University Librarians Association
ULA
Sri Lanka

Content

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Special Events

ICULA Pre-conference Webinar Series

In parallel with the 13th International Conference of University Librarians Association, Sri Lanka (ICULA)- 2023, two webinars were organized.

Webinar No.1 - Virtual & hybrid universities

The first pre-conference webinar on "Transforming education in Sri Lanka: the rise of virtual and hybrid universities" was held on Monday, 14th August 2023 from 2.30 - 4.00 p.m. via Zoom platform. The resource person was Professor Roshan G. Ragel, Department of Computer Engineering, University of Peradeniya. The webinar aimed to explore the dynamic changes in education of Sri Lanka and innovation approaches of online education and their impact on students, educators, and the entire educational ecosystem. 47 participants were actively joined with the webinar among 117 registered participants.

Webinar No.2 : "Data mining for Research Purposes"

The second pre-conference webinar was planned to make aware academic staff members of the university related to Data mining concepts. Dr. Devindri Perera, Lecturer of RMIT University, Australia was discussed her thoughts in data mining for research purposes. It was an informative session for all academic staff members of the universities. 73 participants were registered for the webinar and only 30 participants joined the webinar on Thursday, 21st September 2023 from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. via Zoom platform.

Feature Article

Academic libraries in achieving sustainable development goals:

What can we do?

Introduction

Sustainable development means the overall change and improvement in society as related to the individual in the society and the progress in the social, political, religious, and economic structure of the nation. It is the development that guarantees a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015, including more than 150 world leaders, as a universal call to action. There are 17 goals and 169 aims, further, 224 targets which aim to end poverty, hunger, and inequality, on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, and build strong institutions and partnerships ensuring that by 2030, all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

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Figure 1

The Sustainable Development Goals

(UNESCO, 2023)

Achieving these 17 SDGs and the 169 targets will mean that "No one was left behind", but it will also reflect the progressive and cumulative engagement of countries, communities, sectors, public and private organizations, and citizens in this process.

Many countries in the world, including Sri Lanka have committed to prioritize progress and have taken many steps to facilitate its implementation in the country since 2015 to achieve objectives of the SDGs, by 2030. The Sri Lankan government initiated the following;

- Establishment of a dedicated Ministry, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development (MSDWRD);
- Establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee for Sustainable Development to provide political leadership and enactment of the Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017 to provide the legal framework for implementing the SDGs. (Sri Lanka, 2018)

The SDGs have been welcomed by libraries across all sectors and library associations internationally as a way for libraries to articulate, focus and assess their contribution to their communities. If SDGs in Sri Lanka are to be achieved, citizens need to be well informed, which is possible through dissemination of information taking into account the development indicators raised in the SDGs, hosting local forums where people can discuss problems such as community health, education, environmental issues, climate change etc.

Importance of information in the development of any nation cannot be left behind because it is a vital factor for sustainable development. A nation needs to SDGs for its to meet their ever-increasing demands. To accomplish this, the academic library could play an important role to create, organize, process, store, disseminate and provide access to relevant information. This information would reduce the level of ignorance and help people gain a meaningful living.

Hence, there is a need to find out the role of academic libraries in achieving the SDGs in Sri Lanka. The main objective of the article is to discuss the role of academic libraries in achieving SDGs by 2030.

Role of SDGs in Libraries and university Ranking Systems

Libraries provide infrastructure for information and communication technologies and help people to develop their capacity for using information effectively and preserve information to ensure access for future generations.

Access to information is a cross-cutting issue that supports all of the SDGs. Some ways that libraries can contribute to improving outcomes across the SDGs include raising awareness on the various development issues spelled out in the SDGs and selecting resources considering, the development indicators raised in the SDGs.

A special university ranking system called "Impact Ranking" was introduced in 2019 and the purpose of this ranking is to assess the performance of universities against the UN's SDGs (Mashroofa, 2022). The impact rankings are

inherently dynamic: they are growing rapidly each year as many more universities seek to demonstrate their commitment to achieving the SDGs. To be included in "Impact Ranking," universities must submit data for a minimum of four SDGs, including SDG 17. Goal no. 4 which is of paramount importance, and this refers to the submission of data. In addition, universities can submit data based on SDG 3, SDG5 or any other related goals SDGs (Mashroofa, 2022). In future, more universities are expected to take part, by submitting data related to SDG activities. A university library is described as the 'heart' of the university, which supports all academic activities of the institution through provision of information therefore SGD initiatives would influence the library in its role to enhancing impact ranking of the institution.

Role of the university libraries

The SDGs provide a way to assess an academic library's impact, to contribute to the sustainability agenda, to advocate with influence, and to demonstrate the academic library's role in empowering the lives of students and researchers for the good of the local and global community.

