

### **Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA)**

Sri Lanka Library Association is the professional forum of the Library and Information Science professionals in Sri Lanka. Formed in 1960, it celebrated the golden jubilee in 2010. SLLA is a member of the International Federation of South Asian Library Association (REFSALA) and Organization of Professional Associations (OPA) in Sri Lanka. It held the chairmanship of REFSALA from 2010 to 2013. SLLA has been very active in promoting research in the LIS field through its journal 'Sri Lanka Library Review' and the annual research conference 'International Conference on Library and Information Science' (ICLIS) among a number of other activities. Vijita de Silva Annual Research Award is the latest project of the SLLA in promoting research in the LIS field.



# **Sri Lanka Library Association**

## **Vijita de Silva Research Award**

**in**

## **Library & Information Science**

**2024/2025**

**Sri Lanka Library Association, OPA Centre,  
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## **Vijita de Silva Research Award 2024 / 2025 in Library & Information Science**

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) is pleased to announce the **‘Vijita de Silva Research Award’**, the annual research award for the best completed research in Library and Information Science (LIS) 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 researches, each will receive Rs 25,000.00 and a certificate.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- 1. Research paper / work eligible for consideration should be on Sri Lankan Library and Information Science field and carried out by LIS Professional /s or Professional/s from a related field (e.g. IT, Archival & Document Management, Education, Media) in an area related to the LIS field;**
- 2. The research should have a positive impact on improving or modernizing the Sri Lankan LIS field or to deliver a better service to the end user;**
- 3. The term ‘research’ is used in a wider context to cover every aspect of the LIS field including introduction of new and smart services, new service delivery methods, designing smart library buildings and library furniture, new ways of using ICT in LIS sector, redesigning of library interior / Library Common for better services, improving LIS education etc.;**
- 4. Research work submitted as theses or dissertations for a higher degree or for a professional qualification or text book/ monograph will not be considered for the award;**
- 5. A research already completely or substantially funded by some other organization is not eligible;**
- 6. The research should have been completed within two years of the closing date of application;**

### **Application Procedure**

The ‘Vijita de Silva Research Award Application Form’ can be downloaded from the SLLA website or obtained from the Administrative Secretary, SLLA by forwarding a self-addressed stamped envelope. The duly completed application together with the processing fee of **Rs. 1,500.00** by way of a cheque made in favour Sri Lanka Library Association (Crossed A/C payee only), with two copies of the research work should be forwarded to the Administrative Secretary, SLLA on or before 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

### **Objectives of the Award**

The objectives of the award are to encourage SLLA members and other LIS professionals in Sri Lanka to undertake research in the LIS field, to recognize outstanding research, meritorious contributions and new initiatives in the local LIS field, to promote modernization of libraries and information services in Sri Lanka, to assist in the cultivation of a quality research culture in the LIS field and to assist in building an exemplary Library and Information Service in the country.

### **Ms. Vijita de Silva**

Ms. Vijita Bianca de Silva was a founder member of the Ceylon Library Association. She served as the Treasurer of the first Council and later as the Assistant Education Officer. In addition to being an active member of the Association, she also served in the teaching panel, assisting to promote the education programmes of the Association. Ms. Vijita de Silva was the Librarian of the Department of National Museums (1968-1974), the de facto National Library of the Country at the time. She was instrumental in compiling the much sought after ‘Ceylon Periodical Directory’ in 1971. Later she joined United Nations and served in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. After retirement from the UN, she served in the Ministry of Planning as a Consultant. She was the Guest of Honour at the SLLA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Western Province Regional Seminar held at ITI in August 2010 and later she was honored at the SLLA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Conference held in October 2010, with the participation of the then IFLA President, Dr. (Ms.) Ellen Tise.