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https://www.slla.lk/

1. Message from the President of the Sri Lanka Library Association (2023/24)

I am delighted to share that the Sri Lanka Library Association is looking over a strategic plan to unite, support, and empower information professionals across our nation's libraries in the years ahead. To meet the evolving demands of our profession, we are introducing a brand-new user experience that will make it easier for our members to assess their capabilities, track their progress, and identify areas for improvement. This updated standard, combined with the latest technology, will facilitate our efforts to deliver enhanced services and stay ahead of the changing information landscape.

I firmly believe that by embracing innovation and working together as a cohesive community, we can overcome any challenge that comes our way. Our past achievements showcase the unity and professionalism that define the Sri Lanka Library Association, and it is vital for us to build upon this foundation as we move forward.

I invite each and every one of you to actively engage in shaping the future of our association. Let us collaborate, share knowledge, and support one another as we embark on this journey to uplift the standards of our profession. Together, we can not only adapt to this 'new normal' but also create a brighter future for the Sri Lanka Library Association and the communities we serve.

Preethi Liyanage President,
Sri Lanka Library Association (2023/24)

2. Council Members – SLLA 2023/2024

President: Mr. Preethi Liyanage
Immediate Past President: Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa
President-Elect: Mr. K.G.S. Gunathilake
General Secretary: Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi
Vice President: Ms. M.K.G.Y. Nandasena
Treasurer: Ms. K.N. Samanthi
Education Officer: Ms. Priyani Balasooriya
Assistant General Secretary: Ms. Chandima Wadasinghe
Assistant Education Officer: Ms. Sakunthala
                    Senevirathne
Publication Officer: Ms. M. P. Priyanka Dilhani
Information & Public Relations Officer:
          Ms. T.M.C.   Hansamali Tennakoon
Nominated Council Members   :
          1. Dr. G.R.Padmasiri
          2. Dr. Ruwan Gamage
Professional Group Conveners
Academic Libraries: Ms. Thushara Wanasinghe
Public Libraries :   Mr. Vijith Jayasinghe
School Libraries: Ms. W.A.J. Kaushalya
Rathnasekara
Government Libraries: Ms. F.R.A. Jiffrey
Special Libraries: Ms. Priyadarshani Hemakumara
National and Provincial Libraries: Ms. S.U. Wijethillake
COMAISP: Mr. S Santharooban
NACLIS / LIS Research: Dr. (Ms.) M.M. Mashroofa

3. Ex-co Members– SLLA 2023/2024

President: Mr. Preethi Liyanage
Immediate Past President. R.D. Ananda Tissa
President-Elect: Mr. K.G.S. Gunathilake
General Secretary:
                    Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi
Vice President: Ms. M.K.G.Y. Nandasena
Treasurer: Ms. K.N. Samanthi
Education Officer: Ms. Priyani Balasooriya
Assistant General Secretary:
                    Ms. Chandima Wadasinghe
Assistant Education Officer:
                    Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathne
Publication Officer: Ms. M. P. Priyanka Dilhani
Information & Public Relations Officer:
                    Ms. T.M.C. Hansamali Tennakoon
Nominated Ex-co Members:
                    1.Dr. Premila Gamage
                    2.Mr. Anton Nallathamby

4. Scholarly Enlightenment

Workshop on SLLA Action Plan: Strengthening the Sri Lanka Library Association

The Workshop on the SLLA (Sri Lanka Library Association) Action Plan was conducted by Dr. R. D. Ananda Tissa, Acting Librarian at Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine, on 2nd September 2023. The workshop on the SLLA Action Plan aimed to provide council members with a deeper understanding of the association's functions, history, membership, and responsibilities. By fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional development, the Sri Lanka Library Association seeks to strengthen the field of Library and Information Science and enhance libraries in the country.

Workshop highlights and reflections:

Dr. Ananda discussed the crucial role of professional associations in Library and Information Science, highlighting their significance in promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing among professionals. Participants gained insight into the functions of professional associations, which encompass setting standards, promoting educational programs, facilitating cooperation, and safeguarding the rights of librarians and information scientists.

The workshop provided an overview of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), its historical contributions to the field, and the governing regulations emphasizing ethical conduct. Membership categories, including full, student, and institutional membership, were explained, along with their associated benefits and privileges.

Additionally, the responsibilities of council members in advancing the association's objectives and the SLLA Action Plan, aiming to establish itself as a center of excellence, were discussed. The plan emphasized an educated and proactive membership and collaboration with stakeholders. The mission of the SLLA was summarized, focusing on library education, professional standards, cooperation, and shaping the future of library services in Sri Lanka.
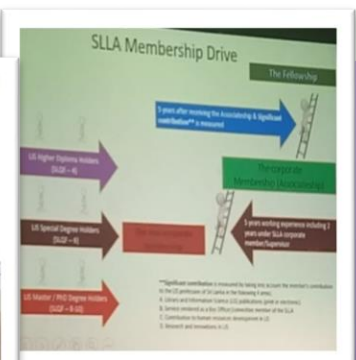
5. SLLA Education Programme

Awareness Workshop for Teachers of Sri Lanka Library Association

To obtain the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) stipulated by the Tertiary and Vocational Commission, the Sri Lanka Library Association has to follow certain rules and regulations in conducting courses as well as maintaining study centers. The education committee organized an awareness program for the lecturers who are engaged in the academic affairs of the association. The program was held on 16th September 2023 from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Sri Lanka Library Association.

The facilitator of this program was Mrs. Niluka Rajapakse, Assistant Director (Registration) of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission. She explained the criteria recommended by the Tertiary and Professional Education Commission. To obtain credit ratings relevant to the NVQ level, it is essential to increase the number of lecture hours as well as practical training sessions.

Students enrolled in this course will have the opportunity to enhance their theoretical knowledge and practical experience by actively participating in assignments. As such, students enrolled will have theoretical knowledge and practical experience once assignments are completed.

Mrs. Priyani Balasooriya
Education Officer

6. Unlocking Synergy: SLLA's Partnership and Alliances

Sri Lankan Nominees for International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

IFLA called for nominations for over 800 positions in its committees in January 2023. SLLA following members for 04 committees.

- Management of Library Associations- Ms. Deepali Talagala
- Asia-Oceania Regional Division Committee –Mr. T. Ramanan
- Education and Training – Dr. G.R. Padmasiri
- CPD and workplace learning – Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe

Mr T. Ramanan was selected for 2 years and Ms. Deepali Talagala for 4 years through a secret voting system to represent SLLA.

7. Information and Public Relations Committee: Events

SDG user awareness program: තිරසර ජීවන රටාවක් කරා

IPRO Convener Mrs. T.M.C. Hansamali and SDG Committee Convener Dr. Premila Gamage organized a Zoom session with the title of "තිරසර ජීවන රටාවක් කරා" on 11th August 2023 from 08. PM to 09.30 PM. The invited Resource Person was Mrs. Kanchana Weerkoon, Founder Member of the Eco-Friendly Voluntary Organization.

The main objective of this program was to educate participants and the general public in incorporating Sustainable Development Goals into day-to-day life. Mrs. T.M. C. Hansamali Thennakoon, the Convener IPRO Committee designed the flyer and published it through social media. Also, the IPRO committee members promoted the session on their social media platforms. More than 50 participants joined the session via Zoom platform. Recordings of the session can be accessed via the SLLA LK YouTube channel.

SANKATHANA programme: ප්‍රබන්ධයේ ප්‍රමෝදය : දෘපත්මය සිතීමකින් ඔබ්බට

IPRO Convener Mrs. T.M.C. Hansamali organized a "Sankathana Public Lecture Series No - 23" with the title of "ප්‍රබන්ධයේ ප්‍රමෝදය : දෘපත්මය සිතීමකින් ඔබ්බට" on 11th September 2023 from 08.00 PM To 9.30PM. Mr. Uditha Alahakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian, NILIS, University of Colombo was the resource person. This Session was moderated by Dr. Saman K. Illangarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian, at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The main objective of this program was to convey the role of Sinhala Literature and Fictions in developing critical thinking. More than 35 participants joined virtually. Recordings of the session can be accessed via the SLLA LK YouTube channel. Mrs. T.M.C. Hansamali Thennakoon, the Convener IPRO Committee designed the session flyer and published it via social media platforms. Other IPRO Members participated in the session and published the session flyer on their social media.
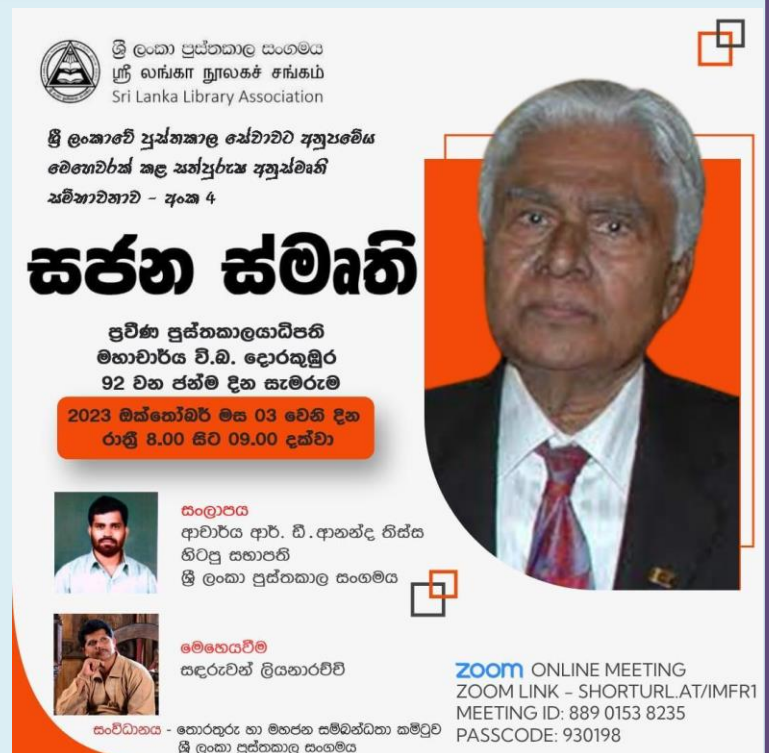
SAJANA SMRUTHI programme

Celebrating the Birth Anniversary of Veteran Librarian, Prof. V.B. Dorkumbura

IPRO Convener, Mrs. T.M.C. Hansamali, recently organized a virtual session called "Sajana Smruthi" to commemorate the 92nd birth anniversary of the renowned librarian, Prof. V.B. Dorkumbura. The session took place from 08.30 PM to 09.30 PM and was conducted via the Zoom platform.

The invited resource person for this esteemed event was Dr. R. D. Ananda Tissa, the Past President of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA). Assisting in moderating the session was Mr. Sandruwan Liyanaarchchi, who is attached to the National Library of Sri Lanka.

During the programme, the participants engaged in discussions highlighting the remarkable contributions of Prof. V.B. Dorakumbura to the Sri Lankan library field. The resource person provided an in-depth description of the life and achievements of Professor Wijeratne Bandara Dorakumbura (1931-2012). Prof. Dorakumbura, a retired librarian from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, holds the distinction of being the first librarian to hold the position of Vice-Chancellor in a Sri Lankan university. Additionally, he served as the former High Commissioner to Pakistan and held the esteemed position of the fourth, sixth, and ninth president of the Sri Lanka Library Association. Prof. Dorakumbura is renowned as a scholarly professional who has made significant contributions to the field.

The session was attended by more than 65 participants via the Zoom platform, and for those who missed it, recordings of the session are available on the SLLA LK YouTube channel.

8. Libraries: Workshops training programmes & Outreach activities

8.1 Public Libraries: Workshops training programmes & Outreach activities

a. බණ්ඩාරනායක මහජන පුස්තකාලයට කොහා ඇවිත්

වත්මන් රජය විසින් හෝමාගම බල ප්‍රදේශය වේගයෙන් සංවර්ධන වන බල ප්‍රදේශයක් ලෙස හඳුනාගෙන ඇති අතර එහි ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස හෝමාගම ප්‍රාදේශීය සභාව විසින් එම සංවර්ධන ඉලක්ක සපුරා ගැනීම සඳහා Green Expert City 2022-2031 නමින් සංවර්ධන සැලැස්මක් ක්‍රියාත්මක කර ඇත.

