



# Sri Lanka Library Association NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Bulletin of the Sri Lanka Library Association

## Sri Lanka Library Association Holds 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting:



62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Sri Lanka Library Association was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Independence Square, Colombo. Dr. Eng. Sanath Panawannage, Director General/CEO, Author C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies was the Chief Guest.

### Highlights of the AGM

- Welcome Address by Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa, President, SLLA
- Address by Dr. Eng. Sanath Panawannage, Director General/CEO, Author C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies
- Presidential Address,
- Presentation of awards
- Vote of thanks, Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe, General Secretary, SLLA

SLLA in conjunction with its 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM organized a National Conference on Library and Information Studies (NACLIS) and was held on the 21st September at the same venue. The theme was „Towards and Information Society through Borderless Libraries“. This is in keeping in line with the IFLA theme as well.

### SLLA NEWSLETTER



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- Inquiry -  
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# NACLIS 2022



**Sri Lanka Library Association**  
**National Conference on Library and Information Science (NACLIS) 2022**  
*"Empowering Libraries for a Sustainable Future"*  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2022  
09.00 AM onwards

**Keynote Speaker**  
Dr. Ravi Fernando  
Council Member  
Sustainable Development  
Council of Sri Lanka  
Chairman / CEO  
Global Strategic Corporate Pvt. Ltd.

**Guest of Honour**  
Ms. Chamindry Saparamadu  
Director General  
Sustainable Development  
Council of Sri Lanka

**Chief Guest**  
Professor Senaka Rajapakse  
Director  
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine  
University of Colombo

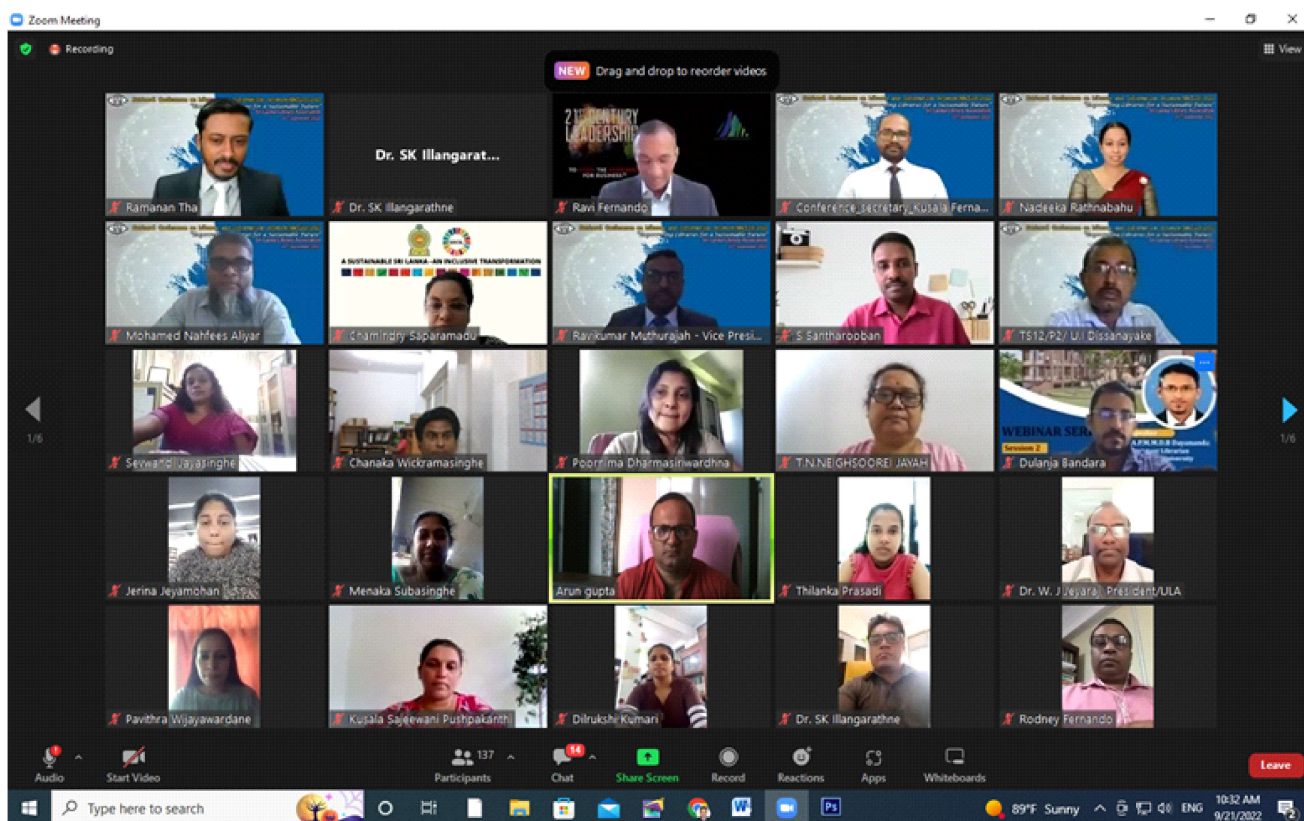
[Download Conference Proceedings here](#)

The National Conference on Library and Information Sciences (NACLIS) 2022 was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022, organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA). The conference aimed to bring together professionals, researchers, and students in the library and information science field to present their research, share knowledge, and exchange ideas on the conference theme of "Empowering Libraries for a Sustainable Future."

The conference was graced by the presence of distinguished guests including Chief Guest Professor Senaka Rajapaksha, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine at the University of Colombo, and Guest of Honour Ms. Chamindi Samaramadu, Director General/CEO of Sustainable Development Council (SDC) of Sri Lanka. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Ravi Fernando, Council Member, and Chairman of SDC.

