

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA NEWSLETTER



**15th International Conference of the
University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka
(ICULA 2025)**

Pre-Conference Webinar Series # 01
Webinar on

**"Emerging Trends in Library User Studies:
Insights and Strategies for Planning
Your Next User-Centred Research"**



Conducted by
MRS. SAJEEWANIE D. SOMARATNA
Deputy Librarian, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
MLISc., PG Dip (Busn. Mgt.), BSc. (Hons)(Zoology) (Colombo)

**Wednesday
14th May, 2025
10.30 a.m.- 11.30 a.m.**

Meeting ID: 856 0854 6327
Passcode: 214601

(Free of Charge)

For More Information:
Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara
Coordinator
ICULA 2025 Webinar Series
(+94) 717734240

**Organized by University Librarians'
Association of Sri Lanka**



**The 15th International Conference of the
University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka
(ICULA 2025)**

Pre-Conference Webinar Series # 02
Webinar on

**"Role and Responsibility of University Librarians
in the National LIS Education Initiatives"**



Conducted by
Prof. Ruwan Gamage
Professor in Library and Information Science,
National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS),
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Date: 27th of May 2025
Time: 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 898 9188 9329
Passcode: 360717

To Join
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For More Information:
Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara
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**The 15th International Conference of the
University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka
(ICULA 2025)**

Pre-Conference Webinar Series # 03
Webinar on

**"Academic Libraries and the Advancement of Scholarship
of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and Professional Development"**



Conducted by
Dr. Namali Suraweera
Academic Developer,
Centre for Academic Development,
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Date: 24th of June 2025
Time: 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 892 0110 0019
Passcode: 443166

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For More Information:
Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara
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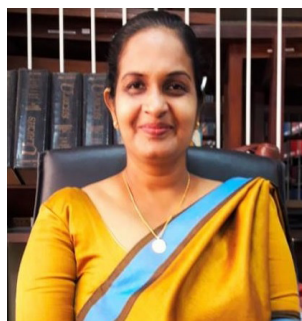
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Feature Articles

From Traditional to Multifaceted: Role of University Libraries in Empowering students of the current era



Dr (Mrs) G D M N Samaradiwakara
Senior Assistant Librarian
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The library has conventionally been viewed as the "heart of the university," tasked with delivering services to the institution's academic community. In this era of abundant digital knowledge and declining academic prestige, university libraries are undergoing a subtle yet significant transformation. Students of the current era who skillfully navigate vast and complex digital information landscapes, prioritise personalised and collaborative learning experiences, and demonstrate greater autonomy and critical thinking are key drivers of this transformation. Due to the emergence of a student-centred paradigm and innovative pedagogical approaches, there is a necessity to highlight the roles and responsibilities of librarians in the educational process. Once seen as relaxing spaces for lending books, these institutions are now crucial in shaping the academic paths of students in the current era, and their evolution may impact the future of higher education in the country. Therefore, numerous new initiatives are being successfully implemented in university libraries nationwide today.

From physical books to scholarly centres

University libraries have historically served as repositories of knowledge, offering access to textbooks, examination papers, and reference materials. Contemporary university students face numerous challenges, including navigating extensive online resources, avoiding misinformation, acquiring suitable research methodologies, and understanding the concept of academic integrity.

This alteration in student requirements is driving libraries to transform from simple repositories of books to scholarly centres. Now, University libraries offer access to comprehensive collections of physical books, journals, databases, palm leaf collections and diverse materials in both print and digital formats, thereby ensuring that students can obtain the information necessary for their academic pursuits. Furthermore, university libraries support their academic communities by offering digital platforms, such as digital walls, which provide access to digital library resources and services from other institutions as well.

From halls to study spaces

University libraries provide quiet and collaborative study spaces with the most conducive environments for studying and learning, including quiet study areas, computer labs with modern technology, wi-fi access with high bandwidth, and group study rooms with good lighting, ventilation, air conditioning, calming, and a wide range of suitable and attractive furniture for individual and group learning requirements.

Furthermore, they create spaces to minimize knowledge gaps by allowing computers with Internet access and reference materials to be used concurrently in study areas. Almost all university libraries offer students 24/7 study rooms in a friendly environment.

Aside from study areas, modern university libraries are increasingly recognized as vital learning environments. Today's university libraries serve as a primary hub for the university community, organising academic events such as book launches, specialised workshops, and guest lectures.

• Bridging the information gap

Academic librarians in universities maintain that their responsibilities extend beyond regulating information access; they also facilitate critical thinking and learning. The promotion of information literacy, which is the ability to locate, evaluate, and utilize information effectively, is a significant function that university libraries are currently assuming. Libraries conduct user education programs and seminars to equip students with the necessary information literacy skills, including the ability to effectively evaluate information, conduct research, and utilize library resources effectively. This is particularly crucial for undergraduates, as a significant number of them arrive at university with limited experience in academic research or using scholarly databases. The programs provided by university libraries facilitate the acquisition of lifelong learning skills and advanced learning.

Nearly all universities have established workshops and credit-bearing modules that focus on information literacy for undergraduate students. These programs provide students with the necessary skills to access peer-reviewed journals, correctly cite sources, and avoid plagiarism, which are essential in both academic and professional settings.

• Manual systems to innovative technology

University libraries frequently incorporate emerging technologies, including security doors, access controls, self-service check-in and check-out systems, Kiosks, online learning tools such as e-book platforms, grammar checking and plagiarism detection tools, as well as information management systems like open-source library integration software, reference management software, and digital resource management software. The adoption of these technologies surpasses temporal limitations and facilitates the preparation of students as dedicated professionals for the nation.

• From in-university activities to community engagement

Outreach has emerged as an essential component in broadening academic contributions beyond the university, engaging with the broader community, and fostering literacy and lifelong learning. Given the evolving role of university librarians in facilitating academic success, it is essential to provide detailed guidance and implement outreach programs as an ongoing initiative by librarians. Consequently, a majority of university libraries investigate their role in supporting broader, specific communities, such as public libraries, technical colleges, and schools, by providing resources and programs aimed at empowering disadvantaged individuals and contributing to national development.

Moreover, present-day university libraries collaborate with various special libraries and institutions to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise. Librarians provide expertise as resource individuals for a range of literacy and research support initiatives tailored to specific researchers.

These programs offer significant benefits for both external communities and academic librarians. Academic librarians have the potential to transform the library's image, role, and services to the public. They can present themselves as valuable human resources, illuminate various career aspects, and engage in supporting communities. Additionally, they can raise awareness of new technologies among external communities and foster relationships that benefit both parties.

- **From providing information to making a greater contribution to research**

Modern-day university libraries play a significant role in fostering the research culture within their institutions. Nearly all universities, in addition to offering contemporary resources and services that foster a robust research culture, also provide knowledgeable personnel to facilitate numerous programs. These include access to scholarly databases, support with citation management, guidance on referencing to prevent plagiarism, utilization of reference management and plagiarism detection tools, as well as instruction on research methodologies, literature reviews, and academic writing. Libraries facilitate research students in accessing essential information from networked libraries when such resources are unavailable at their home institutions. Furthermore, research students are granted permission to consult other university libraries as required.

In addition to these offerings, specific university libraries extend personalized research assistance in various formats, including guidance on research methodologies, techniques, analytical tools, and software, facilitated through their dedicated Research Support Units.

Furthermore, university libraries play a pivotal role in organizing annual conferences and research symposia, thereby facilitating the academic community's opportunity to disseminate their scholarly contributions.

- **From standard services to innovative services**

To align with the academic success of contemporary students, university librarians are increasingly offering a wide range of innovative services. University libraries are increasingly implementing human libraries to offer their patrons an alternative experience by providing access to expert individuals rather than books for borrowing. "People with a particular personal experience or perspective on life" are often stereotyped and volunteer to serve as "human books." These human texts consent to engage in open dialogue with other members of the community, who are referred to as "readers."

Additionally, the university libraries extend their succour to alleviate the language barriers that their academic community faces. English Learning Zones are maintained by some university libraries, which provide access to self-learning English through the use of simple workbooks and storybooks. These zones also conduct programs during designated time slots, with the participation of English department lecturers, and maintain websites that offer engaging videos and online resources to help overcome the language barrier.

Additionally, specific libraries offer specialized services, including laptop lending, conference facilities, and resource centres for the visually impaired, to ensure all students have access to the same level of academic success.

- **From isolated places to cultural enrichment**

The university libraries are no longer isolated centres. Libraries contain art exhibits, historical collections, and various cultural resources. Specific university libraries preserve traditional knowledge through ola-leaf collections and offer access to both their academic communities and researchers nationwide. University libraries also host art exhibitions and various other events on their premises. In certain instances, they collaborate with other universities and institutions to organize exhibitions

- **Safeguarding academic heritage in a multifaceted learning environment**

Libraries safeguard historical documents, rare books, and various materials pertinent to the university's history and research, which are available in both physical and digital formats for use by the academic community in specific subject areas within universities. Librarians and relevant personnel participate in training programs on preservation and archiving, continually updating their knowledge.

The contributions indicated in the preceding points are most often provided by university libraries, with specific libraries potentially fulfilling extra-specific functions peculiar to their institutions.

A call for integration by looking ahead

The university libraries are currently at a pivotal juncture. They need to continue changing by embracing technology, advocating for information literacy, and clearly expressing their role in Gen C education to remain relevant and influential.

The lack of faculty-library collaboration in certain universities is one of the most significant difficulties that face the structure. In such universities, librarians are still perceived as being on the periphery of the entire teaching process, rather than being considered collaborators. As a result, specialists recommend that librarians be included in the curriculum creation process, particularly for courses with research components. For this to occur, librarians require further recognition of the role they play in the growth of academia. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to receive assistance from the university administrators, the University Grants Commission, and the Ministry of Education.

In an era marked by an overwhelming abundance of information and a shortage of discernment, university libraries have the potential to serve as intellectual anchors, providing access to knowledge while supporting its thoughtful application. When empowered and supported, they can help foster the conditions under which wisdom may emerge.

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Gamification in Academic Library Services: Engaging the Next Generation of University Learners



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Introduction

In the 21st century, academic libraries are undergoing a fundamental transformation to remain pedagogically relevant in an era shaped by digital fluency, user-centred learning, and technological innovation. In response to the growing demand for interactive and immersive learning experiences, academic libraries worldwide are incorporating gamification as a strategic approach to engage students, stimulate active participation, and enrich the overall learning process.

