



NATIONAL LIBRARY
(Republic of Mauritius)



ANNUAL REPORT
2005-2006

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OUR VISION

To develop the National Library as the nation's leading documentary resource pertaining to the Republic of Mauritius, and as the apex library serving the needs of the Mauritian people at large in research, scholarship and creativity.

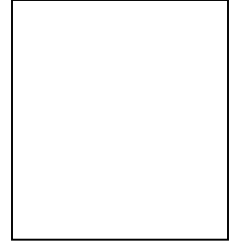
MISSION STATEMENT

To support the provision of, and access to, information for the nation. We are committed to collect and preserve the collective memory of the country to best serve the nation and to provide access to the information resources of the world.

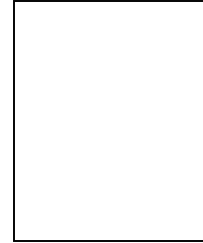
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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD



REVIEW OF THE YEAR
by
Y. Chan Kam Lon, Director,
National Library



I am pleased and honoured to present the Annual Report of the National Library for the year 2005-2006.

The National Library collection has continued to grow in an exponential rate, its main source of acquisition being the legal deposit system. The National Library has now developed a working arrangement with most of the printers and producers of the country and most of them are now compliant to the legal deposit system.

Another main feature of the National Library is its personalized information service to information seekers, who are our principal clients. We always aim to enhance our services, in conformity with the requirements of the *MS ISO 9001 : 2000 standards*, of the *ISO Certification* awarded to the National Library in January 2005.

A salient achievement, which is worth mentioning, is the compilation of an online database of the *Union List of Periodicals*, providing bibliographic details of all periodicals, available in the main libraries of Mauritius.

During the year under review, the National Library has also been called upon to give training in librarianship and information services and to provide free consultancy to a number of institutions at national level.

To conclude, I would like to express my appreciation to my staff for their dedication and hard work. To the Chairperson and Members of the National Library Board go my thanks for their commitment to fulfill the noble objectives of the National Library.

Y. Chan Kam Lon
Director

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

The National Library is established under the National Library Act 1996 as a Body Corporate and is managed by a Board, consisting of a Chairperson and ten members.

The Chairman is a person of high academic distinction. Out of the eleven members, five are representatives of different ministries and departments, and the other six are appointed by the Minister of Arts and Culture, for a three-year period. As per statutes, Board meetings are held at least once in a month, and nine members constitute a quorum.

MEMBERS – NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

During the period July 2005 to June 2006, the National Library Board was constituted as follows:

Chairman/Chairperson

Dr R.S Lutchmeah (*until September 2005*)

Mr N.K.Ballah (*from October 2005 to February 2006*)

Mrs A.Kistamah (*as from March 2006*)

Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources:

Ms Z. Auladin (*Until January 2006*)

Mrs S.D.Gujadhur-Nowbuth (*as from February 2006*)

Mrs I. Pudaruth-Ruchaia, *Representative of the Ministry of Arts and Culture*

Mr S. Rungassamy, *Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development*

Mr G. Suneechur, *Director, National Archives Department*

Mr F. Soogali, *Head Library Cadre, Ministry of Education and Human Resources*

Mr S. Cahoolessur, *Ag. Head Library and Archives, Mahatma Gandhi Institute (until February 2006)*

Mrs C.Ah.Fat, *Head, National Resource Centre, Mauritius College of the Air (as from March 2006)*

Mrs G. Atmarow, *Senior Librarian, National Assembly (as from March 2006)*

Mrs T. K. Hurrinag-Ramnauth, *Senior Librarian, Carnegie Library, Municipality of Curepipe*

Mrs R. Ng Kee Kwong, *Head, Library Scientific Information and Publication Department, Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (until February 2006)*

Mrs M. Duval *Senior Librarian, Olof Palme Library, Municipality of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill (until October 2005)*

Mrs S. Rughoo, *Senior Librarian, Municipality of Vacoas/Phoenix (until February 2006)*

Ms M.L. Young Kim Fat, *Senior Librarian, Municipality of Port-Louis (as from March 2006)*

Mr G. Gokool, *Senior Library Clerk, Pamplemousses/Rivière du Rempart District Council (until February 2006)*

Mr J. Mulloo, *Secretary, Grand-Port/Savanne District Council (as from March 2006)*

COMMITTEES

The composition of the two sub-committees of the National Library Board for the period under review were as follows: -

A. Appointment Committee

Dr R. S. Lutchmeah (Chairman) *(until September 2005)*

Mrs A. Kistamah (Chairperson) *(as from March 2006)*

Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon

Mrs I. Pudaruth-Ruchaia

Mr S. Rungassamy

Mrs T. K. Hurrinag-Ramnauth

B. Finance and Tender Committee

Dr R. S. Lutchmeah (Chairman) *(until September 2005)*

Mrs A. Kistamah (Chairperson) *(as from March 2006)*

Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon

Mrs I. Pudaruth-Ruchaia

Mr A. F. Soogali

Mr S. Rungassamy

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ISO 9001: 2000 PROJECT

The National Library has adopted a comprehensive approach to establish, document, implement and maintain a quality management system, and to continually improve its effectiveness in accordance with the requirements of the MS ISO 9001 :2000 standards.

Since the National Library was awarded its ISO Certification in January 2005, which is valid for a three-year period, there has been a number of benefits ranging from increased customer confidence and satisfaction, increased operational efficiency and effectiveness, enhanced communication networks, to more accountability and transparency in our processes.

So as to ensure the continual improvement philosophy depicted by the ISO standards, regular internal audits were carried out during the year under review. The purpose of the audit exercise was to see that the quality management system is operating in line with specified policies and objectives.

To measure our institution against the standards, which are accepted globally, as the defining set of quality management system requirements, the Mauritius Standards Bureau carried out its second continuing assessment in January 2006.

Non-conformities raised during the audits were attended to within the specified time frame and corrective actions were taken to sustain the effectiveness of the system.

CUSTOMER FOCUS

In line with the ISO 9001 Quality Management System, the National Library is systematically communicating with users with respect to suggestions and complaints so as to enhance their satisfaction.

Customer Suggestions

Fourteen suggestions forms were received from users. These covered issues, such as the need to streamline procedures for access, to increase personnel, to fill gaps in mauritiana library materials and to provide Internet and printing facilities.

Customer Complaints

Five complaint forms were filled in by users. These have already been attended to.

User Satisfaction Survey

A User Satisfaction Survey was carried out during the month of January 2006. One hundred questionnaires were distributed to users selected on the basis of a simple stratified random sampling techniques covering four main user groups, namely: General Public, Researchers, Students and Foreigners. The response rate was 70 %. The data collected from this survey was analysed and a report submitted to management for consideration. In general, users expressed a rather high rate of satisfaction, regarding the use of the catalogue, the helpfulness of staff, the availability of information requested, ease of access, opening hours, photocopy service, Internet service, and the waiting time after requests for information were made.

