## Content

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### ULA workshop on "Conservation and preservation of the Library materials"

The University Librarian Association of Sri Lanka collaborated with the National Library and Documentation Center organized a workshop on "Conservation and preservation of the Library materials" on 28th June 2023 from 9.30-4.00. p.m. The event took place at the National Library and Documentation Center, Colombo 07. Participants from various universities including Deputy librarians, Senior Assistant librarians, Assistant librarians, Library Information Assistants and Library Attendants from the university of Jaffna, Sri Jayawardenapura, Uwa Wellassa, Sabaragamuwa, Open University, Kelaniya, Visual & Performing Arts, Ruhuna, Gampaha wickramarachchi, Buddhist & Pali University of Sri Lanka as well as NILIS attended the workshop.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Udaya Cabral, Assistant Director (Conservation), National Library and Documentation and

Mr. M. S. Mohamed Shiham served as the Tamil interpreter to support Tamil - speaking participants.



**WORKSHOP**
ON "CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS"
**FOR LIBRARY STAFF**
Organized by
University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ULA)
collaborate with National Library and Documentation Service Board.

On **Wednesday, 28th June 2023**
at
National Library and Documentation Service Board,
Colombo 7
From **9.00 a.m.** to **4.00 p.m.**

**TARGET GROUP:**
ALL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STAFF
(Academic, Administrative or Non-Academic Staff specially attached to the conservation and preservation units of the university libraries)

**MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION:**
SINHALA AND ENGLISH
(Tamil interpretation will be arranged based on the requirements of participants)

**PARTICIPATION FEE:**
RS. 3000.00 per person

**SEAT LIMIT:**
**30** persons
(First come first served basis)

**TEA, LUNCH, CERTIFICATE FOR PARTICIPATION**

**RESOURCE PERSON**

**DR. UDAYA CABRAL**
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION), NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA

Please send your nomination on or before 15th June 2023.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
Ms. Pradeepa Udayangani De Silva,
Training Officer of ULA
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During the session, various conservation and preservation matters were discussed in depth. All the participants joined Dr. Cabral, by actively engaging in sharing their insights on issues such as insect problems and the physical environmental concerns related to libraries.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

## Transforming Academic Writing: Harnessing the Power of AI for Enhanced Scholarly Communication

M.A.K.S. Munasinghe
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### Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the collection of technological innovations and techniques that imitate and extend human intelligence (Zhu, 2020). Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized many aspects of our existence, and its influence on writing and communication is growing. AI refers to developing computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intellect, such as comprehending natural language, generating text, and assisting in various domains. In the context of writing, AI-powered tools have emerged as valuable companions, offering students, researchers, and professionals support and augmenting the writing process.

Academic writing is a fundamental component of scholastic communication, as it facilitates the dissemination of knowledge and promotes intellectual development. However, writing a quality academic paper can take time and effort for researchers. The advent of AI has brought transformative solutions to the field of academic writing. Researchers can improve the content and efficacy of their scholarly communication by utilizing AI tools. Using specific examples of AI tools that have made significant contributions to the field, this article will examine how AI is revolutionizing academic writing.

**AI for Academic Library**

Introducing AI in administrative proficiency in the academic library environment represents a transformative shift toward operational efficiency. The automation potential of AI extends to routine tasks typically associated with library management, such as lending and returning materials. By mechanizing these tasks, AI liberates the academic library staff from repetitive, time-consuming duties, redirecting their expertise towards more nuanced and intellectual pursuits, such as complex research assistance and personalized student guidance. Consequently, this allows the academic library to function beyond its traditional capacity as a mere knowledge repository. Instead, it evolves into an active participant in the educational process, directly fostering scholarly discourse, nurturing critical thinking, and facilitating more profound engagement with academic resources. AI's role in the realm of administrative efficiency, thus, becomes instrumental in the redefinition and amplification of the academic library's contribution to the intellectual vitality of the institution it serves.

**Automated Language Editing**

One of the key challenges in academic writing is ensuring clarity and precision of language. Poorly constructed sentences, grammatical errors, and awkward phrasing can hinder the effective communication of research findings. AI-powered language editing tools have become indispensable resources for researchers seeking to enhance the readability and coherence of their work. These tools employ advanced algorithms to detect and correct grammatical mistakes, suggest improvements in sentence structure, and provide vocabulary suggestions.(Lee et al., 2021) By using these AI tools, researchers can streamline the writing process and produce polished manuscripts with greater ease.