Gamification refers to the application of game design elements such as points, levels, badges, leaderboards, and challenges in non-game settings to enhance user engagement, increase motivation, and promote learning (Mushtaq et al., 2025). Far from being merely entertainment, gamification is now recognized as a valuable instructional strategy. In the Sri Lankan context, it is essential to explore how gamification is being implemented in university library services to support student learning, promote information literacy, and encourage user participation within higher education settings.

Gamification in Academic Libraries

In academic library settings, gamification is employed as a pedagogical strategy to enhance the interactivity and effectiveness of learning experiences. Rather than making education superficial, it embeds learning outcomes into fun and rewarding activities. Common application areas include:

- First-year library orientations: Introducing new students to library spaces, services, and tools in an engaging way.
- Information literacy instruction: Making workshops on searching, evaluating, and citing in formation more participatory.
- Citation and research skills workshops: Encouraging skill development through point-based tasks or quiz games.
- Reading and scholarly communication challenges: Promoting continuous engagement with reading and research tasks.

By structuring educational content into challenges or tasks, students are more likely to stay motivated, participate actively, and retain what they learn (15 Effective Strategies to Boost Student Engagement, 2025).

Gamified Applications in University Library Contexts

1. Interactive Orientation Experiences

Gamified orientation programs are increasingly used to help new students explore the library in an enjoyable, tech-enhanced way. For example, North Carolina State University Libraries created WolfWalk, a mobile-based scavenger hunt that allows students to follow QR-coded clues to discover various library locations and services (Burke et al., 2012). In Sri Lanka, university libraries can replicate this approach by utilizing simple tools, such as Google Forms, QR codes, or platforms like Actionbound, to guide students as they earn points and complete challenges.

2. Escape Rooms for Information Literacy

Escape rooms utilize puzzles and collaborative challenges to teach students research and citation skills engagingly. At the University of North Texas, students participated in an "Escape the Library" event, where they solved information-related clues within a time limit (Robson, 2025). In Sri Lanka, low-tech escape room activities utilizing printed clues and small-group collaboration could be developed to reinforce key concepts of information literacy.

3. Digital Badging for Learning Incentives

Digital badges serve as virtual rewards or micro-credentials for completing specific learning tasks. At Indiana University Bloomington, students earn badges for completing modules on academic integrity, referencing styles, or database use (Tin, 2020). Sri Lankan libraries can utilize platforms like Moodle to award badges for mastery of IL skills and participation in workshops, thereby encouraging self-paced learning and student achievement.

4. Research Skill Challenges and Leaderboards

Libraries may run research-based competitions where students earn points or appear on leaderboards for completing specific tasks such as attending consultations, exploring databases, or submitting research strategies. This method, commonly used in Western universities, could be piloted during undergraduate research modules in Sri Lankan institutions to encourage early engagement.

Benefits of Gamification in Academic Libraries

Gamification offers a range of educational and motivational benefits:

- **Enhanced motivation:** Reward systems and visible progress tracking encourage active participation (Hamari et al., 2014).
- **Active learning:** Interactive tasks help students internalize skills through practice rather than passive observation.
- **Student-centred engagement:** Games promote learner autonomy and align with constructivist educational principles.
- **Increased service use:** Gamified challenges help students discover underutilized resources and services.

These benefits position gamification not only as an engagement tool but also as a method for deeper, more meaningful learning.

Challenges and Recommendations

Despite its potential, integrating gamification into academic library services presents several challenges, particularly in the Sri Lankan context:

- **Limited technological infrastructure:** Many libraries lack the digital tools or platforms to host gamified features.
- **Staff capacity and training needs:** Librarians may lack experience in instructional design and digital gamification tools.
- **Scepticism toward non-traditional methods:** Some educators and administrators may perceive gamification as lacking academic seriousness.
- **Student diversity and accessibility:** Not all students are motivated by competitive approaches, and digital inclusion remains a concern.
- **Program sustainability:** Gamified tools require regular updates, feedback loops, and resources for long-term success.

Recommendations

To address these issues, the following steps are recommended:

- **Start small using free tools:** Try printed scavenger hunts or Google Form quizzes before moving to digital platforms.
- **Leverage existing platforms:** Integrate gamification into LMS tools like Moodle to reduce overhead.
- **Train and collaborate:** Offer librarian training and foster partnerships with IT staff and faculty.
- **Build institutional support** by sharing success stories, student feedback, and international case studies to raise awareness and promote a positive image.
- **Design inclusively** by offering both digital and physical versions to accommodate diverse needs.
- **Monitor and evaluate:** Utilise surveys, participation data, and user feedback to assess the impact of gamified programs and inform subsequent improvements.

While international models highlight the impact of gamification in library contexts, there is a need to explore its practical applications in Sri Lankan universities. In the absence of documented local case studies, two hypothetical yet feasible scenarios are proposed to demonstrate potential implementation. The first is a QR code-based orientation challenge that guides first-year students through key library areas using mobile devices and interactive tasks, fostering engagement and spatial familiarity.

The second involves a digital badge system integrated into the university's LMS (such as Moodle), where students earn badges for completing information literacy workshops and online assessments on referencing and research skills. These approaches rely on low-cost, readily available tools, such as Google Forms and existing learning platforms, making them practical, scalable, and well-aligned with the resource constraints and educational needs of Sri Lankan academic libraries.

A Way Forward for Sri Lanka

Gamification offers academic libraries a strategic and innovative approach to engaging the next generation of learners. By combining instructional objectives with playful elements, libraries can encourage deeper learning, foster digital fluency, and increase service usage. Even with limited budgets, Sri Lankan university libraries can successfully pilot gamification initiatives, such as digital badges or interactive scavenger hunts, by creatively utilizing existing resources. These efforts can modernise library services and help students maximise their academic experience.

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ULA Events

Webinar No. 01 – Emerging Trends in Library User Studies: Insights and Strategies for Planning Your Next User-Centred Research

The first pre-conference webinar, "Emerging Trends in Library User Studies: Insights and Strategies for Planning Your Next User-Centred Research," was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. The resource person was Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna, Deputy Librarian at the University of Colombo. The webinar aimed to explore how to leverage emerging trends to enhance the use of university libraries. The session was introduced by Dr. (Mrs.) Pradeepa Wijetunge is the President of the University Librarians Association 2025-2026. Mrs. Nadeesha Perera, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Colombo, introduced the resource person, M.A. Lankathilake, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Colombo, who moderated the session. Mrs. Ishara Fernando Senanayake, Assistant Librarian at the University of Colombo, proposed the vote of thanks. More than 95 participants actively participated in the webinar.

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Webinar No. 02 – Role and Responsibility of University Librarians in the National LIS Education Initiatives

The topic of the second pre-conference webinar, "Role and Responsibility of University Librarians in the National LIS Education Initiatives," was presented on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Prof. Ruwan Gamage, Professor of Library and Information Sciences at the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, participated as the Resource Person. The goal of the webinar was to explain the roles of university librarians in their academic journey. The president of the University Librarians Association 2025-2026, Dr. (Mrs.) Pradeepa Wijetunge introduced the session. Mr. H.U.C.S. Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, moderated the discussion, and Mr. I.K.D.L. Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian at Sabaragamu University of Sri Lanka, introduced the resource person. Mr. H.U.C.S. Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, proposed the vote of thanks. Almost 64 people took part in the webinar in a proactive manner.



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Pre-Conference Webinar Series # 02

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"Role and Responsibility of University Librarians in the National LIS Education Initiatives"

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Time: 10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 898 9188 9329
Passcode: 360717

To Join Scan QR

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Conducted by
Prof. Ruwan Gamage
Professor in Library and Information Science,
National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS),
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Webinar No. 03 – Academic Libraries and the Advancement of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and Professional Development

The third pre-conference webinar, "Academic Libraries and the Advancement of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and Professional Development", was held on June 24 2025, from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. via Zoom. The resource person was Dr. Namali Suraweera, Academic Developer at the Centre for Academic Development, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The webinar aimed to explore the use of the 5C Framework in university libraries. The session was introduced by Dr. (Mrs.) Pradeepa Wijetunge is the President of the University Librarians Association 2025-2026. Mrs. Nadeeka Sanjeewani Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya, introduced the resource person. Mr. H.U.C.S. Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, moderated and proposed the vote of thanks. Almost 66 participants actively participated in the webinar.



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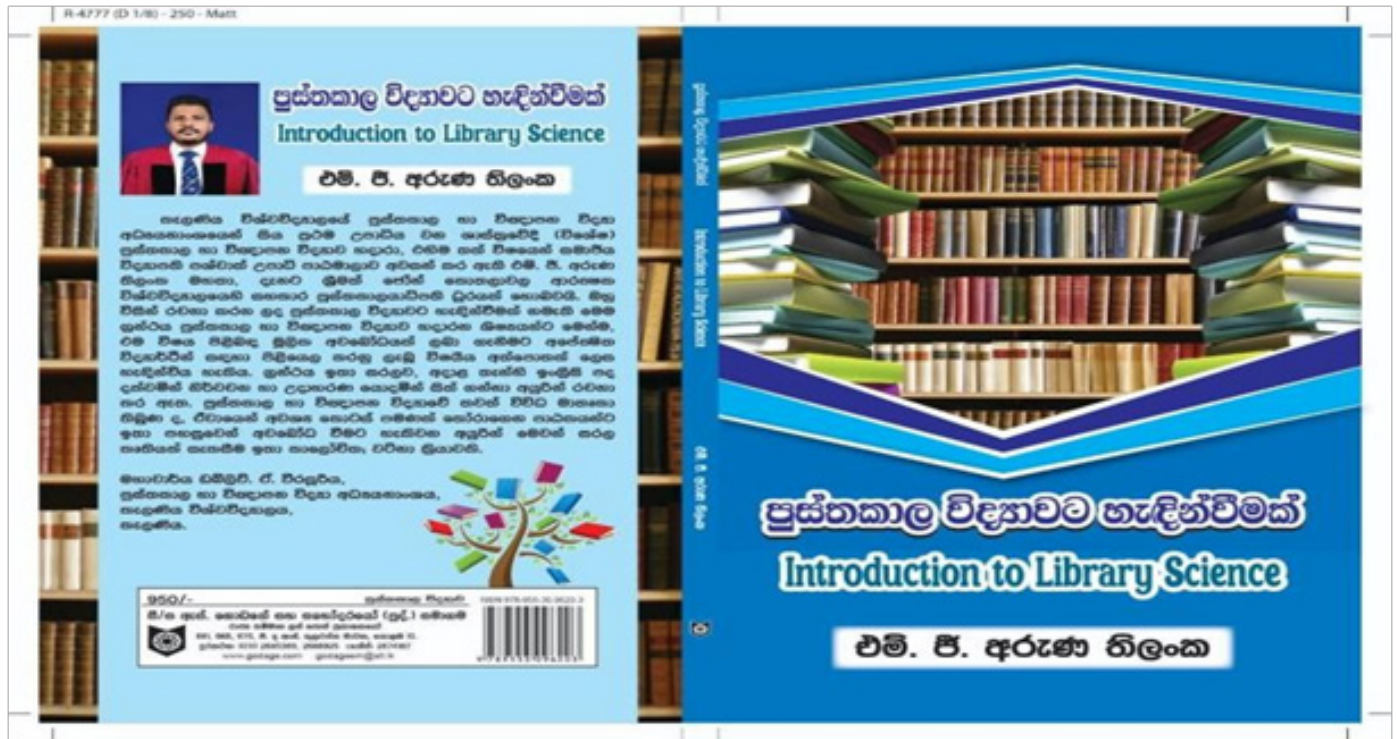
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Conducted by
Dr. Namali Suraweera
Academic Developer,
Centre for Academic Development,
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Milestones & Achievements

