



# UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA NEWSLETTER

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## ULA events

### Global Library Summit (GLS25) in New Delhi



The University Librarians' Association (ULA) of Sri Lanka was an official collaborator with the Global Library Summit (GLS25) organized by the South Asian University (New Delhi) and LIS Academy (Bangaluru) held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the South Asian University, New Delhi. Dr (Mrs) Pradeepa Wijetunga (President of the ULA) delivered her keynote address on '*Alleviating poverty through eradication of information poverty: leveraging collaborative strategies among South Asian libraries*.' Mr T Ramanan (General Secretary to the ULA) presented his joint papers on 'Redefining the Intellectual Work and Plagiarism in the AI World – New Roles of Librarians' with Dr Wijetunga and on '*Heritage Archiving and Preservation of Buddhist and Cultural Manuscripts: A Comparative Study of Tawang and adjoining Monasteries (Arunachal Pradesh), India and the Southern Province of Sri Lanka*' with Dr Udaya Cabral (Deputy Director of the National Library & Documentation Services Board, Sri Lanka). Dr N M Karannagoda (Treasurer, ULA) presented his paper on '*Technologies for Libraries: A Bibliometric Analysis Based on Google Scholar*.' The President and Secretary of the ULA had discussions with key players of the GLS25 and vendors that sponsored the Summit. At the closing ceremony, the Summit Organizing Committee officially handed over the next GLS to Sri Lanka, which was received by Dr Pradeepa Wijetunga (President, ULA) and Dr Preeti Liyanage (President of the Sri Lanka Library Association).

### Webinar on Scholarly Publishing for LIS Professionals

The University Librarians Association (ULA) successfully organized a webinar titled "**Scholarly Publishing for LIS Professionals**" to enhance the academic publishing knowledge of Library & Information Sciences (LIS) professionals.

The session was conducted on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 by Dr C. C. Jayasundara, Librarian of the University of Kelaniya, who shared key insights into the scholarly publishing process, offering valuable guidance for those seeking to engage more effectively in academic writing and publication.

The session provided an excellent opportunity for LIS professionals to deepen their understanding of the publishing landscape and strengthen their academic contributions.



# Scholarly Publishing for LIS Professionals

The webinar will cover the following areas

Manuscript preparation

Journal selection

Peer review process

Authorship

Publication ethics

Publication fees

Indexing, archiving, and open access



Resource Person

**Dr. C. C. Jayasundara**

Librarian, University of Kelaniya

BA (Star) (Ruhuna), PgC English Linguistics (Birmingham City, UK),  
MSc (Sheffield, UK), DPhil (South Africa), AALIA (CP) (Australia)

## For Registration



**13 February, 2025**

**10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

**Via Zoom**

**All LIS professionals are invited**

**Organized by the University Librarians' Association, Sri Lanka**

For more information contact:

**Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara - Training Officer - ULA**

**071-0789947/ trainingofficer@ulasl.lk**

## Milestones and Achievements

### Promotions

MRS. HIRUNI KANCHANA UKWATTAGE



With great pleasure, we announce that Mrs. Hiruni Kanchana Ukwattage has been promoted to Deputy Librarian of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. This new appointment witnesses her academic, professional, research, and national contributions to the development of the Library and Information Science sector.

MRS. MP RAJAPAKSHA



We are pleased to announce that Mrs. M. P. Rajapaksha, has been promoted to the Senior Assistant Librarian Grade I of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

### Joining Prestigious International Library Associations in 2025

U. Ahamed, Assistant Librarian of the Main Library of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, has successfully received membership in the International Federation of Library Association and Australian Library and Information Association in 2025.

### International Conference Committee Appointment – DCMI 2025



(Meta)data at the Core: Bridging Human Knowledge and AI Innovation

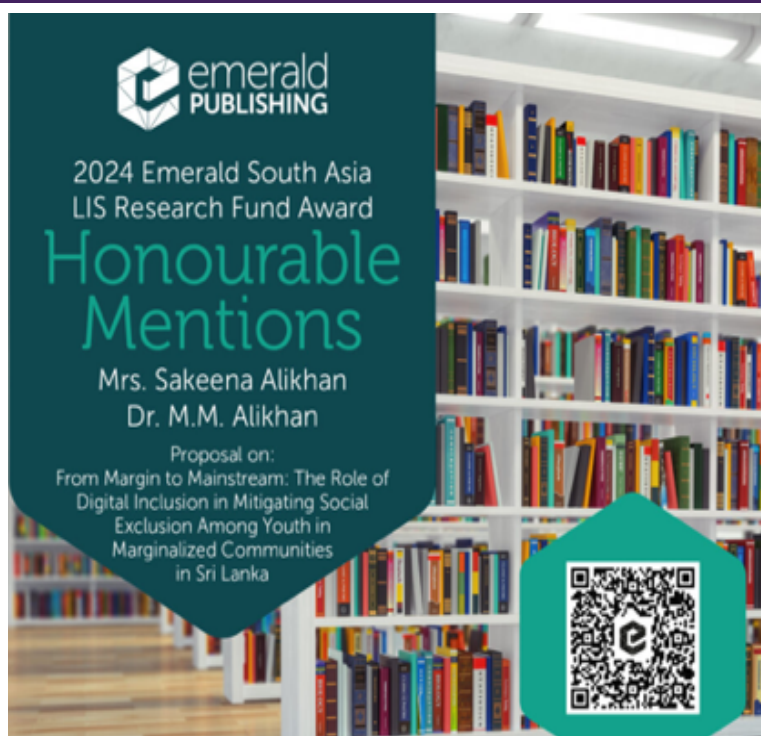
Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Colombo, has been appointed as a member of the Organizing Committee and Co-Chair for Best Practices for DCMI 2025, the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications, which will take place at the University of Barcelona, Spain, in October. She has been actively involved with DCMI for over a decade and has been serving on the DCMI Education Committee since 2022. (Link to the DCMI 2025: <https://www.dublincore.org/conferences/2025>)



## Honourable Mention at the Emerald South Asia LIS Research Fund Award 2024

The University of Colombo Library proudly congratulates Mrs. Sakeena Alikhan, Senior Assistant Librarian, for receiving an Honourable Mention in the Emerald South Asia LIS Research Fund Award 2024. We celebrate her achievement and wish her continued success in all her future endeavours!