The sustainable development of collections and library services should become essential components of academic library operations. Therefore, academic libraries should provide support for developing information literacy skills and lifelong learning for the public by educating and enlightening youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. More so, they must go out of the box as limited community is reaching academic libraries, to organize and disseminate information that society will access and use to inform themselves on various life issues and there by empowering communities through knowledge and the ability to access information for themselves. However, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network has identified six areas in which major societal 'transformation' is needed to quickly achieve the SDGs (SDR-2022). They include "i. Education and social protection (SDG 1&4), ii. Health system (SDG 3), iii. Zero-carbon energy…(SDG 13,15) iv. Sustainable food (SDG 2) v. Sustainable urban infrastructure (SDG 11), vi. Universal digital services (SDG 9) and to support all other investments including online education" (Sachs et. al., 2022). Hence Sri Lankan academic libraries can take many steps to promote six areas in which major societal 'transformation' is needed quickly, within available capacity, by ;

- Developing and promoting sustainable library collection, adding relevant, quality information while helping users, disseminating information and knowledge to a broad category of users and providing equal access to all users. Within the current concept of "no building at all", moving to accessing collections electronically has begun to alleviate this problem.

- Playing a pedagogical role which is closely related to information services because when a person is informed, he is equally educated. Academic libraries can introduce information services to raise awareness of SDGs which is a very important role of the library and provide information services by exploring and understanding how our day-to-day work and projects contribute to and make meaningful contributions towards the priorities identified in the SDGs. For example:

- Playing an educational role by enabling a Modern Curriculum (Goal 4: Quality education), teaching courses on environmental information literacy skills needed to promote the ideals of a sustainable future.

- Playing a research role which is an enquiry to discover existing knowledge for the building of theory and solving society problems, an essential activity of the librarians. Further, by advocating with influence, and to demonstrate the academic library's role in empowering the lives of students and researchers for the good of the local community.

- Introducing cultural services as the library is the centre of all cultural activation because it actively promotes participation and appreciation of arts and literature works which is a part of cultural heritage and is one of the areas stock materials highlights.

- Providing access to knowledge since the information is the power and information brings knowledge. Providing training and learning media as the library is an indispensable training and learning laboratory. Providing alternative access to costly commercial scientific sources, respecting Indigenous Knowledge (Goal 10: Reduced inequalities) that is of concern regarding access to information and knowledge.

- Mapping existing activities - from usual tasks to annual strategic and operational goals.

- Building internal capacity and ownership of the SDGs - by engaging staff at different levels across the library to identify their individual contribution to the goals.

- Monitoring and communicating on actions related to the SDGs - through formal and informal reporting to various audiences within and beyond the university community.

- Taking opportunities to engage with staff and stakeholders in conversation about issues of diversity and inclusion, poverty, quality education and environmental sustainability. Finally, at the same time, library workers' participation and engagement in the ongoing advocacy process must be boosted by providing them with facilities to gain adequate sustainability evaluation competencies.

Status of SDG implementation in university libraries in Sri Lanka

Various initiatives have been taken by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) for the implementation of the SDGs by enacting the Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017. This provides the legal framework and by establishing the Sustainable Development Council as the national focal point it coordinates, facilitate, monitor and report on the SDG

implementation aiming to support the GoSL to achieve peaceful, just, inclusive and equitable development. With the guidance of the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka, many universities planned to implement activities by incorporating the goals into their Strategic Management Plans, mainly focusing on goal 4 - quality education while trying to achieve the other 16 goals by conducting research. However, it was found that only 08 out of 17 state universities incorporated this in their strategic plans (Mashroofa, 2022). The University of Kelaniya and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura have each established their own "Centre for Sustainability Solutions" (CSS) to formulate policies and to plan, coordinate and manage sustainable issues within the university (Mashroofa, 2022). In addition, the Buddhist and Pali University library also took several actions to implement these goals and to support achieving the university goals(Gunasekera & Samarakoon, 2020). This trend constitutes convincing evidence of the universities' determination to improve the activities related to SDGs.

Conclusion

Academic libraries, ' as the heart of the university ' has major role to play in achieving SDGs by introducing different awareness programmes, services, ODL programmes and conducting research for assisting the GoSL to achieve the SDGs in 2030.

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Integration of Open Science with Sustainable Development Goals

Introduction

Open Science and Sustainable Development are two different concepts that dominate the process of "transformation of the world" in an anticipating structure by present and future generations. It is highly essential to conceptualize these two notions and to find ways how these concepts are integrated with each other. This feature article presents an account on the description of these two concepts and the essentiality of the integration

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What is Open Science?

During the last two decades openness in scholarly publishing practices has been much anticipated by researchers, across the globe. Selecting a publishing outlet by means of the green or gold route of open access models is considered in this regard. However, apart from scholarly publishing, there are many other activities that need to be performed openly in a research cycle or process. This is simply defined as "open science (OS), which is an umbrella term that encompasses research practices that promote transparency in scientific research", Parsons et al., (2022). They described OS processes as "research practices that include but are not limited to study registration, use of preprints, open access publishing and open data". Open Science embraces all these processes, that are practiced under the philosophy of 'transparency in scientific research'.

The term open science is very clearly defined by UNESCO as

"Open science is a set of principles and practices that aim to make scientific research from all fields accessible to everyone for the benefit of scientists and society as a whole. Open science is about making sure not only that scientific knowledge is accessible but also that the production of that knowledge itself is inclusive, equitable and sustainable" (UNESCO, 2021)

Furthermore, this definition clearly says that OS is not only access to scientific knowledge but also the process of production which means the research process. This process includes how particular research is proposed, the methodology, data collection tools, data, analysis methods and techniques, and lastly, the final product as a report, thesis/ book, or journal paper. Data sharing and knowledge sharing are highly emphasized via the OS principle. The

logic behind this is the increased availability of data, tools, and processes, scientific practices are reproducible, transparent, inclusive, and collaborative.

