1. SLLA Education Programme

Revision seminars were organized on the 4th and 5th May 2024 for HDIPLIS – I 2023/2024 in Sinhala at the Colombo Public Library, and in Tamil at the Jaffna and Batticaloa centers.

The HDIPLIS - I 2024/2025 course started on Saturday, the 8th June 2024, in Sinhala, Tamil, and English mediums online. The Inauguration session was also conducted online separately in the three languages. The special introductory sessions for the Sinhala and English medium courses were conducted by Ms. K.N. Samanthi, and for the Tamil medium course by Dr. Mrs. Kalapna Chandrasekar and Mr. S. Sammugathasen.

A workshop on Librarianship, Classification, Cataloguing, Library, and Resource Services was conducted for the Diploma in Library and Information Science (DLIS) 2023/2024 (postal) on the 8th and 9th June 2024 at the Colombo Public Library Auditorium. Twenty-two students participated in it. The resource persons were Mr. K.G.S Gunathilake, Mr. Wijaya Premadarshana, Ms. Sunethra Kariyawasam, and Mr. S.U. Amarasinghe.

HDIPLIS II 2023/2024 took place on the 16th and 15th June 2024 at the SLLA Auditorium in Highbridge mode, with twenty-nine students participating (15 physically and 14 online). The resource panel comprised Mr. Dhammika Weerakoon, Mr. K.G.G Wijeweera, and Dr. Mrs. K.R.N. Harshani.

Priyani Balsooriya, Education Officer/SLLA/ 2023/2024

2. The Information and Public Relations Committee

Mrs. T.M.C. Hansamali Thennakoon, IPRO of the SLLA organized a user awareness program for the LIS Students, staff, and all the librarians and general public on the topic of this programe is *"තිරසර ගෘහස්ථ බලශක්ති පරිභෝජනය: Consumption of sustainable domestic energy"*. Also, this program was conducted with the collaboration of the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka. The distinguished resource person for this programme was Ms. Nimashi Fernando, Assistant Director, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority. This programme took place on 20th April 2024 from 08.00p.m to 09.30p.m via zoom platform. The main purpose of this programme was to impart knowledge and information regarding the sustainable domestic energy consumption. More than 30 participants joined this programme. The user awareness programme has been recorded and uploaded to the SLLA LK YouTube channel for viewers.

3. Libraries: Workshops, Training Programmes and Outreach

3.1 Academic Libraries Group

The Academic Library Group of the Sri Lanka Library Association successfully completed a series of educational activities in 2024, which included the following:

3.1.1 Short course on 'Basics of Library Automation for LIS Professionals'

Short course on 'Basics of Library Automation for LIS Professionals' conducted via Zoom. Out of 80 registered participants, 60 participants completed the course in Tamil and Sinhala mediums which was held on 3rd,4th,5th,6th and 7th June 2024. The distinguished resource person for this programme was Mr.M.N Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, Eastern University of Sri Lanka

3.1.2 Webinar series on 'Excelling in Research: Important Steps to Writing and Presenting Your Research'

A series of five sessions titled 'Excelling in Research: Important Steps to Writing and Presenting Your Research' conducted via Zoom. Out of 216 registered participants, 62 successfully completed the course.

The sessions covered:

- ❖ Introduction to research held on 3rd June 2024 - by Ms. Thushari Seneviratne- Senior Assistant Librarian – University of Moratuwa
- ❖ How to write a research paper held on 05th June 2024- by Ms. Muditha Ankumbura- Senior Assistant Librarian – University of the Visual & Performing Arts
- ❖ Citing and referencing with Mendeley held on 07th June 2024- by Ms. UD Hiruni Kanchana- Senior Assistant Librarian – Kotelawala Defence University
- ❖ Abstract writing held on 11th June 2024- by Dr. C. Alahakoon - Deputy Librarian –University of Peradeniya
- ❖ Presentation of research held on 13th June 2024- by Dr. Tharanga Ranasinghe – Senior Assistant Librarian –University of Kelaniya

3.1.3 Webinar on 'Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Development, and the Role of Librarians in Preserving Indigenous Knowledge in Sri Lanka'

A free webinar on 'Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Development, and the Role of Librarians in Preserving Indigenous Knowledge in Sri Lanka' held on June 18th June 2024 The distinguished resource person for this programme was Dr. Mrs. C.K Gamage, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo.

3.2 National Library and Documentation Services

මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ ජන ලේඛන එකතුව හා කෞතුකාගාරය ජාතික පුස්තකාලය තුළ නව මුහුනුවරකින් විවෘත කිරීම

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ නවීකරණ කටයුතුවලින් පසු ප්‍රතිෂ්ඨාපිත මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ ජන ලේඛන එකතුව හා කෞතුකාගාරය පාඨක භාවිතය සඳහා විවෘත කිරීමේ උත්සවය ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ ගරු අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය දිනේෂ් ගුණවර්ධන මැතිතුමාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් 2024 මැයි මස 29 වන දින ජාතික පුස්තකාල හා ප්‍රලේඛන සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ දී පැවැත්විණි. මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ මහතා විසින් රචිත කෘති සහ ඒ මහතා භාවිත කළ පෞද්ගලික පුස්තකාලයේ පොත්පත්, භාවිත කළ උපකරණ ආදිය ද මෙම කෞතුකාගරයේ ප්‍රදර්ශනයට තබා ඇත. මහා ගත්කරු මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ සූරීන්ගේ 134 වන ජන්ම දින සැමරුම ද මෙදිනට යෙදී තිබිණි. මෙම උත්සවයෙහි මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ ජන්ම සංවත්සර සමරු දේශනය මහාචාර්ය ජයදේව උයන්ගොඩ මහතා විසින් "පොත් කියවා පොත් ලිවීම: මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ සූරීන්ගේ ආදර්ශය" නමැති මාතෘකාව යටතේ සිදු කරනු ලැබීය.

"මා දුටු මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ : මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ ජන ලේඛන එකතුව හා කෞතුකාගාරය" නමැති මාතෘකාව යටතේ දයාපාල ජයනෙත්ති මහතා විසින් විශේෂ ආරාධිත දේශනය සිදු කරන ලදී. මෙම උත්සව අවස්ථාව සඳහා මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ භාරකාර මණ්ඩලය නියෝජනය කරමින් එම නියෝජිතයන් සහ ආරාධිත විද්වතුන් ඇතුළ සම්භාවනීය පිරිසක් සහභාගී විය.

මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ ජන ලේඛන එකතුව හා කෞතුකාගාරය පාසල් දරුවන් සඳහා සතියේ දිනවල පෙ.ව.8.30 සිට ප.ව.4.15 දක්වා කාලය තුළ නැරඹීමට අවස්ථාව සලසා ඇත. මේ පිළිබඳ වැඩිදුර තොරතුරු සඳහා 0112- 674386/ 0703535771 නියෝජ්‍ය අධ්‍යක්ෂ, පාඨක සේවා අමතන්න.

4. Feature Articles

4.1 "Do Artificial Intelligence Replace the Librarian's Role?"

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Introduction

With the technological advancement in the socio-technical sector, robotics, expert systems, and intelligence systems played a vital role for innovation and automation enhancing efficiency in various industries. However, with the arrival of artificial intelligence (AI), the landscape changed, providing new opportunities and challenges for socio-economic systems. Eventually, AI advancement marks

A significant milestone, offering unparalleled abilities in data processing, decision-making, and interaction between humans and machines, changing the conventional approaches to technology integration and use. This technological advancement lays the foundation for exploring the role of AI and its impact on traditional library services and the challenges for librarians in adhering to this innovative technology.