- **Grammarly** is a popular AI writing assistant that aids in the improvement of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. In addition, it provides suggestions for enhancing your writing style.
- **ProWritingAid** is a widely recognized AI writing assistant with comparable features to Grammarly. In addition, it contains a plagiarism detector and a style guide.
- **The Hemingway Editor** is a tool that facilitates plain and concise writing. It identifies portions of your writing that are difficult to read or comprehend and provides suggestions for enhancement.
- **Cliche Finder** is a tool that helps you recognize and eliminate clichés in your writing. It can also help you identify and replace repetitive phrases and terms.

- **Wordtune** is a tool that rewrites your sentences to make them more engaging and fascinating. It provides alternative phrasing and sentence structure suggestions.

**Citation and Referencing Support**

Citation and referencing play a crucial role in academic writing. Students often encounter difficulties with paraphrasing, referencing, and using quotes (Noori, 2020). Accurate citation and referencing are vital components of academic writing, ensuring that proper credit is given to the original authors and that the work can be validated and built upon. However, formatting references according to specific citation styles, such as APA or MLA, can be tedious and prone to errors. AI citation tools, such as Zotero, Mendeley and EndNote, have simplified this process by automatically generating citations and bibliographies in the desired format. These tools can extract metadata from research articles and books, allowing researchers to compile and manage their reference lists effortlessly.

- **Cite This For Me** is a free online tool that can generate citations in APA, MLA, and Chicago formats. Additionally, it allows you to save your citations for future use.
- **EasyBib** is an additional free online tool for generating citations in various formats. Also included is a plagiarism checker.

**Plagiarism Detection**

Maintaining academic integrity is of utmost importance in scholarly writing. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, undermines the credibility of research and compromises the integrity of the academic community. AI-powered plagiarism detection tools, such as Turnitin and Copyscape, employ sophisticated algorithms to compare a submitted document with a vast database of academic literature and internet sources. These tools highlight any instances of potential plagiarism, enabling researchers to rectify unintentional errors and ensure the originality of their work.

- **PlagScan** is a plagiarism detection tool powered by AI that can scan documents for unoriginal content. PlagScan compares submitted papers to a database of billions of online sources and generates comprehensive reports on potential plagiarism instances.

- **Quetext** is a plagiarism detection and citation assistant enabled by machine learning that can be used to ensure the originality of your work. Quetext compares submitted papers to a database of billions of online sources and generates comprehensive reports on potential instances of plagiarism.

- **Copyscape** is a tool for detecting and preventing instances of plagiarism. To find correlations, it compares your content against billions of web pages and other content sources.

PlagScan          quetext          Copyscape

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into academic writing has given researchers and professionals game-changing answers. The writing process has been transformed by AI-powered technologies that streamline operations and improve the standard of scholarly communication. In university libraries, these tools have simplified administrative work, freeing employees to concentrate on more complex and intellectual activities and reframing the library's position as an active participant in stimulating scholarly conversation. AI tools are now essential resources for language editing, providing grammatical improvements, sentence structure enhancements, and vocabulary suggestions, resulting in more polished writing. Additionally, the creation of sources along with maintaining reference lists has been made simpler by AI citation and referencing support tools, saving researchers' time and guaranteeing accurate referencing. Additionally, AI-powered plagiarism detection technologies are now essential for ensuring academic integrity due to their support to researchers in finding and correcting instances of possible plagiarism and preserving the integrity of the academic community.

It's crucial to remember that artificial intelligence (AI) is an asset instead of a substitute for human intelligence. While AI tools complement and augment researchers' work, their critical thinking and creativity are still crucial to the educational process. Researchers can open new doors for scholarly communication and create methods for academic writing that are more productive and efficient by embracing AI's potential and utilizing its capability. The continued use of AI in academic writing can expand the scope of our comprehension and improve the standard of scholarly work, which would be advantageous to researchers and the academic community.

## References

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

## ChatGPT: Opportunities and Challenges of Integrating AI in Higher Education in Sri Lanka

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### What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is a computer program powered by artificial intelligence (AI) that can quickly answer questions. It's a chatbot that can go back-and-forth with the user in text (McCray, 2023). Therefore, individuals who use this tool can enter a question or prompt, then ChatGPT will provide a well-articulated written response. ChatGPT came into the scene in late November 2022 and immediately gained immense popularity, attracting one million users within a week (Cox and Elias, 2023). This tool is developed by OpenAI, the same organization behind the innovative image generator DALL-E. ChatGPT is a large language model tool that uses advanced deep learning techniques to produce text in response to user queries. This language model tool can write emails, poems, business plans and computer code. Further, if users feed it a report or paper, and it will offer feedback and revisions. More generally, ChatGPT will do paraphrasing, and making summaries. Rather than searching the internet for information, ChatGPT has been trained on a vast collection of text, including academic articles, news stories, books, websites, and other sources.

