



Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA)

NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Bulletin of the Sri Lanka Library Association

Vol 40, Issue II (October-December-2023)

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1. SLA Education Programme

During the final quarter of the year 2023 (October - December), the Sri Lanka Library Association organized a series of academic activities comprising new courses, review lectures, and examinations. These activities were carried out in multiple phases.

As part of the academic activities, the Sri Lanka Library Association organized the review conference for the Library Science Diploma Course (DLIS - 2023/23) on 29th October. The conference took place at various locations including the Colombo, Galle, and Kandy centres, as well as in the Colombo Public Library. For students pursuing distance courses, the conference was held at the Jaffna and Batticaloa centres. Additionally, on 04th November, the conference was conducted at the Badulla centre with the participation of the Educational Officer. Concurrently, the launch of the Higher Diploma in Library Science (HDPLIS II - 2023/25) also took place on the same day.



The examination for the Diploma in Library Science (DLIS - 2022/23) course was conducted on 19th and 26th November at all study centers. Furthermore, the review conference for the second phase of the Higher Diploma in Library Science (HDIPLIS II - 2022/23) took place on 10th December. The conference was held at the Colombo and Kandy centers, while for students pursuing distance courses, it was conducted in the Colombo Public Library, as well as the Jaffna and Batticaloa centers. Examinations for this phase were scheduled on the 23rd and 30th of December.



The interview process for the admission of students for the Diploma in Library Science (DLIS - 2023/24) course took place on 17th December across all study centers. The interviews were conducted under the supervision of Mrs. Priyani Balasooriya, the Education Officer of the Sri Lanka Library Association.



2. Collaborations of SLLA with other institutions and Organizations

IFLA Section - Management of Library Associations

The MLAS has created a Facebook Page. MLAS uses it to publish news from the Standing Committee and share projects, views, and best practices on behalf of the MLAS. Do follow us on IFLA Section - Management of Library Associations.

This group is existing as an open forum run by the section, here you can easily share what you feel is important for library advocacy and development.

For more information contact: the SLLA representative at MLAS: d.talagala@gmail.com

3. The Information and Public Relations Committee: Events

3.1

The IPRO organized an user awareness program for the LIS Students, staff, and the general public on the topic of “සබුද්ධික සමාජයක් උදෙසා සන්නිවේදනය”.

The invited resource person for this programme was Mr. Jayalath Balasooriya, Former Journalist. This programme was held on 15th November 2023 from 8.00 PM to 9.00 PM. The purpose of this programme was to convey the knowledge and communication skills development among the LIS students, librarians, and library staff. The recorded program was uploaded to the SLLA LK YouTube channel for viewers.

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Sri Lanka Library Association

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2023 නොවැම්බර් මස 15 වන දින
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මුද්‍රිත හා විද්‍යුත් මාධ්‍ය සන්නිවේදන (විද්‍යුත්) සන්නිවේදන සන්නිවේදන සන්නිවේදන පුහුණුකරු

Meeting Link: <https://shorturl.at/bxzl>
Meeting ID: 813 8860 9568
passcode: 161532

SCAN ME

සංවිධානය
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3.2

The IPRO Organized a user awareness program for the LIS Students, staff, and all the librarians with the topic of “පුස්තකාල තොග සමීක්ෂණය හා පොත් අපහරණය”. The invited resource person for this programme is Mr. Jagath Wedasinghe, Chartered Librarian, Saripuththa National College of Education. This programme was held on 16th October 2023 from 08.00 PM to 09.00 PM. The main purpose of this programme was to convey knowledge about the Annual Library Stock Verification and how to manage the library collection with LIS rules among the LIS students, librarians, and library staff. More than 100 participants joined this program with the Zoom platform. Also, the recorded program was uploaded to the SLLA LK YouTube channel for viewers.

Sri Lanka Library Association
Special Lecture Series - 01

පුස්තකාල තොග සමීක්ෂණය හා පොත් අපහරණය

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Zoom තාක්ෂණය මඟින්

Meeting Link: <https://shorturl.at/hrvE4>
Meeting ID : 863 8660 6530
Meeting Passcode: 111602

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<https://www.facebook.com/slla.lk>
<https://www.slla.lk>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/sllaik>

මෙහෙයවීම
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3.3

The IPRO Organized a user awareness program for the LIS Student, staff, librarians & the medical faculty of Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM). The topic of the programme is “Health and Medical Literature Searching .”The invited resource person for this programme is Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM). This programme was held on 18th October 2023 at 10.00AM to 11.30 AM. The purpose of this programme was to convey knowledge about how to find medical literature for medical research and how to find literature for research and other academic purposes. More than 50 participants joined this program with the Zoom platform. Also, the recorded program was uploaded to the SLLA LK YouTube channel for viewers.

Sri Lanka Library Association Special Lecture Series - 02

Health & Medical Literature Searching

18th October 2023 @ 10.00 AM - 11.30 AM

Speaker
Mrs.M.P.P.Dilhani
 Senior Assistant Librarian
 Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM)
 University of Colombo

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Join via

Meeting Link: <https://shorturl.at/admtU>
 Meeting ID : 895 6153 0883
 Meeting Passcode: 813761

Organized by:
 Information & Public Relation Committee
 Sri Lanka Library Association

<https://www.facebook.com/slla.lk>
<https://www.slla.lk>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/sllalk>

3.4

ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල සංගමයේ
 ආරම්භය හා විකාශනය

විශේෂ දේශනය

2023 දෙසැම්බර් මස 12 වෙනි අඟහරුවොදා
 රාත්‍රී 08 සිට 09. 30 දක්වා

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 ආචාර්ය ආර්. ඩී. ආනන්ද තිස්ස
 ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ සහකාර පුස්තකාලාධිපති
 ගම්පහ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලීය වෛද්‍ය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

Meeting Link: <https://shorturl.at/amBQ6>
 Meeting ID: 857 0235 3788
 Passcode: 436958

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තොරතුරු හා මහජන සම්බන්ධතා කමිටුව
 ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල සංගමය

The IPRO Organized a user awareness program for the LIS Students, staff, & all the librarians. The topic of the programme is “ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල සංගමයේ ආරම්භය හා විකාශනය .”The invited resource person for this programme is Dr. R. D. Ananda Tissa, Senior Assistant Librarian, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine. This special programme was held on 12th December 2023 from 08.00 PM to 09.30 PM via Zoom platform. The main purpose of this programme was to convey knowledge and information regarding the Sri Lanka Library Association Inception and evolution to the SLLA students, staff, and librarians. More than 100 participants joined this program with the Zoom platform. Also, the recorded program was uploaded to the SLLA LK YouTube channel for viewers.

