Sri Lanka Library Association
NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Bulletin of the Sri Lanka Library Association

SLLA HOLDS Certificates Awarding Ceremony - 2023

The Certificate Award Ceremony for Library & Information Science courses was held on May 26th, 2023 at the Western Province Aesthetic Resort in Colombo 07.

A total of 166 diplomates received one-year diploma certificates during the event. Additionally, there were 17 certificate awardees for the Course on Library Automation (COLA) and 36 diplomates who received Higher Diploma in Library and Information Science certificates.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Sujeewa Lal Dahanayake, the General Secretary of the Organization of Professionals Association of Sri Lanka. Certificates were awarded by Mr. Dahanayake and President of Sri Lanka Library Association, Dr. R. D. Ananda Tissa. The ceremony was attended by Council Members, Lecturers of the Sri Lanka Library Association, parents, and awardees.

SLLA NEWSLETTER

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- Inquary -
Publication Officer
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ICLIS 2023

"Libraries as Catalysts for Transformation: Resilient Nations for a Better World"

The International Conference on Library & Information Science (ICLIS)-2023 will take place on June 27th, 2023. The conference aims to provide a platform for international and Sri Lankan library professionals from various library sectors to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss good practices, trends, and issues in their field. This year's theme focuses on the role of libraries as catalysts for transformation, particularly in developing prosperous nations for a better world.

The conference will explore strategies on how libraries can provide innovative services, equitable access to information, and develop collections amidst various challenges such as pandemics, economic and financial crises, and natural disasters to create sustainable societies and prosperous nations for a better world.

ICLIS-2023 will feature several sub-themes related to the conference's main theme of libraries as catalysts for transformation and innovation to create sustainable societies and prosperous nations for a better world. These sub-themes include Awards Information Science, Equitable Access to Information, Sustainable Development Strategies & Libraries, COVID-19 Pandemic & Libraries, Thriving through Economic/Financial Crisis, Smart Library Services, Multidisciplinary Aspects of Information Literacy, New Strategies for LIS Education, Innovations in Library Services, and Library Networks and Community Outreach. Authors are encouraged to submit research papers related to these themes.

At the conference, high-quality research papers will be awarded, and the papers will be considered for publication in the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) journal titled "Library Review." Additionally, the best presenter for each session will also be awarded.

International Conference on Library & Information Science (ICLIS)-2023

"Libraries as Catalysts for Transformation: Resilient Nations for a Better World"

Organized by Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA)

27 June 2023
09.00 am - 03.00 pm

Mode : Fully Virtual

Keynote Speaker
Mrs. Vicki McDonald, AM FALIA
State Librarian &
Chief Executive Officer
State Library of Queensland, Australia,
President-Elect, IFLA

Chief Guest
Ms.Himali Jinadasa
Coordinator, Sri Lanka
UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office
for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal,
the Maldives, & Sri Lanka

Plenary Speakers

Dr. (Mrs.) P. Wijetunge
Director, National Institute
of Library & Information Science
NILIS, University of Colombo

Guest of Honour
Mrs.Ruwani Senevirathne
Senior Manager
Quality Assurance &
Compliance,
Chartered Institute of
Personnel Management Sri Lanka

Dr. Syeda Hina Batool
Assistant Professor, Institute
of Information Management,
University of the Punjab
Chair, ASIST (SA Chapter),
Visiting Professor, UBC,
Vancouver, Canada

**President Sri Lanka
Library Association**
Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa
Senior Assistant Librarian
Gampaha Wickramarachchi University
of Indigenous Medicine (GWUIM)
Yakkala

Dr. Ruwan Gamage
Senior Lecturer, NILIS,UoC,
Department of Social Science,
Faculty of Arts, National
University of Maldives, Male

Conference Chair
Dr. M. M.Mashroofa
Convener, Research Committee
of SLLA, Senior Assistant Librarian,
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Mr. W. Sunil
Director General
National Library &
Documentation Services
Board, Sri Lanka

Contact
Conference Chair
Dr. M.M.Mashroofa
0768185662

Conference Secretary
Mrs. Thivya Janen
772508732

http://iclis23.slla.lk/index.php
iclisslla2023@gmail.com

ICULA 2023

University Librarians Association — ULA Sri Lanka

iCULA 2023 — International Conference of University Librarians Association

MOUNT LAVINIA HOTEL, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

OCT 26

"Transforming Academic Libraries for a Sustainable Future"

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Deadline:
- June 30, 2023

Notification of Acceptance:
- July 31, 2023

Camera Ready Version:
- September 10, 2023

Registration of Authors:
- September 10, 2023

Registration of Participants:
- October 10, 2023

PAPER SUBMISSION & REGISTRATION

Refer to the "PAPER SUBMISSION" section of the conference website for more details.