එයට සමගාමිව නවීන තොරතුරු හා සන්නිවේදන තාක්ෂණය හෝමාගම සංවර්ධනයට මුසු කිරීමේ තවත් එක් පියවරක් සනිටුහන් කරමින් ප්‍රාදේශීය සභාව විසින් බණ්ඩාරනායක මහජන පුස්තකාල ස්වයංක්‍රියකරණ සේවාව 2023.08.15 වන දින ආරම්භ කරන ලදි. හෝමාගම ප්‍රාදේශීය සභාවේ ලේකම් කුමුදුනි ගුණතිලක මහත්මිය විසින් බල ප්‍රදේශයේ බදු මුදල් ගෙවන ජනතාවට වඩාත් කාර්යක්ෂම, ඵලදායි සහ විනිවිදභාවයෙන් යුතු උසස් පුස්තකාල සේවාවක් ලබාදීම සහතික කිරීමේ අරමුණින් බණ්ඩාරනායක මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවය ස්වයංක්‍රියකරණය කරන ලදි.

මෙම සේවාව ජනතා අයිතියට පැවරීමේ උත්සවය 2023.08.15 වන දින පුස්තකාල පරිශ්‍රයේ දී උත්කර්ෂවත් ලෙස පැවැත්වුණු අතර, ඒ සඳහා පළාත් පාලන ආයතනවල මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවා ස්වයංක්‍රියකරණ ව්‍යාපෘතීන් හි ප්‍රමුඛයා වන ශ්‍රී ලංකා විවෘත විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය සමග ගිවිසුම්ගත වෙමින් ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ කථිකාචාර්ය හර්ෂ බාලසූරිය මහතාගේ තාක්ෂණික උපදේශකත්වය යටතේ ඉහත ව්‍යාපෘතිය ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන ලදි.

විශේෂයෙන්ම නගර මධ්‍යයේ ප්‍රධාන පාසල් කිහිපයක් සහ හෝමාගම කලාප අධ්‍යාපන කාර්යාලය, ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කාර්යාලය, මහාධිකරණය ඇතුලු රාජ්‍ය ආයතන කේන්ද්‍රගතව පිහිටි මෙම පුස්තකාලයේ ලියාපදිංචි පාඨක සංඛ්‍යාව 12,000 කට අධිකය. දෛනිකව පොත් 300 කට අධික සංඛ්‍යාවක් නිකුත්වන බැවින් ද මෙතෙක් අත්හුරු ක්‍රමයට පොත් නිකුත් කිරීමේ දී මුහුණ දුන් විවිධ අපහසුතාවයන් පාඨකයන් විසින් තවදුරටත් ඇති නොවන අතර මාර්ගගතව පොත් සෙවීම, වෙන් කිරීම ඇතුලු නවීන තාක්ෂණික අත්දැකීම් ලබා ගැනීම සඳහා අවස්ථාව උදා වී ඇත.

පළාත් පාලන පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ ප්‍රථම වතාවට විද්‍යුත් කාඩ්පත් හිමි සියලුම පුස්තකාල සාමාජිකයන් ඇතුළුව ඔවුන්ගේ පවුල් වෙත හෝමාගම මෙඩි හෙල්ප් රෝහලේ සියලුම රෝහල් සේවා සුවිශේෂී වට්ටමක් සහිතව ලබා දීමේ අවබෝධතා ගිවිසුමක් අත්සන් කර අනුග්‍රාහකත්වය ලබා දීම ද එදින සිදු කෙරුණි.

මෙහි දී හෝමාගම කලාප අධ්‍යාපන අධ්‍යක්ෂ හේමන්ත ගමගේ මහතා අදහස් දක්වමින් ප්‍රධාන පාසල් කේන්ද්‍රගතව පෝෂක කලාපයක පිහිටි මෙම පුස්තකාලයෙන් පාසල් දරුවන්ගේ නැණ පහන් දැල්වීමට කටයුතු කරන බවත්, ඒ සඳහා ලේකම්තුමිය, පුස්තකාලයාධිපති ඇතුලු සැම විශාල කැපවීමක් කරන බවත්, නවීන තාක්ෂණය හා මුසුවීම වඩාත් එළදායී වන බවත් පවසන ලදි. තවදුරටත් අදහස් දක්වමින් සමාජයේ පෞද්ගලික ආයතන කෙරෙහි විශාල හීතියක් ඇතත් පෞද්ගලික ආයතන සමාජ ශුභ සිද්ධියට විශාල දායකත්වයක් සපයන බවත් මෙඩි හෙල්ප් රෝහල, පුස්තකාල සාමාජිකයින්ට විශේෂ අනුග්‍රහයක් ලබා දීම හොඳම නිදර්ශනයක් බවත් පවසන ලදි.

මෙහිදී හෝමාගම ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් බී.ඒ. වින්තක, හෝමාගම ප්‍රාදේශීය සභාවේ වැඩ අධිකාරී ප්‍රේමිල් සුරේන්ද්‍ර යන මහත්වරුන් ද අදහස් දක්වමින් මෙම සේවාව ඉදිරියේ දී පුළුල් කිරීමට හෝමාගම ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කාර්යාලය සහ ප්‍රාදේශීය සභාව විසින් සැලසුම් කරමින් පවතින ව්‍යාපෘති පිළිබඳව පැහැදිලි කරන ලදි.

මෙම සමාරම්භක උත්සවයට විශේෂ ආරාධිත අමුත්තන් ලෙස හෝමාගම ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් බී.ඒ. වින්තක මහතා, කලාප අධ්‍යාපන අධ්‍යක්ෂ හේමන්ත ගමගේ මහතා, මෙඩිහෙල්ප් රෝහලේ ප්‍රධාන මෙහෙයුම් නිලධාරී නිශාන්ත ජයමාන්න මහතා, මෙහෙයුම් කළමනාකරු ෂමිත් පෙරේරා මහතා, හෝමාගම මහාධිකරණයේ රෙජිස්ට්‍රාර් ප්‍රියංකා ජයසූරිය මිය, හෝමාගම තැපැල් ස්ථානාධිපති නීතා දිසානායක මිය, වැඩ අධිකාරී ප්‍රේමිල් සුරේන්ද්‍ර මහතා ඇතුළු ප්‍රාදේශීය සභාවේ අංශ ප්‍රධානීන් ඇතුළු ආරාධිත අමුත්තන් මෙන් ම සාමාජිකයින් ද සහභාගී විය.

විජිත් ජයසිංහ
වරලත් පුස්තකාලයාධිපති
බණ්ඩාරනායක මහජන පුස්තකාලය

b. **Colombo Public Library: Workshops training programmes & Outreach activities**

➢ **Workshop on "Skill Development Training for Children & Parents"**

This workshop was held on 1ˢᵗ July 2023 in the auditorium of the Colombo Public Library. Mr. Indika Kariyawasam, a human skills development training consultant, gave practical training on how to develop the human skills and personality of children. It was possible to build a good relationship between children and parents and give an understanding of the right way to success and the directions that the child should be interested in.

➢ **Workshop on "Awareness about Mental Illness"**

The awareness workshop was about "Alzheimer's and Dementia", which have been identified as common mental illnesses today.

A workshop was held on 8ᵗʰ July 2023 in Colombo Public Library premises with the contribution of the Lanka Alzheimer's Foundation and Asia Foundation. Library staff as well as especially Senior Citizen readers also participated in this workshop.

➢ **"Computer Coding" Training Programme**

A practical training workshop on "Computer Programming and Computer Program Design" was conducted in July 2023 for children and Teenage readers associated with Colombo Public Library. This is held on the second Saturday of every month in the Colombo Public Library.

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"Maker Space" Workshop for Children

A practical workshop to raise awareness about the "Use of Technology for Children Inventions" was held in July 2023 in the Children's section of the Colombo Public Library. This event was supported and guided by "Igniter Space" Institute.

➢ Workshop on "KOHA Software System"

A Workshop on "Koha Software System" for the library staff was held on 21st July 2023 in the E-Library of the Colombo Public Library.

The staff of the main library and all the branch libraries participated in this. Resource contribution was made by the staff of "Ceymac" Institute.

➢ An Exercise and Medical Workshop for Senior Citizens

An Exercise and Medical Workshop for Senior Citizens was held on 22nd July 2023 at the Senior Citizens Section of the Colombo Public Library. In order to develop the strength of Adults, programs such as puzzle filling, chain pulling, Sudoku, etc., were implemented on this day.

➢ "Spoken English Course" & "Book Club"

The classes of the 4th batch of the **"Spoken English Course"** (Spoken English @ Colombo Public Library – SEPL) conducted by the Colombo Public Library started on 14th August 2023.

This time it consists of several groups. Among them, there were 5 types of spoken English classes (aged between 10-14 and above 19 years), and a program called **"Book Club"** (for Kids and teens) was held in the last week of every month to develop reading skills.

This is a three-month course conducted by Volunteer Teachers.

➢ "Fundamental Computer Course"

A Fundamental Computer Course for the readers of the Lending section was started on the 22nd of August 2023 in the E-library of the Colombo Public Library.

This course is conducted by Library Staff. Basically, teaching about how to use a computer and its components is done here.

➢ "Music Course"

A Music Course for the readers of the Children's section was started on 24th August 2023 with the participation of the children members of the Colombo Public Library.

This course was conducted by the staff of the Public Assistance Department of the Colombo Municipal Council. The primary purpose of this was to help children develop their artistic/ entertaining skills.

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➢ Workshop on "Persian Language Course"

The Persian Language Course organized with the Colombo Public Library and the Iranian Cultural Center was started on 28th August 2023, in the Public Library premises in Colombo.

There is no age limit for the course. Here all four areas of writing, reading, listening, and speaking are taught. The teaching is done by an officer of the Iranian Cultural Center.

➢ Awareness Legal Workshop on "How the existing Law of the country affects the Public"

The awareness Legal Workshop on "How the existing Law of the country affects the Public" was held on the 26th of August 2023 in the auditorium of the Colombo Public Library. This was organized under the auspices of the Colombo Public Library Writers and Readers Association.

➢ Workshop on "Mental Wellness"

A "Mental Wellness" workshop organized by the Colombo Public Library Writers' Readers Forum was also held in the E-Library on 17th September 2023.

A valuable workshop was held that day on how to properly maintain mental health and its importance. This was conducted by psychologist Mrs. Maya Dissanayake.

8.2 Academic Libraries: Workshops training programmes & Outreach activities

a. <u>University of Jaffna:</u> *'Prison Library project'* at the Jaffna Remand Prison - Library

'Prison Library Project' at the Jaffna Remand Prison is an important community outreach initiative undertaken by the Library of the University of Jaffna. This activity was led by Mr. R. Kupeshan, Senior Assistant Librarian and Coordinator of Community Outreach Activities, and a team comprising of eight members engaged in organizing the respective library specifically for prisoners at the Jaffna Remand Prison. This endeavor carried out from August 2022 to March 2023, marked a significant milestone in their community engagement efforts. Through the project, a collection of 2,500 reading materials, including books, reference sources, serials, pamphlets, and leaflets were technically processed and organized. Additionally, infrastructure facilities were developed with the support of philanthropists and well-wishers. An operational mechanism was also devised to address the information needs of the inmates. The inaugural ceremony for the 'Prison Library' took place on April 8, 2023, with Professor S. Srisatkunarajah, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, as the Chief Guest.

b. <u>Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka:</u> Workshops training programmes & Outreach activities

> Pre-conference workshop on "Redefining university rankings: the crucial role of libraries and e-repositories in the digital age"

A pre-conference workshop was organized in hybrid mode by the library, SUSL on 13th September 2023 from 9.00 am -12.00 pm by Mr. M.A. Kasun Munasinghe, Interactive Media Librarian, (Assistant Librarian), University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka at the auditorium /Faculty of Geomatics -SUSL. This event was in parallel to

9th International Conference of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to explore and demonstrate the significant impact of university libraries and e-repositories on enhancing university web rankings in the digital era; to equip participants with strategies to harness the power of these resources, effectively increasing academic visibility and reputation online; to increase the awareness on maintaining individual academic profiles and disseminate new knowledge among others.

➢ **Pre-conference workshop on "ResBaz: Upskill your digital research practice"**

A pre-conference workshop was organized by the library, SUSL on 28th September 2023 from 9.00 am -11.00 am by Dr. (Mrs.) Namali Suraweera, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka and currently working as an academic developer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and Dr. Rana Daoud, Academic Developer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand via ZOOM.

This event was in parallel to the 9th International Conference of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to address the skills gap, promoting digital and data literacy, facilitating collaboration and interdisciplinary research, advocating for open science practices, and enhancing research productivity and impact in an increasingly technology-driven research landscape. The Research Bazaar (ResBaz) is a worldwide festival promoting digital literacy at the center of modern research. This session covered tips and tricks for staying up to date with literature, introduced digital tools to use in research, and discussed ways of communicating research in the media, including online presence.

➢ **Plazz Café Project of SUSL library**

Plazz café is a new project introduced by the library/SUSL in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages/SUSL to make an open discussion among SUSL community. The 1st session was held on 07th September 2023 from 3.00 – 5.00 pm at Prof. Dayananda Somasundara auditorium.