3.5

The IPRO Organized a user awareness program for the LIS Students, staff, & all the librarians and general public. The topic of the programme is “ජලාස්ථික් ,සෞඛ්‍යය හා පරිසරය ”. The invited resource person for this programme is Mrs. Sarojini Jayasekara, Director of, the Solid Waste Management Unit, Central Environmental Authority. This special programme was held on 15th January 2024 from 08.00 PM to 09.30 PM via Zoom platform. The purpose of this programme was to convey knowledge and information regarding the negative impact of the use of plastic and polythene and its harmful effects on human lives. More than 100 participants joined this program with the Zoom platform. Also, the recorded program was uploaded to the SLLA LK YouTube channel for viewers.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ
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 ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ
 කේන්ද්‍රීය පරිසර සුරැකුම්පාලන ආයතනය

Meeting Link : <https://shorturl.at/fxFW0>
 Meeting ID: 845 6420 6038
 Passcode: 115915

4. Libraries: Workshops, Training programmes & Outreach activities

4.1 Public Libraries

4.1.1 Colombo Public Library



Colombo Public Library has secured second place in the completion held to mark the National Reading Month 2023 among municipal libraries of Sri Lanka. This was awarded at the function held at the National Library and Documentation Services Board on 21st December 2023. The First Place is awarded to Senarath Paranavithana Public Library Badulla.

4.2 School Libraries

ඩබ්. ඒ. ජේ. කොලලා රත්නසේකර මහත්මිය පාසල් පුස්තකාල කමිටු කැඳවුම්කරු විසිනි.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල සංගමයේ පාසල් පුස්තකාල කමිටුව ජාතික අධ්‍යාපන ආයතනය හා එක්ව පැවති පාසල් පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් ගුරු පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් සඳහා වූ පුහුණු වැඩමුලුව 2023 නොවැම්බර් මස 24 සහ 25 දෙදින තුළ පැවැත්විණි. ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල සංගමයේ සභාපති ශ්‍රී ලියනගේ මහතා තේරී පත්වූ සභාපති සුගත් ලියනගේ මහතා පාසල් පුස්තකාල කමිටු කැඳවුම්කරු ඩබ්. ඒ. ජේ. කොලලා රත්නසේකර මහත්මිය ඇතුළු කමිටු සමාජික සමාජිකාවන් සියලු දෙනා මේ අවස්ථාවට සහභාගී විය.

ஏறத்தாழ ஆறு வருடங்களின் பின் நூலகத்திற்கான புதிய கட்டடம் 1980 ஆம் ஆண்டு வைகாசி மாதம் 31ஆம் திகதி கல்லூரியின் முதலாவது அதிபர் வணக்கத்துக்குரிய டானியல் பூவர் அவர்களின் பெயரினை தாங்கி "டானியல் பூவர் நூலகம்" எனும் பெயருடன் பத்மஸ்ரீ சந்திரன் டி.எஸ். தேவநேசன் (Padma sri Chandran D.S. Devanesen) அவர்களால் திறந்து வைக்கப்பட்டது. வணக்கத்திற்குரிய டானியல் பூவர் அவர்களின் சேவை அளப்பெரியது. அவரின் நூல்களின் மீதுள்ள நேசிப்பே அவரின் பெயர் நூலகத்திற்கு அமைவதற்கு காரணமென்றால் மிகையாகாது.

யாழ்ப்பாண நூலக வளர்ச்சியை நோக்கும் போது பாடசாலைகளில் முற்காலங்களில் நூலகங்கள் இருந்ததாக அறியமுடியவில்லை. முதன்முதலாக யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் வட்டுக்கோட்டையில் செமினறியினால் ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்ட கல்லூரியில்தான் நூலகம் தோற்றம் பெற்றதாக அறியமுடிகிறது. இந்நூலகம் ஈழத்தின் இணையற்ற நூல்நிலையம் என்று பலரது பாராட்டையும் பெற்றுள்ளது. இவ்வாறானதொரு நூலகம் இங்கு அமைவதற்கு காரணம் இக்கல்லூரியின் தன்மையாகும். அக்காலத்தில் இதற்கு ஒப்பான ஓர் ஆங்கிலவித்தியாசாலை யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் மாத்திரம் அல்ல இந்தியாவிலும் இருக்கவில்லை. ஆசியாக் கண்டத்தில் ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்ட முதலாவது பெரிய ஆங்கில வித்தியாசலை இதுவாகும். இவ்வித்தியாசாலையிலே மேலைத்தேச வித்தியாகழகங்களில் கற்பிக்கப்படுகின்ற கணிதசாத்திரம், தத்துவசாத்திரம், இலக்கண நூல்கள், இலக்கிய நூல்கள், தமிழ் இலக்கண இலக்கியங்களும், சமஸ்கிருதம், கிரேக்கம், எபிரேய, ஆதியாம் பாஷைகளும் கற்பிக்கப்பட்டன என்று "யாழ்ப்பாண வைபவ கௌமுதி" கூறுகிறது.



4.3 Special Libraries

By: Priyadarshani Hemakumara, Convener/ Special Libraries Group of Sri Lanka Library Association.

The special Libraries group of SLLA consists of 07 members from various Libraries. The group was able to conduct three physical meetings up to now. The first meeting was held at SLLA on 18th October 2023 and it was planned activities for the year 2023/2024. Updating the current Directory of Libraries on the SLLA website is the first activity and was targeted to increase the data from 120 libraries to 150 libraries. It is happy to mention that at the moment the group was able to complete 80% of collecting and updating the data.



The second meeting was held on 18th November at SLIDA as the group was interested in getting exposure from other special libraries as well. The group evaluated its progress in the planned activities. The group agreed to continue and complete the project of issuing identity cards to SLLA Members which last year started under the COMAISP.

On 18th December 2023, the Special Libraries Group was able to organize its first workshop on Substance Abuse Prevention with the collaboration of NDDCB. Among the forthcoming events it is scheduled to visit the American Centre Library to gain exposure, a Programme to enhance life skills in Disaster Management, Compiling a Directory on Climate change, and Implement an e-library on Turtles.

4.3.1 ToT programme for Librarians on Substance Abuse Management

By: Inoka Sajeewani Perera, Member/ Special Libraries Group of Sri Lanka Library Association.