For registration details please visit:

https://www.ulasl.lk/icula2023/index.php/registration

CONTACT US

Conference Co-secretaries :

Dr. (Mrs). Nayani Gunawardhana
University of Moratuwa,
Sri Lanka

Mr. S. Santharooban
Eastern University,
Sri Lanka

✉ secretary_icula@ulasl.lk

THEMATIC TRACKS

- Sustainability in library operations
- Supporting sustainability in learning and research
- Digital transformation and sustainability
- Teaching sustainability literacy
- Using AI for sustainability in library services
- Quality assurance, accreditation, and policymaking for sustainability
- Risk-management strategies for sustainable library collections
- Professional education and development for sustainable library practices
- Sustainable academic publishing practices

◆ FULL-PAPERS OR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS ARE INVITED

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

All papers will be peer-reviewed by a panel of experts and accepted papers will be published in conference proceedings.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE:

https://www.ulasl.lk/icula2023

NEWS

SLLA 2022/2023 Council Completes Two-Year Term; New Council Takes Over

SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL 2022/2023

Seated (L to R) :
Dr. G. R. Padmasiri (Nominated Member), Mr. Sugath Gunathilake (Treasurer), Mr. Preethi Liyanage (President Elect), Dr. Ruwan Gamage (Immediate Past President), Dr. R. D. AnandaTissa (President), Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi (General Secretary), Ms. K. N. Samanthi (Education Officer), Mr. Norman Ravi Kumar (Vice President), Mr. W. Sunil (Nominated Ex-officio member of National Library)

Standing (L to R) :
Mr. Aruna Thilanka (Special Libraries), Dr. S. K. Illangarathne (Publication Officer) , Ms.M. K. G. Yanika Nandasena (Government Libraries), Ms. Anoma Wijesinghe (Information & Public Relations Officer), Ms Thushara Wanasinghe (Academic Libraries), Ms. T. M. C. Hansamali Tennakoon (Asst. General Secretary), Dr. (Ms).Mashroofa Majeed (Research committee), Mr. Dhammika Rathnayake (Asst. Education Officer)

Absent :
Dr. (Ms). Premila Gamage (Nominated Member), Mr. S. Shantharooban (COMAISP), Mr. Mahinda Amarasiri (School Libraries), Mr. W. M. R. K. Weerasekara (Public Libraries)

The 62nd concil of Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA 2022/2023) has successfully completed its two-year tenure, leaving behind a legacy of excellence and growth. The outgoing council officially handed over the responsibility to the new council at a ceremony, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the association's history.

Throughout its tenure, SLLA has been committed to promoting library and information science education and providing a platform for professionals to connect, collaborate, and share knowledge. The previous council organized numerous workshops, seminars, and conferences that brought together members from different regions of the country.

Members of SLLA expressed their best wishes to the new council and expressed their confidence in their ability to lead the association forward. "We are proud of what SLLA has achieved in the past two years, and we are confident that the new council will continue to uphold the association's values and traditions," a member said.

With a new council at the helm, SLLA is poised to continue its mission of supporting librarians and information professionals in Sri Lanka and advancing the library and information science profession across the country.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. M.D.H. KUSUM JAYASINGHE

MRS. M.D.H. KUSUM JAYASINGHE

In remembrance of the beloved Mrs. M.D.H. Kusum Jayasinghe (SLLA Life Membership no.44), former Chief Librarian at Ports Authority, on the first anniversary of her sad demise on May 6th, 2022, we mourn the loss of a great human being. Mrs. Jayasinghe lived a beautiful life that touched the hearts of many, and she will remain forever in our thoughts.

Mrs. Kusum Jayasinghe completed her secondary education at Musaeus College, Colombo, and went on to obtain her BA degree from the University of Colombo in 1971. She joined the Sri Lanka Library Association in 1974 and studied Library Science, Information Science, and Documentation for three years. Her hard work and dedication culminated in her obtaining her Associateship in 1984, and she became a Chartered Librarian.