Fifty percent of respondents made suggestions and comments pertaining to the collection, proposed services, policy matters, increased application of Information Technology and the preservation of the library materials.

NATIONAL LIBRARY MANDATES

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MAURITIUS

In congruence with one of its statutory objectives, which is to act as the National Bibliographic Centre and to maintain the national bibliography and other bibliographies, the National Library launched its second *National Bibliography of Mauritius (ed 2005)* on the 16th September, 2005. The bibliography covers a period of three years, starting from the year 2001 to 2003. It contains works printed in Mauritius during that period and deposited at the National Library, under the Legal Deposit Regulations and also those acquired through other sources. It includes publications in different formats: foreign monographs, magazines, journals, pamphlets, newsletters, reports and local newspapers related to Mauritius.

The Bibliography is considered to be a useful information tool, which gives access to the National Library's Mauritian collection. It provides complete information on the publication's title, author and subject, thus facilitating readers in their research work.

NATIONAL UNION CATALOGUE

To date, twelve libraries, national, public, academic and special, are participating in the National Union Catalogue project, which is a master catalogue of Mauritian library materials. These are: The City Library, the Olof Palme Library, the Simone de Beauvoir Library, the Carnegie Library, the National Resource Centre of the Mauritius College of the Air, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute Library, the Police Library, the Médiathèque Centre Culturel Charles Baudelaire, the University of Technology Library, the Malcolm de Chazal Library, Enterprise Mauritius(ex-MIDA) and the National Library.

The total number of bibliographic records currently found in the National Union Catalogue amounts to **39,840**.

For the period under review, **8,218** entries have been added in the National Union Catalogue.

The updating of the National Union Catalogue is an ongoing process. The benefits of this Union Catalogue are:

- It facilitates resource sharing among libraries by means of inter-library loan,
- It is a useful tool for researchers and information seekers in general. By browsing the National Union Catalogue, anyone can search for Mauritiana documents and identify libraries holding specific library materials before physically visiting each library.

The National Union Catalogue can be consulted via the National Library's website at <http://national-library.gov.mu>.

The National Union Catalogue was officially launched on 16th September 2005 by Honourable Mahendra Gowressoo, Minister of Arts and Culture.

UNION LIST OF PERIODICALS

During the year 2005, an ambitious project of compiling and publishing online a list of all periodicals subscribed in major libraries in Mauritius was pioneered, initiated and implemented by the National Library. The project, known as the **Union List of Periodicals (ULP)** is a collaborative programme among fourteen libraries in Mauritius. Participating libraries in this programme are:

1. The University of Mauritius library
2. The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fishries
3. The University of Technology library
4. The Mauritius College of the Air
5. The Knowledge Centre of Enterprise Mauritius
6. The Mauritius Meteorological Service library
7. The Carnégie library
8. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development library
9. The China Cultural Centre in Mauritius
10. The Grand Bay Public Library
11. The Olof Palme Library
12. The 'Institut Supérieur de Technologie'
13. The Documentation Unit of the Ministry of Arts and Culture and
14. The National Library

The database which is accessible through the National Library website provides bibliographic details of periodicals, their location and the period during which they are held. Responsibility for maintenance and for updating of the ULP rests with the National Library. For research purposes, this database represents a vital tool as it gives a bird's eyeview of all journal subscriptions available in Mauritian libraries.

This remains a key achievement of the National Library, under its computerization project in the provision of web-based services.

COMPUTERISATION

The landscape of information provision throughout the world is witnessing a dramatic change. Libraries are becoming more than a warehouse of books and print-media. The emergence and integration of information technologies have extended the reach of libraries to new users globally and cultural heritage institutions, including national libraries, are embracing digital programmes to better serve their users.

During the year 2005-2006, the National Library consolidated its computerization programme by offering new services online and uploading a new website.

The **Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)** launched in **September 2004** is now fully operational. All incoming materials at the National Library, after undergoing technical processing, are systematically entered into the database. This ensures accessibility globally to the rich collection of the National Library. The total number of documents included in the OPAC system amounted to **29,332** as at 30th June 2006.

NEW WEBSITE

The year under review was marked by a totally revamped website of the National Library. Important corporate information was published online and all publications of the National Library are now accessible through the site. Annual reports of the past years, strategic plans, directory of information and documentation centres, application forms for ISSN, and C.I.P and the National Bibliography of Mauritius are all available online. The new design of the website ensures a user-friendly interface and easy navigational tools are incorporated. The new website of the National Library was successfully migrated on the server of the Government Online Centre (GOC) in January 2006 and its new address is <http://national-library.gov.mu>

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER (ISSN)

An eight-digit **I.S.S.N** number is allocated to serials such as: newspapers, magazines, newsletters, annual reports, year books, directories, transactions of societies and e-journals.

This identifier is managed by a worldwide network of seventy-seven National Centres, coordinated by an International Centre located in Paris. This is backed by UNESCO and the French Government. The National Library is the national ISSN Centre for Mauritius and Rodrigues.

During the period 2005-2006, **thirty-one** applications for ISSN were processed and numbers were allocated to private firms and public organisations.

CATALOGUING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA (CIP)

Cataloguing-in-publication data is a free service offered by the National Library to authors, printers and publishers since 2001. It involves the preparation of catalogue entries based on the **Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules** (2nd edition), the **Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme** (22nd edition) and the **Library of Congress Subject Headings** before books are printed.

C.I.P data were prepared for **thirteen** publications.

ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

HOLDINGS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library's collection has continued to grow steadily over the years. Although the main source of acquisition remains the legal deposit system, donations were received from the City Library, Ministry of Housing and Lands, Enterprise Mauritius (ex-MIDA), the Chinese Embassy, Mauritius Telecom, Ms O. Narod, Mrs Moorghen and Mahebourg Police Station.

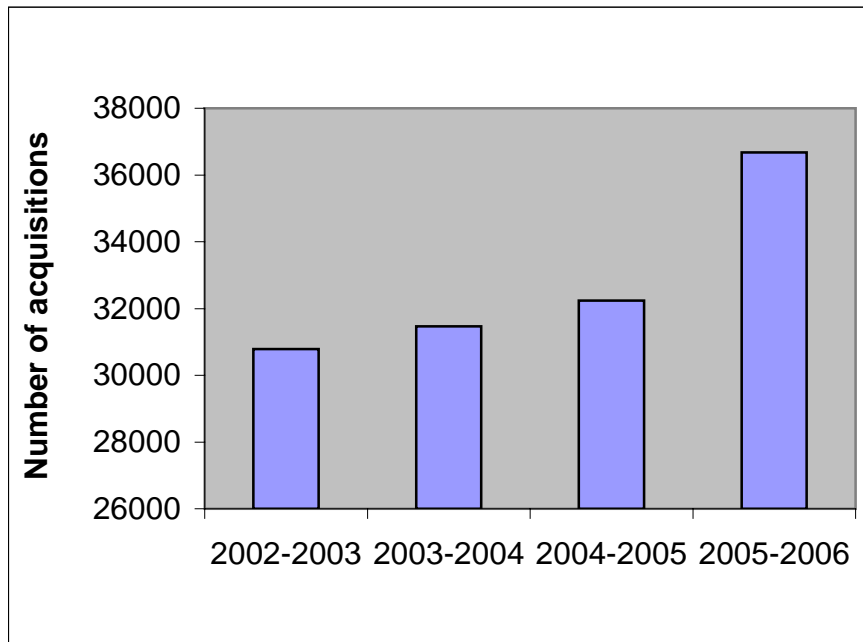
The holdings of the National Library as at 30th June 2006 were **279,026**.