Book Launch: *Introduction to Library Science* by MGA Thilanka

The book titled පුස්තකාල විද්‍යාව හැඳින්වීම (*Introduction to Library Science*) authored by MGA Thilanka, Assistant Librarian, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was officially launched as Godage Book publication in April 20. This publication mainly covered introduction to the principles and practices of Library & information sciences, which is useful for students and professionals in the field.



Membership

Mrs. Lavanya Jegatheesparan, Senior Assistant of Eastern University obtained Associateship of Sri Lanka Library Association with effect from 20th of May 2025.



Fellowship Awarded to Join Regional Leadership Programme at the National University of Singapore

Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara, Senior Assistant Librarian representing the University of Colombo, was awarded a prestigious fellowship to participate in the Transforming University Libraries: Leadership & Innovation Programme held at the National University of Singapore (NUS) from 30th June to 4th July 2025.

Organised by NUS Libraries, the programme brought together library professionals from across the Asia-Pacific region to explore strategic leadership, innovation, and the future of academic libraries. The fellowship provided an enriching space for professional dialogue, collaboration, and the exploration of visionary ideas in the field of academic librarianship.

The University of Colombo acknowledges this achievement as a valuable step toward strengthening international academic partnerships and fostering leadership in academic libraries.



Regional & International Collaboration

International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025) at the University of Peradeniya

The International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025) was successfully held on 26th and 27th June 2025 at the University of Peradeniya, convening a distinguished gathering of professionals, scholars, and academics from the global Library and Information Science community. This prestigious event was jointly organized by the Library of the University of Peradeniya, the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka, with additional support extended by the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau.



Centred around the theme “Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital,” the conference emphasised the dynamic and multifaceted roles of libraries in preserving cultural heritage, fostering intellectual discourse, promoting lifelong learning, and advancing sustainable societal development.

The inaugural ceremony was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Faculty of Agriculture, while the technical sessions were conducted across eight parallel tracks at the Department of Geography and the Main Library premises of the University. A total of 114 abstracts were received, out of which 71 were accepted, published in the conference proceedings, and presented under the following sub-themes:

- Emerging Trends in Information Services
- Empowering Tourism and Driving Growth
- Transformative Leadership in Librarianship
- IT Applications, Data Privacy, and Ethics in Information Access
- Library Outreach and Education in a Dynamic World
- Safeguarding Cultural Heritage for Future Generations
- Open Access and E-Learning as Tools for Library Innovation
- Connecting Library and Information Communities in the Digital and AI Era



The conference attracted over 75 international participants from countries including India, Nepal, the United Kingdom, and the Maldives, alongside more than 90 local library and information professionals. It served as a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange, scholarly collaboration, and professional development within the field.

The Chief Guest of the conference was Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya. The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. R. Balasubramani of Bharathidasan University, India. Rev. Dr. Isabella Rajakumari, Principal of Holy Cross College, India, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour, and Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi, an acclaimed literary scholar from the University of Peradeniya, delivered a special guest address.

Her Excellency Ms. V.S. Saranya, Assistant High Commissioner of India, participated as a special invitee, while Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, attended as a distinguished guest. The event was also attended by deans, directors, and heads of departments of the University of Peradeniya, as well as council members of the SLLA and the NSF.

The conference was chaired by Dr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya. Mr. B. N. G. S. Premarathne served as the Conference Secretary, and Ms. Sureni Weerasinghe and Ms. Chamilka de Silva functioned as Co-Editors of the conference proceedings.



The National Science Foundation (NSF) served as the principal partner of the conference, with additional support from the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, Elsevier India, Balani Infotech India, DrillBit India, and Noolaham.com.





Fellowship of Transforming University Libraries Leadership & Innovation Program (TULIP)

Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian of the University of Peradeniya won the above fellowship to attend the program of Transforming University Libraries Leadership & Innovation Program (TULIP) held from 30th June to 04th July, 2025 at National University of Singapore (NUS).

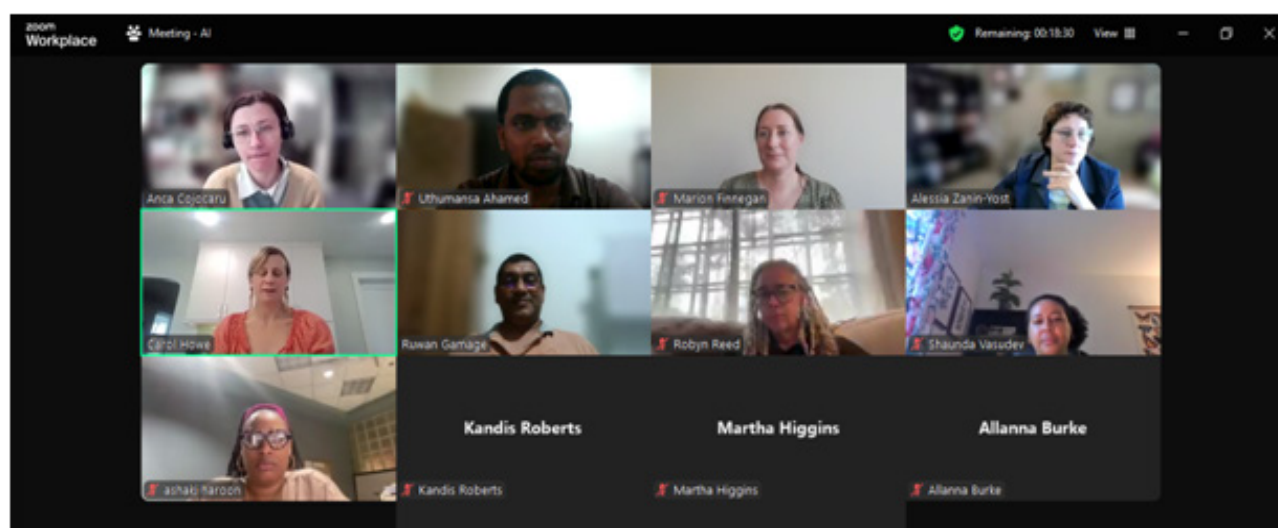


International Librarians Networking – American Library Association

The American Library Association organised an International Librarians Networking event to establish and strengthen global connections through the International Relations Round Table (IRRT) discussions on Sister Libraries.

The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with library professionals from around the world and to learn about sister library partnerships. Participants engaged in two breakout room sessions: the first with librarians from similar types of libraries, and the second focused on topics of shared interest.

The online event was held on April 24, 2025. Mr. Uthumansa Ahamed, Assistant Librarian at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, participated in the event upon official invitation as a member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).



Libraries in the Digital Age: Eastern University Hosts Dynamic International Research Conference

The International Research Conference of the Library (IRCL 2025), organized by the Library Network of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, was successfully held on 30th April 2025 at the Nalliah Auditorium, under the theme “Community Empowerment through Libraries in the Digital Era.” The conference served as a vibrant platform for global collaboration and scholarly exchange in the field of Library and Information Science, drawing participation from across Sri Lanka and beyond.



The event was graced by a distinguished panel of dignitaries, including Chief Guest Prof. F. C. Ragel (Acting Vice Chancellor, Eastern University), Guest of Honour Dr. R. Maheswaran (Librarian, University of Peradeniya), and Keynote Speaker Dr. Chaminda Chiran Jayasundara (Librarian, University of Kelaniya). Invited speakers included Prof. Ruwan Gamage (National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo) and Mr. M. M. Rifaudeen (Librarian, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka). The presence of the Director of the Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies (SIVIAS), Deans of Faculties, Heads of Departments, and Unit/Center Coordinators further elevated the prestige of the event.

The conference commenced with a vibrant cultural ceremony led by students of the Department of Fine Arts, who opened the event with traditional music, followed by a classical Bharathanatyam performance by students of SIVIAS, setting a culturally rich tone for the day.

In his welcome address, Conference Chair Mr. M. N. Ravikumar (Senior Assistant Librarian) outlined the vision and significance of IRCL 2025. Dr. W. J. Jeyaraj, Librarian of Eastern University and Conference Advisor, emphasized the transformative role libraries can play in bridging socio-economic and regional disparities, especially in developing contexts. The conference proceedings were formally presented to dignitaries by Mr. S. Santharoban, Co-Chair and Deputy Librarian of the Faculty of Health-Care Sciences, EUSL. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mrs. G. Navirathan, Senior Assistant Librarian and Secretary of IRCL 2025.



In their addresses, Dr. Maheswaran advocated for preserving traditional values while embracing digital innovations in library services, and Prof. Ragel commended the conference for its contribution to the global visibility ranking of the university. In his keynote, Dr. Jayasundara highlighted how Sri Lanka's Digital Economy Strategy 2030 and e-Sri Lanka initiative align with international frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Goals, urging libraries to actively support these national and global agendas.