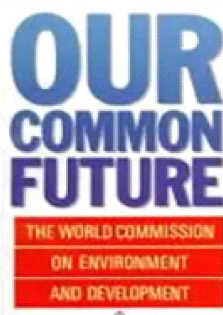


Attendees had the opportunity to participate in keynote speeches, panel discussions, and research paper presentations on various topics related to the theme, including sustainable development, information literacy, and digital transformation. The conference also included discussions and workshops to promote learning and explore new perspectives in the field. Overall, the NACLIS 2022 conference provided a platform for professionals to inspire each other and to discuss the path towards a more empowered and sustainable future for libraries.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NACLIS 2022





Recording You are viewing Ravi Fernando's screen View Options

## 1987 Brundtland Report

*“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

*Polluting fossil fuels cause Climate Change –Exit urgently !  
2 Pathways – Sustainable vs Unsustainable*

Audio Start Video Participants 134 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Apps Whiteboards Leave

Recording You are viewing Ravi Fernando's screen View Options

## 2 Attempts to follow the Sustainable Pathway

### 2000 -2015

The 8 Millennium Development Goals



### 2015-2030

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



➤ **2020**  
NDC'S 70% OFF TARGET  
IEP EMISSIONS GAP REPORT -2020

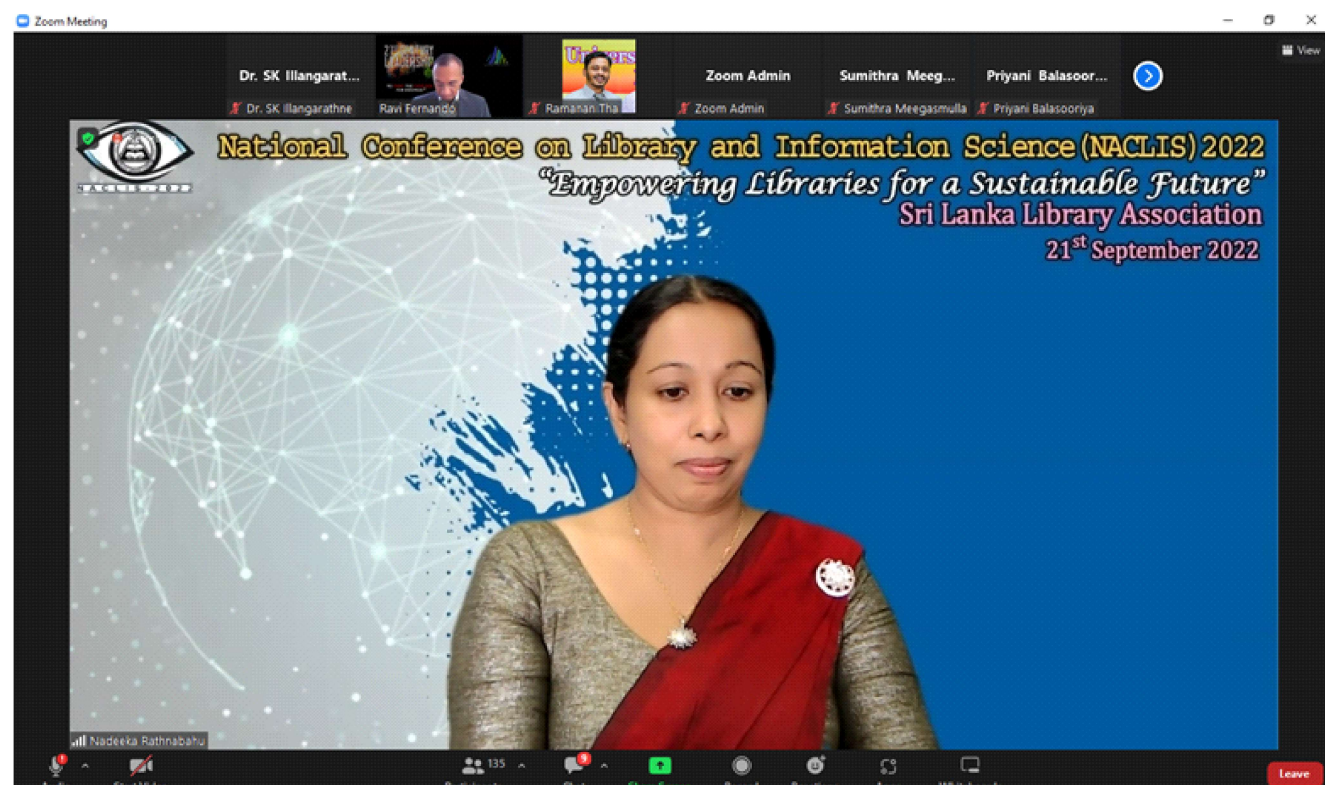
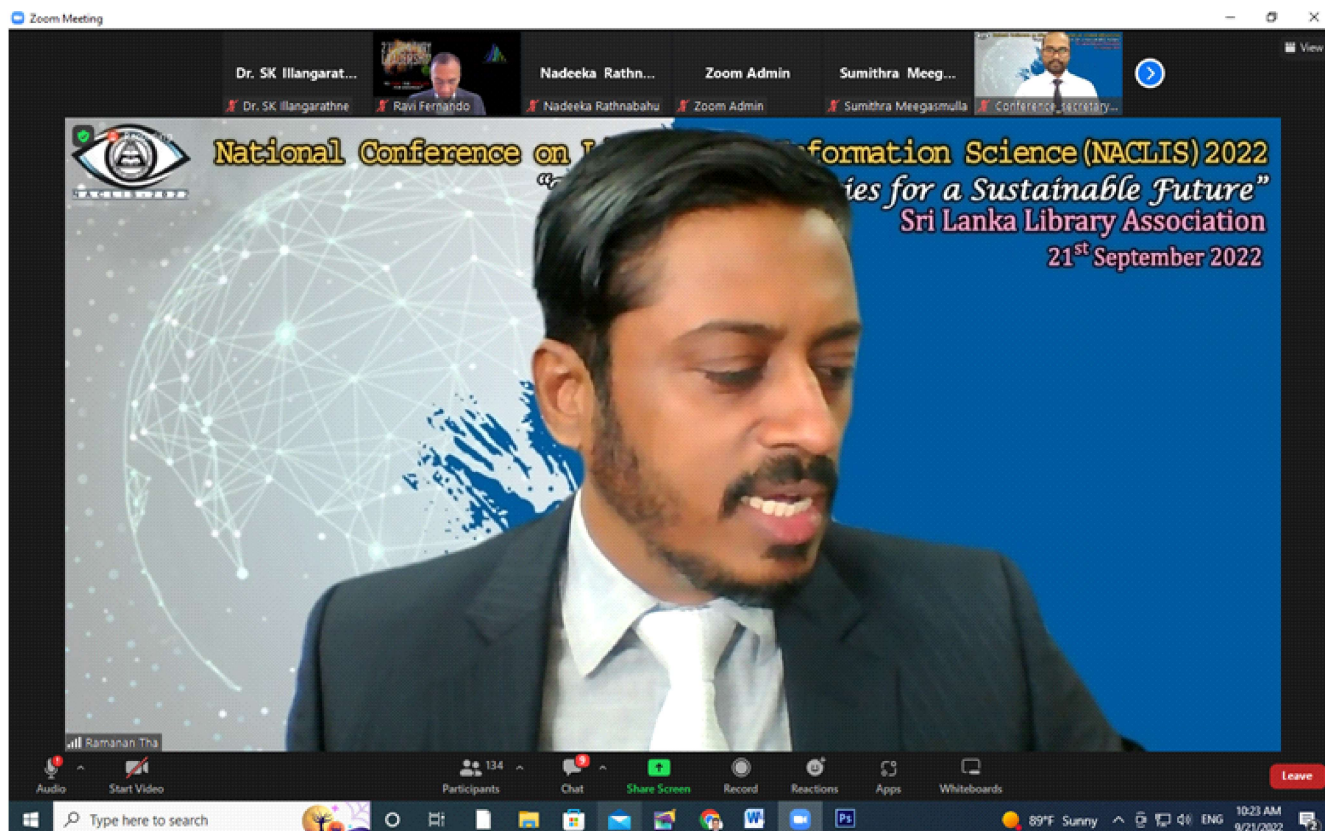
➤ **2021-2030**  
CATCH UP 70% gap  
ACHIEVE 100% FOR 2021-2030

