

# Newsletter

University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka

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## Feature Article 1

### Community Development: From Outreach to Citizen Science



**Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne**  
Senior Assistant Librarian  
University of Moratuwa



**Dr. (Mrs.) Anoma Weerakoon**  
Senior Assistant Librarian  
Open University of Sri Lanka

For thousands of years, libraries have been centers of knowledge, bridging the past, present, and future. However, present libraries are more than just repositories of books; they are dynamic institutions reaching out to the heart of communities and adapting to their evolving needs.

The concept of **community engagement or community development** in libraries is not new. It is rooted in phrases like “service to the disadvantaged,” “service to special groups,” “outreach beyond the traditional library,” and “community librarianship.” Libraries have long been committed to extending their services to underserved and unserved populations—those who are visually impaired, homebound, marginalized, or unable to access traditional library services. This outreach reflects not only action but also symbolism, as libraries attempt to bridge gaps in information and promote **social justice**.

The historical contributions of figures like **Benjamin Franklin**, who founded America’s first lending library in Philadelphia in 1731, and **Andrew Carnegie**, who dedicated his fortune to building libraries for public access, shaped the modern library movement. These visionaries recognized that libraries must serve the entire community, not just a privileged few. Likewise, **Melvil Dewey**, famous for the Dewey Decimal Classification system, supported the community engagement of university libraries. After being the Chief Librarian of University of British Columbia in 1883, he believed that libraries should serve everyone, not just students and faculty. In fact, he proposed that libraries remain open during evenings, holidays, and vacations—making libraries a resource for lifelong learning and community empowerment. **Dr. S.R. Ranganathan**, a pioneer in Library and Information Science, recognized the unique role of university libraries as community centers. His contribution in public library movement across India, was immense and pioneered in drafting bills that led to the Madras Public Libraries Act in 1948.

Today, Sri Lankan University Libraries are expanding their **outreach activities** in innovative ways. We see **collection-based outreach** with book clubs, author talks, scavenger hunts, and pop-up libraries in public spaces. Libraries also engage in **services-based outreach**, offering workshops, classes, and mobile reference services. There’s also the “**Whole Person**” outreach, which addresses the mental and physical well-being of patrons through stress reduction programs, career help, yoga classes, and



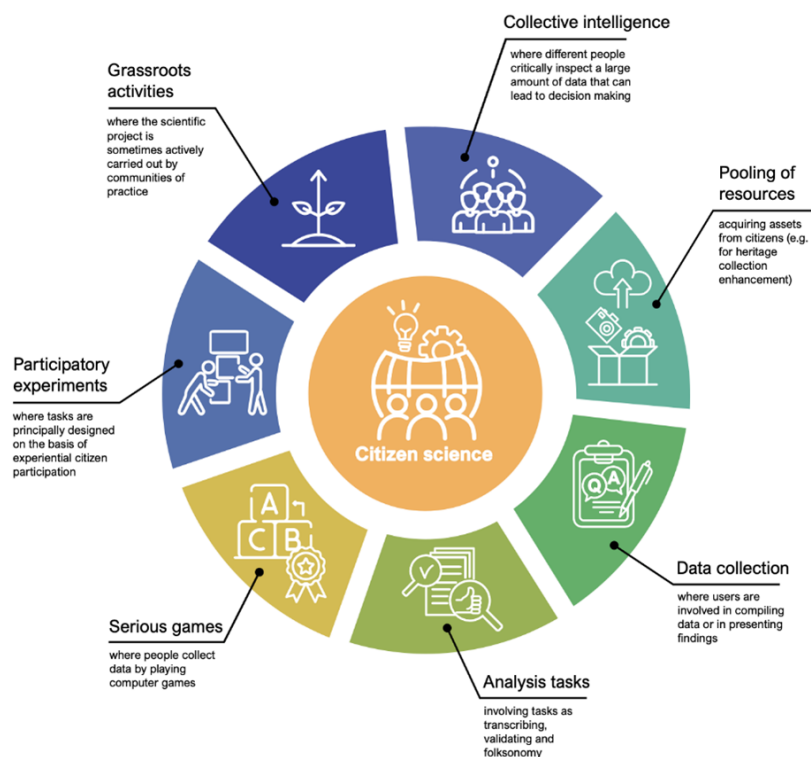
health screenings. Some libraries organize **just-for-fun outreach** activities like arts and crafts, music, and games, while others form partnerships to promote community-focused initiatives, hosting clubs or cross-promoting services. Libraries even take part in **multi-pronged events** like “National Library Week” or “Banned Books Week”, fostering a sense of community while promoting important causes.

Let us highlight a four powerful examples:

1. **The Foundation for Library Awareness (FOLA)**, founded in 2005 by the late Mrs. Srikanth-aluxmy Arulanantham, Librarian at the University of Jaffna, is an outstanding example. FOLA's mission to promote reading and library awareness, particularly in Northern Sri Lanka, has transformed countless lives. From organizing student competitions to hosting literacy workshops, introducing novel concepts such as the “Three Dimensional Library,” “World of Knowledge,” “Information Eye” “Records of Thought” Exhibitions to establishing a “Knowledge Stimulation Center”, FOLA has been at the forefront of reading promotion. Its innovative programs like the “**Garland to a Book**” and partnerships with local and international organizations have improved its impact.
2. **The University of Moratuwa Library** also took a pioneering step by launching its **Outreach Services Division (OSD)** in 2013. The OSD was designed to build relationships with the surrounding community, offering programs like “**Child Development Programme**”, “**Reading Camp**”, “**Mathematical Skills Development**”, “**Reaching Technical Students**” which ran for months and years, and some other special events celebrating “**Reading and Literary Months**”. These programs have been instrumental in fostering a knowledge culture in the community.
3. **South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL)** recognized the poor infrastructure of public libraries and school libraries in the Ampara district and established the **South Eastern Regional Library & Information Network (SERLIN)** in 2022. Through SERLIN, SEUSL has empowered regional libraries and promoted reading, enriching the lives of countless students and community members.
4. **Bolgoda Lake Project**, a self-funded, self-motivated collaborative initiative aimed at raising awareness among all stakeholders about the ecological significance of the **Bolgoda Lake Ecosystem**. Initiated by a senior lecturer and a librarian attached to University of Moratuwa, the project focuses on promoting sustainable practices for conservation and has a strong community outreach component. It brings together students, educators, librarians, business community, local governments and general public to address environmental concerns while providing real-world experience. The project's unique fusion of education, community engagement, and environmental sustainability exemplifies how libraries can play a pivotal role in addressing pressing local challenges and fostering environmental awareness. This initiative shows that libraries can go beyond their traditional roles and become **catalysts for societal change**.

Finally, we like to touch on an exciting new development—**the partnership between citizen science and libraries**.

Let's begin by defining citizen science. For those who may be unfamiliar, citizen science refers to scientific research conducted in whole or in part by nonprofessional scientists. It's a powerful way to engage the public in scientific inquiry and expand the scope of research projects. Imagine bird watchers contributing data to ornithology studies, or stargazers helping to classify galaxies; history buffs recording historical artefacts to contribute to research and preserve local heritage. That's citizen science in action (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1:**

Source: Citizen Heritage (2024). <https://www.citizenheritage.eu/>

Now, you might be wondering, “What do libraries have to do with this?” Well, as it turns out, quite a lot! Libraries, as community hubs of knowledge and learning, are uniquely positioned to support and benefit from citizen science initiatives.

Citizen science allows libraries not only to lend books but actively contribute to **knowledge creation**. By involving patrons in research, libraries can elevate their status as key players in fields like ornithology, astronomy, or historical preservation. Libraries can also use citizen science to promote **inclusive knowledge creation**, giving community members the chance to engage in scientific endeavors.

Libraries can organize **citizen science workshops** where patrons learn how to collect and analyze data, partner with local research institutions for projects, and offer resources for patrons to engage with scientific tools. These initiatives can attract new users, generate positive media attention, and inspire the development of new services tailored to community interests.

If you are really interested, read about “**Citizen Science Corner**” at Diyasaru Park, Thalawathugoda which aims to increase the engagement of ordinary people in citizen science. It is a project by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Libraries have ample opportunities connect with such projects.

### Still we have two queries

Despite these centuries of service, **libraries face a challenge in modern times**. They have not captured society’s attention the way influencers or YouTubers have, who seem to connect more readily with millions of people online, especially younger audiences. While influencers use entertainment and content creation to build vast followings, **libraries, as institutions of learning, are still struggling with how to reach society in this digital-first world**. We need to ask ourselves: how can libraries better communicate their value, relevance, and impact in the same way YouTubers and content creators have mastered?



**While Sri Lankan libraries have made progresses in community engagement**, there's still much more to be done, particularly in reaching disadvantaged and marginalized groups. **Many rural areas, economically disadvantaged communities, and defamed groups** like those with criminal records, sex workers, and LGBTQ+ individuals, still face significant barriers to accessing library services. Libraries must extend their outreach to ensure these communities are not left behind. **For instance**, libraries can support **reentry for individuals with criminal records**, provide resources and health information for sex workers, and offer inclusive resources for LGBTQ+ individuals. **By addressing these gaps, libraries can fulfill their mission of providing universal access to information and fostering an inclusive society.**

In conclusion, libraries are evolving into active hubs of community engagement, contributing not just to education but to social and scientific progress. As we continue to expand our outreach efforts, we strengthen our role in society, ensuring that libraries remain relevant, vital, and empowering institutions for all.

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## Feature Article 2

### Quickly Catalog Your Books with AI Powered CATMELK



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University of Colombo



**Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya**  
Department of Library and Information Science  
University of Kelaniya

Libraries are facing demands to streamline their operations, adapt to rapidly evolving technologies, and meet user requests for speedy and efficient access to information. Efficient and standard compliant cataloging is a major solution to meet these demands. It has traditionally considered a labor-intensive task requiring careful attention to detail. Standards required to be adhered to by modern libraries are MARC21, Resource Description and Access (RDA), and the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) recommended Descriptive Bibliographic Framework (DBIB).

CATMELK is a Custom GPT on the ChatGPT platform, designed specifically to automate the cataloging process. This application offers an unparalleled solution for libraries seeking to enhance operational efficiency and user services. You only need your Smart Phone as a device, and access to the ChatGPT mobile app to perform the action. Otherwise, it is possible to use the CATMELK Web site (<https://chatgpt.com/g/g-YQm6gByUe-catmelk>) on desktop for achieving the same results.

The authors won the Best Innovators Award of 2024 for this application, at the Annual General Meeting of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ULA) held on 30th October 2024.