Academically, IRCL 2025 was a hub of rigorous research and dialogue. A total of 42 research papers were submitted, of which 29 were selected through a thorough peer-review process. The academic sessions featured over 30 presentations in Tamil and English, conducted across six parallel tracks, including two online sessions that facilitated international participation and showcased the conference's inclusive, global outlook.



The closing session was co-moderated by Prof. Ruwan Gamage and Dr. M. M. Mashroofa (Senior Assistant Librarian, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka). With its blend of academic excellence, cultural celebration, and international engagement, IRCL 2025 reaffirmed Eastern University's leadership in promoting knowledge sharing, innovation, and collaboration in the digital era of library services.



As a Reviewer

R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Kelaniya, serves as a reviewer for several national and international academic communities, contributing expertise in scholarly publishing and academic research.

1. Reviewer, Information Development, a peer-reviewed journal, Sage Journals.

2. Reviewer, 21st Annual Higher Education Conference in Sri Lanka under the theme “Helping educators and students reduce and manage performance anxieties” is scheduled to be held physically (with face-to-face sessions) on Friday 25th July 2025.

3. Reviewer, International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025). The conference was held on June 26 and 27, 2025, at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.



University of Kelaniya Contributes to EU-Funded Erasmus+ NSIS Project



The Library of the University of Kelaniya is a proud partner in the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project titled “*Developing Information, Research, and Digital Skills for Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal*” (NSIS). Coordinated by the Technological University of the Shannon (Ireland) and supported by a €799,933.28 grant from the European Union, this three-year initiative (2024–2027) brings together institutions from Ireland, Germany, Greece, Romania, India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. The project aims to enhance the role of Library and Information Science professionals in supporting research, business, and innovation across South Asian higher education institutions.

A key milestone of the project was the Didactic and Scientific Working Group Meeting, held from June 22 to 27, 2025, at Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania. Representatives from 14 partner institutions convened to assess project progress, develop harmonized curricula, and plan strategies for digital learning implementation. The University of Kelaniya was represented by Dr. C.C. Jayasundara, Librarian, and Dr. W.M.T.D. Ranasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian. As part of the meeting outcomes, ten curriculum development teams were established to design the NSIS training modules collaboratively. Notably, both Dr. Jayasundara and Dr. Ranasinghe were appointed as team leaders for the development of two of these key modules.

National Development

NICD Students Visit the OUSL KRC Library

A group of 15 students following the Diploma in Information Technology programme at the National Institute of Corporate Development (NICD), Polgolla, visited the KRC Library for an educational exposure session on how libraries integrate Information Technology into their services. During the visit, library staff demonstrated the use of the KOHA Library Management System (LMS) for cataloguing, circulation, and user services. Students also observed the library's digitisation projects, the use of online databases and the delivery of off-campus services. The use of technology for security purposes and inventory management was also discussed. The one-day visit (19th June) provided students with practical insight into the evolving role of technology in modern library environments.

National Library and Documentation Services Board Workshop

The National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) conducted a two-day workshop for library teachers of Hatton Education Zone from 5-6th June 2025. Mr T. Ramanan served as a resource person at this library-training program held at Hatton Highland College on 6th June 2025. The topics he covered were i) library strategies to strengthen teaching and learning activities in schools and ii) preservation of library resources and library exterior-interior designs. Around 85 teacher librarians/library teachers participated and all of them actively engaged in a daylong session. Participants shared their positive feedback and requested to conduct training sessions in technical and ICT components.



Internship Programme Conducted by the Library of the University of Colombo

The Library of the University of Colombo successfully conducted a 20-day internship programme from January to April 2025 for the BA (Hons) in Library & Information Sciences students of the University of Kelaniya.

This internship was designed to provide students with comprehensive practical training in the core functions of a university library. Throughout the programme, students received guidance and mentorship from Senior Assistant Librarians and Assistant Librarians, who shared their professional expertise and insights.

The primary objective of the internship was to offer hands-on experience in various aspects of academic library operations, including cataloguing, circulation, reference services, digital resource management, and user education. The training served as a valuable opportunity for students to bridge theoretical knowledge with real-world practice in a professional academic setting.



Community Outreach Activities

Bolgoda Ecosystem Awareness Campaign Reaches Nearly 500 Participants in Panadura, Moratuwa and Bandaragama.

A series of awareness programmes focusing on the Bolgoda Ecosystem reached approximately 500 participants across three venues in April and June 2025, continuing the environmental education initiative led by Prof. Chulantha Jayawardena, Department of Earth Resources Engineering and Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa since 2022.

TERRA 25 (April 10th) Panadura - An invited speech was delivered to approximately 100 Nature Club members and teachers at Sri Sumangala College during this environmental day celebration.



SANASA AGM (June 1st) - Moratuwa - An invited speech was given to over 350 cooperative society members at the Sanasa House in Egodaunya, on the invitation of Venerable Egodaunya Gnavimala Thero, Chief Incumbent of Bodhirajaramaya, Egodaunya, Moratuwa.



Library Session (June 17th)- Bandaragama Mrs. R.A.D.N. Darshani, Librarian, organized an invited speech on ecosystem importance and information management for 40 participants at Gnanapradeepa Public Library.



The project continues building environmental awareness across diverse community groups including educational institutions, religious communities, cooperative societies, and library users, demonstrating broad appeal for wetland conservation efforts.



Library Seminar Series No. 15 Highlights Annals School of Thought

The Library Seminar Series No. 15 of the University of Peradeniya was successfully held on June 9, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at the Library Auditorium, University of Peradeniya. The seminar featured an engaging presentation titled "Annals School of Thought and History" by Dr. K. R. Sankaran, Associate Professor and Head (retired), Department of History, A.V.C. College (Autonomous), Tamil Nadu, India.



The event drew a diverse audience, including academic staff from the Faculty of Arts, library academic and non-academic staff, as well as students. Dr. Sankaran offered insightful perspectives on historical methodology and the development of historiography shaped by the Annals School. The seminar was coordinated by Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian at Main Library, under the supervision of Dr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian, University of Peradeniya.



University of Peradeniya Library Seminar Series No. 16

**MAIN LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**SHAPING THE FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE:
INNOVATIONS IN AI, DIGITAL LIBRARIES,
AND INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGIES**

LIBRARY SEMINAR SERIES NO. 16

Dr. Aarthi B. Dr. Vineth B. Dr. S. Rubin Bose Dr. Judy Flavia B.

Mr. Suresh Perera

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India.

Presenting insights in:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Digital Libraries
- Data Forensics
- Human-Machine Interaction
- Compiler Design

25th JUNE, 2025 10:00AM - 12:00PM AT THE MAIN LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

ALL ARE WELCOME...!

Organized by: Main Library, University of Peradeniya

The Library Seminar Series No. 16 of the University of Peradeniya was held on June 25, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Library Auditorium, focusing on the theme *"Shaping the Future of Knowledge: Innovation in AI, Digital Libraries, and Intelligent Technologies."*

The seminar featured expert presentations by Dr. Judy Flavia B., Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology;

The speakers shared valuable insights into the growing role of artificial intelligence, digital library systems, and intelligent technologies in reshaping the future of knowledge dissemination and access. The discussions highlighted current innovations and their potential to transform academic and research landscapes.

The seminar brought together academic members from the Faculty of Arts, along with both academic and non-academic staff from the library, and an engaged group of students, all of whom actively contributed to the discussions.

The event was coordinated by Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian at the Main Library, under the guidance of Dr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya.

Research Contributions

Outstanding Research Recognized at IRCL 2025

The International Research Conference of the Library (IRCL 2025), held on 30th April 2025 at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, concluded on a celebratory note with the presentation of Best Research Presentation Awards, recognizing exceptional scholarly contributions in the field of Library and Information Science.

- Mrs. Thushari M. Senaviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Moratuwa, was awarded the Best Presentation in the English category for her insightful and impactful research.
- Mrs. Siyani Thevaruban, a Master's in Education student from the Open University of Sri Lanka, was recognized in the Tamil category, showcasing the strength and diversity of student research in local languages.

These awards reflect the academic excellence promoted through IRCL 2025 and highlight the commitment of Sri Lankan scholars to advancing knowledge and practice in the digital age of library science.

Eastern University Library Network Empowers Researchers through SCOPUS Awareness Session with Elsevier

The Library Network of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with Elsevier, organized an insightful awareness session on SCOPUS on 21st May 2025. The session was led by Mr. Vijay Reddi, Resource Professional from Elsevier, who provided an in-depth analysis of the university's research outputs indexed in SCOPUS and recognized some of the top researchers representing diverse disciplines.

Mr. Reddi emphasized the importance of publishing in high-quality, reputed indexed journals and guided participants on identifying suitable scholarly journals to enhance their research impact. He also shed light on the advantages and limitations of global journal ranking systems such as Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4, and offered practical strategies to maximize the visibility and quality of research publications.

Highlighting both the strengths and areas for improvement, this session served as a valuable platform for the university's academic community to better align their research with global standards and elevate Eastern University's scholarly footprint.



Research Lounge - University of Moratuwa

The 26th Research Lounge was held on June 25, 2025, at the Faculty of Graduate Studies boardroom under the theme 'Ethics Unveiled: Navigating the Human Research Landscape'. Dr. Ishanka Talagala, Board Certified Specialist in Community Medicine, Chairperson of the Ethics Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa, Head and Senior Lecturer, Department of Public Health and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa and Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa contributed to the session.

This discussion explored the fundamental ethical principles and guidelines that govern research involving human participants. It began with a historical overview of key events, such as the Nuremberg Trials, the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, and the development of the Belmont Report, which have shaped modern research ethics. Key ethical principles discussed included Respect for Persons, Beneficence, and Justice. In addition, the presentation discussed the role of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), the concept of risk-benefit analysis, confidentiality, and the importance of voluntary participation. Special considerations for vulnerable populations, such as children, prisoners, and individuals with cognitive impairments, are also addressed.