In recent years, AI has been utilized in libraries to improve productivity, enhance user experiences, and change information access. Hence, this article argues whether AI has the potential to enhance traditional library services and its challenges for librarians. It is essential to understand the potential of AI and its connection with librarianship to manage the changing landscape of information management while ensuring the important values of knowledge access, ability, and human interaction within library settings.

In tradition, librarians have long been considered custodians of knowledge and information, which facilitates users accessing required information resources. However, this tradition has changed with the arrival of artificial intelligence (AI) raising the question of whether AI poses a threat to the librarian's traditional role.

Understanding Artificial Intelligence and its applications in Libraries
Some formal definitions are available to understand the term "Artificial Intelligence". These definitions will help to identify what AI is for librarians. Following are the two definitions retrieved through different reports and documents.
As used by the UK Government in its Industrial Strategy White Paper, AI is defined as:

> "Technologies with the ability to perform tasks that would otherwise require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, and language translation"(House of Lords Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence, 2018).

US National Security Commission on AI defines, 'AI as the ability of a computer system to solve problems and perform tasks that would otherwise require human intelligence' (National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, 2021). As per the above definitions, it is apparent that AI has the 'ability to perform tasks' that humans generally do (Cox & Mazumdar, 2022). When considering library services, AI refers to the use of computer systems and algorithms that replicate human intelligence to perform tasks that librarians typically handle or to improve the efficacy and efficiency of library operations. Taking into account the AI used in libraries, it can perform different tasks, which include cataloguing, classification, Indexing, recommendation systems, user assistant chatbots, data analysis for collection development, and virtual reference services. These applications are discussed below:

Cataloguing: Expert Systems have been used to automate cataloguing, focusing on descriptive cataloging and AACR 2. AI techniques can be applied in two ways: a human-computer interface and a full cataloguing capabilities system integrated by an electronic publishing system. Digital libraries can use AI technology to catalog and navigate digital collections, allowing users to access resources and download information in a preferred manner. Data mining can also be used in online library systems to help users choose appropriate keywords and expressions for information retrieval.

Classification: Another key area of AI applications in knowledge organization of libraries is classification. Some of the examples of using Expert System in classification is Coal SORT which is known as a conceptual browser designed to serve either as search or an indexing tool. BIOSIS is another AI expert system which can be used as an indexer aid. It can be used to assign documents to categories automatically.

Indexing: Indexing of periodicals is another area that can utilize AI generated expert systems. This system can assign appropriate preferred terms automatically to assign relevant subdivisions. The system can make implications, and based on that it can take suitable action. One of the best examples here is, "Med Index" used in the library indexing.

However, there are many other AI applications that can be used in library environment and some of the useful applications are given below;

Recommendation Systems: The AI-recommended system can analyze user needs, browsing history, and borrowing patterns to suggest relevant library materials, personalizing preferences and improving resource discovery. RESEARCH is an example of a recommender system that provides recommended information resources required for specific user queries (Ajakaye, 2021).

User Assistant Chatbots: AI-driven chatbots enhance user engagement and accessibility by providing real-time information, library services, and easy navigation through resources, utilizing natural language processing algorithms. "Sella" is an example of support chatbot service at Hamburg State University from 2004-2015 and one more recent example is "Beacon" which is a digital assistants service at Staffordshire University.

Data Analysis: AI allows libraries to analyze usage data, circulation patterns, and demographic information to make decisions about collection development. By identifying user preferences and trends, libraries can enhance their collections to meet the emerging needs of their users.

Virtual Reference Services: AI-powered virtual reference services, like POINTER and Online Reference Assistance, utilize machine-learning algorithms to provide accurate, quick answers to users' reference questions, enhancing access to professional assistance (Mogali, 2014).

These applications demonstrate how AI is transforming library services, improving efficiency, accessibility, and user satisfaction. Further, it will empower librarians to perform high-level tasks and provide personalized services to their patrons.

AI vs. Librarians

The increasing use of AI in library operations raises concerns about job displacement and automation of routine tasks. Traditional librarians' roles, such as cataloging, indexing, and reference services, may be reduced. AI's ability to evaluate data and identify user preferences may also influence collection development. However, AI also provides opportunities for librarians to focus on higher-level tasks, such as teaching digital literacy and engaging communities.

Even though AI will lead to some job displacement, it won't completely replace librarians and reshape their roles. Librarians can use AI to improve library services while gaining the required skills where human intervention is essential. Collectively, AI and librarians could address concerns about losing employment and maintaining library accessibility while also enhancing the efficiency and innovation of libraries.

Advantages of AI Integration

There are advantages to AI integration in various systems and processes. Especially in the library setting, it helps to enhance the efficiency and productivity of library operations and services, as given below;

> AI technologies enhance search accuracy by using advanced algorithms that analyze user behavior, preferences, and historical data. These algorithms improve precision and accuracy in retrieving information. Natural language processing (NLP) techniques help understand complex queries, improving the relevancy and comprehensiveness of search results, including synonyms and misspellings.

AI can customize user experiences by providing personalized recommendations based on browsing history, preferences, and usage behaviors. It searches vast data to find relevant resources, improving patron involvement and satisfaction in libraries. AI technologies also enhance search results with AI chatbots and location-based services, allowing libraries to serve a wider audience.

Furthermore, AI uses machine learning algorithms and natural language processing techniques to automate routine duties associated with library operations, such as metadata assignment, indexing, and cataloging. By automating these tasks, library operations become more accurate and consistent while also requiring less human involvement and increasing efficiency. While AI effectively completes routine and time-consuming tasks, librarians can devote their time and resources to more advanced activities that need human expertise, like community involvement, research support, digital literacy instruction and preparing library information resources.

Moreover, AI technologies can facilitate interdisciplinary harmonization in scholarly research by helping to find the interconnection between what had previously been unobserved in huge datasets. In addition, libraries can link continuous data and research in many fields and disciplines with open publishing institutions and create research tools that work with other institutions, making collections more searchable, browsable, and resolvable.

Overall, AI technologies are essential for increasing search accuracy, customizing user experiences, and automating routine tasks in library services, which will enhance accessibility, effectiveness, and user satisfaction.

An Emerging Role of Librarians
With the advent of artificial intelligence, librarians are supposed to enhance their skills and expertise in many ways, such as through continuous learning, the integration of AI tools, data analysis and insights, enhanced user support innovation, and creativity.
Librarians attend workshops, seminars, and conferences to improve AI skills. They plan to integrate AI tools into library systems to streamline operations and improve user satisfaction. AI-powered cataloging systems improve metadata management and user statistics, enabling library managers to modify services and collections to meet growing demands.

One of the major areas where AI can help librarians empower their services to enhance user assistance. AI-driven user assistance, such as chatbots and other virtual assistants, provides real-time support to library users. This includes making personalized recommendations, answering user queries, and guiding research. Innovation and creativity are two of the most significant aspects of library services. AI provides the best solutions for librarians in this aspect by creating new services that best meet evolving user demands.

In the digital age, librarians play a crucial role in curating, organizing, and interpreting information, ensuring relevance, reliability, and accessibility for patrons. They organize digital resources through advanced systems, metadata standards, classification systems, and search strategies. Librarians provide expertise in navigating complex information landscapes, helping users critically evaluate sources, identify bias, and synthesize information. They guide information literacy skills, educate users on effective search strategies, and utilize emerging technologies like data visualization, digital humanities, and virtual reality experiences.

Conclusion
It can be concluded from the above facts and details that AI allows librarians to transform library operations, enhance library services, and organize information more effectively. The resentful attitude toward using AI with human intelligence is a combination of optimism, uncertainty, and

fear. Although many people appreciate the ability of AI technology to transform libraries, increase productivity, and provide solutions for critical problems, others believe that AI will lead to job displacement and increase socioeconomic inequalities.

