

## SLLA NEWSLETTER

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## 61st Annual General Meeting of SLLA

The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) was held online on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021. On invitation of the President of SLLA & the council, Dr. Tonya Aradova, IFLA President Elect 2021-2023 & President of the General Council of Libraries graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Dr. Ruwan Gamage, the outgoing President of SLLA. Dr. Aradova delivered the keynote address. More than 200 members of the Sri Lanka Library Association attended the occasion.

Some of students who excelled in the Diploma courses in Library and Information Science conducted by the Association received prizes and certificates. Six Associate Members of the Association were also awarded Fellowships. Following the inauguration ceremony, the council members were elected for the year 2021/2022 of the Association. For the first time in the history of the Sri Lanka Library Association, all nominees for its key posts were unanimously elected to the Board. Dr. R.D. AnandaTissa & Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe were elected as the President and the General Secretary of the SLLA for the year 2021/2022. (See page 02 for more details of the AGM)

## **SLLA Fellowship Award 2021**



Fellowship by Achievement has been awarded to 05 corporate members of the Association during the year 2020/2021 at the 61<sup>st</sup> SLLA AGM held online on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021. This brings the total number of Fellow members of SLLA to 53.( See page 13 for more details ....)

## **SANKATHANA Lecture Series Starts**

SLLA continues public lecture series to aware people about Library services through OUT of BOX topics by inviting to the expertise on various fields. Its 1 & 2 sessions were held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 and 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 via online ZOOM platform. ( $^{\circ}$  See page 12 for more details ....)





(L > R) Dr. Ruwan Gamage (IPP), Dr. RD Ananda Tissa (P), Mr. P. Liyanage (PE) & Mrs. D. Munasinghe (GS) of SLLA Council for year 2021/2022

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## Now SLLA on YouTube

Visit https://www.youtube.com/c/sllalk

## SLLA Council & ExCo Members - 2021/2022

President Dr. R D Ananda Tissa

Immediate Past President Dr. Ruwan Gamage

**President – Elect** Mr. S P K K A Liyanage

General Secretary Ms. M P P Dilhani

Vice President Mr. M Norman Ravikumar

Treasurer Mr. K G S Gunathilake

**Education Officer** Ms. K N Samanthi

Assistant General Secretary Ms. R N Sanjeewani

Assistant Education Officer Ms. Priyani Balasooriya

Publication Officer Dr. S K Illangarathne

Information & Public Relations Officer Ms. M K G Yanika Nandasena

**Professional Group Conveners** 

Academic Libraries: Ms. Hiruni Kanchana

**COMAISP:** Mr. S Santharooban

Government Libraries: Ms. W N Rasanjali

IT Committee: Mr. T Ramanan

NACLIS / LIS Research: Dr. Tharanga Ranasingha

**Public Libraries:** Ms. Pavithra M Wijayawardane

School Libraries: Mr. Mahinda Amarasiri

Special Libraries: Ms. Roshani Fernando

Nominated Ex-Officio Member Director General, NLDSB (Mr. W Sunil)

Nominated Member Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi

Nominated Member Dr. Premila Gamage

Nominated ExCo Member Dr. G R Padmasiri

Nominated ExCo Member Mrs. Deepali Thalagala

## President's Message

As the 28<sup>th</sup> President of the Sri Lanka Library Association, I consider it a privilege to address all of you. I have been actively involved in the activities of the Library Association for over 21 years. Our New Council will be expected to take the following steps to promote the Sri Lanka Library Association and the library profession in general within next two years (2021/2023).

### 1. Implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Sri Lanka Library Association.

Extending its term by another 5 years and further activating it. Inform all members about completed projects, ongoing projects as well as unfinished projects.

## 2. Commemoration of the 61st anniversary of the Sri Lanka Library Association.

I propose to award honorary fellowship for 61 senior members who served SLLA to commemorate this valuable event. Identify the eligible members for this would be better if go through the beginning of the membership directory (From Membership No 01) intend to implement the relevant activities in accordance with the recommendations of the Membership Committee and the approval of the Council.

## 3. 60 years to the Educational Service of the Sri Lanka Library Association by 2021.

On the advice of the Education committee and the Council, I look forward to organizing a function to honor those who have already served as lecturers of the Association for a long time.

#### 4. Compiling a SLLA Management Manual

This council hopes to compile a manual containing all the legal matters pertaining to the Sri Lanka Library Association.

## 5. "Buddhi Prabodhani" General Knowledge enhance program.

Organizing a program to develop the general knowledge and research skills of all professionals engaged in the library profession.

### 6. Enhance the Personal Development of Library Professionals.

It is expected to conduct several programs to enhance the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of various groups of Library professionals. This can be organized in collaboration with the Professional Organizations and the Local Authorities

#### 7. Taking action to compose a theme song for the Sri Lanka Library Association.

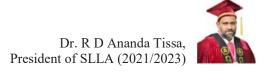
Encourage members and gather facts about opportunities to compose a song based on their creations. Submit those lyrics to veteran song writers and choose the most suitable song according to their instructions.

