

NATIONAL LIBRARY
(Republic of Mauritius)



Annual Report
2009-2010



NATIONAL LIBRARY

(Republic of Mauritius)



CORPORATE INFORMATION

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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.

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Chairperson's Foreword	4
Director's Review	5
The National Library Board	6
Planning and Development	8
National Library Mandates	10
Acquisition and Processing of Library Materials	16
Serving Our Customers	20
Outreach Activities	21
The Staff	26
Promoting Human Resource Development	27
Corporate Matters	32
Financial Statements	

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

by Mrs S. Kistamah, Chairperson, National Library Board

It is indeed with much pleasure that I am presenting the Annual Report of the National Library for the period ending July 2009 to December 2010.

This Annual Report encapsulates, in a very explicit and coherent way, the various activities, undertaken by the National Library during the period under review. The National Library continues to play a vital role in the national system of information management while at the same time consolidating its collection, which keeps on increasing, thanks to the generosity of our countrymen. In addition, the National Library pursues in its actions of promoting reading among the public through its outreach activities. The celebration of the World Book Day has become an annual feature, which draws a lot of people to books.

I am sincerely convinced that if the National Library has achieved so much, in spite of financial constraints, it is mainly due to the good partnership with stakeholders of the country.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Ministry of Arts and Culture and all our stakeholders, who had contributed, in one way or the other, to the development of the National Library. My sincere thanks go to the members of the National Library Board, the Director and all his staff for their unflinching support and total dedication to work.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

By **Y. Chan Kam Lon, O.S.K, Director, National Library**

This year under review saw the National Library developing steadily but slowly, in spite of budget constraint. The National Library has continued to increase its holding through the legal deposit and the generous donation of individuals and institutions.

The National Library being already a depository library for documents issued by International Organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, has this year, hosted an EU Information Centre for Mauritius. The aim of this Information Centre is to keep researchers, students and the public at large abreast of the EU and its policies.

The National Library has also embarked on a number of activities during the year under review including among others a two day workshop on the topic “Preserving Paradise”, a Round Table on the theme: “The National Library of Mauritius: Its importance in Modern Mauritius” in the context of its 10th Anniversary, the World Book Day 2010, which was organized at the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin / Rose Hill, Port Louis Waterfront and in Rodrigues. It was during the year under review that the National Library organized its first International Book Fair Mauritius in collaboration with Books and Business Co. Ltd in the Cybercity at Ebene. Equally of significant importance, the Donation Ceremony of books and Personal Computers, generously donated by the People’s Republic of China.

The National Library has also had the privilege of welcoming Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne at the National Library for the launching of the book “Kaleidoscopic Conquest: Mauritius 1810”. The National Library mounted an exhibition on this special occasion.

To conclude, I would like to express my appreciation to my staff for their dedication and hard work and to the Chairperson and Members of the National Library Board for their commitment and support in the implementation of the National Library programme. The Ministry of Arts and Culture needs a special mention for its constant support.

COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Chairperson

Mrs A. Kistamah

Members

Representative of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources

Mr R. Joorawon

Representative of the Ministry of Arts and Culture

Mrs A. Arekion

Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Ms N. Codadeen

Representative of the National Archives Department

Mr R. Chung Sam Wan

Representative – Head of the Library Cadre

Mrs G. Atmarrow

Representative of District Councils

Mr. J. Mulloo, Secretary, *Moka/Flacq District Council* (until December 2009)

Representative of an Academic Library

Mrs C. Ah Fat Pitt Fong

Representative of a Public Library

Mrs T. K. Hurrynag-Ramnauth

Representative of a Special Library

Mrs S. Mungra

Representative of Association of Urban Authorities

Mr M. Bac

Tender and Finance Committee

1. Mrs S. Kistamah
2. Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon, OSK
3. Mrs G. Atmarow
4. Mrs A. Arekion
5. Ms N. Codadeen

Appointment Committee

1. Mrs S. Kistamah
2. Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon, OSK
3. Mrs A. Arekion
4. Ms N. Codadeen
5. Mrs T. K. Hurrynag-Ramnauth

1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ISO 9001:2008 Certification

In line with the policy of the Government to enhance service quality in the public sector, the National Library established, documented and maintained the MS ISO 9001:2000 quality management system since January 2005. The resulting benefits include increased customer confidence and satisfaction, improved operational efficiency and effectiveness, enhanced internal and external communication, greater accountability and transparency in work processes.

In order to ensure continual improvement, internal and external audit exercises were carried out regularly during the period under review. The Mauritius Standards Bureau conducted the second re-certification audit of the National Library for the adoption of MS ISO 9001:2008 in December 2010. The certification of this new version of the standard has thus been awarded to the National Library.

Customer Focus

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

Two surveys were conducted during the months of September to November 2009 and September to October 2010 respectively. Questionnaires were distributed to a representative sample of users. The simple stratified random sampling technique was adopted which targeted our four main user-groups, namely the general public, researchers/academics, students and foreigners. The findings indicated that customers rated ease of access, the convenience of the opening hours, lighting, seating and comfort level, the helpfulness of the staff and the availability of information as the highest performing factors. However, there were indications that the quality of the Internet service and the photocopy service needed to be improved. The use of the Online-Public Access Catalogue(OPAC) ought to be further promoted.