Hence, it is necessary to increase the public knowledge in the use of AI to clear the misconceptions and promote informed discussions. Overall, there is optimism about the AI's potential, it is vital to handle its use ethically, confirming that technology supports human expertise while sticking to ethical values.

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4.2 Exploring the integration of web therapy and the arts in the field of library science

K R N Harshani
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"A library is a hospital for the mind." – Anonymous

Introduction

The principal objective of the library is to give information required by readers to all needs incorporating education, personal growth, research, entertainment, or recreation. With respect to entertainment functions, the library gives information that can assist readers with relaxing their everyday pressure. This was the start of another assistance in the library called therapeutic service. The development of the internet has made reading materials available as a substitute for libraries in the provision of Web Therapy services. On the other hand, there are instances when users wish to treat their own mental illness. Users, for example, try to find information sources that can assist

them in decreasing their level of daily stress. This attempt is typically motivated by the assurance that one is the best judge of one's own emotions and the best ways to handle them.

There are some individuals who identify as internet addicts and have an extremely high rate of internet dependence. Like they wouldn't be able to survive without it. Their ability to handle difficulties or personal matters is impacted by their addiction. Addicts who spend a lot of time online are more likely to have "befriended" the internet when they are struggling.

It can be further explained that Web Therapy is the expansion of reading literature in the internet era and is a complement to bibliotherapy. Web therapy uses reading to help readers find solutions to their personal problems. The media used in each modality books for bibliotherapy and website sources for web therapy is the only distinction between web therapy and bibliotherapy. Clients and therapists must agree on how Web Therapy and bibliotherapy will be organized, scheduled, and carried out. "Ideally, the process occurs in three phases," states ODLIS. "The reader personally identifies with a particular character in the recommended work, leading to psychological catharsis, which results in rational insight."

Web therapy definitions

The use of electronic books, journals, and web resources combined with reading them is known as "web therapy," and it is used to treat diseases and disorders of the nervous system and mind. The modern self-help treatment alternative to bibliotherapy is called web therapy, or "internet therapy." "Self-help is a misleading term. It suggests that members are solely focused on helping themselves but helping one another is a key component of self-help groups (King and Moreggi, 1998). Self-help can often improve or hasten the course of treatment. Self-help can give a client more independence in their ability to solve problems. Self-help resources can also enhance themes explored in psychotherapy by utilizing complementary media, including books and the internet.

Web resources are shared as part of web therapy, which aims to assist the client in resolving a personal issue. Despite how straightforward this definition may appear, web therapy is a challenging practice to explain, justify, or discuss. Web therapy entails reading and analyzing carefully selected online literature chosen by the "web therapist". Web therapists are considered a qualified professional who uses the internet as a practice medium to assist the client in developing self-awareness and understanding the common influences that shape their personal experiences. Literary resources are frequently assigned by clinical psychologists, mental health specialists, counselors, and librarians to assist people with psychological needs (Sullivan and Strang, 2003).

The concept of using books to heal is not new; it dates all the way back to the Greeks, who established the first libraries. Nevertheless, different medical professionals including psychologists, doctors, social workers, nurses, parents, educators, librarians, and counselors have different perspectives on the use of books in healing. In fact, it can be difficult to distinguish between bibliotherapy and reading guidance (Smith, 1989). Furthermore, the overwhelming body of professional writing on bibliotherapy that is accessible naturally reflects the viewpoint of the helping professional who wrote it as well as the area of expertise that person possesses (Aiex, 1993). For example, behavior disorders drug and alcohol abuse, substance abuse, communication disorders, smoking, autism dysgraphia, socio-emotional difficulties , emotional disturbance, ,grief and loss, obesity, dyslexia , anxiety and mood disorders, relationship or family problems, the death of a loved one, separation and divorce, social phobias, stress, agoraphobia, etc.

Web therapy is also the use of fiction and non-fiction web resources, e-books, and e journals to help people solve problems or modify their behavior. It is the process of a reader's personality and literature interacting dynamically. As a psychological field, it can be used for clinical and mental hygiene purposes as well as personality assessment, growth, and adjustment. In a nutshell, web therapy involves exchanging literature with one another, using online resources for healing, and reading e-books, e-journals, and web resources to better understand and solve personal issues.

Benefits of Web therapy

Web therapy promotes problem verbalization and may assist the client in gaining understanding of their issues. It acts as a channel for communication that is not direct between the web therapist and the client. The client may feel less alone if they understand that they are not alone with their problems. Numerous practical benefits of web therapy include ease of access to a wealth of online resources, adaptability to different settings and use with a variety of problems and clients (Pehrsson and McMillen, 2006b; see Pehrsson and McMillen, 2005, for a more thorough review of the literature on beneficial therapeutics), convenience, and enhanced access for clients and therapists (Rochlen et al., 2004).

Conclusion

Psychologists, librarians, educators, and counselors can use web therapy as a potentially effective tool on many levels. Web therapy is the use of websites or other online reading materials (e.g., e-books, e journals) to help clients, particularly children and young adults as well as readers of the library in their healing process. It can be done with individuals or groups. It can be summed up as using online resources to assist others in gaining more understanding and coping with day-to-day living. Most people have most likely perused online resources to learn about other people's approaches to sensitive topics.

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5. Library in Focus: Introduction of a Library

5.1 ලොවට පාරිසරික දැනුම බෙදන ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය

ටී. එම්. සී. හංසමාලී තෙන්නකෝන්, පුස්තකාලයාධිපති, මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරිය

මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරියේ ප්‍රධාන අරමුණ වන්නේ පරිසරය ආරක්ෂා කිරීම සහ වැඩිදියුණු කිරීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් මහජනතාවට තොරතුරු සහ අධ්‍යාපනය ලබා දීමයි. ඉහත අරමුණු ඉටු කර ගැනීම සඳහා මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරිය 1984 දී පුස්තකාලයක් ස්ථාපිත කර 1993 දී ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස නම් කරන ලද අතර එමඟින් පුස්තකාලය සංවර්ධනය කිරීම සහ ශක්තිමත් කිරීම සඳහා තොරතුරු සේවා රැසක් ආරම්භ කර ඇත.

මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරියේ ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය / පුස්තකාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ පාරිසරික තොරතුරු පිළිබඳ කේන්ද්‍රස්ථානය වේ. මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ජාතික සංවර්ධන ක්‍රියාවලියේ දී හා අප රටේ අධ්‍යාපන සංවර්ධනය සඳහා අවශ්‍ය පාරිසරික තොරතුරු ඒකරාශි කිරීම, සැකසීම හා බෙදාහැරීම සඳහා අවශ්‍ය කටයුතු සිදු කරයි. ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය, මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරිය, 104, ඩෙන්සිල් කොබ්බෑකඩුව මාවත, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව යන ලිපිනයේ ස්ථානගතව ඇති මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලොව වටා විසිරි ඇති පාරිසරික දැනුම එකතු කර, ගබඩා කර මතු පරපුරේ තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා සපුරාලීම සඳහා ක්‍රියාත්මක වන විශේෂ පුස්තකාලයකි. මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය පුස්තකාලයක් ලෙස හඳුන්වනවාට වඩා තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් ලෙස හැඳින්වීම ඉතා කාලෝචිත වේ.

