



NATIONAL LIBRARY

2002-2003

NATIONAL LIBRARY

1st & 2nd Floors, Fon Sing Building
12, Edith Cavell Street
Port-Louis
Republic of Mauritius

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**NATIONAL LIBRARY
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CORPORATE INFORMATION**

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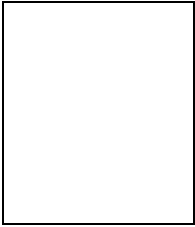
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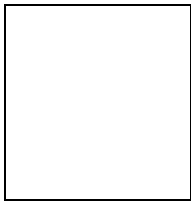
Director : Mr Yves Chan Kam Lon

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



DIRECTOR'S REVIEW

It is indeed with a feeling of satisfaction that I am presenting the review of activities pertaining to the National Library for the year 2002-2003.

The year 2002-2003 saw the consolidation of the National Library as an apex institution, leading the way in the field of librarianship in Mauritius. High on its Agenda was the national role the National Library has been playing in the preservation of library materials considered as the priceless Collective Memory of the country. It has embarked on an ambitious programme of microfilming newspapers which date back to the year 1777. Side by side, the ideal environment has been created for the conservation of all library materials of the National Library.

Equally significant has been the computerisation project. There is this urgent need to install the integrated modular library management system, which constitutes an important element in the National Library's strategic development. The procurement of the software is imminent.

Bearing in mind that resources should be properly organised for better dissemination, the National Library took at heart the project of introducing standardisation in the cataloguing and

classification of library materials. It launched the CIP project, which would be very helpful to one and all, especially to librarians and it now houses also the National ISSN agency.

The National Library is poised to become the portal of knowledge and information in this new technological age. Access to information is a fundamental right of every citizen of Mauritius. In this respect, the National Library launched its first retrospective *National Bibliography of Mauritius (1996-2000)*. The *National Bibliography of Mauritius* is considered as an essential tool to access the Mauritiana collection. Other vital bibliographical tools are in preparation.

In line with its objectives, the National Library provided a wide range of services to information seekers. Our motto is to provide the right information to the right user at the right time. It has been noted to our satisfaction that the number of users kept on increasing year by year.

Before concluding, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Dr Raj Lutchmeah, Chairman of the National Library Board and to its members. A big thanks to my personnel for their unflinching dedication to the institution.

THE BOARD

The National Library is governed by a Board consisting of a Chairman and eleven members. The Board meets once a month and nine members constitute a quorum. It is responsible for the general policies and directions of the Library, consistent with the National Library Act 1996. Among the twelve members, six are appointed by the Minister of Arts and Culture for a period of three years and the six others are representatives of various ministries and departments.

The Board, for the year under review, was constituted as follows:

CHAIRMAN : ***Dr Raj Sunkur Lutchmeah***

MEMBERS :

Mr J. Rangan (until January 2003)

Mrs P. Iyasawmy Essoo (As from February 2003)

Representative of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research

Mr I. Bhugan

Representative of the Ministry of Arts and Culture

Mr S. Rungassamy

Representative of the Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs

Mr R. Oree

Representative of the Ministry of Finance

Mr G. Suneechur

Ag. Director, National Archives Department

Mr F. Soogali

Ag. Head Library Cadre, Ministry of Education and Scientific Research

Mr S. Cahoolessur

Ag. Head Library and Archives, Mahatma Gandhi Institute

Mrs T. K. Hurrinag-Ramnauth

Senior Librarian, Carnegie Library, Municipality of Curepipe

Mrs R. Ng Kee Kwong

Head of Library and Scientific Information Service, MSIRI

Mr B. Silarsah

Head Librarian, City Library, Municipality of Port Louis

Mr G. Gokhool

Senior Library Clerk, Pamplemousses/Rivière du Rempart District Council

1.1 Committees

(1st July 2002 to 30th June 2003)

