In 2012, OLE Nepal made special efforts to expand the reach of its digital library, *E-Pustakalaya*, while increasing both the number and variety of its collections. Offline digital library servers were installed in 38 additional locations in 14 districts this year -- 22 of these were schools where OLE Nepal had expanded its laptop-based education project in partnership with Nepal Government’s Department of Education, while 15 were schools with existing computers in a lab setting, and one was a public library. (see appendix for installation details). These new installations take the total locations with offline *E-Pustakalaya* servers to 77 in twenty-four districts. As of December 2012, *E-Pustakalaya* boasts a collection of over 4000 books, educational videos, audio books, school wikipedia, learning games, dictionary etc that can be accessed from the Internet or through local offline servers installed in schools and community libraries without Internet connectivity.

The popularity of *E-Pustakalaya* is evident in the high number of downloads from its website as well as the increasing number of requests for installation of offline servers at schools and community libraries. Many schools that already have computers realize that a little extra investment on an offline server will provide instant access to a wealth of resources, enabling students and teachers to use the existing computers to read books, explore the school wikipedia, watch educational videos, and play learning games. Such access was unthinkable in these often remote areas where Internet access is either non-existent or excruciatingly slow. OLE Nepal’s agreements with authors as well as partnerships with organizations such as Room to Read, the British Council, Practical Action, Rato Bangla Foundation, Nepalese Society for Children’s Literature, Save the Children have enabled us to include many books and learning materials in this searchable digital repository.

OLE Nepal also made notable changes in the technology and interface of the *E-Pustakalaya* with the aim to enhance user experience. The library server operating system was successfully upgraded, while additional features such as user reviews, book ratings, personalized bookshelves have been incorporated into the design.

The activities associated with developing *E-Pustakalaya* this year were content acquisition, library management system maintenance and enhancement, new content creation, *E-Pustakalaya* expansion and a survey. Listed below were the project outcomes grouped according to the activities associated with the project.

**A. Content Acquisition:**

- The content acquisition targets set for the year 2012 in all the ten areas of the *E-Pustakalaya* content, have been met.
- The growth of the library has been possible with the collection of publications from our partners and regular contacts.
- A considerable amount of resource was spent in scanning and formatting books manually for the contents that were not available digitally.
Continued literary works from Kauwa Prakashan, Sisnu Pani Nepal, Rato Bangala Kitab, Gorkhapatra Sansthan, Nepal Academy, NESCHIL and research journals from Digital Himalaya have been received.

New categories such as cottage and small industries, music and sports were added to the repository. Cottage and small industries includes different industrial schemes and informative guides for the promotion of small scale products and cottage skills in local communities.

Books from Mother Tongue Pipal Pustak (MTPP) series developed by the non-formal education support of UMN have been added. These books were developed to support literacy by easing the transition from oral communication to the conventions of print.

Global sources of English language open content digital materials suitable for E-Pustakalaya have been identified in websites such as OAPEN Books and FreeBooks, and selected books were acquired and added.

A total of 30 videos prepared by USAID that cover basic first aid procedures were added. More videos suitable for E-Pustakalaya have been collected and copyright permissions have been obtained.

All the added materials in the public domain have been under creative commons license, or acquired under special permission from the copyright holder. There has been no reports or complaints regarding infringing materials.

Members of E-Pustakalaya's Advisory panel have been contacted continuously for inputs regarding the content and quality of the learning materials.