When comparing with other professionals, it is sad to say, we can see the following lethargic factors throughout our library professionals.

- 1. Since our current Library professional are holding many academic and professional qualifications still they cannot be competed with our past members who had limited qualifications.
- 2. The general situation of our professionals is freeze with their normal duties, not try to have any responsibilities than that.
- 3. Most of our professionals are becoming physically unable than others. Don't know the reason.
- 4. Their titles are Librarians, but having nothing about sufficient knowledge in indigenous or general

As library professionals, we can all overcome various challenges adhering the vision of "one for all and all for one". My dear fellow colleagues; I wish your almost positive suggestions to build up the profession with quality. I would like to end my speech by extending the hand of friendship to all of you who are honored today for the progress of the Association on behalf of all new Council appointed.

Thank you.



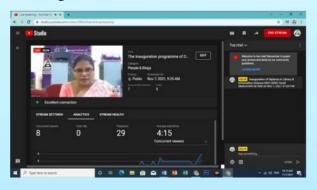
## **Inaugural Session of DLIS 2021/2022**



The inaugural ceremony of DLIS (Diploma in Library Science) 2021/2022 intake Sinhala and Tamil medium was held on 07<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021 online. DLIS is a prominent LIS Course which conducting by the Sri Lanka Library Association based on the 6 centers; Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Badulla, Jaffna, & Baticaloa. There were about 280 students participated. The session was graced by the President of the SLLA Dr. R D Ananda Tissa and nominated Council Members Dr. (Ms.) Premila Gamage, Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarchchi, Nominated Members of the

Executive Committee Dr. G R Padmasiri, Ms. Deepali Thalagala, Immediate Past President Dr. Ruwan Gamage, President Elect Mr. Preethi Liyanage, General Secretary Ms. Dilhani Munasinghe, and other council members.

The Keynote address delivered by Mr. Gamini Kumara Vithana, Famous Writer and Lecturer. The student who won the S C Block Memorial Award for HDIPLIS 2019/2020 (Sinhala medium) Ms. K H M S Pushpakumari has shared her learning experience with the new entrants.





At afternoon the Tamil medium's inaugural ceremony also was held though the ZOOM platform. The course structure and guidelines were explained by M N Ravikumar, Vice President and Center Coordinator Batticaloa and Mrs. T Sritharan, Immediate Past Publication Officer and Lecturer of Colombo Center. Also, the student who won the S C Block Memorial Award for DLS 2021 in Tamil medium Mrs. V. Suganiya has shared her learning experience with the new entrants.



# HDIPLIS Exam Holds Online

The HDIPLIS-I (Higher Diploma in Library and Information Sciences) examination of this year was held on 27th, 28th November and 04th December through online. More than 140 students were participated.

## **SLLA Center Coordinators**

Colombo : Mr. Jagath Wedasinghe (0718618120)

Kandy: Mrs. K P N. Dharmasiriwardena ()

Galle : Mrs. H K Padma ()

Badulla : Mr. T G G Padmasiri (0779502197)

Jaffna : Mr. S Shanmugathasan (0777589702)

Baticaloa : Mr. Prashanthan Bremadasan ()

### Any inquires about Education Matters, Please contact

Education Officer – Ms. K N Samanthi (0773399658)
Assistant Education Officer – Ms. P. Balasooriya (0718121903)
Distance Course Coordinator – Mr. Sugath Gunathilake (0716634469)
DLIS – Ms G. H. Sandali Malsha (0112589103)

HDIPLIS 1 - Ms Samodya Gunawardhana (0112589103)

HDIPLIS 2 - Ms Achini Wijewardhana (0112589103)

## **Collective Book Launch**







The 85<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Prof. Jayasiri Lanka and the 72<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of the late Senior Professor Piyadasa Ranasinghe were celebrated. Commemoration of these two scholars it was held a collective book launch on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021 at 3.00 pm onwards via ZOOM platform.

Six scholarly books written by several eminent scholars in the field of library and information science were launched under the auspices of the National Library and Documentation Services

Board of Sri Lanka. Two books (Library and Information Services Marketing & Resource Based Learning and Information Literacy - පුස්තකාල හා තොරතුරු සේවා අලෙවිකරණය" හා "සම්පත් පාදක ඉගෙනුම හා තොරතුරු සාක්ෂරතාව") written by veteran writer and translator Mr. Uditha Alahakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian, National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, another two books (Indexing and information retrieval and Library Classification Handbook - "අනුකුමණිකාකරණය සහ විඥාපන සමුද්ධරණය" හා "පුස්තකාල වර්ගීකරණ අත්පොත") written by Dr. RD Ananda Tissa, Senior Assistant Librarian, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medcine, a book (Index Theory and Practice- "සුවිකරණ නහය හා භාවිතය") written by Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasuriya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Sciences, University of Kelaniya and a book (Library Management - A New Approach - "පුස්තකාල කළමනාකරණය - නව පුවේශයක්") by Dr. Wathsala Athukorala, Senior Assistant Librarian, Sri Pali Campus, University of Colombo were launched.