Figure 1

Key Pillars of Open Science
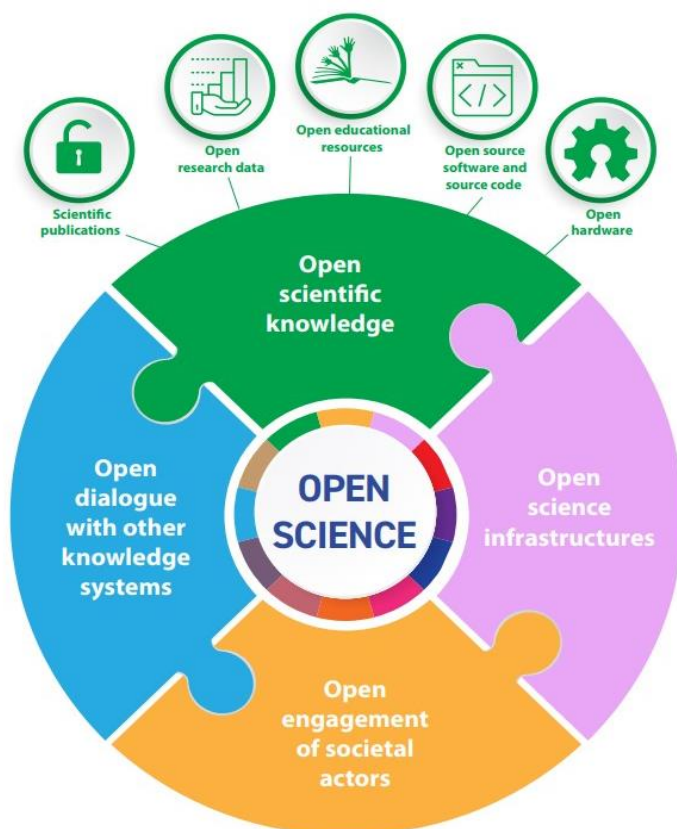
(UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, 2021)

OS principal forecasts to increase scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefit of science and society; makes multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible, and reusable for everyone; and opens the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation, and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community. Open Science principal functions based on federated, accessible, interoperated, interconnected, service-oriented, and unified access features of the research process. Through the increased availability of data, tools, and processes, scientific practices are reproducible, transparent, inclusive, and collaborative in nature.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations Article 27, section 1 states that "everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits". Accordingly, to share scientific advancements and benefits among everyone, OS principle should be adopted all over the world. However, the ethical issues related to copyright, intellectual property, protecting personal and secret information, and human rights issues may restrict access where FAIR use principle is adopted.

Next, part of this paper briefly describes the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable development

United Nations (UN) formulated and proposed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 169 targets, in 2015. To evaluate the success, they have identified 244+ indicators. SDGs have received immense attention of the whole world, as it is a universal agenda to transform the world. This agenda targets a 15-year active participation (2016-2030) of all countries to envision a better-developed world in 2030. Almost 08 years have passed in this venture and 07 more years we can work to transform the world in all these 17 aspects. Each stakeholder is affording much to attaining SDGs by strategizing various activities within their scope and discipline. In this series of activities, UNESCO emphasizes that OS should support to achieving SDGs by solving economic, environmental, and complex social challenges.

Social challenges in the sense can synonymized as 'global challenges' at present. This may be in various formats such as poverty, war, climate changes, natural disasters, man-made disasters, health crises like COVID-19 pandemic and epidemic, environmental degradation, and humanitarian crises etc. How to respond to these types of challenges? This creates inequalities in access to science, technology, innovation, and their applications. To mitigate the challenges, reducing or bringing to an end any such challenges may depend on various factors. But mainly this could be reduced or ended by reducing digital, technological and knowledge divide between and within countries.

Science, technology and innovation can better respond to them if they collect and apply ideas from diverse contributors and knowledge systems. Open Science will immensely help in reducing or ending inequalities. The next part of this paper deals with how OS is integrated with SDGs.

Why do we need integration between OS and SDGs

Access to information is a basic requirement for all human beings, beyond the Scientific community. Access to information may not be always with research/ scientific process, but rather this may be cultural, indigenous, or local knowledge system. Citizen science has now expanded the concept of information to everyone. In this regard, Open Data, Open-Source software, Open hardware, Data repositories and knowledge repositories serve to the general public as well as the Scientists.

Especially, data sharing is the global trend at present in achieving SDGs. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has established a centre for Earth Science data at https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/technology/open-science (Earth Science Data Systems, n.d.). In this venture International Research centre for Sustainable Development Goals, located at Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing China launched a satellite on 05 November 2021 which sends data to the centre regarding the forest cover, crop cover, mangrove area, global temperature, water resource data, carbon emissions, land degradation, etc. The SDG indicators are well progressing under this project. They have created a platform for Big data which is available at https://sdg.casearth.cn (CBAS China, n.d.). Furthermore, the Committee on Big DATA (CODATA) is also has taken this challenge to accelerate activities related to SDGs through sharing of data. Global Open Access Cloud (GOSC) is another project undertaken by the Chinese Academy of Science in collaboration with CODATA. Many other developed and developing countries (like Africa, and Malaysia) are marching forward in attaining SDGs through OS.

