Content

President's Massage

Dear Members of ULA,

It's a great honour and privilege to write this message as the President of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka.

First & foremost, let me express my gratitude to all ULA members for having trust in me and giving me the ULA presidency. I am pleased to be working with a talented Executive Committee that has substantial expertise and proficiency in Library and Information Science.

Since 2020 we have been facing many challenges such as pandemic, economic and financial crisis. So that we struggle to finance for resources and staff development. We shall unite together to develop the nation by sustaining the prosperity of our libraries and the welfare of our members.

I ensure that I will continue the best practices followed by the past presidents to uplift our association. I am passionate to inculcate vibrant research culture among the members, enhance the quality of Journal of University Librarians association (JULA) by indexing in standard indexing system, and to anticipate the changes brought by developing technology.

This year in addition to the usual activities, I would like to network with people around. I welcome the views of ULA members who think differently to come forward with innovative ideas, research projects, and community outreach.

I seek the perseverance of the Executive Committee, the contribution of each ULA member, and the guidance of the most senior members to become acquainted with the national as well as the global trends in LIS.

Again, I would like to say that I am honoured to stand with you all.

Best Wishes
M. M. Mashroofa, Ph.D

ULA Exco 2023/2024

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ULA Events

Annual General Meeting 2023 of ULA

The 41st Annual General Meeting of University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka was held on the 27th of October, 2023, at the Rose Garden Hotel, Kadawatha. The Chief Guest of the inaugural session of the AGM was Senior Prof. Nilanthi De Silva, Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya. Prof. Sudath Kalingamudali, the Dean, Faculty of Science; Prof. Madawa Chandratilake, the Dean, Faculty of Medicine; Dr. Chamli Pushpakumara, the Dean, Faculty of Computing and Technology participated in the event as invitees. Fifty six current ULA members and several retired ULA members participated in the inaugural session.

Dr. W.M.T.D. Ranasinghe, the President of ULA, 2022/23, delivered the welcome speech. The Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya and Dr. C. C. Jayasundara, the Librarian, University of Kelaniya addressed the gathering. Ms. M. P. L. R. Marasinghe, General Secretary of ULA 2022/23, concluded the inaugural session of the AGM with a vote of thanks.

The ULA Annual Research and Innovation Awards were awarded at the AGM. The Best Research Paper Award for Senior Researchers and Junior Researchers was awarded to Ms. M. P. L. R. Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya and Mr. J. A. Ajith, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna, respectively, for the year 2023.

ULA Publications: Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (JULA), Vol. 26, Issue no. 02 and the biography of former librarians were launched at the AGM by Dr. Achala Ranaweera, the Editor of JULA and Ms. Thanuja Ranawella, the compiler of the biography respectively.

After the inaugural session of the AGM, the formal AGM was conducted, and finally, the office bearers for EXCO in 2023/24 were nominated. The President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Vice President, Assistant Secretary, Training Officer and Webmaster for the year 2023/24 were nominated, and they are Dr. (Ms.) M. M. Mashroofa, Mr M. C. M. Azwer, Mr S. L. Mohammed Sajeer, Mr A. M. Nahfees, Dr. S.K.Illangaratne, Mrs. W.M.P.G.K.T. Wanasinghe, Dr. (Mrs.) D.N.T.Gunawardhana, and Mr. J.A. Ajith respectively.

13th International Conference of University Librarians Association (ICULA 2023)

The 13th International Conference of University Librarians Association (ICULA 2023) was held on 26th October 2023 at the Hotel Mt. Lavania in Colombo on theme of "Transforming Academic Libraries for a Sustainable Future". Eng. (Dr.) Udeni Wickramasinghe, Chairman of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) of Sri Lanka graced the inaugural session of the ICULA 2023 as the Chief Guest. The Keynote Speech on the topic of "Digital transformation of academic libraries for a sustainable future" was delivered by Senior Professor K. P. Hewagamage, University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC). The conference had three (03) technical sessions with carefully selected thirteen (13) papers including full papers and extended abstracts.

The first technical session was on "Supporting sustainability in teaching, learning and research" and Dr. Prasanna Ranaweera, Senior Lecturer of NILIS, University of Colombo chaired the session. The second technical session was on "AI, digital transformation and sustainability in libraries" was chaired by Dr. (Mrs.) M. M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. The third technical session was on "Sustainable academic publishing practices" and Dr. W.J. Jeyeraj, Librarian, Eastern University Sri Lanka chaired the session. Over 100 participants representing various sectors such as academic libraries, research libraries, national libraries, as well as LIS education attended the conference.

Ms. A. P. U. De Silva and Ms. B. G. S. P. Wimalasiri from the University of Kelaniya won the 'Best Paper Award' while Mr. B. E. S. Bandara from the University of Peradeniya won the 'Best Paper Presenter Award' of ICULA 2023.

Dr. W. M. T. D. Ranasinghe, President of ULA, served as the Chairperson of the conference. Dr. (Mrs.) D. N. T. Gunawardhana and Mr. S. Santharooban were the conference Co-Secretaries. Mrs. T.M. Seneviratne served as the Editor-in-Chief of ICULA Proceedings 2023. Dr. C. C. Jayasundara, Librarian, University of Kelaniya and Dr. W. J. Jeyaraj, Librarian, Eastern University Sri Lanka were the conference advisors.

Registration Desk

Head table

Keynote speech

Some participants

Token of Appreciation to the Chief Guest

Token of Appreciation to the Keynote Speaker

Launching ICULA 2023 Proceedings (i)

Launching ICULA 2023 Proceedings (ii)

Q&A Session

Best Paper Award

Best Paper Presenter Award

Some Participants_ICULA 2023

ICULA 2023 Organizing Committee

Special Events

The Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference (DRC) – University of Kelaniya

The first-ever Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference in Asia organized by the Library of the University of Kelaniya was held on the 6th of December 2023 at the Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya. The conference aimed to raise the profiles of research studies derived from secondary sources.

The conference covered a spectrum of disciplines, including Arts and Humanities, Commerce and Management Studies, Science, Technology, Medicine, and Social Sciences. Each discipline featured a leading paper delivered by an eminent subject expert, complemented by over 75 scholarly research papers presented by esteemed academic staff members and postgraduate students.

Noteworthy keynote speakers include Emeritus Professor Ariyarathna Kaluarachchi, former Vice Chancellor of Visual and Performing Arts; Senior Professor D. W. R. K. Somadeva from the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya; Professor Senaka Rajapakse, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo; and Professor Anuradhani Kasthuriratne from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya.

The conference was graced by the esteemed presence of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, Senior Professor Nilanthi De Silva, serving as the Chief Guest. The Librarian, Dr. C.C. Jayasundara, the Staff of the Library, the Deans of the Faculties, Heads of the Departments, and Academic Staff representing all the Faculties of the University of Kelaniya graced the conference as guests of honour.

University Open Day: South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL)

The Founder's Day and Open Day events on October 24th and 25th, 2023 marked a significant milestone for the SEUSL Libraries. The dedication and contributions of staff have played a vital role in the success of this events. The SEUSL Libraries have organized various programs, including book exhibitions and festival, book talks session, museum viewings, and book fairs.

Over 150,000 people attended, excited to see the unique collections and programmes. The following events have been successfully conducted.

1. Journey through Knowledge: A Book Expo

This expo showcased a diverse array of themes and exhibitions of books which included Exploration of Islam and the Muslim Community in Sri Lanka.