EU Information Centre (EUi)

In addition to one of its main statutory objectives of acquiring a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Mauritius, the National Library is also a depository library for documents issued by prestigious international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Since 16 June 2010, the National Library is hosting an EU Information Centre for Mauritius, the first ever of its kind in the Indian Ocean region. More than 200 EUi's exist throughout the European Union and in developing countries. This Information Centre aims at keeping researchers, students and the public at large abreast with the EU and its policies. The collection comprises general information on the EU, its history, the various EU institutions and a wide range of subjects such as agriculture, economy, energy environment, external relations, finance, industry, justice, law, scientific and technical research, sport, statistics and trade.

Overall, the collection contains more than 300 titles in the form of brochures, videos, DVDs, periodicals, books and CD-ROMs.

The inauguration of the EUi was done jointly by the Honourable Mookhesswur Choonee, Minister of Arts and Culture and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, H.E. Ambassador Alessandro Mariani.

2. NATIONAL LIBRARY MANDATES

National Bibliography of Mauritius

The compilation of the National Bibliography of Mauritius is one of the statutory obligation of the National Library of Mauritius. It is an important bibliographic tool which aims to list every work printed and published in and on Mauritius and in doing so makes the published heritage known and accessible to present and future generations. The National Bibliography of Mauritius includes works in different formats, that is, books, serials, journals, magazines, newsletters, government publications, annual reports and newspapers. It also provides full bibliographical details of all works listed based on internationally recognized standards such as Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (2nd Edition), Dewey Decimal Classification (22nd edition) and the Library of Congress List of Subject Headings (22nd edition).

The National Bibliography of Mauritius is a useful information tool for researchers and information seekers and gives access to the National Library's Mauritian collection. It also incorporates comprehensive author, title and subject indexes, which are meant to guide readers in their research work.

For libraries, the National Bibliography of Mauritius is useful for collection development and also for verifying bibliographic information. During the period under review, the National Bibliography of Mauritius for the years 2008 and 2009 has been compiled.

National Union Catalogue (NUC)

Launched in 2005, the National Union Catalogue is a unified master catalogue of Mauritian library materials held by twelve major libraries in Mauritius and has the distinct advantage of gathering in one place and on one website the maximum bibliographic records of Mauritian holding of these twelve libraries:

The participating libraries in this programme are:

1. The National Library of Mauritius
2. The City Library
3. The Olof Palme Library
4. The Simone de Beauvoir Library
5. The Carnegie Library
6. The Mahatma Gandhi Institute Library
7. The National Resource Centre of the Mauritius College of the Air
8. The Police Library
9. The Mediatheque Centre Culturel Charles Baudelaire
10. The University of Technology, Mauritius Library
11. The Malcolm de Chazal Public Library
12. The Knowledge Centre of Enterprise Mauritius

The National Union Catalogue is a vital element of library cooperation and facilitates resource sharing among libraries by means of inter-library loan. It is a useful tool for researchers and information seekers. The National Union Catalogue can be consulted via the National Library's website <http://national-library.gov.mu>. During the period under review, **6,719** bibliographical records have been added to the National Union Catalogue database and the total number of bibliographical records in the database amounts to **59,695**.

Cataloguing-In-Publication Data (CIP)

CIP is a free service offered by the National Library of Mauritius to local printers, publishers and authors since 2001 and involves the preparation of cataloguing entries for new books in advance of publication. The CIP data is then printed on the verso of the title page of the book. CIP ensures standardization in classification and cataloguing of Mauritiana materials and also facilitates book processing for libraries.

34 CIP data have been prepared by the National Library during the period under review.

Meeting with Printers

In line with one of the statutory objectives of the National Library, that is, *‘to act as the national bibliographic centre and maintain the national bibliography and other bibliographies’*, a meeting with the major printers of books and serials was organized on Tuesday 27th July, 2010 at the National Library. Representatives from seventeen printing companies attended this function.

A powerpoint presentation was made which lasted for one hour. This interactive session offered an opportunity to explain the importance of each of the following topics, answer questions and clarify issues:

- Legal Deposit
- Cataloguing-in-Publication data
- International Standard Serial Number
- ISO 1086:1991 Title Leaves of Books

Overall, this meeting proved to be a fruitful exercise indeed due to the fact that printers were sensitized on their role as active stakeholders in the process of national bibliographic control.

Computerisation

The use of computers and other automatic data processing machines in libraries is not new. The National Library already has its catalogue in a computerised form, available online to the public at large. During the year under review, more library activities were automated and a few programmes were implemented on an experimental basis.

Union List of Periodicals

This project which was initiated and implemented as from the year 2005, has undergone further development. Some fourteen libraries participate in this programme to make available to the public the list of periodicals available in major libraries of Mauritius. Bibliographical records of the holdings of each participating library are maintained and updated on an annual basis. Data are provided by each library and the National Library holds responsibility for updating the database.

As at December 2010, bibliographic details of periodicals, their location and the period during which they are held in each library have been updated. This programme has been successful not only in providing bibliographical details through a single enumerative access point of all periodicals holdings of the fourteen participating libraries but also sharing the resources through library networking, thereby providing access to information faster and more easily.

OPAC: Online Public Access Catalogue

Launched in September 2004, this online catalogue provides access to users to the holdings of the National Library. Each new addition to the collection of the library is systematically described and for each new document, bibliographic data are derived and entered into the system. The OPAC serves as the key to exploit the rich resources of the National Library. The total number of documents included in the OPAC system amounted to **47,064** as at 31st December 2010. The total number of documents entered into the system during the period under review amount to **6,600**.