Conclusion & Recommendation

Open Science can contribute to many aspects of attaining SDGs in 2030. Sri Lanka also should work to share data by establishing data repositories and inputting our data to the international portals by developing a central policy and becoming a member of the world forum of OS and OS societies.

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Achievements and Awards

Achievements

Dr. W.M. Tharanga Dilruk Ranasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya was appointed as the "Global Korea Scholarship (GKS) Publicity Envoy for Sri Lanka" for a period of 02 years (July 2023-June 2025). GKS is the flagship scholarship program of the Korean Government, managed by the National Institute for International Education (NIIED) of the Ministry of Education, Republic of Korea. The Certificate of Appointment was handed over by H.E. Ambassador Miyon LEE at the Korean Embassy in Colombo on August 9th, 2023.
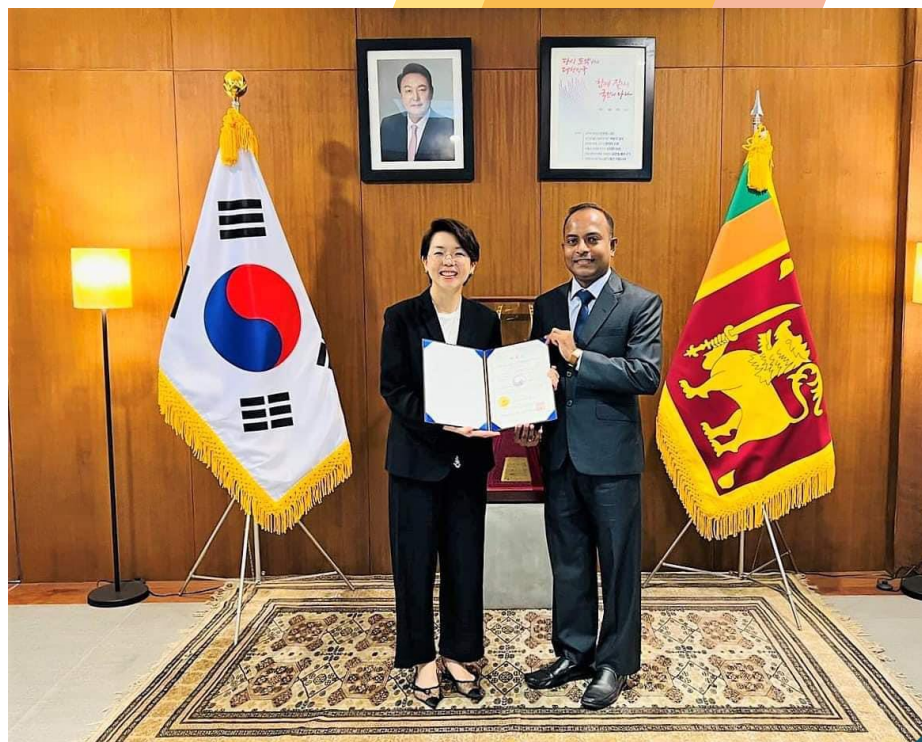
Book Launch - Bolgoda Ecosystem: A Selected Bibliography

The Bolgoda Ecosystem is a compilation by Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena, a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Earth Resources Engineering and Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian from the University of Moratuwa Library. "The Bolgoda Ecosystem – A Selected Bibliography" is a platform that connects both published and unpublished scholarly work related to the Bolgoda region until the end of the year 2022.

The bibliography is an outcome of the attempts made by them to find information on Bolgoda and its associations to construct an article for the Bolgoda Plains Research Magazine published by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa. Hence, on 24th July 2023, the first copy of the book was presented to Prof. Ajith de Alwis the Dean, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, who initiated the Bolgoda Plains Research Magazine and also motivated the compilers towards publishing the book.

New Appointment

Mrs. Hansamali Wickramasooriya (B.Sc. Special in Health Promotion) was appointed as an Assistant Librarian to the Main Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with effect from 1st September 2023.

Shines beyond the Horizon

Experienced Researcher Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany

Dr. (Mrs.) A.W.V Athukorala, Deputy Librarian at Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo, has been awarded the prestigious Research Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany from 02nd July 2023 to May 2025. This esteemed fellowship will enable Dr. Athukorala to work as an Experienced Researcher at Fern University in Germany. Known for its competitive nature and recognition in Europe, this fellowship is a significant achievement for Dr. Athukorala. She has been granted this fellowship for two years, during which she will engage in research activities focused on the digitalization of German University libraries.

Academic Contribution

Keynote speaker at the 19th Higher Education Conference organized by SLAIHEE

Mrs. Sajeewanie Somaratna, the Acting Librarian of the University of Colombo, delivered the keynote speech at the 19th Higher Education Conference organized by the Sri Lanka Association of Higher Education Effectiveness (SLAIHEE) on 28th July 2023, in Colombo. The topic of her speech was "Outcome-based Higher Education for Developing Knowledge-based Procedures in Students". Academics from both state and private universities in Sri Lanka participated in this conference.