02. Cultural Museum to the Public View

This programme aimed to raise awareness among the public, inspiring them to take interest in preserving our heritage. We also encouraged them to contribute by donating such materials to the museum.

03. Book Talks

A series of the following 4 BOOK TALKS with the aim of promoting a culture of reading and introducing world-renowned literature. Additionally, these sessions were designed to encourage aspiring writers, providing them with motivation and training to create such literature.

I.   The first BOOK TALK took place on the 24th of October. 2023, focusing on "Seven Moons of Maali Al Meida" written by a Sri Lankan Author Shehan Karunatilake, the recipient of the "Booker Prize-2022."

II.   The Second book talk was conducted on the 25th of October, 2023, about the book Titled as "Exploring Sri Lankan Muslims : Selected writings of MMM. Mahroof," edited by Prof. MLA. Cader, the founder Vice Chancellor of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.

III. Third event was introduction of the works of Svami Vipulanandar who is recognized as the world's first Tamil Professor. His writings and contributions were highlighted during the third event.

IV.   The fourth book talk featured the introduction of the major Islamic Tamil Epic, "Seerappuranam," on "Umar is an allegory in Seerappuranam".

Book exhibitions

Over 150,000 people attended
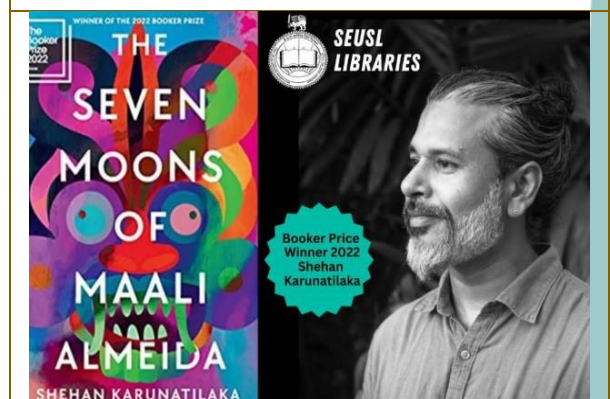
Book Talks

Cultural Museum to the Public View

05. Open Day Book fair

The book fair provided a lively place where people could find a variety of books and stationery. Bookshops like Islamic Book House, Samudra, and Fathima Books from Colombo came, and offered lots of options at discounted prices.

06. Tree Planting

SEUSL Libraries planted various shade trees and tropical fruit trees in the vicinity of the Library building under the Green Library project.

Open Day Book fair

Exposure Study Visit to SEUSL Library

Library staff of Eastern University, Sri Lanka has visited SEUSL Library on 21st of October, 2023. The aim of the exposure visit is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of library operations and resources available in the SEUSL libraries. Dr. W.J. Jeyaraj, Librarian of Eastern University, Sri Lanka has lead the team. A fruitful brainstorming session was conducted by Mr. M.M. Rifaudeen, Librarian of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and and his team.

Tree Planting

REDMI NOTE 10 PRO
SEULIBOFFICIAL

Pre-conference workshop on "AI and the Future Library: Reshaping Universities in the New Age" - SUSL Library

An online pre-conference workshop was organized by the library, SUSL in collaboration with the IEEE Student Branch of SUSL on 18th October 2023 from 9.00 am -11.00 am by Mr. M.A. Kasun Munsinghe, Interactive Media Librarian, (Assistant Librarian), University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. This event was in parallel to the 9th International Conference of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in the realm of libraries and higher education. By focusing on the future role of libraries and universities, the workshop aims to identify innovative ways in which AI can be leveraged to enhance learning, research, and knowledge dissemination. The workshop seeks to foster discussions, share insights, and develop strategies to ensure that universities are equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of information and technology, thereby reshaping and adapting to the needs of the new age.
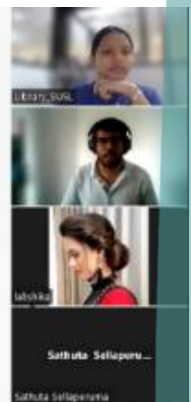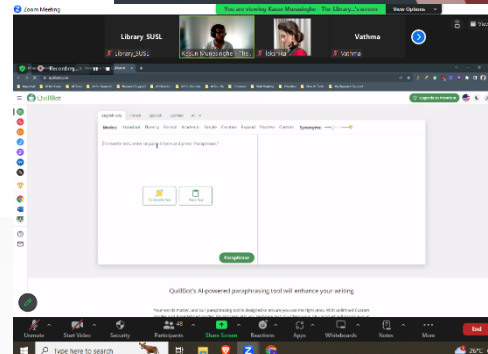
Plazz Café Project of SUSL library

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 make an open discussion among the SUSL community. The 2nd event of Plazz Café Project: *Hithak langa nathara wena pothak* organized by the library in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka on 05th October 2023, at 3.00 pm, at the Prof. Dayananda Somasundara auditorium, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The impressive thoughts by Professor Liyanage Amarakeerthi from the University of Peradeniya gave an insight into the scholarly discussion on the book review of his novel "Kurulu Hadawatha".
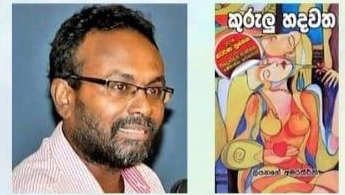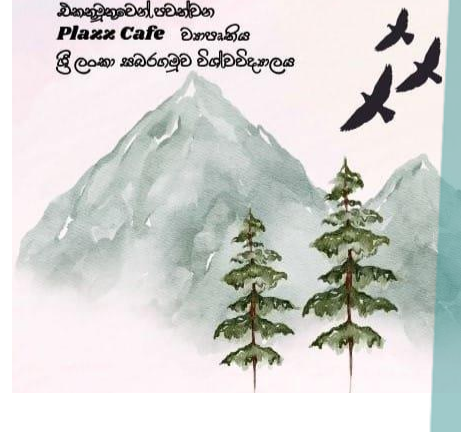
Conversion of the Library System from Alice for Windows to Koha Library Management System - Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo

The Library of the Sri Palee Campus commenced working with the Koha Library Management System on 04th October 2023. The Librarian of the University of Ruhuna, Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi, Dr. Neluka Karannagoda, Senior Assistant Librarian (Systems and IT), University of Colombo and Mr. Gayan, Technical Officer of the library of the University of Colombo assisted technically for the conversion of the Sri Palee Library System from Alice for Windows to the Koha Library Management System and to make the total project a great success. This will assist in collaborative library operations and connecting a wider range of services to the Sri Palee community.

The Official Website Launching of the Library of the Rajarata University

The official website launching of the library along with the six faculty websites of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was held ceremonially at the University's main auditorium on October 3, 2023. The ceremony was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, and the Deans of the six faculties: Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Management Studies, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Faculty of Technology. The Acting Librarian of the university also joined the event. The official faculty and library websites were launched by the relevant dean of the faculty and the acting librarian respectively.

Introduces "Ask a Librarian" e-service - Rajarata University

The library system of Rajarata University has introduced a new e-service called "Ask a Librarian" through the Library website. Students can receive assistance from librarians through the "Ask a Librarian" initiative. This assistance includes research support, book recommendations, reliable sources on any academic topic, etc. With the expertise in diverse subjects and information retrieval of librarians, students can receive efficient and accurate answers to their academic queries.