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

A Appointment Committee

Dr R.S. Lutchmeah (Chairman)

Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon

Mr I. Bhugan

Mr R. Oree

Mr B. Silarsah

B Infrastructure and Development Committee

Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon

Mr I. Bhugan

Mr R. Oree

Mr S. Rungassamy

C Finance Committee

Dr R. S. Lutchmeah

Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon
Mr I. Bhugan
Mr R. Oree
The Accounts Officer

D Tender Committee

Dr R.S Lutchmeah
Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon
Mr I. Bhugan
Mr R. Oree

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

(General Review)

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER (ISSN) PROJECT

The National Library has been designated as the '*National ISSN Agency*' in Mauritius by the ISSN International Centre based in Paris, France. The direct attribution of the ISSN to serial publications in Mauritius and the promotion of its utilisation among publishers and the world of information in general would be of great interest at the national and international levels.

A bilateral agreement concerning the creation of the new ISSN Centre has been signed between the National Library and the International Centre of ISSN (Paris). The agreement sets out the mutual responsibilities of the two centres and the technical framework, that is, time frame for the exchange of datas, regular update of the ISSN Register, etc.

LIBRARY COMPUTERISATION PROJECT

Following the installation of new hardware on the 1st and 2nd floors of the National Library, tenders were invited through the press for the supply, installation and commissioning of an

integrated Modular Library Management Systems which will operate on the existing and new computer hardwares. This constitutes another important element of continuous improvement by taking advantage of future technology. The computerisation project would contribute to ensure that the National Library focuses on major priorities and targets set out in the new Strategic Plan (2003-2005).

MICROFILMING

In pursuance of one of its statutory objectives , namely: the preservation of library materials, the National Library has embarked since June 2003 on an ambitious and time-consuming programme of microfilming retrospective newspapers which date back as far as the year 1777. During the year under review, *Le Cernéen* newspapers for the period 1958-1965 have been microfilmed.

SETTING UP OF A BOOKSTALL AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

In line with its objectives, the National Library has initiated action to open a bookstall within its premises so as to promote the sale of its own publications and other local publications, which authors would willingly agree to put for sale on a consignment basis. An aluminium showcase for the display of the books has been purchased and would be installed near the Newspaper Corner of the Library.

The aim is to help mauritian authors to sell their books thus promoting the reading of the local literature.

It is worthwhile to note that many national libraries of the world operate a bookstall cum souvenir shop to promote their local publications.

‘PROMOTION OF READING’ PROJECT

In the context of the *‘Promotion of Reading Project’* initiated by the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius and following meetings with stakeholders, the National Library, under the drive of its Director, decided upon the implementation of a special distribution programme *‘A Child A Book’* which aims at making reading materials accessible to and motivating young people and school children of the deprived areas towards a new reading culture. The National Library is confident that by making knowledge available to

vulnerable groups and building on skills that transfer out of the quartier into the making of active and aware citizen, is a sound investment. The distribution programme has been made possible thanks to the generosity of a humanitarian donor agency in U.S.A. which channelled the shipment of two forty footer containers of books and school kits through the U.S Embassy to Mauritius.

During the year under review, the National Library distributed some 8000 reading books and reference materials as well as some 5000 school kits to vulnerable groups and primary school children of the deprived areas. In the same spirit, NGOs and public organisations have requested the National Library to provide them books which they would distribute to socially deprived areas they have earmarked.

LAUNCHING OF THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MAURITIUS (1996-2000)

The National Library launched its first retrospective *National Bibliography of Mauritius(2000)* on the 6th August, 2002. The bibliography covers a period of five years, starting from the year 1996. 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 languages: foreign monographs, magazines, journals, pamphlets, newsletters, reports and local newspapers related to Mauritius.

The Bibliography is considered as 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.

It is to be noted that the project for the printing of the Bibliography had benefited part of its funding from the *Banque Internationale d'informations sur les États Francophones (BIEF)*.