Invited speaker at the National Library Webinar series

Mrs. Sajeewanie Somaratna, Acting Librarian of the University of Colombo, was invited to deliver a public speech organized by the National Library of Sri Lanka. This was delivered via Zoom on 29th August 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The topic of the speech was ''ඩිජිටල් තාක්ෂණය, නූතන පරපුර සහ පුස්තකාලයේ දිශානතිය''. Librarians from university libraries, public libraries, and other institutions participated in the event.

- Dr. W.M. Tharanga Dilruk Ranasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya delivered an invited lecture on "How to conduct Literature Surveys" for the final year students of the B.Sc. Honours degree in the Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya on July 21st 2023 at the Scientific Research Workshop organized by the Research and Services Center, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya.

- Dr. R.A.A.S. Ranaweera, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya, conducted a lecture on "How to use Library and Information Sources Effectively" for the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Batch 07 of the Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya on 06th August 2023.

- Dr. R.A.A.S. Ranaweera, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya, conducted two lectures on "Information Searching Techniques and Electronic Database Searching " on 13th August 2023 and "Referencing and Mendeley Electronic Reference Management System" on 27th August 2023 for the Master of Business Accounting/ Finance (MBus) Programme- 2023 of the Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya.

- Dr. W.M. Tharanga Dilruk Ranasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya delivered an invited lecture on "Conducting Literature Survey and Managing References" for the final year students of the B.A. honours degree program in Archaeology and Tourism & Cultural Resource Management (TCRM), organized by the Department of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya on 15th September 2023.

Awareness programme for the Academic Community of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The Library of Rajarata University conducted a user awareness program for the academics of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on 12th July 2023. Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, the Acting Librarian, and Mrs. Malithi Jayasooria, Assistant Librarian were the resource persons for this event. The session was focused on the digital library services available in the Library of RUSL.

Library Orientation Programs conducted by the Library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

The Library, SUSL conducted Library Orientation Programs for the Faculty of Computing on 26th July, Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages on 09th August and the Faculty of Technology on 24th August 2023. Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei, the Librarian and Dr. P.K.C.M. Wijewickrama, Senior Assistant Librarian served as Resource Persons for these Orientation Programmes. Library Orientation Program for the Faculty of Applied Sciences held on 02nd August and Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei, the Librarian and Mr. I.D.K.L. Fernando, the Senior Assistant Librarian served as Resource Persons for the Orientation Programme.

Workshop on Reference Management

The Library, University of Visual and Performing Arts organized a workshop on Reference Management for the academic staff of the Faculty of Music on 23rd September 2023 from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm at the IT Center of the Faculty of Music. The workshop aimed at increasing awareness about the online information sources available in UVPA library and introducing Mendeley online tool to manage references easily in their publications which will help reduce citation errors and plagiarism levels. This workshop was coordinated by Mrs. A.V. Muditha Ankumbura, Acting Librarian and Mrs. U.D. Hiruni Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian, Kothalawala Defense University served as the resource person. This workshop highly beneficial for the staff members in their research and scholarly writings and received highly positive feedback from the participants.

The Library lecture series
UVPA Library

Workshop on Reference Management In Academic Writing

Aims:
- To make aware about the online information sources available in your library which is useful for your research.
- To make aware on citing & referencing in Scholarly Publication and it importance to maintain the academic integrity.
- To introduce online tool to manage references easily in their publications that will help to reduce the citation errors and plagiarism level.

Resource person:

Session I:
Information Resources for your research

By
AV Muditha Ankumbura,
Acting Librarian, UVPA

Session II:
Citing & Referencing with Mendeley Reference Management Tool

By
UD Hiruni Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian, Kothalawala Defense University

Date: - 23rd August 2023 at 9.30am   **Venue: -** 5th floor, IT Lab Faculty of Music

National Development/ Community Outreach

SLLA Student Training: An outreach service by the Library of the University of Colombo

Students of the Diploma in Library and Information Sciences (DLIS) of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) had their practical library training at the Library, University of Colombo. The Library of the University of Colombo supports this training every year as an outreach program.

A ten-day program started from 7th to 18th August 2023 was designed to provide a comprehensive overview of library operations, library divisions, collections, services, e-resources and databases, and personnel. The academic staff of the library served as resource persons for the program, and students had the opportunity to learn, interact, and get trained in each section of the library during the ten-day training session.
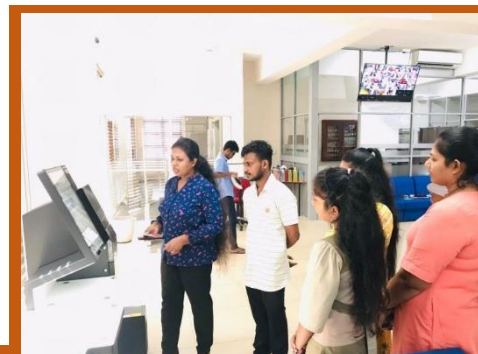
Outreach progrmmes for the school children

The Library of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized an outreach program for school students of the Yakalla Maha Vidyalaya, Anuradhapura on August 15th, 2023. During this event, Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, the Acting Librarian, delivered an inspiring speech underscoring the significance of nurturing reading habits. Furthermore, Dr. S.K. Illangarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian conducted a session focusing on the functionalities and the Digital services offered by the library.