In 1975, Mrs. Jayasinghe joined the Sri Lanka Ports Commission, where she rendered valuable, trustworthy, and loyal service as the Chief Librarian for over 30 years until her retirement in 2007. As the Chief Librarian of the Technical Library, a special category library, Mrs. Jayasinghe made an immeasurable contribution to all Engineering divisions of S.L.P.A through her vast knowledge, experience, and talents.

Mrs. Jayasinghe was also a life member of the Sri Lanka Library Association, holding membership number 45. She actively participated in all the workshops, seminars, and well-fun trips organized by the association. Her kind and generous nature made her a beloved figure among her colleagues.

Mrs. Kusum Jayasinghe is mourned by her husband, Manil, her son, Miyuru, her daughter-in-law, Buddhika, and her grandchildren, Chiratu and Vindinu. Though she is no longer with us, her well-lived life and her humble heart will always be remembered. May she rest in peace.

Reported by:

Mrs. Malkanthie Amarasinghe (Membership no.44)

SLLA President's Award to Acknowledge Outstanding Work by Members

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) is set to recognize outstanding contributions made by its members with the SLLA President's Award. In a recent email sent out to all members, the association called for submissions of work done over the last nine months. The award is aimed at appreciating the hard work and dedication sh members in their respective fields.

SLLA values the tremendous effort that its council members and non-council members put in to advance the field of library and information science in Sri Lanka. The President's Award offers an opportunity to showcase the work of members who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to promote the association's objectives.

The President's Award i ent opportunity for members to gain recogn tstanding work and contributions to the field. SLLA intends to announce the winners of the award soon, and the association expects the recognition to serve as a source of motivation for members to continue to excel in their respective fields.

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:

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

field visit to National Cooperative Development Institute (NCDI), Polgolle

Exciting news from Sri Lanka! On October 25th, a special book launching program was organized by Senior Librarian Mr. Dhammika Weerakoon, with the participation of the special libraries group, Mr. Preethi Liyanage, Mrs. Priyani Balasooriya, Mr. Aruna Thilanka, Ms. Manoha P. Wickramathilake, under the leadership of Dr. Ananda Tissa, the President, and Mr. Sugath Gunathlke, the Treasurer of Sri Lanka Library Association.

Following the event, library professionals from Special Libraries, as well as some professionals from the Department, Public Libraries, and School Libraries in the region, visited the National Institute of Co-operative Development's main library and held a meeting to identify the main professional issues facing them. It was a great opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing amongst Sri Lanka's library community.

Awareness program on QMS for library staff

Sri Lanka has taken an important step towards standardizing work environments in libraries, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 8.8. On March 28th, 2023, an Awareness Program on Quality Management Systems (QMS) for library staff was held at the Conference Hall of the Colombo Public Library, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The program was led by Ms. Kanchana Lokugeegana, Deputy Director of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, who shared her extensive experience and knowledge on QMS with a group of 28 scholars physically present and another 30 scholars joining virtually via Zoom.

Through this initiative, Sri Lanka aims to equip its library staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to standardize their work environments, as outlined by SDG Goal 8.8. The participation of both physical and virtual attendees demonstrates the country's commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that everyone, regardless of their location, has an opportunity to learn and gain valuable insights.

Overall, the Awareness Program on Quality Management Systems for library staff was a great success and a significant milestone achieved in Sri Lanka's efforts towards standardizing work environments in libraries. It's a step in the right direction towards promoting a standardized and professional library system in the country.

ADVANCEMENTS IN LIS FIELD

"National Library of Sri Lanka establishes new Ethics Review Committee for Library and Information Science Research"
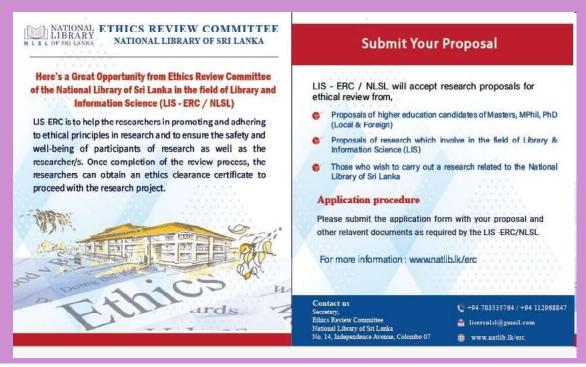
National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) has established an Ethics Review Committee (ERC) for Library and Information Science (LIS) research, called ERC-LIS/NLSL. The committee aims to promote high-quality research that follows ethical principles and protects the safety and well-being of participants and researchers. Researchers can obtain an ethics clearance certificate from ERC-LIS/NLSL after completion of the review process.