The total number of library materials acquired during the year starting 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006 was **36,678**. Details are shown below:

ACQUISITIONS

Library Materials	Legal Deposit	Donations	Purchases	U.N	I.M.F	World Bank	Others	Total
Books/Monographs	1,735	1,873	57	267	664	416	39	5,051
Newspapers	21,147	1,518						22,665
Periodicals	4,503	981		1,685	45			7,214
Annual Reports	217	397		1	3	8		626
Audio Cassettes	3							3
Video Cassettes	402							402
CD/CD-ROMS/VCD/DVD	307	19	7	4	20	2		359
Maps		1						1
Stamps		29						29
Pamphlets	221	58		46	3			328
TOTAL	28,535	4,876	64	2,003	735	426	39	36,678

The total number of acquisitions for the last four years is shown below:



ACCESSIONING

Mauritiana	3,624
Reference (Non-Mauritiana)	194
U.N	193
I.M.F	662
World Bank	321
Stamps	34
Maps	-
Audio Visual	969
TOTAL	5,997

CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGUING

A library catalogue is an essential and important tool in a library. It is the key to the resource of the library. The extent of the use of library resources depends greatly on the quality of the technical processing of the documents. The bibliographic section of the Library is fully conscious of its responsibility to provide access to the wealth of information available at the National Library.

By providing bibliographic data, the technical staff provides the tools for identification, location and eventually to the physical access to the materials. Without these technical activities, the collection would remain unexploitable.

During the year under review, **3,107** library materials were processed. Cataloguing of library materials is carried out according to the 2nd edition of the **Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules** and the classification according to the 22nd edition of the **Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme**. Subject Headings based on the **Library of Congress Subject Headings** (22nd edition) were prepared for the documents.

INDEXING AND ABSTRACTING

The main purpose of indexing and abstracting is to save the time of information seekers by enabling them to retrieve specific information in the shortest possible delay. A list of indexing terms partly based on the **Library of Congress Subject Headings** is being used as thesaurus. At the National Library, indexes and abstracts were prepared for the following newspapers and periodicals:

- L'Express 1995-1996
- Le Mauricien 1995-1996
- Business Magazine 2005-2006
- Eco Austral 2006
- Islander 2006

The total number of articles indexed amounts to **4,213**.

The total number of abstracts prepared amounts to **2,556**.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

The National Library has the legal obligation to preserve for posterity the literary heritage of the nation. Most of the materials that make up the National Library's collections are currently based on paper and are essentially impermanent. Library materials are vital sources of information and are meant to be used. The dilemma of the library preservation is to make information accessible, while still ensuring the ultimate survival of the materials.

The National Library has recourse to various preservation techniques such as:

- Binding and repairs
- Lamination
- Microfilming
- Provision of appropriate storage conditions for the collections, i.e. controlling and maintaining specified and acceptable levels of temperature, relative humidity and light in the collections
- Use of protective enclosures (boxes, sleeves, wrappers and similar materials) to protect items within the collections.
- Maintenance and cleanliness in the storage areas and cleaning of collections on a systematic basis using appropriate methods.

BINDING SECTION

The works carried out during the financial year under review in the Binding section are as follows:

No. of books bound	529
No. of newspapers bound	24
No. of Magazines/reports bound	29
Miscellaneous items	6,542
Total	7,124

LAMINATION

The lamination of current newspapers continued during the year under review and 2,500 newspapers were laminated for the purpose of preservation.

MICROFILMING

Newspapers are primary sources of information and form an invaluable part of our documentary heritage. Printed on poor quality newsprint, their life expectancy is low and early intervention is required to ensure that they are not reduced to such a state of brittleness that it would be impossible to attempt to read their content without destroying them.

The National Library has recourse to microfilming as regards to retrospective newspapers. Microfilming has cost advantages over other reformatting processes, especially for items in many pages. When processed and stored according to appropriate standards and environmental conditions, microfilm is reported to have a lifetime of more than 500 years.

During the period under review, the following newspapers were microfilmed:

La Sentinelle de Maurice : 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1886, 1888

Le Progrès Colonial : 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1870, 1872, 1874, 1875, 1877, 1878,
1879, 1880, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1887, 1888, 1890, 1897, 1898

La Balance : 1332, 1833, 1834, 1835

Le Cernéen : 1832, 1833, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845

Le Cable : 1894, 1895 (Jan – May)

Ile de France : Documents pour son histoire civile et militaire (3 volumes)

CONSULTANCY IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The National Library provides its expertise in Library and Information Services to Ministries/ Departments and other public institutions, in the setting up or re-organisation of their libraries or documentation centres. Consultancy services have been given, free of charge, to several organisations at national level.

Organisation	Request for National library assistance
Financial Reporting Council	Setting up of a computerised library management service
Central Statistics Office	Re-organising the library and documentation centre
Sharda Nivas	Consultation for classification scheme
Tropic Knits	Setting up of a library
Mauritius College	Re-organising school libraries
Police Training School	Upgrading of the Police Library
Teresa Group	Re-classification of books