Paper presentations at the International Research Conference of the Library (IRCL) 2025

Mrs. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, SUSL with the co-authors Mr. I. D. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, SUSL, Mr. M.A. Kasun Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, UOK, Dr. Leon Fernando, Senior Lecturer, SUSL, Isuru Hettiarachchi, Senior Lecturer, SUSL, and Ms. Anusha Pathiraja, Lecturer (Probationary), SUSL presented a research paper on "Undergraduate Research Challenges: A case study from "Library Research Cube" of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka" at the International Research Conference of the Library (IRCL 2025) organized by the Library Network of Eastern University, Sri Lanka on 30th April 2025.

The conference theme was "Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital," highlighting the evolving and multifaceted roles of libraries in preserving cultural heritage, fostering intellectual engagement, promoting lifelong learning, and supporting sustainable societal development. Mrs. R. M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Kelaniya, presented a research paper titled "Exploring Classroom Anxiety Among Library and Information Science Undergraduates in Sri Lanka" at the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025), held on June 26 and 27, 2025, at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. The conference was jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), the Library of the University of Peradeniya, and the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka.



Co-chair at the International Conference –ICLIS 2025

Mrs. R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Kelaniya, served as a Co-chair for the sub-theme “Library Outreach and Education in a Dynamic World” at the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025). The conference was held on June 26 and 27, 2025, at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. The conference was jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) and Library of the University of Peradeniya, and the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka.



Four Senior Library Academics Chair Sessions at ICLIS 2025

Four senior academics from the University of Peradeniya Library were honoured with appointments as Chair and Co-Chair of academic sessions at the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025), held at the University of Peradeniya from 26 to 27 June 2025. This recognition highlights the University’s expertise and leadership within the field of Library and Information Sciences.

The appointed academics included Dr. Champa Alahakoon, Mr. Sunil Premaratne, Mr. Ajantha Dharmarathne, and Mrs. Sureni Weerasinghe. In addition, Mr. Eranga Bandara, Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Mrs. Chamilka de Silva, and Mrs. N. Sarojini served as rapporteurs for the academic sessions.

Student Support

Training session on reference management at SUSL

The Library Quality Assurance Cell (LQAC) organized a hands-on training session on "Mastering Reference Management" on 02nd April 2025 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at the faculty IT lab, for the 2nd and 3rd year students of the Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Mr. I. D. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Mrs. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, SUSL and coordinator, LQAC provided their academic contribution as a resource person in this session.



LIBRARY SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

MASTERING REFERENCE MANAGEMENT

HANDS ON TRAINING SESSION

MENDELEY **zotero**

02nd April 2025

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

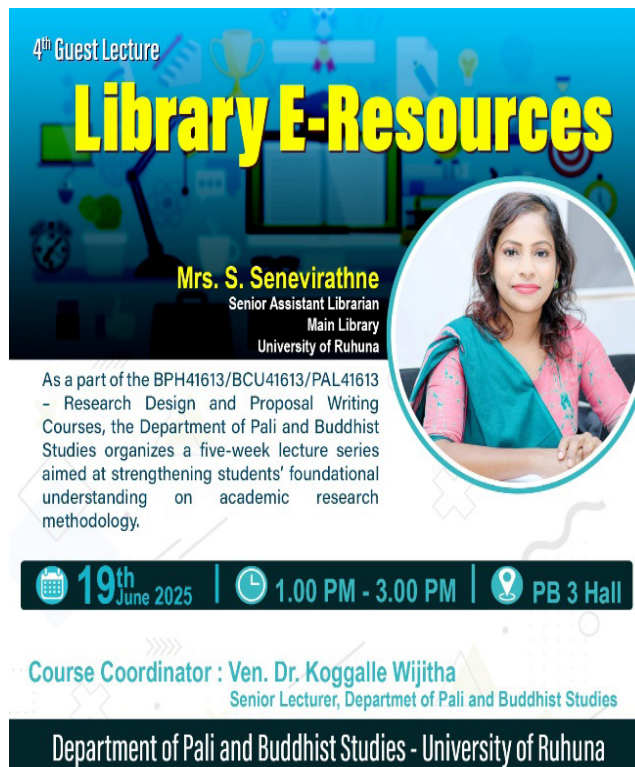
IT Lab | FAGS

Organized by Library Quality Assurance Cell - LCQA

Library - Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Workshop on Research Design and Proposal Writing: Library E-Resources for Research Session

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, conducted a five-day workshop on "Research Design and Proposal Writing". On the fourth day, held on 19th June 2025, Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna, led an insightful session on "Library E-Resources for Research". Her contribution helped students enhance their research skills by understanding how to access, evaluate, and utilize various digital academic tools and databases.



4th Guest Lecture

Library E-Resources

Mrs. S. Senevirathne
Senior Assistant Librarian
Main Library
University of Ruhuna

As a part of the BPH41613/BCU41613/PAL41613 - Research Design and Proposal Writing Courses, the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies organizes a five-week lecture series aimed at strengthening students' foundational understanding on academic research methodology.

19th June 2025 | **1.00 PM - 3.00 PM** | **PB 3 Hall**

Course Coordinator : Ven. Dr. Koggalle Wijitha
Senior Lecturer, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies - University of Ruhuna

Webinar Session for Final-Year Research Students of the Faculty of Agriculture

A webinar session titled "Finding Reliable Research Sources Through Online Information Tools" was organised for the final-year research students of the Faculty of Agriculture on 11th June 2025 via Zoom.

The main objective of this session was to enhance students' skills in conducting effective literature searches using reliable and scholarly online resources. The session aimed to support students in locating high-quality research materials for their undergraduate research projects, improve their understanding of academic databases, and guide them in evaluating the credibility of online information sources.

Training Session for Undergraduates – Faculty of Applied Sciences

The Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organised a training session on "Utilising Digital Library Services of the Rajarata University Library System" for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Applied Sciences on 15th May 2025.

The session aimed to empower students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate and utilise the library's digital resources more effectively.

Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University, served as the resource person for this session.



Library Session Empowers New B.Sc. Students at Matara Regional Centre Library, The Open University of Sri Lanka

As part of the Empowering for Independent Learning (EFIL) Program organised by the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Mrs. P.K.M. Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian/ MRC, conducted two insightful library sessions for B.Sc students (112) at the Matara Regional Centre on 28th and 29th June 2025.

The sessions, titled "Unlocking Academic Excellence: A Library Guide for New Students" and "Open the Door to Success: OUSL Online Resources for Distance Learners," aimed to equip new learners with essential information literacy skills, enhance their ability to access academic resources, and encourage effective use of the university's extensive digital and physical library services.



Research Support Workshop for Nursing Postgraduates at OUSL

Dr. A. U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), served as a resource person at the MSc Nursing seminar series organised for newly enrolled postgraduate students on 5th May 2025. Dr. Weerakoon conducted a comprehensive workshop on reference management using Zotero. The session provided hands-on guidance on organising research materials, creating citations, and generating bibliographies efficiently. The workshop aimed to strengthen the research capabilities of nursing postgraduates by introducing them to essential tools for academic writing.

Awareness Session on Effective Assignment Writing for Library and Information Studies Students at OUSL

The Information Studies Unit of the Open University of Sri Lanka organised an awareness session on "Effective Strategies for Assignment Writing" for Level 03 and Level 05 students of the Bachelor of Library and Information Studies Degree Programme. The session was held via Zoom on 31st May 2025, and Mrs. Piumali Karunarathna Abeysinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Kurunegala Regional Centre of the Open University of Sri Lanka, served as the resource person.

Empowering Independent Learning: Reading Skills and Effective Note-Making Workshop at KRC, OUSL

Mrs. Piumali Karunarathna Abeysinghe also served as the resource person for the "Empowering Independent Learning" session on reading skills and effective note-making, conducted for Level 03 Bachelor of Science students at the Kurunegala Regional Centre on 24th June 2025.

Enhancing Research Skills in Landscape Architecture: Library Session for Final-Year Undergraduates

Senior Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted a session for the students of the Faculty of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture on 20th May 2025. The students represented the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Level 4. During the three hours of hands-on session, the students were given a topic related to the field of study. At the end of the session, each group compiled a document with relevant literature from various information sources.

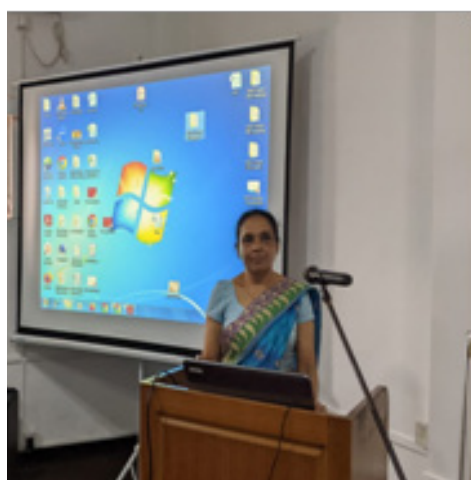
Library Services Orientation for MSc in Textile & Clothing Management

The Department of Textile & Apparel Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, invited Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku, Senior Assistant Librarian, to conduct a session during the postgraduate orientation for the new intake of the MSc in Textile & Clothing Management program. Held on 28th June 2025, the session focused on “Library Registration and Services” and guided students through the registration process and available resources. Following the interactive session at the department, participants were given a guided library tour to help them familiarize themselves with the relevant materials and services offered by the library.

Support for Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) – External Degree Programme

As part of the Final Year Project Preparation module of the external Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) degree program, the Library provided academic support through two insightful online sessions. On 23rd June 2025, Senior Assistant Librarian Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted a session on “Gathering Information for the Project,” offering students practical strategies for effective research and resource discovery. This was followed by a session on “Plagiarism and Referencing” conducted by Senior Assistant Librarian Mr. Nishan Punchihewa on 30th June 2025, which focused on promoting academic integrity and proper citation practices. These efforts underscore the Library’s commitment to equipping students with essential research and information literacy skills.

Awareness Program on E-Resource Usage for Postgraduate Students in Education



An awareness program on the effective use of electronic resources for research purposes was successfully conducted on 05th April 2025 at the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya. The session was organized for the postgraduate students enrolled in the Master of Education (M.Ed.) program as part of their core module on Research Methodology. The program was conducted by Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian of the Main Library, University of Peradeniya.