Staff Development

Training on Linux Operating System University of Colombo

In a move to enhance the technological proficiency of its library staff, a training session on the Linux Operating System was conducted on 04th December 2023. The session was led by Mr. N. Hettiarachchi, the Librarian of University of Ruhuna, and was aimed at equipping senior staff and selected Library IT Team members with essential skills for handling the Library Management System (LMS) using the Linux OS. During the training, participants were introduced to common Linux commands, providing them with a solid foundation to efficiently carry out tasks and operations within the Linux environment.
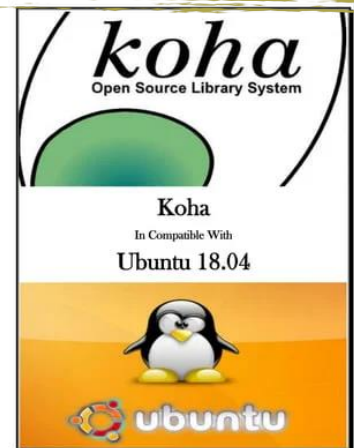
Training programme for newly recruited Assistant Librarians (Trainee) to the Open University Library

A month-long training programme was conducted for .03 newly recruited Assistant Librarians (Trainee) in the Main Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka. The training commenced on 03rd October 2023 and was carried out until 30th October 2023. The objectives of the programme were to provide basic awareness of the teaching and learning system of the OUSL, to provide an understanding of library services and functions including regional library services, to train them to adapt to the culture and operational setup of the library and to improve skills on library management and other professional work including metadata creation and classification.

Training programme for Open University Library Staff

The Main Library, together with the Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the OUSL conducted a one-day motivation program for the library staff members on 31st October 2023. The staff of the Open University Main Library and Kandy Regional Center Library participated in this program. The main theme of the program was "DISCOVER THE POWER WITHIN YOU" and the programme aimed to teach how to overcome self-limiting beliefs to bring a new way of looking at yourself and your job role. The training enables library staff to learn new concepts on self-development, and the session comprised of few activities to enhance their skills in different aspects. Dr. Mahesh Jayasinghe served as the resource person for the session.

Training programme for Kotelawala Defence University Library Staff

The Main Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) conducted a training programme for the library staff of the Kotelawala Defence University on 04th and 07th December 2023. The training gave them exposure to the library operations carried out by the OUSL library and library services, both onsite and online offered for the users. Mrs. Damayanthi Gunasekera, Acting Librarian, Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, Mr. K.D. Wickramarathne, Senior Assistant Registrar, and all other staff members of the OUSL Main Library including staff of the Bindery contributed to the training session.

Mrs. H M P. Piumali Karunarathna Abeysinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka served as the resource person for this workshop which was held on 20th December 2023 for BA level 03 students of the Kurunegala Regional Center. Further, the workshop has given hands-on training on using the OUSL library website and other EIRs.

Feature Article

Medical Library Services: Unleashing the Healing Power in Today's Modern Healthcare Community

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Postgraduate Institute of Medicine
University of Colombo

Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, access to reliable and up-to-date medical information is crucial. As advancements in medical research and technology continue to accelerate, healthcare professionals and patients alike are faced with the challenge of staying informed about the latest evidence-based practices. This is where the specialized field of medical librarianship plays a pivotal role. Medical librarians serve as valuable resources that bridge the gap between medical knowledge and healthcare practice. Their expertise in navigating the vast sea of medical literature allows them to efficiently locate, evaluate, and disseminate trustworthy information to healthcare professionals, patients, and the broader community. By providing this critical service, medical librarians empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health and contribute to improved healthcare outcomes.

A model mapping the role of the clinical medical librarian in healthcare team participation.
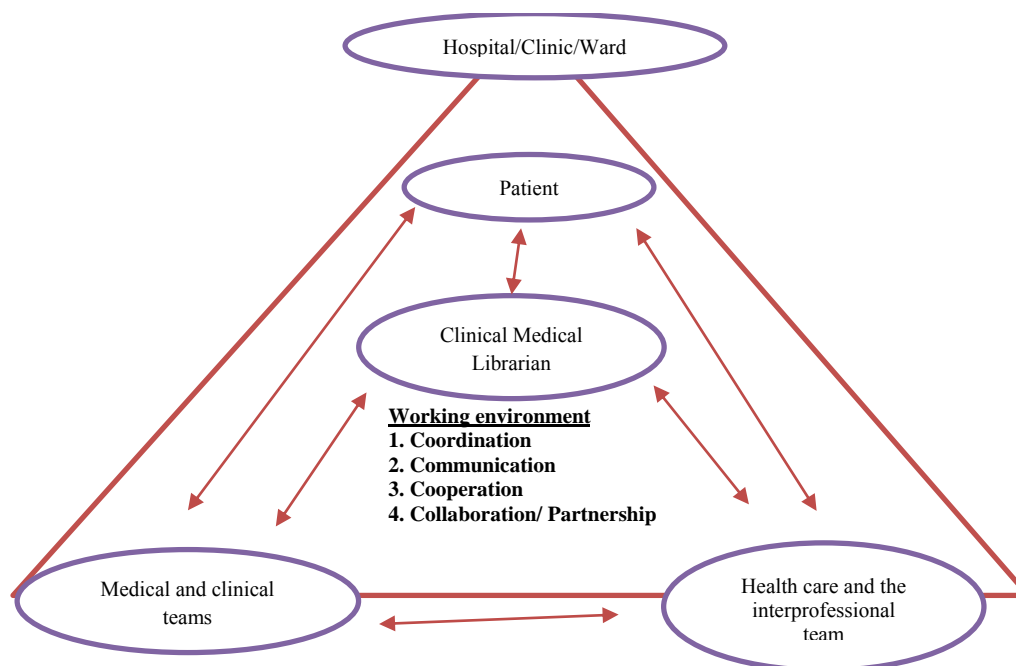

Figure 1: Model mapping the role of the medical librarian in healthcare team participation. (Compiled by author)

Medical librarianship Services

In an era of information overload, the need for reliable and evidence-based medical information is paramount. Medical librarians fulfill this need by evaluating and organizing vast amounts of medical literature, ensuring that healthcare professionals and patients have access to accurate and trustworthy information. Through their expertise, they can critically appraise research articles, filter through information, and provide guidance on reliable sources, helping to combat the spread of misinformation. By offering evidence-based information, medical librarians support healthcare professionals in making informed decisions that ultimately improve patient care.

Medical librarians also play a vital role in enhancing health literacy within the community. Health literacy, defined as the ability to obtain and understand health information, is crucial for individuals to actively participate in their healthcare decisions. Medical librarians possess the skills to communicate complex medical information in a way that is accessible and understandable to individuals with varying levels of health literacy. By tailoring information resources to the needs of patients, medical librarians empower individuals to take an active role in managing their health. Moreover, they help bridge the gap between different socioeconomic backgrounds, cultures, and educational levels, ensuring that everyone has equal access to healthcare information and resources. Also, Medical librarians can actively engage with the community by conducting outreach programs and health education initiatives. They can collaborate with local organizations, schools, and community centers to deliver educational sessions on various health topics, such as disease prevention, healthy lifestyle choices, and understanding medical information. By reaching out to the community in this way, medical librarians promote health awareness and empower individuals to make informed decisions about their well-being.