The resource person was senior translator, Mr. Chulananda Samaranayake for the scholarly discussion on "Reading Effectively".

➢ **Community Outreach: Awareness sessions and library visits at SUSL library**

The library SUSL conducted several awareness sessions for the students at the following schools.

● St. Mary's College, Hambanthota – on 07th July 2023
● Gamunupura Maha Vidyalaya, , Mahiyanganaya – on 21st July 2023
● R/ Gairanagama Vidyalaya, Gurubavilagama , Balangoda – on 21st July 2023
● R/ Ferguson High School, Rathanapura – on 31st July 2023

Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei, the librarian, Dr. Manjula Wijewickrama, Senior Assistant Librarian and Mr. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian served as resource persons in these sessions to introduce the library, its functions and formations, services of KOHA library management system, newly introduced library services, sections, projects and effective use of social media to promote the library.

➤ **Awareness workshop on the Green Library concept**

2nd workshop conducted by the LQAC: Awareness of Green Library concept (Green Library Project) was successfully held on 19th July 2023 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. at the Staff Development Center, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The objectives of the session were to aware the SUSL library staff about the green concept, the green library concept, to introduce the green model developed for university libraries, and to highlight the green initiatives to practice in the university library. This was a free and open session for anyone interested in this topic and online participants actively attended the session.

➤ **Awareness workshop on "Innovative pedagogies and academic literacy"**

The Library Quality Assurance Cell (LQAC) has organized its 3rd awareness workshop on "Innovative pedagogies and academic literacy" on 29th August 2023 from 09.00 am-12.00 pm at the Staff Development Center, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Dr. (Mrs.) M.D.N.M.U. Mahawatta, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies, SUSL was the resource person. The objective was to aware the SUSL staff on academic literacy and innovative pedagogies. This was free and open session for anyone interested in this topic and online participants were actively attended in the session.

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➢ **LQAC webinar series on "AI Horizons: Exploring the Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence", Sabaragamuwa University Library**

The library quality assurance cell has planned to conduct the LQAC webinar series on "AI Horizons: Exploring the Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence" due to the timely importance and requests received from library users. This free and online webinar series is open for anyone who is interested in this topic.
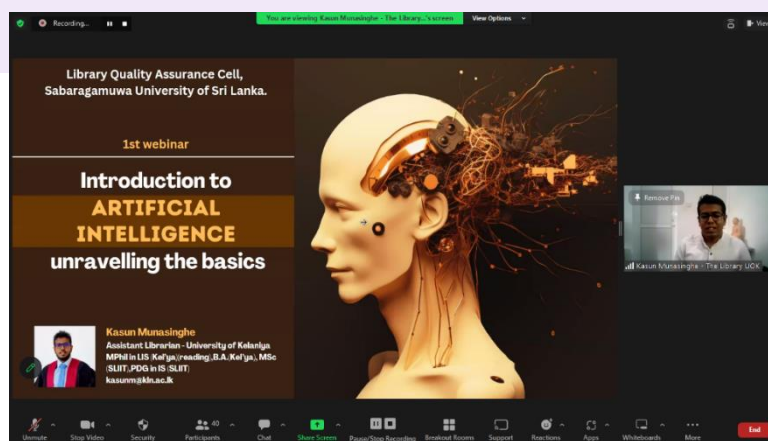
This will function as a community development programme and a national service as well. The webinar series includes 6 sessions. The first webinar "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence: unravelling the basics" was conducted by Mr. Kasun Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya on 22nd August 2023 from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm via Zoom.

C. South Eastern University of Sri Lanka: Workshops training programmes & Outreach activities

➢ **Empowering Libraries with the Power of Research**

The South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) libraries have extended their community outreach services to the libraries across the Ampara district by establishing a Library & Information Network under the umbrella of SEUSL libraries. This library and information network has been named 'South Eastern Regional Library & Information Network (SERLIN), Sri Lanka'. SERLIN has been officially launched by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rameez Aboobucker at the 27th Founder's Day celebrations of the university on 23rd October, 2023. As an initiative, a book donation was performed with the support of YM.Trust Australia.

SEUSL Libraries have included two capacity-building programmes for SERLIN members. One of the programme was conducted on 19th, August 2023 at the Seminar Hall of Main Library on "Empowering Libraries with the Power of Research". Mr. M.M. Rifaudeen, the University Librarian of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, chaired this training programme. Prof. (Dr.) Rameez Aboobucker graced the occasion by participating as the Chief Guest of the Inaugural session. Dr. W. Jeyeraj, Librarian of Eastern University, Sri Lanka also participated and graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Altogether 38 librarians from public, school, and college libraries took part in the

programme and benefitted. Dr. R.Balasubramani, Associate Professor, Dept. of Library & Information Science, Bharathidasan University, India, and Mr. R. Maheshwaran, Librarian, University of Peradeniya shared their knowledge and skills by facilitating the sessions as resource persons. Following the training programme, SEUSL libraries donated a set of valuable books, to each participating library which was sponsored by Y.M.Trust, Australia. A book written by former Media Director Mr. V. Mathialagan on "Sollatha Seithikal" was also donated to the participants. Dr. M.M.Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian (Coordinator, SERLIN) coordinated this capacity-building programme.

8.3 National Libraries: Workshops, Training programmes & Outreach activities

a. One-Day Workshop on Library Management:

Cataloguing and Classification in Koha Database (Tamil medium) held on 6th July 2023 participated 119 participants actively.

b. 2nd International Research Conference of National Library of Sri Lanka (ICNATLIB 2023)

The National Library & Documentation Services Board conducted the 2nd International Research Conference of the National Library of Sri Lanka (ICNATLIB 2023) in collaboration with the Asia & Oceania Section of IFLA, SLTC Research University, and Information Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) on 8th September 2023 at the National Library, Colombo.

ICNATLIB 2023 is the second of its series which is annually organized by the Library Research Division to provide an excellent opportunity for researchers to discuss the issues and challenges relating to the fields of Library & Information Science and Social Sciences. The conference provided a platform for gathering a pool of academics, professionals, researchers and students to share and discuss new knowledge created in the field that will positively reinforce the functionality of library field. The theme of this year's conference "Transformation of Libraries in the Digital Era" was chosen to address many aspects of the growing importance of the value of digitalization of libraries in the country. The conference sub-themes focused on E-resource Management and Digital world, Workforce in Digital Transformation, Social Development, Education & Digital Transformation, SDGs, libraries & Digitalization and Emerging technologies: New trends and issues.

Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, Director of University of Colombo School of Computing was the Chief Guest while Eng. Prof. Gihan Dias, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa was invited to deliver the keynote address. A large number of participants representing public, academic, school and special libraries attended the conference. The conference was cherished with presentations of about sixteen selected research papers covering a wide range of subjects relevant to the theme of the conference. They were presented in two technical sessions chaired by experts in research arena, such as Emeritus Prof. K. A. P. Siddhisena from Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Dr. Wathmanel Seneviratne, Librarian, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Mrs. Deepali Talagala, Library Consultant: IFLA MLAS Member Sri Lanka and Mrs. Padma Bandaranayake Director, National Library & Documentation Center. The valedictory address was delivered by Mrs. Deepali Talagala and Mrs. Padma Bandaranayake. The inspiring presentations and fruitful discussions were conducted in a high-level platform for formulating possible guidelines for future development.

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හරිත පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය බලාත්මක කිරීම වෙනුවෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි භාවිතය

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සහකාර පුස්තකාලයාධිපති,
ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකා සබරගමුව විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

'හරිත සංකල්පය' වූ කලී 20 වන සියවසේ දී අවධානයට නතු වූ මෑතකාලීනව බොහෝ රටවල ක්‍රියාවට නැංවූ සංකල්පයකි. 15 වන සියවසේ යුරෝපයේ දී ඇති වූ කාර්මික විප්ලවයත් පුනරුදයත් හේතුවෙන් ලෝකයාට උරුම වූ අතුරු ප්‍රතිඵලයක් වූයේ පරිසර හානිය යි. නමුත් පරිසරය, හානියට ලක්වන බැව් එකකට අවබෝධ කරගන්නට මිනිසා අසමත් විය. අදින් වසර 200කට පමණ පෙර දී පරිසරය හානියට ලක්වන බව තේරුම්ගත් හෙයින් ක්‍රමයෙන් 20 වන සියවස අගභාගය වන විට පරිසරය හා එහි සුරක්ෂිතතාව පිළිබඳ ලෝක ප්‍රජාවගේ අවධානයට ලක්විය. 2015 දී එක්සත් ජාතීන්ගේ සංවිධානය විසින් ලොවට හඳුන්වා දුන් 'තිරසාර සංවර්ධන අභිමතාර්ථ - 17' (United Nations, 2017) මගින් පරිසරය කෙරෙහි මිනිසා තුළ නිර්මාණය විය යුතු අවධානය පිළිබඳව මනා කතිකාවතක් ගොඩනගන්නට සමත් විය. එවැනි ජාත්‍යන්තර මෙන්ම දේශීය වශයෙන් ඉදිරිපත් වූ විද්වත් කතිකාවත් ඔස්සේ පරිසර හිතකාමී ලොවක් උදෙසා වන 'හරිත සංකල්පය' ලොව පුරා ප්‍රවලිත විය. එය එක් එක් විෂය ක්ෂේත්‍රවලට අදාළව තව දුරටත් පුළුල් සංකල්පයක් ලෙස වර්ධනය වීමත් සමඟ වර්තමානය වන විට එය සෑම ක්ෂේත්‍රයකම දක්නට ලැබෙන පාඨයක් බවට පත් වී තිබේ. ඒ අනුව හරිත නගර, හරිත ගොඩනැගිලි, හරිත ගෘහනිර්මාණ ශිල්පය, හරිත සරසවි පමණක් නොව හරිත පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳව ද සමාජයේ අසන්නට ලැබේ. හරිත පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ලක් ස්ථාපනයේ දී සැලකිය යුතු කරුණු, වර්තමානයේ ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය පුස්තකාල මගින් ක්‍රියාවට නංවා ඇති හරිත ක්‍රියාමාර්ග, සහ හරිත පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි ඉදිකිරීම හා පවත්වා ගැනීම සම්බන්ධ ලෝකයේ සම්මතයන් හා ශ්‍රේණිගත කිරීම් පිළිබඳව ද මෙම විශේෂාංග ලිපිය මගින් ඉදිරිපත් කෙරේ.

ලොව පුරා විසිරී පවත්නා නොයෙකුත් පුස්තකාල වර්ගවලට අදාළව විවිධ ස්වරූපයෙන්, විවිධ ක්‍රම මගින් හරිත පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු දක්නට ලැබේ. විශේෂයෙන්ම සංවර්ධිත ඇමෙරිකාව, යුරෝපය වැනි රටවල පමණක් නොව තායිලන්තය, ඉන්දියාව වැනි රටවල ද මේ කෙරෙහි දක්වා ඇත්තේ සුවිශේෂී අවධානයකි. නමුත් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල පද්ධතිය තුළ තවමත් මෙය ජනප්‍රිය සංවාදයක් බවට පත් වී ඇති බවක් පෙනුන ද විධිමත් ක්‍රියාමාර්ග ඔස්සේ එය ප්‍රායෝගිකව ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලබන්නේ ඉතා සුළු වශයෙනි (Warnasooriya, 2019). ඒ අනුව පුස්තකාලයක් ස්ථාපනයේ දී භූමිය තෝරා ගැනීමේ පටන්, පුස්තකාලයේ සෑම සියලු ක්‍රියාවකදීම සිදුවන පරිසර හානි අවම කරගත හැකි මට්ටමින් පරිසර හිතකාමී බව තහවුරු කිරීම මෙන්ම පරිසරය වෙත සැලකිය යුතු මට්ටමේ අවධානයක් යොමු කරමින් තීන්දු තීරණවලට එළඹීම, 'හරිත පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය' මගින් තහවුරු කෙරෙන අතර තිරසාර වැඩසටහනකට අනුගතවීමේ වටිනාකම IFLA මගින් ද දක්වා තිබේ (IFLA, 2023). පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල කෙරෙහි සුවිශේෂී අවධානයක් යොමු කළ යුත්තේ එය දිගු කාලීන, ස්ථාවර මෙන්ම වසර කීපයක උත්සහයක ප්‍රතිඵලයක් වන බැවිනි. ඒ අනුව IFLA හි ''හරිත පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි හා උපකරණ'' යන්න ඔවුන්ගේ තිරසාර න්‍යායපත්‍රය (Sustainability agenda) තුළ අන්තර්ගත කර ඇත. එමගින් දක්වා ඇත්තේ පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි හා උපකරණවලට අදාළව නිකුත් කෙරෙන කාබන්ඩයොක්සයිඩ් ප්‍රමාණය (Carbon dioxide emission) හා කාබන් පියසටහන (Carbon footprint) හැකි පමණින් අවම කරගැනීමට උත්සුක වීමයි (IFLA, 2023).