➤ **3 of the 8 MDG's Achieved**

From Ravikumar Muthurajah - Vice President SLIA to Everyone

ok

Participants 133 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Apps Whiteboards Leave





# NEWS

## SLLA 2022/2023 COUNCIL



### New Council Members Appointed at Sri Lanka Library Association Annual General Meeting

The Sri Lanka Library Association recently held its annual general meeting on September 23rd, 2022, during which a new council was appointed. The council members are as follows:

- **President: Dr. Ananda Tissa**
- **Immediate Past President: Dr. Ruwan Gamage**
- **President-Elect: Mr. S P K K A Liyanage**
- **General Secretary: Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi**
- **Vice President: Mr. M N. Ravikumar**
- **Treasurer: Mr. K G S Gunathilake**
- **Education Officer: Ms. K N Samanthi**
- **Assistant General Secretary: Ms. T M C Hansamali Tennakoon**
- **Assistant Education Officer: Mr. Dhammika Rathnayake**
- **Publication Officer: Dr. S K Illangarathna**
- **Information & Public Relations Officer: Ms. Anoma Wijesinghe**

The newly appointed council will be working to advance the goals of the Sri Lanka Library Association. We look forward to seeing the contributions these members will make to the association.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Future Directions of the Sri Lanka Library Association



Looking back at the 62-year history of the Sri Lanka Library Association, the inconsistencies found in the constitution and rules of our association have helped to strengthen the well-being of the association. Through that, the members of the Governing Council, who are appointed by their members for a two-year service period, not only explain the importance of adhering to the responsibilities assigned for the perpetuity of the association, but also the need to work hard to achieve the objectives of the association that have not been accomplished so far.

Officers elected for the governing council to achieve the objectives of the association at a sustainable level, one must make the utmost commitment. The continued existence and development of the association is expected by every member. The right implementation of the powers assigned to the Governing Council by its members in accordance with the constitution and the set of rules and regulations for the well-being of the association should be understood as a great responsibility that is burdened on all of us at this time.

It is a high challenge assigned to us to further maintain the level of professional development that the association has achieved so far. It is a special responsibility to maintain the recognition that the association has received internationally. In particular, we must maintain the existing relationships with organizations such as the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the Council for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (CSDG) and the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA). In addition to this, the cooperation with the local bodies such as National Library & Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), National Institute of Library and Information Science (NILIS), and the Organization of Professionals Associations (OPA) should not be forgotten. In line with those associations' collaborations, it would be another special responsibility that we have to address in the future is to strengthen the training opportunity of our members in a professional manner. As a program to continue this cooperation, we have to guide our members to get membership in those associations.

Access to accurate data and information is a priority in determining the development goals of every country. Public libraries scattered all over Sri Lanka can be used as institutions for obtaining relevant information. At present, the number of public libraries operating under Municipal Councils and Provincial Councils is nearly 1150. The information available in all these libraries can be collected locally and the information of the public library staff can be used simultaneously to achieve the development goals implemented by the respective local government area. Is it possible to get the necessary information from libraries? Now is the time for monitoring by the relevant authorities. Trained librarians work in these libraries and it is with immense pleasure to recall that the Library Association has done an invincible service since 1960 in developing their further education activities.

We are living in an age where the traditional education system is breaking down and education is being transformed to modern technological needs. Integrating the relevant infrastructure in libraries and providing them to relevant parties is another challenge facing libraries today. Providing related training is another challenging goal assigned



to the Library Association. It is our belief that library and cognitive science studies will move forward along new paths by developing appropriate curricula. The Library Association also introduced a diploma course and an advanced diploma course in the education process as an answer to those challenges.