In an era where evidence-based medicine is the gold standard, medical librarians are instrumental in supporting healthcare professionals' pursuit of evidence-based practice. They can assist in research endeavors by guiding healthcare professionals through systematic literature reviews, helping them identify relevant databases, and providing comprehensive search strategies. By streamlining the process of gathering evidence, medical librarians promote evidence-based decision-making that facilitate improved patient outcomes. They contribute to enhancing the quality and efficacy of healthcare delivery by ensuring that practitioners are up-to-date with the latest research findings.

To meet the changing needs and preferences of the modern healthcare community, medical librarians have embraced technology and digital resources. Digital platforms and online databases have increased the accessibility of medical information, allowing medical librarians to expand their reach beyond physical library settings. They utilize online tools to provide virtual support, answer questions, and offer guidance remotely. Through webinars, online tutorials, and interactive platforms, medical librarians ensure that healthcare professionals and patients can access information efficiently and conveniently. By embracing technology, medical librarians extend their impact and facilitate continuous learning within the healthcare community. A medical librarian can provide valuable training programs and workshops to the medical and interdisciplinary health team, as well as patients and community members. These programs can be designed to improve health literacy of general public and improve the research skills, information retrieval techniques, and critical appraisal of medical literature of health professionals. By offering such educational opportunities, medical librarians contribute to enhancing the knowledge and skills of healthcare professionals and empowering patients and community members to make informed decisions about their health.

A medical librarian can play a crucial role in facilitating collaborative research and scholarly communication among healthcare professionals. They can assist in literature searching, providing access to relevant resources, and offering guidance on citation management and research dissemination. By helping healthcare professionals stay up-to-date with the latest evidence and fostering collaboration among researchers, the clinical medical librarian can contribute to advancements in medical knowledge and improved patient care.
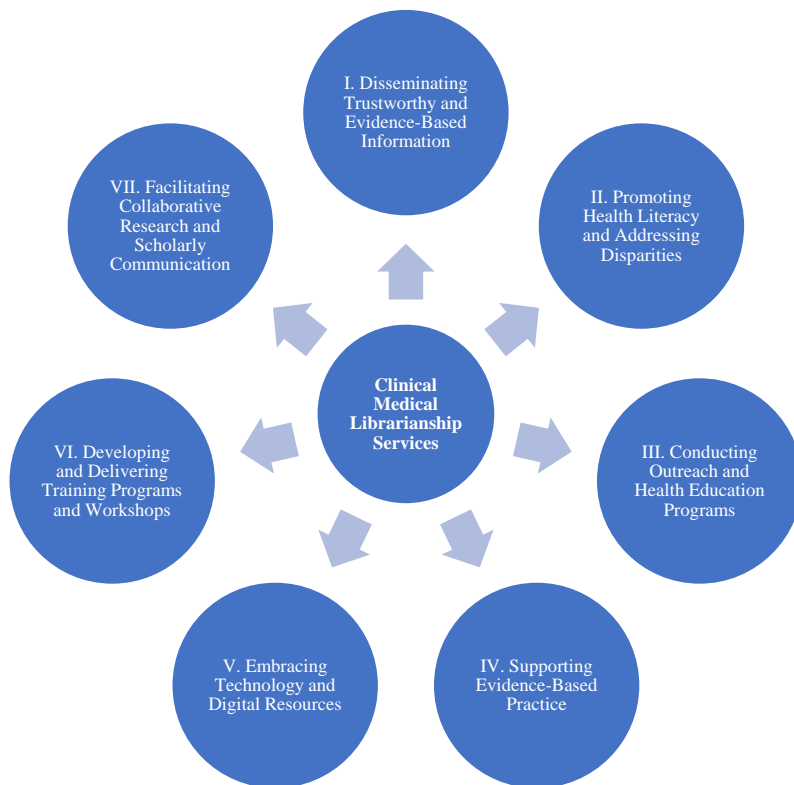
The impact of medical librarianship services extends beyond the domain of information retrieval. Research has shown that medical librarians significantly contribute to improved patient outcomes, enhanced patient education, and patient-centered care. Their involvement in research projects and systematic reviews fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and drives evidence-based practice within healthcare institutions. By providing support and resources, medical librarians enrich the professional development of healthcare professionals, ensuring they stay abreast of the latest advancements and research.

Figure 2: Medical librarianship Services. (Compiled by the Author)

Conclusion

Medical librarianship services are vital components of modern healthcare communities. Through their expertise in locating reliable information, supporting evidence-based practice, addressing health disparities, and embracing technology, medical librarians contribute to unleashing the healing power within the community. As healthcare continues to advance, recognizing the indispensable role of medical librarianship and integrating these services into healthcare systems will pave the way for improved patient care, enhanced health literacy, and better healthcare outcomes for all.

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Cimpl K. (1985). Medical librarianship: a review of the literature. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, *73*(1), 21–28.

Navigating the Economic Crisis: How Libraries Employ Open Source to Empower Patrons

C.N.D. Punchihewa

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Introduction

Libraries must adapt and innovate to continue meeting the research needs of their patrons in the face of economic crises and constrained budgetary resources. Fortunately, the emergence of open-source resources offers libraries a golden opportunity to flourish despite financial constraints. Open-source resources encompass a wide range of materials, including academic journals, databases, educational materials, software, and data repositories. These resources are frequently made freely available and open for anyone to use, alter, and distribute. Libraries can provide invaluable support to researchers, students, and the community at large in a significant way by utilizing open-access publications, learning resources, software, and data repositories. By harnessing open-source solutions, libraries can continue to serve as hubs of knowledge, education, and innovation, offering invaluable support to researchers, students, and lifelong learners.

During an economic crisis, the impact of open-source resources on libraries in fulfilling patrons' needs becomes even more pronounced and essential. Despite constrained funding, open-source materials allow libraries to keep offering helpful services and assistance to their communities. There are two significant effects of open-source resources on libraries during an economic recession.

1. **Sustaining Access to Information**

Since open-source resources are free, they represent an attractive alternative for libraries with limited resources due to budget constraints. Libraries can sustain their services without spending additional expenses by utilizing open-access journals, textbooks, and software. Open-source resources guarantee that libraries can continue to have access to vital information, scholarly content, and educational materials even if they are unable to afford pricey subscriptions. This encourages patrons to pursue ongoing education and research opportunities even in difficult circumstances. Libraries can continue to serve as important knowledge hubs in their communities despite economic difficulties. Libraries confirm their dedication to giving customers critical services and resources by embracing open-source materials.

2. Empowering Research and Innovation

The availability of open-source software and data repositories allows libraries to support research and innovation for the users despite their financial constraints. Researchers can leverage these resources to advance their studies and contribute to knowledge creation. By utilizing open-source resources, libraries inherently support the principle of equitable access to information. This can encourage advocacy for open access to research, contributing to a more equitable and inclusive scholarly ecosystem

Different types of open-source resources have been introduced to the patrons for their research and other educational activities at the library.

Open-Access Journals and Databases:

Open-access journals and databases serve as invaluable repositories of scholarly research. Libraries can grant access to their patrons for a vast collection of peer-reviewed articles across various disciplines without subscription fees with platforms like the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), PubMed Central, and Sri Lanka Journals Online (SJOL). Today, many world-famous scientific publishers such as Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, Emerald, Springer, John Wiley & Sons, etc. have offered considerable space in their commercial scholarly databases for open-access e-books and e-journals. As per the Scimago Journal & Country Rank list published in 2022, Ca-A Cancer Journal for Clinicians is the top Q1 journal which is published by Wiley-Blackwell as an open-access journal (Scimago Lab, 2023; *Sources*, 2023).