WORLD BOOK DAY

For the first time in Mauritius, the World Book Day 2003 was celebrated at the national level. An ad-hoc committee was set up by the National Library under the chairmanship of the Director in February 2003, comprising various stakeholders namely booksellers' associations, librarians, advertising agencies, writers' associations and cultural centres to

coordinate the various activities that would culminate on the '*World Book Day*' of the 23rd April. The clue of the celebration was a '*Book Festival*' held on Saturday 19th April, 2003 at the Port Louis Waterfront from 10.00 hrs to 22.00 hrs. Other activities during the day included live radio programmes, public exhibition, guided tours, literary competitions, donation of books and school kits, a jazz concert by Ernest Wiehé, etc. The Chief Guest for the Opening Ceremony of the festival was Mr Raouf Bundhun, Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius.

It was the wish of all the parties concerned that such activities be organised on a regular basis to give a new boost to the Book Sector.

In the context of the '*World Book Day*', an *Open Day* for the public was also organized at the National Library from 09.00 a.m to noon on Wednesday 23rd April, 2003 followed by a '*Table Ronde*' of local eminent writers on the topic '*Mauritian Literature in the World*'. The participants were Carl de Souza, Barlen Pyamootoo, Dr Issa Asgarally, Shenaz Patel and Linsey Collen.

BOOK DONATION CEREMONY

Following the reception of the two forty-footer containers of books and school kits from a humanitarian donor agency based in the United States of America, a handing over ceremony was held on the 19th December, 2002 at the SSR container terminal, Mer Rouge, Port Louis in the presence of the Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius and the US Ambassador. A book donation ceremony was held later by the National Library in collaboration with the staff and the Parent Teachers' Association of the Seeneevassen Government School at Cassis on 12th May, 2003, where reading and reference books and school kits were donated to low achieving schools (ZEP) of Port Louis and the Northern region of Mauritius. The ceremony was attended by the Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius, the Minister of Arts and Culture, the Minister of Education and Scientific Research and the US Ambassador.

ESSAY COMPETITION 2002

The National Library held its prize giving ceremony for its annual Essay Competition on 10th September, 2002. The competition was held that year exclusively for students of Form V and students of Form VI respectively. The two titles for the competition were set as follows:

- (a) For Form V category : *'The Role of the National Library of Mauritius in Education'* and
- (b) For Form VI category : *'My Vision of the National Library of Mauritius in nation building'*

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Mr Raouf Bundhun, Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius. Cash prizes of Rs5,000 and Rs6,000 and consolation prizes were remitted to the winners of the competition.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS

In its endeavour, to provide and encourage the use of library materials and to provide assistance in information handling techniques, the National Library organized special programmes along with guided visits for students of various colleges and primary schools of the island.

The Director of the National Library, who was the main resource person for the programme, endeavoured to popularize the use of the National Library among student population and to show the important role the Library was playing in the preservation of our intellectual and cultural knowledge for the present and future generations. Students were also made aware of, among others, the statutory functions of the National Library, its sources of acquisition, preservation techniques used to safeguard collections, and so on. Students were also briefed on career opportunities in the field of Library and Information Science.

The following institutions benefited from the programme:

S/N	NAME OF INSTITUTION	DATE
1.	Régis Chaperon State Secondary School	03.07.02
2.	La Confiance College	10.07.02

3.	Loreto Convent Rose-Hill	26.07.02
4.	St. Joseph College	17.09.02 25.09.02
5.	Le Bocage International School	24.09.02
6.	Raoul Rivet Government School	29.04.03 30.04.03
7.	Bel Air State Secondary School	11.06.03

EXHIBITION IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The National Library participated in an exhibition/sale of works of Mauritian and African writers organised by the Nelson Mandela Centre of African Culture at the covered bridge, Jardin de la Compagnie, Port Louis on 7th November, 2002.

ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION

The National Library has been selected by the Ministry of Arts and Culture to be the recipient organisation for the ISO 9001 certification. In that context, talks on ISO 9001 awareness were given on 27th February 2003 by the staff of the Mauritius Standards Bureau and on 28th February, 2003 by Mr Mahalingum, consultant at the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms, to the National Library staff.

NATIONAL LIBRARY'S PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the Annual Report 2001-2002, the National Library has also published an *Information Brochure*, a *Customer Charter* and the second *Strategic Plan (2003-2005)* in April 2003.

VISITS TO PRINTERS

Letters have been sent to several printers to inform them of the provision laid down in the Regulations (GN170 of 1997). The National Library has started visiting printers for the purpose of inspecting their records to ascertain that they are complying with Regulations.

CAREERS' FAIR

The National Library took part in the above-named fair organized by Le Bocage International School on Saturday 17th May, 2003. Exhibits on the National Library of Mauritius, other Libraries and the profession of librarians were displayed. Information brochures were distributed to students and teachers.

INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITORY

The National Library has been designated as depository of the World Bank documents. These documents will enhance the reference collection of the Search Room.

HOLDINGS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The holdings of the National Library as at 30th June 2003 were **178,651**.

Total library materials acquired for the year 1st July, 2002 to 30th June, 2003 is **30,789**. A breakdown of the figures acquired is shown in the table below:

Library Materials	Legal Deposit	Donation	Purchases	UN	IMF	Others	Total
Books/Monographs	2,481	1,221	84	709	599	70	5,164
Newspapers	18,020	-	-	-	-	-	18,020
Periodicals	4,266	853	-	-	-	530 (non-Mauritiana)	5,649
Annual Reports	911	136	-	-	-		1,047
Audio-cassettes	313	16	-	-	-		329
Video-cassettes	416	-	-	-	-		416
CDs/CD Roms	110	54	-	-	-		164
TOTAL	26,517	2280	84	709	599	600	30,789

PROCESSING OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The different activities pertaining to the processing and preservation of the holdings of the National Library are given below:

ACCESSIONING

The number of library materials accessioned is as follows:

UN documents	519
World Bank	60
IMF	730
Reference/Non-Mauritiana	3,048
Mauritiana	<u>3,649</u>
Total	<u>8,006</u>

CLASSIFICATION

2,103 library materials were classified according to the DDC 21

CATALOGUING

2,150 library materials were catalogued according to the AACR2

INDEXING

Retrospective indexing has been done for the following Mauritiana periodicals: *Maurice-Almanac*, *Gazette des Iles*, *Evasion*, *Islander*, *Hindustani 1 & 2* and *Needs of our times*. Articles from *Business Magazine* and *Financial News* are being currently indexed. Some **1,571** articles have already been indexed.

CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION (CIP)

The preparation of Cataloguing in Publication data was launched in September 2001. For the period under review, the National Library has prepared CIPs for twenty eight **(28)** publications. Requests were sent by printers/publishers/authors.

BINDERY SERVICES

During the year under review, the Binding section carried out preservation and maintenance work on library materials as follows

1. No. of books bound	896
2. No. of newspapers bound	90
3. No. of magazines/reports bound	62
4. Miscellaneous items	2,694
5. No. of newspapers laminated	<u>535</u>
Total	<u>4,277</u>

SERVING OUR CUSTOMERS

(Facts and Figures)