The committee invites proposals from Masters, MPhil and PhD candidates (Local / Foreign) and those who wish to conduct research related to NLSL. The Standard Operational Procedures of ERC-LIS/NLSL requires research proposals to be submitted through the committee secretary by 15th of each month, prior to 14 days of the ERC meeting. Meetings are held once a month during the 4th week of the month. The ERC-LIS/NLSL specifies the format in which proposals should be submitted and considers applications in accordance with relevant documents, informing the decision by the 2nd week of the following month.
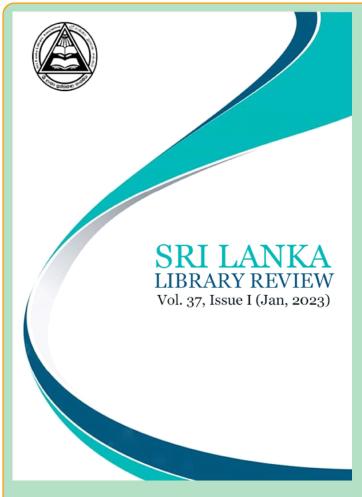
Overall, this new committee from the National Library of Sri Lanka is expected to establish a framework that supports high-quality research, promoting ethical principles that will increase the reliability and effectiveness of research projects, ultimately benefiting the community as a whole.

The Ethics Review Committee for Library and Information Science Research (ERC-LIS/NLSL) at the National Library of Sri Lanka has announced that the submission process for research proposals is now available online. Researchers who are interested in submitting a proposal are required to credit the stipulated processing fee in the application form to People's Bank, Townhall (A/C No.167-1-001-6-3170315) credited to the National Library of Sri Lanka.

This new online submission process provides a convenient and efficient way for researchers to submit their proposals to ERC-LIS/NLSL, ultimately saving time and resources. The committee encourages all interested researchers to take advantage of this new online process.

SRI LANKA LIBRARY REVIEW

The Sri Lanka Library Review, Volume 37, Issue I, is the latest publication by the Sri Lanka Library Association. It is a highly acclaimed journal in the field of library and information science, publishing articles and research papers related to library services, information management, technology, and other relevant topics. The journal is available online via https://sllr.sljol.info/, and the latest edition is published in January 2023.

The Sri Lanka Library Association is proud to present this latest edition of the Sri Lanka Library Review, which embodies the association's commitment to promoting excellence in research and scholarship in the field of library and information science. The association encourages interested readers and researchers to obtain a copy of the journal, which is a valuable resource for staying up-to-date with developments and innovative ideas in the field.

Contents

Manuscript Submission to: po@slla.lk
Online access to Sri Lanka Library Review
https://sllr.sljol.info/

Evolving Demands in Libraries

Libraries have always been important to the community because they give people access to information, resources, and help with learning. But in the last few years, libraries have changed a lot to meet the changing needs of their customers and keep up with the technological advances of the digital age.

The traditional library was a physical space that housed books, periodicals, and other materials. Patrons would visit the library to browse the shelves, borrow books, and conduct research. Libraries were also places where people could gather for cultural and social events, attend lectures, and participate in educational programs. While this model served society well for centuries, it had its limitations. The amount of physical space available to store materials was one restriction. Libraries had to decide which books and other resources to buy first based on how much money and space they had. This led to a situation in which many important works were not available to the public due to lack of funding.

The digital revolution changed all that. When electronic media came along, it became possible to store a lot of information in a small space. This made it possible for libraries to get a lot more books and give people access to a much wider range of materials than before. Digital media also made it possible to access these resources from anywhere in the world, if there was an internet connection. It meant that people no longer had to physically visit the library to access its resources. The emergence of online catalogs was another significant change resulting from the digital revolution. In the past, libraries used card catalogs to keep track of their books, but in the 1980s and 1990s, they switched to computerized systems. Today, libraries in Sri Lanka have sophisticated online catalogs that let people search for books by author, title, and subject, among other things. Online catalogs also allow users to reserve and renew materials online. Digital technology has also enabled libraries to offer a wide range of digital services. For example, libraries can now offer e-books, audiobooks, and digital magazines through their websites. Patrons can borrow these materials and read them on their computers, tablets, or e-readers. The evolution of library services from print to digital has been a remarkable transformation. It has helped libraries grow their collections, offer more services, and reach a much larger number of people. However, it is important to note that the traditional library still plays an essential role in our society. The physical library provides a space for people to gather, learn, and share ideas. Libraries are also places where people can find expert guidance and support from librarians who have a wealth of knowledge and experience.