Figure 1

Scimago Journal Ranking - 2022

	Title	Type	↓ SJR	H index	Total Docs. (2022)	Total Docs. (3years)	Total Refs. (2022)	Total Cites (3years)	Citable Docs. (3years)	Cites / Doc. (2years)	Ref. / Doc. (2022)	
1	Ca-A Cancer Journal for Clinicians	journal	86.091 Q1	198	44	118	4268	30318	85	299.99	97.00	🇺🇸
2	Quarterly Journal of Economics	journal	36.730 Q1	292	36	122	2398	2141	122	14.83	66.61	🇬🇧
3	Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology	journal	34.201 Q1	485	121	328	10804	13331	156	35.47	89.29	🇬🇧

Figure 2

Scopus Journal Ranking - 2022

Scopus Preview

Sources

42,403 results

	Source title ↓	CiteScore ↓	Highest percentile ↓	Citations 2019-22 ↓	Documents 2019-22 ↓	% Cited ↓
1	Ca-A Cancer Journal for Clinicians	642.9	99% 1/366 Oncology	69,429	108	94
2	Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology	164.4	99% 1/380 Molecular Biology	32,874	200	93
3	New England Journal of Medicine	134.4	99% 1/830 General Medicine	310,795	2,313	85

View metrics for year: 2022

Open-Source Software:

Libraries can replace costly proprietary software with open-source alternatives to provide patrons with essential tools. There are many open source softwares that could be used for various kind of library operations.

Documentation: Libraries looking to upgrade their aging computers running Windows or making large purchases of computers that need a new operating system can benefit greatly from operating systems like Linux and Ubuntu. An open-source alternative to Microsoft's Windows operating system is called Linux. Ubuntu is a Linux variant. The main purpose of the computers provided in many libraries is to allow patrons to access the Internet. Ubuntu provides a perfect solution to offer the access to the Internet for users.

Also, software like LibreOffice, GIMP, Firefox, Thunderbird and PDF Creator offers users the freedom to create, edit, and design without the burden of licensing fees. With a user interface and feature set identical to other office suites, LibreOffice comes with the essential desktop apps, including a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation manager, and drawing software. GIMP is an open-source graphic application that has been modified to mimic the interface and feel of Adobe Photoshop. The web browser Firefox was created as a response to Microsoft's Internet Explorer and has become the most popular alternative to IE in recent years. The Mozilla Foundation's open-source Thunderbird is a substitute for Microsoft Outlook Express. It is a desktop email solution that is safe and secure and functions precisely like Outlook. The Open Office files could be converted into official PDF documents using the open-source PDF creator (Randhawa, 2008).

Further, libraries could initiate introducing free tools like Zotero and Mendeley for their researchers to use research and reference management tasks.

Developing Integrated Library Systems: Currently, libraries all around the world are using Koha, Evergreen and NewGenLib softwares that are most popular fully functional open-source integrated library systems. For many smaller libraries that lack the funds to buy, set up, and operate an ILS, Koha is an ideal substitute. Today, many Sri Lankan Libraries have equipped with KOHA open-source Integrated Library Management Systems for conducting the library transactions (Ramanan, 2010) .

Developing Digital Libraries: The DSpace, Greenstone and EPrints are open-source digital library software used for the construction and presentation of information collections. Among these programs, Dspace is a ground-breaking digital institutional repository that digitally records, maintains, indexes, and disseminates the intellectual products of academic research. As (Ramanan, 2010) has indicated, DSpace open-source software is the most popular software for developing digital libraries, digital archives, and institutional repositories among the Sri Lankan Libraries.

Web Publishing: WordPress is a perfect open-source alternative to build a web site from scratch. The most important aspect of this software is that it's simplified interface and content management system. Drupal is an another open-source web publishing solution that makes it simple for an individual or a group of users to publish, manage, and arrange a wide range of material on a website (Randhawa, 2008).

Access to Open Data Sources: By tapping into open data sources such as Data.gov and Zenodo, libraries can equip researchers and data analysts with an extensive array of datasets to fuel groundbreaking studies without incurring additional costs. Also, libraries can employ open-source analytics tools such as OpenRefine for data analysis.

Challenges in Embracing Open-source Resources

Digital Divide: An issue presented by the digital divide is that not all customers may have equal access to the Internet or other necessary technology. Libraries must find creative solutions, such as providing computer access and facilitating Internet connectivity for underserved communities (Selwyn, 2006).

Quality and Credibility: Ensuring the reliability of open-source content is crucial. Libraries play a vital role in educating patrons about discerning trustworthy sources and evaluating the credibility of the information they encounter (Pandey & Tiwari, 2011).

Limited Technical Expertise: Adopting open-source technologies can be hindered by limited technical expertise within library staff. Investing in professional development and training can empower librarians to navigate these resources effectively.

Sustainability: The longevity of some open-source projects may be uncertain, especially if they face funding challenges. Collaborating with other libraries and organizations to pool resources can enhance the sustainability of open-source initiatives.

Conclusion

As libraries face economic crises with no budget allocation, embracing open-source resources emerges as a viable strategy to maintain their critical role as knowledge hubs. By leveraging open-access journals, OER, open-source software, and data repositories, libraries can continue to serve their patrons without financial strain. While challenges exist, proactively addressing the digital divide, investing in information literacy programs, and supporting staff development can enable libraries to thrive in the face of adversity.

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Achievements and Awards

University of Colombo Senate Awards for Research Excellence

The University of Colombo held its Annual Research Symposium 2023 on November 2nd , 2023, on the theme of "Research Excellence and Beyond" at the Professor V. K. Samaranayake Auditorium, University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC). During the event, the Senate Awards for Research Excellence, which recognize outstanding research contributions of academics in the university, were awarded, and two general category awards were presented to Dr. D.C. Kuruppu, Deputy Librarian, and Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Colombo, for the year 2022.

University of Kelaniya

Ms. M. P. L. R. Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade-I), University of Kelaniya, successfully completed her Doctor of Philosophy at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. She was awarded the degree on the 21st of November 2023.

Best Paper Award: ICULA 2023 - Mrs. A.P.U. De Silva and

Mrs. B.G.S.P. Wimalasiri

Mrs. A.P.U. De Silva, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya, and Mrs. B.G.S.P. Wimalasiri, Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya, won the Best Paper award at the 13th International Conference of University Librarians Association (ICULA 2023) on 26th October 2023 at Mount Lavinia Hotel, Colombo. The paper title was " Intellectual freedom and censorship in code of ethics: A comparative analysis.

Receiving the Research Excellence Award - Dr. S.K. Illangarathne

The Research Excellence Awards Ceremony of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was held on 19th December 2023. This ceremony was organized for the third time to recognize scholars and ignite interest in new academic endeavours. Ven. Eethalawetunuwewe Gnanathilaka Thero, Chancellor, and Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice-Chancellor, of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, attended the Guest of honour of the ceremony. Mr. Nihal Ranasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Education, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

Vice Chancellors Award – Dr. S.K. Illangarathne,

Dr. S.K. Illangarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Technology was awarded the Vice Chancellors Award for the Researcher Having the Highest Number of Citations in the Library (1st Place) at the Research Excellence Awards Ceremony. It's noteworthy that Dr. Illangarathne's accomplishment signifies a significant milestone as the first-ever Research Excellence award bestowed upon a member of the academic community from the Rajarata University Library System.