එයට හේතුව වන්නේ සාම්ප්‍රදායික පුස්තකාල සංකල්ප හා සේවා වලින් ඔබ්බට ගොස් තොරතුරු හා සේවා ලබා දීමේ හා බෙදාහැරීමේ මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීමයි. මෙමගින් දෛනිකව දෙස් විදෙස් පාඨකයන්ට හා මහජනතාවට අවශ්‍ය තොරතුරු හා සේවාවන් ලබා දීම සිදු කරයි. ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ආරම්භ වන්නේ 1980 අංක 47 දරණ ජාතික පරිසර පනත යටතේ වර්ෂ 1981 අගෝස්තු මස ස්ථාපිත මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරිය තුළ 1984 වසරේ දී කුඩා පරිමාණයේ පුස්තකාලයක් ලෙසයි.

මුල් කාලයේදී ඉතා කුඩාවට ඇරඹි මෙම පුස්තකාලය 1992 වසරේදී ජාතික පාරිසරික පනතට අනුව පාරිසරික තොරතුරු හා සේවා සැපයීම සඳහා **"ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය"** ලෙස සංශෝධනය කර නම් කරන ලදි. එතැන් පටන් මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය දෙස් විදෙස් පාඨකයන්ට අවශ්‍ය පාරිසරික දැනුම හා වෙනත් තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා නොපිරිහෙලා ඉටු කරමින් ඉදිරියට පවත්වාගෙන යනු ලබයි.

මුල් කාලයේදී සම්ප්‍රදායික පුස්තකාලයක් ලෙස ආරම්භ කළ මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය අද වන විට සම්පූර්ණයෙන්ම ස්වයංක්‍රියකරණයට ලක්කළ අංගසම්පූර්ණ ඩිජිටල් පුස්තකාල සේවා හා පහසුකම් ලබා දෙන ඩිජිටල් පුස්තකාලයක් ලෙස පවත්වාගෙන යනු ලබයි. එමගින් දෙස් විදෙස් තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා ඇති පාඨකයන්ට හා මහජනතාවට ඉතා කඩිනමින් තොරතුරු වෙත ළඟාවීමට හැකි පරිදි මාර්ගගත (Online) ක්‍රමවේදයන් ඔස්සේ තොරතුරු හා සේවා සපයමින් සිටී. අප පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය සතුව මේ වනවිට පාරිසරික ග්‍රන්ථ 15000කට අධික ප්‍රමාණයක් හා වාර ප්‍රකාශන, අත් පත්‍රිකා, පෝස්ටර් හා වෙනත් පුස්තකාල හා අධ්‍යාපනික තොරතුරු රැසක් ඇතුලත් යාවත්කාලීන පුස්තකාල එකතුවක් ඇත. එම තොරතුරු හා සේවා අවශ්‍යතා සඳහා පහසුවෙන් ළඟා වීමට හැකි පරිදි http://www.neic.cea.lk/ යන යොමුව ඔස්සේ ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ වෙබ් අඩවිය ඉංග්‍රීසි, සිංහල හා දෙමළ මාධ්‍යයෙන් පවත්වාගෙන යන අතර ඕනෑම පුද්ගලයෙකුට ඕනෑම තැනක සිට දවසේ ඕනෑම වේලාවක භාවිතා කළ හැකි ආකාරයට එය සකස් කර ඇත. ඊට අමතරව ඕනෑම පාරිසරික හා වෙනත් තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතාවන් ඇති කෙනෙකුට මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ ඇති පොත්පත් හා තොරතුරු මෙහි ඇති මාර්ගගත සුචිය එනම් Open Accesses Catalogue (OPAC) වෙත http://203.115.26.13:81/library/opac/ යන යොමුව ඔස්සේ ඕනෑම තැනක සිට ඕනෑම වෙලාවක භාවිතා කළ හැකිවන ලෙස සකස් කර ඇත. තවද මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරියේ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ සේවා කටයුතු පහසු කර ගැනීම හා දැනුම වර්ධනය කර ගැනීම සඳහා මෙම මධ්‍යස්ථානය මගින් අභ්‍යන්තර දත්ත පද්ධති බොහොමයක් ද නිර්මාණය කර පවත්වාගෙන යනු ලබයි. දැයේ දූ දරුවන් කුඩා කල සිට පරිසරය සමග ඒකාබද්ධ කිරීම හා පාසල් දරුවන්ට මෙන්ම විශ්වවිද්‍යාල විද්‍යාර්ථයින්ට අවශ්‍ය සියලුම දැනුම ලබාදීම සඳහා මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ඇප කැපවී කටයුතු කරනු ලබයි.

මෙහි පුස්තකාල එකතුව ගත් කළ පාරිසරික ග්‍රන්ථ 15000 කට අධික සංඛ්‍යාවකින්ද විමර්ශන මෙවලම් හා මූලාශ්‍ර, පාරිසරික සිතියම් එකතු , සඟරා, වාර ප්‍රකාශන එකතු, පෝස්ටර් එකතුව, CD /DVD එකතුව, ප්‍රදර්ශනාත්මක පාෂාණ මංජුසා, අත්පත්‍රිකා හා අත්පොත් එකතුව සහ සෞන්දර්යාත්මක රසාස්වාද එකතුව වැනි විශාල පුස්තකාල එකතු රාශියකින් සමන්විත වන බැවින් මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය දැයේ දූ දරුවන්ට තම අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතුවලදී අවශ්‍ය පාරිසරික හා තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා හා දැනුම ලබාගත හැකි ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ එකම හා විශාලතම පාරිසරික තොරතුරු ඇතුලත් තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කරයි. දෙස් විදෙස් විශ්වවිද්‍යාල ශිෂ්‍ය ශිෂ්‍යාවන්, පර්යේෂකයින්, පරිසර විද්‍යාඥයින්, ජනමාධ්‍යවේදීන්, පරිසරවේදීන් හා මහජනතාව මෙම පුස්තකාලයේ පාඨකයන් ලෙස හැඳින්විය හැකි අතර මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරියේ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය මෙහි ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාල සාමාජිකයින් ලෙස තම තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා සපුරා ගනී.

ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය මගින් දෛනිකව විමර්ශන සේවා එනම් දෛනිකව විවිධ තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා සඳහා පැමිණෙන පාඨකයන් වෙත අවශ්‍ය විමර්ශන පුස්තකාල සේවා හා සුවපහසු කියවීම් ශාලා පහසුකම් ද සලසා දෙයි. එහිදී පුස්තකාල කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය විසින් සිය පාඨකයන්ගේ කාලය ඉතිරි කර ඉතා ඉක්මනින් තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා සපුරා ගැනීමට පාඨකයන් හට අවශ්‍ය මඟ පෙන්වීම් සිදුකරයි. තවද පාඨකයන් හට කාර්ය මණ්ඩල සහය නොමැතිව වුවද තොරතුරු වෙත පහසුවෙන් ළඟා වීමට හැකි පරිදි මාර්ගෝපදේශ ප්‍රදර්ශනාත්මකව සපයා ඇත.

මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය තුළ පාඨකයන් සඳහා විමර්ශන පුස්තකාල සේවා, මාර්ගගත පුස්තකාල නාමාවලි, කියවීම් ශාලා, ඡායාපිටපත් පහසුකම් ,අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවා, පරිශීලක දැනුවත් කිරීමේ වැඩසටහන්, මාර්ග ගත දත්ත සංසරණ පද්ධති, නවතම පාරිසරික ප්‍රකාශන පිළිබඳ දැනුවත් කිරීමේ විද්‍යුත් තැපැල් සේවාව, නව පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය අත්පත් කර ගැනීම් ප්‍රදර්ශනය කර තැබීම, මාර්ගගත (online data base facilities) හා තොරතුරු සෙවුම් පහසුකම් හා මාර්ග ගත ක්‍රමවේදයන් ඔස්සේ තොරතුරු බෙදා හැරීමේ සේවාවන් ආදී සේවා රැසක් සිය පාඨකයන් වෙත ලබාදීමට කටයුතු සිදු කරයි.

ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය මගින් විවිධ ඉලක්කගත කණ්ඩායම් සහ මහජනතාව සඳහා විවිධ පරිශීලක දැනුවත් කිරීමේ වැඩසටහන් සංවිධානය කරයි. ඒ අනුව සෑම පළාතකම හා දිස්ත්‍රික්කයකම පාසල් තුළ පාරිසරික පුස්තකාල ස්ථාපිත කිරීමේ ව්‍යාපෘතියක් දියත් කළ මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය මේ වන විට රට පුරා පාසල් 36 ක පාරිසරික පුස්තකාල ස්ථාපිත කර දැයේ දූ දරුවන්ට අවශ්‍ය පාරිසරික දැනුම අත්පත් කර දී ඇත. ඊට අමතරව මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරියේ පළාත් හා දිස්ත්‍රික්ක කාර්යාල හයක පාරිසරික පුස්තකාල හයක් ද මේ වන විට ස්ථාපිත කර ඇත.

මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය මගින් රටේ සංවර්ධනයට දායක වන විවිධ ව්‍යාපෘති හා සේවා සඳහා අවශ්‍ය වන මූලික පාරිසරික වාර්තා හා පාරිසරික සමීක්ෂණ වාර්තා (EIA/EEA) එකතුවක් ද නිර්මාණය කර ඒවා අවශ්‍ය ආයතන හා පාඨකයන්ට මිලදී ගැනීමට අවශ්‍ය පහසුකම් ද සලසා දී ඇත. පාරිසරික වාර්තා මිලදී ගැනීමට අවශ්‍ය අයට මෙම තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ පුස්තකාලායාධිපති හා සම්බන්ධ වී ඒවා මාර්ගගත ක්‍රමවේදය (online) ඔස්සේ ලබාගත හැකිය.

ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ වර්තමාන පුස්තකාලායාධිපති ලෙස කටයුතු කරන ටි.එම් වමෝදි හංසමාලි මහත්මිය හා එහි කාර්යමණ්ඩලයද ඉතා කැපවීමෙන් දෙස් විදෙස් පාඨකයන්ගේ තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා සපුරාලන අතර +94-112124603, 011-2872278, 011-2873447, 011-2872419, EXT. 2292/2295 යන දුරකථන අංක හා hansamali@cea.lk යන විද්‍යුත් ලිපිනය හරහා පුස්තකාලායාධිපති ද neic@cea.lk විද්‍යුත් ලිපිනය හරහා පුස්තකාල කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය හා ද සම්බන්ධවිය හැකි අතර සෑම සතියේ දිනකම උදෑසන 8.30 සිට සවස 4.15 දක්වා මෙම පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය පාඨක ඔබ සඳහා විවෘතව පවතී. අද අප රට මුහුණ දී සිටින හා මුහුණ දෙමින් සිටින දැවැන්ත පාරිසරික අර්බුද රැසකටම බලපා ඇත්තේ අවිධිමත් මිනිස් ක්‍රියාකාරකමය. ඒ අතරින් පොලිතීන් හා ප්ලාස්ටික් භාවිතය නිසා අප පරිසරය දැවැන්ත ලෙස විනාශ මුඛයට ගොදුරු වී ඇත.

මෙවැනි මිනිස් ක්‍රියාකාරකම් වලට ප්‍රධාන හේතුව වන්නේ පරිසරය පිළිබඳ නිසි අවබෝධය හැඟීම හා දැනුම නොමැතිවීමයි. අපේ දරුවන් කුඩා කල සිටම පරිසරයට හිතකාමී මිනිසුන් බවට පත් කිරීමට නම් ඔවුන්ට පරිසරය පිළිබඳ නිසි අවබෝධයක් ලබා දී වර්යාත්මක යහපැවැත්ම ඇති කළ යුතුය. එමෙන්ම වැඩිහිටි ජනතාව අතර ද පොලිතින් ප්ලාස්ටික් භාවිතය වැනි අවිධිමත් ක්‍රියාකාරකම් වල ආදීනව හා අප අවට ඇති පරිසරයේ වැදගත්කම හා එහි අත්‍යාවශ්‍ය බව අවබෝධ කරලීම ඉතා වැදගත් වේ. එවැනි දැනුවත්වීම් සඳහා අවශ්‍ය පාරිසරික දැනුම පාරිසරික සම්පත් පිළිබඳ අවබෝධය හා පාරිසරික වැදගත්කම මිනිසාට බලපාන ආකාරය සමස්ත සමාජයට ඒත්තු ගැන්වීම සඳහා ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය මගින් විශාල ජාතික මෙහෙවරක් ඉටු කරමින් සිටී.

මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරියේ පුස්තකාලයාධිපති ලෙස මා ඔබෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටින්නේ හැකි සෑම විටම මෙම ජාතික පාරිසරික තොරතුරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය භාවිතා කර ඔබත් ඔබේ දරුවාත් රටටත් අවශ්‍ය පාරසරික දැනුම හා තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා ලබා ගනිමින් පරිසර හිතකාමී සොඳුරු මිනිසෙකු ලෙස ජීවත් වී මතු අනාගත පරපුරට මේ ස්වභාව දහම ආරක්ෂා කර දෙන ලෙසයි.

5. 2 J. R. JAYAWARDENE CENTRE: Library, Archives and Museum

Mrs. Ashani De Alwis,
Assistant Librarian, J. R. Jayewardene Centre

The J. R. Jayawardene Centre' was established based on Sri Lanka's first Executive President late Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's concept in 1993 by Parliament act No. 77 of 1988. The Centre consists of three sections, a library, an archive and a museum. The library can introduce a special library, includes books collected by the President J. R. Jayewardene from his childhood and books donated by various individuals and institutions during and after his presidency.

Among the documents in the archives section generated by the **Ceylon National Congress** and other documents are President holds documents created by his own hand as a Member of Parliament, as Prime Minister and as the first Executive President of Sri Lanka. The museum is organized with souvenirs, gifts, photographs and various types of items collected by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and given by various state heads, dignitaries and other friends during his official tenure. President J. R. Jayewardene managed to formally and legally bequeath to the nation all the things related to the above mentioned three sectors before retiring from executive presidency. It can be pointed out as a fruition of the hope that he had over a period of time to establish this Centre.

All the above three sections in this institution are available and open for general public at the J. R. Jayawardene Centre, 191, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07. The Library and Museum situated in a Building calls as 'Vaijayantha Mandiraya'.

The library section has a collection of approximately 16000 books. As well as, rare books are included which are very useful for studying the modern history of Sri Lanka. The library has many sources and related books, reports and Journals, that can be referred to research on modern political history and developmental moments of politics in Ceylon after independence. Researchers can get unique information from this collection of books to study the improvement and the virtue and the vice in the State Council and then Parliament of Sri Lanka after 1948, in the National State Council and the Legislature is immense.

The objectives and duties of the Centre can be stated as, providing reference service and necessary information to scholars who conducting research on the recent history of Sri Lanka, as supporting to researchers interested in related subjects, providing copies of documents and audio-visual sources, accepting and accession of any related to the propositions made by the public for all the three main sections. Provide training opportunity for job candidates in the field of libraries and museums, publishing research books, Conserving and preserving books, documents and museum items, displaying the items available in the centre to the general public, educating the general public by conducting scholarly lecture programmes on current topics are among the functions performed by the Jayawardene Centre.

The books in the library are classified based on the internationally recognized Dewey Decimal Classification System. A special feature is the ability to access information without delay, using the computer database. The target readership for the use of this library includes researchers, lawyers, legislators, public representatives and politicians, university professors, undergraduates, graduates, journalists, government officials, expatriates, historians, students who studying Sri Lanka's modern history and modern political history etc.