URL: <https://www.emeraldgroup-publishing.com/our-awards/region-al-awards>



## Awards



Professor Ruwan Gamage of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, have been awarded the 2024 Emerald South Asia LIS Research Fund Award for their research, "Assessing the Impact of CATMELK: A Custom GPT-Based Cataloging Tool on Efficiency, Accuracy, and Resource Utilization in Sri Lankan Libraries." The certificate was awarded on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Radisson Hotel, Colombo.

Mr. Sundar Radhakrishnan (Regional Director - Emerald South Asia) and Mr. S. Vinay Kumar (Senior Business Manager, Emerald South India & Sri Lanka) attended this occasion, representing Emerald Publishers, UK. Their innovation, CATMELK, a custom GPT for instantly cataloguing library materials, has been praised as an innovative tool that assists catalogers in efficiently and effectively reducing the daunting task of bibliographic description. CATMELK converts book images, covers, titles, copyrights, and contents pages into MARC21 records. It also adheres to the Descriptive Bibliographic Framework (DBIB) in cataloguing library materials and international standards.



Mrs.R.M Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, achieved first place in the best paper awards in the International Category at the Conference on "Building Sustainable Libraries in Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration" held at Bharathidasan University in Tiruchirappalli, India on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Her research paper titled "Exploring Constructive Alignment in Library and Information Science Education: A Case Study Approaches from the University of Kelaniya".



Mrs. R.M Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, received third place in the best paper awards in the International Category at the Conference on "Building Sustainable Libraries in Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration" held at Bharathidasan University in Tiruchirappalli, India on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. The paper titled "AI for Management and Organization Research: Exploring Academic Research Practices Among Library and Information Science Undergraduate Students". She was a co-author of this collaborative paper.





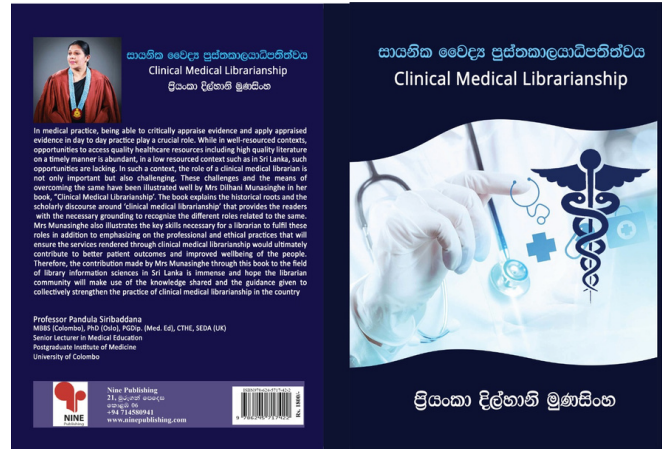
Book Launch

නවම හොඳ චක්‍ර දැක්ම

BOOK LAUNCH



ප්‍රියංකා මුණසිංහ මහත්මිය විසින් රචිත "සායනික වෛද්‍ය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිත්වය - Clinical Medical Librarianship" යන ග්‍රන්ථය නිල වශයෙන් එළිදැක්වීම කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ පුස්තකාල හා විද්‍යාපන විද්‍යා අධ්‍යයන අංශයේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ කථිකාවාර්ය (සජිත වාර්ෂික නිවාඩු) ප්‍රියංකා දිල්හානි මුණසිංහ මහත්මිය විසින් රචිත "සායනික වෛද්‍ය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිත්වය" යන ග්‍රන්ථය එළිදැක්වීමේ උත්සවය 2025 පෙබරවාරි 20 වන දින කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ කාර්ය මණ්ඩල සංවර්ධන මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ දී පවත් වන ලදී.



මෙම ග්‍රන්ථය වෛද්‍ය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිත්වයේ සැලකිය යුතු දියුණුවක් සනිටුහන් කරන අතර එය ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල හා විද්‍යාපන විද්‍යා විෂයමාලාවට ඇතුළත් කිරීම අධ්‍යාපනඥයින් සහ සිසුන් යන දෙඅංශයේම දැනුම පදනම සහ අධ්‍යාපනික ප්‍රවේශයන් ශක්තිමත් කිරීමේ අත්‍යවශ්‍යතාව නිරූපණය කරයි. විශේෂයෙන්, මෙම ප්‍රකාශනය ශ්‍රී ලාංකික සන්දර්භයේ අනන්‍ය අවශ්‍යතා විශේෂයෙන් ආමන්ත්‍රණය කරන පළමු ප්‍රකාශනය වන අතර, එය රටේ වෛද්‍ය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිත්වයේ අධ්‍යයන හා වෘත්තීය සංවර්ධනය සඳහා අත්‍යවශ්‍ය සම්පතක් බවට පත් කරයි.

කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ පුස්තකාල හා විද්‍යාපන විද්‍යා අධ්‍යයන අංශයේ අංශප්‍රධානී ආචාර්ය ප්‍රියන්තිකා වනිගසූරිය මහත්මිය විසින් විද්වත් සභාව පිළි ගනු ලැබූ අතර, පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිත්වය සහ වෛද්‍ය විද්‍යාවන් අතර තොරතුරු පරතරය පියවීම සඳහා මෙම ප්‍රකාශනයේ වැදගත්කම ඇය අවධාරණය කළාය.

කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ උපකුලපතිනි ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය නිලන්ති ද සිල්වා මහත්මිය ප්‍රධාන ආරාධිත අමුත්තා ලෙස උත්සවයට සහභාගී වූවාය. කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ පුස්තකාල හා තොරතුරු විද්‍යා අංශයේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය ඩබ්ලිව්.ඒ. වීරසූරිය මහතා විසින් තේමාත්මක දේශනය පවත්වන ලද අතර, සාක්ෂි මුල පර්වයන් සහ සෞඛ්‍ය සේවා ප්‍රතිඵල කෙරෙහි වෛද්‍ය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිත්වයේ බලපෑම ඉස්මතු කරන ලදී. තවද, ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය (විනේතා) එම්.කේ. වීරසිංහ මහතාගේ පැමිණීම ද මෙම අවස්ථාව අර්ථවත් කළේය.

සමාජ විද්‍යා පීඨයේ පීඨාධිපති මහාචාර්ය එම්.එම්. ගුණතිලක මහතා, වෛද්‍ය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිත්වය සමකාලීන සෞඛ්‍ය සේවා සැකසුම් තුළට ඒකාබද්ධ කිරීම පිළිබඳ ශාස්ත්‍රීය අවබෝධයක් ලබා දුන්නේය. කොළඹ විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ පශ්චාත් උපාධි වෛද්‍ය ආයතනයේ අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය (විනේතා) සේනක රාජපක්ෂ මහතා, වෛද්‍ය අධ්‍යාපනය සහ පර්යේෂණ සඳහා යාවත්කාලීන තොරතුරුවල අවශ්‍යතාව හුව දක්වමින් පුස්තකාල හා විෂය විෂයාධාරාවට කතා තුමියගේ දායකත්වය අගය කරමින් විශේෂ අදහස් දැක්වීය.

පොතේ සාර්ථකත්වයට සහ උත්සවයට දායක වූ සැමට කෘතඥතාව පළ කරමින්, කතුවරිය වන කොළඹ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ වෛද්‍ය පශ්චාත් උපාධි ආයතනයේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ සහකාර පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිනි ප්‍රියංකා දිල්හානි මුණසිංහ මහත්මියගේ හෘදයාංගම ස්තූතිය පළ කරමින් උත්සවය අවසන් විය.

## Research Contributions

### Presenting Research Outputs and Extending Academic Contributions at the International Conference of Bharathidasan University, India

Library academics from the University of Peradeniya recently participated in the International Conference on “Building Sustainable Libraries for Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration” held at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, India, from 7 to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This conference provided a platform for sharing insights into sustainable libraries, the role of technology, and collaborative practices within the field of librarianship.



#### Keynote Contributions and Knowledge Sharing:

Dr. R. Maheshwaran, the librarian of the University of Peradeniya, was invited as a guest speaker during the Knowledge Sharing session, which was held as a parallel event to the conference. Dr Maheshwaran delivered an engaging speech on “Building Sustainable Libraries: A Collaborative Approach,” highlighting the importance of collaboration in establishing sustainable library systems that meet communities' evolving needs.



#### Chaired Academic Sessions:

In addition to the keynote contribution, four senior academics from the University of Peradeniya Library were honoured to chair academic sessions at the conference, showcasing the university's expertise and leadership in library science. The library academics were Dr Champa Alahakoon, Dr Chamani Gunasekera, Mr Sunil Premaratne, and Mr Ajantha Dharmarathne. These scholars led important academic discussions, further advancing the role of libraries in sustainable community development and the integration of technology and collaboration in modern librarianship.







### Research Presentations:

Several academics from the University of Peradeniya also presented their research outputs at the conference. These contributions provided valuable insights into the latest advancements in library practices and their impact on academic and community development. The presentations highlighted the growing importance of sustainability, technology, and collaborative efforts in shaping the future of libraries and information services.

**Dr. Champa N.K. Alahakoon**, Deputy Librarian - 'A Comprehensive Taxonomy of Artificial Intelligence Applications in Library Domains'.

**Dr. Chamani Gunasekera**, Deputy Librarian - 'Artificial Intelligence in Academic Libraries: Optimizing Operational Effectiveness and User Experience'.

**Mr. A.B.N.G.S. Premaratne**, Senior Assistant Librarian - 'Enhancing Library Facilities in Child Care Institutions: Insights from the Central Province of Sri Lanka'.

**Mr. A. Dharmaratahne**, Senior Assistant Librarian - 'Utilization of Social Media (SM) for Teaching and Learning Purposes by School Librarians in the Kandy District, Sri Lanka'.

**Mrs. S. Weerasinghe** 'Unveiling the Role of University Librarians in Evaluating University Rankings in Sri Lankan State Universities'.

**Mr. B.E.S. Bandara**, Assistant Librarian - 'Remote Reference Assistance: Challenges and Opportunities in Sri Lankan Academic Libraries'.

**Mrs. M.T.C.N.S. De Silva**, Assistant Librarian - 'Investigation of the Impact of Perceived Quality on Customer Retention: with Special Reference to State University Libraries in Sri Lanka'.