Web Services

The website of the National Library serves as a communication tool between the institution and its users. Major publications of the library such as annual reports, strategic plans, Directory of Information and Documentation Centres are available online. Users may also send their queries by hitting on “*Ask a Librarian*” button. Application forms for ISSN and C.I.P. are downloadable from the site and an updated list of local publications available on sale at the counter of the National Library is also maintained.

Experimental Projects

Following training received on the use of the Greenstone software, staffs have tried on an experimental basis to build a digital collection. Locally held Mauritiana documents falling in the public domain were selected, scanned and processed to be included into the digital library. The collection also included images, html documents, PDF files and texts in different formats. The experiment was successful. A copy of the Greenstone software was made available by UNESCO and was installed as a standalone programme on two computers.

The Greenstone software was also tested to import a locally built database on WINISIS software. Data was successfully imported but the layout of printed version need further work. As at December 2010, two products developed on the Greenstone software, namely, the “digital collection” and a “bibliographical database” were exported on CD-ROM.

International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)

The ISSN is the international identifier for serials and other continuing resources in the electronic and print world.

The ISSN numbers are assigned by the ISSN national centres coordinated in a network of **88** National Centres.

It is an eight-digit number which identifies periodical publications including electronic serials. It is a numeric code which is used as an identifier. The ISSN is applicable to the entire population of serials, whether past, present or to be published in the foreseeable future. Serial includes periodicals, newspapers, annuals (reports, yearbooks, directions, etc), the journals, series, memoirs, proceedings, transactions, etc of societies.

The National Library acts as the National ISSN Centre for Mauritius and Rodrigues. For the year under review, the National Library has processed **33** ISSN applications.

Photographs

Photographs provide us with a special form of historical documentation. They provide a graphic representation of the past not found in other media. Photographs are physically and chemically complex and require special care to preserve. The National Library acquired photographs as donation and provides proper environmental factor such as humidity, light and temperature to the photographs. During the year under review **52** photographs were accessioned, cleaned and filed.

3. ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING OF LIBRARY MATERIAL

Holdings of the National Library

One of the main responsibilities of the National Library is to maintain and develop a comprehensive collection of library materials pertaining to Mauritius and Mauritian people. Six copies of all works printed in Mauritius are acquired by the National Library through legal deposit under the provisions of the National Library Act 1996. The library materials covers books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, stamps and audio visual materials.

Other sources of acquisition of library materials are through donation and purchase. It is noteworthy that during the year under review, donations were received from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

The holdings of the National Library as at 31st December, 2010 were **423,323**.

The total number of library materials acquired during the period starting 1st July 2009 to 31st December, 2010 was **45,137**. Details are shown in the following table:

Library Materials	Legal Deposit	Donations	Purchase	U.N	I.M.F	World Bank	E.U.	Others	Total
Books/Monographs	2,949	1004	37	366	449	65	317	-	5,187
Newspapers	28,187	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,199
Periodicals	6,889	1130	-	813	334	14	112	-	9,292
Annual Reports	581	147	-	3	-	-	5	-	736
CD/CDROMS/VCD/DVD	625	96	-	8	39	1	198	32	999
Maps	-	-	-						-
Stamps	-	9	-						9
Pamphlets	711	4	-						715
Total	39,942	2,402	37	1,190	822	80	632	32	45,137

Accessioning

Libraries need to maintain records of the materials acquired in the Accession Register. This register constitutes a permanent record of the library. During this process, entries of the book are recorded wherein each book is assigned an accession number. During the year under review **5,937** documents have been accessioned

Mauritiana	3,870
Reference (Non-Mauritiana)	132
U.N	370
I.M.F	557
World Bank	82
Stamps	11
Manuscripts	11
Audio Visual materials	525
European Union	379
TOTAL	5,937

Classification and Cataloguing

Classification is one of the major tasks of the library staff, whereby he organizes the reading material for browsing, searching and retrieval by subject. The classifier has to give each book in the library a unique numeric or alphanumeric number called 'call number' which is based on the classification system used in the particular library.

A library catalogue is an essential 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 documents.

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

During the year under review, **6,600** 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 organize information by describing contents bibliographically and providing pointers to their location for retrieval. The Library of Congress Subject Headings was used as guide to prepare indexes and abstracts for the following periodicals

- ❖ Business Magazine - 2009-2010
- ❖ Journal of Mauritian Studies – 1985-2009
- ❖ Prosi - 2001

The total number of articles indexed and abstracted was **1,518**.

Preservation Practices at the National Library

The National Library has in its mandate to preserve for posterity the local print heritage of Mauritius. The National Library has, therefore, put into place various preservation measures in order to safeguard its documents as long as possible. The preservation techniques adopted are as follows:

- (1) Binding and repairs
- (2) Microfilming
- (3) Provision of appropriate storage conditions

(1) Binding and repairs

The works carried out during the period July 2009-December 2010 are :

No. of books bound	: 944
No. of newspapers bound	: 163
No. of magazines bound	: 366
Miscellaneous	: 23,395
Total	: 24,868

(2) Microfilming

The National Library has recourse to microfilming as one of its preservation techniques. As such, newspapers which are in a state of brittleness are microfilmed so that they can be made available for future generations.