TRAINING IN LIBRARIANSHIP AND INFORMATION SERVICES OFFERED BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

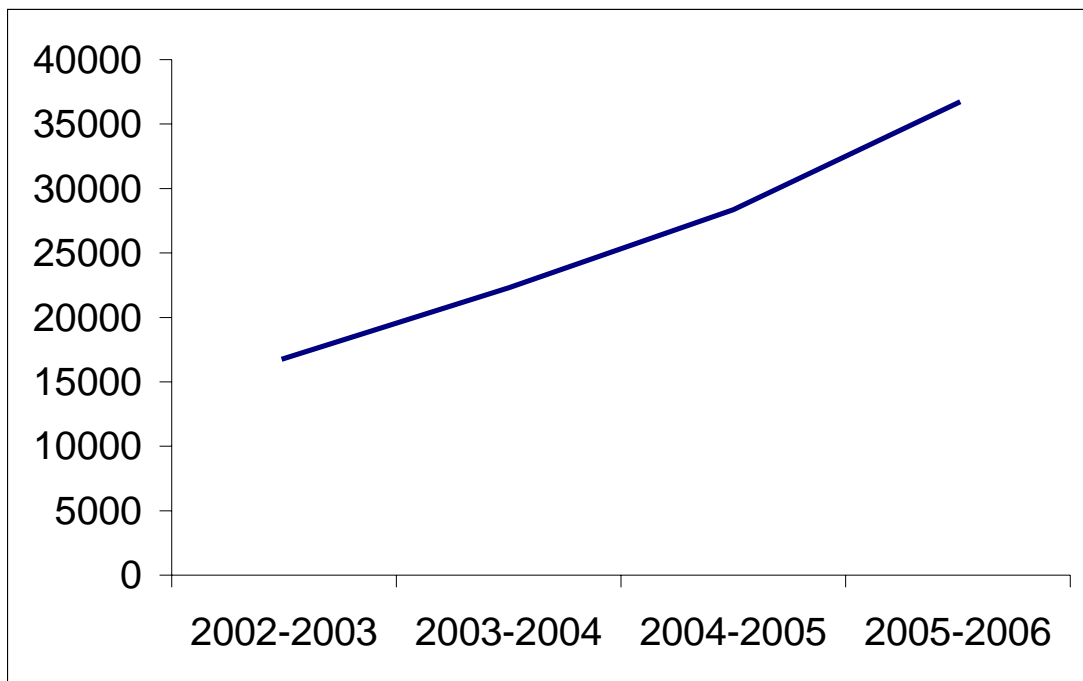
- Ms Sylvia Trinton and Mr Ludovic Lactive, staff from MASA, attended a one-day training on 'Archives' on 22nd July 2005.
- Ms K. Ramtoolah, from the Mauritius Telecom, attended a two-week training (Half Days) in Librarianship with effect from 12th September 2005.
- Ms Juleika Murden and Mrs Nandinee Dookhee from MACOSS, attended an in-service training programme in librarianship on '*Basic Techniques in Managing a Small Library / Documentation Unit*', from 14th September to 09th November 2005.
- Mrs M. Reekaye, from the Ministry of Arts and Culture, attended an in-service training programme in Librarianship on 'Basic Techniques in Managing a Small Library / Documentation Unit' for a period of one month with effect from 08th November 2005.
- Mr J. Chuckowree, from the Central Statistics Office, attended an in-service training programme in librarianship on '*Basic Techniques in Managing a Small Library / Documentation Unit*' for a period of two months with effect from 09th November 2005
- Mrs Vidya Mohun, from Bambous Library, attended an in-service training programme in librarianship on '*Basic Techniques in Managing a Small Library / Documentation Unit*', twice a week, with effect from 07th November to 30th December 2005..
- Ms Esther Seidowsky, 'Étudiante en Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie Spécialité Information-Communication à l'*Institut Universitaire de Technologie de la Rochelle-Sur-Yon, France*' was on training from 03rd April to 09th June 2006.
- Mr Sébastien Trouvé, 'Étudiant en Master/1 d'Histoire Géographique à l'Université de la Rochelle, France' was on training from 03rd April to 09th June 2006.
- Mrs P. Jagmohansingh and Mrs M. Mattarooa, Library Officer from the Mauritius College Library, attended an in-service training programme in Librarianship on '*Basic Techniques in Managing a Small Library / Documentation Unit*' from 10th to 20th April 2006.

SERVING OUR CUSTOMERS

In pursuance of its policy to understand customer expectations, and endeavour to meet these expectations by performing the correct task right first time and every time, the National Library has been offering a personalized free reference information service to its users and the general public at large.

The total number of users availing themselves of the service of the Search Room was 7,270 representing a rise of 20% over the previous year. It is noteworthy that since its opening in January 2000, **36,636** information seekers have been serviced by the National Library.

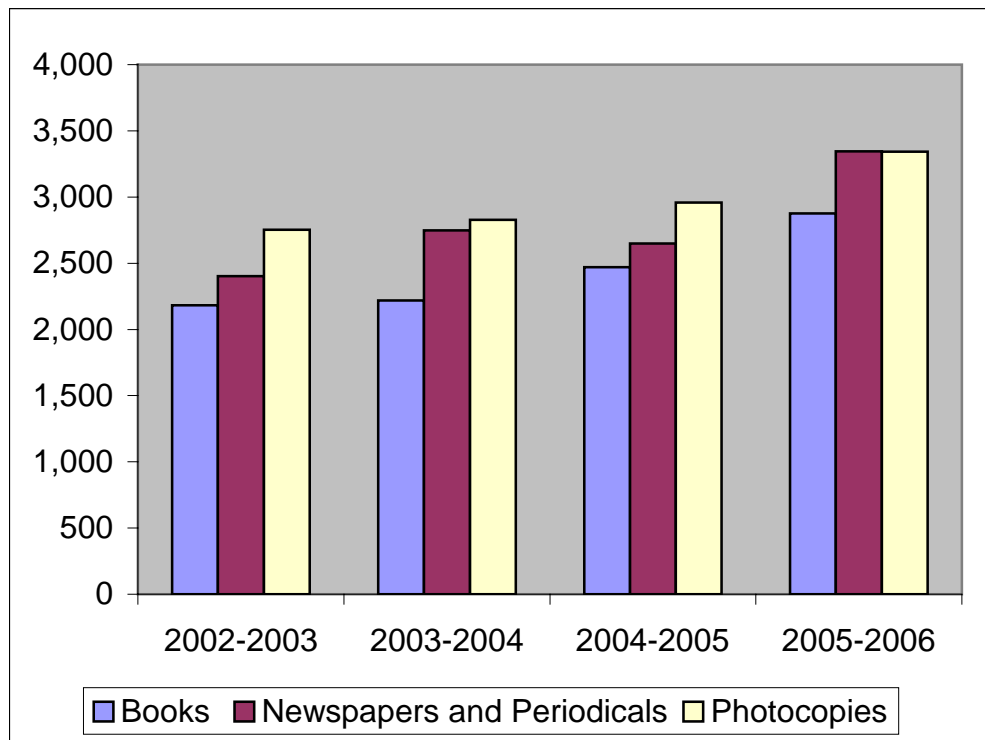
Below is a graph showing the increasing number of information seekers since July 2002.



Search Room Services

REQUESTS FOR REFERENCE/INFORMATION SERVICE		NUMBER
1.	Requests for Books	2,877
2.	Requests for Newspapers and Periodicals	3,346
3.	Requests for use of the Internet	834
4.	Requests for Audio-Visual materials	11
5.	Requests for photocopies	3,343
6.	Requests by phone	268
7.	Requests by mail and Email (overseas)	37
8.	Requests by Mail and Email (local)	27
TOTAL		10,743

The total number of requests for books, newspapers and photocopies for the last four years is shown below:



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

As an apex institution, leading the way in the field of librarianship in Mauritius, the National Library undertook several initiatives to best serve the Nation at large in research, scholarship and creativity. This is in line with our vision and mission.