**Mr. S.A. Jeewan**, Assistant Librarian - 'Creation and Interpretation of Metadata for Epigraphic Records: A Library and Information Science Perspective on the Mottayakallu Rock Inscription in the Ampara district of Sri Lanka'.

**Mrs. M.T.C.N.S. De Silva**, Assistant Librarian - 'Investigation of the Impact of Perceived Quality on Customer Retention: with Special Reference to State University Libraries in Sri Lanka'.





## Lecture on "Maximizing Research Impact & Achieving Academic Excellence: Enhancing Scholarly Output and Publishing Reputation" - Kotelawala Defence University

The session on "Maximizing Research Impact & Achieving Academic Excellence: Enhancing Scholarly Output and Publishing Reputation" was held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the FGS Auditorium, KDU, as a knowledge-sharing session which the Library organized in collaboration with the Dean of Research and Development, KDU. Professor Meththika Vithanage, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, served as the session's speaker. Professor Vithanage provided a comprehensive dialogue on the significance of research impact and academic excellence, emphasizing the necessity of high-impact publishing, international research collaborations, and securing global research funding. The lecture also addressed contemporary challenges in academic research, including limited funding opportunities, a lack of collaborative research culture, and insular research perspectives. The session was graced by Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara, VSV, USP, PSC, MMaritimePol, BSc (DS), and the Vice Chancellor of KDU as the Chief Guest. The occasion was also honoured by the presence of Major General Chinthaka Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Defence and Administration), along with the Deans of Faculties, Directors, Academic Staff, Military Officers, and students.



## Research Lounge - University of Moratuwa

The 25<sup>th</sup> Research Lounge was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies boardroom under the theme 'Research Ethics: Upholding Integrity and Responsibility in Academic Research'. Prof. (Mrs.) Thanuja Sandanayake, Chairperson of the University Ethics Review Committee (UERC) and Professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Information Technology, and Dr. (Mrs.) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Moratuwa, contributed to the event.



This presentation highlighted the vital role of research ethics in fostering integrity, accountability, and trust in academic research. The session explored core ethical principles, including respect for participants, data integrity, and responsible authorship. Participants gained insights into common ethical challenges, such as informed consent, data protection, and conflicts of interest, alongside practical guidance on navigating ethical approval processes and maintaining high research standards in line with the University Ethics Review Committee's (UERC) guidelines.

## Workshop on research support: Enhancing Research and Commercialization - University of Moratuwa



The workshop, which was co-organized by the Office of Research, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Library, and the Enterprise on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025, aimed to educate the university's academic staff on the current research landscape, available facilities, and support provided by the university. It occurred in the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering auditorium at the University of Moratuwa.

The event featured six key sessions covering the university's research ecosystem, publication trends, funding opportunities, research degree procedures, commercialization, and library support. Prof. Ruwan Gopura/Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies; Prof. Asanka Rodrigo/Chairman, Board of Studies for Multidisciplinary Research Degrees; Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara/Director, Office of Research, Ms Thushari Seneviratne/Senior Assistant Librarian, Library, Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana/Senior Assistant Librarian, Library, Dr Ajith Pasqual/Director, Enterprise and Mrs. Amali Hettige/Manager Enterprise Contributed as resource persons.



## Research papers published

Rathnabahu, N. (2025). Exploring Constructive Alignment in Library and Information Science Education: A Case Study Approaches from the University of Kelaniya. In Balasubramani, R et al. (Eds.), Building Sustainable Libraries in Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration Vol 1 (194-201). Tamilsuvadi.

Munasighe, D; Senarathna, D; Rathnabahu, R.M.N; Wanigasooriya, P and Harshani, K.R.N (2025). AI for Management and Organization Research: Exploring Academic Research Practices Among Library and Information Science Undergraduate Students. In Balasubramani, R et al. (Eds.), Building Sustainable Libraries in Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration Vol 1 (267-273). Tamilsuvadi.



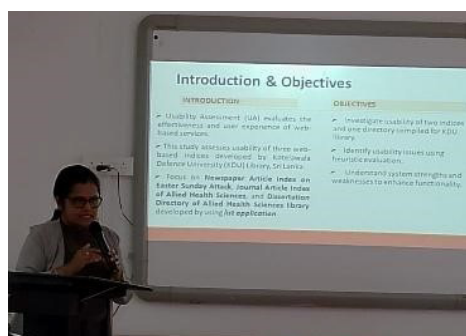
## International Collaboration

### Expanding the Horizons with Robert Gordon University (Scotland, UK)

The School of Law & Social Sciences (SLSS) of Robert Gordon University (Aberdeen, Scotland, UK) held its International Research Conference from 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Mr T Ramanan presented his paper on 'Fake Information and Legal Framework' with Ms Palika Vithana, a PhD candidate at the same university.



### ICBSL 2025



Mrs. UD Hiruni Kanchana, Deputy Librarian of Kotelawala Defence University, attended the International Conference on "Building Sustainable Libraries for Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration" (ICBSL 2025) at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, India, from 7 to 10 February 2025 and presented the paper titled Usability Assessment of Web-Based Indices of Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka.

### Empowering Sustainable Information Hubs : Invited Speech at the International Conference, Trichy, India

Dr. W. J. Jeyaraj, the Librarian of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, delivered an invited speech titled "Empowering Sustainable Information Hubs through Human Capital Synergy" at the International Conference on Building Sustainable Libraries for Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration, held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, South India. In his address, Dr. Jeyaraj explored innovative strategies for strengthening modern knowledge infrastructures by harnessing the potential of human resources.