Addressing the inaugural meeting of the Ceylon Library Association (now the Sri Lanka Library Association) in 1960, Harold V. Boney, a UNESCO consultant stated that in his statement as follows;

“... The establishment of Ceylon Library Association is a commendable benchmark in the history of Sri Lanka, and many challenges facing the library profession can be overcome after joining this association. Mr. Boni's statement is still valid today.

Achieving the future goals and aspirations of the Sri Lanka Library Association is entirely dependent on the dedication of its members. For that, I would like to specifically mention that young library professionals are expected to join hands to overcome these challenges, following in the footsteps of its senior members who are looking forward to the development of the Library Association.

- sukhi dīghāyukō bhava! - සුඛී දීඝායුකෝ භව! - சுகி திகையு கோ பவ! -

Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa,  
President, Sri Lanka Library Association 2022/23



The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) has launched a new online gateway, available at <https://gateway.slla.lk/content/cont-main.html>, to provide easier access to its services and resources. As a professional organization for librarians and information professionals in Sri Lanka, SLLA aims to promote and develop library and information services in the country.

The new website offers a user-friendly interface to provide visitors with information about SLLA, its activities, membership opportunities, publications, events, and resources for librarianship and information science. Visitors can also access SLLA's digital library, which features a vast collection of full-text documents on library and information science-related topics.

This latest development is set to be a boon for librarians and information professionals in Sri Lanka, offering them the chance to benefit from the expertise and resources of the SLLA without having to leave their homes or offices. With this new website, the SLLA reaffirms its commitment to the development of information services across the country and invites everyone interested in the field to join them on this exciting journey.

# SLLA LAUNCHES NEW THEME SONG

## Sri Lanka Library Association Launches New Theme Song After Countrywide Competition

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) recently launched its new theme song, marking a historic moment in the association's 61-year history. The song is the result of a country-wide competition held among association members and other citizens of Sri Lanka, who submitted lyrics for consideration. After an extensive selection process, the winning lyrics were chosen by the SLLA's Theme Song Selection Committee, which was chaired by the association's Secretary, Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe. The composition of the music was then assigned to lyrics, resulting in the creation of a truly memorable and inspiring song. The SLLA acknowledges and thanks all the participants who worked hard and submitted lyrics for the competition. The association recognizes the importance of inclusivity and community involvement in achieving their goals of promoting knowledge and learning in Sri Lanka. We look forward to seeing the new theme song played at official SLLA events, as it becomes an integral part of the association's identity and serves as a source of inspiration and unity for its members.



### ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල සංගමයේ ගීතය Theme Song of SLLA

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පහත් තරුවේ විලසේ //

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Lyrics By: Dr. RD Ananda Tissa

Music & Melody By : Kithsirimeewan Jayasena

Voiced by: Singing Team of Talant Asia Academy





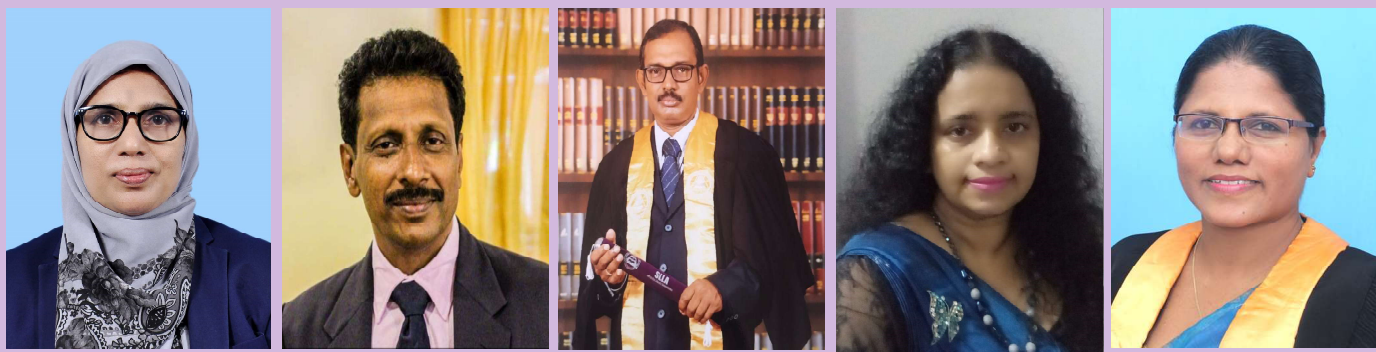
## PRESIDENT AWARDS

The Sri Lankan Library Association recently granted its prestigious Presidential Award for the years 2021 and 2022 to several individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the association. Among the awardees were Dr. SK Illangarathne, the association's Publication Officer and member of the Information and Public Relation Committee, Mrs. Yanika Nandasena, the association's Information and Public Relation Officer, and Mrs. Hansamali Tennakoon, a member of the Information and Public Relation Committee. They were recognized for their selfless service and dedication to the growth and development of the organization. Alongside them, the association also acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Anton Nallathambi, Mrs. Rasika Nilanthi, and Mr. PGJ Priyantha, who all received a heartfelt appreciation from the association for their services. The Presidential Award is a significant recognition granted to individuals who have provided exceptional contributions to the association, and this year's awardees truly deserved the accolade for their remarkable service. We congratulate all the awardees and extend our best wishes to them on their future endeavors.





## FELLOWSHIPS



The Sri Lankan Library Association awards fellowships to its members when recently held its Annual General Meeting, where they awarded prestigious Fellowships to several individuals who have made significant contributions to the industry. Among those who received the accolade were Dr. (Mrs.) M.M. Mashroofa, Mr. S. Shanugadasan, Ms. K.N. Samanthi, Mr. K.G.S. Gunathilaka, and Mrs. . They were all recognized for their outstanding work and dedication to the field of Library & Information Sciences. The Fellowship is a prestigious recognition granted to individuals who have made significant contributions to the industry, and this year's awardees truly deserved the honor for their remarkable work in the field. We congratulate all the awardees and extend our best wishes for their future endeavors. The Sri Lankan Library Association serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas and networking among professionals in the industry. These awards serve as a means of encouraging excellence in the field and inspire others to strive for excellence.