#### 1. What is CATMELK?

CATMELK is a simple application that converts book images to catalog records. It is customized for library environments, so that the converted book descriptions can be copy-pasted or imported into the Integrated Library Management Systems as MARC21 records (currently, importing records needs an additional semi-automated process).

Technically it is a custom-built Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT). It utilizes artificial intelligence, more specifically advanced natural language processing (NLP) to interpret, analyze, and convert book metadata into MARC21 format. Unlike generic AI models, CATMELK is custom-designed for handling bibliographic records and library-specific data, ensuring high accuracy and adherence to cataloging standards.

Practically, it is like scanning a QR code using your mobile phone. Simply capture the book's image, run the application, and voilà! The catalog record instantly appears on the screen. The process is straightforward, and the time required to master it is minimal.





**Figure. 1. The process of cataloging has been made easier. You direct the phone towards the book, capture the image, and CATMELK will immediately create the MARC21 record. No textual prompt is required.**

## 2. Practical Applications in Libraries

CATMELK's capabilities can be directly used by libraries. Some key applications have been given below.

### 2.1. Automated Cataloging

CATMELK can process book images (preferably the copyright page, title page, or the cover of the book or a combination of these) to generate MARC21-compliant records within seconds. The GPT then extracts relevant details such as author names, publication year, and subject headings, creating ready-to-use bibliographic records. As Joudrey and Taylor (2017) highlighted, maintaining bibliographic accuracy is essential for streamlining library operations. Records created by CATMELK are comprehensive and devoid of human errors. It makes the catalogers work much easier. In other words, CATMELK is a robotic assistant for catalogers.

### 2.2. Batch Processing

Libraries often acquire materials in bulk, which makes manual cataloging an overwhelming task. CATMELK simplifies this process by enabling batch uploads. In a single instance, four (04) images can be attached into the chat. However, a librarian can extract metadata for hundreds of titles during iterative instances, and CATMELK generates corresponding catalog records instantly. At the end of the session, the cataloger can instruct CATMELK to extract all MARC 21 records into a single MARC records list. This can be edited in a MARC editor, save as a MARC file (.mrc format) and import.

### 2.3. Multilingual Cataloging

In a multilingual country such as Sri Lanka, cataloging non-English resources is a considerable challenge. CATMELK supports multiple languages, enabling seamless cataloging of diverse material formats. As OpenAI (2023) explains, large language models excel in handling multilingual data. For instance, it can analyze metadata from books in Sinhala, Tamil, or any other language. However, keep in mind that low resource languages such as Sinhala and Tamil may not be accurately converted. Still, it is worthwhile trying and converting them with human supervision.

### 2.4. Training Novice Catalogers

CATMELK can also be used for training novice catalogers, since the application provides detailed instructions and justifications on why a particular tag has been selected for a given set of data.

### 2.5. Error Reduction

Human catalogers are prone to errors and biases, particularly when handling large volumes of data. CATMELK minimizes inaccuracies by utilizing optical character recognition and machine learning to standardize entries. Its ability to fix inconsistencies ensures higher data integrity.