Outreach progrmmes for 'Sisumina" library reading society, Gampola

The Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has initiated an outreach program for the members of the 'Sisumina" library reading society, Gampola on 15th September 2023. This society consists of both school children and the adults. The main objectives of the programme were enhancing reading habits of its members, make them aware about the services and facilities of the library, and providing an inspiration to school children on the importance of obtaining university education. Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, the Acting Librarian and Mrs. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian provided technical support for the programme.

Awareness sessions and library visits at SUSL library

The library SUSL conducted several awareness sessions for the students of St. Mary's College, Hambanthota – on 07th July 2023, Gamunupura Maha Vidyalaya, , Mahiyanganaya – on 21st July 2023, R/ Gairanagama Vidyalaya, Gurubavilagama , Balangoda – on 21st July 2023, and R/ Ferguson High School, Rathanapura – on 31st July 2023.

Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei, the Librarian, Dr. Manjula Wijewickrama, Senior Assistant Librarian and Mr. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian served as resource persons in these sessions introducing the library, its functions and formations, and deliberating on the services of KOHA library management system, newly introduced library services, sections, projects and effective use of social media to promote the library.

Research Contribution

Seminars/workshops/ lectures conducted

Pre-Conference webinar of Multi-Disciplinary Desk Research Conference 2023, University of Kelaniya

The second pre-conference of the Desk Research Conference, 2023 was conducted on 13th July 2023 from 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. via Zoom platform. Prof. Ruwan Abeysekara, Department of Finance, Faculty of Commerce & Management Studies, University of Kelaniya was the resource person of this webinar. The main purpose of this webinar is to make aware all academics, researchers and postgraduates' students of all faculties of Universities and other higher education institutes regarding the qualitative data analyzing.

- Dr. W.M. Tharanga Dilruk Ranasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya served as a Resource Person for the Research Forum in Staff Development Programme - Cycle 25 conducted by the Staff Development Centre of the University of Kelaniya on 7th July 2023.

- Mrs. H.D. Menaka Nishanthi, Senior Assistant Librarian of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, published a journal article titled "Research Conception of Palm Leaf Manuscript Conservation: Bibliometric Analysis of Scopus Database" in the Vol. 10, No. 2 (2023): International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, on July 15, 2023. It was an article co-authored by Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian and Mrs. K.W.A.M. Konpola, Senior Assistant Librarian of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

- Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa presented a research paper titled "A Sense-Making Approach for Engineering Undergraduates to Retrieve Environmental Management Information on Bolgoda Ecosystem" at the 2nd International Research Conference of the National Library of Sri Lanka (ICNATLIB 2023) on 8th September, 2023 at National Library and Documentation Services Board, Colombo. This research paper was co-authored by Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena, Senior Lecturer, Department of Earth Resources Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

- Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, presented a research paper titled "A Bibliometric Analysis of Disaster Management in Libraries: Focusing on Google Scholar Articles Published from 2018 to 2022" at the 2nd International Research Conference of the National Library of Sri Lanka 2023 (ICNATLIB 2023) on September 8, 2023, organized by the National Library and Documentation Services Board, Sri Lanka. It was a paper co-authored by Mr. D.G.R.L. Gunarathna, Assistant Librarian, Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Mrs. Y.W.N.D. Amarasooriya, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Library & Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

- Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, SUSL presented a research paper on "Developing a Conceptual Framework for Digital Transformation (DT) of Readers Services in Sabaragamuwa University Library of Sri Lanka" at 7th IRCUWU2023 organized by Uva Wellassa University on 17th August 2023.

- Mr. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, SUSL presented a research paper on "Adopting Artificial Intelligence for digital transformation of University libraries: A review" at 7th IRCUWU2023 organized by Uva Wellassa University on 17th August 2023.

Pre-conference workshop on "Redefining university rankings: the crucial role of libraries and e-repositories in the digital age"

A pre-conference workshop was organized in hybrid mode by the library, SUSL on 13th September 2023 from 9.00 am -12.00 pm and conducted by Mr. M.A. Kasun Munsinghe, Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya at the auditorium /Faculty of Geomatics-SUSL. This event was held in parallel to 9th International Conference of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to explore and demonstrate the significant impact of university libraries and e-repositories on enhancing university web rankings in the digital era; to equip participants with strategies to harness the power of these resources, effectively in increasing academic visibility and repuation online; to increase the awareness on maintaining individual academic profiles and disseminate new knowledge among others.

Pre-conference workshop on "ResBaz: Upskill your digital research practice"

A pre-conference workshop was organized by the library, SUSL on 28th September 2023 from 9.00 am -11.00 am and conducted by Dr. (Mrs.) Namali Suraweera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya and currently working as an academic developer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and Dr. Rana Daoud, Academic Developer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand via ZOOM.

This event was held in parallel to 9th International Conference of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to address the skills gap, promote digital and data literacy, facilitate collaboration and interdisciplinary research, advocate for open science practices, and enhance research productivity and impact in an increasingly technology-driven research landscape. The Research Bazaar (ResBaz) is a worldwide festival promoting digital literacy at the center of modern research. This session covered tips and tricks for staying up to date with literature, introduced digital tools to use in research, and discussed ways of communicating research in the media, including online presence.