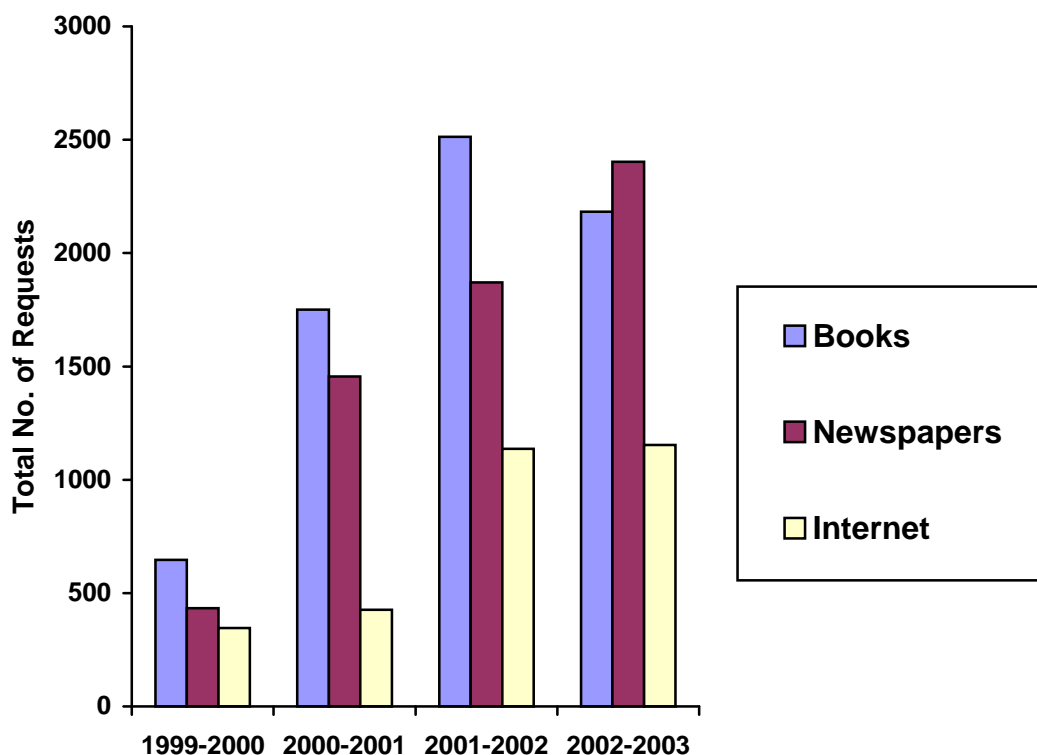
In line with its objectives, the National Library provides a wide range of services to the thousands of information seekers from the different walks of life each year. The National Library offers to the public a spacious airconditioned Search Room for on-site consultation. Besides, special services are made available for those who prefer to access the library's services from their home or workplace. Requests for information are also received through the phone, e-mail or fax.

For the period under review, the number of users availing the services of the Search Room was **4,442**. It is to be noted that since its opening in January 2000, **16,820** information seekers were serviced by the National Library.



SEARCH ROOM SERVICES

S/N	Requests for References Services	
1	Requests for Books	2,182
2	Requests for Newspapers	2,403
3	Requests for use of Internet	1,153
4	Request for Audio-Visual Materials	1
5	Requests for Photocopies	2,753
6	Requests by phone	325
7	Requests by Mail and E-mail (Overseas)	41
8	Requests by Mail and E-mail (Local)	27
TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUESTS		8,885



During the year under review, the Library processed some 68 fax, mail and e-mail requests were received from overseas and local users as follows:

REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM LOCAL USERS

S/N	NAME/INSTITUTION	SUBJECT OF REQUEST
1.	Mauritius Telecom	A list of all libraries, their addresses and telephone numbers found in Mauritius
2.	Public Service Commission	International organisations and their addresses
3.	Sui Sang How Jesse	New law on copyright and designing
4.	Marcel Lindsay Noe	Peter Gérard Raymond Rault QC in the early 50's and throughout his political career
5.	Mrs Lacroche	Magazine 'SYFIA' no. 85.

