

Digitization of Human Rights Collection 2024

Project Title	Documentation of Human Rights Collection
Project Number	NF/PG/2024/0004
Project Place	Northern Province, Sri Lanka
Project Duration	Six Months
Executing Organization	Noolaham Foundation
Funding Organization	Memory of Chelvarani Nadarajah
Project Budget	LKR 518,749

Noolaham Foundation

Noolaham Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization (GA 2390) founded to provide enhanced access to information sources and foster knowledge-based development in Sri Lanka. It maintains an online digital library, facilitates information preservation programmes, provides financial assistance and technical guidance for digitization initiatives, and actively participates in awareness-raising campaigns. It also co-ordinates a range of fund-raising activities and collaborates with other organizations and individuals. The free Internet library [www.noolaham.org] and Archive [www.aavanaham.org] maintained by the Foundation serves as a learning center incorporating local knowledge and enabling social interaction with a view to achieving constructive social outcomes. It functions as a repository for various institutions, and fulfills the information needs of students, researchers, historians, activists and the public. Volunteers of Noolaham Foundation engage with Noolaham Activities globally and establish Noolaham chapters in their respective countries to achieve the mission of the Foundation.

Project background

Every individual has the right to live with dignity and freedom. The importance of upholding human rights has been made evident by numerous global events, particularly the two world wars. They illustrate what occurs when people disregard each other's rights as fellow members of society. Over many years, people have come together to define and protect human rights in the form of declarations and conventions. They include the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006). Associated with each of these moments in the history of human rights, publications have been released. Because social norms greatly influence how people interpret human rights, each document provides insight into the unique perspectives of a community.

Objectives

- To preserve and archive human rights-related items;
- To establish a portal on the Noolaham Foundation website with a specific human rights section;
- To increase the number of human rights-related documents that are digitized.

Activities

- **Digitize identified documents**

Human rights materials have already been identified by the Noolaham Foundation. For a period of six months, the digital preservation officer will be digitizing those documents.

- **Quality Check**

A quality assurance officer will review the digital documents to make sure they meet the standards set by the Noolaham Foundation.

- **Create the Portal and Upload the documents**

The Noolaham Foundation will upload the digitized materials to a separate portal that it will create specifically for documents associated with human rights.

Outcomes of the project (Expected)

- Increase the number of reading materials on topics linked to human rights
- The initiative will digitize documents pertaining to human rights in order to raise awareness of their significance.
- The endeavor will improve student's e-learning. These materials will be used to boost the knowledge of students studying social sciences and political-related courses.

Achievements

- Under this project 128 documents, 27 publications, 9 special publications, 36 reports, and 62 journals have been digitized.
- The magazine Christian Workers, published in 1984, features Prabhakaran's Hero's Day speech, key to reducing crimes in Sri Lanka, police, democracy and good governance, women workers in Sri Lanka, migrant workers, and by including these under this project, can learn about human rights-related incidents in Sri Lankan history.
[Christian Worker](#)
- Under the Digitization of Human Rights Collection project, 29 issues of LST Review published since 2000 have been digitized. It is noteworthy that these were published as a journal covering human rights issues under the Law and Society Trust.
[LST review](#)
- The documents digitized under this project are a collection of books with content on international treaties, human rights, fundamental rights, conflict resolution and violence, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

[Human rights documents](#)

- The Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Disappeared Persons, reports on the human rights situation, have been digitized under this project.

[Reports - Human rights](#)

- Beyond the Wall is a magazine that was published from 2002 to 2006. It covers topics such as human rights violations, child rights, labor laws, and students' views on human rights.

[Beyond the wall](#)

Risk and Mitigation

The project has minimal risk because the equipment and staff will be given by Noolaham Foundation. Noolaham Foundation will expertly manage the project's risk owing to its prior expertise.