In recent years, libraries have also become spaces that promote inclusivity and diversity. Many libraries are actively working to break down barriers to make their spaces more welcoming and open to everyone in their communities. The libraries are breaking down barriers by providing resources and services for people with disabilities. Libraries are now equipped with ramps, and elevators to accommodate people with physical disabilities. People with visual impairments or learning disabilities can also use audiobooks and assistive technologies like screen readers and text-to-speech software to learn. Libraries are also creating spaces that welcome families with young children. These resources and services help to ensure that everyone, regardless of their ability, can access the information and resources they need.

The libraries have now become vibrant community hubs where people can come together to connect, collaborate, and share ideas. Libraries are creating community meeting spaces, hosting events and programs that bring people together, and providing resources and support for local businesses and entrepreneurs. In this connection, maker spaces are becoming increasingly popular in libraries as a way to promote creativity, learning, and innovation. People usually have access to tools, equipment, and technology in these places that they might not have at home or in school. Maker spaces may include 3D printers, laser cutters, sewing machines, electronic workshops, and more. By giving people access to these resources, libraries give people chances to try out new ideas, try out different tools and materials, and learn new skills for entrepreneurship. Maker spaces in libraries are also creating opportunities for collaboration and community building as

patrons work together on projects and share their knowledge and expertise. The libraries provide a welcoming and inclusive space where people can come together to learn, share ideas, and connect with one another. Libraries offer a variety of programs and services that encourage social interaction, such as book clubs, discussion groups, and community events. They also provide resources and support for individuals and groups looking to organize their own events or activities within the library. Additionally, some libraries offer virtual programming, such as online book clubs or author people interact with both digital and real objects at the same time, making for very immersive experiences. For instance, MR can be used by libraries to make interactive learning experiences like educational simulations. The Internet of Things (IoT) is another emerging technology that is transforming libraries.

IoT is the process of connecting real-world objects to the internet so they can collect and send data. Libraries are using IoT to create smart libraries that can adapt to users' needs. Smart shelves can, for example, keep track of which books are checked out and returned. This lets libraries improve their collections and services. Smart lighting and temperature control systems can alsobe used to create a more comfortable and energy-efficient environment for users. By using AI, AR, MR, IoT, and other new technologies, libraries can make user experiences more personalized and interesting, adapt to changing needs, and remain an important part of their communities.

Overall, the libraries have undergone significant changes in recent years to adapt to the changing needs of their communities and the advancements of the digital age. The libraries continue to play a critical role in society, providing resources, support, and opportunities for individuals and communities to grow, connect, and thrive. Though the technology aided virtual platforms have emerged, physical libraries remain essential community hubs to provide spaces for perpetual reading, learning, and sharing ideas.

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Library,
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Thirunelvely, Jaffna,
Sri Lanka.

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. SLLA publishes its newsletter regularly, and feature articles are a great way for members to share their thoughts, experiences, and research with the community.

"Information Technology and Its Impact on

Human Life"

The term "Information Technology (IT)" can be broadly defined as the management and processing of information by computer, including the necessary hardware and software to access it (ODLIS, 2018). Over the last couple of decades, the concepts, infrastructure, and policies for producing, storing, and retrieving information have developed significantly, gradually influencing general human life. Consequently, using high technology to manage information has become a necessity for human beings.

The common nature of information now is that it becomes outdated or irrelevant before being used by many users. The reason for this is that updating information is often necessary multiple times due to the fast transformation to end-users. On the other hand, every user wishes to retrieve the correct information at the correct time and in the correct format. Thus, using technology is a better solution to address those issues.

Computers with internet connections are more helpful than ever before, enabling fast communication, as well as dedicated solutions for delayed message sending. One of the positive impacts of Information Technology is the ease of managing and retrieving information, storing large amounts of information in digital or cloud spaces, and applying "one-to-many" approaches to send bulk information to many recipients. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram could all be considered highly impacted sources of information technology.