Keynote speeches of the event delivered by Dr. Tudor Weerasinghe, Senior Lecturer at the Sripali Campus, University of Colombo, Dr. Wathmanel Seneviratne, Former Librarian, Open University of Sri Lanka, and Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Senior Lecturer at the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo. The occasion was graced by many LIS professionals and family member of Professor Ranasinghe.



(Mr. Uditha Alahakoon)



(Dr. R D Ananda Tissa)



(Dr. P Wanigasuriya)

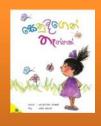


(Dr. W. Athukorala)

The launch of "Senudigen Thaggak" a story book written by Dr. (Mrs) K R N Harshani, Senior



Assistant Librarian in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was held on 02nd December 2021 at a special zoom session organized by the IBMC publishing from 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm. At this virtual session, Mr. P.G. Premadasa retired Senior Lecturer, National Institute of Library and Information Science (NILIS), University of Colombo delivered a special lecture on 'Importance of Big Books. It is an IBMC publication.



## Sustainable future and libraries: are we ready?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015, including more than 150 world leaders, as a universal call to action. There are 17 goals and 169 aims, further 224 targets which aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, and build strong institutions and partnerships ensuring that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The objective of the article is to highlight how Sri Lankan libraries can contribute in action to achieve SDGs.

### History

The United Nations (UN) Conference on the 'Human Environment' was authorized by the UN General Assembly in 1968. Although the idea came in 1968, General Assembly of the UN decided to convene a conference in 1972 at Stockholm to discuss the resolution. The major theme expressed as the idea that it was possible to combine economic growth with environmental protection as reported in the Brundtland report in 1987.

However, in the beginning of millennium, in 2000, world leaders wanted to shape a broad vision which was translated into Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and many countries in the world adopted the concept and work carried out to achieve those eight goals by about 2015. As the MDGs came to their deadlines in 2015 a new agenda emerged

at Sustainable Development Summit held in 2015, to transform the world to better meet human needs and the requirements of the economic transformations known as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (Maria & Chinemerem, 2019).

### Objectives of the SDGs

Achieving these 17 SDGs and the 169 targets will mean that "No one was left behind", but it will also reflect the progressive and cumulative engagement of countries, communities, sectors,

public and private organizations and citizens in this process. This will be accomplished by

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bringing together their respective governments, businesses, media, institutions of higher education, and local NGOs to improve the lives of the people in their country by the year 2030.

#### Sustainable Future and Sri Lanka

Countries have committed to prioritize progress for those who're furthest behind. As one of the member countries of the UN, the Government of Sri Lanka has undertaken several initiatives to facilitate its implementation in the country in 2015. These included:

- establishment of a dedicated ministry for sustainable development as the focal point for coordinating, facilitating and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs, which is Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development (MSDWRD);
- establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee for Sustainable Development to provide political leadership for the implementation of the SDGs; and enactment of the Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017 to provide the legal framework for implementing the SDGs. (Voluntary National Review, 2018,p.37)

The Ministry took several steps further, to engage with other line ministries and national and 335 sub-national stakeholders through awareness, consultation and capacity building training programmes during the 2015-2018 periods. In addition, the following steps have been taken to facilitate the involvement of public agencies in the SDGs implementation process in Sri Lanka:

- A strategy for public service delivery has been drafted covering several goals related to sustainable development.
- A draft handbook which maps SDGs implementation responsibilities of 425 statutory agencies, based on the mandates of these agencies, has been prepared.
- A 'Task Force for preparation of Vocational National Review' (VNR) was appointed from key government agencies to guide and assist the VNR process.
- Creating a council to promote this concept among Sri Lankans, consisting 10 staff members.
- Publication of SDGs indicators framework in three languages.

Currently, Sri Lanka is in 87th place among other countries on achievement of the SDGs (68.4%) and future endeavor is must for achieving 17 goals to develop the nation of the country. Each and every professional should be attended for that and how Librarians can be taken part on this important issue is examined.

#### **Sustainable future and Libraries**

Within this quest for local sustainable development, the Library and Information Services sector should be a keypartner and active contributor. Every single person who is in the field can do something to upward this concept. Libraries whether academic, school, public, national or special can perform the following functions and can contribute achieving sustainable goals through implementing services and playing different roles in this way;

## i) Information services:

A very important role of the library is to provide information sources which will help augment ideas collected from other sources. Information is an essential element in the communication process. Through information services a person is informed, he is equally being educated. With the advent of ICT, this role is facilitated, hence users can access information via the internet to update the knowledge and keep abreast of current trends. Through this service libraries can assist to achieve 17 goals specially 1,3,4 and 12 goals.

#### ii) Educational role:

Inclusive, equitable and relevant quality education is ensured, while promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all; is the most related goal out of 17 to the university libraries. Libraries ensure lifelong education by providing various information resources. Libraries can support the school curriculum; expanding resources to support teaching and learning, further, by providing supplementary textbooks, reference materials and even non-print materials. According to Ejimkonye, Nwoguand and Obiagwu (2005) the library performs its educational role at four levels: formal, informal, non-formal and propaganda. At the formal level, the academic library identifies itself with the goals and objectives of its parent institution by providing curriculum-oriented materials. At the informal level, the public library allows users to read whatever materials they want to read and these materials contain educational value. The non-formal level is directed to those who are not reading for an examination but who want to improve on their different trades like carpentry, mechanics, electricity among others. At the propaganda level, libraries are used for propagate ideas, information and point of view. They can be veritable agents for dissemination of beliefs, doctrines and practices.