The table shows number of digital content that were uploaded to E-Pustakalaya in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Acquired till 2011</th>
<th>Target for 2012</th>
<th>Acquired till 31 Dec 2012</th>
<th>Added in 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Audio</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Course-related Materials</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>1029</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nepali Literature</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Newspapers and Magazines</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Other Educational Materials</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Reference Materials</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Teaching Support</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Videos</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3730</strong></td>
<td><strong>715</strong></td>
<td><strong>5309</strong></td>
<td><strong>1579</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Content Creation

- With the help of authors and storytellers, audio recording of children’s books were the highlight of new activities in E-Pustakalaya project. A total of thirty nine Nepali short stories and poems were recorded and added to the audio section. As narrated stories are appealing to children, there are plans to make more narrated stories, poems available.
- Photo essays and coloring books suitable for children of ages 10-15 years have been created and added to the repository.
- Two of the participants of our Young Adult literature workshop, Geeta Keshary and Laxmi Upreti, published their novels as part of OLE Nepal’s effort to increase literary works for young adults.
- Over 50 lesson guides for teachers and students have been created that site resources within E-Pustakalaya for mathematics, science and English as per the national curriculum.
- Khan Academy videos that match Nepalese High Schools’ mathematics and science curriculum have been selected. The videos will be uploaded and available in E-Pustakalaya soon.

C. Library System and Interface

- The library database system continuously requires replacing older publication version with new ones. Hence, regular contacts are made with publishers and authors to maintain the system. All feedbacks and queries are responded in timely fashion to keep the system updated and users informed.
- The server’s Operating System (OS) was upgraded to Cent OS 6.2.
- Number of features have been added in the E-Pustakalaya’s new interface to make the library more user friendly:
  1. New arrivals or most read books can be featured on the main page and changed as per the need. This has added a new dimension over the previously static layout. In addition book covers are being added in the meta-data page, to make the pages more appealing to the users.
  2. Bookshelf: Users can use this functionality to prioritize books to read, tag books for future reference, share book lists among friends and other users.
  3. Book Review and Rating: Users can now write book reviews and rate them by signing on to their google, facebook, or twitter accounts.
  4. Partners Page: A page has been added with Information about the partners. The page contains a short description of the partner organization.
The following screen-shot of the new book page shows additional features as book cover, book rating, book shelf, book review and the feature to read online or download the book.

| Image 72x78 to 540x657 |

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**Tommy Tempo’s Long Journey**

*Christine Stone*

(Illustrator) Raju Babu Shakyā "SARAB"

(Editor) Shanta Das Manandhar

---

**Year rating**

4.33 / 5 from 3 user(s)

**Reviews:** 0 user(s)

---

**Authors:** Christine Stone

(Illustrator) Raju Babu Shakyā "SARAB"

(Editor) Shanta Das Manandhar

**Place of Publication:** Nepal

**Publisher:** Read to Read

**Publication year:** 2007

**Editor(s):** Shanta Das Manandhar

**Total pages:** 27

**Language:** English / जापानी

**Subjects:**

- 420000 Language Studies
- 4200000 Literature Studies

---

**Keyword(s):**

- Tommy Tempo’s Long Journey
- Christine Stone
- Read to Read
- Shanta Das Manandhar
- Raju Babu Shakyā “SARAB”
- Picture Book
- Children’s Literature
- टॉमी टेम्पो यात्रा
- जापानी भाषा
- पुस्तकेतिक साहित्य
- रत्ने बुध समकालीक
- साहित्य अङ्कीयीत्व
- बालसाहित्य
- बैंड समुदाय

D. E-Pustakalaya Expansion

The E-Pustakalaya servers were expanded to 38 additional locations in 14 districts this year making the total number of E-Pustakalaya servers to 77. The expansion was supported by Air Asia X, Finnish Embassy, Good Neighbour International, Gorkha Foundation, NIBL, Nepali Library Foundation, Skoliev i Nepal, some individual donors and the schools themselves. A total of 13 schools arranged funds from the school budget for the installation of the library.

The expansion of E-Pustakalaya means that more and more students, teachers and communities have access to plethora of literature, educative reference materials and videos. It has also helped schools who already have computers make a good use of their resources with the installation of the E-Pustakalaya. There has been conversations with the government of Nepal for further expansion of E-Pustakalaya in schools that have provision to buy computers through the government ICT in education programs.