Utilizing cloud server spaces (CSS) and artificial intelligence (AI) are the latest developments in information technology. Through these technologies, it is possible to distribute information, especially the latest news, cloud library initiatives, and other business-related information very quickly. As a result of these advances, the availability of information has significantly increased, which calls for a term called "Information overload." This is a significant issue that cannot be solved entirely through technology. Due to information overload, many agencies specifically handling information will encounter difficulties acquiring all of it while still managing their available funds. This issue will impact not only libraries but also radio and television networks.

In conclusion, Information Technology is a facility that can be used to fulfill human information needs. However, it could easily become an overhead when we strive to achieve the very latest technology by ignoring the existing methods we have.

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Veletsianos, G. (Ed.). (2016). Social Media in Academia: Networked Scholars. Routledge.

Dr.S.K. Illangarathne
Senior Assistant Librarian
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Pirith chanting programme

On the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the Sri Lanka Library Association, a pirith chanting ceremony was conducted on 28th 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 24th 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.

Sankathana casts its 21ˢᵗ program on "ChatGTP"

Sankathana: Sri Lanka's Successful Online LIS Lecture Series

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) has been leading the way in providing online access to relevant and dynamic professional development programs amidst the disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One such initiative is the online lecture series, Sankathana "සංකථන", which has been a resounding success. The series aims to connect knowledge from other professions directly or indirectly related to librarianship and apply it to develop subject-specific and external knowledge in the library profession.

Led by Dr. SK Ilangaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Technology Library at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, the lectures have covered a range of topics such as AIDS, services for homosexual users, beauty of library counter duty officers, handicrafts, and interior decoration of libraries, artificial intelligence, and ChatGTP. The moderators ensure that the content is fresh, relevant, and engaging to maintain the interest and participation of library science professionals.

The Information and Public Relations President Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa, the of the Information and Public Relations committee member Mrs. Hansamali and Public Relations Unit including its 2023), have played an instrumental role in team's collaborative efforts received the (62ⁿᵈ) Sri Lanka Library Association Annual (IPR) committee, including the Association Executive Council, the former convenor Unit Mrs. Yanika Nandasena (2021/2022), Tennakoon, and the current Information convenor Mrs. Anoma Wijesinghe (2022/ the success of the online lecture series. The prestigious Presidential Award at the last General Meeting (AGM).
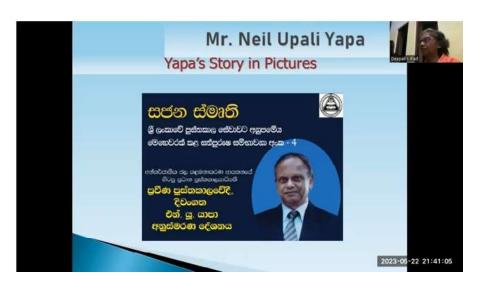
The online lecture series has been widely regarded as an excellent example of a successful online program that bridges the gap between diverse professionals and the library community, enhancing their knowledge and professional development.

"Sri Lanka's Sankathana Online Lecture Series, which seeks to enhance professional development for library science professionals, recently gained attention from IFLA. In their latest discusions, the program was praised for its innovative approach to connecting knowledge across diverse professions and advancing library science professionals' expertise.

The Sri Lanka Library Association is committed to advancing the professional development of library science professionals and Sankathana is just one of the many innovative initiatives that demonstrate this commitment. Through inspiring lectures and engaging discussions, the association continues to promote excellence in Sri Lanka's library science profession.

Sajana Smrthi [සජන ස්මෘති] program pays tribute to Late Mr. NU Yapa for his contributions to the LIS field

The IPR group of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) recently conducted its 4th program titled "Sajana Smrthi" to remember and pay tribute to Late Mr. NU Yapa's contributions to the LIS field in Sri Lanka. The program was held on May 22, 2023, at 8:30 PM Colombo time via Zoom.

Mrs. Deepali Thalagala, a prominent figure in the LIS field, spoke about the late Mr. NU Yapa and the remarkable services he rendered to the LIS field in Sri Lanka. The event was a success, and many participants attended the program to honor and remember the contributions that Mr. Yapa made to the LIS profession.

Mr. Yapa, who passed away recently, served the LIS profession in Sri Lanka for many years and contributed significantly to its growth and development. His work in promoting the field of librarianship and his efforts to improve library services in Sri Lanka are still remembered and appreciated by many LIS professionals.