#### iii) Research role:

The research which is an inquiry to discover existing knowledge for the building of theory and solving society problems is an essential activity in the library. The library organizes and presents information, materials, such as teaching material, digital and non-digital, in traditional and emerging forms, thus saving the researchers' time in retrieving information.

They also provide publications of previous research findings for subsequent references by the other researchers. Further, librarians can help research activities conduct in 17 areas to understand inequalities in the society by improving education developing curriculum, launching surveys, case studies.

#### iv) Cultural services:

The library is the chief center for cultural revival. It is the center of all cultural activation because it actively promotes participation and appreciation of arts literature which is part of cultural heritage is one of the areas stock materials highlight.

#### v) Self-development:

People can develop themselves by going to the library for independent studies. Individualized instruction can take place in the library without help of any teacher yet this ensures expansion of knowledge. Promoting literacy for self-development can be done any type of libraries. Information literacy is the ability to define one's information needs and then to access, process, evaluate and use information for decision-making, learning and problem-solving. It is a tool for life-long learning in the networked environment. The objectives of information literacy include: knowing how to locate and access information, knowing how to understand and use information. It assists with literacy development and promotes the concept of reading as a pleasurable, voluntary activity, which contributes to an individual's quality of life (Goal 10).

#### vi) Access to knowledge:

Libraries pool resources together for the maximum accessibility and usability by the potential users. Information is power and information brings knowledge and can improve offering advice for professional development and improvement of knowledge for appropriate learning. Hence the library helps its patrons to access such information and knowledge with ease.

### vii) Recreational role:

Users can read in the library at leisure for pleasure. Libraries provide various information media (print and non-print) that are used for recreational activities. Libraries can promote in addition love of reading and learning.

#### viii) Promotional activities:

In addition to that, librarians can contribute to publicize the concept of SDGs by conducting awareness sessions like IFLA and ALA are active in raising awareness of SDGs ideas of current users. The main importance is that creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society are necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context. Therefore awareness is must by the all categories of people in the country.

Sri Lankan librarians also can raise SDGs ideas of the public through story telling sessions, as information sharing is emphasized by the goal- 5, through the concept of equal access. The concept can be made aware through different sessions with general public such as sessions of exchanging seeds for gardening, production of reusable bags which shows symbol of SDGs. Further by communicating literacy skill sessions, creating websites and arranging webinars to educate, organizing annual conferences, training sessions etc.

### References

Maria, N.N. & Agim Nneka Chinemerem (2019). Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for achieving sustainable development goals: the role of libraries, International Journal of Library and Information Science Studies v.5 (2), pp. 30-35, June, Retrieved from file:///C:/Users/Job%2012496/Documents/sustainabledev/goal4.pdf

Voluntary National Review on the status of implementing sustainable development goals (2018). Rajagiriya: Ministry of Sustainable development Goals, Wildlife and Regional Development.

Mrs. Damayanthi Gunasekera (Mphil, FLA, Coordinator-ISU) Senior Assistant Librarian Main Library The Open University of Sri Lanka hpsgun@ou.ac.lk





## **ACHIVEMENTS**



Mr. M. N. Ravikumar has developed a database using MySQL and designed a user friendly web portal using Java Scripts, PHP and HTML to search and display the results of the candidates using their NIC number. The system is implemented with the support of Dr. (Ms) Champa N K Alahakoon , Education Officer of SLLA.



## Chair of South Asia Chapter - ASIS&T

Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Senior Lecturer in Library and Information Science at the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo elected as the Chair of the South Asia Chapter of ASIS&T (2021/2022) (<a href="https://www.asist.org/chapters/saasist/officers/">https://www.asist.org/chapters/saasist/officers/</a>). He is the Immediate Past President of the Sri Lanka Library Association and a prominent icon of LIS professional in Sri Lanka. We wish him an all the success!



## Obtained PhD

Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Senior Assistant Librarian, Main Library, University of Peradeniya obtained a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science. Dr. Gunasekara is a Fellow member of SLLA and review panel member of Sri Lanka Library Review. We wish her an all the success!.

#### **ULA NEW HOUSE BARERERS FOR YEAR 2021/2022**







39th Annual General Meeting of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka (ULA) was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2021 at 10.00 a.m. onwards via online mode and elected the new executive committee for year 2021/2022. Dr. W.J.Jeyaraj, The Librarian of Eastern University of Sri Lanka was elected as the President of ULA and Dr. Kalpana Chandrasekar, Acting Librarian, Jaffna University and Mrs. U.D.Hiruni Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University were elected as General Secretary, Treasurer as the key positions of the ULA.