## 2.6. Integration with Library Management Systems (LMS)

CATMELK integrates smoothly with popular LMS platforms. Once catalog records are generated, they can be imported into the library's system after following a simple procedure, reducing manual input.

```
001 [Refer DBIB]
005 [Refer DBIB]
008 [Refer DBIB]
020 \\\$a [Refer DBIB] $c (Check ISBN online)
040 CATMELK $b eng $e rda
100 $a Mehta, V.K. $e author.
100 $a Mehta, Rohit, $e author.
245 10$a Principles of Electronics / $c V.K. Mehta, Rohit Mehta.
250 $a Multicolour revised edition.
260 $a New Delhi : $b S. Chand & Company, $c [Refer DBIB]
300 \\\$a [Refer DBIB] pages : $b illustrations (chiefly color) ; $c [Refer DBIB] cm.
336 \\\$a text $b txt $2 rdacontent
337 \\\$a unmediated $b n $2 rdamedia
338 \\\$a volume $b nc $2 rdacarrier
490 \\\$a [Refer DBIB] (Possible series information if any)
500 $a *For B.E./B.Tech & other Engg. Examinations* noted on title page.
...
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**Figure. 2. A sample of an automatically created catalog record. Note that the record has placeholders for the catalogers to manually input data, which is not available on the scanned pages.**

## 3. Transformative Impact on Library Services.

The integration of CATMELK in library operations has numerous implications. One major benefit is enhanced efficiency. By automating repetitive tasks, librarians can focus on more strategic roles. Using CATELK is economical, both in terms of human hours and money spent on fixing errors. Improved accessibility ensures that materials are made available to users without delays, which enhances user satisfaction.

## 4. Some Challenges

Despite its advantages, integrating CATMELK into library operations may present challenges. Library staff may require basic training to interact with CATMELK effectively. The free ChatGPT version allows limited use of the application (currently up to approximately three instances of Plus-version capabilities per day). Therefore, continuous utilization of CATMELK requires a subscription to ChatGPT Plus. Need for a smart mobile device is a minor limitation. Even if the desktop version can be used, the mobile application is more efficient.

## 5. Conclusion

For libraries ready to embrace AI-driven cataloging, CATMELK offers not just a glimpse into the future but a practical, actionable solution. This can further be developed to make it a state-of-the-art cataloging application, with a streamlined workflow to integrate with Library Management Systems like Koha. It can also be trained to extract bibliographic information from designated sites on the Web, improving its functionality to another level.

However, it should be kept in mind that the application only 'supports', and it is not a complete replacement of the human cataloger. Humans must still oversee the functions and apply professional and learned judgements whenever required.

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## ULA events

### 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka

The University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka hosted its 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on October 29, 2024, at the Galle Face Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The conference, theme was “Artificial Intelligence Revolutionizing Library Services: Challenges and Opportunities”, that explored the profound impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) having on library services, addressing both the challenges and opportunities arising from this technological evolution. Dr. Mohamed Majeed Mashroofa, the President of the University Librarians Association 2023/24 chaired the conference. The Hon. (Dr) Harini Amarasuriya, the Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Her esteemed presence at the proceedings added value to ICULA 2024. Along with her, the Guests of Honour Senior Prof. Wasantha Kumara, Vice-Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Chairperson of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD), and, Dr. U.L. Abdul Majeed, Acting Vice-Chancellor of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, also graced the occasion. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Nuwan Kodagoda, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT).

This remarkable event brought together international experts, academicians and local professionals in the field of Library and Information Sciences to chart a course for the future of library services in the AI era. We received 25 manuscripts aligned with the conference theme from both national and international delegates. Following a rigorous review process, 15 papers, including two lead papers, were selected for publication. The conference aimed to highlight key topics such as AI-driven library services, AI literacy, ethical implications of AI integration in academic settings, and the role of libraries in countering misinformation in the digital age. Researchers and professionals presented their papers on topics ranging from AI literacy among postgraduate students to the ethical complexities of authorship in AI-generated catalogue records.

Proceedings of ICUAL 2024 were launched in the presence of the Hon. Prime Minister, who awarded certificates for the prize winners of the Video competition conducted by ULA among undergraduates of state universities and school children.

The conference was an energetic platform for exchanging ideas, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that libraries continue to evolve and meet the demands of the digital age while maintaining their core mission of promoting knowledge and learning.









# Leadership Program for Librarians: Building Your Brand: Establishing Leadership and Influence in the Library Profession

Targeting all ULA members, the Leadership Program for Librarians titled "Building Your Brand: Establishing Leadership and Influence in the Library Profession" was successfully held on 04<sup>th</sup> October 2024, from 9.00 am to 4.15 pm, at the Library Auditorium, University of Colombo.

The program featured four sessions and a panel discussion. Mr. Dinum Nisansala Wijesiriwardena, Principal Business Consultant at B+ Business Consultants, conducted the motivational session titled, Till Cubs Become Lions. Senior Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Chief Innovation Officer of the National Innovation Agency Sri Lanka, led the session on Innovative and Critical Thinking. Dr. C.C. Jayasundara, Librarian at the University of Kelaniya, conducted the session on Skill Development in Branding. The session on University Librarian as a Brand was delivered by Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian at the University of Colombo. The panel discussion focused on Skills and Challenges for Branding, Maintaining Integrity and Ethical Standards while Building the Brand, and Leadership Qualities and it was chaired by Dr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya.

**"Building Your Brand: Establishing Leadership and Influence in the Library Profession"**

- Leadership program for Librarians -

**04<sup>th</sup> October 2024**  
9.00am to 3.45pm

**Venue:**  
Library Auditorium, University of Colombo

**Talks**

- "Till Cubs Become Lions", Self Branding and Motivation on Personal and Professional Development.
- Skill Development in Branding
- Innovative and Critical Thinking
- University Librarian as a Brand

**Panel Discussion (Content)**

Skills and Challenges for Branding, Maintaining Integrity and Ethical Standards while Building the Brand, Leadership Qualities

*Join us as we explore various aspects: Professional, Social, Scientific, and Librarian Perspectives.*

This event is free of charge and includes morning and evening refreshments, lunch, certificates for all participants, and exclusive networking opportunities.

**Resource Panel**

Sr. Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Chief Innovation Officer, National Innovation Agency Sri Lanka  
 Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian, University of Colombo  
 Dr. C.C. Jayasundara, Librarian, University of Kelaniya  
 Dr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian, University of Peradeniya  
 Mr. K. T. Dinum Nisansala Wijesiriwardena, Principal Business Consultant at B+ Business Consultants.

**Panel Discussion**

Dr.(Mrs.) M.M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka  
 Dr. Saman Illangaratne, Librarian, Bkisu University of Sri Lanka  
 Dr. Ananda Tissa, Acting Librarian, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine  
 Dr. T. Pratheepan, Deputy Librarian, Uva Wellassa University Sri Lanka  
 Mr. S. Santharuban, Deputy Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka  
 Mr. Ajantha Dharmaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Peradeniya  
 Mr. I.D.K.L. Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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Mr. Dinum Nisansala Wijesiriwardena  
Principal Business Consultant  
B+ Business Consultants



Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge  
Librarian  
University of Colombo



Dr. C.C. Jayasundara  
Librarian  
University of Kelaniya

The panel members included Dr. (Mrs.) M.M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka; Dr. Saman Illangarathne, Librarian at Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka; Dr. Ananda Tissa, Acting Librarian at Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine; Mr. S. Santharooban, Deputy Librarian at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka; Mr. Ajantha Dharmaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Peradeniya; and Mr. I.D.K.L. Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.

**Panel Chair**



**Dr. R. Maheswaran**  
Librarian  
University of Peradeniya

**Panel Members**



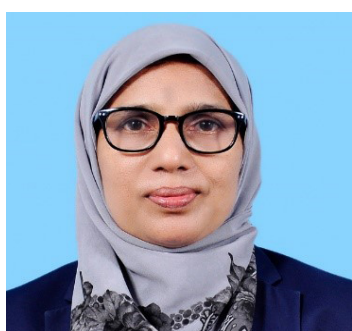
**Dr. Saman Illangarathne**  
Librarian  
Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka



**Dr. Ananda Tissa**  
Acting Librarian  
Gampaha Wickramarachchi  
University of Indigenous Medicine



**Mr. S. Santharooban**  
Deputy Librarian  
Eastern University  
of Sri Lanka



**Dr. (Mrs.) M.M. Mashroofa**  
Senior Assistant Librarian  
South Eastern University  
of Sri Lanka



**Mr. Ajantha Dharmaratne**  
Senior Assistant Librarian  
University of Peradeniy



**Mr. I.D.K.L. Fernando**  
Senior Assistant Librarian  
Sabaragamuwa University  
of Sri Lanka

Mrs. Ishara Fernando Senanayake, Assistant Librarian at the University of Colombo, graciously served as the compere for the entire program. This program was conceptualized and coordinated by Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Training Officer, ULA EXCO 2023/2024. The event was conducted free of charge with ULA funds, with the objective of empowering ULA members to build their personal brand, foster leadership, and enhance influence within the library profession.



## Annual General Meeting – University Librarians Association – 2024

The University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ULA) has a long history for professional development of the academic librarians who are attached to the state university system. It also serves as a trade union to look after the welfare of the academic librarians. The 42nd Annual General Meeting of the ULA was held at the Library auditorium of University of Colombo, on 30<sup>th</sup> of October, 2024. Dr. M.M. Mashroofa, the President of the Association presided over the meeting. Senior Prof. K. D. Karunaratne, the Vice -Chancellor of the University of Colombo graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He stated that university librarians play major roles in research and development of the respective universities and of the nation as a whole. He advised the young members of the association while considering the personal and professional development, they should contribute to the institutional development. He further requested to read “The Fifth Discipline by Peters Senge’. Dr. M. M. Mashroofa, President ULA highlighted the following significant events.

1. ULA Inaugural Oration by Dr.C.C. Kuruppu, Deputy Librarian of University of Colombo.
2. ULA Awards -The Most Outstanding Innovators of the Year awarded to Prof. Ruwan Gamage, and Dr. Priyanwada.
3. Felicitation to Mr. M. A. Milton, a retired Senior Assistant Librarian University of Colombo.
4. Releasing of Journal of University Librarians Association (JULA Vol. 27, issue I &II by the Editor in Chief Mr. A.M. Nahfees.
5. Mr. M.C.M. Azwer, the General Secretary reported the Annual Report of ULA 2023/24
6. Mr. S.L.M. Sajeer, the treasurer reported the final account for the year 2023/24.

Further the election of office bearers for the year 2024/25 were held. Assistant Secretary Mrs. Thushara Wanasinghe stated the following office bearers were elected for ULA House 2024/25 from University of Colombo Library.

1. President- Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian University of Colombo
2. General Secretary - Mr. T. Ramanan, Senior Assistant Librarian
3. Treasurer- Dr. Neluka Karannagoda, Senior Assistant Librarian
4. Vice President- Mrs. Chandima Wadasinghe, Assistant Librarian
5. Editor- Dr. Kalpana Manatunga, Senior Assistant Librarian
6. Training Officer: Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara, Senior Assistant Librarian
7. Web Editor: Mr. Madushan Lankathilaka, Senior Assistant Librarian
8. Assistant Secretary- Mrs. Muditha Ankumbura, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Visual and Performing Arts.