## ASSOCIATESHIPS

During the Annual General Meeting, Sri Lanka Library Association offered 82 Associateships to its members. This is great news and demonstrates the commitment of the Association to recognising the valuable contributions of its members. It should also be noted that Associate members will be eligible to apply for the Fellowship in the future.





# ACADEMIC EXCELLANCY AWARDS

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) recently held its Annual General Meeting, where they awarded Educational Excellence Awards to students who achieved the best results from the Diploma Course. The SLLA is a professional organization that aims to promote and improve library and information services in Sri Lanka. The association offers the Diploma Course in Library and Information Science to provide education and training in the field. During the Annual General Meeting, the association recognized the students who attained the highest scores in the course, highlighting their dedication and hard work. The Educational Excellence Awards were a testament to the students' efforts and commitment to their studies. The SLLA remains committed to the promotion of education and training in the field of library and information services and is proud to recognize the accomplishments of these outstanding students. We extend our warmest congratulations to all the awardees and wish them success in their future endeavors.



## Making Library Voices Heard at UN HLPF on SDGs



*His Excellency Mohan Peiris, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN in New York, Ms Chamindri Saparamadu, DG, SDCSL and IFLA representative Premila Gamage*

The United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development Goals took place in New York from 5-18 July 2022. The Forum brought together UN agencies, national governments, experts and stakeholders working on the SDGs and the wider UN 2030 Agenda. There was a high-level of participation at the forum from the countries that presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The aim of the HLPF is to build a common understanding of where countries stand today in terms of implementing the SDGs, learn from each other's experiences and renew momentum towards 2030.

The work of libraries in promoting the 2030 Agenda was mentioned in VNRs submitted by Argentina, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ghana, Gabon, Greece, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Lesotho, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uruguay.

To make heard the voice of libraries, IFLA brought a delegation of librarians from 7 different countries i.e. Botswana, Lesotho, Latvia, Argentina, Jamaica and US. It provided a unique opportunity to connect with the governments, especially the

opportunity to engage directly with ministers and ambassadors, as well as to build awareness of libraries among other stakeholders and potential partners – working to deliver on the SDGs.

Representing IFLA, Premila Gamage attended the Forum and the side-event IFLA organised jointly with the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library.

During the HLPF Premila actively engaged, -in particular, with the Sri Lankan government delegation which included His Excellency Mohan Peiris, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York and Ms Chamindri Saparamadu, Director



*Members of the library delegation at the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library during the side-event*



General of the Sustainable Development Council in Sri Lanka (SDCSL) and other potential partners and build the understanding of the role of libraries as supporters of development.

At the side-event “Informed Societies and Integrity in Public Information” which was held at the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library on 11 July 2022, Premila, with the other members of the delegation shared her insights, highlighting the Sri Lankan scenario.



*IFLA Delegation - Julius Jefferson Jr (US), Premila Gamage and Stephen Wyber, Manager, Policy and Advocacy, IFLA*

## SLLA SIGNS MOU WITH SDC



The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) has taken a significant step towards promoting sustainable development in the country's Library and Information sector. On September 26, 2022, SLLA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka (SDC) to collaborate on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in this sector.

The MOU signing event, attended by Dr. RD Anandatissa, SLLA President, Mrs. Varuni Gandabadaarachchi, General Secretary of SLLA, Dr. Premila

Gamage, SLLA Nominated Council member and Ms. Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General/CEO, and a few council members of both councils, was a remarkable event in the journey of SLLA. SDC has accredited SLLA activities as being inline with the SDGs, acknowledging its commitment to sustainable development.

The MOU between SLLA and SDC aims to promote collaboration and cooperation between the two organizations in achieving SDGs related to promoting access to information and knowledge, capacity building, and networking and collaboration. This partnership marks a new chapter in the cooperation between SLLA and SDC, promising to bring new pathways for innovation and growth in the library and information sector.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF SLA & SDC MOU





# AWARENESS PROGRAM OF SDG



The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) continues to take a proactive approach to promote sustainable development in the library and information sector. On November 29, 2022, SLLA conducted a highly informative and engaging awareness program on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for council members of SLLA and other stakeholders in the sector.

The program was conducted by Dr. RD Ananda Tissa, the President of SLLA, via Zoom. The session aimed to introduce the relative goals of Sustainable Development in the library and information sector. Dr. Ananda Tissa highlighted the importance of adhering to these goals and encouraged all the participants to prepare and implement projects aligned with them.

The program was a great success and received positive feedback from council members of SLLA and stakeholders of the sector. It was an excellent opportunity for participants to learn about the SDGs and their relevance to the library and information sector.

Dr. Ananda Tissa provided a comprehensive overview of the SDGs, highlighting the need for their integration into the library and information sector. He emphasized that achieving the SDGs is not only important for the sustainable development of the library and information sector but also for the sustainable development of the country as a whole.

The SLLA President's invitation to all participants to create projects aligned with the SDGs was particularly crucial. The projects will contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, further promoting sustainable development in the library and information sector.

In conclusion, the awareness program conducted by SLLA on SDGs was an outstanding initiative that showcased the association's focus on sustainable development. It emphasized the importance of the SDGs and their relevance to the library and information sector, providing an excellent platform for council members of SLLA and other stakeholders to learn, understand, and engage with the SDGs.

**SDG Action Plan Activities (2022-2024)**  
**SLLA LIS Awareness Program -1**

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Via  
 Meeting Link : [shorturl.at/bkwBD](https://shorturl.at/bkwBD)  
 Meeting ID : 854 7032 4665  
 Meeting Passcode : 715857

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# ADVANCEMENTS IN LIS FIELD

## National Union Catalogue of Sri Lanka is Launched



National Union Catalogue of Sri Lanka is officially launched by the National Library and Documentation Service Board on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

A union catalog is a centralized database that contains bibliographic records from multiple library catalogs or collections. It provides users with a single search interface to access materials from a variety of sources, making it easier to locate items of interest and to determine which libraries own them.