The archival section includes former president J. R. Jayewardene's set of personal documents depicting the various development activities, schemes and services rendered by Mr. Jayawardene for the advancement of the United National Party as a political party during and before his tenure.

Also, the presence of much information related to his personal life, photo collections, his personal diaries and the plans made in advance to participate in a general election, documents relating to foreign relations and economic development is also special. A collection of government publications is also housed in the archival section, including Government Gazettes, Parliamentary Acts & Ordinance, Parliamentary debate Hansard, Ceylon Sessional Papers, Governors' Administrative Reports, New Law Reports etc.

The museum section enhances the uniqueness of this center. Various souvenirs, gifts received from locals and diplomats are prominent in the museum section. According to the Dhammapada, "*Hatred causes not by hatred but by love*," the speech presented by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene in Japanese peace conference at San Francisco, America on September 6, 1951 was the result of efforts to bring peace to Japan. It should be noted that the development of Japan today is greatly supported the speech. In gratitude for that, Japanese people show great respect to President J. R. Jayawardene and has donated the Japanese Museum at the beginning of the centre in 1993, this museum holds only Japanese items. The J. R. Jayewardene center has an appointed staff to perform its own duties. The administration part of the institution done under the full supervision of the Secretary General. A Board of Governors has been appointed by the Act to govern the centre. Accordingly, the President is the chairman of the board of governors.

At present, the J. R. Jayewardene Center is under the purview of the President. Usually opens to the public from 8.15 am to 4.15 pm on the weekdays except public holidays and the weekends. The administration will make arrangements to open this center on the weekend as per the special requirements.

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5.3 The Law and Society Trust Library (LST Library)

Arosha Wasala,

Librarian/ Project Support Officer, Law & Society Trust (LST)

What Is the Law and Society Trust (LST)?

The Law and Society Trust is a not-for-profit organization engaged in legal research, advocacy, and human rights documentation. The Law and Society Trust was funded by Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam in June of 1982. A society free from violent conflict, discrimination, and social injustice and based upon human dignity for all is the Vision of LST.

Dr. Sakuntala Kadirgamar is the Executive Director at present time.

LST Library

The LST Library, which is also home to the Information and Documentation Unit, comprises approximately 9,500 books, including a rare collection of early Sri Lankan legal literature and contemporary archival material, such as the New Law Reports, Sri Lanka Law Reports, Legislative Enactments, Acts of Sri Lanka, Parliamentary Debates and Government Gazettes. The reference collection is particularly rich in historical material related to Sri Lanka's legal system.

The Canada Section, established with the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), features a collection of the Dominion Law Reports (1956 -1990) and a collection of the Osgoode Hall Law Journals (1958-1989). The Library also holds U.S. Law Reports (1882-1984) and Indian Supreme Court Cases until 2008.

Referral services are available to users via our networks with other libraries, such as the Nadesan Centre, Centre for Policy Alternatives, and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies. The LST Library is open to the public and subscription to it is free.

With all of the information available, we would like to warmly welcome you to the resources and services available in the LST library. Library Opening Hours -Weekdays: 8.00 am to 4.00 pm (The library is closed on Weekends, Public and Mercantile Holidays)

Library Collections
Lending Collection

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's Lending Collection offers users access to a diverse array of resources for research, study, and professional development. With a focus on legal studies, social justice, and related disciplines, the lending collection comprises a wide range of books, periodicals, and other materials available for borrowing.

Reference Collection

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's Reference Collection is a comprehensive repository of scholarly materials and resources dedicated to legal studies, social justice, and related fields. This curated collection includes authoritative reference works, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and legal guides, designed to provide users with in-depth insights, analysis, and context on a wide range of legal topics and issues.

Periodicals Collection

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's Periodicals Collection is a rich assortment of scholarly journals, magazines, and publications dedicated to legal studies, social justice, and related fields. Central to the Periodicals Collection is the LST Review journal, a flagship publication of the Law and Society Trust. The LST Review serves as a platform for rigorous scholarship and critical discourse on legal and socio-legal issues in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Archival Collection

This collection includes a wide array of materials, such as books, handbooks, magazines, conference proceedings, journals, and more, published by the LST over the years. Accessible for reference purposes only, the Archival Collection offers users into the evolution of legal scholarship, advocacy, and social activism in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Sam Kadirgamar collection

The Library has special collections including the Sam Kadirgamar collection, which was acquired in 1991, and consists of a substantial number of legal texts, including Indian, English, South African and Sri Lankan Law Reports key texts on several aspects of contract law.

Sri Lankan Law Reports collection

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library boasts an extensive Law Reports collection encompassing a diverse range of jurisdictions, including Indian, English, South African, Sri Lankan, and Canadian law reports. This comprehensive collection provides users with access to authoritative legal precedents, landmark judgments, and key legal texts from around the world. In addition to law reports, the LST Library's collection includes many key texts covering several aspects of the law. These texts delve into diverse legal topics, including constitutional law, criminal law, international law, human rights law, and more, providing patrons with comprehensive resources to deepen their understanding of legal principles, doctrines, and practices.

Appellate Law Recorder Collection

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library has a valuable Appellate Law Recorder Collection spanning the past 20 years. This specialized collection is a comprehensive repository of appellate court decisions, judgments, and rulings from Sri Lanka.

LST Publication Collection

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library maintains the LST Publication Collection, published by the Law and Society Trust. This collection encompasses a wide array of materials, including books, research reports, policy briefs, and other publications, covering diverse legal and societal issues

relevant to Sri Lanka. Many of the publications in the LST Publication Collection are made available to the public free of charge.

<u>**Library Services**</u>

Books for Lending

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's Book Lending Service offers users the opportunity to access a diverse Law collection of resources for their research, study, and professional development needs. As part of its commitment to fostering knowledge dissemination and accessibility, the library provides a seamless borrowing process, allowing members to borrow books for a specified duration.

Books Reference

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's Books Reference Service serves as a comprehensive resource hub for legal scholars, practitioners, and the public.

Magazines and Journals for Reference

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's Magazines and Journals Collection for Reference serves as a vital repository of scholarly publications and periodicals dedicated to legal studies, social justice, and related disciplines for the public**.**

Inter-Library Loan Services

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's Inter-Library Loan Services provide users with access to an extensive network of resources beyond the library's collection. Through this service, individuals can request materials from partner libraries or institutions, expanding their access to specialized books, journals, and other resources relevant to their research and study needs.

Online Public Access Catalogue - OPAC to the Library Resources

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is a user-friendly digital platform that provides patrons with seamless access to the library's extensive collection of resources. Through the OPAC, individuals can easily search, browse, and locate books, journals, and other materials available within the library's holdings. Link - http://library.lstlanka.org/

Service for Distance Learning

The Law and Society Trust (LST) Library's service for Distance Learning caters to the needs of remote scholars, students, and practitioners seeking to engage with legal studies and related disciplines from afar. Through this service, individuals can access a wide range of digital resources, including e-books, online journals, research databases, and other educational materials, facilitating flexible and convenient learning opportunities.