The Special Libraries Group of Sri Lanka Library Association organized a ToT programme for Librarians on Substance Abuse Management. It was held on the 18th of December 2023 at the Auditorium of Treatment and



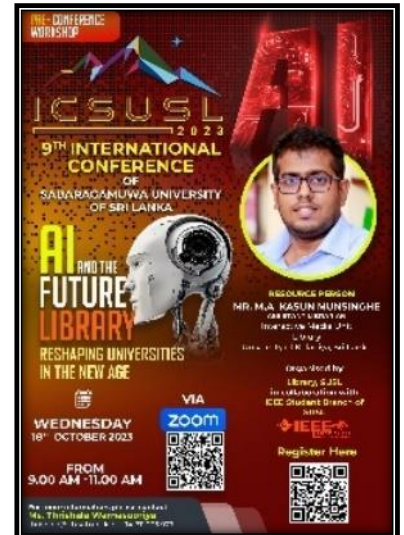
21 Library professionals participated actively in this workshop. The participants were motivated to conduct drug prevention activities in their respective libraries. A certificate of completion of the programme was given by the NDDCB. President of SLLA Mr. Preethi Liyanage and General Secretary Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi participated in the inauguration ceremony.

4.4 Academic Libraries

Library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

❖ Pre-conference workshop on “AI and the Future Library: Reshaping Universities in the New Age”

An online pre-conference workshop was organized by the library, SUSL in collaboration with IEEE Student Branch of SUSL on 18th October 2023 from 9.00 am -11.00 am by Mr. M.A. Kasun Munasinghe, Interactive Media Librarian, (Assistant Librarian), University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. This event was in parallel to 9th International Conference of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in the realm of libraries and higher education. By focusing on the future role of libraries and universities, the workshop aims to identify innovative ways in which AI can be leveraged to enhance learning, research, and knowledge dissemination. The workshop seeks to foster discussions, share insights, and develop strategies to ensure that universities are equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of information and technology, thereby reshaping and adapting to the needs of the new age.



❖ Plazz Café Project of SUSL library



Plazz café is a new project introduced by the library/SUSL in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages/SUSL to make an open discussion among SUSL community. The 2nd event of Plazz Café Project : *Hithak langa nathara wena pothak* organized by the library in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka on 05th October 2023, at 3.00 pm, at the Prof. Dayananda Somasundara auditorium, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The impressive thoughts by Professor Liyanage Amarakeerthi from the University of Peradeniya gave an insight into the scholarly discussion on the book review of his novel “Kurulu Hadawatha”.



❖ **LQAC webinar series on “AI Horizons: Exploring the Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence”, Sabaragamuwa University Library**

The library quality assurance cell has planned to conduct the LQAC webinar series on “AI Horizons: Exploring the Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence” due to the timely importance and requests received from library users. This free and online webinar series is open for anyone who is interested in this topic. This will function as a community development programme and a national service as well. The webinar series includes 6 sessions. The 02nd webinar “**Transforming Education with AI: Potential and Pitfalls**” was conducted by Mr. Kasun Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya on 17th October 2023 from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm via ZOOM.

5. Feature Article

Librarians as Metaliterate Educators: A New Frontier in Information Literacy

Fernando, I.D.K.L

Senior Assistant Librarian,
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



Librarians in the metaverse

In the evolving landscape of information literacy, technological advancements, and generation change, the role of the librarian has been changing from the typical custodian of knowledge to a metaliterate educator or a blended librarian or the librarian in the metaverse. This apparent transformation and pedagogical change showcase that mere information literacy requires a holistic approach to address the multifaceted requirements of the contemporary users in the academic domain particularly in techno driven era. Thus, the librarians supposed to be transformed into a techno-savvy meta iterate learners to sustain with the dynamics of change in the context(Tella et al., 2023).

Metaliterarcy

In a way, metaliteracy is an extension of information literacy which encompasses the fundamentals of locating, evaluating, using and validating information. The Greek originated prefix “meta” means “after”, “beyond” or “changed”(Hornby, 2013) which gives the meaning to “metaliteracy” as a predominant and self-referential framework that integrates emerging technologies and unifies multiple literacy types (Mackey, T. P., & Jacobson, 2011). The emphasis on one of the key domains; metacognition in metaliteracy challenges the outcome based learning and fundamental skills-based approaches. Instead, metacognition stands for critical self-reflection or thinking about one’s own thinking in a connected world of incorporating emerging technologies (Van Wyk, 2023). Thus, metaliteracy functions as an extended version of information literacy further, Mackey & Jacobson, (2011) argues that the role of the traditional librarian should be transformed metaliteracy learners and navigating their users not only to find information but critically think, analyze and generate novel knowledge, ideas, and concepts in a collaborative phenomenon.

Librarians as educators

This transformation of librarianship further emphasizes the role of librarians as educators in reshaping the competencies of users in academic spheres. People still question “Do we need a librarian when you have Google, Open AI and other modern meta technologies?”. O’Brien et al., (2017) answered this question, by positioning the job description of librarian towards empowering the users as metaliterate learners with four key dimensions of learning: metacognitive, cognitive, affective and behavioral changes. These elements are the components of the learning domain of the metaliteracy framework. Figure 1 depicting three out of the four core components of metaliteracy framework: the learning domains, the learner characteristics and the learner role. These essential elements are reinforced by the goals and learning objectives that constitute the fourth component of the metaliteracy framework (Mackey & Jacobson, 2022).

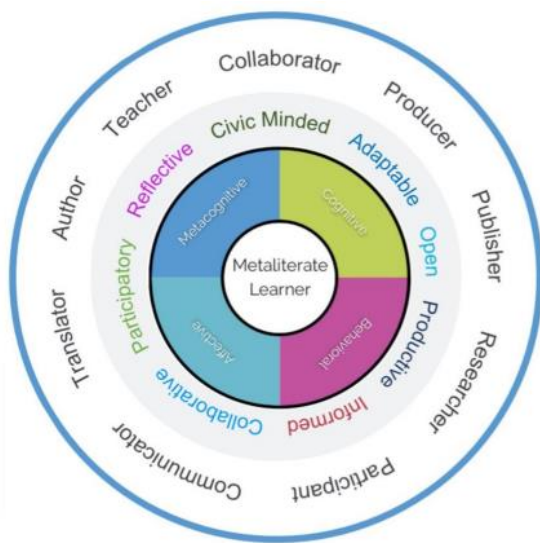


Figure 1: Four core components of metaliteracy

Source: <https://metaliteracy.org/ml-in-practice/integrated-metaliterate-learner-figure/>

The pivotal role of the librarian undergoes with multifaceted interrelation with diverse disciplines in academia. Similarly, metaliteracy is also not an exclusive domain limited to a particular field. This diverse nature in both librarianship and metaliteracy is conducive to effectively collaborating with other educators and researchers from diverse disciplines. Thereby, the metaliterators can transcend the boundaries of the conventional disciplines in teaching, learning, research, and assessment.