The following newspapers and gazettes were microfilmed:

1. New Mauritius Gazette : 1820,1822,1824,1825,1826,1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837
2. Mauritius Government Gazette : 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843

(3) Provision of appropriate storage conditions

The library takes care of its collections by providing for appropriate storage conditions. As such, temperature, humidity and light conditions are constantly monitored in order to prevent the further deterioration of its paper-based materials.

Consultancy work

A request for consultancy was made to the National Library by the Conservatoire Nationale de Musique François Mitterrand Trust Fund in November 2009.

4. SERVING OUR CUSTOMERS

Serving our Customers

The National Library aims to provide a top-class information service to its customers. A noticeable feature is the fact that its clientele has continued to increase. The National Library offers personalized quality service, in a spacious air conditioned Search Room including library and information services through phone, e-mail and fax.

During the year under review, the library attended to **224** requests for information by phone and **116** requests by mail and email.

For the period under review, the total number of users availing themselves of the services of the Search Room was **9,915**. It is to be noted that since its opening, the National Library has received **72,276** users.

Search Room Services

The table below illustrates the number of requests received for books, newspapers, periodicals, use of Internet Services, audio-visual materials, photocopies and attended to during the year under review.

REQUESTS FOR REFERENCE/INFORMATION SERVICE		NUMBER
1.	Requests for Books	5, 509
2.	Requests for Newspapers and Periodicals	5,348
3.	Requests for use of the Internet	908
4.	Requests for Audio-Visual materials	2
5.	Requests for photocopies	2,914
6.	Requests by phone	224
7.	Requests by Mail and Email (overseas)	64
8.	Requests by Mail and Email (local)	52
	TOTAL	15,021

5. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Conference at the National Library

The National Library has organised a two day workshop on the topic “Preserving Paradise”. The aim of this workshop is to introduce basic techniques of paper conservation and preservation to cultural institutions in Mauritius.

A conference was held on the 17th and 24th July 2009 at the Board Room of the National Library based on the following topics. The first one refers to “The introduction to Paper Conservation Techniques; Dry Cleaning, Tear repair, Inpainting and Encapsulation”. And the second one refers to “Web Techniques: Washing, Stain removal, and Loss compensation with pulp fills. The topic of ethics and preservation has also been discussed.

The key resource person was Ms Melody Chen, Masters Student in Art Conservation at Buffalo State College in New York, USA.

A talk was organized by Dr. Aaliyah Rajah-Carim, former lecturer Linguistics at Edin Burgh University and Leeds University and fellow research at the Ibn Sina Academic Research Centre on Wednesday 25th November 2009 about the “Library of the World: Custodians of the Languages Lecture”.

Round Table (10th Anniversary of the National Library)

To mark the 10th Anniversary of the National Library, the National Library organized a Round Table on the theme: “the National Library of Mauritius: Its importance in Modern Mauritius” on Tuesday 8th December 2009 at its seat.

As member of the panel, there was the presence of Mr. Joseph Tsang Man Kin, former Ministry of Arts and Culture; Dr. Norbert Benoît, Historian; Mr. Shaffick Osman, Executive Chairman of Books and Business Co. ltd; and Mr. Yvan Martial, Historian.

10th Anniversary of the National Library ‘Opening Ceremony’

In the context of its 10th Anniversary, the National Library is organizing, among others, a Children Book Festival in its Search Room on Wednesday 09th December 2009.

A new publication describing the history and achievements of the National Library was released on this occasion.

10th Anniversary of the National Library ‘Closing Ceremony’

The Closing Ceremony of the 10th Anniversary of the National Library, a closing ceremony was held on Wednesday 16th December 2009 at the Imperial China Restaurant, Emerald Park Commercial Centre, Trianon.

Eminent personalities were graced on this occasion. The closing ceremony was marked by a series of activities such as: The launching of a booklet on the History and Development of National Library from 1999-2009; the handing over of certificates to staff; the donation of personal computers to the National Library by SICOM; and a cake cutting ceremony.

Book Launching Ceremony

On the 20th January 2010, a Book Launching Ceremony was organized to launch a book entitled “La Statue de Bertrand-François Mahé de la Bourdonnais” written by Dr. Norbert Benoît.

As the title indicates, the book was mainly about the history of Mahé de la Bourdonnais. The Honorable Xavier Luc Duval, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communication was the chief guest of this occasion.

Round Table

So as to commemorate the World Book Day 2010, a series of activities were also organized within the premises of the National Library. In the same context, a Round Table was organized on Friday 23rd April 2010 in the Search Room of the National Library around the theme: ‘Rapprochement des culture’.

The participants were Dr. Issa Asgarally, Mrs Nandini D.Bhautoo-Dewnarain, Mr Chit Dukhira, Mr Gaëtan Jacquette and Mrs Danielle Turner.
The moderator was Mr Robert Furlong.

World Book Day 2010

Each year, World Book Day is celebrated to promote reading and obtain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity.

