Association through formal and informal efforts taken strong actions to fill the vacant posts of Professional Assistants.
7. **ALA Best Librarian Awards:** -

ALA Instituted Best Librarian Awards as follows:

(i). ALA Best Librarian Award – Life Time Achievement; and

(ii). ALA Best Young Librarian Award

a. The following Senior Library Professions were presented the ALA Best Librarian 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.

b. The following Young Library Professions were presented the ALA Best Young 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. Mujib Rahiman, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kanjikode, Palakkad.

vi. 2023: Mr. S.L. Faisal, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattam, Trivandrum.

ALA has selected the following Library Professionals for the ALA Awards 2024:

1. ALA Best Librarian Award – Life Time Achievement 2024 - Dr. S. Humayoon Kabir, Professor & Head, DLIS, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and former Librarian in Cochin University of Science and Technology.

2. ALA Best Young Librarian Award 2024:- Ms. K.R. Surekha, UGC Librarian, Govt. College, Chittu, Palakkad.

The Library Professionals for ALA Awards 2024 were determined by a Seven Member Committee consisting of Dr. A.T. Francis, President; Dr. V.S. Swapna, General Secretary; Dr. P.A. Pradeep, Treasurer; and Mr. Abdul Razak, Former University Librarian, KAU; Dr. Mercy Lydia, Librarian and Research Guide, Karunya University; Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, as entrusted by the ALA Executive Committee held on 03-01-2024.

8. ALA Best Librarian Awards 2023 Presented:- Dr. Kuriedath, CMI, Director, Rajagiri Institutions presented the ALA Best Librarian Awards to Mr. Narayanankutty, the **ALA Best Librarian Award – Life Time Achievement** 2023 and Mr. S.L. Faisal, the ALA Young Librarian Award 2023.

9. National Seminar in Rajagiri Business School, Kakkanad, Kochi on 10-03- 2023:- ALA and **Rajagiri Business School, Kakkanad and Kerala College Librarians Association** are jointly organized a National Seminar on “Role of libraries on Academic Research and Publishing” **on 10-03-2023**. Rev. Dr. Jose Kuriedath, CMI, Director Rajagiri Group of Institutions inaugurated the seminar. Dr. Binoy Joseph, Principal presided.

Ms. T. Sylaja, Chief Technical Officer, CIFT-ICAR, Kochi, Mr. N. Narayanan Kutty, Scientist G & Head (Rtd.), VSSC Library, ISRO, Trivandrum, Mr. S.L. Faisal, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattam, Trivandrum and National Teacher Awardee 2021, Mr. Mujib Rahiman, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kanjikode, Palakkad and Fulbright Scholar 2022, Dr. Muhammed Musthafa, UGC Librarian, TKM College of Arts and Science, Kollam, Dr. A.T. Francis, Professor & Head, DLIS, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, etc. served as resource persons.

10. 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.

11. National Seminar, Radiance 2024 in GEMS College Ramapuram, Malappuram, Kerala on 22-02-2024:- GEMM College, Ramapuram, Malappuram has organized a One Day National Seminar, Radiance 2024 on 22-02-2024, in collaboration with National Academy of Science India (NASI) and Academic Library Association (ALA) on the thrust areas propagation of Science through Reading, plagiarism, Publishing, Reference Management, etc. for Faculty Members, Librarians, Research Scholars and Students. **Mr. C.**

Abdul Razak, Former University Librarian, KAU, Dr. A. T. Francis, Professor & Chief Librarian, Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, Thrissur, Dr. V.S. Swapna, Librarian, College of Agriculture, KAU, Thrissur, Dr. K.P. Shajihan, UGC Librarian, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad and Ms. Smitha Pramod, Librarian, GEMS handled different sessions.

- 12. Free Online NET/JRF Services in LIS:** - The ALA had conducted 12 Offline Free NET Coaching Courses in Thrissur in Library & Information Science upto December 2019) in collaboration with St. Thomas' College, Thrissur and Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur. After COVID-19, we are continuing the NET Exam Advises in hybrid mode.

Offline classes and are giving some guidance through the WhatsApp Group, 'LISNET". Support and guidance for NET and JRF was also provided by e-mail and over telephone to the aspirants all over the country. Dr. A.T. Francis, Professor & Chief Librarian, Amala Institute of Medical Sciences was the master trainer who lead the classes supported by other experts like Smt. K.V. Alphonsa, Dr. K.R. Ajithan, Smt. Indu Sunil, Sri. Abdul Razak, Dr. V.S. Swapna, Dr. P.A. Pradeep, Dr. Susan Mathew, Dr. Joshy George, Ms. Neetha Devan, Ms. Neethu Mohanan, Dr. Joseph I. Thomas, Dr. B. Engango, Ms. Litty VJ, Ms. Gladis George, Mr. Jicco J. Kodankandath, Ms. Deepa C.G., etc.

- 13. 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.

- 14. Membership Campaign:** - The ALA Committee and members have done continuous efforts to enroll more library professionals as members of the association. During this period, 88 new professionals enrolled as ALA Life Members and the total members rose from 885 to 973 as on 02-03-2023.

- 15. Assets as on 02-03-2024:-** As on 02-03-2024, **Rs. 2,18,3000/-** was in State of Bank of India, Ollukara, Thrissur Branch, **of which Rs. 90,477/-** has been deposited as FD in the towards the Life Membership Fee till collected.

- 16. Endowment towards ALA Award:-** ALA accepted the offer of 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 to donate Rs. 4.00 (Rupees Four Lakhs only) towards the Endowment Fund towards ALA Award for investing in Shares and Mutual Funds as per Govt. of India Regulations.

- 17. De-mat Account in Kodak – Sharewealth Securities:-** As offered by Prof. (Dr.) A.T. Francis and Prof. (Dr.) S. Humayoon Kabir and decided by the ALA Executive Committee, opened a De-mat Account in Kodak – Sharewealth Securities and ready to invest Rs. 4.00 lakhs in shares and mutual funds and entrust the President and Treasurer of ALA to operate the De-mat Account through the ALA Bank Account in SBI.

- 18. Annual General Body Meeting:** - We have decided to conduct the National Seminar on Role of Libraries in Sustainable Education and Research in collaboration with the Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, Thrissur, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment and Kerala Medical Librarians' Association (KMLA). The Annual General Body Meeting and Election 2024 also will be held on 02-03-2024.

- 19.** I, hereby submitting the Annual Report for the kind consideration and approval of the General Body.

DR. A.T. FRANCIS
PRESIDENT

DR. V.S. SWAPNA
GENERAL SECRETARY

THRISSUR
02-03-2024