Libraries initiated to moving with technologies as a respond to the Web 2.0 and industrial revolution 4.0, where the concepts of automation arise. That drives the core competencies of the modern libraries to incorporate with the social media and online research platforms towards online collaborative learning. Triggered by Web 4.0- Internet of Things, and 5.0-intellegent into internet of things, it fosters interactive and participatory user experiences in edge learning, deep learning, decentralized internet. Society moves with technology dynamics to come across with their personal, professional, and pedagogical activities in the meta modernize information ecosystem. Table 1 summaries the main outcome of Web technologies.

Table 1: Main elements of web technologies

Web 1.0	Web 2.0	Web 3.0	Web 4.0	Web 5.0
ONE-WAY INTERNET	SOCIAL INTERACTIVE	PERSONALIZED SEMANTIC WEB	INTERNET OF THINGS	INTELLIGENCE
			CONNECTIVITY	COLLABORATION
			DISTRIBUTED SEARCH	INTERACTIVITY
				PERSONALIZATION
				ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
				BIG DATA
				AUGMENTED REALITY
				VIRTUAL REALITY
				HYPER-PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATIONS
				QUANTUM COMPUTING

Source: The author compiled the information available from many sources, 2023

With respect to the enhancement of web technologies and the types of libraries, the role of librarians has to be transformed accordingly to maintain the adaptive social role of a library. In most of the technological challenges meets in the metaverse, can be accomplished with sound metaliteracy and librarians need to be transformed into metaliteracy learners to fulfill this lacuna.

Metaliterate learners

Being metaliterate is inadequate and therefore, the learners should be able to apply the learnt experiences in the real-world scenarios. This is where the entire learning process converges towards life-long learning. This is a fundamental element, educational aspiration, and a pragmatic trajectory to incorporate outcome-based learning in the evolving demands of the real world which is still becoming an ambiguity in the process of producing graduates in the Sri Lankan context. As educators, a real question has been set back to be answered. *“Do we produce the undergraduates to address the demands of the society?”* This is why the librarians should inculcate metaliteracy in their job description to challenge the question *“Do we need librarians instead of Google, Open AI, and technologies?”* or in the metaverse?

However, meta-literacy should not be a factor for the survival of the librarianship but librarianship should be positioned as a metaliterater to stay abreast of the latest trends in literacy competencies. The commitment of library professionals towards professional development should align with metaliteracy. Then they will be recognized as the forefront of metaliteracy education to reshape the next generation as critical thinkers, and lifelong learners in a hyper-personalized, decentralized, highly collaborative world.

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06. Library In Focus: Introduction of a Libraries

6.1 IWMI Library: Bridging Knowledge for Sustainable Water

By: Yamuna Samanmali Udumalagala, Chandima Gunadasa & Rasika Thushantha

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is an international, research-for-development organization that works with governments, civil society and the private sector to solve water problems in developing countries and scale up solutions. Through partnership, IWMI combines research on the sustainable use of water and land resources, knowledge services and products with capacity strengthening, dialogue and policy analysis to support implementation of water management solutions for agriculture, ecosystems, climate change and inclusive economic growth. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, IWMI is a CGIAR Research Center with offices in 15 countries and a global network of scientists operating in more than 55 countries.

Vision and Mission

IWMI's vision is 'a water-secure world'.

IWMI's mission is to provide water solutions for sustainable, climate-resilient development.

As a premier research organization dedicated to promoting sustainable water use, IWMI acknowledges the pivotal role of knowledge in shaping informed policies and practices. At the core of this dedication to knowledge dissemination and sharing, the IWMI Library stands out as a dynamic hub that encapsulates the wealth of information and insights generated by the Institute. Positioned under the Communication and Knowledge Management (CKM) division, the library serves as a vital resource supporting IWMI's commitment to effective communication and knowledge management.



Functioning within the CKM division, the IWMI Library plays a crucial role in facilitating access to valuable resources for the Institute's 15 country offices. By providing a centralized repository of research publications, reports and data related to water and land management, the library ensures that IWMI's extensive knowledge base is accessible to researchers, policymakers and practitioners across various geographical locations. In doing so, the library contributes significantly to the IWMI's mission of promoting sustainable water use and advancing agricultural practices on a global scale.

Library staff



The successful fulfillment of all responsibilities at the IWMI library would be unattainable without the dedicated staff. This team comprises four key members: Chandima Gunadasa, who serves as the Head of the Library; Rasika Thushantha, Senior Information Management Specialist; Yamuna Samanmali Udumalagala, Information Management Specialist; and Udana Ariyawansa, Information Management Specialist. Their collective efforts contribute significantly to the effective functioning of the library and its crucial role in supporting IWMI's mission.

Who are the clients?



The IWMI Library serves as a vital resource utilized by a diverse range of individuals, including researchers, scientists, PhD students, consultants, interns and undergraduates. This diverse user base underscores the library's inclusive role in catering to the information needs of professionals at various stages of their academic and

research journeys. By offering a comprehensive collection of research publications, reports and data related to water and land management, the library supports the academic pursuits, research endeavors and consultancy projects of these users. Whether accessing resources for in-depth research or educational purposes, the IWMI Library plays a pivotal role in fostering a knowledge-sharing environment for individuals with varied expertise and academic backgrounds.

The IWMI Library boasts a diverse and extensive collection

Books: Over 9,000 books covering a wide range of topics related to water and land management, agriculture and related fields.

