

Documentation of Jaffna Union College

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.noolaham.media] 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 participate in the activities of Noolaham globally and have established Noolaham chapters in their respective countries to achieve the mission of the Foundation.

Rev. Samuel Newell, an American missionary of the American Ceylon Mission from New England, USA, arrived in Jaffna peninsula on 7 September 1813 and occupied the Dutch Hall in the Town of Tellipalai. Later, American missionaries including Rev. Danial Poor and Rev. Edward Warren joined Newell.

The American Ceylon Mission, founded in Jaffna District by the pioneer missionaries, began establishing numerous Christian schools in the Jaffna peninsula in 1816. Their intention was to spread the Christian message among the Jaffna community.

Jaffna Union College, Tellipalai

Rev. Daniel Poor established the first school on 9 December 1816 in the town of Tellipalai, sixteen kilometers from the City of Jaffna. They taught English and western education among the community which initiated a revolution in the field of western education in Jaffna.

In 1818, the school was converted into 'Family Boarding School' with just six students. In 1821, there were only 11 boys and 3 girls. On June 30, 1823, Rev. Henry Woodward became the head of the school. All nine-girl students of the boarding School were transferred to the new Uduvil Girls' College. In 1825, the Boarding School was converted into a Preparatory School. Rev. Levi Spaulding, who succeeded Woodward in 1828, had to allow his brilliant students to join Vaddukoddai Seminary later known as Jaffna College. In 1820 Rev. Benjamin C. Megis, the head of school, founded a printing press. It was the first press that began printing Tamil publications in the entire world.

In 1869, Chellappah established a new school known as Chellappah English School in the same school campus. The American Ceylon Mission shifted to Vaddukoddai Tamil Theological and Training School. to the Tellippalai school campus in 1871. The school became a 'grant-in-aid school' in 1875 and earned Rs.300.00 annually from the government. After three years the Mission closed down the Tamil Theological department, added an Industrial Department to the school, and changed the school's name as Tamil Industrial and Training School.

In 1882 Sanders Hall was constructed with the money provided by former students and well-wishers. The Sanders hall had become the main building of the school consisting of a library, offices, student boarding and class rooms . The building was badly damaged during the Sri Lankan Civil War and is currently being re-constructed.

The American Ceylon Mission took over Chellappah School in 1901 and named it American Mission English School. It became a Bilingual School in 1929. In 1939 the schools amalgamated as Tellippalai Union High School. In 1940 it got the current name Tellippalai Union College.

In 1961 the school became a government school. From 12/12/1990, the school began functioning at Ramanathan College as the Sri Lankan army moved into Tellippalai and the whole population from the area got displaced. 10/09/2002 The school started functioning at its original location of Tellippalai which was inside the high security zone. In 2006 a new classroom block was built as most of the buildings were damaged. In 2011 the high security zone at Tellippalai area was removed and the school started operating normally. In 2016 the school celebrated its 200th anniversary.

Project Summary

The Noolaham Foundation is working on a number of projects to document and archive the writings of the Tamil-speaking populations of Sri Lanka. In that respect this school bears witness to a very long history of Sri Lanka. It is a great achievement for a college of today's stature to celebrate its 200th anniversary. In that sense, Union College is a college that needs to be prioritized and documented. And it is very necessary for the Tamil community to document the history of this college which has faced various war situations and economic crises in the country.

Goal

Documenting and preserving the overall history of the school by locating and documenting school related documents and identifying personalities associated with the school's history and recording their oral histories .

Objectives

- Identification and documentation of documents in the Union college and exchange them across two institutions (Noolaham Foundation and Union College).
- Identify school-based personalities and record their oral histories.
- Store the documentation in Cloud storage.

Challenges

- The fundamental challenge of this project is that it lacks its own digitization equipment. To carry on the project effectively, there is a need to buy scanners.
- Most of the oldest documents belonging to the school were destroyed during the Civil War. Identifying and collecting them now will be a challenge.

Recommendations:

- Allocate the funds to buy equipment for this project (A4 scanner and camera).
- Creating a comprehensive list of the documents and digitization methods for Union College books and materials.

Conclusion.

The Documentation of Union college , Thellipalai Project should be completed as a completed project by documenting and preserving the overall history of the school by locating and documenting school related documents and identifying personalities associated with the school's history and recording their oral histories .

Budget

,M		Unit Type - Note 2	No of Units Note 3	No of Activity or Staff Note 4	Unit Value (Rs)	Total cost (Rs)
	Digitization of Jaffna College Library Collection					
1	Human Resource and Project					2,403,600.00
	Field Researcher	Month	12	1	75,800.00	909,600.00
	Digital Library Officer - Quality Assurance	Month	12	1	60,500.00	726,000.00
	Digital Library Officer - Metadata	Month	12	1	64,000.00	768,000.00
	Other Common Program Expenses					552,000.00
	DPP Manager	Month	12	10%	120,000.00	144,000.00
	DPP Manager	Month	12	10%	120,000.00	144,000.00
	DLA Manager	Month	12	10%	120,000.00	144,000.00
	Other Staff Support Cost	Month	12	10%	100,000.00	120,000.00
2	Operation cost					598,000.00
	Training and Capacity building programme	Month	1	1	10000	10,000.00
	Traveling Cost	Month	12	1	10000	120,000.00
	Internet & Communication	Month	12	1	7000	84,000.00
	Printing and stationary	Month	12	1	12000	144,000.00
	Equipment Maintenance	Month	12	1	20000	240,000.00
3	Equipment					1,700,000.00
	Computer	NOS	2		320,000.00	640,000.00
	Laptop	NOS	1		315,000.00	315,000.00
	A4 Scanner	NOS	1		180,000.00	180,000.00
	Sheetfed scanner	NOS	1		70,000.00	70,000.00
	Camera (Full Set)	NOS	1		240,000.00	240,000.00
	Hard disk Transcend 4 TB	NOS	3		55,000.00	165,000.00

	Camera Battery with Adapter	NOS	1		30,000.00	30,000.00
	Memory card	NOS	1		15,000	15,000.00
	Recorder	NOS	1		45,000	45,000.00
	Sub Total					5,253,600.00
	15% Admin Cost					788,040.00
	Grant Total					6,041,640.00