National Union Catalogue is developed with the objective to provide a common discovery interface to search and find the bibliographic details of books in all over the libraries in Sri Lanka. Mr. M. N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, Eastern University Sri Lanka has developed this portal using the VuFind open-source software. This interface does more than simply search; it also shows the location of the book and the libraries where it is currently located with the live status (availability) of the book. So, any user could use this Union Catalogue to find their required book without visiting several library catalogues (OPACs) which will save time of user and they can visit the nearest library to refer the book. This is a joint project of the National Library and ICTA. So far OPAC of 25 Public libraries are incorporated into this Union Catalogue as the initial step and other libraries such as University libraries and special libraries in Sri Lanka will be incorporated in near future. National Union Catalogue of Sri Lanka could be accessed via <http://unioncatalogue.dlp.gov.lk/vufind/>

### Links for international union catalogs:

- ♦ WorldCat - <https://www.worldcat.org>
- ♦ Library of Congress Online Catalog - <https://catalog.loc.gov>
- ♦ European Library - <https://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org>
- ♦ National Library of Australia Catalogue - <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au>
- ♦ Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog - [https://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk\\_en.html](https://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk_en.html)



# SLLA LEADS LIS SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION PROCESS OF SRI LANKA



The official publication process of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) is administered by its Publications Committee (PC). The PC is chaired by the Publications Officer (PO) elected by the Association at the Annual General Meeting. On the recommendation of the PO and with the approval of the council of the association, a number of committee members are elected from among the membership to serve on the committee for a period of one year. The PO and its committee members must have the experience to run the publication matters and the PC has the same power to elect an Editorial Board (EB) for their support.

The major periodical publications of the association are the Journal of Sri Lanka Library Review (SLLR) and the SLLA Newsletter.

SLLR is two blind-reviews, bi-annual research journal and recognized as a highly reliable journal that publishes research papers presented by various researchers in the field of library and information science in Sri Lanka for several decades.

Publications are published here in the months of January and June every year, and the dates for submission of research papers and authors' guidelines are available on the association's website, [slla.lk](http://slla.lk). After a systematic review process, only the research papers that are suitable for publication will be uploaded to the Sri Lanka Journal Online ([sljol.net](http://sljol.net)) platform as an open-access publication with a creative commons license. From this year Issue I & II of volume 36, SLLR has been published as only a digital publication.

SLLA Newsletter publishes four times per year and provides members with publicity about their official activities, special achievements and common thoughts about their profession. Members can share their experiences and common phenomenon with other colleague members via the feature article series of the newsletter. Currently it runs issue IV, Vol. 38.

Manuscript Submission to: [po@slla.lk](mailto:po@slla.lk)  
Online access to Sri Lanka Library Review  
<https://sllr.sljol.info/>

# FEATURE ARTICLE

## Penetration of Koha Library Management Software in Sri Lankan Libraries

Along with the rapid advancements in technology, the advanced system and tools necessary to conveniently complete daily activities are altering human life. In the modern electronic age, libraries are trying to offer library services quickly and efficiently. As a consequence, the idea of library automation was born. The development of a better automated library system requires the use of integrated library management software. Even though library automation started globally in the 1960s, the library automation process commenced in Sri Lanka with the use of computers in libraries. The first computerized unit was established in Sri Lanka in 1967 (Smyth et.al, 1982). In 1981, 65 computers were installed in different institutions across the country and 17 of them included libraries (Yapa, 1998). Meanwhile, in 1982, UNESCO introduced CDS/ISIS, an open library software. Later this software was introduced in Sri Lankan libraries in 1987 (Yapa, 1995).

If we take a look at the history of library automation in Sri Lanka, we discover that university libraries were played a significant role. Discussions on automation in university libraries began in 1986 during a meeting of the chairman of the University Grants Commission, university vice chancellors, and university librarians (IUCL, 1987). In response, the University Grants Commission provided computers to eight university libraries in 1998: University of Peradeniya, University of Colombo, University of Moratuwa, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Kelaniya, University of Jaffna, Ruhuna University of Sri Lanka, and Open University of Sri Lanka for library automation activities (Dissanayake, 1995). This is an important milestone in the history of library automation in Sri Lanka. After that, several university libraries began utilizing commercial library automation software such as LibSys, Alice for Windows, and LibSuite for their automation process. Meanwhile, Ruhunu University library started its automation process using Koha which is a free and open-source integrated library management software (Wijayaratne, 2005).

Over time, university libraries started using free and open-source software for their automation operations instead of commercial software due to the inability to continue paying the annual maintenance costs for commercial software and the decrease in funds allocated to university libraries (Ramanan & Ravikumar, 2012). As a result, the use of Koha software gradually began to increase in university libraries. By 2014 it was found that about 33% of university libraries have adopted Koha software for their automation activities (Ravikumar & Ramanan, 2014). It is increased by 70% by 2017 (Malkanthi, 2017). At present Koha software is used as the main library automation software in almost all university libraries.

In the recent past, automation of public libraries in Sri Lanka has been undertaken through two major initiatives. One of these is the Digital Libraries project implemented by the National Library of Sri Lanka in 2017 with the technical assistance of the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka. Through this project around 25 public libraries have been automated across the country. The second project was undertaken by the Ministry of Provincial and Local Government with the technical assistance of Open University of Sri Lanka. This project is being carried out in 4 phases from 2016 to 2022. Around 63 public libraries have been automated across the country through this project. Apart from these, 16 libraries have been automated by local councils in Northern Province with the technical assistance of University of Jaffna. Moreover, there are many public libraries and private libraries are being automated by library automation experts in many parts of the country. The library management systems in all of these libraries are developed using Koha software.