The utilization of ChatGPT is currently in its initial stage within the higher education sector in Sri Lanka. Therefore, looking at the opportunities and challenges of using ChatGPT for learning is essential. However, it will be up to individual departments and academics to decide how they best see the potential and pitfalls of using ChatGPT as a tool in their programs.

This article simply outlines some of the opportunities and challenges of using ChatGPT.

| Opportunities | Challenges |
|---|---|
| ChatGPT presents an opportunity for both academics and learners to explore the benefits and limitations of AI in their teaching and learning. Understanding and seeing what's possible – and what isn't – will help students to recognize how a tool like ChatGPT can help and impede their ability to complete assignments. | ChatGPT can generate complete essays from basic prompts, which might encourage certain students to submit essays created by ChatGPT as their own original work. |
| ChatGPT can initiate discussions in the classroom on topics related to information literacy and the sources of online information. However, it is important to note that ChatGPT relies on a specific data set which has certain restrictions. By utilizing ChatGPT for basic information searches, similar to other search engine tools, students can gain insight into the type of information that can and cannot be obtained using AI. | ChatGPT produce text in an authoritative tone, which could potentially create a misconception among students that all information provided by ChatGPT is accurate. However, it is important to note that the data set used by ChatGPT is restricted and, therefore, may contain inaccurate data or misinformation. |
| ChatGPT can serve as a useful tool for students to generate initial ideas and concepts while preparing to write or brainstorm responses to a given prompt. | ChatGPT is a tool designed for profit, which collects data from users who provide input. Although it is currently free to use, it is expected to be monetized in the future. The developers of ChatGPT have not disclosed their plans for using the data collected from users. By using ChatGPT, users agree to the possibility of OpenAI's, the developers of ChatGPT's, potential storing and selling of personal data. |

| | |
|---|---|
| ChatGPT can give some writers a template for producing write-ups in a specific type i.e. a 5-paragraph essay, an abstract, a cover letter, or an interview template etc. The ChatGPT generated content of the writing could be inaccurate, but the structure and style of the writing may be reflecting the requirements and standards expected for the assignment or task. | Using ChatGPT's dataset raises issues such as ethical use of information and plagiarism. |
| | Engaging with ChatGPT has economic and environmental consequences. Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT demand massive computing power, which can only be afforded by big tech companies. Running any technology requiring major computing processes has an environmental impact, as computing processing facilities will need to be built with facilities that require even larger power and cooling resources. |

Adapted from Berkeley University of California, 2023

The development of technology such as ChatGPT is ongoing and it's possible that recommendations regarding its usage will change over time. This will therefore open new research venues in Sri Lankan higher education sector to see how students can effectively utilize this tool for educational purposes or how academics could integrate them into teaching and learning in future at different levels or building up new institutional level policies for using AI powered tools.

Moreover, the University library continues to fulfil its role as the heart of the university, despite its move little bit away from print and towards electronic resources. It is very hard to predict how AI tools will impact librarianship. This situation again creates future research areas for the university libraries in Sri Lanka to examine how librarians could integrate these new tools into what they do or how they could help their users to use AI powered tools wisely, safely, and ethically to improve the output quality.

Sri Lankan higher education sector can accept the AI technology for teaching and learning purposes upon thourough assessment of the novel tools and creating services to facilitate their utilization.

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Berkeley University of California (2023). *Understanding AI Writing Tools and their Uses for Teaching and Learning at UC Berkeley*. https://teaching.berkeley.edu/understanding-ai-writing-tools-and-their-uses-teaching-and-learning-uc-berkeley

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## ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

### Achievements

*Ms. Vijita de Silva Research Award was presented on recognition of the research on impact of "Environmental Awareness on Bolgoda Ecosystem"*

Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, a Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Moratuwa has won "Ms Vijita de Silva Research Award" for her collaborative initiatives on enhancing the awareness of Bolgoda environments. This esteemed award is presented annually by the Sri Lanka Library Association, acknowledging outstanding research, meritorious contributions, and innovative initiatives. It was presented to Mrs. Thushari at the Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Library Association, held on June 30th, 2023, at the Foundation Institute in Colombo.