Vice Chancellor's Award – Dr. M.M. Mashroofa, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Dr. M.M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian, SEUSL was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Award for being the "Top 10 Researchers of the University" based on the Research Impact in terms of citations and "h-index" received from Research Gate, at the 27th Commemoration of Founder's Day of the university held on 24th October, 2023.

Academic Contribution

Delivering Lecturers, Workshops and Training Sessions

Dr. D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Moratuwa, delivered a lecture on 'Information searching and literature review' for MBA in Supply Chain Management degree programme students. The lecture was held on the 4th of November, 2023, at the University Library with a hands-on session.

The level 3 students of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Department of Architecture at the University of Moratuwa participated in three online sessions on 23rd & 24th November 2023. Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted a session on 'Information Sources and searching literature' and the sessions on Plagiarism and referencing were conducted by Mr. Nishan Punchihewa.

The Center for Open and Distance Learning at the University of Moratuwa invited Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku to conduct the introductory session on 'Navigating the ocean of information' for the Industry Mentoring Programme on 12th December 2023. The external students of the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) actively engaged in the online lecture by sharing their views during the time allocated for questions.

The postgraduate students of MSc in transportation and MSc in transportation systems, Department of Civil Engineering at University of Moratuwa participated in two online sessions assigned for the research methodology module. The 'Literature searching for research" session was conducted by Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku on 16th December 2023 and Mr. Nishan Punchihewa conducted the sessions on 'Plagiarism and Referencing' on 23rd December 2023.

Workshop on "Unlocking Library Excellence: Exploring Cataloguing, Koha Database, and Institutional Repository for Modern Libraries" - University of Ruhuna Library

Under the theme of "Unlocking Library Excellence: Exploring Cataloguing, Koha Database, and Institutional Repository for Modern Libraries", a two-day workshop for the library information assistants was held on 30th November 2023 and 01st of December 2023 at the main library, University of Ruhuna. During the workshop, the following areas were covered.

Advanced Cataloguing Techniques for an Efficient Library- Mrs. Sakunthala Senevirathna – Senior Assistant Librarian

Working with Koha Database: New Trends and Practices - Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi – The Librarian

Library Ethics, Accountability, and Responsibility - Mr. Lal Pannila – Deputy Librarian

Quality Assurance for Enhancing Library Services - Dr. Theja Kuruppu Arachchi – Senior Assistant Librarian

Exploring the Process of Managing Institutional Repository and Document Delivery Service - Mr. Thilina Madushanka – Assistant Librarian

Mrs. Sakunthala Senevirathna coordinated the program.

Workshop on "How to find resources from e-Databases" – FMST, University of Ruhuna

With the coordination of the faculty library committee of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST), the Library, University of Ruhuna conducted a workshop for the final year students in the faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology in the University of Ruhuna on 18th October 2023.

The following areas were covered by the workshop.

- In-depth study of scholarly databases crucial for dissertation construction.

- Hands-on experience with techniques for effectively retrieving information from scholarly databases.

- Insights into alternative avenues for accessing commercially available publications.

- Comprehensive understanding of plagiarism and familiarity with the University of Ruhuna's robust Plagiarism Prevention Policy.

- Study of proven techniques for efficient reading and extraction of findings from research articles.

- A process involved in constructing the literature review chapter.

- Dr. Kumudu Radmpola, the Chairperson, Faculty Library committee of FMST moderated the workshop and Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian and Thilina Madushanka, Assistant Librarian served as the resource persons.

Workshop on "Academic Integrity''

The Anuradhapura Regional Centre Library, OUSL, organized a workshop on "Academic Integrity" for BA Social Science (Level 3) students on 21st December 2023 via Zoom. Mrs. H.M.P Piumali Karunarathne Abeysinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Kurunegala Regional Centre Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka, served as the resource person for this
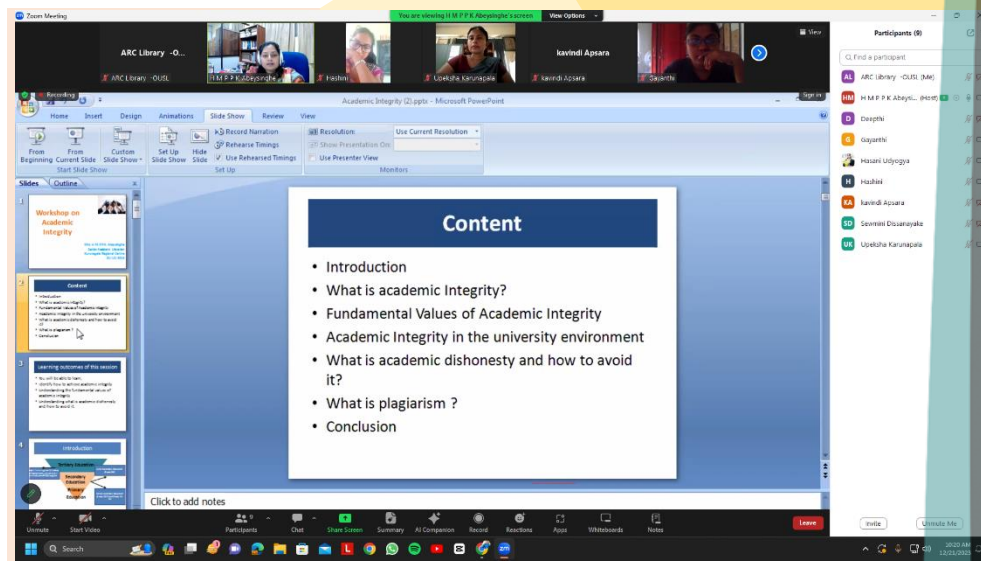
session. This workshop was coordinated by Mrs. M.A Upeksha Karunapala, Assistant Librarian of the Anuradhapura Regional Centre, and Ms. L.M.S Sewwandhi Bandara, Assistant Director of the Anuradhapura Regional Centre.

Further Kurunegala Regional Centre library has organized a workshop on Academic Integrity for Bachelor of Education Degree programme students on 29th of December 2023. Mrs. H.M.P Piumali Karunarathne Abeysinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, Kurunegala Regional Centre Library of the Open University of Sri Lanka, served as the resource person for this workshop.

Webinar Series

The Subject Liaison Librarians' Service and Interactive Media Unit organized the webinar on "How to use Grammarly for effective Writing" conducted by Dr. (Mrs.) Lakmini Marasinghe on 15th December 2023, at University of Kelaniya.

Online session on Library E-resources and services - Rajarata University.

An online session on Library E-resources and services was conducted for the 2022 batch of the Faculty of Management Studies on the 03rd of November 2023. The session was facilitated by Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University, Mrs. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian, Main Library, Rajarata University and Mr. U. Ahamed, Assistant Librarian, Main Library, Rajarata University.

Inhouse Training programme on "Searching Strategies"- Rajarata University.

An in-house training session on "Searching Strategies" for the Nonacademic staff of the Rajarata University Library system was carried out on 22nd November 2023. Mrs. Thushara Wanasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University has participated as the resource person for this training session.

Workshop on "Digital Tools for Research: Developing Digital Information Literacy Skills for Research" - Rajarata University.

A workshop on "Digital Tools for Research: Developing Digital Information Literacy Skills for Research" was conducted for the undergraduates of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies at Rajarata University on 13th December 2023. This event aimed to provide valuable insights and practical knowledge on utilizing digital tools for effective research and to enhance digital information literacy skills among the participants.