The National Library has prepared a series of activities consistent with its role and responsibilities namely the World Book Day 2006 celebrations, Book Donation, Book launching, Round Table and Exhibition of United Nations Publications

WORLD BOOK DAY 2006 CELEBRATIONS

In 1995, the UNESCO proclaimed the World Book and Copyright Day on 23rd April of every year. This is a symbolic date for world literature in order to pay tribute to books and authors and to encourage everyone to discover the pleasure of reading and to foster renewed respect for contribution of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity. Since then, several millions of people throughout the world has been involved in the World Book Day to promote books and to fulfill the roles in education, art, culture and science.

Initiated by the National Library since 2003, celebrating the World Book Day has now become an annual national popular event. The National Library acts as a medium to promote a culture of reading to Mauritian people. Therefore, an Organising Committee was set up by the National Library under the Chairmanship of the Director in February 2006 comprising various stakeholders, namely, Government and parastatal bodies, municipalities and district councils, cultural centers, booksellers and distributors to chalk out a programme of activities to mark the celebration at the National level.

The theme for the World Day Book of this year was “*Lire, Grandir, Réussir*”. Reading is an important source of self-development and has to be built and promoted from an early age. The National Library is totally aware of the importance to attract more people towards books.

With a view to sensitise public on the importance of reading, the World Book Day was organized at different places namely at Port-Louis Waterfront on 22 April 2006, at Traffic Center in Flacq on 7 May 2006, at Mahebourg Waterfront on 27 May 2006 and for the first time at Port Mathurin in Rodrigues on the 3rd and 4th June 2006. The aim was to decentralize the activities all around the island in order to promote concern in reading to all Mauritian and Rodriguan people.

The help and support of, among others, the Ministry of Arts and Culture, Municipalities, District Councils, Cultural Centers and Advertising agencies have been the main pillars of the big success of this year's World Book Day celebrations. The local press, private radios and the MBC/TV also played a very dynamic role in the publicity campaign.

The Honourable Minister of Arts & Culture, in presence of the Deputy Lord Mayor of City of Port-Louis, officially launched the World Book Day Celebrations at the Port-Louis Waterfront.

A wide range of activities around the book were organized at Traffic Centre in Flacq, Port-Louis and Mahebourg Waterfronts such as quizzes, games, drawing competition, 'Concours d'orthographe', poem recitals, book exhibitions, sales of books, launching of books and initiation to IT culture by the National Computer Board. The Conservatoire de Musique François Mitterand, the Police Band and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute were present to provide musical entertainment during the above events.

At the Mahebourg Waterfront, Mr. Raouf Bundhun, Vice-President of the Republic, was the Chief Guest. Other personalities, namely, the Hon. Mahendra Gowressoo, Minister of Arts and Culture and Mr. R. Basenoo, Chairman of the Grand Port/ Savanne District Council, also graced the Opening Ceremony by their presence.

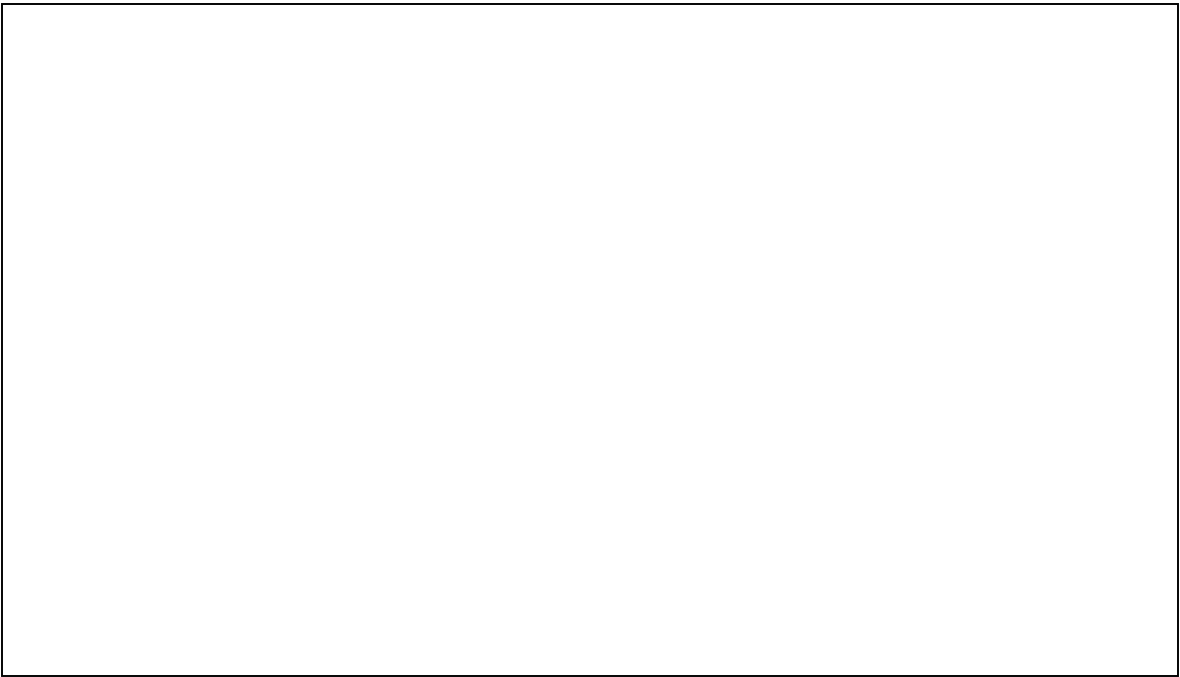
World Book Day 2006 Celebrations in Rodrigues

This year, World Book Day Celebrations were also extended to Rodrigues. This was a première for the National Library to go beyond Mauritius. With a view to create awareness on the importance of reading among the Rodriguan public, the Organising Committee had decided beforehand to involve the Rodriguans in the celebrations. The Opening Ceremony which was held on the 3rd of June, 2006, was graced by the presence of eminent personalities such as Mr. Raouf Bundhun, the Vice-President of the Republic, Hon Mahendra Gowressoo, Minister of Arts & Culture, Mr. Serge Clair, the Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues, and Mrs. Arlette Perrine Begué, Commissioner for Arts & Culture, Child Development and Family Welfare & Community Development. The Opening Ceremony was marked by a series of book donations by booksellers and distributors who participated in the event. Books were also donated to the Port Mathurin Public Library and Club de Lecture de Rémir. The Book Festival in Rodrigues was extended over two days, that is, on 3rd and 4th of June, 2006.

Under the dynamic drive of the Director of the National Library and the synergy and collaboration of the various stakeholders, the World Book Day Celebrations at the four locations were again a resounding success as that of the previous years as it was able to unite people from different ethnic groups.