National Library's MEET AN EXPERT program delves into ethics and leadership in government offices

The National Library of Sri Lanka recently conducted its 22nd program for MEET AN EXPERT, featuring Mr. Chandana Ekanayake, Additional Commissioner

Colombo Public Library opens Iran Corner in honor of Nesami Ganjavi to showcase Iran's rich cultural heritage

The Special Reference Section of the Colombo Public Library has announced that the "Iran Corner" was officially opened on March 11th, 2023. The corner, which was established in memory of the Persian poet Nesami Ganjavi on his birthday, contains a collection of resources related to Iran's rich cultural heritage, including literature, history, and art.

The opening ceremony of the Iran Corner was conducted by Dr. Bahaman Mozami, the Cultural Advisor at the Iranian Cultural Center. Dr. Mozami highlighted the importance of preserving and sharing Iran's cultural heritage with the global community. The establishment of the Iran Corner is a significant step in that direction, providing access to a collection of resources that will help foster a better understanding of Iran's culture and history.

The Colombo Public Library invites everyone to visit the Iran Corner and explore the rich collection of resources available for study and research. The establishment of the corner represents a significant contribution to the library's mandate to provide access to information and

knowledge that enriches and enhances the lives of its patrons.

Colombo Public Library opens Iran Corner in honor of Nesami Ganjavi to showcase Iran's rich cultural heritage

Russian Reading Corner Celebrates Opening in Colombo Public Library

In celebration of the 155th birth anniversary of Maxim Gorky, the renowned Russian author, the Russian Reading Corner was opened on March 28th, 2023, at the Special Reference Section of the Colombo Public Library. The corner was inaugurated by H.E. Levan S. Dzhagaryan, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Sri Lanka.

The Russian Reading Corner is a dedicated space in the library where visitors can access a variety of books and literature by Russian authors and learn about Russian culture. The opening of this corner is a testament to the growing interest and appreciation for Russian literature in Sri Lanka.

During the inaugural ceremony, Ambassador Dzhagaryan expressed his delight at the opening of the corner and

reiterated the strong cultural ties between Russia and Sri Lanka. He also spoke about the life and legacy of Maxim Gorky and the significance of his works.

The opening of the Russian Reading Corner at the Colombo Public Library is a noteworthy event that will serve as a valuable resource for all those interested in Russian literature and culture.

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Government Library Group of SLLA successfully concludes one-day workshop on "Mind Maps"

The Government Library Group successfully organized a workshop on January 23rd, 2023, focused on abstracting information from books using Maind Maps. The workshop was conducted online, with participants from various government libraries across Sri Lanka in attendance. Dr. Ruwan Gamage, a senior lecturer at NILIS, University of Colombo, was the resource person for the workshop.

The Government Library Group arranged the workshop to enrich the reading skills of librarians and improve their ability to abstract information from books. The workshop aimed to provide practical tips and strategies that participants could incorporate into their daily work routines.

Dr. Gamage shared his in-depth knowledge of reading skills and presented strategies to improve speed, comprehension, and retention. He also discussed the importance of abstracting information effectively to obtain deeper insights and a better understanding of complex concepts. He provided strategies and frameworks to aid in the process of abstracting information, including the use of mind maps to organize information.

Participants engaged in various interactive activities, including discussions and group activities, to put what they learned into practice. The workshop concluded with a Q&A session where Dr. Gamage answered questions and clarified doubts.

The Government Library Group expressed their gratitude to Dr. Gamage for sharing his valuable insights and expertise on the topic. The workshop was a success, and participants praised the group for organizing such a beneficial event. Participants left the workshop feeling more confident in their reading and information abstraction skills, excited to develop their skills further, and apply them to their work in library and information science.

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES GROUP NEWS

"Academic Library Group of SLLA successfully concludes three short courses for LIS professionals"

The Academic Library Group of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) recently conducted three short courses for the year 2022-2023 aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals.

The first short course, titled "Enhancing Research Visibility and Improving Citations – Tools & Techniques," was conducted by Dr. SK Illangarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Technology Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The course aimed to equip LIS professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to improve research visibility and citation counts.

The second short course, titled "Basics of Data Analysis through SPSS," was conducted by Mr. S. Santharooban, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Faculty of Health-Care Sciences of Eastern University Sri Lanka. The course aimed to familiarize LIS professionals with the basics of data analysis using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

The third and final short course, titled "KOHA Integrated Library Management System," was conducted by Mr. M.N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian at Eastern University Sri Lanka. The course aimed to provide LIS professionals with the knowledge and skills required to manage library resources using the KOHA Integrated Library Management System.