The key objectives of the workshop were,

- Motivate students to use their Information and Digital Literacy skills for the success of University Education
- Introduce online databases subscribed by the UGC to enhance research capabilities
- Share useful web links to support and enhance the success of research endeavours
- Promote students to use different and freely available IT tools in their research process

Mrs. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University and Mrs. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian, Main Library, Rajarata University were contributed as resource persons for this programme.

Workshop on Electronic Information Resources (EIR) for Academic purposes

Mrs. H M P. Piumali Karunarathna Abeysinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka served as the resource person for this workshop which was held on 20 th December 2023 for BA level - 3 students of the Kurunegala regional Center. Further, the workshop has included the hands on training on using OUSL library website and other EIRs.

Invited Lectures

Invited Lectures on Literature Searching and Reference Management for Research Methodology Course - Open University of Sri Lanka

Dr. A. U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Kandy Regional Center of The Open University, was invited to conduct lectures for BSc nursing undergraduates as part of their research methodology course. The first workshop titled "Searching and Evaluating Information" took place on 14th Dec. while the second workshop, focused on "How to Read a Research Paper" and "Reference Management with Zotero," was held on 19th Dec. These sessions provided invaluable insights and practical skills crucial for navigating information resources related to nursing research and thereby enriching the learning experience for the students.

Invited Lecture on Literature Survey

Dr. A. U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Kandy Regional Center of The Open University, was invited to conduct a session for Bachelor of Pharmacy Undergraduates as part of their research methodology course. The workshop titled " How to do a literature survey" was held on 21 st December 2023.

National Development / Community Outreach

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Project organized by the Library, University of Kelaniya

The Library, University of Kelaniya, organized a CSR project on the 23rd of November, 2023 at the "Welcome Village", Makandura, Badalgama. The Library staff spent the day with the residents of the village enthusiastically by organizing various activities including a book donation program, health camp, mobile saloon, cleaning project and arms giving. The event was successfully concluded with the entertainment program.

UOM Student Researcher

In parallel to the "Research Week 2023", the Faculty of Graduate Studies organized the "Student Researcher Competition" for the first time. Selected schools in Sri Lanka were invited to the event. An introductory workshop was held for student researchers with an eminent resource panel on 13th November 2023. The introductory workshop discussed how to be an effective researcher, nature-inspired solutions, scientific research proposals, and the art of sharing research stories. Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Prof. Rangika Halwatura, Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Dr Sandun Dasanayake, and Dr Probod Munasigha shared their knowledge and experience with students. Dr. D.N.T. Gunawardhana, the Senior Assistant Librarian, initiated this event, drawing on guidance from Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Prof. Udayangani Kulathunga, and Mrs. Ruvini Kodikara.

Research proposal completion was held on the 05th of December, 2023. The event's main objective was to create the opportunity to start their research life as early as possible. Sub objectives were to develop researchers early and bridge the school students with the university community. This event improved students' ability to conceptualize and develop research proposals. Students were also allowed to present their research ideas to an esteemed audience, offering them a platform for recognition and constructive feedback.

Research Contribution

The Library Research Symposium (LRS) -2023 University of Colombo

The library of University of Colombo successfully conducted its Library Research Symposium-2023 in parallel to the Annual Research Symposium of the University of Colombo on 7th of November 2023. This year the library marked the Library Research Symposium for the sixth consecutive year under the theme of "Libraries for Research Excellence" which specifically emphasized on and communicated the role that libraries play in fostering research excellence and the support extended to scholarly endeavors.

Senior Professor Lasantha Manawadu, Acting Vice Chancellor and Dean, Faculty of Arts of the University of Colombo graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The message from the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne via a virtual platform added a glamorous touch to the occasion. The inspiring keynote speech was delivered by Professor A.A.C. Abeysinghe of Faculty of Management & Finance of the University of Colombo.

Research Lounge, University of Moratuwa

The 17th Research Lounge was held on **30th October** 2023 in the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies under the theme "**Understanding Qualitative Research: Case Study Method". Prof Ruwan Abeysekera**, Department of Finance, University of Kelaniya, **Ms. Bavatharny Thevarajah,** Research Scholar, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa and Dr. D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian contributed to the event.

The 18th Research Lounge was held on **07th December** 2023 in the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies under the theme **"Shut-up and Write: Writer's Retreat".** Dr. Chalaka Fernando, Manager - Environmental Management Plan & Seasonal Lecture - Corporate Sustainability (College of Business), The Australian National University, Canberra, Ms. P.L.I. Wimalaratne, Lecturer, Dept. of Building Economics, UoM, Ms. C.L.W. Dissanayake, Research Scholar, Dept. of Chemical and Process Eng., UoM. and Dr. D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian contributed to the event.

The postgraduate students of MSc in transportation and MSc in transportation systems, Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa participated in two online sessions assigned for the research methodology module. The '**Literature searching for research**" session was conducted by Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku on 16th December 2023 and Mr. Nishan Punchihewa conducted the sessions on 'Plagiarism and Referencing' on 23rd December 2023.

Data Visualization Camp - University of Moratuwa

Data Visualization Camp encompassed techniques for creating effective visualizations, exploring tools and software for data visualization, best practices in visually presenting data, and engaging in discussions about the role of data visualization in different fields. Data Visualization, Literature Visualization, and Visualization for hypothesis testing were discussed with hands-on sessions.

Dr. D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, initiated this event with the insight of Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Prof. Udayangani Kulathunga and Mrs. Ruvini Kodikara. The resource panel of the Data Visualization Camp consists of Prof. Dinesh Samarasinghe, Dr Sandun M Dassanayake, Dr. Thiloka de Silva, Dr. Priyanga Dilini Talagala, Mr. Supun Gothama, Ms. Suresha Nilmini Perera.

The Data Visualization Camp comprised four main events under the UOM Research Week: an Exhibition on tools for visualization and research productivity, Data visualization workshops, a Human Library and Data viz games.

The four main sessions included at the camp:

- Picturing Research Landscapes: Unearthing Gaps through Data and Literature Visualization
- An Open-source Odyssey: Crafting Data Narratives with R Programming Language
- Smart PLS SEM Graph in Focus: Hypothesis Testing through Illustrative Designing
- Panel Discussion: Data Visualization for Knowledge Creation: Navigating the Unchartered Landscape of the Future

Research students and staff members gathered to learn and discuss various aspects of data visualization. Participants were taught various methods and strategies to make their data visualizations more impactful.

Research Publications

Mr. H.H.A.Karunarathna, Assistant Librarian of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka published a journal article titled "Eco-friendly Concepts in Architectural Features of Cave Monasteries." in Vol II, Issue 1, 53-65 (2023): The Journal of Indic Cultural Heritage (JICH-2023) Collaboration with Lalit Chandra Bharali Collage-Guwahathi, Assam and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences- NIIBS, on 23rd of November 2023.