The main objective of her attempts was to raise awareness, particularly among stakeholders in the education sector, about the importance of developing a deeper understanding of the resource-rich neighborhoods of Bolgoda. Through a thoughtfully designed series of activities and publications, she has successfully shared insightful information on the Bolgoda Ecosystem to foster a greater appreciation of it and to ensure its sustainable development. Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena, a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Earth Resources Engineering had been instrumental in this collaborative venture, by crafting innovative and effective strategies of information sharing across all stakeholder layers.

## Promotions

Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara, Assistant Librarian of the Engineering Library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, was promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) with effect from October 2, 2022.

# SHINES BEYOND THE HORIZON

## SLLA Fellowship

Ms. U. D Hiruni Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian, Allied Health Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University was awarded the Fellowship by achievement by the Sri Lanka Library Association, at its Annual General Meeting held on 30th June 2023.

# ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION

- Dr. Nayani Gunawardana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa, conducted a session on "Structure of a Research Paper" for the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology (Fashion Design level 2) students on 22nd May 2023.

- Senior Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku delivered a session on finding scholarly information for research on 22nd May for the students of Fashion Design level 11. The group of students were attached to the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, Faculty of Engineering of University of Moratuwa.

- Department of Decision Sciences, Faculty of Business of University of Moratuwa proudly introduced the newest postgraduate degree programme, Master of Business Analytics(MBA) in the month of June. Upon the request received by the department, Senior Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted the session on 'familiarizing library facilities to the postgraduate students' on 17th June 2023. The group of students visited the library after the session and identified the various resources available for them.

- The level 3 students of the department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering of University of Moratuwa received guidance from Senior Assistant Librarians for their undergraduate research module (CE4922) from the library on June 22 and 26th June. The online session on "How to avoid plagiarism" was conducted by Mr. Nishan Punchihewa and session on "Searching scholarly sources for research" was by Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku.

- The University of Moratuwa, library opened the doors for the level 1 students of Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture for their program on Academic writing and research. The students engaged in their study module in the library premises while using the library collection. Senior Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku, through her lecture, gave an insight to "locating library resources for the academic writing "on 28th June.

- Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) of the Engineering Library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, presented a research paper titled "Disaster Management at University Libraries: A Case Study at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Library" at the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2023) on June 27, 2023, Organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA). It was a co-authored paper by Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara and Dr. N.D. Wijayasundara, Librarian, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

- Dr. A.U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), conducted lectures for Level 6 undergraduate students pursuing BA (Hons.) in Library and Information Science at the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL). The lectures on service marketing were conducted on 14th and 28th May and lectures on Knowledge management were conducted on April 23 rd and 30th and 13th May. The lectures focused on Service Marketing in Libraries and Knowledge Management in Libraries, are both 3-credit courses.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### *National Union Catalogue of Sri Lanka is Launched*

National Union Catalogue of Sri Lanka is officially launched by the National Library and Documentation Service Board on 26th April, 2023. National Union Catalogue is developed with the objective of providing a common discovery interface to search and find the bibliographic details of books in all over the libraries in Sri Lanka.

Mr. M. N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, Eastern University Sri Lanka has developed this portal using the VuFind open-source software. This interface does more than simply search; it also shows the location of the book and the libraries where it is currently located with the live status (availability) of the book. So, any user could use this Union Catalogue to find their required book without visiting several library catalogues (OPACs) which will save time of user and they can visit the nearest library to refer the book. This is a joint project of the National Library and ICTA. So far OPAC of 25 Public libraries are incorporated into this Union Catalogue as the initial step and other libraries such as University libraries and special libraries in Sri Lanka will be incorporated in the near future. National Union Catalogue of Sri Lanka could be accessed via http://unioncatalogue.dlp.gov.lk/vufind/

### *Workshop on classification of library books*

Through the zonal education director of Mathugama, Professor Lakdas Fernando, former academic staff member from the department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, Faculty of Engineering requested the guidance for a workshop on classification of library books. A group of 40 teacher librarians attached to the school libraries of Mathugama zonal education area were the participants. The venue of the workshop was Dickhena College located at Baduraliya, Mathugama.

Under the patronage of librarian, Mrs. R.C. Kodikara, Senior Assistant Librarian, Mrs Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted the theory and practical sessions during the one-day workshop on 28th April. The workshop consisted of a session on importance of classification and a practical session on classifying library books using Dewey Decimal Classification. The practical session was held at the newly renovated library of Dickhena college, Mathugama. The participants enthusiastically attended the practical session to obtain knowledge on classification and shelving library materials. During the conclusion remarks, Principal of Dickhena College, Zonal education directors and few participants expressed the importance of the workshop and need for continuation of the programme for zonal areas around Mathugama education zone.