Quality Assurance steps carried out at the University Libraries

2nd Awareness workshop on Green library concept of the Library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

2nd workshop conducted by the LQAC(Library Quality Assurance Cell): Awareness of Green library concept (Green Library Project) was successfully held on 19th July 2023 from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm at the Staff Development Center, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The objectives of the session were to make the SUSL library staff aware of the green concept, green library concept, to introduce the green model developed for university libraries and to highlight the green initiatives to practice in the university library. This was a free and open session for anyone interested in this topic and was well attended by online participants.

WORKSHOP SERIES -2023
LIBRARY QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL-SUSL

GREEN LIBRARY CONCEPT

GREEN LIBRARY PROJECT

WEDNESDAY
19 JULY 2023

TIME
09.00 AM-12.00 PM

VENUE
STAFF DEVELOPMENT
CENTER- SUSL

Via ZOOM
Meeting ID: 690 3183 8354
Passcode: Lqac2GLW*

RESOURCE PERSON
MS. THRISHALA WARNASOORIYA
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

REGISTER NOW
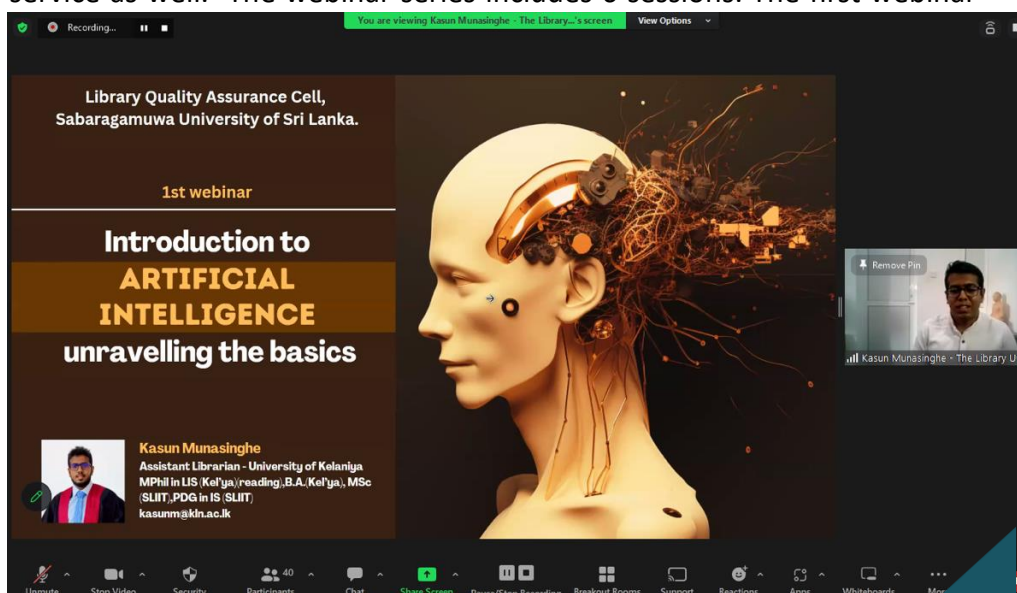
LQAC awareness Workshop -02

3rd awareness workshop on "Innovative pedagogies and academic literacy" at the Library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

The Library Quality Assurance Cell (LQAC) organized their 3rd awareness workshop on "Innovative pedagogies and academic literacy" which was held on 29th August 2023 from 09.00am-12.00pm at the Staff Development Center, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Dr. (Mrs.) M. D. N. M. U. Mahawatta, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies, SUSL was the resource person. The objective was to make the SUSL staff aware of academic literacy and innovative pedagogies. This was a free and open session for anyone interested in this topic and was well attended by online participants.

LQAC webinar series on "AI Horizons: Exploring the Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence", The Library, Sabaragamuwa University Library

The library quality assurance cell has planned to conduct the LQAC webinar series on "AI Horizons: Exploring the Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence" due to the timely importance and requests received from library users. This free and online webinar series is open to anyone who is interested in this topic. This will function as a community development programme and a national service as well. The webinar series includes 6 sessions. The first webinar "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence: unravelling the basics" was conducted by Mr. Kasun Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya on 22nd August 2023 from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm via ZOOM.

Any other news

Establishment of the "Scholars' Corner" of the Library, University of Colombo

The instigation of the first ever "Scholars' Corner" in a university library in Sri Lanka took place at the Library, University of Colombo on 17th July 2023. The initiative came to fruition by receiving the first generous book donation from Emeritus Professor J. B. Disanayaka**,** consisting of nearly 300 books related to the Sinhala Language, Art, Literature, History, and Archeology authored by himself.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Senior Professor H. D. Karunaratne, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo. The audience was welcomed by the Acting Librarian of the University of Colombo, Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna who explained the objectives and advantages of having a "Scholars' Corner" at the University Library. The Chief Guest of the event, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor H. D. Karunaratne, appreciated the new initiative and encouraged the library staff to promote more such activities in the future, as well. Emeritus Professor J. B. Disanayaka exchanged fond memories from his past experiences, which were very exciting and inspiring to all. The book donation was ceremonially handed over to the Vice-Chancellor and the Acting librarian by Professor J. B. Disanayaka. Mrs. Samanlatha Menike Adhikari, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library, University of Colombo, delivered the concluding remarks with a vote sf thanks.