## **SLLA Meets SDC DG**



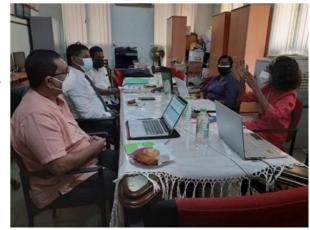
The Council for Sustainable Development has announced an institution in Sri Lanka to achieve the relevant Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-2030. However, the Council has not been yet considered any active library in Sri Lanka for the above evaluation process. Therefore, the Sri Lanka Library Association requested the Council to consider the evaluation of libraries in Sri Lanka as well. A preliminary discussion in this regard was held between the Director General of the Council, Ms. Camindry Saparmadu and the representatives of our Association (Dr. R D

Ananda Tissa, President, Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Immediate Past President, Dr. (Ms) Pramila Gamage, Nominated Council Member, Mr. W. Sunil, Director General, National Library and Documentation

Services Board & Mrs. Varuni Gangabagaarachchi, Chief Librarian, Colombo Public Library) on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in Rajagiriya SDC Office.

The meeting was a great success and the SDC Council recognized the need for an action plan in the field of libraries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sri Lanka Library Association appointed a SDG Committee at its 3rd council meeting which held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 to prepare the relevant Action Plan since the committee had been worked on it for several months. Dr. (Ms) Pramila Gamage was appointed as



the Convener of the SDG Committee. The committee has so far conducted 3 and the first was held on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, the 2nd on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 and the 3rd on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 at the SLLA Auditorium. Presentation of its final draft to the Board Members and Committee Members was held as a one day workshop on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022 at the Colombo Public Library Auditorium.















## **Training Workshops**







2 days Training Session for SLLA staff members was conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at the conference room of SLLA. Dr. SK Illangarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian, Technology Faculty Library, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka conducted the session as the resource person and all SLLA staff members and council members were participated the session. The session was mainly focused to get aware office staff about the using some applications available in MS 365 and modern IT tools and techniques.

## NatLib Book Donation to UPs



National Library and Documentation Services Board of Sri Lanka was donated some reading books to Dr. Palitha Bandara Subasinghe, a civil activator who support to the Under Privilege School Libraries in Uva Province. The parcel of books was handover by Dr. RD Ananda Tissa, President & Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe, General Secretary of SLLA to Dr. Subasinghe on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 on behalf of the National Library. Mr. Preethi Liyanage, President Elect of SLLA was coordinated the event.

## Sankathana Online Public Lecture Series



## Sankathaka Lecture - 2

**Topic:** The role of the Libraries in the acquisition

og indigenous Knowledge

**Time:** 27<sup>th</sup>, Nov, 2021 08:00 PM Colombo

Resource Person: Mr. Thimbiriyagama Bandara,

**Journalist** 



#### Sankathaka Lecture - 1

**Topic:** A discern dialogue on audio media Libraries in Sri

**Time:** 27<sup>th</sup>, Nov, 2021 08:00 PM Colombo

Resource Person: Ms Subashini De Silva, Librarian &

Presenter, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation



#### Sankathaka Lecture - 3

**Topic:** Role of Libraries in controlling the spread of social infected diseases through the better

information management

**Time:** 7<sup>th</sup>, Jan, 2022 08:00 PM Colombo **Resource Person:** Dr. Ajith Karawita

## 74th Independence Day Commemorates



Calibration on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day of Sri Lanka, the public lecture was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 via Zoom platform. A book written by Mr. Piyasiri Matarage, a State Literary Award winning author, Sri Lanka as a playground of imperialist princes (අධිරාජන කුමාරවරුන්ගේ ලංකාව නම් වූ කෙළිබිම) was reviewed by Prof. Jayantha Jayasiri, Professor of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Sri Jayewardenepura & Dr. RD Ananda Tissa, President of



SLLA. This program was jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association and the Homagama Bandaranaike Public Library as the 4<sup>th</sup> lecture in a series of Sankathana lectures on the Sri Lanka Library Association. The program was organized with the advice of the Secretary of the Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha Mr. Sampath Chaminda Jayasinghe, the Secretary Mrs. Kumuni Goonetileke and the Community Development Officer Mr. Lalith Nanayakkara.

## Renewal of SLLA Membership - 2022

Renewal of your membership is necessary to continue being part of SLLA. Also, it will help you to retain access to the numerous benefits currently being offered, and to be introduced in the future. Therefore, please renew your membership for the year 2022 before 31st March 2022. For more details please contact SLLA Office.

## Biographies of SLLA Fellowship Awardees - 2021

#### Mrs. G.W.J.L.M.V. Thushari Manohari Seneviratne

Mrs. Thushari Manohari Senevirate is the Senior Assistant Librarian attached to the newly established

Research Support Services Division of Library, University of Moratuwa.

She graduated from University of Kelaniya in 1998 with a B.Sc. (Special) Degree in Zoology Second Class (Upper Division) winning Gold Medal for the best performance in Zoology. She completed Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management in Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa through a ADB Scholarship in 2000. She successfully completed the Masters in Library and Information Science at University of Colombo in 2003.