## University of Kelaniya Library becomes a partner of the ERASMUS+ CBHE Project

The Library of the University of Kelaniya became a partner of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project, co-founded by the European Union. The project, titled "Developing Information, Research and Digital Skills for Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal (NSIS)", aims to enable Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in these countries to provide enhanced information support for research, business, and innovation.



This 03-year project (December 2024 - November 2027) is a transformative initiative that aims to empower HEIs and bridge the gap between academia, business, and research. By implementing innovative training programs, digital learning tools, and quality assurance mechanisms, the project will enhance the role of Information Specialist professionals in supporting higher education, business, and research. University of Peradeniya and the University of Ruhuna are also among the Sri Lankan partners of the project, along with the University of Kelaniya.

## Kick-off meeting of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) Project

Dr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, participated in the kick-off meeting of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project held from March 10–14, 2025, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The project, titled Developing Information, Research, and Digital Skills for Business, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, is co-funded by the European Union. It aims to strengthen higher education institutions (HEIs) in these countries by enhancing Library and Information Services (LIS) to support research, business, and innovation. Recognizing the vital role of LIS in connecting academia, industry, and research, the initiative seeks to improve access to knowledge and resources for economic and technological advancement. Three Sri Lankan universities; the University of Peradeniya, the University of Kelaniya, and the University of Ruhuna are actively engaged in this effort. Representatives from these institutions and international counterparts convened to discuss project objectives, implementation strategies, and expected outcomes. The discussions focused on capacity building, digital transformation, and strengthening collaboration among HEIs and industries. This initiative is expected to contribute significantly to the development of research-driven innovation in the region.





## Sharing Knowledge and Expertise at the International Conference Organized by Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Bharathidasan University

Holy Cross College (autonomous), affiliated with Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, India, recently organized an international conference themed "Bridging Tradition, Knowledge and Ethics: Innovating Academic Libraries, Indigenous Wisdom, and Research Practices for a Sustainable Future." This conference was held as a parallel event to the International Conference of Bharathidasan University.

The conference brought together renowned library academics and experts to discuss various aspects of academic libraries, indigenous knowledge, and sustainable research practices. Among the distinguished participants, several library academics from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, were invited as resource personnel.

### *Key Contributions from the University of Peradeniya:*

Dr. R. Maheshwaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, served as the Sri Lankan coordinator for the conference and delivered the guest speech on "Sri Lanka University System and Libraries: UGC Contribution". His speech highlighted the pivotal role of Sri Lankan universities and their libraries in fostering academic growth and knowledge dissemination.

In addition, two library academics from the University of Peradeniya were invited to deliver keynote speeches:

- Mr. Sunil Premaratne, Head/Senior Assistant Librarian of Acquisitions at the Main Library, presented on "Fair Use of Copyright Law: The Need for Awareness Among Researchers for Ethical Use of Published Works." His talk emphasized the importance of understanding copyright law to ensure the ethical use of academic resources.
- Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Head/Senior Assistant Librarian of the Agriculture Library, delivered a keynote on "Guardians of Knowledge: The University of Peradeniya Library – An Insight into Sri Lanka's Largest Academic Library Network." His presentation provided valuable insights into the university's extensive library network and its role in advancing academic research.







### ***Other Notable Presentations:***

Further contributing to the success of the conference, two additional library academics from the University of Peradeniya participated as resource personnel:

- Mr. B. E. S. Bandara, Head/Assistant Librarian of the Medical Library, presented on “Revolutionizing Library Stock Verification: Lessons Learned from State University Libraries.” His session discussed innovative methods for improving library stock verification processes in academic libraries.
- Mr. S. A. Jeewan, Head/Assistant Librarian of the Ceylon Collection and Reference Services, shared his expertise on "Managing Special Collections in Academic Libraries: Strategies, Challenges, and Opportunities." His presentation explored the unique challenges and strategies in managing special collections within academic institutions.

The conference served as a platform for sharing knowledge and fostering international collaboration among library professionals, contributing to the advancement of academic libraries and sustainable research practices.



**Bharathidasan University , Tiruchirappalli, India**

Mrs. R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, attended the International Conference on "Building Sustainable Libraries in Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration," held at Bharathidasan University in Tiruchirappalli, India, on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



Mrs. R.M Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya, serves as a Rapporteur at the International Conference on "Building Sustainable Libraries in Connecting Communities: Librarianship, Technology, and Collaboration" held at Bharathidasan University in Tiruchirappalli, India on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.





## National Development

### Academic Contribution: Postgraduate, undergraduate or diploma level LIS programmes, Information Literacy Teaching, Guest and visiting Lectures

Mrs M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Medicine Library, KDU, has served as a visiting lecturer for the National Security & Strategic Studies Course (NS & SS) conducted by the National Defence College (NDC), Sri Lanka. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, she lectured on Literature Review under the Research Methodology module of the course at the NDC.



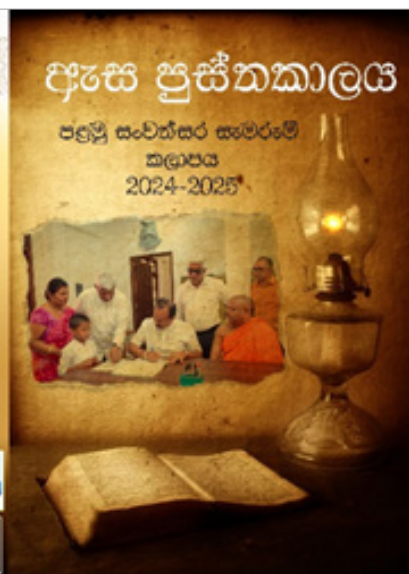
### A Guest Lecture to Commemorate Reading Month 2024

Kegalu Balika Vidyalaya has organized an event to commemorate the reading month 2024. The event was held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 09:00 onwards at the school auditorium. Dr. P. Wanigasooriya, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, and Mr. U. Ahamed, Assistant Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, joined as the chief guests and delivered guest lectures. The librarian of the public library, Kegalle district, and the school librarians graced the event.