You may automate any kind of library with Koha open-source software, which is free to download. And the main reasons for the popularity of the Koha software are its features and the user-friendly design. At the same time installation and customization of Koha software required a technical expert which is a challenge for most libraries. However, it can be seen that the penetration of Koha software in Sri Lankan libraries is gradually intensifying. Moreover, free and open-source software like Koha can be an ideal solution for library automation in the nation's current economic crisis. Therefore, it is not surprising even if the adaptation of Koha increases in Sri Lankan libraries in the future.

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## Submission of feature articles for SLLA Newsletter

A feature article is a type of article that goes beyond presenting news or facts and delves deeper into a particular subject. It provides readers with a detailed and engaging narrative, often including interviews, anecdotes, personal viewpoints, and insights. Feature articles are meant to offer readers a comprehensive and thought-provoking account of the subject matter, rather than a just-the-facts approach. They are commonly found in magazines and newspapers or online publications.

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) welcomes feature articles for their newsletter. These articles should be well-written, engaging, and provide valuable information to SLLA members. Interested authors can submit their feature articles to the following email: [po@slla.lk](mailto:po@slla.lk). SLLA publishes its newsletter regularly, and feature articles are a great way for members to share their thoughts, experiences, and research with the community.

# EDUCATION NEWS

## Pirith chanting programme

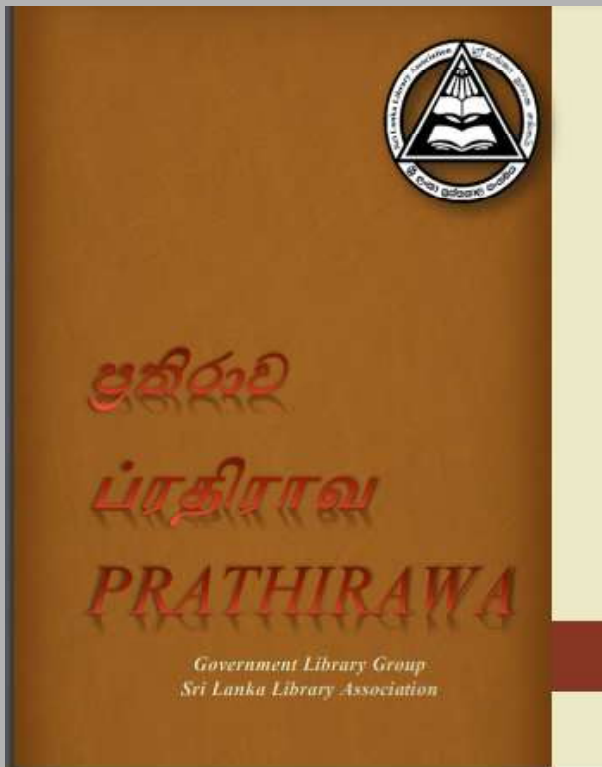
On the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the Sri Lanka Library Association, a pirith chanting ceremony was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at the SLLA auditorium. Most of the Council members and office staff participated.

## Selecting Supervisors for the compilation Bibliography and Index.

An online one day workshop organized by the Education Committee of the Sri Lanka Library Association was held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 for the SLLA Associate members who were applied for the supervisor of Sri Lanka Library Association. 31 candidates participated. Resource persons were Mr. K.K.G. Wijeweera, Mrs. Amara Nanayakkara and Ms. K. N. Samanthi. Workshop contents were How to compile Bibliography and Index, Activities and Roles of the Supervisor and how to guide the students as well.







**Prathirawa**, which is published by the Information and Publication Committee of SLLA, is a unique venture that seeks to encourage creative thinking and scholarly writing among its members. The magazine features a diverse collection of articles, poems, and short stories by members of the association, covering a wide range of topics related to library and information science. It is an excellent platform for scholars to showcase their research and ideas on various aspects of library and information science. It helps bridge the gap between theory and practice, and we are proud to be able to present it to our community. Please submit your creative ideas as a poem or short-story or as a scholarly article to [ipro@slla.lk](mailto:ipro@slla.lk) to be published on next issue.

## How to become a member of SLLA?

To become a member of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), interested individuals can follow the following steps:

- Visit the SLLA website (<https://www.slla.lk/>) and navigate to the "Membership" section.
- Review the membership categories available (such as Non-corporate, corporate, Associateship, Fellowship or Life membership), and choose the one that best suits your needs.
- Download and complete the membership application form for the selected membership category from the website.
- Attach the required documentation, such as copies of educational certificates, proof of employment, and other relevant documents.
- Submit the completed application form along with the required documentation and the applicable membership fee to the SLLA Secretariat.

Once the SLLA Secretariat has received and processed the membership application, a confirmation letter will be sent to the new member. Membership in the Sri Lanka Library Association brings various benefits, such as access to their professional development programs, discounts on conferences and workshops, as well as networking opportunities with other professionals in the field.

## “Buddhi Prabodani” Quiz Competition - 2022



The Public Libraries Group of SLLA recently conducted a program aimed at enhancing the general knowledge of public librarians in Sri Lanka. As the first step of this program, a competition was held among three libraries: Colombo Public Library, Dr. Richard Pathirana Public Library in Galle, and Public Library in Divulapitiya. The team representing the Colombo Public Library secured the first place in the competition.

The "Buddhi Prabodani" quiz competition held in 2022 was an event organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) to promote knowledge on various subjects, including literature, history, science, and tech-

nology, among its members. The competition was open to all members of the SLLA, and participants had to go through a preliminary round to qualify for the final stage.

The certificate award ceremony for the competition was held on 28th October 2022 at the Colombo Public Library auditorium. The event was graced by esteemed guests, including Dr. R.D. AnandaTissa, President of SLLA, Mr. W. Sunil, Director General of NLDSB, and Mrs. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi.

This program conducted by the Public Libraries Group of SLLA served to not only enhance the knowledge of public librarians in Sri Lanka but also brought friendly competition and an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the libraries involved. Congratulations to the team representing the Colombo Public Library for securing first place in the competition, and thanks to all the participants for making this program a success.