BOOK DONATION CEREMONY

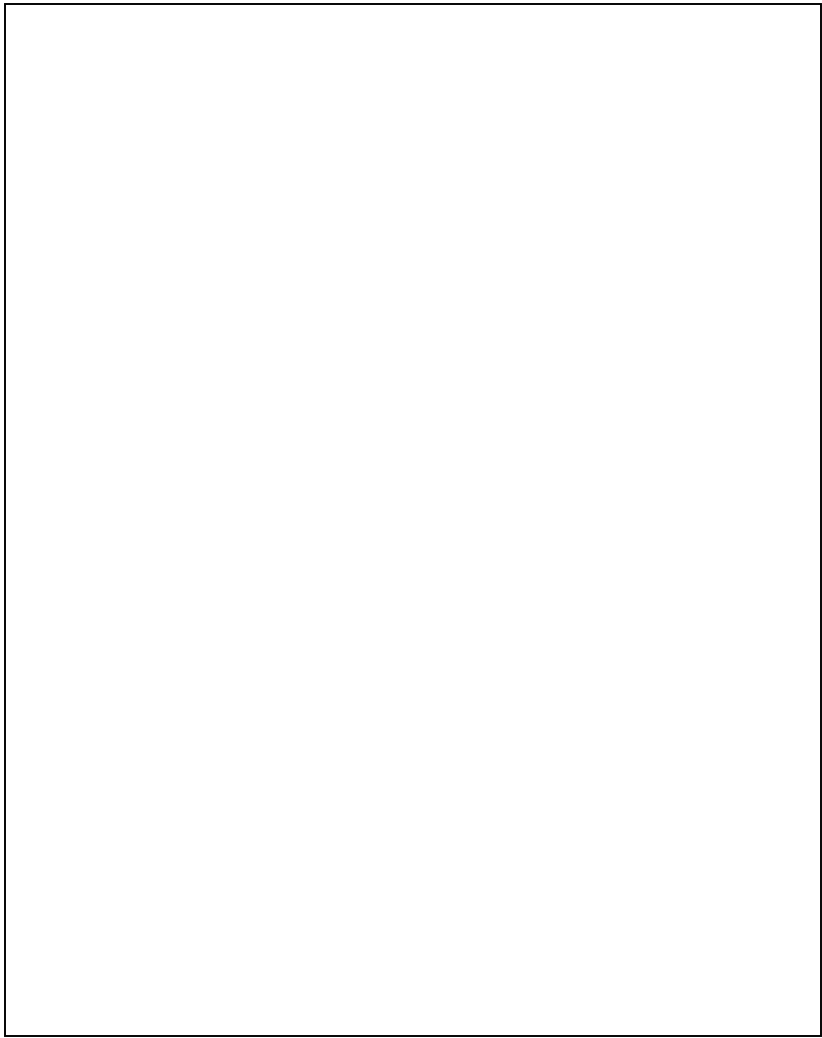
World Book Day 2006 was also marked by the organisation of other activities by the National Library. In the same context, a Book Donation Ceremony was organised on the 13th of April 2006. The main clue of the Ceremony was the donation of a collection of brand new books by Mr Sanjay Jagatsingh, on behalf of the Society of Financial Analysts of Mauritius. The Hon. Mahendra Gowressoo, Minister of Arts & Culture, was the Chief Guest.



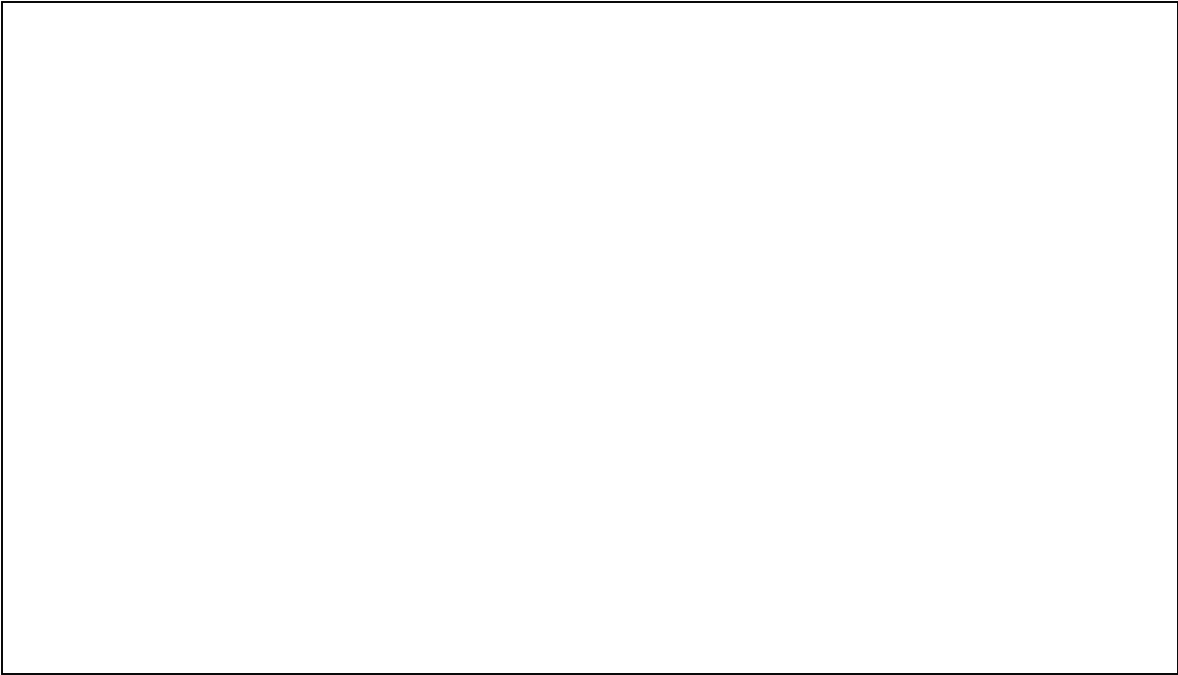
*World Book Day Celebration 2006
Hon. M. Gowressoo visiting a stand*