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'හරිත' කියු පමණින් බොහෝ දෙනාගේ සිත තුළ මැවෙන චිත්‍රය වන්නේ ගහ කොළින් පිරුණු වටපිටාවක් සහිත පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ලක් වුවද හරිත පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය පුළුල් මාතෘකාවකි. පරිසර හිතකාමී ලෙස හා සම්පත් කාර්යක්ෂම ආකාරයෙන් භාවිත කොට නිර්මාණය කිරීමට, ගොඩනැගීමට, අලුත්වැඩියා කිරීමට, මෙන්ම පුස්තකාල සේවා ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමට හා දිගුකාලීනව භාවිතයට ගත හැකි ආකාරයෙන් නිමවන වන ගොඩනැගිලි ආකෘතිය හරිත පුස්තකාල වේ.

හරිත පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි ඉදිකිරීම හා පවත්වා ගැනීම සම්බන්ධව ලෝකයේ සම්මතයන් හා ශ්‍රේණිගත කිරීම් නිර්මාණය වී තිබේ. ඒ අතර ශක්ති ප්‍රභව හා පාරිසරික සැලසුම්කරණ ප්‍රධානත්වය (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – LEED) ඇගයුම් ක්‍රමවේදය යොදාගන්නා ඇමරිකානු හරිත ගොඩනැගිලි කවුන්සිලය (United States Green Building Council - USGBC), හරිත තරු ක්‍රමවේදය (Green Star System) භාවිතයට ගන්නා ඕස්ට්‍රේලියානු හරිත ගොඩනැගිලි කවුන්සිලය (Australian Green Building Council – AGBC) සහ ඉන්දියානු හරිත ගොඩනැගිලි කවුන්සිලය (Indian Green Building Council – IGBC) (Meher & Paraboi, 2017) ආදිය පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි කෙරෙහි උනන්දුවක් දැක්වුව ද ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි සම්බන්ධව එබදු සම්මතයන් හා ශ්‍රේණිගත කිරීම් නොපැවතීම අඩුවක් සේ පෙනේ.

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ හරිත පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි

සමස්ත හරිත සංකල්පයෙහි පැතිකඩ ආවරණය වන පරිදි 2018 දී සිදුකරන ලද පර්යේෂණයක ප්‍රතිඵල අනුව අනාවරණය කරගත හැකි වූයේ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ විශ්වවිද්‍යාල පුස්තකාල තුළ හරිත පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය ඉතා සුළු වශයෙන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමට ප්‍රයත්න ගෙන ඇති බවයි (Warnasooriya, 2019). ඇතැම් පුස්තකාල සේවකයෝ මෙවැනි සංකල්පයක් ඇති බව හෝ නොදනිති. මේ පිළිබඳ ඉහළ තනතුරු හොබවන ඇතැම් පුස්තකාල නිලධාරීන්ගේ පවා දැනුවත්භාවය එතරම් සාධනීය මට්ටමක නොපවතින බව තවත් පර්යේෂණයක් මගින් අනාවරණය විය (Warnasooriya, 2019) . සමස්තයක් ලෙස හරිත පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය කෙරෙහි සියලුම දෙනා ධනාත්මක ප්‍රතිචාර හා අදහස් දැරුව ද සැබවින්ම ඉන් ආවරණය කරන්නේ කුමක් දැයි යන්න පිළිබඳ ඔවුන්ට පැහැදිලි අවබෝධයක් නොවීය. විදේශීය පුස්තකාල නැරඹීම හා ඒවායෙහි වෘත්තීමය වශයෙන් අත්දැකීම් ලද පිරිස් තමන්ට හැකි අයුරින් සුළු වශයෙන් හෝ හරිත සංකල්පය තම පුස්තකාල තුළ ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමට ගෙන ඇති ප්‍රයත්නය අගය කළ යුතුය. අඹේපුස්ස සිංහ රෙජිමේන්තුවට අනුයුක්ත පුස්තකාලය මේ වන විට ආසියාවේ විශිෂ්ටතම දෙවන විශාලතම මනාව සැලසුම් කළ හරිත පුස්තකාලය වශයෙන් ජාත්‍යන්තර ජයග්‍රහණ ලබා ඇති අතර එහි කියවීම් ශාලාව දිවා ආලෝකය උපරිමයෙන් ලද හැකි පරිදි නිමවා තිබේ.

(Ambepussa Sinha Regement, 2023)

ලෝක පෑළ සිටුවීමේ දිනයට සමගාමීව ගම්පහ මහජන පුස්තකාලයට අනුබද්ධව ගොඩනගන ලද හරිත පුස්තකාලය හා බීජ පුස්තකාලය ද තරමක් සාර්ථක මට්ටමේ පවතී. එසේම හරිත විශ්වවිද්‍යාල තේමාව යටතේ බිහි වූ හෝමාගම පිහිටි හරිත සරසවි පුස්තකාලය ද ස්වාභාවික වාතාශ්‍රය හා ආලෝකය උපරිමයෙන් ලද හැකි පරිදි නිර්මාණය කර ඇත.

හරිත සංකල්පය අනුගමනය කරමින් නව පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ලක් ඉදිකිරීමේ දී හෝ පවතින පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ලක් ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණයේ දී හෝ පවතින පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ලට අවශේෂ ගොඩනැගිලි අංග එක් කිරීමේ දී මතු දැක්වෙන කරුණු කෙරෙහි සුවිශේෂි අවධානයක් යොමු කිරීම වැදගත්‍ය.

- පරිසර හානි අවම වන ලෙස භූමිය තේරීම - ගොඩනැගිල්ල පිහිටීමට නියමිත ස්ථානයේ වන කප්පාදුව, කඳු හෝ බෑවුම් කැපීම අවම වන පරිදි සිදු කිරීම, හැකිතාක් අවට ඇති ජල පෝෂක රැකීම (ඇළ මාර්ග, ලිං ආදිය), විධිමත් කාණු පද්ධති ඉදිකිරීම සිදු කළ යුතුය.

- ගොඩනැගිල්ලෙහි අභ්‍යන්තර ගුණාත්මකබව රැකගැනීම - ස්වාභාවික වාතාශ්‍රය, ස්වාභාවික ආලෝකය උපරිමයෙන් ලැබෙන පරිදි ගොඩනැගිලි සැලසුම නිර්මාණය කිරීම. එවිට විදුලි බල්බ, විදුලි පංකා, වායු සමීකරණ සඳහා වන පිරිවැය අවම කරගත හැකිය.

- ශක්ති ප්‍රභවයන් කාර්යක්ෂමව භාවිතය - මෙහිදී ගොඩනැගිල්ල ඉදිකිරීමේ දී ජල-විදුලිය ඉතා අරපිරිමැස්මෙන් භාවිත කිරීම හා ජල කරාම ආදිය සවි කිරීමේ දී රෙගියුලේටරය සහිත කරාම සවි කිරීමෙන් පුස්තකාල සේවා සැපයීමේ දී ද පාඨකයන් හා සේවක මණ්ඩලය විසින් ජල පරිහෝජනයේ දී සිදුවිය හැකි නාස්ති අවම කරගත හැකිය. එසේම භාවිත කළ ජලය පිරිපහදු කර ඒවා සනීපාරක්ෂක කටයුතු හෝ වගා කටයුතුවලදී ප්‍රතිභාවිතයට ගත හැකිය.

- කාර්යක්ෂම ලෙස ගොඩනැගිල්ලෙහි අමුද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය - සිමෙන්ති, යකඩ, විදුරු හා ලී භාවිතයේ දී අවශ්‍ය ස්ථාන සඳහා පමණක් බිත්ති යොදා ගනිමින් හැකිතාක් විවෘත ප්‍රදේශ ඉදිකිරීමෙන් අභ්‍යන්තර සිසිලස හා ස්වාභාවික ආලෝකය පවත්වා ගත හැකිය.

- ගොඩනැගිලි අලංකරණය - ගොඩනැගිල්ල අවට හෝ අභ්‍යන්තරයේ වගා කටයුතු සිදුකිරීම මගින් ස්වාභාවික සිසිලස ලබමින් උෂ්ණත්වය අවම මට්ටමක පවත්වා ගත හැකිය, හරිත බව විදහා පෙන්වන පරිසරහිතකාමී - දේශීය අමුද්‍රව්‍යවලින් නිම වූ බිම් සැකසුම් හා තිර රෙදි භාවිතයට ද යොමු විය හැකිය.

- නවෝත්පාදන - වහළයේ වගා කටයුතු සිදුකරමින් හරිත වහළයක් නිර්මාණය කිරීමට හැකිය.

පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල ස්ථාපනය සඳහා භූමිය තේරීමේ දී සිදුකෙරෙන වන කප්පාදු අවම වන පරිදි, පවතින ජල පෝෂක ප්‍රදේශවලට සිදුවන හානි අවම කරමින් කටයුතු කළ යුතුය. නමුත් බොහෝ පුස්තකාල නගර සීමාව තුළ පිහිටුවීමේ දී අතීතයේ පැවති වගා බිම් බොහොමයක් හානියට පත්වී තිබේ. පුස්තකාල අභ්‍යන්තර ගුණාත්මකබව රැකගැනීමේදී බොහෝ පුස්තකාල ඉන් අසමත් වී ඇත්තේ දැනට පවතින පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල හරිත සංකල්පයට අනුකූලව නිර්මාණය නොවීම හේතුවෙනි. ස්වාභාවිකව ලබාගත හැකි සූර්‍යාලෝකය මෙතරම් තිබුණ ද පුස්තකාලවල වැඩකරන පැය අට පුරාම දැල්වෙන විදුලි බල්බ ප්‍රමාණය මෙන්ම වායුසමීකරණ භාවිතය ද ඉතා ඉහළ අගයක් ගනී. වසරේ වැඩි දින ගණනක් හොඳින් සූර්‍යාලෝකය ලැබෙන සර්ම කලාපීය රටක් වන නමුත් සූර්‍යකෝෂ පැනල භාවිතයට ගන්නා පුස්තකාල ඉතා සුළු වශයෙන් තිබීමෙන් ගම්‍ය වන්නේ ස්වාභාවික ශක්ති ප්‍රභවයන් කාර්යක්ෂමව භාවිත කිරීමට අපොහොසත් වී ඇති සෙයකි.

එසේම ගොඩනැගිලි සඳහා යොදාගන්නා ඉදිකිරීම් අමුද්‍රව්‍ය වශයෙන් බහුලවම යොදාගෙන ඇත්තේ සිමෙන්ති, ගල්, වැලි, විදුරු, යකඩ, දැව, ඇලුමිනියම් ආදියයි. වැඩි වශයෙන් පුස්තකාල තුළ විදුරු, යකඩ, හා ඇලුමිනියම් මගින් කුඩා කාමර වෙන් කර තිබීමෙන් අභ්‍යන්තර උෂ්ණත්වය ඉහළ නංවන අතර ඒ එක් එක් කාමර සඳහා වෙන් වෙන් වශයෙන් විදුලි පංකා හෝ වායු සමීකරණ යොදා ගැනීමේ අවශ්‍යතාව පැන නැගී ඇති බැවින් පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි ආකෘතිය නිර්මාණයේදී ගෘහනිර්මාණ ශිල්පියා සතු වගකීම ඉස්මතු වන්නේ මෙහිදී ය. හැකිතරම් විවෘත ප්‍රදේශවලින් *(open areas)* සැදුම්ලත් පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ලක් නිර්මාණය කිරීමෙන් අභ්‍යන්තර උෂ්ණත්වය පාලනයත්, වැය වන අමුද්‍රව්‍ය ප්‍රමාණය අවම කරගැනීමටත්, වඩාත් පහසුවෙන් පුස්තකාල අධීක්ෂණ කටයුතු නිසි පරිදි ඉටුකිරීමටත් අවස්ථාව උදාකරගත හැකිය.