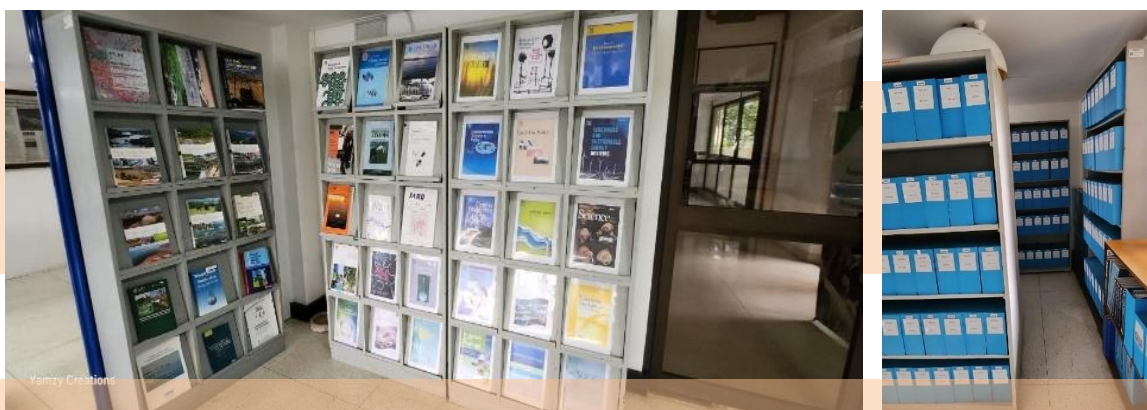
Journals: A collection of over 340 journals, which includes notable sources such as Science Direct Agricultural & Biological Sciences collection, T&F (Taylor & Francis), and Springer. These journals cover a broad spectrum of research in agricultural and biological sciences.

Bibliographic databases:

Access to key bibliographic databases:

- Scopus
- ProQuest
- JSTOR
- Web of Science
- AGRIS (International Information System for the Agricultural Science and Technology)
- AgEconSearch (Research in Agricultural and Applied Economics)

These databases offer a wealth of scholarly articles, conference papers and other resources, providing researchers and users with a rich pool of information for their studies and projects. The IWMI Library's commitment to utilizing such comprehensive databases reflects its dedication to facilitating high-quality research and promoting informed decision-making in the field of water and land management.



Services of the Library

The IWMI Library offers a comprehensive range of services to support researchers, staff and other users in accessing and utilizing information effectively. These services include the following:

Literature Search Service: Conducts searches on specific topics using bibliographic databases (ProQuest, Scopus, JSTOR, Web of Science, etc.), providing citation lists with abstracts to requestors.

Document Delivery Service: Delivers soft copies of journal articles and documents to IWMI staff and CGIAR libraries upon request. Procures documents from the CGIAR Library Consortium, Sri Lankan University, Special Libraries network, and other sources within a few hours.

Open Access at IWMI: Adopts the CGIAR Open Access Policy for publications since 2013, while actively screening for predatory Open Access practices.

CGSpace: Serves as a repository of agricultural research outputs and results from CGIAR and partners, indexing reports, articles, press releases, presentations, videos, policy briefs, etc.

Altmetrics: Utilizes alternative metrics (Altmetrics) to gauge the online attention received by research outputs, providing a broader understanding of research impact beyond citation counts alone.

Altmetric Attention Score: Automatically calculates a weighted count of all the attention a research output has received, aiding in assessing its impact.

Colors of the donut

The colors of the Altmetric donut each represent a different source of attention:



The amount of each color in the donut will change depending on which sources a research output has received attention from:



Alert Service: Notifies researchers of new records added to the library catalog, including IWMI publications and publications by IWMI authors, through fortnightly email alerts.

Table of Contents (TOC) Service: Provides researchers with TOC alerts of subscribed journals upon request, through an automated service.

Borrower Service: Offers short- or long-term loans of print materials to staff.

Inter-library Loan: Facilitates the borrowing of books and materials from local libraries as requested by staff, and lends books to local libraries.

Book Ordering: Purchases books on staff request, with the acquired books becoming library property and recorded in the library catalog.

Citations and ISBN/ISSNs and DOIs: Assigns ISBNs/ISSNs, DOIs, ORCID ID and provides "Cataloguing in Publication" data for IWMI publications.

IWMI Publications Dissemination: The IWMI Library actively enhances the visibility and accessibility of IWMI publications through systematic dissemination strategies. Publication records are submitted in specified formats to various external databases and harvesters, including but not limited to Google Books, AgEcon, HaL, Zenodo, Scopus, EBSCO, CABD, RePEC, and Water Resources Abstracts. By engaging with these platforms, the library aims to amplify the reach of IWMI publications, making them readily available to a broader audience of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. This dissemination effort contributes to the broader impact and utilization of IWMI's research outputs in the global knowledge ecosystem.



The IWMI Library plays a crucial role in facilitating a culture of knowledge exchange, ensuring that valuable research outputs are not only accessible but also effectively disseminated and utilized by a diverse audience. Through these services, the library contributes significantly to IWMI's mission of promoting sustainable water use and advancing agricultural practices on a global scale.

In summary, As the IWMI Library continues to evolve, it remains steadfast in its mission to be a beacon of knowledge, guiding the global community toward sustainable water management practices. By fostering collaboration, providing access to cutting-edge research, and actively engaging in capacity-building endeavors, the library embodies IWMI's commitment to making a lasting impact on the world's water landscape.

6.2 Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI) and its special libraryManagement

Manoha Wickramathilaka
 Librarian
 Library, Lanka Hydraulic Institute



Lanka Hydraulic Institute, which started in 1984, is located in Katubedda, Colombo District, John Rodrigo Mawatha near Moratuwa University in a quiet environment along Bolgoda River. The Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI) is a leading engineering consulting firm with 39 years of worldwide expertise in marine, coastal, and inland water engineering. Lanka Hydraulic Institute Limited was established in 1984 by converting the Coastal Engineering Research Center (CERC) of the Coast Conservation Department into a public limited company. LHI possesses expertise in the technical and engineering domains, as well as a multidisciplinary approach to diverse

project categories. Furthermore, it possesses a comprehensive comprehension of the socio-economic, financial, and environmental components of each process. LHI is encouraged by the presence of one of the most advanced hydraulic laboratories in the Indian Ocean region. This facility is designed to effectively manage diverse projects by utilizing a diverse network of specialists and reputable local and international organizations to provide comprehensive solutions in the field of hydraulics. LHI is equipped with a quality assurance system and is accredited with ISO 9001:2015 certification.

LHI is strategically situated to collaborate with international consultants operating in the region and other alliances, thereby providing clients with a more secure option when outsourcing hydraulic laboratory services. Currently, LHI has expanded its expertise to encompass river materials science, flood control, water supply and drainage, and has maintained its reputation as a comprehensive resource for coastal and harbour hydraulics. Over the past 39 years, LHI has established its presence in many regions of the world.