6.	Marie Noelle Elissac	Family name
7.	Mr Leboeuf	Several press articles
8.	Ministry of Arts and Culture	Documents on Mauritius for the Beijing Tongi Culture and Media Company
9.	Stella John Chuan British High Commission	Press articles in l'Express newspaper
10.	Ben Silarsah, City Library	Press cuttings on Malcolm de Chazal
11.	Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture	Press cuttings on Abolition of Slavery in connection with 168 th Anniversary
12.	National Assembly	Ordinance No. 52 of 1940
13.	Roshan Seeburn	Press cutting of vacancy announcement
14.	Vinod Appadoo Centre Culturel Charles Baudelaire	Press cutting on Malcolm de Chazal
15.	Lycée des Mascareignes	Access to journal " <i>La Charge</i> "
16.	Gaëtan Essoo	Dutch period in Mauritius
17.	British Council	Information on Wilbraham Tollemache Arthur Edwards
18.	L. Bucktowar	Photographs of Cyclone <i>Carol</i> which took place on 28 February 1960
19.	L. Cangy	Document on Tourism Industry in Mauritius
20.	S. Bundhun-Cheetoo	Certified copy of Government Gazette (October 1996)
21.	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Arts & Culture	About the Island 'Garmapal' between 1920-1921
22.	Raj Busgeeth	Copies of Tax Appeal Tribunal Act 1984 & the Tax Appeal Rules 1984
23.	Office of the President of the Republic of Mauritius	To verify the spelling of the sailing boat " <i>Maen</i> "
24.	Myette Ah Choon	Information on the Civil Hospital.
25.	Ministry of Finance	Information on the 'Treasury Building'
26.	City Library	Press cuttings on <i>Malcolm de Chazal</i>

27	National Assembly	Information on National Flag

REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM OVERSEAS USERS

S/N	NAME/INSTITUTION	SUBJECT OF REQUEST
1	Leonard Barnes, Australia	Information about Rose Anne Robbins born 1860-62
2	Leonard Barnes, Australia	Information on Rose Anne (Rosanna) Robbins migration to Australia (1800-1900)
3	Philippe Berichon, Australia	Information on books written by Berichon or Chipault in Mauritius
4	Philippe Berichon, Australia	Information about book/s written or edited by <i>Sevene-Berichon</i>
5	Philippe Berichon, Australia	Information on family genealogy between 1784 to 2003 in Mauritius
6	Judith Buik, Australia	Family historical information during the 1800's
7	Pierre Commins, Australia	Information on the Lionnet genealogy
8	Diana Guillemin, Australia	Genesis of Mauritian Creole Language.
9	Peter Mitchell, Australia	Query regarding Colonial Governor Arthur Phayre – 1874-1878
10	Gay Wildman, Australia	Family history
11	Tim Willing, Australia	Information about the principal Mauritian newspapers (English & French) during the 1870's and the frequency of their publication and shipping/port registers or records for Port-Louis
12	Willy Vanderkeerssen, Belgium	Genealogical search
13	Nicholas Cheung, Canada	Discovery of Mauritius and its first inhabitants
14	Nash Peerbocus, Canada	Press articles on the testimony of Mr Raffick Peerbocus against drug traffickers in Mauritius in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

15	Carl Ragan, Canada	Census records for Mauritius around the 1930's.
16	Lene Stampe, Denmark	' <i>Damage by tropical cyclones to forest plantations with particular reference to Mauritius</i> ' by N. R. Brouard(1967)
17	Michel Bertrand, France	Architectural archives of public or private buildings
18	Jean Yves Dick, France	Mauritian literature and political activities in 1970
19	Nazma Doobory, France	Press articles
20	Olivier Du Couedic, France	Charles Louis du Couëdic (1768-1769)
21	Mr Bruno Jaffré, France	Deportation of proconsuls who came to Mauritius in 1796 to ban slavery
22	Bruno Jaffré, France	Photocopies from book ' <i>Mémoires d'un vieux colon</i> ' regarding deportation of proconsuls who came to ban slavery in Mauritius
23	Bruno Jaffré, France	Enquiring on the publication ' <i>Les Bretons à l'Île Maurice</i> '
24	Bruno Jaffré, France	Requesting photocopy of documents regarding ' <i>le récit de l'expulsion de Baco et Burnel-1796</i> '
25	Joelle Moorghen, France	Tourism industry in Mauritius
26	Homan Potterton, France	Marriage record between period 1845-1865 in Mauritius
27	Jj Sudre, France	History of Mauritius during French period
28	Sandra Wysocki, France	Information on her genealogy
29	Dr Abha Pandey, India	Indian Diaspora in Mauritius
30	Dr Abha Pandey, India	Indo-Mauritian writers of English Language
31	Dr Abha Pandey, India	Address of publishers specially of short stories
32	Atman Ramchalaon, Netherlands	Information on ancestors
33	Paul Comrie,	Information on the vessel, Isle of Erin and the