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පරිසර හිතකාමී මෙන්ම අවම පිරිවැයකින් යුක්ත ගොඩනැගිලි දුවා භාවිතයට ගැනීම නව පුවණතාවකි. මොරටුව විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ ගෘහනිර්මාණ ශිල්පීය විෂයට සමගාමීව ආචාර්යවරයෙකු විසින් හඳුන්වා දෙන ලද මඩ සිමෙන්ති (mud cement) ඊට කදිම උදාහරණයකි. එය පුරාණ කාලයේ දාගැබ් ආදිය ඉදිකිරීමට යොදාගත් ශක්තිමත් අමුදුවායක් ලෙස සැලකේ. එසේම CINEC පෞද්ගලික විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ එක් ගොඩනැගිල්ලක බිත්ති ස්වාභාවික පිදුරු ඇඹරීමෙන් ගොඩනගා ඇති අතර එය දැනට වසර 10කට ආසන්න කාලයක් පුරාවට පවතින්නකි. මෙබඳු නව නිර්මාණයන් අපගේ සුවිශේෂී අවධානයට ලක්වන්නේ නම් පිරිවැය අවම කරලීමට සේම ඉවතලන අමුදුවා සඳහා ආර්ථිකමය වටිනාකමක් ද එක් කළ හැකිය.

බාහිර අලංකරණ කටයුතු සඳහා වැඩි නැඹුරුවක් පුස්තකාල මගින් පෙන්නුම් කළ ද එය ඇතැම් විට ස්වාභාවික මල් බඳුන් කිහිපයකට පමණක් සීමා වනු දැකිය හැකිය. නමුත් සැබවින්ම පාඨක ආකර්ශනය සෘජුවම ලබාගත හැකි කුමයක් ලෙස අලංකාර පැළ වර්ග ස්ථානගත කිරීම හඳුන්වා දීමට හැකිය. නමුත් විදේශීය රටවල තත්ත්වය ඊට හාත්පසින්ම වෙනස් ආරක් ගනුලබන්නේ බොහෝ ශීතාධික රටවල එවැනි ස්වාභාවික වගාවන් නිසා ඇතිවන කෘමි උවදුරුවල බලපෑම එතරම් පුබල නොවන බැවිනි. එමනිසා එවැනි රටවල පුස්තකාල වහළය පෙට්ටි ආකාරයට (box type) සකස් කරන අතර එහි වහළයේ වගා කටයුතු සිදුකරනු ඇත. එය හරිත වහළය (green roof) යනුවෙන් හඳුන්වනු ලැබේ. කොළ පැහැති තිර රෙදි, පැදුරු, මේස පුටු, බිත්ති ආලේපන, බිම් සැරසිලි පුස්තකාලයට එක් කර ගත හැකි අතර ඉන් සිදුවන්නේ හරිත පණිවිඩය පාඨකයා අතරට යාමයි.

දැනට ගොඩනගා ඇති පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල සඳහා හරිත සංකල්පය කිුයාත්මක කිරීම තරමක් අපහසු වුවද හරිත සංකල්පයෙහි එන විවිධ හරිත කිුයාපටිපාටි හා පිළිවෙත් අනුගමනය කිරීම වඩාත් යෝග්‍ය වේ. ඊට හේතුව හරිත සංකල්පය යන්න පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල මගින් සාක්ෂාත් කරගැනීමට නම් භූමිය තේරීමේ අවධියේ සිටම ඒ වෙනුවෙන් සැලසුම් සකස් කළ යුතු බැවිනි. නමුත් පවතින ගොඩනැගිල්ලට බද්ධ කොට නව ඉදිකිරීමක් සිදුකරන්නේ නම් ඉහත දැක්වූ හරිත කරුණු වෙත නැඹුරුවක් දැක්වීම වඩාත් යෝග්‍යය.

ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ ස්ථාපිත හරිත ගොඩනැගිලි කවුන්සිලය මගින් වෙනත් ගොඩනැගිලි ශ්‍රේණිගත කර තිබුණ ද පුමිතිගත මට්ටමින් හරිත පුස්තකාල ඉදිකිරීම පුවර්ධනය කිරීම උදෙසා ඉහළ පුවණතාවක් දක්නට නොලැබේ. එනමුත් ඇතැම් පුස්තකාල දැනුවත්ව හෝ නොදැනුවත්ව හරිත ලක්ෂණ සුළු වශයෙන් හෝ තම පුස්තකාල තුළට ඇද ගැනීමට ගන්නා පුයත්න අගය කළ යුතුමය. නමුත් සැබවින්ම හරිත පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය යනු කුමක් දැයි නිවැරදිව අධ්‍යයනයට ලක් කිරීමෙන් අනතුරුව එය කිුයාත්මක කිරීමට උත්සුක වීම වඩාත් යෝග්‍යතම කුමවේදය බව පැහැදිලිවම සඳහන් කළ යුතුය.

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Bridging the Gap: The Crucial Responsibility of Libraries in Closing the Digital Divide

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Introduction

Access to knowledge is a fundamental right in a world that is becoming more and more digital. However, not everyone has the same level of access to the amount of information that is available online. The gap between those who have access to technology and the Internet and those who do not is known as the "digital divide," and it is a major issue in today's society (Aqili & Moghaddam, 2008; Russell & Huang, 2009). Libraries, who have always promoted equal access to information, are stepping up to the plate to help close this gap and make sure that no one is left behind in the digital era.

The digital divide is not just about having or not having a computer or Internet connection. It is also about the ability to use technology effectively. It encompasses disparities in digital literacy, skills, and opportunities. For many, the divide represents barriers to education, employment opportunities, and social prospects.

Libraries serve as crucial resources for providing access to technology and helping individuals develop the necessary digital skills. They offer free computer and Internet access, as well as workshops and classes to teach people how to navigate the digital world. Additionally, libraries often serve as community hubs, providing a safe and inclusive space for individuals to learn and explore technology. Libraries offer different services that empower individuals to overcome the barriers of the digital divide and improve their lives.

Access to Digital Devices

There are probably items other than books on the shelves when we enter a modern library. The missions of libraries cannot now be carried out without public computing centers. Providing public computers and workstations with software for various tasks (e.g., word processing, spreadsheets, browsing and searching) allows people without personal computers to use digital tools and applications at the library. They level the playing field for job seekers, students, and anybody looking for digital resources by providing free access to computers and high-speed Internet connections.

Figure 1

Computer Laboratory Facilities at Library, University of Moratuwa

For example, modern libraries have computer stations set up with Internet access and productivity software for patrons to use. Some libraries offer loaner devices such as laptops and tablets to patrons, ensuring that even those without personal technology can benefit from online resources. This allows job seekers to search for employment opportunities, students to access educational resources online, and anyone in need of digital resources to freely browse and download information. Additionally, these public computing facilities offer necessary tools for individuals who may not have access to computers or the Internet at home, leveling the playing field and promoting equal opportunities for all.

Digital Literacy Initiatives

Without the necessary digital literacy and skills, individuals may struggle to navigate the digital world and fully participate in today's society. This can result in limited access to educational resources and online learning platforms, hindering their ability to acquire new knowledge and skills. Furthermore, the digital divide can create a significant disadvantage in the job market, as many employers now require basic digital skills for even entry-level positions. Those who lack these skills may find themselves excluded from employment opportunities and trapped in a cycle of poverty.

Figure 2

Workshops on Information Searching for Undergraduate & Postgraduate Students at the Library, University of Moratuwa

Recognizing that access alone is not enough, libraries are also focusing on digital literacy. Libraries can offer digital literacy workshops and training programs to teach people essential computer skills,

internet safety, online research, and how to use software and applications. This empowers the patrons to navigate the digital landscape confidently. From basic computer skills to online safety and advanced coding courses, libraries are nurturing digital literacy at all levels. For example, a library could offer a workshop on basic computer skills for senior citizens who are new to technology, teaching them how to use email and browse the Internet. Also, they could provide advanced training courses for teenagers interested in pursuing careers in technology, equipping them with the skills needed to thrive in a digital world.

Providing Free Internet Access

In an era where Internet access is akin to a lifeline, libraries have innovated further by providing Internet access for their patrons, as many individuals lack Internet access at home due to financial constraints. Libraries offer free Internet access, allowing people to connect with the digital world, search for jobs, complete online forms, and access educational resources. This simple act can be transformative, enabling users to access the Internet and expanding opportunities for those without reliable home Internet connections, especially in underserved rural areas. For example, a low-income student who cannot afford the Internet at home can visit the library to research and complete assignments, enhancing their educational opportunities. Additionally, a job seeker facing financial difficulties can utilize the library's internet to search for employment opportunities, submit online applications, and attend virtual interviews.

Curating Digital Collections

Libraries offer access to a large number of e-books, digital magazines, and online databases. This ensures that patrons have access to a vast collection of digital information and resources, even if they can't afford physical copies or online subscriptions.

Table 1
Total Subscription Cost ($) for Online Databases at the Library, University of Moratuwa (2015-2020)
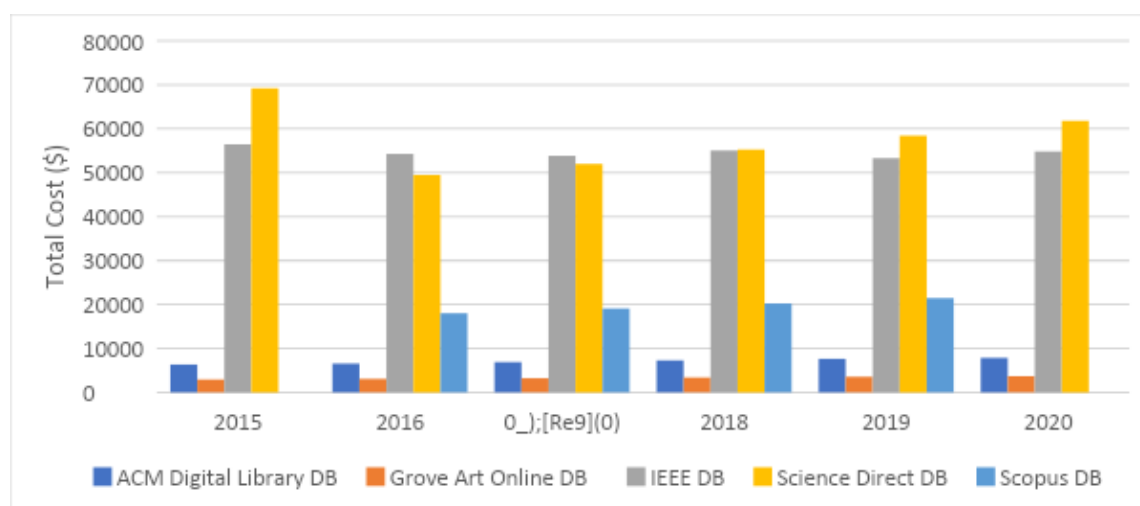
A student who cannot afford to purchase expensive textbooks can use e-books from the library's online collection, allowing them to study and complete assignments without financial burden. Additionally, individuals interested in research or learning new skills can access online databases and resources provided by the library, enabling them to expand their knowledge and stay updated on current information in various fields. Table 1 displays the total subscription cost that was spent for five databases during 2015-2020 by the library, University of Moratuwa.

Providing Technical Assistance

Also, librarians can provide tech support and guidance to patrons, helping them troubleshoot issues with computers, smartphones, and other digital devices. This support is invaluable for individuals who may not have someone else to turn to for help. Librarians are knowledgeable about various operating systems, software applications, and online resources, allowing them to assist patrons with a wide range of tech-related problems. From setting up email accounts to navigating social media platforms, librarians can empower individuals to become more confident and independent when using technology.

Collaboration with Nonprofit and Government Organizations

Libraries can partner with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to provide additional resources and support for digital inclusion initiatives. By collaborating with nonprofits and government agencies, libraries can expand their reach and impact in the community. Nonprofits can offer expertise and funding opportunities to enhance digital literacy programs at libraries, while government agencies can provide access to grants and resources to further support these initiatives. This partnership can help bridge the digital divide and ensure that all members of the community have the necessary skills and resources to participate in an increasingly digital world.

Conclusion

In the digital age, access to information is synonymous with empowerment. Libraries are at the forefront of efforts to bridge the digital divide, providing access, education, and support to ensure that no one is left behind. Their commitment to inclusive information access embodies the belief that, in the 21st century, everyone should have the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly digital world. The work of libraries in this regard not only serves their communities but also reflects a broader commitment to social equity and justice.

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Can the Sri Lankan academic and research libraries assist in the promotion of inventions, innovations, and patenting process?

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Introduction

Patents form a segment of intellectual property. There are different kinds of properties that belong to people. They can be either movable properties like vehicles, furniture, etc., or immovable properties like buildings, lands, etc. If a person owns a property, another person cannot use it without the owner's permission. Creations of the human mind are called intellectual properties. The creator owns the property. Patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and copyrights belong to intellectual property. The present article mainly focuses on patents.