Ms. K.W.A.M Konpola, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. I) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka published a journal article titled "Exploring the Usage and Developments of the Collection of the Ceylon Room at the Library in University of Sri Jayewardenepura" in the Vol. 5 (2): 93-102 (2023): KDU Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies (KJMS), https://doi.org/10.4038/kjms.v5i2.80 on 28th of November 2023. It was a co-authored article by Dr. N. D. Wijayasundara, Librarian of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and Mrs. M. Nishanthi, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

Paper Presentations

Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka presented a research paper titled "The awareness of disaster management among the library staff of university libraries: A case study based on the staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Library in Sri Lanka." at the 5th International Conference on Library and Information Management - (ICLIM 2023) On 29th November 2023, organized by the Department of Library and information science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Mrs. M. Nishanthi, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka presented a research paper titled "Traditional Conservation Methods Used to Preserve Indian Palm Leaf Manuscripts: A Literature Review." the Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference (DRC) 2023 On 06th December 2023, organized by the Library, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Ms. T.A.S.H. Thennakoon, Library Information Assistant of the library of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka presented a research paper titled "Publication Trends in Research on Digital Disaster Management in Libraries: a bibliometric study based on Google Scholar." at the Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference (DRC) 2023 On 06th December 2023, organized by the Library, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. It was a paper co-authored by Mr. H.U.C.S. Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

Research Hackathon for students following their research projects

Information Studies Unit of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) organized a research hackathon for research students of the BA (LIS) course. The session was held on 11th Nov. 2023 at the Main Library of the OUSL. A research hackathon is a participatory activity where students and teachers come together to solve research issues faced by students. The main aim of this session was to collaboratively discuss the research issues of the students and provide the necessary guidance to continue their research work. Mrs. Damayanthi Gunasekera, Acting Librarian, Mrs. Thushara Abeysekara, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian from OUSL Main Library participated as the resource persons of the session.

Workshop on tools for enhancing research visibility & using Zotero for reference management

An online session on tools for enhancing research visibility & using Zotero for reference management was conducted for the academic staff members of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) on 19th Dec 2023. The session shared information on different tools for research workflow, online tools for enhancing research visibility, and Zotero for reference management. Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library of the OUSL served as the resource person for the above session.

Workshop on Reference Management using Zotero

A workshop on Reference Management using Zotero was conducted for students following the Research Methodology course in the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) on 08th December 2023. This provided an opportunity for the students to learn how to use Zotero academic software to manage information resources and build references. The resource person of the workshop was Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library of the OUSL.

Quality Assurance steps carried out at the University

LQAC webinar series on "AI Horizons: Exploring the Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence", 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 online webinar series is open to anyone interested in this topic. This will function as a community development programme and a national service as well. The webinar series includes 6 sessions.

LQAC WEBINAR SERIES ON "AI HORIZONS: EXPLORING THE FRONTIERS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE"

AI Webinar Series No: 02

Transforming Education with AI: potential and pitfalls

TUESDAY
17 OCTOBER 2023

TIME
09.00 AM-12.00 PM

Via ZOOM
Meeting ID: 651 4115 6072
Passcode: LqacAi2*

RESOURCE PERSON
MR. KASUN MUNASINGHE
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA, SRI LANKA

REGISTER NOW

Library Quality Assurance Cell
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

The 02nd webinar "**Transforming Education with AI**: **Potential an**d **Pitfalls**" was conducted by Mr. Kasun Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya on 17th October 2023 from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm via ZOOM.

The recording link : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3Nq8kDl_IQ

Student Support Services

Workshop on Introduction to Data Analysis

A workshop on introduction to data analysis was held on 11th Nov 2023 for the research students of the BA (LIS) course of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) at the Main Library of the OUSL. This provided students with hands-on experience in creating a data sheet, running descriptive statistics and developing graphs and charts using Microsoft Excel. This was conducted by Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library of the OUSL.

The Opening of the Indian Corner of the Library, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo

The Opening of the "Indian Corner" of the Library, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo was held on 5th October 2023. The event commenced with a welcome address from Prof. P.K. Perera, the Dean of the Faculty of Indigenous Medicine. Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo graced the event as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honor of the event was Dr. Satyanjal Pandey, Deputy High Commissioner of India. Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna, Acting Librarian, University of Colombo and Mr. K.A.S Edward, Registrar, University of Colombo, and several academic staff members, administrative staff members, and students of the Faculty attended the event. Over 130 books related to Ayurveda, Indian Culture and History were donated by the High Commission of India to develop the "Indian Corner" of the Library. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mrs. P. M. Ayomi, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Indigenous Medicine.

The Opening of the CCIS Library Collection at the Library, University of Colombo

The Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) of the University of Colombo transferred its library collection to the Main Library of the University on 16th October 2023. The CCIS is a Centre that promotes research and knowledge on contemporary India and was initiated in 2012 under an MOU between the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka and the University of Colombo.

The collection was officially handed over to the Library by Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo. Dr. Satyanjal Pandey, Deputy High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, witnessed the transfer and recorded His Excellency's appreciation. The event was attended by the Deans of Faculties, Mrs Sajeewanie D. Somaratna, the Acting Librarian, Dr U. P. Prasad Serasinghe, the Acting Director of the CCIS, and various staff members.

The collection consists of more than a thousand books in English, Sinhala, and Hindi on various topics such as History, Arts, Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Culture, and Biographies, etc. The CCIS collection is available for reference to CCIS researchers and University of Colombo library users.

Any other news

Farewell to Mr. M. A. Milton

Mr. M. A. Milton, who served as a Senior Assistant Librarian at the Main Library, University of Colombo, retired from his service on 30th September 2023. Mr. Milton joined the University of Colombo Library in 2018 as a Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade I). During his six-year tenure at the University of Colombo, he served as the Head of the Cataloguing Division of the Main Library and was temporarily in charge of the Faculty of Nursing Library.

Mr. Milton holds a bachelor's degree in Sinhala as well as a master's degree in library and information sciences from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and University of Kelaniya, respectively. Before joining the University of Colombo, he served at the National Library and Documentation Services Board, the University of Rajarata, and the National Centre for Advanced Studies (NCAS) as well. His career roles as a teacher, lecturer, and librarian have enriched his life with diverse experience in various sectors. In addition, Mr. Milton was involved in various professional associations, such as University Teachers Association and University Librarians Association, and he served as the Editor in Chief of the "Sri Lanka Journal of Advance Social Studies" which was published by the NCAS from 2011 to 2015.

The Library of the University of Colombo is thankful to Mr. M. A. Milton for the service rendered and for his dedication. We wish him the best of health, happiness, and success in his new journey in life.

Establishment of the Library Committee - Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo

The Sri Palee Campus is the only Campus under the roof of the University of Colombo established in 1999. Initiating a Library Committee at the Sri Palee Campus is a very significant and historic milestone for the Sri Palee Library. The first meeting of the Library Committee was held on 12th December 2023 at the Research Centre of the Sri Palee Campus. It was chaired by Dr. Prathibha Mahanamahewa, the Rector of the Sri Palee Campus and the convener of the committee above was Dr. (Mrs.) C.K. Gamage, Senior Assistant Librarian (cover up) at the Sri Palee Campus.

" Chathurmana" Library Exhibition to celebrate literacy and reading months

The Kandy Regional Center Library at the Open University of Sri Lanka held an engaging exhibition: "Chathurmana" from 21st to 23rd October 2023, as part of the literacy and reading month celebrations. Students and staff from the centre displayed their skills in painting, photography, poetry, and oratory, creating a lively atmosphere at the Kandy Regional Center Library. This pioneering exhibition guided by Dr. A.U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian, with the support of the regional centre staff, received much appreciation from students and staff. Professor Madhubhashini Hewage, a respected Communication expert, graced the event as Chief Guest. An expert panel of reviewers of poetry, photography and painting reviewed the exhibits and certificates were awarded for outstanding contributions. Further, students and staff received the opportunity to display their music and dancing talents at the event making it a memorable and inspiring experience for all attendees.

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