## *Browsing library resources in Koha management software*

The training Director, the librarian and a group of students from Sri Lanka Institute of Textile Apparel (SLITA) located at Rathmalana visited the library premises on May 24th and they were welcomed by the acting Librarian, Mr. Anura Kiriella. The attendees were offered a hands-on experience about browsing library resources in Koha management software. The resource person, Senior Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted the session on using a library, library ethics and finding information related to their academic discipline. The students were able to find out various library resources during the library tour.



## *Awareness session and library visit for Hapugahakumbura Vidyalaya, Balangoda*

The library SUSL conducted an awareness session for the students Grade 6-11 of R/Hapugahakumbura Maha Vidyalaya, Kahatapitiya, Balangoda on 22nd June 2023. The librarian, Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei gave an introduction to the library, its functions and formations and Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian explained and demonstrated the functions and services of KOHA library management system, newly introduced library services, sections, projects and effective use of social media to promote the library.

The librarian donated a book collection, stationery and a designed SUSL library book mark for all students and the staff at the end of the session.



## *‘Prison Library project’ at the Jaffna Remand Prison - Library, University of Jaffna*

'Prison Library Project' at the Jaffna Remand Prison is an important community outreach initiative undertaken by the Library of the University of Jaffna. This activity was led by Mr. R. Kupeshan, Senior Assistant Librarian and Coordinator of Community Outreach Activities, and a team comprising of eight members engaged in organizing the respective library specifically for prisoners at the Jaffna Remand Prison.

This endeavor, carried out from August 2022 to March 2023, marked a significant milestone in their community engagement efforts. Through the project, a collection of 2,500 reading materials, including books, reference sources, serials, pamphlets, and leaflets were technically processed and organized. Additionally, infrastructure facilities were developed with the support of philanthropists and well-wishers. An operational mechanism was also devised to address the information needs of the inmates. The inaugural ceremony for the 'Prison Library' took place on April 8th , 2023, with Professor S. Srisatkunarajah, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, as the Chief Guest.



# RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION

## Seminars/workshops/ lectures conducted

### *Pre-Symposium Workshop, University of Colombo*

Library "Pre-Symposium Workshop" on "How to write a winning abstract" was held on 10th May in the Board Room of the Main Library. The Pre-Conference Workshop was held concurrently with the Library Research Symposium (LRS) 2023, with the goal of preparing the young Assistant Librarians for the upcoming conference. Mrs. H.M.D. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna (Acting Librarian), Mrs. Anuja Silva (Senior Assistant Librarian), Mr. T. Ramanan (Senior Assistant Librarian), and Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara (Senior Assistant Librarian) contributed as resource persons in this event.

### *Workshop on Pricing the Unpriced Library Material*

The Library of the University of Colombo organized a workshop on "Pricing the Unpriced Library Material" on 23rd June 2023 at the Main Library Auditorium. Ms. Anuradha Dassanayake, Assistant Director, Acquisitions Division of the National Library, Sri Lanka, was the resource person. The workshop enlightened the participants on how unpriced library materials, especially donated resources, could be priced based on guidelines and manuals created by the National Library of Sri Lanka.

*<u>Pre-Conference Workshop Series of the Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference 2023 organized by the Library, University of Kelaniya</u>*

The Library, University of Kelaniya successfully conducted an online workshop on "How to Conduct a Literature Survey and How to write a Literature Review?" on 26$^{th}$ May 2023 as a part of the Pre-Conference Workshop Series of the Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference 2023 organized by the Library, University of Kelaniya. The resource person of the workshop was Dr. (Ms.) C.N.K. Alahakoon, Deputy Librarian, University of Peradeniya. The workshop was preceded by "An Introduction to Desk Research" by Dr. C.C. Jayasundara, Librarian, University of Kelaniya.