The aim of this celebration is to help the children discover the world of education and encourage them to devote more time to reading and understand the importance of reading. The World Book Day is a symbolic day to pay tribute to book and authors in the world of literature. In her message, in the context of this year’s World Book Day 2010, Ms Irina

Bokora, the director-general of UNESCO, highlighted that books improve our knowledge of others and of their philosophies, and therefore enhance our understanding of the world. They also provide development opportunities, for all ages and, in particular, for young people. She also implies that books cannot be celebrated without sparing a thought for the 759 millions people who can neither read nor write; two-thirds of whom are women. Freedom to read, to receive an education, to access remote cultures and research findings is nonetheless a fundamental human right. Everyone must be able to enjoy the right to education. Freedom of circulation is also an essential requirement for everyone to have access to books. Books are works of art and science, and vehicles for ideas. They magnificently materialize creative diversity, generate universal knowledge and contribute dialogue. They are instruments for peace.

This year, the organizing committee and the National Library organized three books Festivals on the World Book and Copyright Day, one, at the Municipal Council of Beau-Bassin / Rose-Hill on 5th June 2010, and the second one, at Port-Louis Waterfront on 26th June 2010 and the third one, at Rodrigues on the 6th, 7th and 8th August 2010.

Visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne

In the context of the launching of the book *“Kaleidoscopic Conquest: Mauritius 1810”* held on Friday 3rd December 2010, the National Library had the privilege of welcoming Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Princess Anne accompanied by her husband.

Her Royal Highness and her team were at the outset formally greeted by the Minister of Arts & Culture, the British High Commissioner and the Director of the National Library. Her Royal Highness had first met all the senior most staff of the library in the Board Room before proceeding to the Search Room for the launching of the book followed by the opening of an exhibition of paintings by Mrs Neermala Luckeenarain. Afterwards she joined all the guests grouped into different sections for a small refreshment.

At the end of her visit, Her Royal Highness was kindly presented with a silver plate by the National Library and a painting by Mrs Luckeenarain.

The book *“Kaleidoscopic Conquest: Mauritius 1810”* has been written by CRIOS (the Centre for Research on Indian Ocean Societies) and published by the National Library. The book narrates the story of the struggle of the French islands from a new perspective, highlighting the multi-cultural character of residents involved in the battle for the control of the Mascarenes. It is hoped that the new publication would further help to consolidate the rainbow nation of Mauritius.

In a letter dated 9th December 2010 from Buckingham Palace, Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne expressed her joy and thanks to the Director for the nice welcome and the well informed visit. She hoped that her visit would raise the profile of the Library and highlight the need for a larger purpose built building.

International Book Fair Mauritius 2010 - 25-29 August 2010

In the context of the World Book Day Celebration, the Honourable Mookhesswur Choonee, Minister of Arts & Culture, inaugurated the first International Book Fair Mauritius (IBFM 2010) which was held from the 25th to 29th August 2010 at the Cyber Tower I at Ebène.

The IBFM 2010, the first of its kind, was organized by the National Library in collaboration with Books & Business Co. Ltd. Many local participants and some foreign Publishers, Editors and booksellers participated in the Book Fair. Some local participants represented their foreign counterparts and others represented their own brand.

The Star guest of the Book Fair was Dr Alena Jezkova from the Republic of Czechoslovakia, a well known international writer, and recipient of many awards.

The main objective of organizing such an international event was to expose the Mauritian public to recently published books at discounted prices and to make Mauritius become a centre of international book fair in the region. The event could become an annual feature.

The Ministry of Arts & Culture and the Ministry of Education & Human Resources had been the stalwart supporters of the event. The National Library had also the collaboration of ECCEA, CELPAC and the UOM Student's Union in the organization of the book fair. Mr Jayen Teeroovengadam, Miss Obeegadoo and others had voluntarily participated in the book fair.

Donation Ceremony (Books & PCs) on 25 November 2011

Following a visit at the National Library a few weeks prior to the Donation Ceremony, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mrs Bian Yanhua, felt the need to donate some Personal Computers to the Library so as to promote a greater access to Internet.

At a formal donation ceremony held at the National Library, on Thursday 25th November 2010, in the presence of the Honourable Mookhesswur Choonee, Minister of Arts & Culture, the Chairman of the National Library and some guests invited, Her Excellency Mrs Bian Yanhua donated 11 PCs. At the same time both the Ambassador and the Honourable Minister opened the '*Window on China*', a section dedicated to a collection of an initial five hundred books, all recent ones covering a wide variety of subjects. Some hundred books would be added to the collection each year. These books were kindly donated by the Public Library of Shanghai with the objective of making local users know China better.

Book Launching Ceremony

The Ministry of Arts & Culture in collaboration with the National Library and the President's Fund for Creative Writing organized a ceremony of launching of seven books on Wednesday 3rd November 2010 at the Search Room of the National Library.

The Honourable Mookhesswur Choonee, Minister of Arts & Culture launched the seven books and each author respectively made a brief exposé of their book. The Authors and the title of the books were as follows:

- (1) *'The cave'* by Mr Padaruth;
- (2) *'Restless Oars'* by Mr Edoe;
- (3) *'Poetry from Paradise'* by Mr Ramlagun;
- (4) *'Rhymes Revisited'* by Mr Y. Peerboccus;
- (5) *'A litt'l Chat'* by Mrs P. Beegun;
- (6) *'La vie des prophètes et leurs épouses'* by Mr S. Ninsingin; and
- (7) *'Mauritian Impressions: an anthology of Contemporary Literature in English'* by Mr B. seebaluck.