She was appointed as an Assistant Librarian on 15th February, 2000 and promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade II) in 2005 and



Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade I) in 2011. She has been working in various divisions of Library, University of Moratuwa and her immense contributions in establishing the User Education Unit and Community Outreach Services are well recognized by the library.

She had been a Visiting Lecturer in National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo from 2004 to 2008. She had also been a research supervisor and an examiner of dissertations.

She has held many positions such as Editor and General Secretary of University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka during 2017-2018 and 2008-2009 respectively. She held the posts of Assistant Secretary cum Assistant Treasurer of University of Moratuwa Teachers' Association from 2001to 2005.

She became a member of Sri Lanka Library Association in 2005 and obtained Associateship in 2015. She has contributed her expertise with a commitment in different capacities for SLLA. She has served as a member of Publication Committee from 2015 to 2018. Further, she was a member of NACLIS Group during 2016-2017 and 2019-2020.

She has over 30 research publications to her credit with 65 citations. She has also won Presidential Award for Scientific Research in 2010.

#### Ms Priyani Balasooriya

Ms. Priyani Balasooriya is the Chief Librarian of Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). She has obtained her Bachelor degree in Arts in 2004 and Master degree in LIS in 2015 from the University of Kelaniya. She completed Diploma in Management in 2004 from the Open University of Sri Lanka. Further to that, she completed The Final Examination in LIS in 1997 from SLLA. Also she was conferred Associateship in 1988 from SLLA. Now she is a chartered Librarian. She has 26 years professional experience in Government libraries, Advanced Technical College libraries, School and Special libraries.

Also, she was attached to Sri Lanka Teachers Service during the period from 2005 to 2015. She has taught Communication and Media Study Subject. She has obtained Post Graduate Diploma in Education from



the University of Peradeniya in 2012. She has published more than 10 research papers in National and International Journals as well as conferences. Also, she has published scholarly articles in Newspapers, Magazines and Newsletters.

In 1999 she was selected to the DANIDA Travel grant program of International Federation of Library Association and she has participated several local and international workshops, conferences and training programs. In addition to above, she has been invited to many training workshops by the National Library, Public Libraries and a number of Zonal Education offices to enhance the library & information science knowledge of School Librarians. She worked as an observation officer of library grading project of the Sri Lanka National Library.

Also, Ms. Priyani Balasooriya has held various positions in SLLA Council as Convener of School Library Group in 2009/2010, 2010/2011, Assistant Education Officer in 2011/2012, Information and Public Relation Officer in 2018/2019 and Assistant Education Officer in 2019/2021.

Currently, she is serving as Assistant Education Officer of the Sri Lanka Library Association, Executive Committee member of Library and Information Science Alumni Association of University of Kelaniya, Council Member of Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL) and Management Committee member of the V-turn Sri Lanka. Also, she is a Life Member of the Organization of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA).

### Dr. S.K. Illangarathne

**Dr. S.K. Illangarathne** is an International Cooperation Committee member of International Engineering and Technology Institute, Hong Kong and the Senior Assistant Librarian of Technology Library, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

He received his Ph.D. from the Wuhan University of Technology, P.R.China in 2017 under the Chinese Government Scholarship. His Ph.D. Research topic was "Multi-Criteria Evaluation System for University Library's Performance in Sri Lanka". Further to that, he has obtained his Master degree in LIS from the University of Kelaniya in 2010. He has 21 years professional experiences in both Public and University libraries.



He has published more than 20 research papers at National and International Journals as well as conferences and he has published few Sinhala books for Computer Graphic Design. His most interested research areas are Library Ranking, User Needs and Green Library Initiatives. Nevertheless he is very good at Social Media and administrated several LIS related Facebook Groups, pages and YouTube Channels.

He has participated several local and international workshops, conferences and training programs. As well as, he has invited for many training workshops by the local government authorities to enhance the library & information science knowledge of Public and School Librarians throughout the modern technologies.

Also, Dr. Illangarathne was the Chief Editor of Journal of University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka (2019/2020), General Secretary of University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (2020/2021), Information and Public Relation Officer of Sri Lanka Library Association (2020/2021) and currently serves as Publication Officer of Sri Lanka Library Association (2021/2022).

#### Mr. T. Ramanan

**Thankavadivel Ramanan** is, at present, serving as a Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade 1) at Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo (Sri Lanka) since December 2020.

He graduated in Agriculture (Hon.) from the Eastern University, Sri Lanka in 2002, and secured second class (upper division). He started his career path as an Assistant Lecturer in the year 2003 at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture of the same university. Having followed a diploma in Library & Information Science conducted by the Sri Lanka Library Association, he was intrigued by the library profession, and joined the Library of Eastern University in November 2004.



He finished his research in Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo in 2010, and was promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade 2). He has been engaged in conducting lectures for both graduate and diploma students who follow library and information science, for the past ten years. He was offered an Indian Fellowship in 2011 in modern library practices.

He received a short-term training on data curation in Ha Noi, Vietnam in 2014, which was organized by Special Libraries Association (SLA). He was given with IATUL and BI International Grants to present and discuss his work in indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage at IATUL 2015 in Hannover, Germany. He convened a national conference of Sri Lanka Library Association in 2016 (NACLIS). He had coordinated a UNESCO programme in 2017 to establish gender corners in Eastern University's main library and the Public Library of Batticaloa.