## Ethkandawaka ESA Library project

R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya, coordinated the Ethkandawaka ESA Library project, which celebrated its first anniversary on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This library has become a vital community hub, enhancing literacy and educational opportunities in Ethkandawaka, Welimada, under her supervision. It offers a diverse collection of books and educational resources, engaging both children and adults. The library's success is attributed to its inclusive approach, which fosters a love for reading and promotes social cohesion. The anniversary event featured certificate awards, guest speeches, and cultural performances attended by dignitaries such as the Governor of Uva Province. The project serves as a model for community-driven initiatives, demonstrating the transformative power of education and literacy. As it continues to grow, the library remains committed to empowering individuals and communities through formal and informal education. Its achievements highlight the potential for such projects to make a lasting impact on local residents and society at large. Ms M.P.P. Dilhani, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, graced the occasion as a co-coordinator of the project.





## Akuressa Public Library Staff Visits University of Ruhuna Library for Professional Development

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025, the staff of the Akuressa Public Library visited the Library of the University of Ruhuna as part of their professional development initiative. The primary objectives of the visit were to enhance the quality of library services, increase awareness of the Koha database system, and understand effective library management practices.

During the visit, the library staff had the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions and hands-on learning experiences facilitated by expert resource persons. The session was conducted by Mr Nimal Hettiarachchi, Librarian; Mr Lal Pannila, Deputy Librarian; and Ms Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian, who shared their expertise on modern library operations, digital cataloguing, and best practices in library services.

This visit was a valuable learning experience, fostering knowledge exchange between the two libraries while strengthening professional relationships. The initiative is expected to contribute significantly to the development of improved library services at the Akuressa Public Library.



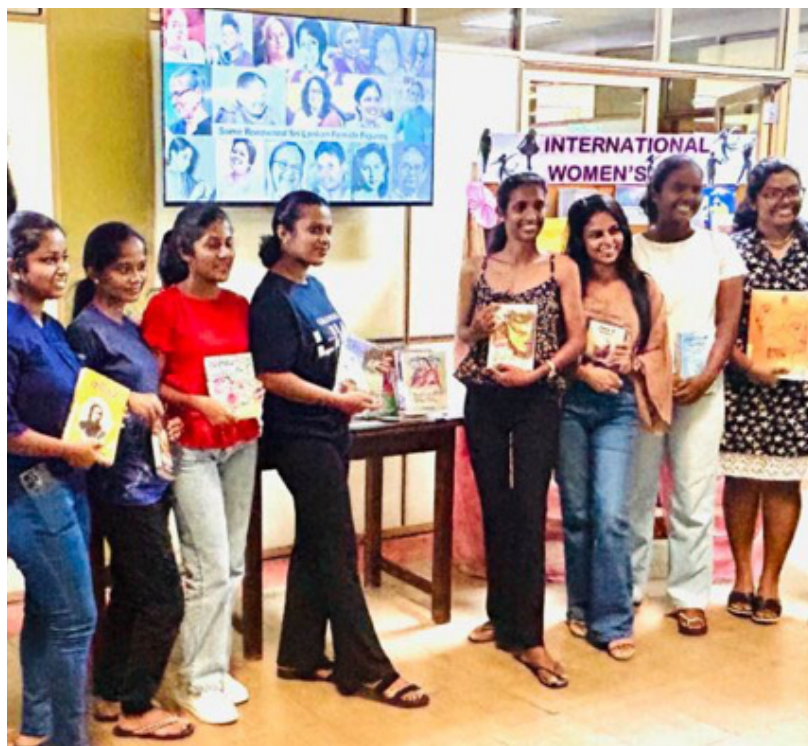


## Special Events

### University of Colombo Library Celebrates International Women's Day with Special Book Exhibition

In honour of International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, the University of Colombo Library hosted a special event to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women worldwide. The Library organized a captivating book exhibition that featured works on famous women, research related to women, and fiction highlighting female experiences. The exhibition was set up on the first floor of the main Library, where students from the University of Colombo actively participated and explored the collection.

The Library's celebration highlighted the importance of supporting and empowering women everywhere, acknowledging their invaluable role in shaping societies.



IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON MARCH 8TH  
 "EACH TIME A WOMAN STANDS UP FOR HERSELF, SHE STANDS UP FOR ALL WOMEN"  
 QUOTE BY : MAYA ANGELOU- POET, MEMOIRIST, AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST





## Training on Adobe InDesign for Library Information Assistants of University of Colombo, Library

A training session on Adobe InDesign took place on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Skill Lab in the Science Library. Mr. Madhushan Lankathilake, the Assistant Librarian at the Science Library, University of Colombo, conducted the workshop.

The session aimed to enhance the skills of Library Information Assistants in designing various materials such as newsletters, guidebooks, invitations, and flyers. Participants gained hands-on experience with InDesign tools and layout techniques, which helped boost their confidence in creating high-quality documents. This initiative emphasizes the Library's commitment to professional development and the adoption of modern technology.