6. THE STAFF

Promotion of Staff

- Mr Balkissoon Ardjoon, *Senior Library Attendant*, with effect from 23 February 2010

Staff on Leave Without Pay

- Ms Nushruth Bibi Fakeermahamood, *Library Attendant*, four months with effect from 01 August 2009
- Mrs Shalinee Appadoo, *Clerk/Word Processing Operator*, twelve weeks with effect from 11 January 2010
- Ms Helena Lam, *Library Officer*, sixty-one days with effect from 14 June 2010

Extension of Leave Without Pay of Staff

- Mr Devendre Kumar Jodhun, *Office Supervisor*, with effect from 01 December 2009
- Mr Sangaren Naidu Chenganna, *Library Officer*, with effect from 23 April 2010

Resumption of duty of Staff

- Mr Devendre Kumar Jodhun, *Office Supervisor*, with effect from 06 July 2010

Maternity Leave of Staff

- Ms Nushruth Bibi Fakeermahamood, *Library Attendant*, twelve weeks leave with effect from 09 November 2010

Resignation of Staff

- Mrs Shalinee Appadoo, *Clerk/Word Processing Operator*, with effect from 21 June 2010

7. PROMOTING HUMAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Two months placement at the National Library – Second year student of BSc (Hons) Accounting (Minor: Information Systems) at the University of Mauritius

- (a) Ms Marie Mélanie Moutou with effect from 31 May 2010
- (b) Mr Girish Jeetun with effect from 31 May 2010
- (c) Ms Lucia Devi Arnachellum with effect from 01 June 2010
- (d) Mr Keshkar Ladkeea with effect from 01 June 2010

2. Library Placement II May/June 2010 – University of Mauritius – Diploma in Library and Information Science Yr II Students – 20 and 21 May 2010

- (a) Mrs L. Chumun on 20 and 21 May 2010
- (b) Mrs M. Seebaluck on 20 and 21 May 2010

3. Library Placement 1 – University of Mauritius – Diploma in Library and Information Science Yr I students – 21 to 27 May 2010

- (a) Ms Devyaani Ghurbharrun
- (b) Ms Vanessa Sellapillay
- (c) Mrs Asha Moonesawmy
- (d) Mrs Preeyarattee Mahadea
- (e) Mrs Tirtharane Seeperson

4. University of Mauritius Students from the Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities following the Diploma Course in Library and Information Studies

Students of the University of Mauritius following the *Diploma Course in Library and Information Science* were on a training placement at the National Library to have a brief introduction of the various library tasks as follows:

03 to 04 December 2009 – Year II Students

Mrs N. Peerun

20 to 21 May 2010 – Year II Students

Mrs L. Chumun and Mrs M. Seebaluck

21 May and from 24 to 27 May 2010 – Year I Students

Ms Devyaani Ghurbharrun, Ms Vanessa Sellapillay, Mrs Asha Moonesawmy, Mrs Preeyavatee Mahadea and Mrs Tirtharane Seeperson

National Archives of Seychelles

10 to 11 August 2010

Mr Mervin Lajoie and Mr Roy Mussard, staff from National Archives of Seychelles, who were following a training course at the National Archives of Mauritius, also attended a two-days training at the National Library.

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.

- Mrs Diva Appadoo, *Confidential Secretary*, has been offered to follow an Award Course for Confidential Secretary from 26 August to 22 December 2009, conducted by the University of Technology, Mauritius.
- Mr Premchand Haaroo, *Senior Librarian*, attended a One-Day CERT-MU Workshop on the theme ‘*Critical Information Infrastructure Protection*’ on 31 August 2009, organised by the National Computer Board.
- Mr Premchand Haaroo, *Senior Librarian*, attended a Training Workshop on Greenstone Free Open Sources Software, from 07 to 11 September 2009, conducted by the Mauritius Institute of Health, with the assistance of the UNESCO.
- Mr Ibrahim Ramjaun, *Librarian*, attended a Three-Days’ Workshop on the theme “*Archaeological Survey and Cultural Mapping for a Mauritius Heritage Atlas*”, from 12 to 14 October 2009, conducted by Mrs J. Mungur-Medgum, *Archaeologist* at the National Heritage Fund.
- Mrs Veena Suggoona, *Library Officer*, followed a Certificate Course on ‘Modern Library Practices’ under the ITEC/SCAAP Programme for the year 2009-2010 at the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Taramani, in Chennai, India, from 14 October to 08 December 2009
- Mr Jayen Ramsamy, *Library Officer*, attended a Half-Day CERT-MU Workshop on the theme ‘*Vulnerability Management*’ on 25 February 2010, organised by the National Computer Board.

- Mr Yves Chan Kam Lon, OSK, *Director* and Mr Mooneswarsingh Mathoorasing, *Senior Accounts Officer*, attended a Briefing Session for Heads of Public Bodies and Officer in Charge of Procurement in connection with the introduction of e-Procurement, on 23 March 2010, conducted by the Procurement Policy Office.
- Mrs Veena Suggoona, *Library Officer*, attended a Three-Days' National Workshop on the theme '*Intangible Cultural Heritage*' from 13 to 15 April 2010 organised by the National Heritage Fund.
- Mr Ibrahim Ramjaun, *Librarian*, attended a Half-Day Workshop on the theme '*Review of the MSB Standards Strategy*' on 13 April 2010 organised by the Mauritius Standards Bureau.
- Mr Jayen Ramsamy, *Library Officer*, attended a Half-Day Workshop on *On-Line Library* on 14 June 2010 conducted by Mr Eric Broug, Vice President Operations – Asia East & Africa of Emerald Group of Publishing Limited and Mrs Colleen Mills, Regional Sales Manager of EBSCO Publishing.
- Ms Helena Lam, *Library Officer* and Mr Ashvin Appadoo, *Binder*, attended two hands-on practice sessions on *Book Conservation Techniques* on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 September 2010, conducted by Ms Claire Dekle, *Preservation Specialist and Senior Book Conservator* at the Library of Congress, in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America and the National Library.