- Dr. R.A.A.S. Ranaweera, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya, conducted a lecture on Information Searching Techniques and Electronic Database Searching " for the Skill Development Program for Postgraduates (MPhil/PhD) 2023 of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Kelaniya on 11.06. 2023

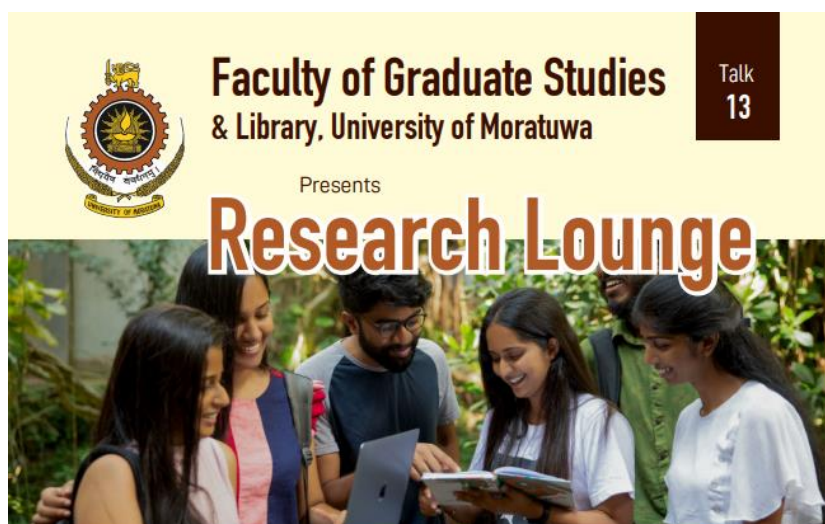*<u>First Anniversary Celebration of Research Lounge</u>*

One year ago, Dr Nayani Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, Conceptualized and initiated Research Lounge to bring experts in the field and postgraduates/researchers to one forum. This monthly event is organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa in collaboration with the University Library, sponsored by "Delmah Tea". Research Lounge has successfully conducted its twelve talks in accordance with the guidance and direction of the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof. Ajith De Alwis and came to fruition to the satisfaction of every stakeholder to it.

National and international academics, researchers, and students took part in this process. In some research lounges, they discussed simple topics like how to start a research project, innovative research, etc. In another one, they opened participants' eyes to new topics like Thesis writing with R markdown, Latex. They have raised awareness about critical topics like ChatGPT and introduced AI tools used



worldwide. Some lounges were open to discuss high-impact publications and publication journeys. And some practical sessions, too, like "Shut-up-and-Write!".

Research Lounge reached a milestone by celebrating its first anniversary in its 13th Lounge on the 13th of June 2023 with a different topic. It is "Creating a quick reference collection as a book with Pinterest! & Production of digital learning material". Prof. Henrik Blomgren, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden and Mr. Per Brahm, CEO, Learnify AB, Sweden participated as resource persons. Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana was the moderator of the Research Lounge.

### *Empowering BSc Zoology Students with Research Methodology Lectures*

Dr. A.U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), conducted a series of lectures for BSc Zoology special degree students, focusing on research methodology. Held from May to June, these sessions provided essential insights and tools to enhance students' understanding of the research process.

The lectures commenced with mind mapping as a tool for research students, teaching effective organization of thoughts and improved research planning. Information searching and evaluating techniques were then explored, enabling students to conduct comprehensive and efficient searches while critically assessing sources for credibility and relevance. The third lecture was focused on Referencing rules and reference management emphasizing proper citation and avoiding plagiarism. The final lecture covered the publication process for scientific research papers including journal selection, and the peer-review system.

### *Reference Management with Zotero for MSc in Nursing Students*

Dr. A.U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), has been invited to conduct a session on reference management with Zotero for the participants of the MSc in Nursing program. This lecture, a part of the research methodology course, was held on the 10th of May 2023.

Participants gained invaluable insights into the functionalities and features of Zotero, enabling them to efficiently manage references, generate bibliographies, and maintain accurate citations. The students were guided through practical demonstrations, ensuring they grasp the full potential of Zotero as a research aid.

### *Webinar on 21st Century & Education 4.0: A Curiculam and Knowledge Building Model Revisted*

Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawarathne Director General of the National Institute of Education, delivered a webinar on 21st Century & Education 4.0: A Curriculum and Knowledge Building Model Revisited on May 10, 2023, via Zoom. The speaker talked about how technology can improve educational opportunities and give students access to a wide range of tools and data. The speaker talked about how technology can improve educational opportunities and give students access to a wide range of

tools and data. He emphasized how crucial it is to incorporate technology into all subjects, not just computer science and STEM-related ones. Academics, educators, researchers, and other interested listeners from universities, schools, and other government-related organizations in Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and Nigeria participated in the webinar.

### *Library User Awareness Program*

The Library User Awareness Program on "How to Use Library Resources Effectively" was held on May 31, 2023, for undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The program included a demonstration on how to use the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), how to conduct electronic database searches, utilize useful web links for academic needs, and navigate through the digital library. Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Faculty of Agriculture, served as the resource person for the session.