The session focused on introducing students to the wide range of scholarly databases, e-journals, and digital library services available through the university library system. Special emphasis was placed on search strategies, reference management tools, and accessing full-text academic content to support research activities. A total of 120 postgraduate students participated in the session and engaged actively in the Q&A segment. The program was highly appreciated by both students and academic staff for its relevance and practical insights.

Special Library Lecture for Law Undergraduates

A special guest lecture titled "Empowering Legal Studies: Library Support for Law Undergraduates" was held on 21st May 2025 at the Library Auditorium, University of Peradeniya. The session was organized for first-year students of the Department of Law, Faculty of Arts, aiming to familiarize them with the library resources and services tailored to meet the needs of legal studies. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian of the Main Library. More than 70 LLB undergraduates attended the session, which received positive feedback for being informative and well-structured. The program was part of the library's ongoing efforts to support academic success and research skills development among undergraduates.



Hands-on Session: Enhancing Literature Reviews with E-Resources

A practical session titled "Enhancing Literature Reviews: Hands-on Session on Electronic Information Resources" was held on Friday, 23rd May 2025, at the IT Center, University of Peradeniya, for final-year undergraduates of the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts.

The session aimed to improve students' skills in accessing and using electronic databases for academic writing and literature reviews. The resource persons were Mr. Sunil Premarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian, who provided expert guidance and hands-on demonstrations.



Special Events

“Canvas of Culture” – Art Exhibition 2025 Hosted by the Library, Trincomalee Campus, to Promote Sustainable Development

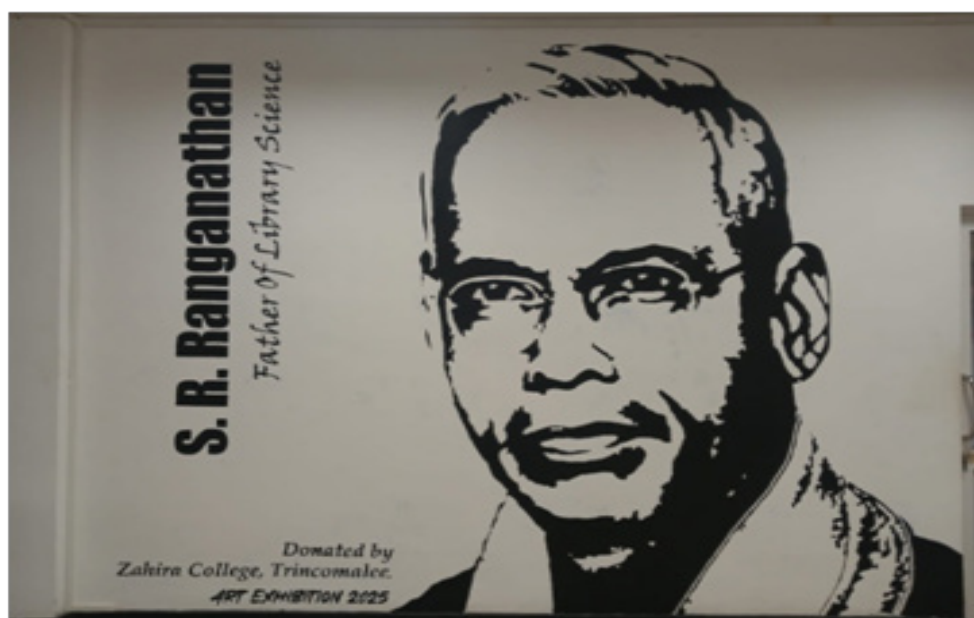
The Library, Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, successfully hosted the “Canvas of Culture” – Art Exhibition 2025 on 5th June 2025, under the theme “Roots and Wings: Celebrating Trincomalee’s Heritage and Visions for a Sustainable Future.” The event was organized by the Library Network of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Students’ Unions of the faculties of Trincomalee Campus, under the patronage of the Library Quality Assurance Cell (LQAC) of Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

Designed to connect students with the library through creative engagement, the exhibition showcased a diverse range of artistic expressions by university students and school children across the province. Coordinated by Ms. Krishanthi Sivalingam, Assistant Librarian, Trincomalee Campus, the event was structured around thematic sections reflecting key ideas such as heritage, gender equality, environmental sustainability, collaboration, and personal expressions all aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Mr. S. Thadchanamoorthy, Acting Rector of Trincomalee Campus, as the Chief Guest. Prof. (Mrs.) F. Bharathy Kennedy, Director of Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies, EUSL, Dr. W. J. Jeyaraj, Chairman of LQAC and Librarian of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, and Prof. (Mrs.) Chandravathany G. Devadason, Former Rector of Trincomalee Campus, attended as Guests of Honour. Special Guests included Mr. T. Baskar, Dean of the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies, and Dr. V. Anavarathan, Dean of the Faculty of Siddha Medicine.

The exhibition featured over 150 creative works, including paintings and crafts. A traditional cultural performance by undergraduates from the Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies added vibrancy to the event. A mural gifted by Zahira College, Trincomalee, now permanently displayed in the library, was also a remarkable creation of the exhibition.





Workshops on Research Tools and Data Analysis

The Library, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, further strengthened its academic support initiatives through active participation in two capacity-building workshops conducted in April 2025.

On 4th April 2025, Mr. S. Santharooban, Deputy Librarian, served as a resource person for the workshop on "Introduction to R", organized by the Staff Development Centre of Eastern University. Targeted at university academic staff, this session provided participants with foundational knowledge of the R programming environment for data analysis and visualization, supporting evidence-based research practices across disciplines.

Subsequently, on 8th April 2025, Mr. Santharooban led the Workshop on Nvivo for qualitative data analysis and literature review, organized by the Department of Medical Education and Research for FHCS academic staff. This workshop focused on the practical application of NVivo software in organizing, coding, and analyzing qualitative data, while also offering strategies for conducting comprehensive literature reviews.

Through these engagements, the Library of Eastern University continues to demonstrate its commitment to fostering research capacity and advancing scholarly excellence among the university community.


Human Library Project: Event 08

The 8th human library event organized by the main library, SUSL was successfully held on 29th April 2025, from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm at the auditorium, Faculty of Geomatics, with the talk of human book Dr. Somaratne Dissanayake.


The readers representing the Vice-Chancellor, deans of faculties, librarian and library staff, directors of centres, administrative officers, non-academic staff, other delegates of the university and invited school children and school-teachers in Balangoda Educational Zonal district could physically read this interesting autobiography.


The generous contribution of Dr. Somaratne extended far beyond his insightful human library session. The screening of his new film, "Kaputu Koho", at no cost, was an unexpected and deeply appreciated gesture. It significantly enriched the experience for all participants and added a valuable cultural dimension to the event.





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Human Library Project





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Human Library Project

2025 අප්‍රේල් මස 29 වන දින ප.ව 1.30 සිට

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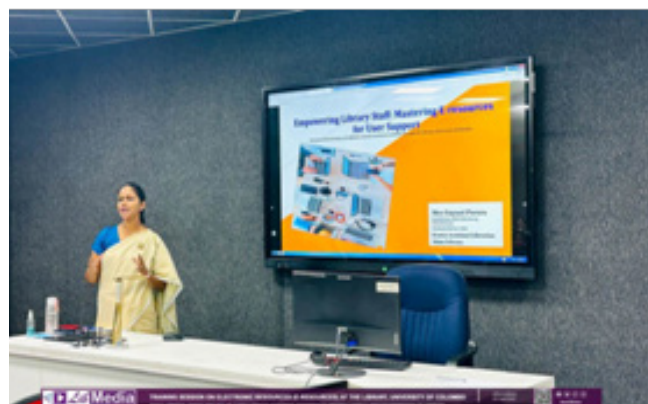
University of Colombo Library Celebrated the Sinhala and Tamil New Year

On 22nd April 2025, the staff of the University of Colombo Library celebrated the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, embracing the spirit of tradition. The event began with the offering of traditional betel leaves, followed by lightning talks from the Librarian and Senior Assistant Registrar, and the ceremonial lighting of the oil lamp. A highlight of the event was the traditional New Year dining table, adorned with a variety of traditional sweets. The celebration reflected the Library's commitment to fostering community spirit and preserving Sri Lanka's cultural heritage.



Training Session on Electronic Resources Available at the University of Colombo Library

A training session on “Electronic Resources (E-resources) Available at the University of Colombo Library” was held on April 24, 2025, at the Smart Classroom of the Main Library, University of Colombo. The session was conducted by Mrs. Gayani Perera, Senior Assistant Librarian in the Periodicals Division of the Main Library.



A total of 31 Library Information Assistants, 7 Attendants and Work-aides participated in the on-site training. The session aimed to raise awareness and enhance understanding of the wide range of e-resources available through the library. Participants were guided on the diverse e-resources of the library while providing hands-on training on how to effectively search and access scholarly information using them. The training highlighted the significance of these e-resources in assisting students with their daily information requirements.



This training was organised by the Coordinator of Training and Skill Development at the University of Colombo Library.

Hands-on Canva Training Empowers Library Information Assistants with Design Skills

A hands-on training session on Canva was successfully held on June 17, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Skill Lab in the Science Library, targeting Library Information Assistants.

The session aimed to build participants' capacity in digital design, with a focus on creating attractive posters, banners, and promotional content using the popular platform, Canva. This practical training helped staff explore creative tools essential for modern library communication and outreach.

The session was facilitated by Mr. Madhushan Lankathilake, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Science Library, who served as the resource person. The programme was carried out under the supervision of the Library Training and Skill Development coordinator.

A total of 20 Library Information Assistants participated in the session, actively engaging in hands-on activities and design exercises.





Library Orientation and Expert Consultation for Arts Undergraduates

The Library Orientation Programme for newly enrolled Arts undergraduates of the 2024/25 batch was held on June 3, 2025. The event aimed to familiarize students with the library's extensive resources and services. Ms. Samanlatha Menike Adhikari, Senior Assistant Librarian (Arts and Reader Services), delivered an introductory presentation about the Library during the Faculty's main inaugural session.

This was followed by a guided tour of the Library, allowing students to explore its facilities and collections firsthand. Coinciding with the orientation programme, the first Expert Consultation Session of 2025 was also held. This interactive session featured individuals with professional expertise or lived experience who engaged in one-on-one conversations with students. Approximately 800 students took part in these enriching interactions. The event was coordinated by the Senior Assistant Librarian (Arts and Reader Services) in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and the Library.