**Training on Adobe InDesign**

Resource Person:  
**Mr. Madhushan Lankathilake**  
Assistant Librarian, Science Library

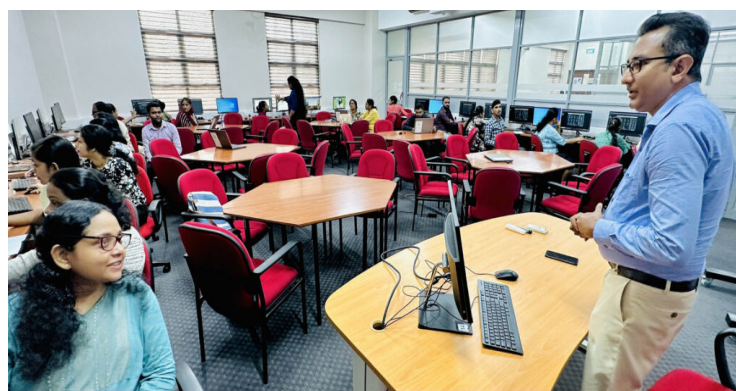
**For Whom: Library Information Assistants**

**When: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (from 9.30 am- 12.30 pm)**

**Where: Skill Lab, Science Library**

For more information contact:  
Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara, Coordinator/ Library Training & Skill Development

 **TRAINING ON ADOBE INDESIGN FOR LIBRARY INFORMATION ASSISTANTS**  
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## Sri Lanka National Defence College visited Kothalawala Defence University

A delegation of officers from Sri Lanka National Defence College (NDC) enrolled in the National Security and Strategic Studies (NS&SS) course 04/2025, visited KDU's Main Library on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025. During their visit, Mrs M.P. Rajapaksha and Mrs U.D.H. Kanchana, Deputy librarians, and Mr M.G.A. Thilanka, Assistant Librarian, conducted an introductory program on KDU library services and resources, with a special focus on electronic resources. Moreover, M.P. Rajapaksha conducted a hands-on session on "Mendeley Reference Manager" for the officers attending the event.



## Bridging Theory and Practice: Undergraduate Library Science Students Explore the PGIM Library

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 36 first-year BA (Honours) undergraduates from the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, had the invaluable opportunity to visit the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) Library at the University of Colombo.

This insightful visit was organized under the guidance of Cadre Chair Snr. Prof. Weerasinghe, Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya (Head of the Department of Library and Information



Science), and Senior Lecturer Ms. Dilhani Munasinghe (on sabbatical leave). Ms. Tharaka Sandapali and Ms. Oshani Jayamanna, Assistant Lecturers of the department, also participated in this visit. Their efforts provided students with an exceptional chance to explore the advanced resources, specialized services, and modern information management techniques employed in a prestigious postgraduate medical library.

A special note of appreciation goes to the dedicated staff of the PGIM Library for their warm hospitality and engaging session, which enriched students' understanding of specialized library services. This experience significantly broadened their perspective on the diverse functionalities of academic libraries.

A heartfelt acknowledgement is also extended to the Director of PGIM, Cadre Chair Senior Professor Senaka Rajapakse, Ms Chandima Wadasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian at PGIM, and the dedicated PGIM Library staff for their support and hospitality. Special appreciation goes to Ms. Dilhani Munasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian at the PGIM Library, who is currently on sabbatical leave as a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya. While on sabbatical, she conducted a lecture on PGIM library services and resources, playing a pivotal role in bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical exposure for future Library and Information Science professionals.



### Kandy Regional Center Library of OUSL Celebrates International Mother Language Day

To mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Mother Language Day, the Kandy Regional Center Library of OUSL created a “Language Garden” on the library premises. Opened on 21<sup>st</sup> February, the garden features language studies, dictionaries, and interactive world maps that highlight linguistic diversity.

The theme, ***“Languages Matter: Silver Jubilee Celebration of International Mother Language Day,”*** of UNESCO emphasizes the importance of preserving languages. Students and staff were invited to explore and appreciate the beauty of different languages, fostering cultural awareness and respect for linguistic heritage. The display remained open for further engagement and learning.





## Sri Lanka Library Association - Resource Person

Mrs. R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, participated as a resource person in the Syllabus Revision Workshop organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025. Mrs Nadeeka delivered her expertise on Integrating Constructive Alignment in the curriculum and teaching process in the Sri Lanka Library Association.







Mrs. R.M Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, participated as a resource person in the online workshop series on “Mastering Research: Gide to your Research Journey”, organized by the Academic Library Group 2024/2025 in Sri Lanka Library Association on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Mrs Nadeeka delivered the fundamentals of research at the workshop.

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

The Library, University of Kelaniya, organized a CSR project on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at the Peter Weerasekera Children's Home, Gampaha. The library staff enthusiastically spent the day with the children in the children's home, organizing arms-giving. The event was successfully concluded.