	New Zealand	Sugar Industry
34	Nathalie Fontaine, Reunion Island	Information on pirates and corsairs of 17 th & 19 th centuries
35	Pilar Prieto Ollero, Spain	Enquiry about bookmarks
36	John Grundy, United Kingdom	Information on foreign nationals who served in the Mauritius Police Force
37	Dr Martin Desvaux De Marigny, United Kingdom	Information on deceased father's history
38	Winston De Hoedt, United Kingdom	Genealogy searches for the name 'Northway'
39	Dr David J. Nash United Kingdom	Historical documents on the climate change and extreme climate events in Madagascar and Mauritius during the 19 th century
40	Winson Saw Chin Beng West Malaysia	Information about Charles John Irving Sr – 1856-1870
41	Rick Nowak, International Meteorite Society	Research on archival documents

THE STAFF

Staff confirmed in their appointment

Mr Chandrassen Cahanee, Stores Officer – 10th December, 2002

Mr Deven Jodhun, Office Supervisor – 7th February, 2003

Mr Samiir Ackburally, Library Attendant – 1st April, 2003

Miss Bhumika Seeburn, Library Clerk – 29th April, 2003

Staff on permanent transfer to the National Library

Mr Eddy Latchmun, Binder – 27th June, 2003

Staff on leave without pay for one year

Miss Nanda Khoody, Library Clerk as from 29th June, 2003.

Miss Bhumika Seeburn, Library Clerk as from 29th June, 2003.

Mr Nazir Rahman, Library Clerk as from as from 29th June, 2003.

TRAINING FACILITIES AND WORKSHOPS

Miss Helena Lam, Library Officer proceeded for a training course in the preservation of library materials at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France from 7th to 25th October, 2002.

Mr Poobarlen Cunniappen, Office Attendant/Driver attended a training on the use of the Elke/Indus Microfilm Processor

Mr Ibrahim Ramjaun, Librarian, attended a seminar on the theme '*Integrated Library Management System*' organised by Harel Mallac Computers and conducted by Mr Peter Makepeace. He also attended a half-day workshop on Quality Awareness organised by the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms.

Mr L. Luximon, Office Attendant of the Local Government Service Commission, followed a training session in binding works from 3rd to 28th February, 2003.

A presentation was organized on 12th August, 2002 to initiate National Library staff to the concept of 'MUDA' by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council. Librarians of Municipal Councils, BALIS graduates and staff of the National Library' benefitted from the above.

A talk on '*Team Building*' was delivered by Mr Kin Tue-Fee, Director, Strategic Planning, Policy and Programs Coordination of the Public Service Commission of Canada on 29th October, 2002 for the benefit of librarians of various institutions and National Library staff.

Two officers of the Government Fire Services gave a lecture on '*Fire Prevention and Safety Measures*' on 29th November, 2002. In this respect, a fire drill was also organized on 9th April, 2003 so as make officers working in the Fon Sing Building aware of steps to be taken in the event of a fire.

CORPORATE MATTERS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2003-2005

The first Strategic Plan 2000-2002 reached its term by the end of December 2002. As at that date, most of the development projects earmarked in the Plan in the beginning of the year 2000 have either been completed or are in the process of being implemented. Developments over the last three years have indicated the important role of the National Library as a major information service provider for the nation.