Expansion of E-Pustakalaya entails informing the schools on the activities and cost of the E-Pustakalaya installation, which is then followed by deployment after the agreement is signed. During the deployment of E-Pustakalaya, the school infrastructure is observed and an interaction
between the teachers and community members are held regarding *E-Pustakalaya*, its usage and the pre-requisite for its setup. Infrastructure including the power outlets, status of computers, security, appropriate rooms that the school needs for *E-Pustakalaya* is assessed and the required software is installed in the computers. The server which is connected to all the computers in the school is installed with the digital library, which can be accessed without internet access. The server is also connected to a router enabling the Wi-Fi for laptop/mobile users.

After the installation, the teachers, community members and students are oriented on how to use the digital library, its various sections, and its benefits to the students, teachers and the community. It has been experienced that participants are able to get a good handle in navigating the *E-Pustakalaya* with hands on sessions during the orientation.

The online version of *E-Pustakalaya* has been constantly updated and the offline version deployed in various districts are updated in every 3 months during the school visits. Updating the servers is a very simple procedure where the user can plug in the USB drive in the server which is laden with the updated version of *E-Pustakalaya* and the server automatically updates the repository.

E. E-Pustakalaya Survey

OLE Nepal has been constantly adding new materials to *E-Pustakalaya*. According to its online statistics, the number of views and downloads are increasing steadily. In order to gather feedback on the use of *E-Pustakalaya*, we visited few of our program schools where offline servers containing *E-Pustakalaya* had been installed.

A survey was carried out among students, parents and teachers in sixteen schools. We observed classes, interviewed and distributed the survey questionnaire for teachers, students and community members in order to receive feedback on the usefulness of *E-Pustakalaya*’s content in their respective local communities.

- Students of all grades were found to have explored *E-Pustakalaya*, and have widely read Nepali books from the literature section. Art activity books were found to be especially popular among students in lower grades.
- Students said they enjoy going through books, newspapers, artwork activities and English language activities. Students were more inclined towards reading books that are in Nepali.
- Students use *E-Pustakalaya* mostly during English and science classes, and during lunch breaks and when teachers were absent.
- Teachers and parents observed that students’ interest in reading have increased considerably. This was further verified by students’ ability to name books found on *E-Pustakalaya*.
- Access to materials outside the curriculum has enhanced students’ general knowledge.
- Eleven of the schools in this evaluation are in areas that speak a different dialect of Nepali. The words and the grammar they use in their language is different than the official Nepali language. *E-Pustakalaya* was found to have helped to improve students'
fluency in reading and speaking Nepali. Both parents and teachers felt this as one of the biggest achievements of the program.

- Teachers in most of the schools have used reference materials from the E-Pustakalaya to enhance their teaching. They say they use the E-Pustakalaya for self study, to learn about literature, research about the subject matter that they were teaching, see life skill videos and to go through the E-Paath teachers notes.
- Teachers were very grateful that they had access to so many books for free.
- Some of the schools have allowed parents to use E-Pustakalaya during the evening or on holidays when children are not using it. This has created a positive attitude towards the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>No. of Schools</th>
<th>Total students with access to E-Pustakalaya</th>
<th>Number of students surveyed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doti</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadeldhura</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapilvastu</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makwanpur</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Number of schools and students surveyed

Usage of E-Pustakalaya at Program Schools

Deployment of OLPC and E-Library programs in 38 location has provided E-Pustakalaya access to more than 14,143 students of these 38 location. The evaluation survey was carried out in 16 schools, where 2605 students have access to the E-Pustakalaya. The survey included in-depth interviews with 32 teachers and 16 focus group interviews which 80 teachers participated. In addition there were approximately 160 community members who participated in the survey. The details are in the chart below.
Online Usage of *E-Pustakalaya*