5.4 Twenty-five years of Digital Evolution: Reflecting on the Journey of ERMS


Pushpamala Perera
Senior Librarian – Library Learning Commons (SLIIT UNI)

Geethani Katugampala,
Management Associate – Library
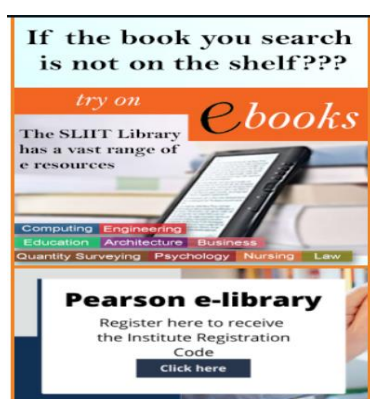**Learning Commons (SLIIT UNI)**

*"ERMS – Electronic Resource Management at **SLIIT Library Learning Commons**"*

SLIIT UNI, one of the foremost non-state universities in Sri Lanka, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in the year 2024, has proudly expanded its Library services as "SLIIT Library Learning Commons", which has gone beyond tradition and blended with modern technology to serve its community in advance. This modern library complex, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, provides students and staff with a wide range of services through physical and digital media. Also, it enhances the methodologies of accessing digital data and Information under different online platforms rather than accessing data in physical mode.
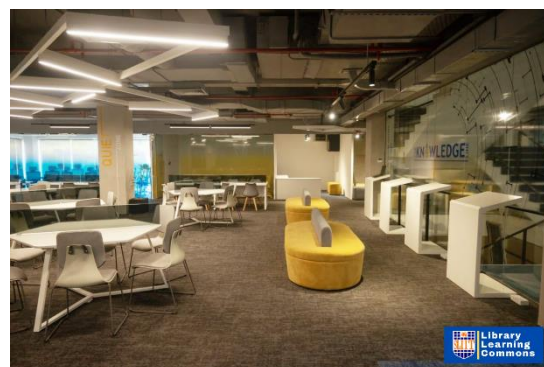
Due to this fact, the number of digital library users is increasing day by day, and there is a greater tendency among students and staff to access library resources online. The major factor is that most of these digital platforms are in-house development rather than outsourced platforms.

Starting from Library membership, which is in digital format, allows students and staff to apply for membership online and search books under the OPAC online platform. Further, this feature facilitates reserving or downloading books based on the preferred book type online. Also, Members can extend the book loan duration through this online system, and it is capable of periodic reminders and final acknowledgement emails after the successful completion of the book return process via an RFID reader device without any human intervention.


As a result of connecting with the updated digitalized world always, it has been accessible for created opportunities for library users to constantly develop their knowledge by searching and chasing scholarly data using standard database platforms such as IEEE, Science Direct, Emerald Insight, Pearson, ProQuest, O' Reilly, Grammarly, Research for Life, Wiley and many more which are highly demanding in the research field. These electronic databases and e-books benefit students and provide valuable resources for professional academic staff and researchers to further their research prospects.
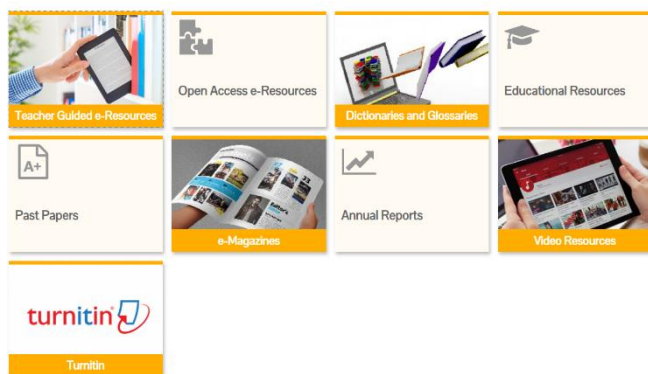
Furthermore, the Digital Library section provides another series of Electronic Resource Management features to the SLIIT community. SLIIT Research Data Archive (RDA), Teacher Guided Resource, which has versions of all recommended co-textbooks for the students, E - Past papers, Open Access E-Resources, online Dictionaries and Glossaries with some standard plagiarism detection tools such as "Turnitin" are available within the online mode and after the prior online authorization process students will be eligible to access these services via library official web portal.

Apart from the Digital Library, the library web portal provides an online Library Space Reservation facility for the students and staff for their group discussions, Individual study spaces, Collaborative Workspaces, Conferences and Knowledge-sharing sessions. Moreover, to foster research engagement among students, the Library Learning Commons hosts online knowledge-sharing sessions with professional field experts, maintains all sessions in digital media format and archives and uploads them into the library's YOUTUBE channel, enabling anyone to access and enhance their knowledge.
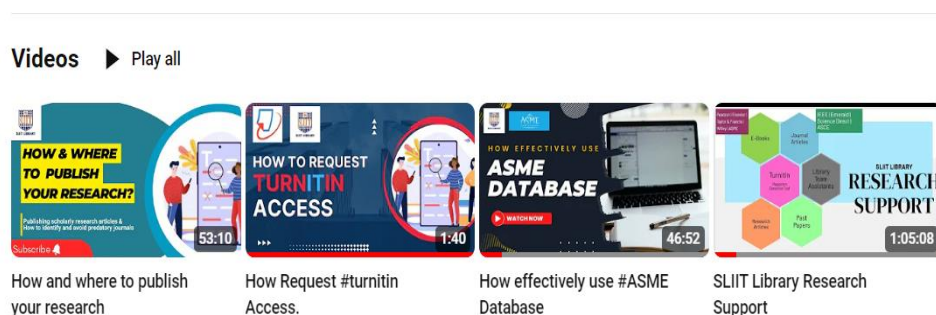
Further, Library Learning Commons provides its services 24/7 on online platforms via library mail, chat, help desk, and other digital modes. In conclusion, SLIIT Learning Commons takes pride in having successfully achieved its mission and goal within these 25 years through this technology transformation. In the future, it aims to advance further with new trends and technologies, continuing to serve and benefit the SLIIT community and beyond.

6. National Conference on Library & Information Science (NACLIS)-2024

Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) has conducted its 18th National Conference on Library and Information Science (NACLIS) 2024, by giving a special focus on state-sector libraries and library professionals who mainly work in national languages, with the aim of encouraging research culture among library professionals of these sectors.

The main theme of NACLIS 2024 was "*Libraries and Societies Connect: Strengthening the Bonds through Community Outreach*" which allowed LIS professionals and researchers to think about how libraries can revitalize or reinvigorate their library services, collections, programmes, and space to meet the needs of the present generation and to strengthen the bonds with societies.

The theme intended to showcase the status of our regional libraries and to find strategies on how libraries can provide innovative services, equitable access to information, and developing collections amidst various types of challenges such as pandemics, economic, financial, and disasters. NACLIS 2024 was conducted in two sessions.

NACLIS 2024-Session I

NACLIS Session One was chaired by Dr. M.M.Mashroofa, Convener of the Research Committee of SLLA, which was held at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL)on 18th April, 2024. Mr. S. Santharooban, Deputy Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) served as the Co-chair, and Mrs. T. Janen, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Jaffna (UoJ), and Mr. A.L.M.Mushtaq, Librarian of Public Library Kalmunai served as the Secretary and Co-Secretary, respectively.

Prof. (Dr). M. M. Fazil, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Culture, SEUSL graced the occasion as the Chief Guest who admired the library's role in bringing up an individual to world class level by taking him as an example. Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian, of the University of Peradeniya delivered the keynote address which inspired the participants. Dr. U.L.Abdul Majeed, Dean, Faculty of Technology, SEUSL, Dr. W.J. Jeyaraj, Librarian, (EUSL), Mr. N. Manivannan, Commissioner of Local Government, Department of Local Government, Eastern Province have graced the occasion as Guests of Honour and addressed the gathering. Guest speeches in various aspects allowed the participants to gain new insights. Dignitaries, especially Mr. Preethi Liyanage, President of SLLA, Dr. Ananda Tissa, Immediate Past President of SLLA, Mr. Sugath Gunatilake, President-Elect of SLLA, and many council members of SLLA, University Librarians, Professors, Deans of Faculties, administrative staff, Commissioners of Municipal Council, and Secretaries of Pradeshiya Saba glorified the programme. 19 papers were presented in four technical sessions.