A representative for each university library was elected.

On behalf of the newly elected office bearers, President Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge addressed the gathering. The new General Secretary Mr. T. Ramanan delivered the vote of thanks.









## Celebrating Milestones and Achievements in Library Services

### ULA Awards

We are proud to announce that Prof. Ruwan Gamage and Dr. Priyanwada have been honored with the prestigious “Most Outstanding Innovators of the Year” award. This accolade recognizes their groundbreaking contributions to innovation, setting a benchmark in their respective fields.



### Senate Awards for Research Excellence

Dr. T. Sritharan and Mrs. Shabnam Johoran were recognized for their exceptional research contributions at the Annual Research Symposium of the University of Colombo. This prestigious recognition underscores their dedication to advancing knowledge and highlights the impact of their scholarly endeavors.



### University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) Library Staff Recognized at Research Awards Ceremony 2024

The Research Awards ceremony for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, organized by the Research Council of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ), took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024, at the Golden Rose Hotel in Boralesgamuwa. The event celebrated significant contributions to research and academic excellence across various disciplines. Among the distinguished awardees from the USJ Library were Dr. (Mrs.) N.D. Wijayasundara, Librarian; Mrs. K.W.A.M. Konpola, Senior Assistant Librarian; Dr. (Mrs.) G.D.M.N. Samaradiwakara, Senior Assistant Librarian; Mrs. H.D.M. Nishanthi, Senior Assistant Librarian; Ms. J.G. Chandani, Senior Assistant Librarian; Mr. H.U.C.S. Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian; Ms. U.P.N.N. Pathirana, Assistant Librarian; and Dr. (Mr.) H.H.A. Karunarathna, Assistant Librarian. The ceremony was graced by Senior Prof. Pathmalal M. Manage, Vice Chancellor of USJ, along with other academic staff, Deans, the Registrar, and the Bursar, all of whom attended to honor the achievements of the awardees.





ARCH AWARDS  
UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA  
2022/ 2023



ARCH AWARDS  
UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA  
2022/ 2023



ARCH AWARDS  
UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA  
2022/ 2023



ARCH AWARDS  
UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA  
2022/ 2023



ARCH AWARDS  
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2022/ 2023



ARCH AWARDS  
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2022/ 2023



UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA  
2021/ 2022/ 2023





## Promotions

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somarathna as the Deputy Librarian of the University of Colombo. Her new role reflects her unwavering dedication to excellence and leadership in the library sector.



## Professional Recognition

Ms. Sakeena Alikhan has been elected as the Secretary of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter for the term 2024/2025. This esteemed appointment is a testament to her leadership skills and active engagement in advancing the profession on a global platform.



## Academic Excellence

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Madhushan Lankathilake, Assistant Librarian at the Library of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo; Mr. B.E.S. Bandara, Assistant Librarian at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya; and Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian of the Reference Collection/Ceylon Room at the Main Library, University of Peradeniya, on their academic achievement.



Their successful completion of the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program at the National Institute of Library and Information Science (NILIS), University of Colombo, reflects their unwavering dedication to professional and academic growth in the field of Library and Information Sciences.

## Appointments

The University of Moratuwa Research Week was held from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, at the University of Moratuwa premises under the theme “Connecting Academics, Practitioners, and Society: Breaking Silos and Collaborating towards Wider Impact on Society”. Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa was appointed as a committee member of Research Week 2024, University of Moratuwa.



## Treasurer of the Humanities and Social Sciences Teachers' Union

Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Ruhuna, has been appointed as the Treasurer of the Humanities and Social Sciences Teachers' Union for the year 2024/2025. This marks her third tenure in this role, having previously served as Treasurer for the years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

Ms. Senevirathna is an active and dedicated member of the Teachers' Union, contributing significantly to its activities and initiatives. Her continued appointment reflects the trust and confidence placed in her by the membership, as well as her commitment to advancing the objectives of the union



## Executive member of the Teachers' Union

Dr. Theja Kuruppuarachchi, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Main Library, University of Ruhuna has been appointed as the Executive member of the Humanities and Social Sciences Teachers' Union year 2024/2025.



## Research Contributions

### Oration by Dr. D. C. Kuruppu

Dr. D.C. Kuruppu, Deputy Librarian of University of Colombo, made the first oration of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka at the inauguration of its 42nd Annual General Meeting held in the Auditorium of the Main Library, University of Colombo on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, in the presence of Senior Prof. (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne, the Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The topic of oration was "Facilitating Evidence-Based Medicine through Empirical Studies and Systematic Reviews: Librarians as Research Catalysts" highlighting her contributions to transforming librarianship into a cornerstone of evidence-based medicine. During the oration, Dr. Kuruppu showcased her academic journey, interdisciplinary approach, and impactful research, such as developing patient-specific toolkits for breast cancer awareness in Sri Lanka. She also emphasized the librarians' roles in bridging research gaps, enhancing systematic reviews, and advancing healthcare knowledge, inspiring her peers to redefine the scope of librarianship.



### Academic Contribution of University Librarians: A Focus on the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference

A key highlight of the 14th International Conference of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka, themed "Artificial Intelligence Revolutionizing Library Services: Challenges and Opportunities," was the diverse collection of papers and extended abstracts. These works reflected on the integration of AI and its influence on library practices, as well as the evolving challenges and opportunities in this domain.



## Invited Papers

Legal Complexities of Authorship of AI-Generated Catalogue Records- R. C. G. Gamage

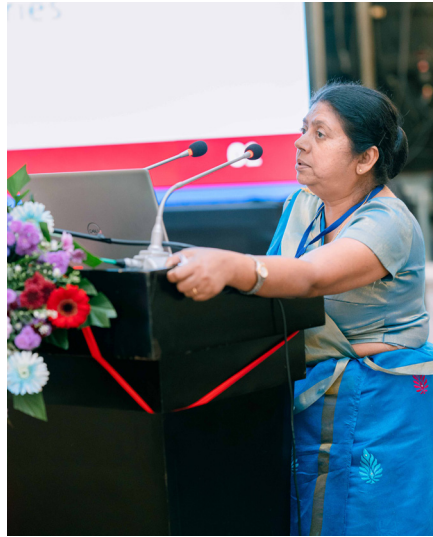
## Conference Papers

1. **Artificial Intelligence in Libraries: History, Tools, and Applications: A Literature Review**  
S. A. A. N. Weerasinghe and H. P. S. D. Gunasekara
2. **Exploring Artificial Intelligence Utilization among Students at The University of Kelaniya**  
M. G. H. K. Wijerathne
3. **Exploring the Impact, Challenges, and Ethical Implications of AI Integration in Libraries: A Rapid Review**  
K. A. Vishaka Narmada
4. **Exploring Digital Literacy among Indigenous Medicine University Academics in Sri Lanka: A Case Study Based on The Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine in Sri Lanka**  
W. P. T. Dilrukshi, H. Wickramasooriya, and H. W. K. Sajeewani
5. **Enhancing Health Literacy and Health Information Seeking Behaviour of University Students: A Review of the Current Global Landscape**  
D. Munasinghe
6. **Writing Boot Camps in the AI Era: Charting a New Path for Libraries Through Insights from Student Experiences**  
D. N. T. Gunawardana
7. **Access and Resource Utilization in the Children's Section of Baddegama Public Library: A Knowledge Management Perspective**  
P. K. M. Kaushamali, K. A. Y. Sandamali, and N. M. Thilakarathna
8. **Aligning International Ranking Indicators with Institutional Review Standards in Sri Lankan Universities and the Role of Academic Librarians in Enhancing Research Excellence**  
T. Janen
9. **An Analysis of Information Usage among Academic Staff Members of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya during Their Postgraduate Studies (2018-2022)**  
H. N. K. Dissanayake

## Extended Abstracts

1. **A Scoping Review on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Medical Libraries**  
S. C. Sooriarachchi, M. P. L. R. Marasinghe, and S. Santharoban
2. **Access to Knowledge in Buddhist Studies: A Bibliometric Analysis of Undergraduate Theses**  
U. G. M. C. M. Samarakoon

This conference served as a platform for university librarians to demonstrate their pivotal role in addressing contemporary challenges in library services, misinformation, and digital literacy, while also enhancing access to knowledge in specialized academic fields. The contributions demonstrated the potential for libraries to remain at the forefront of innovation in the AI era, ensuring their relevance and impact in a rapidly evolving educational landscape.



## Paper presentation at the 2nd International Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference (DRC 2024)

Mr. I. D. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian with the co-authors Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, SUSL and Mr. M.A. Kasun Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, UOK presented a research paper on “Social media in collaborative learning: a systematic literature review” at the 2nd International Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference (DRC 2024) organized by the library, UOK, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024. This research paper was selected for the Journal of Desk Research Review and Analysis.

## Paper presentation at the International Postgraduate Research Conference (IPRC 2024)

Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, SUSL, with the co-authors Mr. I. D. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, SUSL, and Mr. Kasun Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, UOK presented a research paper on “Bedtime reading for sleep quality among university academics: A case study in Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka using global PSQI” at International Postgraduate Research Conference (IPRC) - 2024 organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, UOK, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.



## Library Research Symposium 2024- University of Colombo

The Library Symposium 2024, themed “Fostering a Sustainable Future: Libraries for Impactful Research” was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 at the Library Auditorium, University of Colombo, bringing together scholars, librarians, and researchers to explore libraries’ critical role in advancing sustainability through impactful research. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



The event featured two distinguished keynote speakers from University of Colombo. Senior Professor (Chair) Premakumara de Silva discussed the role of libraries in fostering research collaboration to achieve the SDGs, while Senior Professor (Chair) Nalin de Silva emphasized the importance of libraries and a strong reading culture in shaping research for sustainable development.



A key highlight of the event was the panel discussion titled “The Sustainable Future of University Libraries” conducted by Emeritus Professor D. Tantrigoda, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Senior Professor K. P. Hewagamage, University of Colombo School of Computing and Dr. C.C. Jayasundara, Librarian, University of Kelaniya focusing on innovative strategies for academic libraries to enhance research, teaching, and learning in the digital era. The symposium underscored libraries’ potential to bridge knowledge gaps, promote collaboration, and empower researchers to address global challenges, reaffirming their role as catalysts for sustainability and impactful research.



## Papers presented at the Library Research Symposium-2024

1. **Bibliometric Analysis of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Libraries**  
S. S. Johoran  
**Fostering a Sustainable Future through Impactful Research by the Libraries: A Bibliometric**
2. **Analysis Based on Google Scholar**  
N. M. Karannagoda  
**Use of Conversational Artificial Intelligence Tools in Higher Education: Perception of Sci-**
3. **ence Undergraduates**  
M. A. Lankathilake, Anuja Silva, and Sajeewanie D. Somaratna  
**Apocalyptic Predictions Around the Globe: What Researchers Can Derive from Scholarly Ar-**
4. **ticles?**  
Nadeesha Perera and Chiranthi Wijesundara  
**Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries: A Scientometric Analysis Based on the Sco-**
5. **pus Database**  
W. P. G. L. Perera, M. A. Lankathilake, and H. P. Koralage  