The following table represents the number of online views and downloads of *E-Pustakalaya* when accessed on November 30, 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Abstracts</th>
<th>Downloads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
<td>24227</td>
<td>18737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2012</td>
<td>24787</td>
<td>18996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2012</td>
<td>18716</td>
<td>14086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>19896</td>
<td>15068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2012</td>
<td>21615</td>
<td>15587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2012</td>
<td>18490</td>
<td>14593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2012</td>
<td>5763</td>
<td>11556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2012</td>
<td>13101</td>
<td>27839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2012</td>
<td>8742</td>
<td>20189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2012</td>
<td>8851</td>
<td>14483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2012</td>
<td>10883</td>
<td>14279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2012</td>
<td>24439</td>
<td>19103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>24352</td>
<td>11290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2011</td>
<td>18337</td>
<td>12262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2011</td>
<td>23043</td>
<td>9656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2011</td>
<td>25066</td>
<td>11015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2011</td>
<td>12691</td>
<td>8973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2011</td>
<td>8561</td>
<td>7514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2011</td>
<td>8793</td>
<td>7673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>5011</td>
<td>6233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2011</td>
<td>4319</td>
<td>5284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2011</td>
<td>6455</td>
<td>8752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2011</td>
<td>4174</td>
<td>4871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2011</td>
<td>5769</td>
<td>5472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2010</td>
<td>4734</td>
<td>4746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2010</td>
<td>5456</td>
<td>5506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
<td>6056</td>
<td>6127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2010</td>
<td>6253</td>
<td>8102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2010</td>
<td>5536</td>
<td>4645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2010</td>
<td>3527</td>
<td>5829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2010</td>
<td>4184</td>
<td>4320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>5093</td>
<td>3031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2010</td>
<td>3195</td>
<td>2819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2010</td>
<td>4984</td>
<td>3548</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Accessed on 31 December 2012)*
Appendix 1:

**Offline E-Pustakalaya server installations in 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Schools and Library Names</th>
<th>Student Number</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Baglung</td>
<td>Ganesh SS, Janata SS, Mahendra SS, Prithivi HSS, Rudrepipal SS, Trivuwan SS</td>
<td>286, 125, 235, 125, 149, 391</td>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>Finnish Embassy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Banke</td>
<td>Gyanodaya HSS, Janashakti LSS, Nepal Rastrya LSS, Sahid Smarak HSS</td>
<td>345, 220, 178, 482</td>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>Finnish Embassy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Chitwan</td>
<td>Balkumari SS, Nepal-Korea Wisdom HS</td>
<td>1400, 187</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>School and local funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Dang</td>
<td>Gorkha SS, Sister Home</td>
<td>1200, 125</td>
<td>Lab, Laptop</td>
<td>School and local funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Doti</td>
<td>Masteshwor PS, Mastamandu HSS, Sunadevi HSS</td>
<td>77, 395, 301</td>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>Good Neighbor International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Gorkha</td>
<td>Dumre LSS</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>The Gorkha Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Gulmi</td>
<td>Arjun English School, Gyanodaya HSS, Himalaya HSS, Janabodh HSS, Mahendra Adarsha HSS, Panchayan HSS, Resunga SS, Siddha Baba HSS</td>
<td>793, 520, 493, 670, 840, 415, 400, 605</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>School and local funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Kavre</td>
<td>Shree Mahakali HSS, Shree Ram HSS</td>
<td>850, 390</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>School and local funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Lalitpur</td>
<td>Chandi Devi PS</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>Air Asia X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Nuwakot</td>
<td>Shree Gyanjyoti HSS</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>Nepal Library Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Parbat</td>
<td>Moti Community Library</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Nepal Library Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Rupandehi</td>
<td>Shantipriya PS</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>Skoliev i Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Solukhumbu</td>
<td>Dudhkunda Himalaya LSS, Garma SS, Jana Jagriti LSS, Pike HSS, Swarnim PS</td>
<td>114, 130, 270, 104, 32</td>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>Finnish Embassy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Syangja</td>
<td>Ranabir Janahit HSS</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>Nepal Investment Bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>