A Day out of Library staff of SEUSL: An official visit to the Library, University of Colombo

Mr. M.M. Rifaudeen, the Librarian, along with the library staff of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) paid a visit to the University of Colombo Library on 20th July 2023 to witness the best practices at the Main Library and cutting-edge technologies at the Science Library of the University of Colombo. The Acting Librarian Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna warmly welcomed and provided them with an opportunity to experience the modern library facilities at the Science Library and to discover special collections at the Main Library. The SEUSL Library team first visited the Science Library and explored the novel technologies and facilities being used in the Information & Learning Centre (Science Library). The team then visited the Main Library and examined the collections and their arrangements at the Ceylon Room, Periodicals and Research Collections. The SEUSL team and the staff had a friendly discussion with the senior staff of the library and exchanged their experiences on library operations and services in their respective libraries.

Donation of the first publication of the Colombo University Press

The book titled "A Practical Guide to Basic Networking" authored by Mr. Tharindu Wijethilake, Dr. Chamath Keppitiyagama, Mr. Kenneth Thilakarathna, and Dr. Ajantha Atukorale of the University of Colombo School of Computing was donated to the library on 24th August 2023. This is the very first publication produced by the Colombo University Press, and it is a proud moment to receive this publication which was added to the collection of the Library of the University of Colombo. Dr. S.T. Nandasara, UOC Press Consultant, along with the authors of the book and Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, Director UCSC, officially handed over the publication to Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna, Acting Librarian of the University.

Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama's Generous Donation of Management & Finance Books

Former Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama, has donated 25 books related to Management and Finance that she received from the University of Turku in Finland. These valuable books were presented to the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne on 18th September 2023, at the College House Premises. The event was attended by the Acting Librarian, Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna, and library staff members.
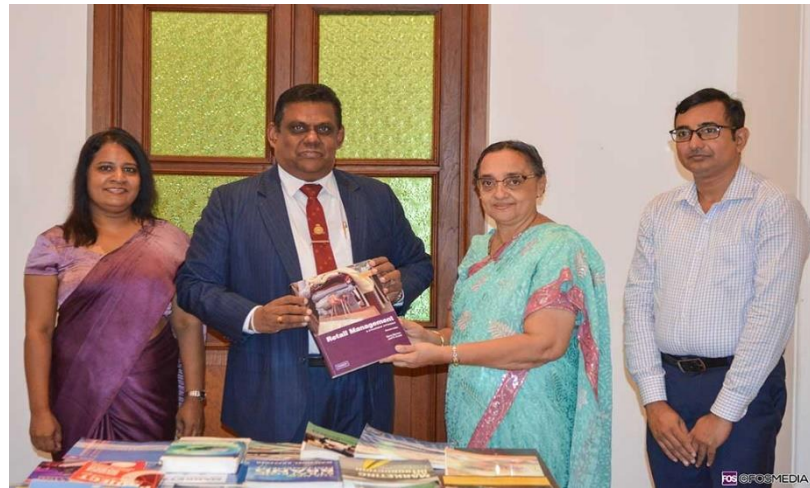
Medical Library Award Ceremony

Library Development Committee and the Library Student Affairs Committee of the Medical Faculty University of Kelaniya jointly organized an Award ceremony to award cash prizes and certificates to the Best Library Users and Winners of the Online Library Quiz in parallel with the World Hepatitis Day celebration on the 28th of July, 2023. The event's objectives were to make students aware of the library resources, motivate students to use library resources, and improve student involvement in Library matters.

Prof. Anuradha Dassanayaka delivered a guest lecture on "*Hepatitis Free World*" to mark the World Hepatitis Day Celebration. For the first time in the faculty Library's history, the Library rewarded the three best users who borrowed the most number of books from the Library. Best Library Users for the Year 2022 received a cash prize of Rs.2500 and a certificate. Online Library Quiz was the first collaborative activity completed jointly with the Medical Library and the Library Student Affairs Committee. The six fastest students who completed the quiz accurately within three minutes were selected as winners. The first three places received cash prizes of Rs. 3000, Rs. 2000, and Rs. 1000 and certificates, respectively, while the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth places received merit certificates. The Library Student Affairs Committee also launched the first issue of the E-Library Newsletter edited by them and presented a short introductory video on the Medical Library. Senior Professor Janaki Hewavisenthi, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, graced this occasion as the chief guest.

- Dr. W.M. Tharanga Dilruk Ranasinghe and Ms. A.P.U. de Silva, Senior Assistant Librarians of the University of Kelaniya attended the APAN53 (Asia Pacific Advanced Network) Meeting and Research Conference held in Colombo during 21-25 August 2023.

Plazz Café Project of SUSL library

Plazz café is a new project introduced by the library/SUSL in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages/SUSL to create an open discussion forum among SUSL community.   The 1st session was held on 07th September 2023 from 3.00 – 5.00 pm at Prof. Dayananda Somasundara auditorium. The resource person was senior translator, Mr. Chulananda Samaranayake for the scholarly discussion on "Reading Effectively".

Photographed by : Tharindu D Abeywickrama
Edited by : Harindu Senanayaka

Organized by : University Library & Department of Social Science, Faculty of Social Science and Languages - Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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