Patent granting process

A patent is granted for an invention, in general, a novel way of doing something, or offers a solution for a technical problem. Therefore, an invention is a solution to a problem achieved through research or experiments related to science and technology. The result of an invention can be either a product or a process. Therefore, inventions and innovations too fall into Intellectual property. The inventor gets the legal ownership of their inventions from the government as a patent.   The inventor has to disclose his findings and make an application to the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka (NIPO) to obtain the patent. The applicant must prepare a document containing a detailed description of his/her invention. In order to obtain a patent, the invention should be novel and consist of an inventive step and an industrial application. In Sri Lanka, the legal protection given for a patent is 20 years. The national patent offices of all the countries in the world collect patent documents, prepare databases, and make them available to the public.

Patent information services

The universities and research institutes conduct research and development work in their respective institutions. New inventions can emerge as a result of research activities. The Sri Lankan universities have set up Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation and Technology Transfer Offices (BLII-TTO) to support inventors in managing the process of patenting, negotiating the technology transfer process and licensing, and promoting technology based- entrepreneurship. The National Science Foundation also has set up a Patent Help Desk to advise and support the inventors. University of Moratuwa has set up a Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) and the university library also support the centre in providing services such as conducting patent searches and prior art searches. NIPO acts as the focal point of TISC in Sri Lanka and universities, other higher educational institutes and research institutes have set up TISCs in their organizations.

The academic and research institutes have obtained many national and international patents for their inventions. The patented products such as Kitual Activation and Sap Production and Enhancing Reagent (KASPER) developed by Industrial Technology Institute, Bio clean detergent by University of Colombo, Nano mask by the University of Peradeniya, Process for time-indexed traffic light system and

manufactured the same by the University of Moratuwa, and nano nitrogen liquid fertilizer by Sri Lanka Institute of Nano Technology (SLINTEC) are some of the well-known inventions.

According to NIPO statistics, the number of resident patent applications submitted by local applicants shows an increasing trend. Encouraging the inventors by providing necessary information is important at this stage.

No. of patent applications submitted by local applicants from 1995 to 2020 (Table 1)

	1995-2001	2002-2008	2009-2015	2016-2022
No. of Applications	570	1000	1723	2019

When researchers think of innovation and direct their Research & Development mission to commercialization and industrialization, the use of patents becomes important. In technology-focused research, patent information is needed during different stages of the research process. At each stage of the research process needs arise for specific kinds of information. At the very early stage while conducting the literature search in indexing and abstracting services and journal databases it is important to conduct a thorough patent search relevant to the technology. This will help the researcher to understand the development trends in a particular technology to plan the research work. During the research process, it is important to search the patent documents regularly to track the newly developed patents which would be helpful to inspire the innovative thinking of the researcher. After completing the research, the researchers have to check the patentability of their findings or the prior art by consulting the patent literature.

The libraries as information and knowledge providers can assist the academics and researchers in their respective institutions in this process, using the free patent databases e.g. Patentscope database of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Espacenet of European Patent Office (EPO) and other information resources such as online journals and databases. The database of NIPO is not available online yet but any researcher can consult the database by visiting the office in Colombo.

Academic and research libraries in developed countries provide patent information services and other related services for researchers. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and other selected libraries have set up Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDL) to disseminate patent Information. The selection was made if the library and information professionals are trained in providing information services focused on user needs and whether they house non-patent information which is also useful for researchers and inventors. Patent librarians in PTDLs are trained to provide patent and trademark search services to faculty researchers, inventors, students and other interested parties. They also can guide the users in prior art searches, conduct awareness programmes etc., in searching the patent information resources. The PTDLs are later developed to become Patent and Trade Mark Resource Centres (PTRC) attached to USPTO.

In China, the National IP Administration with the support of Ministry of Education decided to implement IP Information Service Centres (IPISC) for universities. These Centres are affiliated with university libraries. The types of IPISC services are novelty retrieval, IP training and patent information dissemination services. The librarians work in a collaborative manner with research groups and assist to find patent information. This is known as embedded patent information services. This helps the researchers to make maximum use of patent information which will help them to become more and more innovative. Some of the tasks carried out by the Chinese university librarians are ;

Patent retrieval services-to assist researchers to identify the novelty of a specific technological product or process before applying for a patent.

Patent Alert Service -Assist researchers in finding the latest information for the development of a technology. This would help the researchers to adjust their research planning.

Patent Analysis Service - To make aware the researchers in new development trends of a specific technology as well as the relevant industries related to the technology. This service helps to explore relevant basic and fundamental technologies, hotspots and emerging technologies, gaps in technologies and identify key inventors, organizations and stakeholders.

Patent Literacy Education - Library regularly organizes patent literacy workshops in order to enhance university members' patent retrieval and analytical skills.

At present the library of Moratuwa University is actively involved in providing patent searchers to researchers and industrialists. The other libraries attached to universities and research institutes also have free patent databases on their web pages to provide services to researchers in their organizations as well as the outside community. However, there is no documentary evidence for the systematic involvement of libraries in providing patent information to researchers at different stages of their research work leading to inventions. The libraries can support the researchers of their organizations as well as the outside industrial community to obtain necessary information in a systematic manner to pursue their activities in an innovative manner. The library staff should be trained for this purpose.

The patents that have lapsed the validity period have no ownership and the technologies can be used freely. The importance of conducting research leading to inventions, patenting, and commercializing the products to start new industries is becoming more and more important for a country like Sri Lanka to overcome the present economic crisis. The librarians also can play a major role as information providers in this process.

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Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL) as a Platform for Scholarly Journal Publications by State Universities of Sri Lanka

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Scholarly journal publishing in Sri Lanka has come a long way since the inception of the first periodical, "The Ceylon Government Gazette," in 1802, which included selected scientific papers presented at the Ceylon Literary Society (Yapa, 2011). According to historical records, the "Journal of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society" is considered the first scholarly journal in Sri Lanka. The establishment of University College in 1921 marked the beginning of expanded research and publishing, leading to the creation of the "Ceylon Journal of Science," which served various branches of science. In 1943, the first university-affiliated publication, the "University of Ceylon Review," provided a platform for other academic subjects. Yapa (2011), in her article titled "The Historical Development of Sri Lankan Scholarly Journal Publishing (1845 – 2010)," indicated that Sri Lankan universities produced the highest number of publications in the 1980s.
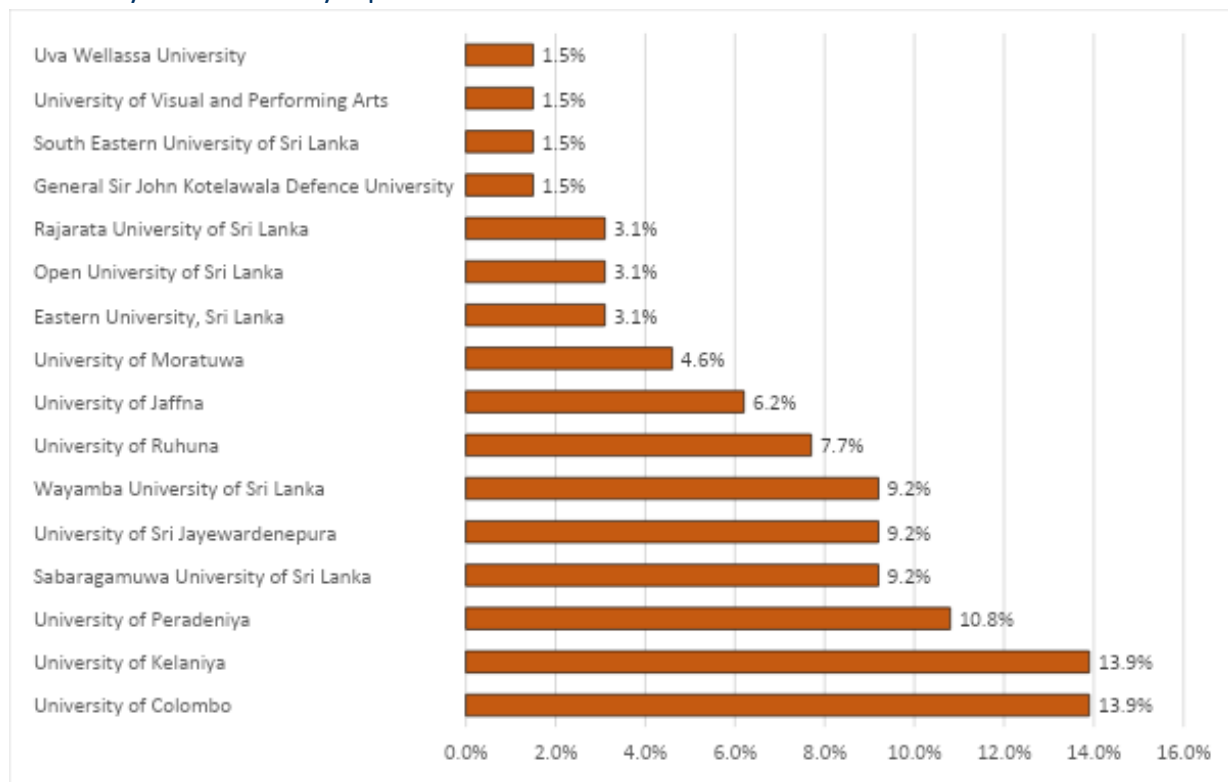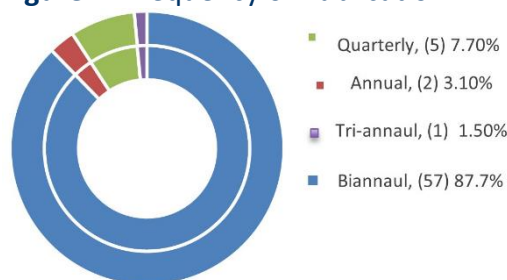
The year 2008 represents a significant milestone in the history of scholarly journal publishing in Sri Lanka with the establishment of Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL), dedicated to promoting indigenous scholarship (National Science Foundation, 2023). SLJOL, a primary web-based journal platform, was initiated under the "Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information" (PERI), which later became "Strengthening Research and Knowledge Systems" (SRKS) under the purview of the "International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications" (INASP), United Kingdom. The SLJOL platform was developed using the Open Journal Systems created by the Canadian Public Knowledge Project (PKP), enabling indexing through Open Archives Initiative search engines dedicated to research. The University of Colombo pioneered the establishment of this platform. Since 2013, the National Science Library and Resource Centre (NSLRC) of the National Science Foundation has taken responsibility under the supervision of INASP. NSLRC has had total administrative responsibility for SLJOL since March 2018 (Wanigasinghe, 2017). What began with six journals at its inception has grown into 129 journals with 2,263 issues, encompassing 19,637 articles to date (National Science Foundation, 2023). SLJOL now enjoys both local and global viewership, serving as a comprehensive database of all journals published in Sri Lanka (Wanasinghe 2017). Despite the limited number of studies conducted on SLJOL, Ranasinghe and Chung (2019) elaborated on the characteristics of open-access journal publishing, with special reference to SLJOL. They found that 48% of open-access journals were published by academic institutes. However, no study has been conducted to assess the contribution of state universities to open-access publishing on SLJOL.

As of August 2023, sixty-five journals (50.4%) out of the 129 journals hosted on SLJOL originate from state universities (see Table 1 and Figure 1), with their publication frequencies depicted in Figure 2.
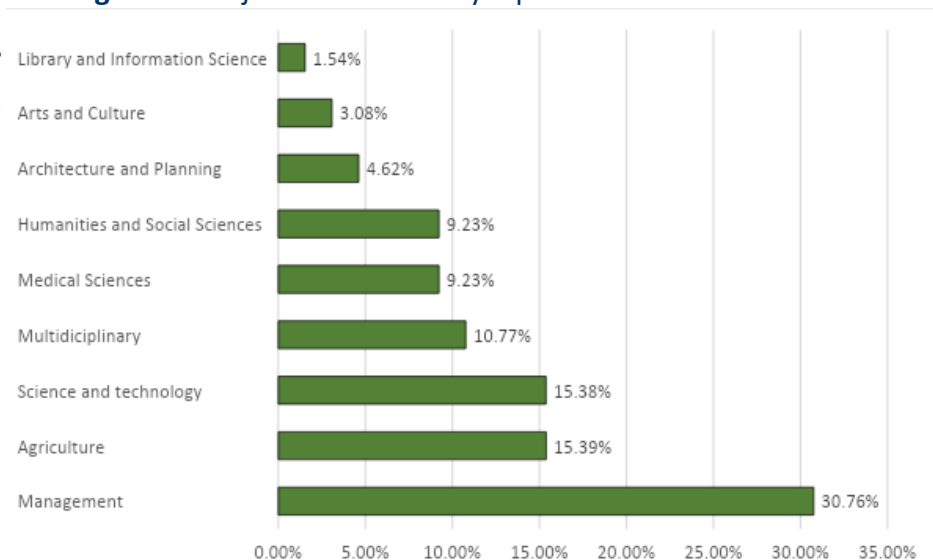
Wangasinghe (2017) noted that SLJOL covers a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, while Ranasinghe and Chung (2019) observed that academic institutes tend to publish more journals related to subjects other than medicine.