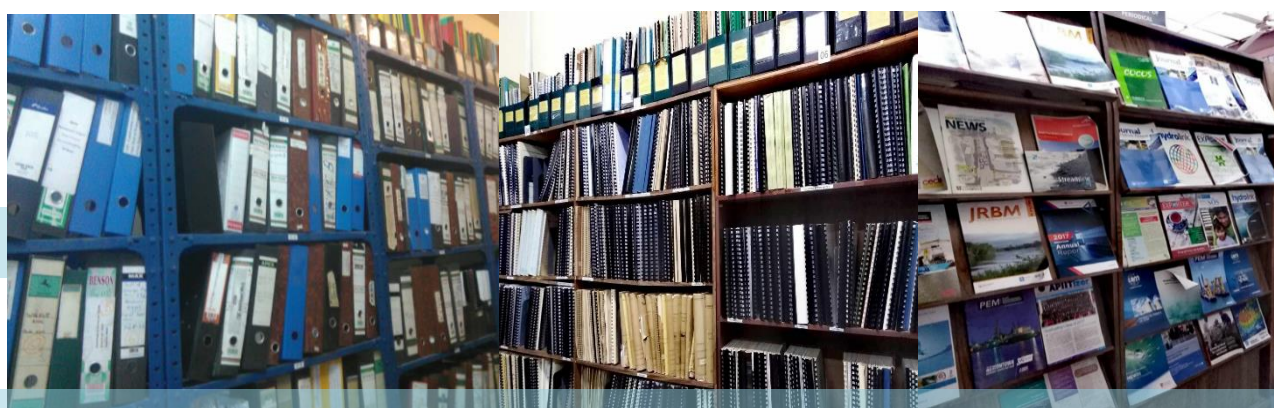
The services and solutions are provided in three main categories:

1. Coastal and harbour projects
2. Water resources projects
3. Urban water projects

This specialized library comprises four primary components, such as the library, maps, archives, and e-library. There is also a collection of research papers, CD-DVDs, magazines, and newspapers in the library.

This special library contains a combined 10,951 collection of independent research reports, research proposals, manuals, annual reports, engineering books, British standards, Acts, etc. Furthermore, it comprises a distinct collection comprising 640 research papers and a collection comprising 1960 CD-DVDs. The library has 493 maps related to the research carried out in this institute, which are collected in the map room under the library. These maps include topographic, admiralty, and project maps. A new archive room is being constructed with nearly 2000 collections. The e-library contains 44 topics on subjects that are being researched at this institute.

The people who work there are the people who use this library. Students from both local and foreign government and private universities, as well as research students, who intend to enrol at this library are required to obtain special authorization before admission. This library is being built with valuable information and data obtained through research. Outsiders are not allowed to enter LHI library.



6.3 Library Learning Commons at SLIIT



Megha Jayasinghe / Assistant Librarian



Sandun Weerasingha / Junior Executive / Library

The Library Learning Commons (LLC) at SLIIT is not just a physical space; it's a dynamic hub designed to foster collaborative learning, research, and innovation. With its impending expansion in October 2023, the LLC is poised to become a cutting-edge facility that reflects SLIIT's commitment to providing a conducive environment for academic excellence.

The concept of the Library Learning Commons (LLC) at SLIIT is rooted in the institution's commitment to providing a holistic and dynamic learning environment for students. The implementation of the LLC is driven by the recognition that education goes beyond traditional classroom settings, and students require versatile spaces that cater to their evolving needs throughout their lifelong learning journey.

The LLC serves as a transformative hub that amalgamates traditional library functions with innovative, collaborative, and research-oriented spaces. Its design is centered around fostering a culture of continuous learning, creativity, and knowledge exchange. The introduction of this modern facility stems from a strategic vision to enhance the overall educational experience for students.

The cozy reading and study zones offer a tranquil space for individual study and reflection, acknowledging the importance of solitude and concentration in the learning process. The makerspace encourages creativity and hands-on exploration, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical, innovative ways.



The digital reading corner enhances accessibility to digital materials, recognizing the evolving nature of educational resources. Research commons and group discussion rooms provide specialized areas for in-depth exploration and collaborative learning, fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity and academic rigor. The cozy conference room facilitates academics for their meetings and special discussions.

The roof of the Library Learning Commons (LLC) at SLIIT serves as a unique educational space, integrating learning directly into its design. Constructed with a concrete slab, the roof allows students to physically observe the complexities of designing a building slab, including the incorporation of fire lines, AC lines, electrical lines, and more. This hands-on experience transforms the LLC into a practical learning common, bridging the gap between theory and real-world applications. SLIIT's commitment to providing a holistic education is evident in these innovative features, offering students a dynamic learning environment that extends beyond traditional classrooms.

Overall, the LLC is positioned as a central point for students on their lifelong learning path. It goes beyond being a traditional library by integrating technology, collaborative spaces, and innovative resources. It aims to empower students not only with academic knowledge but also with the skills and mindset necessary for continuous learning and adaptability in an ever-changing world.

The LLC facility occupied three floors, each floor having 7000 sq. ft and accommodates over 1000 students at a given time, and LLC is strategically organized to meet the diverse needs of students and researchers. Now only two floors are completed with 600 seating capacity and other facilities. The first floor is still under construction.

Cozy reading and study zones occupy the second and third floors, providing a quiet and comfortable space for individual study and reflection.

The second floor is designed for group work, featuring collaborative spaces that promote teamwork and idea exchange. These areas are equipped with modern amenities to facilitate group projects, discussions, and brainstorming sessions. The LLC recognizes the importance of collaborative learning in today's academic landscape and aims to provide an environment that encourages the sharing of ideas among students and researchers.

The Makerspace on this floor is a testament to SLIIT's commitment to fostering creativity and hands-on learning. Equipped with tools and mind games, the makerspace encourages students to relax after heavy academic involvements and explore and apply theoretical knowledge in practical, innovative ways.



The digital reading corner within the LLC is a nod to the ever-evolving nature of academic resources. It offers access to a vast array of digital materials, including e-books, e-journals, and multimedia content. This corner is tailored to meet the needs of students who prefer digital formats, ensuring that the LLC remains at the forefront of technological advancements in education.

The Research Commons on the second floor is a specialized area designed for in-depth academic exploration. Equipped with resources that support advanced research, this space encourages scholars to delve into complex topics, fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity and academic rigor.

