Project Madurai

What is Project Madurai?

It is a volunteer effort to convert ancient, and old Tamil books into an Electronic text form so that these books will be freely and easily available via the medium of the Internet. As of now, many of the ancient Tamil works like Tholkappiam and the literature of the Third Sangam period (Ettuththohaigal and Paththuuppattugal) are hard to find. As there is no market for it, the publishers are not interested in keeping them in print. There is a real danger that many of this books maybe lost.

When did this project get started?

This project was put into motion (Pongal Day 1998) by the volunteers from various parts of the world who got together via the Tamilnet (an Internet e-mail discussion list) and agreed to work on it.

How can you help?

Everyone is welcome to help in this project. All you need to do is do one of the two things; either key-in text or proof-read printed out material.

To help you with the keying-in, you will be given Mylai Tamil font (it is a Truetype font that can be used with any windows or even Mac programs). You will be given documentation on how to install and use Mylai fonts to key-in documents. You will be given printed copies of the material to be keyed-in. All you need to do is key it in and turn over the file to the co-ordinator.

If you want to proof-read, you will be given the published original (either as a book or printed sheets) and you compare it with the printed sheets and make spelling corrections and hand over the corrected printed sheets. The coordinator will do the electronic corrections.

What is in it for you?

This is a monumental and worthy cause. This is a first of kind for any language group from India. By everyone pitching in, this project can be completed in a short time. The volunteers have only one thing in common; they want to give their time and effort for the preservation, protection and propagation of Tamil works. By helping in this effort you indicate your support for this cause. In addition, you get the satisfaction that *you* too have helped out in a small way.

Whom to contact?

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