All three short courses were a resounding

success and were appreciated by the attendees as a fundraising activity of the Academic Library Group by the existing Council. The courses provided LIS professionals with valuable knowledge and skills to enhance their careers and improve their library practices.

This group leds by Thushara Wanasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and the Academic Libraries Group of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) is committed to promoting excellence in the field of library and information science (LIS) by providing opportunities for professional development and networking among academic library professionals. The group aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas, innovation, and good practices in academic libraries across Sri Lanka.

ACHIVEMENTS

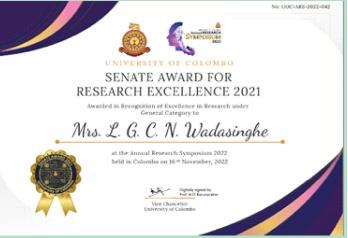## Senate Awards for Research Excellence 2020 & 2021

Mrs. Chandima Wadasinghe, the Senior Assistant Librarian at the Post-graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, has received accolades for her outstanding achievements in research. At the University of Colombo's Annual Research Symposium in November 2022, Mrs. Wadasinghe was honored with the Senate Award for Research Excellence in both 2020 and 2021. The event was held at the Prof. V.K. Samaranayake Auditorium of the University of Colombo School of Computing.

The awards were granted to Mrs. Wadasinghe in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of library and information science research. Her dedication to research and her insightful innovations have had a considerable impact on the field, as well as helping to promote the University of Colombo's research objectives.

Mrs. Wadasinghe's achievement of two awards over two consecutive years is a remarkable accomplishment, and it sets a new standard of excellence in research and scholarship. The University of Colombo congratulates Mrs. Wadasinghe on her achievements and looks forward to seeing her continuous contributions to the field of library and information science in the future.

SLLA 63rd AGM on 30th June

Dear SLLA Members,

It is our pleasure to announce that the 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) will be held on June 30th, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. We invite all active members to attend this important meeting.

The AGM presents a valuable opportunity for us to come together as a community, review our achievements from the past year, and discuss the future direction of our association. We encourage all members to attend and make their voices heard by actively participating in the proceedings.

We look forward to seeing you at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on June 30th, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Best regards, SLLA Executive Committee

Sankathana 22nd Program
Focuses on Law in Professional Life

The 22nd edition of Sankathana, a popular discussion series organized by the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Committee of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), will take place online on June 29th, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. The focus of the program will be on the role of law in professional life.

The session will be conducted by a highly experienced attorney-at-law, who will share insights on the importance of understanding and complying with the laws and regulations that govern various professions. The talk will be followed by a Q&A session, allowing participants to clarify any doubts they may have.

As always, Sankathana provides an excellent platform for professionals and enthusiasts from various fields to come together and engage in a meaningful dialogue. The IPR Committee of the SLLA has consistently organized thought-provoking sessions, and this one promises to be no exception.

We encourage anyone interested in the intersection of law and professional life to join us online for this informative and insightful discussion on June 29th, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

Best regards, SLLA IPR Committee.

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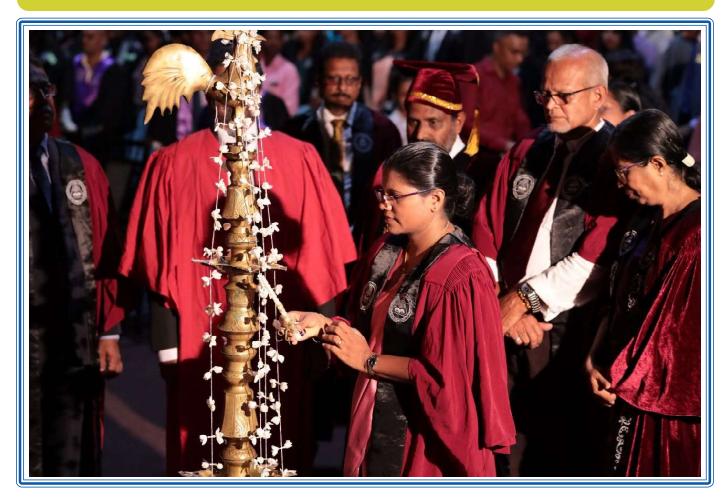https://www.youtube.com/@sllalk

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CERTIFICATE AWARD CEREMONY

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