**The Research Contribution of the Undergraduates of the Faculty of Indigenous Medicine**
6. **(FIM): A Bibliographic Analysis**  
P. M. Ayomi and J. M. Dahanayake  
**Librarians' Role in Enhancing Health Literacy: A Comprehensive Scoping Review**
7. K. I. D. F. Senanayake and D. C. Kuruppu  
**Application of Google Analytics to Optimize User Engagement on University Library Web-**
8. **sites: A Case Study Based on a State University in Sri Lanka**  
S. G. N. C. Senanayake  
**Sustainable Future of Academic Libraries: Unveiling the Student Voice**
9. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna, Anuja Silva, and Samanlatha Menike Adhikari  
**Factors Associated with Using Automated Content-Generating Tools by Academics in a State**
10. **University in Sri Lanka**  
K. M. P. G. A. J. Bandara and P. K. S. Manatunga





## Research Lounge

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Research Lounge of University of Moratuwa was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024 at 3.00 pm in the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode. The theme of the Research Lounge was ‘The Path to Research Commercialization: Exploring Technology Licensing and Startups’. Dr. Ajith Pasqual, Director/Enterprise, University of Moratuwa, Ms. Amali Hettige, Manager/Enterprise, University of Moratuwa, and Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa, contributed to the event. Resource persons encouraged students to patent innovations with market potential, achieving a dual milestone: securing a patent and publishing their research.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Research Lounge was held on 04<sup>th</sup> December ,2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode. The Theme of the Research Lounge was ‘Simplify, Refine, Complete: ChatGPT 4o for Flawless Research Paper Preparation’. Prof. Mahesh Jayaweera, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa contributed as the resource Person. Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, moderated the session.

**How to find whether your invention is novel & Inventive?**

**Answer:** Prior art Search

**What is Prior art ?**

- Everything disclosed to the public, including patents and non-patent literature

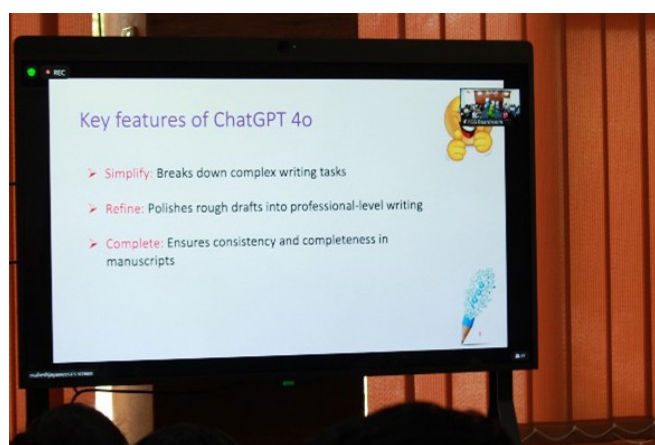
Eg: Published patents, technical publications; journal articles, conference papers, websites, available products, marketing information, research papers, etc

**Important Note:**

- Information that that is available **prior to the effective date of a patent** application
- The effective date is typically the filing date of the patent application



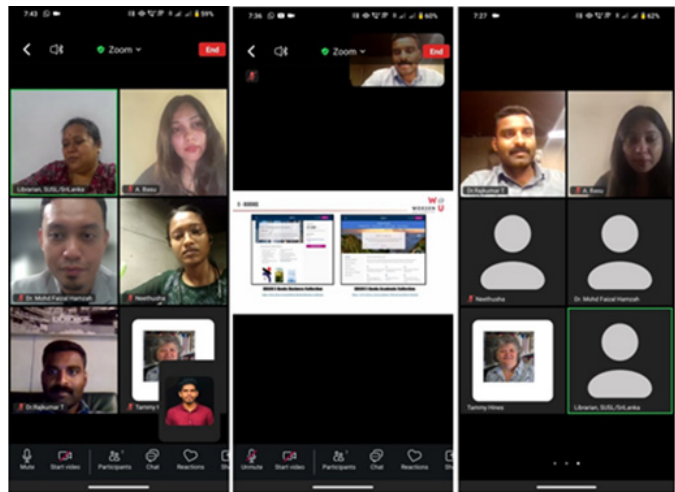




## International Collaboration

### Woxsen University Enhances Library Services with International Advisory Board

Woxsen University in Hyderabad has strengthened its library services with the formation of the International Library Advisory Board (ILAB) in 2022. The board, consisting of global experts, including Sri Lanka's Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei, Librarian of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, focuses on emerging library trends, user feedback, and international collaborations. The initiative supports the university's commitment to maintaining global standards and enhancing access to its vast library resources, including over 10,000 books and 33,000 online materials.



### Librarian invited for a Guest Speech at Bharathidasan University, India

Dr. R. Maheswaran, the Librarian of the University of Peradeniya was invited to deliver a guest speech for an International Conference on "Intelligent Libraries". This International Conference was organized by the School of Library and Information Science at the Bharathidasan University, in collaboration with LIS academy Bangalore and was held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 at the Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India.



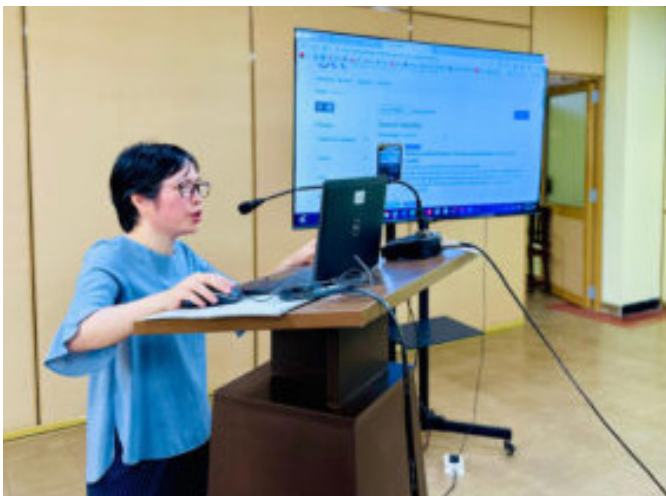


## Awareness Session on Freely Available World Bank Resources

A workshop on freely accessible World Bank resources, organized by the Library's Training and Skill Development domain, was successfully held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 in the Board Room of the Main Library, University of Colombo. The session focused on educating participants about the resources provided by the World Bank Group, such as the Open Knowledge Repository, various documents and reports, Open Data, and research related to Sri Lanka, as well as how to utilize these resources effectively. This workshop was specifically designed for university librarians and teaching faculty, equipping them with the necessary skills to efficiently retrieve and use World Bank data, reports, and publications for their research and teaching activities.

The workshop featured expert resource persons from the World Bank Group, including Ms. Amita Rawat, Ms. Nha Thi Vu, Mr. Prashant Kumar Ganta, and Mr. Jhony Masand, all of whom serve as research librarians.

The event was a significant step towards promoting awareness of the valuable global resources offered by the World Bank, fostering enhanced access to information for the academic community.



## National Development

### Reading skills development program

Mr. H.U.C.S. Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian attached to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, conducted a reading skills development program for Technical College student of Kegalle. The program was held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 at the Technical College student of Kegalle. On the invitation of the Technical College of Kegalle, more than 50 students of Technical College student of Kegalle participated in this program. The Librarian, Library Staff, Principal, Vice Principal, Head of Departments, and Teachers of Technical College of Kegalle was attend the program as guests. In addition to effectively outlining the basic concepts of reading skills, the program demonstrated a variety of reading techniques and tactics and evaluated a wide range of assignments and activities meant to improve reading ability.



### A public lecture on Hidden Treasures at the University of Peradeniya Library

The inaugural lecture of the Hidden Treasures Lecture Series was delivered by Dr. Champa N. K. Alahakoon, Deputy Librarian of University of Peradeniya, on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, at the Senate Board Room of the University of Peradeniya. The lecture focused on the Palm-leaf Manuscript of Mahawamsa: The Great Chronicle, which was inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024.







This invaluable manuscript, housed in the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya, was explored in detail during the presentation. Topics included the early printed editions of the Mahawamsa and their bibliographical significance, the UNESCO selection process and criteria, the distinctive features of the palm-leaf manuscript, and the broader considerations for UNESCO recognition of such historical documents.

The event was organized by the Human Resource Development Unit in collaboration with the University Library, offering a unique opportunity to appreciate and understand the historical and cultural significance of this remarkable manuscript.

## Agriculture Library Open Day 2024 and Book Fair Library

The Agriculture Library of the University of Peradeniya hosted its inaugural Open Day on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, at the Appadurai Auditorium and the library premises. The event, guided by Prof. Sarath Kodituwakku, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, was organized by Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Cell of the faculty. The initiative received strong support from the faculty Library Committee of Agriculture and staff of the Agriculture library.

The Open Day aimed to enhance awareness among Advanced Level Biology students about the rich resources available at the Agriculture Library and their relevance to pursuing higher education in agriculture. Approximately 150 students from 15 schools in the Kandy Municipal area, along with their teachers, participated in the event.

The program featured motivational lectures, guided library tours, and an inter-school quiz competition. A special lecture on Agricultural Education in Sri Lanka was delivered by Prof. Chalinda K. Beneragama, Head of the Department of Crop Science at the University of Peradeniya. Esteemed guests included Prof. Sarath Kodituwakku, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture; Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA); Dr. R. Maheshwaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya; and members of the academic and non-academic staff of the university's Library Network.





In parallel with the Open Day, the Agriculture Library organized a month-long book fair starting on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The fair offered students and staff of the Faculty of Agriculture access to surplus and duplicate copies of books, as well as those received as gifts, which were distributed free of charge. The initiative received an overwhelmingly positive response from both students and staff, marking it as a significant success.



## Basic ICT Skills for Public Librarians at Central Province Library Service Board



Mr. B.E.S. Bandara Assistant Librarian of the faculty of Medicine has served as the resource person for the lecture series titled “Basic ICT Skills for Public Librarians: මහජන පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් සඳහා මූලික තොරතුරු කුසලතා” for the public library staff of the Central province. More than 100 public library staff have benefited from the program conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

## Applications of Technology in Libraries at Central Province Library Service Board

Mr. B.E.S. Bandara, Assistant Librarian of the faculty of Medicine has served as the resource person for the lecture titled “Applications of Technology in Libraries for the public library staff of the Central province. More than 35 public library staff participated in the program conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.



## Workshop on School Library Management



The Library, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, notably contributed to school library management through a workshop led by Mr. S. Santharoban, Deputy Librarian, and Mr. M. N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, organized by the Batticaloa West Zonal Education Office. The workshop was held from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, at the Zonal Education Office, focused on operational strategies, technological applications, and reading promotion for school libraries. This initiative equipped school library personnel with essential skills and underscored the commitment of the library, Eastern University to enhancing educational development and library services in the region.





## AI Tools Training for Eastern Province Librarians

Mr. M N Ravikumar, Senior Asst. Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka has been invited to serve as a resource person for the Training Programme on "Empowering Library Services Using AI tools". This programme was organized by the Management Development Training Unit (MDTU), Trincomalee for the Public Librarians and Library Assistants in Eastern Province on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. The purpose of the program is to provide public librarians with the adequate training and knowledge to effectively utilize AI tools in order to provide efficient library services.



## Workshop on Effective Information Management for Career Success

The Library, Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, has made an effort to enhance information literacy among school children. This was facilitated by Assistant Librarian Mrs. Krishanthi Sivalingam with the collaboration of the Unit of Industry and Community Linkage of Trincomalee Campus. On 2nd and 3rd October, 2024, Mrs. Krishanthi Sivalingam conducted a seminar titled "Effective Information Management for Career Success: Learning from Libraries." This session was part of a special field visit of school children from four Divisional Secretariat Divisions in the Trincomalee District.





## Community Outreach Based on Sustainable Development Goals

The Library, Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, has taken initiatives to raise awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among school children, a program initiated by the Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Krishanthi Sivalingam. Two seminars on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, integrating sustainable development goals with career planning were delivered by Mrs. Sivalingam. The seminars, titled “Sustainable and Successful Career with Smart Information Skills” and “Information Literacy: A Way for a Successful and Sustainable Career,” were held at T/T/Sri Shanmuga Hindu Ladies College and T/T/Zahira College, engaging a total of 142 students.



## Reading camp at the Widhyapradeepa School, Dunupethagama, Anuradhapura

The Rajarata University library system organized a reading camp for 8th-grade students of Widhyapradeepa School, Dunupethagama, Anuradhapura, on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, in commemoration of National Reading Month 2024. Conducted as part of a community outreach program, the camp aimed to promote reading habits among students. Ms. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Agriculture, and Ms. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian of the Main Library, served as resource persons for the event.