*World Book Day Celebration 2006
Spelling contest*



***World Book Day Celebration 2006
Book Donation Ceremony***

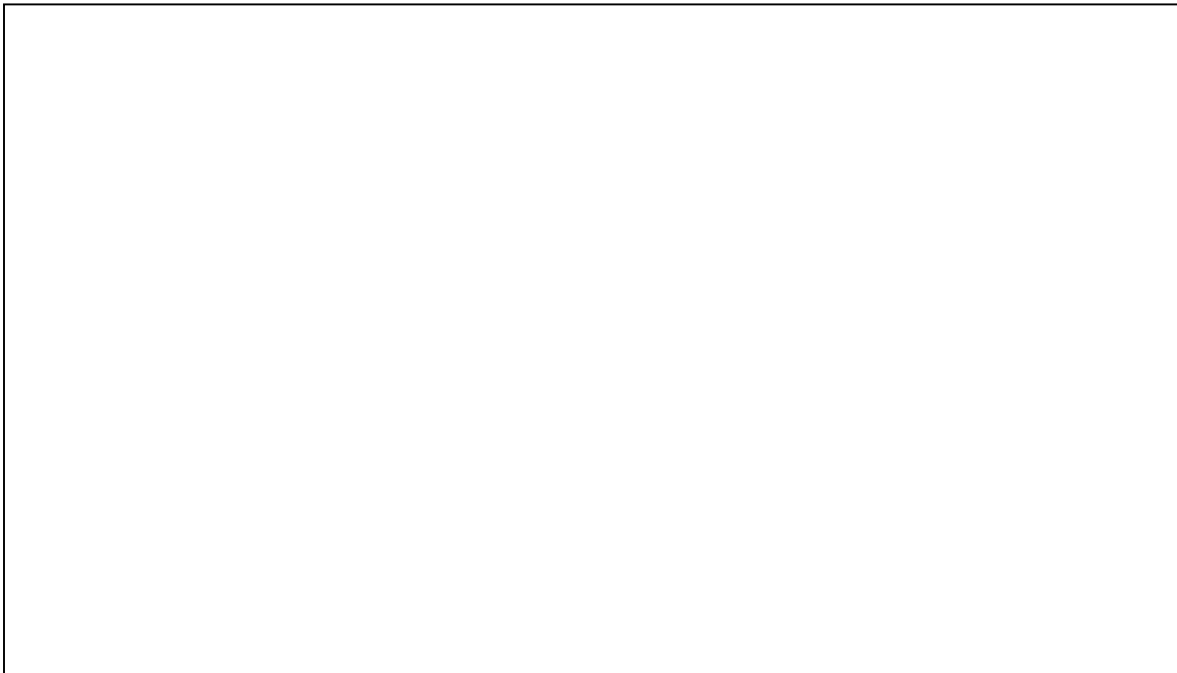


***Launching of “Une brève histoire du livre”, I.Asgarally’s book:
by the Hon. M. Gowressoo and in the presence of Mr J. M. Leclézio***

BOOK LAUNCHING CEREMONY AND ROUND TABLE

On the 17th of April 2006, a Book Launching Ceremony was organised to launch a book entitled “*Une brève histoire du livre*”, written by Dr Issa Asgarally and published by the National Library. As the title indicates, the book was mainly about the history of books, reading, and ideas. The Honourable Mahendra Gowressoo, Minister of Arts & Culture, was the Chief Guest of the occasion.

A Round Table on the theme “*La production du livre à Maurice– Quel Avenir?*” followed the above ceremony. The participants for the Round Table were Messrs Carl de Souza, Writer, S. Osman, Director of the Editions de l’Océan Indien, A.Sulliman, Director of Editions Le Printemps, Dr Issa Asgarally, Writer, and C. Cassiau-Haurie, of Centre Culturel Charles Baudelaire.



***World Book Day Celebrations 2006
Round Table***

EXHIBITION OF UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

In the month of October, a one-week exhibition of United Nations books was organized in the Search Room. Selected documents exhibited included *World Bank reports, United Nations Year Books, World Investment Reports, Statistical Reports, IMF and FAO publications* and *the UN Human Development Reports*. The exhibition aimed to highlight activities of the United Nations, founded on 24th October 1945, and was scheduled to mark the anniversary of the United Nations Day, observed internationally.

GUIDED VISITS AT THE LIBRARY

This year too, in the context of the activities organised for the World Book Day celebrations, guided visits were held in the month of July 2005 at the National Library.

Students were exposed to a presentation on the Mauritiana Collection, Collection Management, Collection of rare documents, short term and long-term strategies for preservation, a brief introduction on Internet access, and reading for pleasure. A guided tour of the National Library was also included in the programme. The visitors found the visit very interesting.

The colleges listed below participated in the programme and visits were held as follows: -

<i>DATE OF VISIT</i>	<i>NAME OF INSTITUTION</i>
12 July 2005	Foundation Pour L'Enfance Terre De Paix
21 July 2005	Queen Elizabeth College

POEM RECITAL COMPETITION

In the context of the activities organised for this year's World Book Day Celebrations, a Poem Recital competition was held at the National Library on 17th May 2006. This year too, the competition was in English Language. Seventeen pupils, aged 10 to 12 years, from primary schools participated in the competition.

THE STAFF

Confirmation of Staff

- Mrs S. Harree, Library Clerk, with effect from 16th May 2006
- Mrs M. M. Deliot, Clerk/Word Processing Operator, with effect from 8th July 2005

Staff on Leave Without Pay

- Mr D. Jodhun, Office Supervisor, with effect from 01st December 2005
- Mr D. L. T. M. Lai Cheong King, Library Officer, with effect from 03rd February 2006

Resignation

- Mrs D. E. Hassea, Administrative Assistant, with effect from 01st January 2006
- Mr S. K. Hauradhun, Library Clerk, with effect from 16th May 2006

PROMOTING HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Placement of Unemployed Degree and Diploma Holders

During the year under review, the following degree holders were on placement at the National Library, under the Skills Development Programme for Unemployed Degree and Diploma Holders 2005 – 2006 of the Ministry of Training and Skills Development, Productivity and External Communications.

- Ms Hurree Anusha from 01st December 2005 to 06th February 2006
- Ms Khoodeeram Heemla Devi from 01st December 2005 to 17th February 2006
- Mr Méyépa Dominique from 28th March 2006 to date

University of Mauritius Student Work Experience Programme (SWEP) 2005

The University of Mauritius Student Work Experience Programme is a placement designed to help University students, bridge the gap between academic education and work skills. Our institution participated in the programme and the following undergraduates were on placement at the National Library:

- Faculty of Science : From 05th June 2006 to 17th July 2006
Ms Seedhari Reena Devi, Ms Ramkissoon Krishtee, Ms Fakun Deepeelah Devi and Mr Deenoo Nitesh Kumar
- Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities : From 05th June 2006 to 21st July 2006
Ms Gunpoteea Urvashee, Ms Fulena Kushida Devi, Ms Nankoo Padmeenee, Ms Kaleechurn Shamini and Mr Chetwantee Rajcoomar

- Placement on Practicum / Practical Training : From 01st July 2005 to 31st December 2005
Ms Rozun Bibi Taslimah and Ms Ramphul Nandita
- Placement on Practicum / Practical Training : From 13th June 2006 to 31st December 2006
Ms Sairally Bibi Farahnaz and Mr Faugoo Luxmeenarain Kumar

In connection with the SWEP Programme 2005, Ms S. Cyparsade who was on training at the Ministry of Arts and Culture, attended a 2-Day Training Session at the National Library on 14th and 15th July 2005.

Training offered to the Staff of the National Library

The National Library supports the continuous professional development of staff, and ensures that the upgrading of knowledge and skills of existing staff is maintained. Training was offered by local institutions to staff of the National Library.