IN-HOUSE TRAINING OFFERED TO STAFF OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

- Mr Ibrahim Ramjaun, *Librarian*, Mr Jayen Ramsamy, *Senior Library Officer*, Mrs Vandhana Poontaub, *Library Officer* and Mrs Shanti Harree, *Library Clerk*, attended a half-day training session on *Greenstone Digital Library Software* on 29 September 2009, conducted by Mr Premchand Hauroo, *Senior Librarian*.
- Ms Helena Lam, *Library Officer*, Mrs Chintamani Devi Sahadew, *Library Officer*, Mrs Veena Suggoona, *Library Officer*, and Mrs Nassim Meer-Hossen, *Senior Library Clerk*, attended a half-day training session on *Greenstone Digital Library Software* on 30 September 2009, conducted by Mr Premchand Hauroo, *Senior Librarian*.

COMMITTEES ATTENDED BY STAFF OF NL DURING PERIOD 01 JULY 2009 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010

- Mr Chandrassen Cahanee, *Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer*, attended a Briefing Session on Amendments in Procurement Proceedings and Presentation on Sustainable Procurement in September 2009.
- Mr Mooneswarsingh Mathoorasing, *Senior Accounts Officer*, was delegated in September 2009 to attend a special briefing session for Heads of public bodies organised by the

Procurement Policy Office (Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment) on Amendments in Public Procurement Proceedings

- Mr Ibrahim Ramjaun, *Librarian*, sat on the Committee of the Mauritius Public Sector Quality Association since November 2009
- Mr Jayen Ramsamy, *Senior Library Officer*, attended a meeting in January 2010 at the Tertiary Education Commission in connection with the creation of a Central On-Line Library.

ITEC DAY CELEBRATION 2010

- Mrs Chintamani Devi Sahadew, *Library Officer*, who benefited from training in India under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme in 2008 was invited by the Ministry of Finance & Economic Development to a Get-Together at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Phoenix on Thursday 25 November 2010.
- Mrs Veena Suggoona, *Library Officer*, who benefited from training in India under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme in 2009 was invited by the Ministry of Finance & Economic Development to a Get-Together at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Phoenix on Thursday 25 November 2010.

AWARD CEREMONY

- Mrs Diva **Appadoo**, *Confidential Secretary*, who followed the *Award Course for Confidential Secretary* attended the Academic Council 2010 (2) Award Ceremony on 05 March 2010 at the University of Technology, Mauritius.

TRAINING OFFERED BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY INTERNSHIP

- Ms Melissa Catherine, 1st year student, following a Master in Documentation at the Centre du Guesclin at Béziers, France, was given the opportunity to have a training session of activities of the National Library from 12 to 27 May 2010.
- Mr Girish Jeetun, 2nd year student of the Faculty of Law and Management of the University of Mauritius, enrolled on a three-year full-time programme leading to a degree of *BSc (Hons) Accounting (Minor: Information Systems)* was given the opportunity to convey his Internship at the National Library of Mauritius in the fields of Finance / Procurement and Supply Sections and that of the Administration Department from 31 May to 30 June 2010.
- Mr Keshkar Ladkeea, Ms Lucia Devi Arnachellum and Ms Mélanie Moutou, 2nd year students of the Faculty of Law and Management of the University of Mauritius, enrolled on a three-year full-time programme leading to a degree of *BSc (Hons) Accounting (Minor: Information Systems)* were given the opportunity to convey their Internship at the

National Library of Mauritius in the fields of Finance / Procurement and Supply Sections and that of the Administration Department from June to July 2010.

- Ms Deeya **Sooknah**, 2nd year student, following a ‘*Licence de Français*’ at the University of Mauritius, was given the opportunity to follow an internship at the National Library for period 05 to 30 July 2010.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OFFERED BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

- Mr I. **Denmamode**, Clerical Officer/Higher Clerical Officer, posted in the Documentation Unit of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (Culture Division) was provided with on-the-job-training in library and information work, twice a week, from 17 March to 19 April 2010.
- Ms M. **Sunasse**, Clerical Officer/Higher Clerical Officer, posted in the Documentation Unit of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (Culture Division) was provided with on-the-job-training in library and information work, twice a week, in July 2010.

BOOK CONSERVATION: PRACTICAL SESSIONS

The National Library, in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America, organised a two hands-on practice sessions on book conservation techniques on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 September 2010 in the Board Room of the National Library.

The practical sessions were conducted by Ms Claire Dekle, *Preservation Specialist and Senior Book Conservator*, at the Library of Congress.

Participants from different institutions such as the Carnegie Library, the National Archives Department, the National Library, the Municipality of Port Louis Library and the Supreme Court Library attended the practical sessions.