### Reading camp at the Anuradhapura Public Library

The Rajarata University library system conducted a reading camp for child patrons registered at the Anuradhapura Public Library on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. This initiative aimed to foster a desire for reading among young readers. Ms. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Agriculture, and Ms. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian of the Main Library, served as resource persons for the program.



### Practical lecture on effective and efficient Internet browsing and educational information retrieval at the College of Technology, Anuradhapura

The Rajarata University library system conducted a reading camp for child patrons registered at the Anuradhapura Public Library on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. This initiative aimed to foster a desire for reading among young readers. Ms. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Agriculture, and Ms. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian of the Main Library, served as resource persons for the program.

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**2024-10-24 වන දින පෙ.ව. 09.00 සිට - 11.00 දක්වා විද්‍යාලීය පරිගණක විද්‍යාගාරයේ දී පැවැත්වේ.**

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## Idea Incubator Session

Under the Student Researcher Program of the University of Moratuwa, an Idea Incubator Session was conducted online for selected schools in Sri Lanka on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. In parallel to the "Research Week 2024". This task encouraged students to explore their surroundings at home, school, or community to identify a meaningful research question. This event aimed to provide a collaborative space where students can present their research ideas and receive feedback.

The forum helped participants hone their ideation, critical thinking, and research formulation skills in a non-competitive, supportive environment. Senior Professor Ajith de Alwis, Chief Innovation Officer of the National Innovation Agency Sri Lanka, Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara, Director/Research, University of Moratuwa and Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Dean/Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa evaluated the student presentation. Further, they guided and inspired the students to confidently carry out their research. Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Moratuwa, conceptualized and coordinated the event per the advisory committee's direction.



## Inspiring Lecture on Library Usage and Book Reading

Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Ruhuna, served as the resource person and delivered an insightful guest lecture on the "Importance of Library Usage and Book Reading" during an event organized by Palatuwa Gunarathana Central College, Matara. This special program was held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, as part of the celebrations for Library Week.

The lecture highlighted the role of libraries in fostering lifelong learning and the value of reading in shaping intellectual and personal growth. The event saw the participation of nearly 300 attendees, including students, teachers, and the principal of the college, making it a resounding success. This initiative aimed to instill a love for reading and emphasize the library as a cornerstone of education, knowledge acquisition, and student development.





### Reading Camp at Hakmana Public Library

The Hakmana Public Library, in collaboration with the National Library of Sri Lanka, organized a Reading Camp on 23<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, to commemorate Reading Month. The event was held at the library auditorium and aimed to promote a culture of reading among the School Students.

Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Ruhuna, participated as one of the resource persons. Her contribution included sharing insights on the significance of reading in personal and intellectual development, as well as practical tips to cultivate effective reading habits.



### Educational motivation speech

An educational motivational program for Advanced Level Pali Language students from the Pirivenas in the Matara Educational Zone was successfully conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024. The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna organized this event.

Mrs. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Ruhuna, served as the resource person and delivered an inspiring speech. Her address focused on motivating them to improve their education.





## Storytelling Session for Children at Hakmana Public Library

On 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, the Hakmana Public Library organized a vibrant storytelling session for school students at the library auditorium. The event featured Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Ruhuna, as the resource person.

Ms. Senevirathna captivated the audience not only through engaging storytelling but also by incorporating singing, dancing, and acting into her presentation. These interactive elements created a joyful and memorable experience for the children.

Approximately 80 school students participated in the session, which was organized with the primary aim of fostering a love for reading and storytelling during childhood. This initiative underscored the importance of cultivating early reading habits as a foundation for lifelong learning and creativity.



## Three-Day Training Workshop for Public Librarians of the Southern Province

The Management Development and Training Institute (MDTI) of the Southern Province successfully organized a three-day training workshop for public librarians representing the Galle, Matara, and Hambantota districts. The workshop was held from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, at the MDTI premises in Galle.

The resource persons for this event included Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa, Acting Librarian at Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine; Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Ruhuna; and Dr. Udaya Cabral, Assistant Director at the National Library of Sri Lanka. Their sessions covered a range of essential topics, including the responsibilities of public librarians in enhancing library service quality, collection development and management in public libraries, as well as the conservation and preservation of library materials.



Approximately 80 public librarians participated in this workshop, which was described as a highly productive and impactful program. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the practical relevance and effectiveness of the training sessions. This initiative was instrumental in promoting professional growth and improving the overall standards of public library services in the Southern Province.



## Human Library – 2024

**The University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the University of Moratuwa, and the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka have recently hosted Human Library Events, fostering meaningful dialogue and understanding.**

1. A 'Human Library' organized by the Publication Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 09<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. at the Main Library. The human book will be Deshabandu Dr. Themmadurage Pabilis Silva. Human Library explained his experience, how to maintain the body with foods, etc. Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. (Mrs.) N.D. Wijayasundara, Librarian, the Library academic staff, the University academic staff, undergraduate students, and non-academic staff was participated the program.



2. The 7<sup>th</sup> Human Library Event organized by the main library, SUSL was successfully held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024 at 10.00 am at the Faculty of Geomatics, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Belihuloya with the talk of eminent retired professor, Sarath Wijesooriya from University of Colombo. The project concept, planning and development was by the Assistant Librarian, Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya and the supervision and consultation by the Librarian, Mrs. T. N. Neighsoorei and Senior Assistant Librarian, Mr. I. D. Kusala Fernando.

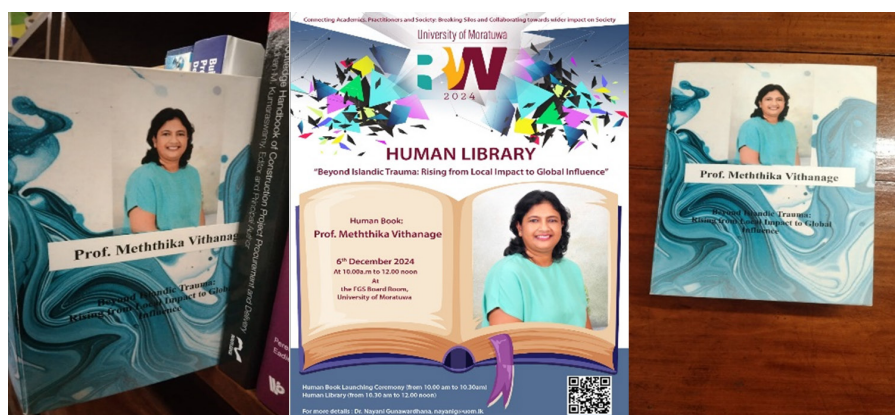


The readers representing the Vice-Chancellor, Deans of faculties, librarian and library staff, directors of centres, administrative officers, non-academic staff and other delegates of the university could physically read this interesting autobiography. The online audience could read the human book via the official Facebook page of the library. The event recording is available on the official YouTube channel of the library, SUSL.





- In parallel to the “Research Week 2024”, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa, organized the “Human Library” event, and Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa conceptualized and coordinated the event. The Human Book was Prof. Meththika Vithanage, and the content included ‘Beyond Islandic Trauma: Rising from Local Impact to Global Influence’. There were two special events under this program: the Human Book Launching Ceremony and the Human Library.

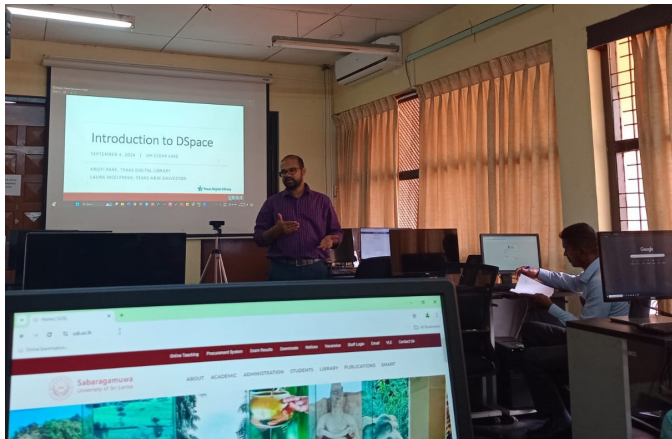




## Special Events

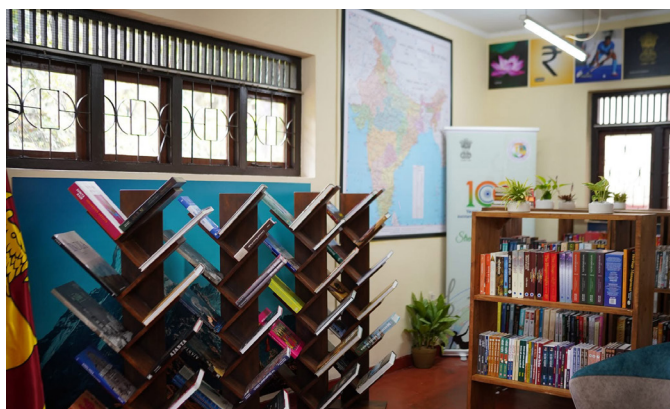
### Hands on training program on “D-Space” for library staff, SUSL

Two-day hands on training program was organized by the main library, SUSL for the entire library staff to enhance their existing knowledge and skills on D-Space on 09<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm at the ICT laboratory of Center for Distance Learning, SUSL. Mr. I D Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian was invited as the resource person for the entire program.



### India Gallery – SUSL

The “India Gallery,” a special corner generously donated by the Indian High Commission, has been established in the Main Library of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL). This unique corner features a rich collection of Indian classics, paintings, and cultural ornaments and has been accessible to all library users at SUSL since October 2024. To mark its inauguration, Assistant High Commissioner, Her Excellency Dr. Athira S., and Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Sunil Shantha visited the India Gallery on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. During this occasion, they officially handed over this valuable addition to the Librarian, Mrs. T. N. Neighsoorei





## Generous Book Donation to the Faculty of Medicine Library

In a heartwarming gesture, Dr. Gamini Goonathilaka, a retired surgeon, donated a collection of valuable books to the Faculty of Medicine Library. This donation enriches the library's resources, supporting the academic pursuits of medical students and faculty.



## Scopus User Awareness Session

The Library of Sri Jayewardenepura has organized a user awareness session in collaboration with Elsevier (Publisher of Scopus). This session was conducted by a resource person from SCOPUS/Elsevier on 7<sup>th</sup> (Monday) October at 10.30 a.m. at the Main Library. About Scopus, Sri Lankan researchers' publications in Scopus, and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) research publications in Scopus were described in the session. Participants in the session included Dr. (Mrs). N.D. Wijayasundara, Librarian, the Library academic staff, University academic staff, researchers, post-graduate students, undergraduate students, and non-academic staff.





## Key Engagement at NSF Digital Library Conference 2024

The NSF Sri Lanka successfully hosted the NSF Digital Library Conference 2024 on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. The event was graced by the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, as the Chief Guest.

Mr. M N Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka has been invited as one of the speakers for the panel discussion on the theme, “Challenges Facing Libraries in a Digital World.” The discussion was moderated by Prof. Ruwan Gamage and the panel included Dr. Mashroofa, Dr. Ananda Tissa and Dr. Pratheepan. It was highly engaging, bringing together librarians from different universities to share their insights, challenges, and visions for the future. It marked a significant step forward in shaping the roadmap for digital library development in Sri Lanka. This conference provided an excellent platform for academic librarians to voice their perspectives and contribute to a collaborative vision



## Library Outpost Programme Organized by The Open University of Sri Lanka

The Main Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) newly introduced the “Library Outpost Programme”, marking a significant step toward expanding library services beyond the traditional library walls. This programme aims to provide easy access to newly arrived library resources, and library services to the university community, bringing the library closer to the community. Under this programme, the library established a temporary library counter at different faculties and divisions on selected dates, to bridge the distance between library users and library. Different services such as book issues and returns, providing memberships, inquiry handling, introducing library e-resources and artificial intelligence-based services, and literature searching, and research support were provided to library users through this programme.