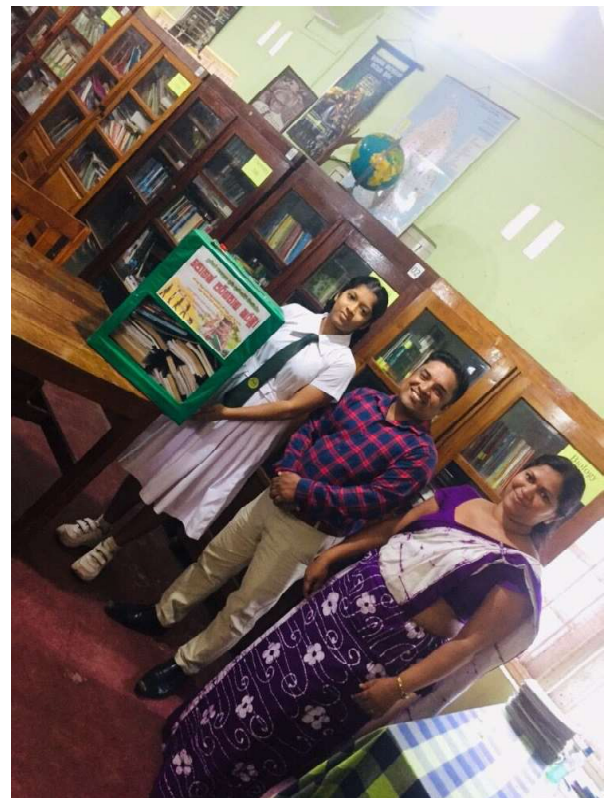
# NATIONAL READING MONTH PROGRAMS

## 2022 National Reading Month workshop in Rambawa Public Library

Guidance to acquire the necessary knowledge for various self-employment related to local industries. The workshop on coconut related products was conducted at Rambawa Regional Council. For this program, two people were contacted from one village service balance.



## BOOK DONATIONS



Leading schools in the Anuradhapura District have come together to donate more than 350 books to the Underprivileged School Library Development Project, hosted by the Technology Library at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The donation was spearheaded by three schools - Anuradhapura Swarnapali Girls' School, Anuradhapura Central College, and Walisinghe Harischandra School. The books, which covered a wide range of topics and genres, were presented to officials of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in a ceremony held at the university's Technology Library.



# ACADEMIC LIBRARIES GROUP NEWS



The University of Moratuwa Library, in collaboration with academic staff members from four faculties, organized three awareness programs to find innovators who will take part in commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the Library. Focusing on the students, teachers, and principals of the Moratuwa Education Division and the Piliyandala Education Zone,

these programs were aimed at enhancing knowledge and expertise in innovations and inventions. On September 30th, a program for teachers in charge of innovations and inventions was held in the Library Auditorium with the participation of 36 teachers representing 26 schools in the Moratuwa

Education Division. Four academic staff members from the Faculty of Architecture and the Faculty of Business collaborated with the Library for this event. During the program,

Dr. Kamal Wasala, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Integrated Design and Coordinator of Timber Design and Innovation Center, delivered a lecture on "Innovation and Creative Thinking." Mr. Sithumini Rathnamalala, Senior Lecturer from the same department, conducted an activity-based session on "Can Creativity be Taught?" Dr. Thesara Jayawardena, Head of Department of Industrial Management and Director of Business Research Unit, focused on "Entrepreneurship and the Art of Risk-Taking." Meanwhile, Prof. Dinesh Samarasinghe from the same department talked about "Market Identification: Launching a Successful New Product."



The awareness program aimed to inspire participants to take initiatives in their schools and realize their potential in creating inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs by teaming up with their students and parents.





# HIGHLIGHTS OF UOM WORKSHOP





# HIGHLIGHTS OF UOM WORKSHOP





# OTHER LIS CONFERENCES

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual International Conference on Library and Information Science (VICLIS)



The Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC) organized the 2nd Virtual International Conference on Library and Information Science (VICLIS) on the 25th of October, 2022. The conference aimed to provide a platform for professionals working in the library and information science field to exchange ideas, share expertise and knowledge, and discuss emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in the field. The conference featured keynote speeches from distinguished experts in the field of Library & Information Science from various international and national backgrounds. In addition, research papers and extended abstracts were presented and discussed in parallel sessions on various areas, including Information Science and Knowledge Management, Digital Libraries and Digital Scholarship, LIS Education and Professional Development, and Library Management and Practices.

The Virtual International Conference on Libraries and Information Science (VICLIS) has announced its objectives for 2022. The conference aims to showcase best practices for sustainable development in libraries and the information science community. It aims to promote the implementation of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the efforts of professionals in the Library and Information Science field. VICLIS 2022 will provide a platform for networking that will enable long-term partnerships and global collaborations among library and information science professionals, as well as other stakeholders. This initiative is expected to help raise awareness on sustainable practices, encourage the implementation of the UN SDGs, and promote global partnerships for the betterment of libraries and the information science community.

Dr. Nanda Gunawardena, Director of International Affairs at SLTC Research University in Sri Lanka, was chosen as this year's conference Chair. Dr. Gunawardena is widely recognized as a distinguished academic and research leader in Library and Information Science. In addition to Dr. Gunawardena's appointment as Conference Chair, two keynote speakers were also announced. Ms. Barbara Lison, President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), was named as one of the keynote speakers. Known for her leadership and expert knowledge in the field of Library and Information Science, Ms. Lison is expected to provide valuable insights at VICLIS 2022. The other keynote speaker named for the event was Mr. Michael Dowling, Director of the American Library Association International Relations Office. Mr. Dowling brings a wealth of international library experience to the conference and is expected to provide a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing libraries in different parts of the world. With such experienced and knowledgeable conference leadership, VICLIS 2022 is poised to be an essential event for all those concerned with Library and Information Science.

The conference's abstract page showcases the diversity and quality of research papers presented in the conference, which offered a valuable insight into the current trends and practices in the field of library and information science. VICLIS 2022 provided an opportunity for professionals to engage and reflect on the challenges and opportunities in the field and contribute to advancing it.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM





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