- In-House Training Programme for Library Staff and One Clerk/Word Processing Operator on Saturdays during the months of July and August 2005 conducted by the Senior Librarian

Staff Who Attended the Training are:

Mr Ramjaun Ibrahim, *Librarian*; **Mr Ramsamy Jayen**, *Acting Librarian*;

Mrs Sahadew Devi, *Library Officer*; **Mrs Suggoona Veena**, *Library Officer*; **Ms Lam Helena**, *Library Officer*; **Ms Bissessur Vandhana**, *Library Officer*; **Ms Peerbucus Bibi Nasseembee**, *Library Officer*;

Mrs Curoopen Padmini, *Library Officer*; **Mrs Meer Hossen Nassim**, *Library Clerk*;

Mrs Appadoo Shalinee, *Clerk / Word Processing Operator*

- **Mr Premchand Hauroo**, Senior Librarian, attended a local seminar on the occasion of the Computer Security Day on the 30th November 2005. The seminar was held at the Conference Hall at the Ebène Cyber Tower.

- **Ms Mandhub Bhamini**, *Clerk / Word Processing Operator*, attended One-Day Awareness Session on 'ISO/IEC 17799:2005 and ISO/IEC 27001:2005 on 20th March 2006 organised by Mauritius Standard Bureau.
- **Mr Mathoorasing Mahen**, *Accounts Officer*, attended a Workshop on 'International Accounting Standards (IAS), from 22nd to 28th March 2006 organised by the Mauritian Management Association.
- **Mrs Suggoona Veena**, *Library Officer*, attended a Workshop 'Preserving our Pictorial Heritage : Photographs in African Collections' held at the National Archives of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia from 03rd to 07th April 2006.
- **Mrs Kistamah Soonita**, *Chairperson of the National Library Board*, attended a Workshop on 'National Code of Corporate Governance' from 04th to 05th April 2006 organised by the Mauritian Management Association.
- **Ms Bissessur Vandhana Devi**, *Library Officer*, attended a training on 'L'Animation en Bibliothèquisme' from 20th to 21st April 2006, organised by the 'Centre Culturel Charles Baudelaire'.
- **Mr Ramjaun Ibrahim**, *Librarian*, attended a Four-Day training programme in MS ISO 9001:2000 as follows:
 - 15th to 16th May 2006 – Preparing for ISO 9001:2000 Assessment
 - 17th to 18th May 2006 – ISO 9001:2000 Internal Auditor
- **Mrs Meer Hossen Nassim**, *Library Clerk*, attended a training session on 'Initiation à la Bibliothéconomie' from 20th to 24th June 2006 organised by the 'Centre Culturel Charles Baudelaire'.

CORPORATE MATTERS

Participation of the National Library in Committees & Meetings

During the year under review, the Director of the National Library attended the following committees and meetings:

- Africa Day of the Civil Service and Administration Day and the UN Public Service, *Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms*
- Association of Professional Librarians
- Celebration of the 100th Birth Anniversary of Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed (1st to 8th August 06), *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Celebration of the 105th Birth Anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Foire et Découverte Artistique Project, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Management Committee Meeting, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Mauritius Council of Registered Librarians
- Meeting in connection with Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- National Archives Advisory Committee, *National Archives Department*
- National Committee on the Slave Route Project, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- National Genealogy Committee, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Newsletter Editorial Committee, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Observatoire Géopolitique de l'Océan Indien
- President Fund for Creative Writing in English, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Public Records Appraisal Committee, *National Archives Department*
- Rétrospective Hervé Masson Exhibition, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*

- The Mauritius Public Sector Quality Association General Meeting, *Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms*

UNEP Project on Development of National Legal Databases to enhance access to Environmental Law Information in Africa

Local Seminars and Conferences attended by the Director during the period July 2005 to June 2006

The Director attended the following seminars and conferences :

Date	Function
13 th August 2005	Workshop on the theme 'The implementation of Government Programme 2005-2010 – Putting People First' At Maritim Hotel, Balaclava
26 th October 2005	Presentation on Team Synthesis Software At Sir H. Vaghjee Hall, New Government Centre, Port-Louis
9 th November 2005	Live Digital Video Conference, theme 'The life & legacy of Rosa Parks' At U.S Embassy, Rogers House
6 th December 2005	Workshop on Integrity Management System At Hotel School of Mauritius, Ebène
9 th December 2005	National Symposium on Corruption on 2 nd International Anti-Corruption day At Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Bell Village

Date	Function
14 th February 2006	Presentation on ‘Results-Based Management & Performance Management through Medium Term Expenditure Framework’ At Sir H. Vaghjee Hall, New Government Centre, Port-Louis
16 th March 2006	Half-day workshop on National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) At Sir H. Vaghjee Hall, New Government Centre, Port-Louis
20 th March 2006	Internet fiesta 2006: Seminar on ‘Using the Internet for electronic delivery of Government Services’ At Conference Hall 1, Ebène Cyber Tower
16 th March 2006	Visit of South African Delegation Work Session with members of African Public Service Day At Conference room, Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms

Participation of the Director to International Conferences and Seminars

UUParticipation of the Director at the 16th General Assembly of the ISSN (*International Standard Serial Number*) held on 25th and 26th April 2006.

Mr Yves Chan Kam Lon, Director of the National Library, attended the 16th ISSN General Assembly held at Unesco House, on the 25th and 26th April 2006.

The following countries participated in this ISSN General Assembly:

Argentina, Belgium, Bosnia and Hertzegovin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Poland, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, USA and UNESCO.

The salient factor of the ISSN International Centre is the implementation of the new computer system, *virtua*, a client-server system, using oracle as its Database Management System, running on the UNIX operating system also. As at present, many National ISSN Centres are subscribing to Virtua. Mauritius is contemplating to do the same.

The ISSN had undertaken to prepare a new Strategic Plan for the years 2006-2012. The Draft Strategic Plan was presented orally at the General Assembly meeting for discussion by the Representatives of the ISSN Member Countries. Member Countries had the opportunity to contribute their own vision of the future of the ISSN System.

Mauritius proposed its candidature to sit on the Governing Board, together with thirteen countries. Unfortunately, four countries, including Mauritius, were not elected.

VISITORS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY:

05th September 2005

Visit of the **Honourable Rama Valayden**, *Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and Human Rights*.

05th December 2005

Visit of **Mrs Ita Palal Segoati**, *Deputy Director of Arts and Culture of South Africa*

20th February 2006

Mr Fred Constant, *Conseiller de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle de l'Ambassade de France à Maurice*, visited the National Library on 20th February 2006.

14th March 2006

Mr Sanjay Jagatsingh, *Director of the Society of Financial Analysts of Mauritius*, carried out a visit to the National Library. He also donated some books and a Donation Ceremony was held.

29th March 2006

Visit of Mr Roger Horgan, *Branch Librarian of the Albert Facey Memorial Library of Australia*, was on visit at the National Library on 20th February 2006 and seized that opportunity to carry out research work.

**Report of the Director of Audit
to the Chairperson of the National Library**