In-House Training Session for Library Staff

An in-house training session on updated library policies, circulars, regulations, and best practices was held on 08th April 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, for the library staff of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The session took place at the Audio-Visual Unit of the Main Library.

The session was conducted by Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Celebrating World Poetry Day 2025 at Matara Regional Centre Library, The Open University of Sri Lanka

In celebration of World Poetry Day, the Matara Regional Centre Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka organized a vibrant poetry composition competition under the theme "රසකාමී හඳක සසාදරු පබැඳුම් අගයන කාව්‍ය සූරාමය - 2025". The event was thoughtfully coordinated by Mrs. P.K.M. Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian and MRC staff, to foster literary creativity and enhance the appreciation of poetry within the university community.

The competition attracted 28 entries from undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as academic and non-academic staff. Renowned lyricist Mr. Samudra Wettasinghe and Prof. Madhubhashini Hewage served as judges, ensuring a professional and insightful evaluation of the poems.

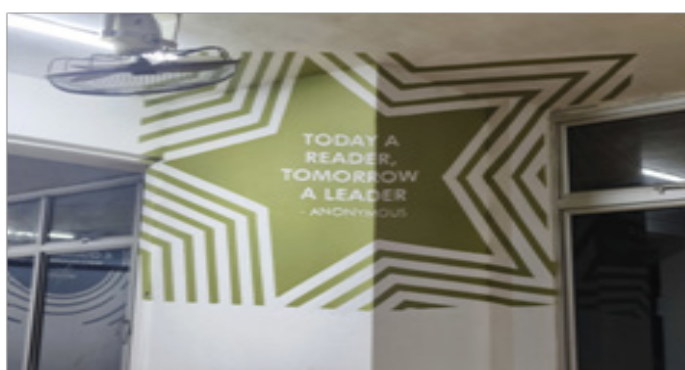
A certificate awarding and poetry review ceremony was held on May 10, 2025, featuring poetry readings, musical performances, and reflections by the judges. The event successfully showcased poetic talent and reinforced the library's role as a hub for creative expression.



Renovation of Student Study Space of the University of Moratuwa Library



The University of Moratuwa B.Sc. Engineering 80/84 batch renovated “Student Study Space (Basement)” of the University of Moratuwa Library under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project 2025. This was handed over to the University Library on June 2, 2025, after improving its facilities with a budget of Rs. 5.0 Mn. The artwork, which added the final touches to this student study space, was a new initiative in this kind of library building space to relax students' minds and was created by students of the Faculty of Architecture, guided by Mr. Suresh Edirisooriya and Prof. Nurein Perera. Representing the University Library, Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Mr. B. Hemasiri Perera, Senior Assistant Registrar, contributed to the coordination works with the CSR project team under the direction of the Librarian, Mrs. Ruvini Kodikara, and the Acting Librarian, Mr. Nishan Punchihewa.



Academic Collaboration to Outreach Activities

To commemorate World Environment Day, the Outreach Services Division of the Library, University of Moratuwa organized an awareness programme for the school students who are members of the nature clubs in Piliyandala Educational Zone. The program was held on 25th June 2025 at the library auditorium with a total of 100 school students and teachers. The students from Central College, Piliyandala, Thelawala Rahula College, Uyana Primary School, Rawathawatttha Methodist College were some of the participated schools among them. Parallel to the awareness programme, a visit to the Pro Green Lab founded by Senior Professor Rangika Halwatura from the Department of Civil Engineering was arranged. The students enthusiastically witnessed Algae and its engineering applications, Coral section, ancient technology decoding, waste upcycling and sustainable education modeling.



Two Senior Lecturers from Department of Town and Country Planning, Faculty of Architecture, served as resource persons outside the library staff. Dr. Lakshika Meetiyagoda discussed about a major environment issue “beating deadly plastics” and Dr. Chathura De Silva attracted the audience by bringing out a timely topic “Through harmony and planning let us reduce human-animal conflict”. Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian of Technical Services, delivered a talk on “Bolgoda eco system: the natural laboratory in our neighborhood” which brought new knowledge about Bolgoda lake.



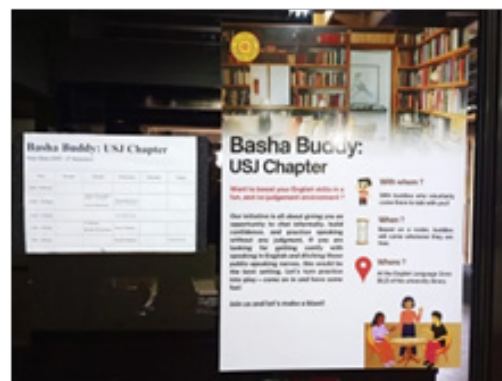
As the head of the Outreach Services division, Senior Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku, organized the programme with the supportive hands led by Academic, administrative and non-academic staff members.

The induction programme for the newly recruited academic staff members was held on 26th June 2025 at the University of Moratuwa premises. Senior Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku, was invited by the Staff Development Centre to introduce the facilities offered by the library. At the end of the session, the participants were able to identify the benefits given for them through the academic library.



Empowering Students through the “Basha Buddy” Program at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura has always been dedicated to enhancing the overall capabilities of its students. As part of this commitment, the university has introduced the “**Basha Buddy**” program. This program is conducted through the **English Learning Zone**, located in the university library, and is designed to support undergraduates in improving their skills in spoken **English**.



The Basha Buddy program provides a supportive and interactive environment where students can receive personalized guidance. Trained resource persons are available **on all weekdays from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.** in the English Learning Zone offering their time and expertise to help students overcome difficulties related to day-to-day in English.

The program is open to all undergraduate students across all faculties of the university. Whether from Humanities and Social Sciences, Management Studies, Applied Sciences, or any other discipline, students are welcome to take part. The flexible structure of the program allows participants to raise any concerns or challenges they face conversation in English, be it sentence construction, pronunciation, vocabulary building, or public speaking. It does not follow a fixed syllabus, making it an accessible and informal platform for individual growth.



By engaging regularly with the resource person, students can freely discuss their weaknesses and get practical advice and support. The interactive sessions encourage learners to become more confident in their use of English, especially in academic, social, and professional contexts. It also addresses common fears and anxieties students have about speaking English in public.

In addition to language improvement, the program supports the development of **soft skills** such as effective communication, presentation techniques, and interpersonal interaction, skills that are increasingly valued in both local and international career environments.

Overall, the Basha Buddy program represents an important step toward empowering the student community of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. It helps students become more capable communicators and confident individuals, equipped to face the challenges of the modern world.



Three days National Workshop on the Application of Multidimensional Metrics in Academic Research

The National Workshop on the Application of Multidimensional Metrics in Academic Research was successfully held from 23rd to 25th June 2025 at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), organized by the KDU Library. This three-day workshop aimed to enhance knowledge and practical skills in research evaluation methods through multidimensional metrics, attracting participants from prominent institutions across Sri Lanka.

Professor R. Balasubramani from Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu, spearheaded the event and served as the key resource person. He was joined by an expert panel comprising Dr J. Arumugam (PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore), Dr K.S. Abu (Alison, Ireland), and Mr Ritesh Kumar (Bharathidasan University). Their collective expertise ensured a robust mix of theoretical foundations and hands-on training.

The workshop successfully built participant capacity in evaluating and enhancing research quality through data-driven metrics, fostering a deeper understanding of the evolving landscape of scholarly communication.



Training Program conducted for library staff of the Naval Nursing Training School (NNTS)

The KDU Library conducted a five-days training program on Library Management for the library staff members of the Naval Nursing Training School (NNTS), Welisara, from 26th to 30th May 2025. The program held at the KDU library premises and aimed to enhance the knowledge of modern library functions among the participants. Collection development, classification, cataloguing, library systems, e-resources, library management and library services were covered as key topic of the program. Theoretical knowledge and practical experience provided to the participants which enable them to plan future of their library with effective and attractive services.



Pera Medical Library Team Excels in Faculty Softball Tournament

The Medical Faculty Sports Society of University of Peradeniya successfully organized a spirited Six-a-Side Softball Tournament on 6th April 2025, drawing enthusiastic participation from various departmental teams. Held on the faculty grounds, the event provided an excellent opportunity for staff engagement, teamwork, and camaraderie beyond academic boundaries.



After a series of competitive and entertaining matches, the Anatomy Department team emerged victorious, claiming the championship title. The Library team demonstrated remarkable sportsmanship and skill, securing the runner-up position in the tournament. Their performance was widely appreciated by spectators and fellow competitors alike.

Events such as these continue to foster unity, wellness, and active participation among faculty members. The Library team's success also highlights the diverse talents of library professionals beyond their academic roles.



Special Discussion on the Applicability of AI Tools in Library and Information Services

A special discussion on the applicability and relevance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in Library and Information Services was conducted by Prof. R. Balasubramani, Professor in Library and Information Science at Bharathidasan University, India. The session took place on 27th May 2025 at the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya.

In the morning, Prof. Balasubramani engaged with students following the Diploma Course in Library and Information Services at the Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE), University of Peradeniya. In the evening, he conducted an interactive session with the Library's Academic and Administrative staff, focusing on the recent advancements in AI technology and their implications for the field of Library and Information Services.



Agriculture Library Open Day – 2025

The Agriculture Library of the University of Peradeniya was organized the Agriculture Library Open Day – 2025 for the second consecutive year, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU) of the Faculty and the Faculty Library Committee of the Faculty of Agriculture. The programme is scheduled to be held on 16th July 2025 at the Appadurai Auditorium and the Agriculture Library premises.

