

Project : Typeset Digitization Project 2006

Initiative	Typeset Digitization Project 2006	First funded project of Noolaham
Period	2006	
Expenditure	Typing costs	Expenditure paid by Pathmanabha Iyer. Expenditure included in 2005-07 expenses.
Team Leader	Srikanthaluxmy Arulanantham	
Staff	unknown	Typing
Contributors	R. Pathmanabha Iyer,	Funded the project
	T. Kopinath	Created html pages

Background

Project Noolaham was started in 2005 with the Project Gutenberg approach of fully volunteer contributed online ebook library. But as there was no practical OCR available for Tamil language, we had to type whole books. Thus the progress of adding new ebooks was quite slow because only a few individuals were able to type the books.

And only smaller books were added to the Noolaham digital library. Some volunteers who were participating in Noolaham activities proposed that as they do not have the time, expertise and resources to type the books manually, their monetary contributions should be accepted and such contributions should be paid to get the books typed by professional typists. Some books were added at Noolaham through such contributions.

Project

Typeset Digitization Project 2006 was the first funded project of Noolaham. In fact, Pathmanabha Iyer had used funds in 1999 to get books typed but that approach was not implemented at Noolaham at the beginning. But after some ebooks were successfully created utilizing monetary contributions, Pathmanabha Iyer organized a project to get books typed and added to Noolaham.

Typeset Digitization Project 2006 converted physical books into machine readable formats and made them available online through Noolaham Digital Library (www.noolaham.net)

Implementation

As Unicode typing was new to professional typists, books were typed using bamini font and then were converted to Unicode. After proof reading they were converted to html format and were uploaded at Noolaham Digital Library.

This project was implemented in Jaffna and Colombo. Ms. Srikanthaluxmy Arulanantham coordinated this project by organizing the infrastructure. She contributed towards quality control and proof reading aspects as well. The books were converted to Unicode and htm formats by T. Kopinath. Suratha's Pongu Thamizh convertor was used to convert the bamini text into Unicode. Some books typed through this project were not added at Noolaham because of copyright reasons.

Achievements

81 books were typed through this project.

Value Addition/Innovation

Various kinds of books were added to Noolaham.

Challenges/Issues and Lessons Learnt

- When bamini fonts were converted to Unicode, the convertor converted English text into Tamil letters. Thus English words had to be retyped again. This resulted in yet another full proof reading which we were unable to finish accurately.
- The copyright issue was pointed out. The need for written permissions instead of oral permissions was explained.

Appendix

Books typed under this project

66, 68, 70, 71, 96, 97, 98, 106, 110, 125, 151-164, 183-220, 325-342, 1021. (81 books)