The National Library has now embarked on the next three-year Strategic Plan, which is the crucial phase of consolidation of its 'assise'; the priority being the building and the

maintenance of a fully comprehensive collection of our national heritage and to make it readily accessible to the present as well as the future generations. In the process, the National Library has to become the leading apex institution providing information services to the nation.

The Strategic Plan 2003-2005 sets out the vision, strategic management principles, goals objectives and plan of action that will govern the National Library in general for the next three years.

CUSTOMER CHARTER

The National Library has published a *Customer Charter* so as to inform its customers of the standards of service being offered and how the latter can help the Library on the road of continuous improvement of its services.

The charter reflects the library's fundamental commitment to achieve excellence in the provision of information services to all mauritians and foreigners within the resources available.

CONSULTANCY IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Consultancy to set up a proper Documentation Centre was provided by the National Library to the following organizations:

- (i) Public Service Commission
- (ii) Rodrigues Regional Assembly
- (iii) The National Children's Council, Ministry of Women, Child Development and Family Welfare
- (iv) The Wastewater Management Authority
- (v) The Indian Ocean Commission

MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES

The Director attended official Meetings and Committees during the period under review held by the following bodies:

Mauritius Council of Registered Librarians (Chairman)

Association of professional librarians (President)
President's Fund for creative writing in English (Member)
Memory of the World National Committee (Member)
National Archives Advisory Council (Member)
Public Records Appraisal Committee (Member)
National Monuments Board (Member)
Committee for the Mauritius Institute Building
Committee for the setting up of a contemporary / modern history museums
Committee of Historians
Encounter 2002: Follow up celebrations in Mauritius – Sep / Nov 03
Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and folklore
Muda-free Public Service – committee for the storage of documents
National Genealogy Committee

Newsletter editorial committee
Revitalising the Civil Service Library
Think-Tank Committee
Vice-President Office : Promotion of Reading
World Chinese Overseas Conference

LOCAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

The Director also attended the following :

- National Productivity and Competitiveness Council – workshop on Benchmarking
- Technology Management Training Centre (Building Brain Power)
- Mauritius Research Council – Awareness Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights
- Ministry of Civil Service Affairs Action Plan 2004-2005

- National Productivity and Competitiveness Council – Group work on Framework for Promoting Creativity

MISSIONS ABROAD

The Director of the National Library attended the IFLA Conference held in Glasgow UK from the 16th –24th August, 2002. He also participated in the UNESCO Consultation Meeting on Digital Preservation from 9th to 12th December, 2002 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

VISITING EMINENT PERSONALITIES

- A delegation led by Mrs Odette L. Rahaingoso, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Madagascar visited the National Library on 2nd May, 2003.
- Some forty-two tourists visited the National Library as part of a '*Rallye Touristique*' organised by the Beachcomber Group on 22nd May, 2003.
- H. E. Henri Vignal, French Ambassador, Republic of France
- Prof. Raj Mathur, Chairman , Mahatma Gandhi Institute
- Barlen Pyamootoo, Author
- Lindsey Collen, Author
- Beby Rajaonesy, Director of Ministry of Culture, Republic of Madagascar
- V. Ranjarwelo, Technical Adviser, Ministry of Culture, Republic of Madagascar

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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT
TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
NATIONAL LIBRARY**

I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the National Library as of 30 June 2003, and the related statements of income, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the National Library as of 30 June 2003, and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended and comply with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

R. JUGURNATH
Director of Audit

National Audit Office
Level 14
Air Mauritius Centre
PORT LOUIS
31 October 2003

NATIONAL LIBRARY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1ST JULY 2002

TO

30TH JUNE 2003

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Website – <http://ncb.intnet.mu/mac/nlibrary/index.htm>

September 2003