Table 1: Scholarly Journal Publications by State Universities as of August 2023

University	Journal Title
Eastern University, Sri Lanka	• AGRIEAST: Journal of Agricultural Sciences • Journal of Science
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University	• KDU Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies
Open University of Sri Lanka	• OUSL Journal • Sri Lanka Journal of Management Studies
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka	• Journal of Management Matters • Sri Lankan Journal of Agriculture and Ecosystems
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	• Asian Journal of Management Studies • Journal of Agricultural Sciences – Sri Lanka • Journal of Geospatial Surveying • Sabaragamuwa University Journal • South Asian Journal of Tourism and Hospitality • Sri Lanka Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka	Journal of Management
University of Colombo	• Ceylon Journal of Medical Science • Colombo Business Journal • Colombo Journal of Multi-Disciplinary Research • International Journal on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer) • Journal of Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences • Journal of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine • Sri Lankan Journal of Librarianship and Information Management • Sri Lanka Journal of Critical Care • University of Colombo Review
University of Jaffna	• International Journal of Accounting and Business Finance • Journal of Business Studies • Journal of Dry Zone Agriculture • Vingnanam Journal of Science
University of Kelaniya	• International Journal of Accountancy • Journal of Business and Technology • Journal of Science of the University of Kelaniya • Kalyani: Journal of the University of Kelaniya • Kelaniya Journal of Human Resource Management • Kelaniya Journal of Management • South Asian Journal of Finance • Sri Lanka Journal of Marketing • TRIVALENT த்ரிஸங்யுத: Journal of Archaeology, Tourism & Anthropology
University of Moratuwa *In Collaboration with La Trobe University, Australia	• Cities People Places: An International Journal on Urban Environments • FARU Journal • Bhumi, The Planning Research Journal*
University of Peradeniya	• Ceylon Journal of Science (Biological Sciences) • Ceylon Journal of Science • Peradeniya Management Review • Sri Lanka Journal of Forensic Medicine, Science & Law • Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities • Sri Lankan Journal of Health Sciences • Tropical Agricultural Research
University of Ruhuna	• Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review • Journal of the University of Ruhuna • Ruhuna Journal of Science • South Asian Journal of Business Insights • Tropical Agricultural Research and Extension
University of Sri Jayewardenepura	• International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies • Journal of Health Sciences and Innovative Research • Sri Lankan Journal of Human Resource Management • Vidyodaya Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences • Vidyodaya Journal of Management • Vidyodaya Journal of Science
University of Visual and Performing Arts	• Journal of Music Research
Uva Wellassa University	• Journal of Agriculture and Value Addition
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka	• Journal of Accountancy and Finance • Journal of Food and Agriculture • Sri Lankan Journal of Banking and Finance • Wayamba Journal of Animal Science • Wayamba Journal of Management • Applied Economics & Business

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Figure 1: University-wise Scholarly Input in SLJOL

University	Journal Share (%)
Uva Wellassa University	1.5%
University of Visual and Performing Arts	1.5%
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka	1.5%
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University	1.5%
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka	3.1%
Open University of Sri Lanka	3.1%
Eastern University, Sri Lanka	3.1%
University of Moratuwa	4.6%
University of Jaffna	6.2%
University of Ruhuna	7.7%
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka	9.2%
University of Sri Jayewardenepura	9.2%
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	9.2%
University of Peradeniya	10.8%
University of Kelaniya	13.9%
University of Colombo	13.9%

Journal Share (%)

Figure 2: Frequency of Publication

- Quarterly, (5) 7.70%
- Annual, (2) 3.10%
- Tri-annaul, (1) 1.50%
- Biannaul, (57) 87.7%

Figure 3: Subject-wise Scholarly Input in SLJOL

Subject	%
Library and Information Science	1.54%
Arts and Culture	3.08%
Architecture and Planning	4.62%
Humanities and Social Sciences	9.23%
Medical Sciences	9.23%
Multidiciplinary	10.77%
Science and technology	15.38%
Agriculture	15.39%
Management	30.76%

Table 2: SLJOL Ratings for Scholarly Input

JPPS Framework	Three Stars	Stars	One Star	No Stars	New Title	Inactive Title
Journal Titles	0 (0%)	11 (16.9%)	8 (12.3%)	20 (30.8%)	13 (20%)	3 (4.6%)

Note: Status was not mentioned in 10 titles

The current composition of the broad subjects catered to by university publications is depicted in Figure 3, where journals related to 'Management' hold a significant share at 30.76%. Content analysis revealed that 98.5% of the journals (64) are published exclusively in English, while 1.5% (1) are published in English, Sinhala and Tamil. Despite most journals being published in English, only 33.9% of them invite international authors. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that 86.1% of the journals are included in other publishing services such as Scopus, Web of Science, Directory of Open Access Journals, Zoological Records, etc. Since 2016, journals in SLJOL have been assessed by INASP by an internationally recognized Journal Publishing Practices and Standards (JPPS) framework (Wanasinghe, 2017). JPPS ranks journals into six categories, and Table 2 shows the ranks obtained by university-affiliated scholarly journals. Nearly 30% of the journals received a "Star" statusand 30.8% of the journal titles are working towards achieving a JPPS status. Although three journal titles are currently inactive, current issues of 30 journals (46.1%) are accessible on SLJOL. Notably, none of the university-affiliated journals are indexed in Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, or Science Citation Index Expanded. Wickramasinghe (2018) also noted that the research output of Sri Lankan academics in indexed journals remains low, despite most state universities publishing local scholarly journals. Librarians must be proactive in collaborating with all stakeholders to raise the standards of local scholarly journals. Local journals play a vital role in promoting and disseminating indigenous scholarship, which ultimately informs policy and practice in the context of national development (Ranasinghe et al., 2011).

The impact of Sri Lanka Journals Online over the span of 15 years, from 2008 to 2023, is immeasurable. It has been a transformative journey that exceeds mere statistics and numbers. This platform has played an indispensable role in shaping the academic landscape in Sri Lanka and beyond.

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එතකොට මම විශ්‍රාමික දැනුම කළමනාකරුවෙක්. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ රාජ්‍ය අංශය සමඟ සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශයේ ජාතික සෞඛ්‍ය ආයතනය සහ ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව වැනි ජාතික සහ ජාත්‍යන්තර සංවිධාන යන දෙඅංශයම සමඟ කටයුතු කර ඇත, "කියවීමට කාමරයක්: ජාත්‍යන්තර රාජ්‍ය නොවන සංවිධානයක්", එක්සත් රාජධානියේ බෝල්ටන් විශ්ව විද්‍යාලය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා අධ්‍යයන මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ පුස්තකාලයාධිපති ලෙසත් සහ ටක් දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ Burma-Thai Boarder හි VSO මාධ්‍ය සහ සන්නිවේදන උපදේශක ලෙසත් දැනුම කළමනාකරණය පිළිබඳ වසර 45ක පමණ පළපුරුද්දක් තිබුණි. මම 2000 වසරේදී එක්සත් රාජධානියේ පුස්තකාල සහ තොරතුරු වෘත්තිකයන්ගේ වරලත් ආයතනයේ (CILIP) සාමාජිකයෙකු ලෙස ඇතුළත් කර ගන්නා ලදී. මම ඒ වන විටත් ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල සංගමයේ අධි සාමාජිකයෙකුවද වරලත් පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයෙකු ලෙස ලියාපදිංචි වී සිටියෙමි.ඒ සමඟම මම ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුහුණු හා සංවර්ධන ආයතනයේ ආයතනික සාමාජිකයෙකුවද සිටියෙමි. පසුගිය වසර 45ක සේවා කාලය තුළ මම පොත් 1000කට වඩා එකතු කරගෙන තිබුණි. පළමුවෙන්ම මෙම කියවීම් ද්‍රව්‍ය සිරි විජයසිරි සහන පදනමේ යෝජිත ප්‍රජා පුස්තකාලයට පරිත්‍යාග කිරීමට සිතුවෙමි.පසුව එම ද්‍රව්‍ය වඩාත් සුදුසු වන්නේ මගේ කැළණිය පුස්තකාල හා තොරතුරු විද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට බව තීරණය කළෙමි. ඒ 1978 සහ 1979 වකවානුවේ මා අධ්‍යාපනය ලැබූ කැළණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා අධ්‍යනාංශයයි.

කෙසේ වෙතත් මා 2016 වසරේ සිරිවිජය සිරි සහන පදනමට සම්බන්ධ වූ විට මට අවශ්‍ය වූයේ ඇරැව්වල ජනතාවගේ ප්‍රයෝජනය සඳහා ඉහත සඳහන් සිහින පුස්තකාලය ස්ථාපිත කිරීමටය. එදා සහන පදනමේ ව්‍යවස්ථාවට අනුව ජනතාවගේ පරිහරණය සඳහා පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටුවීමට ඉඩක් නොතිබුණි. ව්‍යවස්ථා සංශෝධනය කරන අවස්ථාවේදී මම යෝජනා කළේ එයට පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන අනුකාරක සභාවකට ප්‍රතිපාදන තිබිය යුතු බවයි. පසුව පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටුවෙමේ කටයුත්ත "අධ්‍යාපනය, ජීවන කුසලතා සහ පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන අනු කමිටුවට" ඇතුළත් විය. මුලින්ම මම "මගේ සිහින පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීම සඳහා මාර්ග සිතියමක් සකස් කිරීම සඳහා විවේචනාත්මක මාර්ග විශ්ලේෂණයක් කළා. අපි අනු කමිටුව (ආචාර්ය එල්. බී. දසනායක (සභාපති), නන්දසේන සතරසිංහ මහතා (ලේකම්), නිමල් සමරතුංග මහතා (සාමාජික), චන්ද්‍රා පෙරේරා මහත්මිය (සාමාජික) සහ මම සාමාජික/පුස්තකාල උපදේශක වශයෙන් කිහිප වතාවක් මුණගැසුණු අතර මගේ මාර්ග සිතියම ප්‍රකාර ජාත්‍යන්තර සාක්ෂරතා දිනයට පසු දින 2023-09-09 දිනඇරැව්වල ජනතාවට "සිහින පුස්තකාලය" පිරිනැමීමට සමත් වීමු. ඒ 2023-09-08 දිනට යෙදුණු ලෝක සක්ෂරතා දිනට සමගාමීවයි.

උගත් පාඩම්/ හොඳම භාවිතයන්

- ජනතාවගේ තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා හඳුනා ගැනීම. පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීමට පෙර එය කළ යුතුයි.
- එකතු කිරීමේ සංවර්ධන ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් ස්ථාපිත කළ යුතුය.
  එය අප අතේ තිබුනේ නම්, පුස්තකාලය භාවිතා කරන්නන්ගේ අවශ්‍යතාවලට ගැලපෙන ද්‍රව්‍ය හඳුනාගෙන ඒවා අත්පත් කර ගැනීමට අපි වඩා හොඳ තත්ත්වයක සිටිමු.

- පරිශීලක හිතකාමී පුස්තකාල අවකාශයක් ස්ථාපිත කිරීමේ වැදගත්කම.
  සැප පහසු පුටු, හොඳ ආලෝකයක්, නිශ්ශබ්ද පරිසරයක් ලබා දීම, එවැනි පරිශීලක හිතකාමී පුස්තකාල අවකාශයක් නිර්මාණය කිරීමට අපට හැකි වේ.s

- යෝග්‍ය පුස්තකාල සම්පත් එකතුවක් සංවර්ධනය කිරීම සඳහා හොඳම ක්‍රමය වන්නේ ආයතන සහ පුද්ගලයන් සමඟ "සංස්ථාපිත හවුල්කාරිත්වය" හඳුනා ගැනීමයි.

- පුස්තකාලයේ එදිනෙදා කටයුතු කළමනාකරණය කිරීම සඳහා පුහුණු පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයෙකුගේ සේවය ලබා ගැනීමට අපට නොහැකි බැවින්, අලුතින් පිහිටුවනු ලද පාඨක සමාජයේ සාමාජිකයින් සඳහා පුස්තකාල කළමනාකරණය පිළිබඳ පුහුණුවක් ලබාදීම ඊට හොඳම පිළියමක් විය.

10. Library In Focus: Introduction of a Library

The Heart of the Campus: Looking into the CINEC Library

Poornika Sandamali Chandrawansha

Chief Librarian

Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College

When it first established itself as a higher education institute, CINEC Campus was a specialized education provider in the field of maritime sciences. Later on, as it diversified and branched off into other fields of disciplines, the campus became a much more sophisticated learning environment. It entered the international community with the implementation of maritime academies in Fiji and the Seychelles. Within Sri Lanka alone, there are three branches of the campus providing different diplomas, undergraduate degrees, and postgraduate degrees. It is no easy task to manage the academic work of all these personnel. However, this immense task of management and information dissemination has been taken on by the dedicated staff of the CINEC Library.