### *Workshop for the Final Year Research Students, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka*

The Workshop on Digital Tools for Research: Developing Digital Information Literacy Skills for

Research was held on June 14, 2023, for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Mrs. Malithi Jayasooriya, Assistant Librarian, served as resource persons for the session.

This workshop aimed at enhancing students' digital information literacy skills that is required for success in their university education. It introduced online databases subscribed by the UGC, and other useful web links for research success, and promoted the use of different freely available ICT tools in their research process.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE STEPS CARRIED OUT AT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

- Dr. R.A.A.S. Ranaweera and Mrs. M.P.L.R. Marasinghe, Senior Asistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya participated in the ISO 9001: 2015 certification workshop held on 23 - 24 May 2023 at the Sri Lanka Institute of Standard.

### *Awareness session on Library Quality Assurance for the Library staff, SUSL*

Awareness session on Library Quality Assurance for the Library staff, SUSL was successfully conducted on 23.05.2023 at the Staff Development center. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the librarian, registrar and director/ CQA of the university. The closure of the ceremony was marked by distributing a book of performance evaluation to each library staff member of all libraries.

The objectives of this workshop were to address the identified weaknesses through a library SWOT analysis, to enhance the quality attitude, practice, to achieve the vision of the library in providing better teaching and learning support through the library, and to provide the required information to initiate and regulate the Quality assurance functions in the library.



**LQAC WORKSHOP SERIES**

LIBRARY QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL
SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF
SRI LANKA

**01st**

**Awareness Workshop**

Organized by LQAC

9:00AM-
12:00PM      23 May 2023

Council Chamber
Staff Development Center,
SUSL

More Info
libcoordinator@cqa.sab.ac.lk
+94719355500

2$^{nd}$ phase of the workshop included 3 informative sessions conducted by 3 resource persons:

1-Introduction to quality assurance in higher education and role of quality cells in the library by Prof. Ruwandeepika, Director, SSQAC, SUSL, 2-LQAC by Mr. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, Coordinator, LQAC and 3-The University libraries, by Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian and LQAC member. These sessions were followed by a QA session at the end.



## STUDENTS SUPPORT SERVICES

### *Library tour for NILIS students*

The National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS) of the University of Colombo arranged a Library Tour for the students of Diploma in School Librarianship (DSL), Diploma in Library and Information Management (DLIM) and Advanced Certificate in Librarianship (ACL) on 27$^{th}$ May 2023. Students were taken to the Main Library and then to the Science Library of the Faculty of Science. Program Coordinators Mrs. Samanlatha Adhikari (Senior Assistant Librarian) and Mr. T. Ramanan (Senior Assistant Librarian) guided the students and explained how library functions and services were carried out. About 40 students from both Sinhala and Tamil Medium enjoyed the tour while gaining knowledge about library operations and new technologies implemented in those libraries.

### *Orientation programme- Science Library of University of Colombo*

On the first day of their academic journey, the first-year undergraduates (2022 intake) of the Faculty of Science embarked on their first visit to the science library as part of their orientation day activities on the 29th of May, 2023. The Acting Librarian of the University of Colombo, Mrs Sajeewanie Somaratna, Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Science, Mr Madhushan Lankathilake and the staff of the Science Library warmly welcomed the students and provided an introduction to the science library resources and services. During the Library tour, undergraduates were introduced to state-of-the-art library spaces facilitated with modern equipment. The library staff provided demonstrations on navigating the library's Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and self-check-in/out machine, and showed both the printed and electronic collections empowering the students to effectively utilize the available resources for their research and academic pursuits.



### *Library Visit of the new entrants of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo*

The inauguration ceremony of the 6th batch (2021/2022) of the Faculty of Nursing was held at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies on 12th June 2023. After the ceremony, the new nursing undergraduates visited the Main Library of the University of Colombo and they were warmly welcomed by the Acting Librarian, Mrs. Sajeewanie Somaratna and all the academic and non-academic staff of the Library.

The event was coordinated by Mrs. Ishara Senanayake, the Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Nursing. All students were given instructions on how to use the library effectively by introducing the available library facilities including online sources.

### *Research assistance for MSc in Medical Entomology Students*

Dr. A.U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), delivered a lecture on 'how to conduct a literature review' exclusively for students of MSc in Medical Entomology programme. The lecture, was held on 9th of July.  Vital topics such as information sources, search planning, and effective searching techniques were explained. Students also gained hands-on experience by exploring ScienceDirect and PubMed databases.