8. CORPORATE MATTERS

MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES ATTENDED BY THE DIRECTOR DURING PERIOD 01 JULY 2009 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010

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

- Association of Professional Librarians
- Abolition of Slavery Celebration 2011, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- National Spring Celebrations 2010, *Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (Culture Division)* and *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- National Spring Celebrations 2010, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Mauritius Council of Registered Librarians
- Meeting with Heads of Parastatal Bodies, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- National Day Celebrations 2010 – ‘Festival Mauricien’, *Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (Culture Division)* and *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- President Fund for Creative Writing in English, *Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (Culture Division)*
- Public Records Appraisal Committee, *National Archives Department*
- Memory of the World National Committee, *Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (Culture Division)* and *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Naval Battle of Grand Port 2010, *Ministry of Arts and Culture*
- Espace Culturel et Artistique autour du château Mon Plaisir at SSR Botanical Garden, *Prime Minister’s Office*
- Editorial Committee – Revi Kiltir No. 8, *Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund*
- 109th Birth Anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam – 18th September 2009, *Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (Culture Division)*
- Maurice Ile Durable National Policy National Consultation - Meeting with Parastatal Bodies and other institutions engaged in the promotion of Arts and Culture, *Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (Culture Division)*

- Official visit to Mauritius of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne – Meetings in connection with the organisational aspects of the official visit, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade*

PARTICIPATION OF THE DIRECTOR IN SEMINAR DURING PERIOD 01 JULY 2009 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010

- Director attended a half-day seminar on 14 October 2009 on the theme “Tackling Climate change Through Standards” organised by the Mauritius Standards Bureau on the occasion of the *World Standards Day*
- Director attended a Lecture at the University of Mauritius on the theme “The Importance of Book Conservation and Preservation” on 28 September 2010 delivered by Ms Claire Dekle, *Preservation Specialist and Senior Book Conservator* at the Library of Congress, who was invited by the Embassy of the United States of America to visit Mauritius
- Director attended a Brainstorming Session, with a view to assessing problems and finding possible solutions so that books by Mauritian authors get the necessary support and boost, organised by the Mauritian Writers’ Association on 23 October 2010 at the China Cultural Centre
- Director attended a Presentation on the new activities of the L’Imprimerie Nationale de France delivered by Ms Céline Gouveia, *Area Sales Manager for Africa*, at the L’Imprimerie Nationale de France on 01 December 2010 in the Conference Room of the Prime Minister’s Office

PARTICIPATION OF THE DIRECTOR AS PANELIST PERIOD 01 JULY 2009 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010

- The Director was selected in September 2009 to form part of the Editorial Team of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund for the publication of ‘Revi Kiltir Kreol’, Nos. 8 and 9.
- The Director was invited in November 2009 to join the Editorial Committee of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund.
- Director sat as panelist in April 2010 for FY II Fulbright Science and Technology Award Interviews organised by the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of the United States of America in Mauritius
- Director was Member of Jury for the Essay Competition 2010 on the theme “The Role and Contribution of the Public Service in the Eradication of Poverty and Democratisation of the National Economy” organised by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council
- Director was Member of Adjudicating Panel for the Best Stall Competition organised by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council in the context of the Civil Service Kermesse 2010 on 31 October 2010 at the Gymkhana, Vacoas

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY ATTENDED BY DIRECTOR DURING PERIOD 01 JULY 2009 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010

- Director was invited as the Guest of Honour to the Annual Prize Giving Ceremony of the Pailles State Secondary School on Thursday 24 June 2010
- Director was invited as Member of Jury to the Prize Giving Ceremony organised by the Public Officers' Welfare Council on 21 September 2010 in connection with its Essay Competition 2010

AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR DURING PERIOD 01 JULY 2009 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010

- Director was elevated to the rank of Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (OSK) on 12 March 2010 by the President of the Republic of Mauritius, Right Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC
- Director received the Insignia of Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (OSK) by the President of the Republic of Mauritius, Right Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, on Wednesday 21 July 2010 at the State House

VISITORS TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

-Year 2009-

Date: 20 November 2009

Mr Jean-Louis Bouilly, as new *Responsable de la médiathèque* and **Mrs Orane Fabien**, from the Centre culturel Charles Baudelaire.

-Year 2010-

Date: 26 January 2010

H.E. Mr Alessondro Mariani, *Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union*, prior to the Opening Ceremony of the EU infopoint.

31 August 2010

Mrs Gillian Ormiston and **Mr Jean-Philippe** from the British High Commission, to prepare the visit of HRH, The Princess Royal, Princess Anne.

01 September 2010

H.E. Mrs Bian Yanhua, *Ambassador of the People's Republic of China*, prior to the donation of Personal Computers and Books by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the National Library.

27 September 2010

H.E. Mr Nick Leake, *British High Commissioner*, Mrs Gillian Ormiston and other officials from the British High Commission, prior to the visit of HRH, The Princess Royal.

27 September 2010

Ms Claire Dekle, *Preservation Specialist and Senior Book Conservator* from the Library of Congress and **Ms Annick Joseph**, *Information Resource Center Technician* from the Embassy of the United States of America for a guided tour of the National Library, prior to the holding of a Two Hands-on Practice Sessions on *Book Conservation Techniques*.

15 October 2010

VIP's Security Team and PS from the British High Commission (comprising officials of the Buckingham Palace and New Scotland Yard) and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, prior to the visit of HRH, The Princess Royal.

03 December 2010

HRH, The Princess Royal, Princess Anne from the Buckingham Palace and her husband **Mr Tim Lawrence**.