With a mission to provide high-quality service for the staff, students, and researchers to satisfy their request for knowledge, the CINEC Library has become the heart of academics on campus. Since its implementation, it has strived to create a conductive environment for learning, teaching, and intellectual advancement by establishing synergies between knowledge, education, and research.

A Look at the Staff

All responsibilities fulfilled by the CINEC library would be impossible if not for the dedicated staff of the library. It includes chief librarian Mrs. P.Sandamali Chandrawansha, assistant librarian Ms. W.R.N. Indrachapa, research assistant Ms. V.U.M.D. Kumari, and senior library assistant Mr. Shanaka Madhushan Wijerathna.

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Services of the Library

The library, at first, played its part by supporting the academics of undergraduates of the Marine Engineering and Marine Sciences, but later on, as the campus began diversifying into six faculties of different subject disciplines, it became a hot spot of knowledge. It has an impressive collection of books, periodicals, dissertations, among other resources an undergraduate might need for this very reason. It also initiated its journey into the digital age by integrating online databases such as e-libraryUSA, IMRST Online Database (for Marine Engineering), and IEEE Explore into its vast collection.

One of the most prominent services the library provides to undergraduates and staff is maintaining a record of past papers from all faculties. Allowing copies of collected past papers to be borrowed by students for photocopying and simultaneously uploading them to the DSpace System as PDF files has been quite useful.

The indexing service is also an important part of what the CINEC library provides. It is used to assign descriptors and other kinds of access points to documents. While this service is mostly relied on by computer programs today, the CINEC library utilizes it particularly for journal indexes.

The library also utilizes the Koha Online Public Access Catalogue in remarkable collaboration with the Open University of Sri Lanka. It has helped not only undergraduates and academic staff at CINEC Campus but also undergraduates and academics around the country, as it has allowed unparalleled access to the CINEC library catalog.

It is an unrefuted fact that the CINEC library is not only the heart of academics on campus but also an admirable intra-campus initiative. One of these initiatives is the CINEC Academic Journal, the publication that allows academics of CINEC at the Campus to publish their research. Reviewed by an external panel of expert academics, it is a highly standardized academic journal that has been at the forefront of private university academic publications.

Orientation programs for first-year undergraduates and foundation students of all faculties are also organized and carried out by the staff of the CINEC library. The knowledge given to students during this program helps them immensely during their years on campus.

Editing of additional publications, along with the CINEC Newsletter, the tri-monthly publication that conveys news items about the campus to the general public, also takes place within the library. The Chief Librarian, Mrs. P.Sandamali Chandrawansha, acts as chief editor of CINEC Publications and collaborates with students to make these publications a reality and allow students to be trained in writing and journalistic passions.

Apart from being a figurehead of CINEC academics, Mrs. P.Sandamali Chandrawansha has managed to make the library an essential part of the campus by becoming a member of many intra-campus committees, including, but not limited to, the CINEC Society Linkage Cell, the Safety Management Committee, and the Environmental Management Team. She is also involved in the sports sector of the campus as the MIC of CINEC Basketball team.

The library also welcomes trainee students from different universities around the country, showcasing once again the willingness of the staff to create opportunities for young professionals in library sciences to gain experience.

A Final Note

As the learning resource center of one of the leading higher education providers in the country, the CINEC library acts not only as an effective information disseminator but also as a safe environment, fostering young minds that will eventually become leaders of the nation.

11. Building Bridges through Education

a. The "NETHRA" Books Donation Progamme- Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya has launched a continuing programme of donating books and stationeries to underprivileged schools carefully selected with the full consultation of Provincial Directors of Education in each province of Sri Lanka. The name of this program is NETHRA and it is carried out with the help of local and foreign donors. Already, three such programmes have been successfully conducted in three provinces in Sri Lanka, the first one in Sabaragamuwa , the second one in North Central Province and the third one in North Central Province of Sri Lanka. With the supervision of Senior Professor Nilanthi De Silva, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka and the leadership of Senior Professor M.K.Weerasingh, the current Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka could launch the first book donation programme at Maduwanwala Colony College, on 11 th January 2022 is a great task of providing valuable books to the children of nations.

The first phase of the above social mission was the donation of books and school equipment to 40 difficult schools in the Embilipitiya education zone, which started at Maduwanwala Colony College with the coordination of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Education Director Mr Sepala Kuruppuarachchi. It was a momentous day for the children and they eagerly participated in the Nethra event to receive their books as gifts.

The Nethra second book donation programme was launched on June 08, 2022, at Theldinnanwewa School in Dambulla in North Central Province with the purpose of donating books and stationeries to selected schools in

the area in coordinating with North Central Provincial Education Director Mrs. W.M.N. Ekanayaka. Under this, a number of 40 schools received books and stationeries.

The third programme was conducted at Palaviya Maha Vidyalaya in Putthalam in North Western Province on 25 May 2023. This event has been organized in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Department of Library and Information Science Senior Professor M.K. Weerasinghe the present Head of the Department and Senior Professor W.A. Weerasooriya including staff of the Department have participated in the occasion. The fourth Book donation programme will be conducted in Uva province in January 2024. For the success of this programme, the Jaya TV Channel the media sponsor provides great support in publishing, collecting donations and offering media coverage under its **Samaja Pilisarana** programme. All donors including the other groups who support this entire programme a success deserve special appreciation.

b. MoU between the University of Kelaniya and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

An MoU was signed between the University of Kelaniya and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) at the Office of Vice-Chancellor, University of Kelaniya on 16th June 2023.

This MoU was signed as a collaborative venture to offer training for Library and Information Science (LIS) graduates of the Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) University of Kelaniya, via Library and Information Centre (LIC) attached to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Other objectives of this training opportunity are to develop skills of LIS graduates in Library automation, database management,

use of KOHA software and to study technical services. In addition to that, the LIS graduates will have a golden opportunity to apprehend the valuable reference sources, rich collections of works and other databases of the LIC, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Senior Prof. Nilanthi de Silva, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, Prof M.M. Gunatilaka Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Mr. K. K. K. Dharmathilake, the Registrar of the university, Senior Prof. M.K. Weerasinghe, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Senior professor W.A. Weerasooriya DLIS and Mrs. M K Jayawardena Acting Director, Department of Communications BSL, Mrs. Anusha Librarian, LIC, CBSL, Mr. Trevine Bastians LIC, CBSL participated in the event.

c. Opening of Mr. T.G. Piyadasa Premises

The Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) of the University of Kelaniya which was established in 1973 celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2023.

In order to mark the anniversary year, Senior Professor Nilanthi De Silva, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya launched an anniversary logo. An additional premise called T.G. Piyadasa Premises offered by the Librarian of the University of Kelaniya was also added to the DLIS as the first respected activity.

Launching of anniversary year planner, ICLIM web, VIDYARTHI Journal web, student Journal pustakāla vidyā, and casting of three videos were accomplished at this event.

Following the event was a meeting presided over by Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva at the Staff Development Centre of the university. Present at the occasion were Professor M. M. Gunathilake, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. C. C. Jayasundara, Librarian of the University of Kelaniya, Professor M. K. Weerasinghe, Head of DLIS, Deans of faculties, Heads of Departments, academic staff, members of the DLIS Alumni, undergraduates, and other invitees. The relatives of the late Mr. T. G. Piyadasa the founding Librarian of the university who was a pioneer in DLIS also participated in this occasion.

d. Celebration of Golden Jubilee of Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya: Pirith Chanting Ceremony and Almsgiving

A *Pirith* chanting ceremony and almsgiving for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya was held on the 18th and 19th of August 2023 respectively at the departmental premises.

It was held with the objective of commemorating and offering blessings for deceased academic, and non-academic staff members and the alumni of the department and the university. The *Pirith* chanting was organized under the pious patronage of Welamitiyawe Gnanarathana Nayaka Thero. Almsgiving was presided over by Rev. Senior Professor Induragare Dhammarathana Thero who also made a very valuable sermon.

12. Publications

➤ Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, SUSL presented a research paper on "Developing a Conceptual Framework for Digital Transformation (DT) of Readers Services in Sabaragamuwa University Library of Sri Lanka" at the 7th IRCUWU2023 organized by Uva Wellassa University on 17th August 2023.

➤ Mr. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, SUSL presented a research paper on "Adopting Artificial Intelligence for Digital Transformation of University Libraries: A Review" at the 7th IRCUWU2023 organized by Uva Wellassa University on 17th August 2023.

13. Book Launch

➤ **Bolgoda Ecosystem: A Selected Bibliography**

"The Bolgoda Ecosystem – A Selected Bibliography" is a platform that connects both published and unpublished scholarly work related to the Bolgoda region until the end of the year 2022. It presents a variety of selected references available via search engines, electronic databases, institutional repositories, catalogues with online public access, shadow libraries, etc. organized under 12 categories. This delicately groomed compilation also consists of an Author Index, Corporate Author Index, Subject Index, and Title Index for the convenience of referencing.

Bolgoda is the largest natural freshwater lake embedded to a widespread wetland system in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. It is considered as "one of the first wetland cities in the world by Ramsar Convention Secretariat" in 2018 and also been listed in the "1001 Natural Wonders of the World: You Must See Before You Die", published in 2017 by Michael Bright (Ed.) due to its ecological, social, and economic significance. Unfortunately, Bolgoda has also been included in the "Threatened Lakes of the Year 2018" by the Global Nature Fund (2022). Undoubtedly being a natural laboratory with unlimited access and opportunities for those with a scholarly interest, Bolgoda is a welcome prospect for neighbouring academic entities to explore and develop an awareness of much of the unseen, untouched, or continuously neglected elements. Therefore, this bibliographic compilation is a timely product to facilitate the continuation of scholarly developments with accountable links to the past, for an environmentally sensitive region that has been diversely utilized.
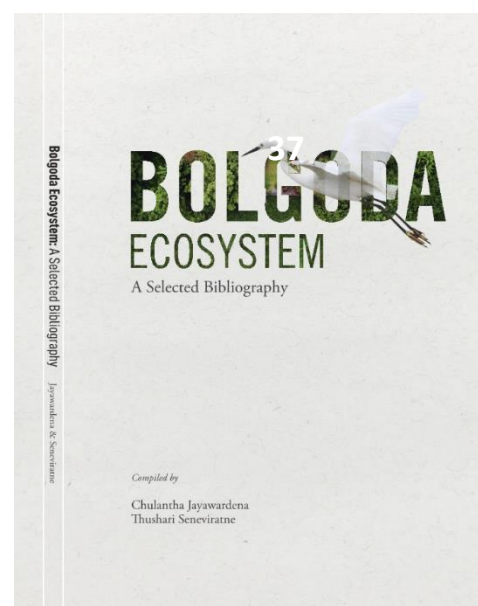
The Bolgoda Ecosystem is a compilation by Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena, a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Earth Resources Engineering, and Ms. Thushari Seneviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian from the University of Moratuwa Library. The bibliography is an outcome of the attempts made by them to find information on Bolgoda and its associations to construct an article for the Bolgoda Plains Research Magazine published by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa. Hence, on 24 July 2023, the first copy of the book was presented to Prof. Ajith de Alwis the Dean, of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, who initiated the Bolgoda Plains Research Magazine and also motivated the compilers towards publishing the book.

Compilers secured the "Vijita de Silva Research Award 2023" presented by the Sri Lanka Library Association for their collaborative initiatives on enhancing the awareness of Bolgoda environments.

14. Forthcoming Events

Academic Libraries Convener: Ms.Thushara Wanasinghe

Proposed short course and webinar for LIS professionals.

S/N	Course	Time	Medium	No of days
1	Basic Statistics for LIS professionals including SPSS - 2 Hours per day	November- December 2023.	Sinhala Medium	3
			Tamil Medium	3
2	Basics of Library Automation for LIS Professionals-2 Hours per day	January –February 2024	Sinhala Medium	3
			Tamil Medium	3
3	Excelling in RESEARCH: Important steps to writing & present your research' 2 Hours per day	March-Aprilc2024.	Sinhala Medium Tamil Medium	4
4	Webinar on Qualitative data analysis and literature review through NVivo Mr.Shantha Rooban –Senior Assistant Librarian –Eastern University of Sri Lanka	May-24	Tamil Medium	2 Hours
5	Indigenous knowledge in education Dr.CK Gamage Senior Assistant Librarian-Institute of Indigenous Medicine	May-24	Sinhala	2 Hours

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Stanly Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

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