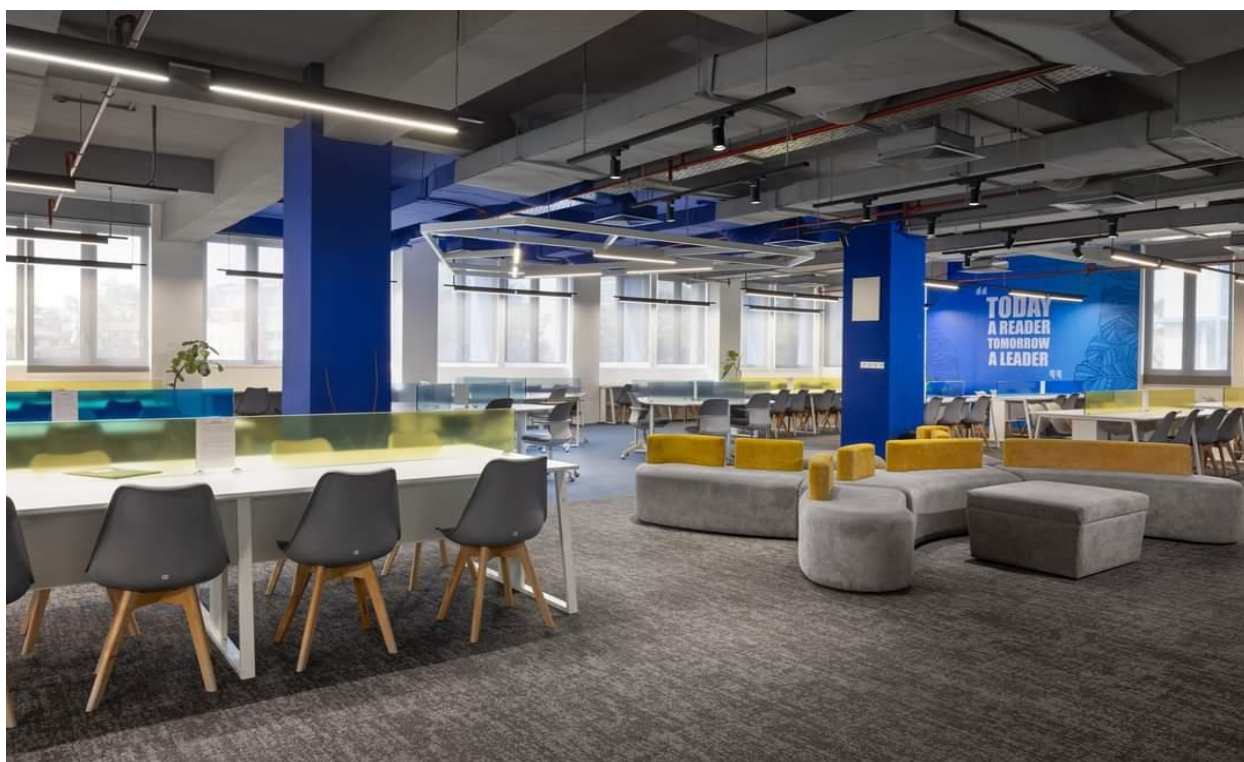
Each discussion room is equipped with ergonomic and versatile seating, ensuring that students can engage in group activities with ease and comfort. The seating arrangements are carefully chosen to facilitate effective communication and interaction among group members. Whether students are working on projects, engaging in academic discussions, or participating in collaborative study sessions, the comfortable seating in these rooms promotes a conducive atmosphere for productive teamwork.

The second-floor conference room is a comfortable space equipped for academic meetings and special discussions, providing modern amenities to enhance collaboration and meaningful dialogue among academics and researchers.

The collaborative space in the LLC provides designated spaces for collaborative learning sessions, workshops, and seminars. These rooms are equipped with advanced audio-visual facilities, fostering effective communication and knowledge sharing.

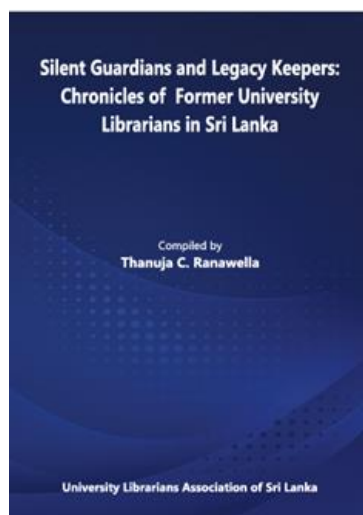
To ensure accessibility, an online reservation system established by the library allows users to easily reserve these spaces for collaborative activities, promoting a streamlined and convenient experience for students and researchers.

The third floor is dedicated to a smart library environment, blending state-of-the-art technology with traditional and digital resources. This innovative space promotes interactive learning experiences, enabling students to actively engage with the latest advancements in educational technology. Patrons enjoy the privilege of a self-returning facility, accessing the library catalog through the Automated Online Library System (AOLS). Additionally, RFID is implemented to safeguard books.



SLIIT's Library Learning Commons expansion reflects a commitment to an innovative educational environment. It's a space where students explore, create, and excel, embodying SLIIT's dedication to world-class education. The LLC is a microcosm of the institute, celebrating knowledge, innovation, and empowering individuals to reach their full potential—a valuable resource for those seeking to expand their minds and enrich their lives.

07. Publications



"Silent Guardians and Legacy Keepers: Chronicles of Former University Librarians in Sri Lanka", was meticulously compiled by Mrs. T. C. Ranawella, Senior Assistant Librarian at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, and proudly published by the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka.

Within the pages of this volume, the life stories and contributions of 34 former university librarians from 14 universities unfold, providing remarkable insights into their roles as Silent Guardians and Legacy Keepers of Knowledge. This exceptional book serves as more than just a source of inspiration and knowledge for the library community. Both the printed (ISBN 978-624-5981-02-1) and electronic (ISBN 978-624-5981-03-8) versions were officially launched on October 27th, 2023, at the 41st Annual General Meeting of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka.

08. Special Events

8.1 5th International Conference on Library and Information

The Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) of the University of Kelaniya, in collaboration with RCSS, University of Kelaniya, and Bharathidasan University India, successfully held its 5th International Conference on Library and Information Management (ICLIM -2023) on 29th - 30th November 2023 at the University Premises.



ICLIM is a platform for all Library and Information Science researchers and students to share novel research outcomes.