The first program was successfully held on 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 from 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the second program was successfully held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 from 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at the Administration Building of OUSL and the third program was successfully held on 04<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 from 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at the Science & Technology Building of OUSL premises.



This programme made a significant impact on enhancing the reading behavior of the library users by encouraging them to create a deeper connection with the library. The main library plans to expand this library outpost program to other faculties and university divisions of the OUSL in the near future, continuing to adapt to the evolving needs of the university community



## **The Workshop on Open University Digital Research Repository**

The Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) conducted a workshop on OUSL digital research repository and other important library services for the Academic staff members of the Faculty of Management Studies. The session was held on 08<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 which was focused on different digital repositories developed & maintained by the OUSL Library & its benefit to Academic staff members. Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Acting Librarian of the OUSL served as the resource person of the workshop.

## **The Workshop on Sharing American Library Experiences for The Development of Sri Lankan Libraries**

A workshop titled “Sharing American Library Experiences for the Development of Sri Lankan Libraries” was conducted for Library Science students of the Information Studies Unit of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The session was conducted by Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Acting Librarian of the OUSL. This session was focused on sharing practical experiences gained by visiting the American libraries and exploring innovative strategies and approaches that could be adapted to improve Sri Lankan libraries. The workshop provided valuable insights into library management, digital resource integration, and user engagement, contributing to the professional development of future library science experts in Sri Lanka.

## **Induction Training Program for Newly Recruited Assistant Librarians and Project Assistants to The Open University**

The induction training program for newly recruited Assistant Librarians and Project Assistants to the Main Library, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, and Badulla Regional Center Libraries of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) has been conducted. The aim of the training programme was to train them in the essential knowledge and practical skills necessary to contribute effectively to library operations and improve overall service delivery. The workshop is scheduled from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, at the OUSL Main Library. This three-days workshop provided a comprehensive understanding of library operations, services, facilities, and emerging technologies to the newly recruited Assistant Librarians and Project Assistants of the OUSL. It covers a comprehensive array of topics fundamental to modern librarianship, including library collections, membership management, resource access, acquisitions, cataloging, e-resource management, Koha-based data entry and online inquiry systems. These areas of training were designed to prepare trainees for the dynamic and evolving landscape of the library profession, ensuring they are well-prepared to meet the challenges of contemporary library management and user engagement.



## “Miyuru Gee Dahana”: An Entertainment Programme of The Open University Library

The Main Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) hosted an entertainment programme, “Miyuru Gee Dahana,” on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m for the library staff members. The aim was to celebrate and honor the contributions of both retired and current library staff of the OUSL. The event showcased a variety of performances of library staff, including individual and group songs, dances, storytelling, and quizzes, along with motivational speeches.

The retired academics, non-academic staff of the OUSL library, and current library staff members all actively participated, making the evening a true display of collective talents. The active involvement of all library staff contributed to the success of the event. This event not only acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the library team but also served as an enriching experience-sharing session for those involved in the library’s numerous initiatives.



## Cultural Preservation

### Opening of the Library of Tamilology – 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

The opening of the Library of Tamilology at the University of Jaffna on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, marked the successful completion of a project dedicated to preserving and advancing Tamil literature, history, and culture. Approved by the University Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, this library has been realised through the allocation of 111 million rupees from the Kandiah Karthigesan Trust Fund (KKTF), established by the late philanthropist Singapore Estate Kandiah Karthigesan.

The Library of Tamilology is a specialised library focused on collecting, preserving, and disseminating knowledge related to Tamilology, with a particular emphasis on Sri Lankan Tamil heritage. Its extensive collection includes published and unpublished works by Sri Lankan and international writers and researchers, covering various languages and formats.

The scope of Tamilology in the library extends across diverse subjects reflecting the daily life, culture, and traditions of the Tamil people. The collection encompasses indigenous literature, including grammar, lexicons, epics, lyric poetry, dramas, theology, medicine, philosophy, and moral treatises. It also contains jurisprudential and folk literature, offering insights into the community's rites, rituals, customs, manners, legends, fables, diseases, medicines, and educational practices. Together, these materials provide a comprehensive understanding of Tamil society and culture from ancient times to the present.

The library features a dedicated section called Yālp̄p̄ṇa Karuvoolam, focusing on preserving and archiving both published and unpublished works related to Sri Lankan Tamil heritage. Accessible to the public, the Library of Tamilology is a vital resource for researchers, scholars, and anyone interested in exploring the depth of Tamil heritage. In addition to its extensive collection, the library coordinates academic programs such as the Tamil Palapandithar Diploma and the Tamil Pandithar Higher Diploma, offered through the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL).

The library actively engages in scholarly activities, including maintaining Tamīliyal Karuvoolam, a digital repository documenting and archiving the lives and works of Sri Lankan Tamil scholars and poets. It also compiles and publishes rare books and releases bibliographies, indexes, and documentaries, all of which significantly contribute to the academic and cultural enrichment of Tamil studies.

### The first phase of the opening ceremony

#### Temple Worship and Bringing of God's Photo Frames

Temple worship and the procession bringing the God's photo frames were significant events during the opening ceremony. University staff, representatives from the Jaffna Oriental Studies Society (JOSS), and the public attended a Pooja at the Parameshwara Temple at the University premises.





The plaque marking the opening ceremony was unveiled by the Vice-Chancellor, accompanied by the Registrar, Deans of the faculties, Heads of Departments, the Project Coordinator, and other attendees. This momentous occasion symbolised the official opening of the Library of Tamilology, marking a significant milestone in the university's commitment to advancing Tamil studies and preserving cultural heritage.



### Unveiling of the Memorial Photograph of the Late Philanthropist Singapore Estate Kandiah Karthigesan

During the ceremony, the memorial photograph of the late Philanthropist, Singapore Estate Kandiah Karthigesan, was unveiled to honour his significant contributions to establishing the Library of Tamilology. The unveiling was followed by a chanting session and the recitation of a poem dedicated to praising Kandiah Karthigesan's generosity and vision, which made the realisation of this library project possible.



### Tree Planting Ceremony

The Vice-Chancellor and the Project Coordinator planted two trees in front of the Library of Tamilology, symbolising growth and sustainability.



### Street Play: 'Read, Reflect, Rise'

The street play 'Read, Reflect, Rise' was a vibrant performance directed by Ms. Thavachchelvi Rasan. It was presented by the Department of Drama & Theatre Arts, Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts, University of Jaffna. The play aimed to promote the importance of reading, self-reflection, and personal growth, resonating deeply with the local community. The Mobile Library of the Jaffna Public Library also participated as a community outreach.





## The second phase of the opening ceremony

The second phase of the opening ceremony was held at the library auditorium. The ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by prayers. Dr Aaruthirumurugan, a Council member of the University of Jaffna, delivered the foreword speech, and Dr (Mrs) K. Chandrasekar, Acting Librarian, addressed the gathering. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr (Mrs) M. Visakaruban, Project Coordinator of the Library of Tamilology, who outlined the journey of the project, highlighting the collaborative efforts and unwavering support that made the realisation of the library possible.



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor S. Srisatkunarajah, delivered a speech emphasising the profound importance of the Library of Tamilology in the academic growth of the University of Jaffna and its significant contribution to the field of Tamilology. He highlighted how the library would serve as a vital resource for scholars, students, and researchers, enhancing the university's leadership in Tamil studies

## Release of four publications

A special moment of the ceremony was the release of four significant publications by the Library of Tamilology: three reference tools—Gnayiru, Viththakam, and Eelakesari—and a compilation of articles from The Eelakesari Annual Illustrated Supplements. This marks another milestone in the library's mission to promote and disseminate Tamil research and literature.



The book release was followed by a thanksgiving note by Dr. S. Ketheeswaren, the Deputy Librarian, expressing gratitude to all those who supported the library's establishment and development. To close the formal proceedings, Bala Pandithar students presented cultural performances showcasing the rich Tamil heritage. These included 'Arokara,' a solo drama/act, and 'Villuppattu,' a traditional Tamil narrative poetry performance, adding a vibrant and artistic touch to the ceremony.



Project Team

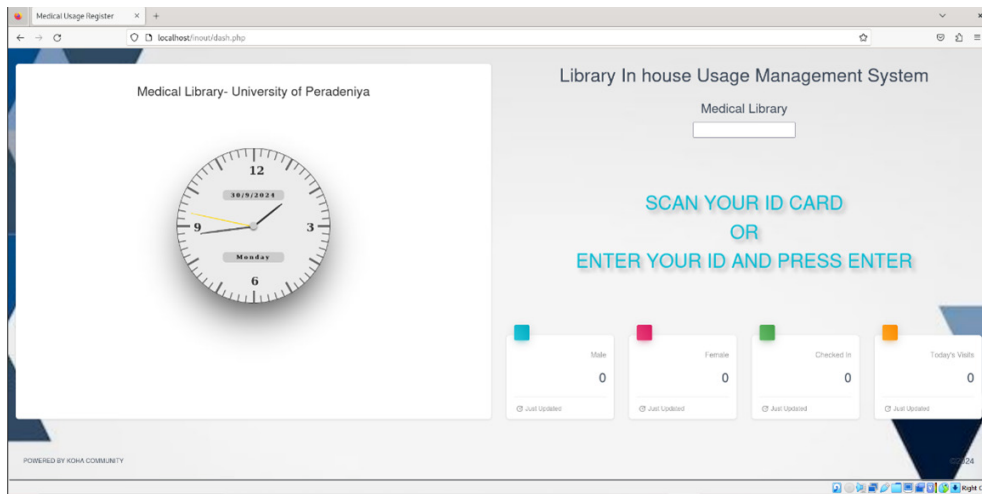


Mr. Y. Kesavan (Asst. Librarian), Dr. (Mrs). M. Visakaruban (Project Coordinator & Deputy Librarian), Professor S. Srisatkunarajah (Vice-Chancellor), Mr. K. Sajanthan (Asst. Librarian), Dr. S. Ketheeswaren (Deputy Librarian).



# Library Quality Assurance

## User Tracking System at the Library, University of Peradeniya



Mr. B.E.S. Bandara, Assistant Librarian of the faculty of Medicine has developed an innovative system to track library user statistics, providing a critical tool for the University of Peradeniya's libraries. Previously, there was no comprehensive mechanism to monitor library usage, with some branch libraries relying on manual systems. This innovation allows for efficient tracking of all users registered with the Koha Integrated Library System or Alice for Windows Library System.

The system has already demonstrated its impact: in its first month, over 5,000 users visited the Main Library. Initially implemented and verified at the Medical Library, the system received commendation from the library committee there. It enables librarians and other authorized personnel to generate and filter user statistics within seconds, streamlining data access and analysis.

Currently, the system has been installed at the Medical Library and Main Library. Other branches, such as the Agriculture and Veterinary Libraries, have requested the installation. Mr. B.E.S. Bandara, the branch Librarian of the Medical Library, will oversee the implementation and training processes for these libraries.