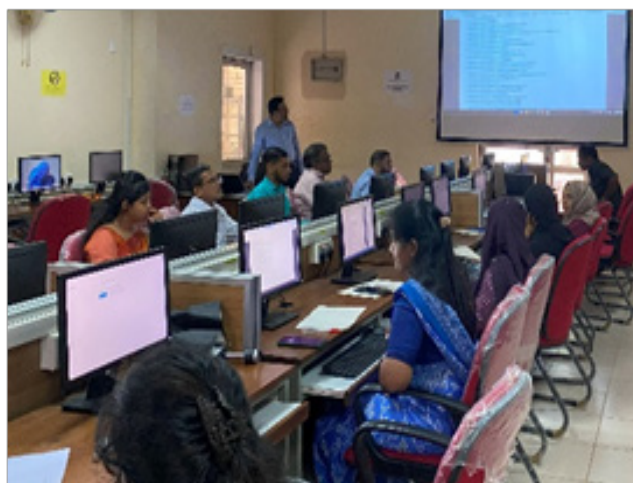
The primary objective of this event is to provide an interactive and enriching learning experience for school students pursuing studies in the Biology and Agriculture subject streams, along with their teachers. This year, the programme will host approximately 120 students and 24 teachers, offering them an opportunity to engage with academic resources, library services, and subject-specific knowledge dissemination activities organized as part of the event.



| Agenda | |
|-----------------|---|
| Phase 01 | |
| 08.30 a.m. | Arrival of students & Registration |
| 08.45 a.m. | Guided Library Tour |
| 09.15 a.m. | One page Summary Competition |
| Phase 02 | |
| 10.00 a.m. | Lighting of the traditional oil lamp |
| 10.10 a.m. | Welcome Address by the Chairperson -Faculty Library Committee |
| 10.15 a.m. | Short Video of the University and the Faculty |
| 10.20 a.m. | Address by Prof. Barana Jayawardena, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya |
| 10.30 a.m. | Address by Dr. R. Maheshwaran, Librarian, University of Peradeniya |
| 10.35 a.m. | Motivational Speech by Prof. Buddhi Marambe, Senior Professor of Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya |
| 11.35 a.m. | Awarding Ceremony for Summary Competition Winners |
| 11.45 a.m. | Vote of Thanks by Secretary, Faculty Library Committee |
| 12.00 noon. | National Anthem |

Publishing in Indexed Journals and Identifying Predatory Journals

Mr. M. N. Ravikumar was invited as a resource person for the workshop on Publishing in Indexed Journals and Identifying Predatory Journals, organized by the Staff Development Centre (SDC) of Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The workshop was held on 2nd April 2025 and many academic staff members of the university were participated in the workshop.



“A picture is worth a thousand words” Celebrating 50 years through the lens of memory

As part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, the Archives section of the Vithiananthan Library hosted a photo exhibition, offering a rare glimpse into the institution’s vibrant history. The event aimed to curate rare photographs while actively engaging students, staff, and alumni in contributing to the archive.

This exhibition was spearheaded by Dr. (Mrs.) Maithili Visakaruban, Deputy Librarian, was supported by a dedicated team from the library. The team included Mr. Y. Kesavan and Mr. K. Sajanthan, Assistant Librarians; Mr. M. Kohulan, Mr. V. Nisanth, Mr. R. Thananchayan, and Mr. N. Thileepan. Their collective efforts played a vital role in organising and curating the archival materials. They were joined by Dr. P. Akilan (Head/ Fine Arts) and Mrs. P. Srisangeerthan (Head/Media Studies), adding valuable expertise in visual content.

Archival images were sourced from the Vithiananthan Library, alumni collections, and individual contributors as part of a dedicated initiative that spanned nearly a year. The photo exhibition was launched on April 28, 2025, and ran for three days. The Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the event, which drew visitors, including members of the Senate, Deans, Heads of Departments, students, and alumni. Overwhelmingly positive feedback praised the exhibit’s emotional depth, historical value, and aesthetic quality. This exhibition celebrated the faculty’s fifty-year legacy, strengthened alumni ties, and promoted cultural preservation, laying a strong foundation for future heritage efforts at the University of Jaffna.

Frames of the Past



Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, founder of Parameshwara College, later transformed into the University of Jaffna, was accompanied in legacy by his wife, Lady Leelawathi Ramanathan, and their daughter, Sivagamisundhari.



The first Council of the University of Jaffna.



The first cohort of library staff



The first convocation of the University of Jaffna



Human Library Project – Second Session with Dr. Wimalsiri Munasinghe

The second session of the Human Library Project organized by the Library of the Sri Palee Campus was successfully held on 29th April 2025, with the participation of third-year students.

Dr. Wimalsiri Munasinghe, Senior Lecturer at the University of Visual and Performing Arts, participated as the Human Book for this session and sharing his knowledge and expertise with the students.

Several members of the academic staff also attended the event and contributed to its success through their active participation. The event was coordinated and conducted by Dr. C.K. Gamage, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Sri Palee Campus.



Webinars on Academic Integrity and Publishing Conducted by Sri Palee Campus Library

Dr. C.K. Gamage, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Sri Palee Campus, conducted a series of impactful webinars aimed at enhancing the academic and professional competencies of both staff and students.

Two insightful sessions were organized exclusively for the academic staff of the campus:

- “Plagiarism and Identifying Predatory Journals” – held on 09th May 2025, from 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., focused on recognizing unethical publishing practices and ensuring academic integrity.
- “Selecting Prestigious Journals for Academic Publishing” – conducted on 11th May 2025, from 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., guided participants on how to identify credible, high-impact journals for scholarly publication.

In addition to the above, a dedicated webinar on “Referencing Styles: with Special Reference to APA Referencing Style” was held on 26th March 2025, also from 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., targeting final-year students. The session provided essential guidance on proper citation methods, helping students improve the academic quality and integrity of their scholarly work.

These initiatives reflect the Library’s ongoing commitment to supporting research excellence and academic development at the Sri Palee Campus.

Selecting Prestigious Journals for Academic publishing

The Second Session of the Series of Awareness Programmes

Date
May 11th, 2025

Time
08.00 PM

Conducted thru

zoom

Join

Resource Person:
Dr. (Mrs.) C. K. Gamage
Senior Assistant Librarian
Sri Palee Campus

Organized by : Library - Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo

Library Awards Ceremony – 2025; Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, held its annual Library Awards Ceremony on April 7 2025, at the Main Auditorium, in celebration of World Health Day under the theme "*Health Literacy in the Digital Age*." The Faculty Library organized the event in collaboration with the Faculty Library Committee and the Students' Library Committee.

This meaningful occasion aimed to promote the use of library resources, recognize student engagement, and strengthen the academic community’s connection with the library.

Awards were presented to the winners of the Best Library User in 2024, the Poster Competition on World Health Day, and the Online Library Quiz competition.

The academic staff members who rendered their services to the Health Camp in 2024, conducted as part of the Library Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, as well as those who served on the judging panel for the poster competition held in conjunction with the Library Awards Ceremony, were formally acknowledged with letters of appreciation in recognition of their commendable contributions.



The event also marked the official launch of the publication, Medical Library News, Volume 03. The ceremony featured a keynote address by Dr. Asvini D. Fernando, Former Professor, Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, titled "*Violence against Children*", offering a thought-provoking perspective on a critical public health concern.

The event was graced by Prof. Madawa Chandrathilake, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, along with academics and officials, including Prof. P. Paranitharan, Chair, Faculty Library Committee, Dr. (Ms.) Lakmini Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian and Secretary, Faculty Library Committee, Dr. (Ms.) Sujeevani Kurukulasuriya, Chairperson, Organising Committee of the Library Awards Ceremony, Dr. (Ms.) Deepa Gunasekera, Former Chair, Faculty Library Committee, Mr. Chethaka Senadeera, President of the Student Library Committee, Heads of departments, members of the Library Committee and the Student Library Committee of the Faculty, academic staff of the Faculty and the Main Library, Senior Assistant Registrar, and Senior Assistant Bursar of the Faculty. Students from MBBS, Speech and Hearing Sciences, and Occupational Therapy degree programs, as well as non-academic staff, participated actively in this event.



Medical Library visit by the team of International Allied Health Professionals

A distinguished group of international allied health professionals, led by Professor Kit Sinclair, renowned occupational therapist and former president of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, visited the Library, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, on February 25 2025. The lecturers, Dr. Nandana Welage and Mr. Pradeep Gunarathne, organized the visit to the Department of Disability Studies.

Their visit highlighted the importance of the library in shaping globally connected health professionals and fostering academic excellence. This milestone event strengthened international ties between the university's occupational therapy community and global allied health professionals and laid the groundwork for future collaboration, including resource-sharing and the donation of specialized information materials to enhance the library's collections further.



Podcast series organized by the Student Library Committee, Faculty of Medicine

The Student Library Committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, introduced a webinar series to strengthen students' research skills. The first session, "**Embark on Your Research Journey with Confidence**," took place on January 30, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.. Prof. Janaka de Silva led the session, providing valuable insights into starting research with clarity and confidence. The event saw an enthusiastic response, with 108 students participating. This initiative marked a significant step in fostering a strong research culture among students.

"Embark on your Research Journey with Confidence!"

DISCOVER THE ESSENTIALS OF STARTING IMPACTFUL RESEARCH

JOIN OUR **Webinar** ON **30th Jan** FROM **8.00-8.30 p.m.**

BY **Professor-Emeritus Janaka De Silva**

MODERATOR **ABHISHEK KUMARAGE**

Organized by the Medical Students Library Committee

Uva Wellassa University to Host Workshop on Leveraging Generative AI for Research



The Staff Development Centre of Uva Wellassa University recently hosted a timely online workshop titled "**Idea to Publication Using Generative AI for End-to-End Research Support**" on June 26, 2025. Conducted via Zoom, the session was led by **Mr. Kasun Munasinghe**, Assistant Librarian, and aimed at guiding participants through the research process using AI tools.

The interactive workshop covered the use of platforms such as **ChatGPT, Zotero, Lens.org, Scispace, and NotebookLM**, focusing on how these tools assist in brainstorming, literature reviews, reference management, data visualization, and manuscript preparation. Special attention was given to upholding academic integrity and aligning with journal guidelines.

The Library of the University of Kelaniya to Host Online Workshop on Plagiarism Detection Using Turnitin

The Library of the **University of Kelaniya** conducted an insightful online workshop on **May 16, 2025**, aimed at educating students and academic staff on effectively using **Turnitin** to detect and prevent plagiarism. Led by **Mr. Kasun Munasinghe**, Assistant Librarian, the session covered core Turnitin features, including assignment submission, understanding similarity reports, and strategies to avoid unintentional plagiarism. A live demo and interactive Q&A session allowed participants to gain hands-on experience and clarify doubts. This initiative reflects the university's strong commitment to promoting **academic honesty** and equipping its community with the skills to produce original and ethically sound research.





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