Of these, 16 were delivered in Tamil, and 3 were presented in English. The distribution of these papers is as follows: 09 from the academic library sector, 7 from public library, 2 from school libraries, and 1 from the special library sector. Best paper were selected and awarded for each sessions. Altogether 120 members including public librarians, school librarians, librarians of colleges, and universities took part, shared their ideas and actively engaged in discussions. Dr. Kalpana Chandrasekar, Librarian (Acting), University of Jaffna chaired the plenary session which concludes session I in a fruitful way.

NACLIS 2024- Session II

NACLIS Session - II, held on 26th April 2024 in the Gampaha District at the Gampaha Public Library. The session offered a lively platform for public, school, and special librarians to explore their research findings, exchange best practices, tackle common challenges, and investigate emerging trends.

Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa, Librarian of GWAIM, chaired the session, with Mrs. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi, Chief Librarian of Colombo Public Library/co-chair, Mrs. Chandima Wadasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the PGIM/Conference Secretary, and Mrs. Kusala Sajeewani, Assistant Librarian of GWAIM/co-secretary, and contributed to the supporting committee for NACLIS II.

The Chief Guest of Session- 02 was the highly regarded Marshall of the Air Force Roshan Goonatileke, who also holds the esteemed position of Honorable Governor of the Western Province. Joining him was Mr. Gamini Moragoda, the accomplished Managing Director of Minsara (Pvt.) Ltd. Dr. Madhubhashini Disanayake Ratnayake, a distinguished Senior Lecturer

from the Department of English Language Teaching at the University of Sri Jayawardenapura, delivered the keynote speech, enriching the session with her insights

Dr. Maheshwaran, Librarian of University of Peradeniya, Dr. M.M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and Convener Research committee of SLLA delivered the speeches at the inauguration. Dr. (Mrs.) Mashroofa stressed the importance of inculcating research culture among the non academic librarians.

The conference technical sessions were organized into 4 tracks: Library and Information Services, Library Management and Extension Services, Library and Community Information Services, and Library Services and Information Technology. Mr. Uditha Alahakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian (NILIS); Dr. Udaya Cabral, Assistant Director (NLDSB); Mr. K.K.G. Wijeweera, Former Chief Librarian, Central Bank of Sri Lanka; Ven. Demunnewe Upali Thero, Senior Lecturer, Bhiksu University; and Dr. S.K. Illangarathne, Librarian, Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, served as Chairs of the Session at the technical sessions.

Dr. G.R. Padmasiri (Librarian, University of the Visual and Performing Arts), Dr. Ruwan Gamage (Senior Lecture, National Institute of Library and Information Science (NILIS),University of Colombo), Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa (Acting Librarian, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine), and Mr. Uditha Alahakoon(Senior Assistant Librarian, National Institute of Library and Information Science (NILIS), University of Colombo) participated as resource persons in the Plenary Session of the NACLIS 2024 conference.

In total, librarians from different sectors presented 34 research papers. Of these, 27 were delivered in Sinhala, and 7 were presented in English. The distribution of these papers is as follows: 18 from the public library sector, 6 from school libraries, 6 from academic libraries, and 6 from the special library sector.

The best paper award was given to 'The Role of Public Libraries in Fostering the Creative Economy within Gampaha District' by Ms. H.G.M. Aravindi Gajanayake, librarian of the Gampaha Public Library

The event was graced by the presence of the Commissioner of Local Government (Western Province), heads of Local authorities, Mr. Preethi Liyanage /President of the Sri Lanka Library Association, Council members of the SLLA, and library professionals.

7. Publications

7.1 Descriptive Bibliographic Framework (DBIB)

Descriptive Bibliographic Framework to standardize cataloguing process in Sri Lanka a National Library publication titled "Descriptive Bibliographic Framework (DBIB)" was launched as a guideline based on MARC21 for inputting metadata into the library catalogue during the National Library's 34th Anniversary Celebration held on April 30th, 2024, at the National Library auditorium. The main objective of the DBIB project is to standardize metadata fields during the cataloguing process and to maintain uniformity in library cards island wide. Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Chairperson of the DBIB committee, delivered a presentation at the launching ceremony. An online introductory session on the DBIB had already been held on 5th April, 2024, to make LIS professionals aware of this joint effort. Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Dr.Priyanwada Wanigasooriya, and Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi delivered speeches about the DBIB project and its practical applications.

8. Awards and Achievements

Dr Athukorala, Deputy Librarian at the Sripalee Campus of the University of Colombo, has been honoured with the prestigious Alexander Von Humboldt fellowship in Germany, recognizing her exceptional contributions to her field of study. This notable achievement highlights her outstanding research work and solidifies her position as a leading academic in her discipline. Currently, Dr. Athukorala is serving as a guest scholar at Fern University Library, where she continues her research pursuits and collaborations, further establishing her reputation as a thought leader and innovator in the field.

Dr Athukorala, the first library academic from Sri Lanka to receive the Alexander Von Humboldt Fellowship, has joined a select group of scholars honoured with this prestigious award. She is also the third academic member from a Sri Lankan university system to be granted this fellowship, following the two professors from the University of Peradeniya.

While working at Hagen University in Germany, Dr Athukorala is also an associate fellow at the Centre for Advanced Study Access to Cultural Goods in Digital Change at Munster University. Since December 2023, she has been conducting comparative legal research focusing on the legal framework for digital access to library content in Germany and Sri Lanka, with an emphasis on digital transformation and copyright law. Dr Athukorala is part of a project group led by Professor Eric Steinhauer that is exploring the legal framework for digital access to library content in various countries, including Pakistan.

Dr. Athukorala has been selected to take part in the Alexander Von Humboldt Hackathon program, organized by Find Solutions for Strengthening Academic Freedom. The hackathon is scheduled to take place from September 30th to October 1st, 2024. It will gather a varied group of scholars and experts to tackle challenges associated with academic freedom.

M.P.P Dilhani, Senior Assistant Librarian, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine won second place in the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T), Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) competition of SIG-III International Paper Contest (IPC) 2024 for the paper titled "Information Seeking-Behaviour of Medical Professionals in Rural Hospitals in Sri Lanka: A Path Modeling Approach". Co-authors were Dr.Wathmanel Seneviratne, Professor Chrishantha Abeysena, Dr.S. Somaratne.

9.   Outreach Activities

A bulk of book donation to schools in Uva Province under "NETHRA Programme"

On April 8th, 2024, the "Nethra" Book Donation Program took place at Pelgahathenna School. The event was graced by the Head of the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Kelaniya, Professor M K Weerasingha, as well as Senior Professor W. A. Weerasooriya and other lecturers of the department, adding vibrancy to the occasion. The program's main objective was to bridge the educational resource gap by enriching Uva Provincial Schools' libraries and promoting reading among students. The event was a collaborative effort, with active participation from education directors, school principals and teachers from Uva provincial schools. The school's principal, staff, and parents played a significant role in organizing the book donation program and inviting representatives from other schools to collect their book parcels. A total of 40 book parcels were generously donated during the event. These parcels represent not just books, but opportunities for students to explore new worlds, expand their horizons, and dream big.

10. Forthcoming Events of SLLA

10.1 Annual General Meeting -Sri Lanka Library Association-2024

64th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Library Association will be held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on 28th June 2024 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

10.2 Certificate Ceremony - Sri Lanka Library Association -2024

The graduation ceremony of the students who have completed the Diploma Course in Library and Information Science (DLIS) 2022/2023 and Higher Diploma Course in Library and Information Science (HDPLIS - II) 2022/2023 will be held on 28th June 2024 at 2:00pm at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

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Sri Lanka Library Association 2023/24

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