The theme of the conference was "Re-engineering Library and Information Services through Collaborative Strategies: A way forward." Nine sub-themes majoring in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS), including other disciplines in Humanities and Social Sciences, were covered in the ICLIM 2023.

Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva, Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, was the chief guest at the ceremony. Dr. Satyanjal Pandey, Deputy High Commissioner of the High Commission of India, was the guest of honor at the occasion. Professor Ankuran Dutta, Director of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre; Dr P. Venkata Rao, Director, Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration. Professor S. Srinivasaragavan, India, and Professor R. Balasubramani, Bharathidasan, India, graced the occasion as foreign invitees.

Representing the University of Kelaniya, Professor M. M. Gunatilake, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences; Senior Professor N. A. K. P. J. Seneviratne, Chairman of the Research Council; Senior Professor M. K. Weerasinghe, Conference Chair and Head of the Department; Senior Professor W. A. Weerasooriya, Conference Chair, Dr. C. C. Jayasundara, the Librarian, Deans, and staff of other faculties, and academic members of the Department, and other distinguished local and foreign invitees graced the inaugural ceremony.

The conference was held in conjunction with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of DLIS and ended with a valedictory session comprised of a team of Senior LIS local and foreign experts.

8.2 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka



The AGM of the ULA was held on the 27th of October, 2023, at the Rose Garden Hotel, Kadawatha. The Chief Guest of the inaugural session of the AGM was Senior Prof. Nilanthi De Silva, Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya. Prof. Sudath Kalingamudali, the Dean, Faculty of Science; Prof. Madawa Chandratilake, the Dean, Faculty of Medicine; Dr. Chamli Pushpakumara, the Dean, Faculty of Computing and Technology participated in the event as invitees. 56 current ULA members and several retired ULA members participated in the inaugural session.

After the inaugural session of the ULA AGM, the formal AGM was conducted, and office bearers for EXCO in 2023/24 were nominated. The President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Vice President and Assistant Secretary in 2023/24 were nominated from South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, and they were Dr. (Ms.) M. M. Mashroofa, Mr. M. C. M. Azwer, Mr. S. L. Mohammed Sajeer, Mr. A. M. Nahfees, Dr. S.K.Illangaratne and Mrs. W.M.P.G.K.T. Wanasinghe respectively.

8.3 Workshop for Piriven Librarians

A workshop organized for Piriven Librarians by the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, and the Division of Piriven Education, Ministry of Education, was held successfully on 21st December 2023 at the Auditorium of the Staff Development Unit, University of Kelaniya.

The objective of the workshop was awareness on “Sharing knowledge about library management and their services among the Piriven Librarians”.

Senior Professor M. K. Weerasinghe, Senior Lecturers; Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya, Dr. Niluka Harshani, Ms. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, and Lecturers Mr. Shanaka Ransara, Mr. Sarath Nanda Kumara (Director, National Institute of Education) were the resource persons of the workshop.



09. Achievements and Awards: All achievements and awards related to the profession.

- ❖ Mrs. A.P.U. De Silva, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya, and Mrs. B.G.S.P. Wimalasiri, Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya won the Best Paper award at the 13th International Conference of University Librarians Association (ICULA 2023) on 26th October 2023 at Mount Lavinia Hotel, Colombo. The paper title was " Intellectual freedom and censorship in code of ethics: A comparative analysis.



- ❖ Ms. M. P. L. R. Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian (I), University of Kelaniya was awarded the Best Research Paper Award for Senior Researchers, 2023 at the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the University Librarians Association (ULA) of Sri Lanka.



- ❖ Mr. J. A. Ajith, Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna was awarded the Best Research Paper Award for Junior Researchers, 2023 at the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the University Librarians Association (ULA) of Sri Lanka.



- ❖ Ms. M. P. L. R. Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian (I), University of Kelaniya successfully completed her Doctor of Philosophy at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Kelaniya. She was awarded the degree on the 21st of November 2023.



❖ 6th International Symposium of NILIS, University of Colombo on 15th November 2023

1. Dr.C.N.K.Alahakoon , Deputy Librarian of University of Peradeniya presented paper on 'Higher diploma students' experience of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic: survey study on SLLA students'
2. Dr.C.Gunasekare, Senior Assistant Librarian of University of Peradeniya presented paper on 'A decadal analysis of library and information science research trends in Sri Lanka (2013-2022)'
3. Mr.A.Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian of University of Peradeniya Presented paper on 'Computer literacy and Social Media awareness among the School Librarians in Kandy district, Sri Lanka'

❖ 5th International Conference on Library and Information Management (ICLIM - 2023) organized by the Dept. Of Library & Information Science of the University of Kelaniya on 29th November 2023.

1. Mr.R.Maheshwaran, Librarian of University of Peradeniya and P.Hari Krishnan of Anna University, Coimbatore, India presented paper on ' Mapping the Literature on the Application of Image Processing in the Medical Field: A Scientometric Analysis'
2. Dr.(Ms.) C.N.K.Alahakoon , Deputy Librarian of University of Peradeniya presented paper on 'Preliminary analysis on Diploma Students' Satisfaction in Online Learning during the COVID-19 pandemic: Sri Lanka Library Association'
3. Dr.(Ms.) C.Gunasekare , Senior Assistant Librarian of University of Peradeniya presented paper on 'Addressing Educational Disparities: Analysis of Library Resources and Services in Urban, Semi-Urban, and Rural Schools in the Kandy District'
4. Mr.A.Dharmarathne , Senior Assistant Librarian of University of Peradeniya Presented paper on 'Disaster Preparedness: the use of social media for academic information during the COVID-19 pandemic by new entrants of the Faculty of Dental Sciences at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka'
5. Mr.B.N.G.S.Premaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Mr.B.E.S.Bandara , Assistant Librarian of University of Peradeniya presented a paper on 'Obstacles Encountered by Authors during the Publication Process of Books: An Investigative Study of University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka'
6. Ms.S.Weerasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Ms.M.T.C.N.S de Silva, Assistant Librarian of the University of Peradeniya presented a paper on 'The Impact of Organizational Culture on Employee Engagement: With Special Reference to Library System of State Universities in Sri Lanka'

10. Any Other News



The Special Libraries Group of Sri Lanka Library Association wishes to update/ include your library into the Directory of Libraries currently available on the SLLA Website. Please use below link to submit your details of your library. <https://forms.gle/tWxMsf46R2d6vgKc9>

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