With over 40 publications in international journals and national and international conferences, he extended his services as the chief editor of Journal of University Librarians' Association, Sri Lanka (2015/16). He holds a charted librarianship from Sri Lanka Library Association.

### Mrs. A.K. Upeksha Nishanthi Kodithuwakku

Mrs. Upeksha Nishanthi Kodithuwakku is the Senior Assistant Librarian of the Reader Services Division & Outreach Services Division of Library, University of Moratuwa.

She graduated from the University of Peradeniya in 2008 with a B.A (Special) Degree in Archaeology with a Second Class Upper Division. She obtained MSSc in Library and Information Science from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya in 2015 and she also holds a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) offered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo.



Before joining the University of Moratuwa, she served as an Assistant Librarian at the National Library and Documentation Services Board and Assistant Registrar at the University of Vocational Technology, Rathmalana. She joined the University of Moratuwa on the 23rd of May 2013 and was promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian- Grade 11 in the year 2018. She has contributed her knowledge in collection development and user satisfaction while working under several arms of the Library and supports the research culture of the faculties through conducting user awareness programs. She has been involved in library staff training activities in-house and outside communities.

Mrs. Kodithuwakku served as a Visiting Lecturer for the Organization of Information-Classification module conducted in English medium at Sri Lanka Library Association during the year 2017. From the year 2018 onwards she is serving as a committee member in COMASP Special Committees on Prison Library Development and Library Architecture.

She is a member of University Librarians' Association, University of Moratuwa Teachers' Association, Royal Asiatic Society. Archaeological Society and IBBY of Sri Lanka. Since 2018, she serves as a pre-academic term committee member at the University of Moratuwa and currently represents the library as a faculty board member of the Faculty of Business. Mrs. Kodithuwakku became a member of the Sri Lanka Library Association in 2011 after completing Diploma in Library and Information Science and course on Library Automation (COLA) from SLLA and obtained Associateship in 2013. She has presented her research output in journals, conference papers focusing on information literacy, information seeking behavior, bibliometric studies and outreach activities and engages in literary communication activities.

## Sri Lanka Technological Campus Library

The library of Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC) plays a vital role in fulfilling the information requirements of students, faculty staff, researchers, and the administrative staff of SLTC. The mission of the library is "To provide high-



quality scholarly information resources, responsive user services, and a user-friendly environment for information access to faculty, students, and staff of the SLTC in supporting their teaching, learning, and research activities." SLTC library, which is fully computerized is used KOHA integrated library software as its Library Management System.

The library consists of a large collection of print books and a collection of eBooks recommended by the faculty of SLTC and also a collection of reading materials for pleasure. The key collections of the library are the lending collection, reference

collection, permanent reference collection, periodical collection, past examination papers, a collection of fiction, and digital collection. The CD/DVD collection of the library consists of popular IELTS resources and other subject-related CDs and DVDs. The present seating capacity of the library is over 200 which includes many discussion cubicles.

The DSpace is the institutional repository managed by the library of SLTC which collects, maintains, and disseminates

the scholarly output of the SLTC. This service allows members of the SLTC to share research with the wider community. The SLTC library currently subscribes to IEEE Xplore published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and ACM Digital Library, the Full-Text Collection of all ACM publications, including journals, conference proceedings, technical magazines, newsletters, and books. The books are cataloged and classified according to AACR2 and DDC respectively, for easy retrieval of material. Before the situation of the pandemic, users were able to access the print library resources on a 24/7 basis.



The users are facilitated to self-check-in and check-

out of the library's print collection using the self-check-in and check-out machine (Library RFID System) located in the library. To provide equal opportunities for all library users, the library offers services for people who have physical disabilities such as visual impairments. Other library services include inquiry service and search/research assistance, reference interviews, online document delivery service, selective dissemination of content page (SDI Service), current awareness services (CAS), orientation programs for undergraduate and postgraduate students, conference alert service, interlibrary loan service, outreach services, organizing international and national webinars on related disciplines and new arrival display, etc. Professionally qualified library staff is always available to fulfill the information requirements of the students and staff of SLTC.



In 2021, the SLTC Library organized its maiden virtual International Conference on Library and Information Science, which was the first-ever LIS International Conference organized by a non-state university in Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Department on Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, the National Science Library and Resource Centre (NSLRC) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka and the Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS), University of Kerala, India. The theme of the conference was "Challenges of Library and Information Science Profession in New Normal Context". The SLTC library is planning to continue

it this year also and planning to invite the library professional and all the others interested to be a part of it.

The library can be contacted through librarian@sltc.ac.lk,

#### Call for Application - Ms. Vijita de Silva Research Award 2022

Applications are hereby invited for the 2021/22 'Ms. Vijita De Silva Research Award' of the Sri Lanka Library Association, the annual research award for the best-completed research and development project in the Library and Information Science field or an allied field in Sri Lanka. The award comprises a cash grant of Rs 50,000. 00 and a certificate. In the event the award is given to two projects, the cash grant will be equally distributed.