## ANY OTHER NEWS

### *Tagor Jayanthi 2023, celebrations at the Main Library, University of Colombo*

Marking the 162nd commemoration of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, his bust was garlanded in the Main Library of the University of Colombo, on 09th May 2023.

The event was graced by His Excellency Gopal Baglay, the Indian High Commissioner for Sri Lanka, Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne, and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo. Commemoration program was organized by the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS), University of Colombo in collaboration with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, High Commission of India (Colombo).

### NLDSB Delegation Visits Science Library, University of Colombo for Technological Insights

A delegation comprising the Director General of the National Library and Documentation Services Board of Sri Lanka (NLDSB), Mr W. Sunil, the Director of the National Library and Documentation Centre (NLDC), Mrs Padma Bandaranayake, as well as other Deputy Directors, Heads of Departments, and staff members of the NLDSB, visited the Library of the Faculty of Science on May 24th, 2023.



The purpose of the visit was to explore the modern technologies and innovative spaces provided in the Science Library. The delegates engaged in a productive discussion with the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Senior Professor Upul Sonnadara, and the Acting Librarian, Mrs Sajeewanie Somaratna, regarding the available modern library facilities and the wide range of information services offered by the Science Library. The delegation took part in a library tour and experienced various learning spaces equipped with modern technology. This event will contribute to collaborative library operations, connecting a wider range of services and stakeholders in Sri Lanka.
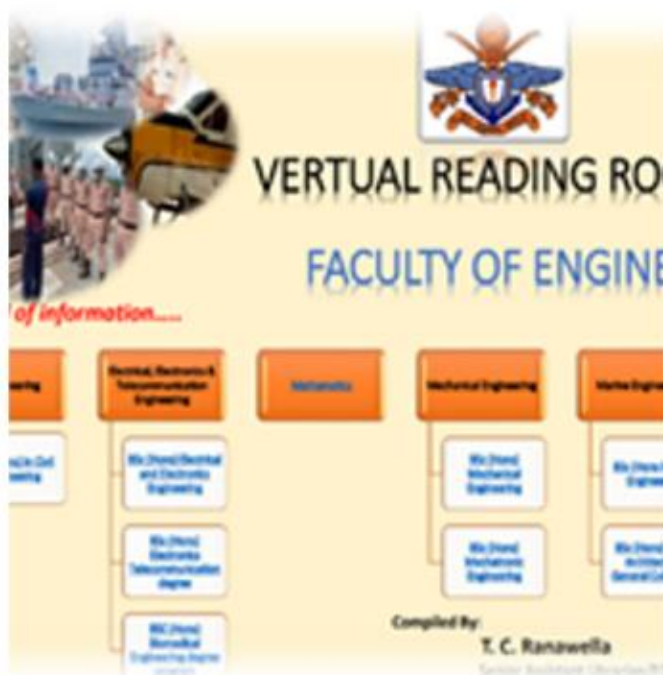
## *Human Library- 2023, University of Colombo*

The Library Orientation Programme for the new intake (2022) of undergraduates enrolled in the Faculty of Arts was held on 8th June 2023. The program was held at the Main Library, and the Acting Librarian, Mrs. Sajeewanie Somaratna, and the Library staff cordially welcomed the new students. Senior Assistant Librarian/Arts and Reader Services, Mrs. Samanlatha Menike Adhikari coordinated the event with the Faculty, and the students were given instructions on how to use the library resources by through demonstrations on the Online Catalogue, E-Resources, and all other library services. As part of the orientation session, a Human Library event was conducted on the same day in parallel with the Faculty of Arts orientation programme. The Heads of the Departments, the Acting Librarian, and the Senior Academics of the Faculty of Arts and the Library participated in the event as Human Books.

### *The KDU Library launched its new Web Portal and Virtual Reading Rooms for the Faculties*

The Vice-Chancellor, Major General Milinda Peiris launched a new library website for the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) and Virtual Reading Rooms for all the faculties on May 23, 2023. This event was held, in the presence of distinguished guests, including Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe, Deputy Vice-chancellor (Defence & Administration), Prof. K.A.S. Dhammika, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Deans of the faculties, Directors, Adjutant, senior officers, Librarian, and Library staff. A major step towards KDU's goal of providing innovative resources and fostering a dynamic learning environment for its students, teachers, and researchers has been reached with the launch of the new library website and Virtual Reading Rooms. Users can access these online reading rooms from a unique location, allowing them to browse a wide range of sources for information related to their field of interest.

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