Mr. Bandara attributes the success of this project to the invaluable support and guidance provided by the Librarian of the University of Peradeniya. He also acknowledges the valuable contributions of Mr. M.J.A. Saajith, Assistant Network Manager at the Library of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, for his support and expertise. Furthermore, he extends his sincere appreciation to the senior staff of the library and the IT division for their unwavering assistance, which was crucial in achieving this milestone. The implementation of the User Tracking System at the University of Peradeniya's libraries aligns closely with the principles of Quality Assurance (QA) in library services.



# Student Support

## Practical Session on Literature Searching for Final-Year Sociology Students

Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian of the Main Library at the University of Peradeniya, conducted a practical session titled “How to Search Relevant Information for the Final Year Dissertation” for final-year Sociology students on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The session was attended by 16 students, who received personalized guidance in locating scholarly resources relevant to their individual research topics using databases accessible through the library’s webpage.

## ‘Library for Research’: A Guided Lecture for undergraduates of Faculty of Arts

Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian of the Main Library at the University of Peradeniya,, delivered an insightful lecture titled “How to Use the Library for Research” for undergraduate students of the Faculty of Arts on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2024. The session, held via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, was organized by the Indological Society of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya.

## Seminar on “Mastering Mendeley Reference Manager”

A seminar organized by the Human Resource Development unit, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the Library, University of Peradeniya was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 from 11.00 AM -12.00 noon at the Auditorium of the New Library Building. Mr. B.E.S. Bandara/ Assistant Librarian-Medical Library was served as the resource person.



## Workshop on “Use of Open Educational Resources”

The Main Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies, conducted a workshop on “Using Open Educational Resources” on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. The workshop was specifically designed for final year students from the department. Ms. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian, served as the resource person, sharing her expertise on the topic.

**WORKSHOP ON  
THE USE OF OPEN  
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

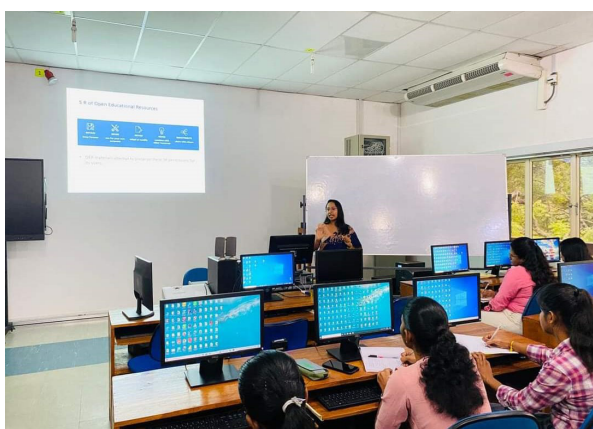
**Mrs. Hansamali  
Wickramasooriya**  
Assistant Librarian - RUSL

**Wednesday**  
27th Nov. 2024

**10.30 AM**  
-  
**01.00 PM**

**Computer  
Center - RUSL**

Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management  
Faculty of Management Studies  
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



## Awareness Session on Online Library Resources and Services of The Open University Library

An awareness session on Online Library Resources and Services of the Open University Library was conducted by Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Open University (OUSL) on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 for the Master of Business Administration Students of the Faculty of Management Studies of the OUSL. The session shared the knowledge on how to use variety of online library services and resources for learning and research work.

## Kurunegala Regional Centre (KuRC) Library - The Open University of Sri Lanka Workshop on “Academic Success with Integrity”

The workshop on “Academic Success with Integrity” was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, for Level 3 B.Ed. in Primary Education Degree students and BA level 03 students on 07<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 at the Kurunegala Regional Centre. Mrs. Piumali Karunarathna Abeysinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Kurunegala Regional Centre, served as the resource person.





## Reading Promotion Programme -Reading Circle at the Kurunegala Regional Centre (KuRC) Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka

### “Enhancing Reading Interest, Skills, and Critical Thinking: A Monthly Open Forum for OUSL Students”

This programme aims to promote reading and improve reading abilities, critical thinking skills, and mental well-being among students of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), Kurunegala Regional Centre (KuRC). The programme structured as an open forum where students will meet once a month to share, reflect, and review books they have read. This initiative provides students with an opportunity to discuss their ideas and knowledge, fostering a reading culture within the OUSL community. The first reading circle was held on 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 2024. For the first session participated as guests Assistant Director of the Kurunegala Regional Centre Mr. Wimal Seneviratne and Senior Lecturer in Sociology Mr. Binara Angammna.



### Workshop on “Unlock the Power of your library: Explore library services and resources”

#### Anuradhapura Regional Centre Library- The Open University of Sri Lanka

The workshop on “Unlock the Power of Your Library: Explore Library Services and Resources” was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024, for Level 3 B.Sc. students at the Anuradhapura Regional Centre. Mrs. Piumali Karunarathna Abeysinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Kurunegala Regional Centre, served as the resource person.

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
(Session 1)  
“Workshop on Unlock the Power of Your Library: Explore Resources & Services”  
For Anuradhapura Regional Centre  
Natural Science Level III  
Students

**zoom**  
User Education Programmes

- Date:- 02nd November, 2024
- Time:- 01.00 p.m - 02.00 p.m
- Zoom Link:- <https://learn.zoom.us/j/95980981997?pwd=e6ex6r50OGKFr6WtAea18YHzEsmAOJ.1>

Resource Person:- Mrs. H.M.P. Piumali Karunarathne Abeysinghe  
Senior Assistant Librarian  
Kurunegala Regional Centre

## Knowledge Sharing Forum Library series 01- Anuradhapura Regional Centre Library- The Open University of Sri Lanka

The Anuradhapura Regional Centre Library held the first session of its Knowledge Sharing Forum library series on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024. This session, organized in partnership with the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board, was conducted online for B.Sc. Level 03 students at the Anuradhapura Regional Centre.

Mr. Priyanga Rathnayaka, Deputy Director of the IT and Promotion, Radiation Protection and Technical Division, served as the resource person, sharing valuable insights with the students. The session was moderated by Mrs. Piumali Karunarathna Abeysinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Kurunegala Regional Centre. This forum aims to enhance students' knowledge by connecting them with experts from various fields. Mrs. Kumudika Jayalath, Coordinator of the Natural Sciences Faculty at Anuradhapura Regional Centre, and Ms. Sewuwandi Bandara, Assistant Director at Anuradhapura Regional Centre, provided great support in organizing this session.

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY SRI LANKA**  
ANURADHAPURA REGIONAL CENTRE LIBRARY

**ARC LIBRARY SERIES - 01**  
KNOWLEDGE-SHARING FORUMS

**Resource Person**  
Mr. Priyanga Rathnayaka  
Deputy Director of IT and Promotion  
Radiation Protection, and Technical Division  
The Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board.

DATE - 02/11/2024  
Time - 2.00PM-3.00PM

For BSc Level iii ARC Students

**JOIN WITH US**

<https://learn.zoom.us/j/95980981997?pwd=e6ex6r50QGFr6WtAea18YHZEsmAOJ>  
Meeting ID: 959 8098 1997  
Passcode: MpZu@1J

**Moderator - Senior Assistant Librarian**  
Kurunegala Regional Centre (KuRC)

Organized By KuRC Library

## Workshop on “Introduction to Electronic Resources Available in OUSL Library”

The Matara Regional Centre Library (MRC) conducted an online workshop titled “Introduction to Electronic Resources Available in OUSL Library” on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024. The session was held via Zoom at 4.00 PM and targeted BA level 3 students from the MRC. The resource person for the event was Mrs. PKM Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian at MRC.

**E-RESOURCES OF OUSL LIBRARY**

Mrs. PKM Kaushamalika  
Senior Assistant Librarian  
Matara Regional Centre

HOME

Distance Learners

The workshop on “Enhance your learning through effective utilization of OUSL library’s E- Resources” was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024, for Level 3 B.Ed. in Primary Education Degree students-level 03 at the Matara Regional Centre. Mrs. PKM Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Kurunegala Regional Centre, served as the resource person.

Subscribed E Journal Databases

JSTOR  
Emerald Insight  
OXFORD ACADEMIC  
ScienceDirect  
Springer

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Click here for E-Journal Access

Trial Access for E- Databases

Business and Management  
Chemistry  
Economics  
Energy Studies  
English  
English and old english literatures  
Entrepreneurship  
Language Studies  
Marketing  
Physics  
Psychology  
Public administration and military science  
Recreational and performing arts

- Conversations with Families of Children with Disabilities: Insights for Teacher Understanding
- Establishing Pathways to Inclusion: Investigating the Experiences and Outcomes for Students with Special Educational Needs
- Working with Voice Disorders: Theory and Practice
- Hands on Dyspraxia: Developmental Coordination Disorder: Supporting Young People with Motor and Sensory Challenges
- ED and Me: Supporting Children and Young People with Developmental Language Disorder
- Inclusive Education for the 21st Century: Theory, Policy and Practice
- Developing Creativity and Curiosity Outdoors: How to Extend Creative Learning in the Early Years
- Special Education Leadership: Building Effective Programming in Schools
- Addressing Special Educational Needs and Disability in the Curriculum: Design and Technology
- Motivating Children with Specific Learning Difficulties: A Teacher's Practical Guide
- A Curriculum Guide for Middle Leaders: Intent, Implementation and Impact in Practice
- An Introduction to Distance Education: Understanding Teaching and Learning in a New Era
- Becoming Somebody in Teacher Education: Person, Profession and Organization in a Global Southern Context
- Being Well in Academia: Ways to Feel Stronger, Safer and More Connected
- Design Research in Education: A Practical Guide for Early Career Researchers



**Resource Person of the Student Researcher Program 2024, University of Moratuwa**

Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian University of Moratuwa, contributed as a resource person for the Student Researcher Program 2024 organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa.

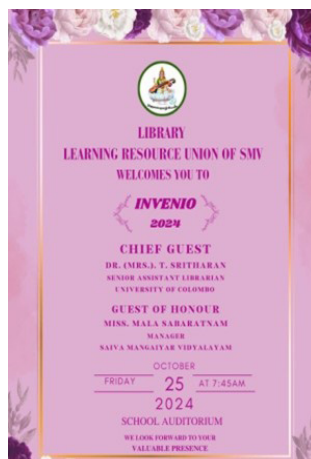
The Student Researcher Program is an exciting opportunity for young minds to engage in research, develop new skills, and make meaningful contributions to their fields of interest. The open day and introductory workshop was held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 at the University of Moratuwa. The resource panel comprises Senior Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Prof. Rangika Halwatura, Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Dr. Prabod Munasinghe, and Dr. Sandun Dassanayake. The event’s main objective was to create opportunities for students to begin their research journeys as early as possible.



**Dr. (Mrs.). T. Sritharan, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo made an impactful contribution as a Chief Guest at the “Invenio: Reading Month Event” organized by the Library Learning Resource Union of Saiva Mangair Ladies College.**

Dr. (Mrs.). T. Sritharan, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo made an impactful contribution as a Chief Guest at the “Invenio: Reading Month Event” organized by the Library Learning Resource Union of Saiva Mangair Ladies College, Colombo 6, on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

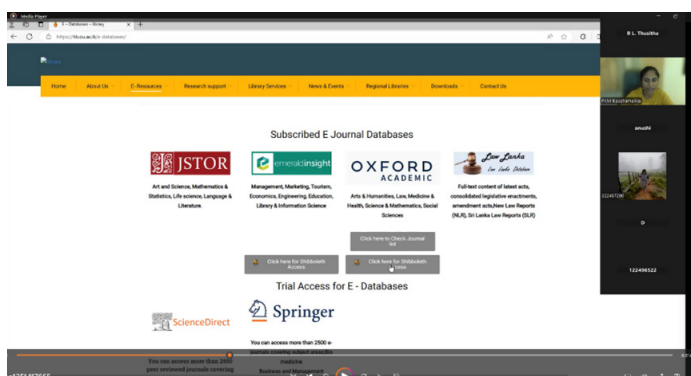
Her speech on “Active Reading among School Children in Sri Lanka” likely focused on promoting the importance of reading and how active engagement with texts can improve learning and critical thinking skills among young students in Sri Lanka.



## Data Visualization Camp

This event aimed to impart the thinking process for developing effective and compelling graphical abstracts that communicate research findings efficiently to specialists and non-specialists, ensuring their work has a wider impact. Dr. Sandun Dasanayake, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Decision Sciences, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, contributed as the resource person. The program's theme was 'Show More and Tell Less: Graphical Abstracts for a Wider Impact'.

Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Moratuwa, conceptualized and coordinated the Data Visualization Camp, which was held on 04 December 2024 at the University of Moratuwa.







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