Closing date 20th April 2022.



#### **Submission Link**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1b\_eModMg6GiOBmTxqolwhttps://docs.google.com/forms/d/

## Call for News items- SLLA Newsletter

The publication committee of SLLA invites its members to submit news items to be published in the forthcoming SLLA Newsletter Vol.38, Iss 03 (Apr-Jun 2022). Deadline for submitting news items on or before **15th June 2022**.

Please submit your news items and relevant photographs to Publication Officer, SLLA via

publicationofficer@slla.lk

## **Professional Groups and Committees of SLLA**

	Education Committee		Information & Public Relations Committee
1.	Ms K N Samanthi - Education Officer	1.	Mrs. M.K. G. Yanika Nandasena – Convener
2.	Mrs B P Balasooriya - Assistant Education Officer	2.	Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa - Member
	•		
3.	Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa - Member	3.	Mr. Preethi Liyanage - Member
4.	Mr. Preethi Liyanage - Member	4.	Dr. S. K. Ilangarathana- Member
5.	Dr. Champa Alahakoon - Member	5.	Mrs. M.P.P Dilhani - Member
6.	Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe - Member	6.	Mr. Norman Ravikumar - Member
7.	Mrs. T. Sritharan – Member	7.	Mrs. T. M. C. Hansamali -Member
8.	Mrs. Upeksha N. Kodithuwakku- Member		Subcommittee (Media & Publicity)
		8.	Mrs. Ranjanie Aluthge Herath – Librarian, SLRC
		9.	Mrs. A. L. G. Rasika Nelanthi – Librarian, Lake House
			Mr. Priyantha Godakanda – Librarian, ITN
		11.	Mrs. H. Subhashini – Librarian, Radio Ceylon
	<b>Publication Committee</b>		Office Management & Finance Committee
1.	Dr. S.K Illangarathne-Convener	1.	Mrs. MPP Dilhani– Convener
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3.	Dr. Manjula Wijewikrama -Member	3.	Mr. Preethi Liyanage - Member
4.	Mrs. T. Sritharan - Member	4.	Mr K G S Gunathilake - Member
5.	Mrs. Thushari Senevirathne - Member		
6.	Mrs. Geethani Attanayake - Member		
7.	Mrs. L.G.C.N. Wadasinghe- Member		
8.	Mr. M.S.M. Shiham- Member		
9.	Ms. Manori Samarakoon- Member		
	Public Libraries		Academic Libraries
1.	Mrs. Pavithra M. Wijayawardane – Convener	1.	Mrs. Hiruni Kanchana -Convenor
2.	Ms. S.C.P. Samarathunga -Member	2.	Mr. Norman Ravikumar -Member
3.	Mr.N.H.C.P. Gunasena-Member	3.	Mr. T Ramanan -Member
4.	Mr. K.M. Nishath - Member	4.	Dr. Kumari Kulathunga - Member
5.	Ms. H.K.Pathma Kodippili - Member	5.	Ms. MP Rajapaksha- Member
6.	Ms. H.N.P. Perera -Member	6.	Ms. Shyamali Malkanthi - Member
7.	Ms. H.G.M.Aravindi Gajanayake -Member	7.	Ms. Muditha Ankumbura -Member
		8.	Ms. Palika Vithana - Member
		9.	Ms. MPM Kanchana De Silva- Member
	NACLIS Group/ LIS Research		Government Libraries
1.	Dr. Tharanga Ranasingha – Convener	1.	Mrs. W.N Rasanjali – Convener
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3.	Dr. U. P. Cabral - Member	3.	Mr. Jagath Wedasingha- Member
4.	Mrs. N.S Rathnabahu-Member	4.	Mrs. H.M.Buddi Maheka - Member
5.	Mr. I.D. Kusala Lakmal Fernando-Member	5.	Mrs. F.R.A.Jefry - Member
6.	Ms. T.M.C. Hansamali- Member	6.	Mr. M. Rumaiz - Member
7.	Mrs Thivya Janen- Member		
	Special Libraries		School Libraries
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3.	Mr. Travin Bastian - Member	3.	MsS.D.Indima Udayangani - Member
4.	Ms. W.R.A.C.M. Ranasinghe -Member	4.	Ms.Geetha David - Member
5.	Ms. W.K.V Jayatissa-Member	5.	Ms.Chandani Senerath - Member
1		6.	Ms.Harshani Boteju - Member
	A1	7.	Ms.Sandya Prasadani - Member
	COMAISP		
1.	Mr.S.Santharooban -Convener		
2.	Dr.R.D.Ananda Tissa - Member		
3.	Dr.Ruwan Gamage - Member		
4.	Mr.Preethi Liyanage - Member		
5.	Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe -Member		
6.	Mr.M.N.Ravikumar- Member		

## **SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

## **SELECTED ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - 2021/2022**

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- SLLA Newsletter -



## **Sri Lanka Library Association**

Organization of Professional Associations Sri Lanka Professional Centre 275/75, Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 07. Sri Lanka

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