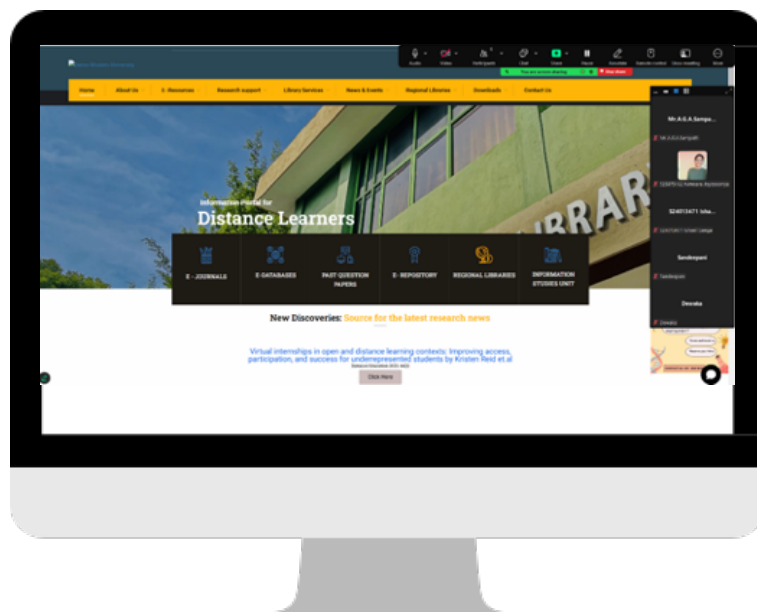


## Workshops

### Workshops conducted at OUSL

#### Research Support Workshops for BSc. Nursing Undergraduates at OUSL

Dr. A. U. Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian of OUSL, conducted two research support workshops for BSc. Nursing undergraduates of OUSL on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of January via Zoom. The sessions covered "How to Conduct a Literature Survey" and "Introduction to APA Style and Reference Management with Zotero". These workshops aimed to enhance students' research skills, guiding them in effectively finding, organizing, and citing scholarly sources.



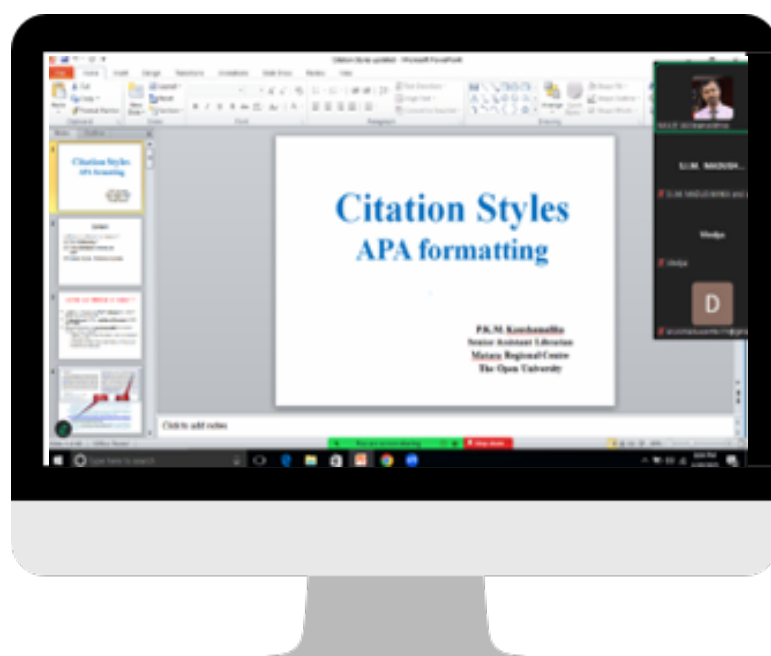
#### Library Session: Unlocking Academic Excellence: A Library Guide for New Students

The Matara Regional Centre Library of OUSL organized an informative session titled "Unlocking Academic Excellence: A Library Guide for New Students" on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon via Zoom for BMS students at the Ambalanthota Study Centre. Mrs. PKM Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian at MRC Library, conducted the session. The session aimed to introduce new students to essential library resources, research tools, and academic support services available through the MRC Library.

### Workshop: Writing with Integrity: APA Formatting

The "Writing with Integrity: APA Formatting" workshop was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 via Zoom at Matara Regional Centre Library. It was specifically designed for Level 6, B.Ed. in Primary Education Degree students and provided the necessary knowledge and skills to cite sources accurately in their academic work. Mrs. PKM Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Matara Regional Centre, served as the resource person.

During the session, students gained insights into the importance of APA citation style and its role in academic writing. The workshop covered essential aspects such as in-text citations, reference lists, and formatting guidelines. Participants also learned to identify and avoid common citation errors, ensuring their work meets academic standards.





## A technical session on Reference Management Tools

A technical session on Reference Management Tool has been delivered by Mr. Ahamed, Assistant Librarian to the final year students of the Department of Food Science, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 from 15:00 to 17:00 in Main Computer Lab. During the session, attendees learned about the essential steps for using Mendeley, including offline installation and plugin configurations. Mr. Ahamed guided participants through the process of creating a Mendeley account and demonstrated how to link online resources effectively. He also discussed methods for extracting reference lists, which are crucial for academic writing and research documentation.



## Workshop on KOHA Acquisition Module

A workshop on KOHA acquisition module has been conducted by Mr. U. Ahamed, Assistant Librarian for the Rajarata University library staff members. The theoretical and practical implementation has been demonstrated on the workshop which is conducted into two sessions on March 12<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Main Computer Lab, to cover the entire staff members in the University library system.



## Workshop on Dissertation Writing and Research Methodology; Data Analysis Session

The Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, conducted a three-day workshop on Dissertation Writing and Research Methodology. On the second day, held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Dr. (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa, led an insightful session on Data Analysis. The session covered topics including an introduction to quantitative data analysis, working with SPSS, and an introduction to qualitative data analysis, complemented by hands-on activities that enhanced participants' practical understanding.



Dr.(Mrs). T.Sritharan, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo Participated as a resource person at the Webinar series on “Guiding for Social Science Research” conducted by Sri Lanka Library Association. It was held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025. She delivered a lectures on “Literature Review for Research”.



## German Days 2025 Celebrated at the University of Kelaniya

The German Days 2025, organized by the Centre for International Affairs, German Studies Section of the Department of Modern Language and the University Library with the support of the Goethe Institute Sri Lanka and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), were celebrated on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 at the University of Kelaniya.







Days to offer a journey through Germany, language, culture, study, and career opportunities were held at the University Library on the said two days which were attended by the university community and more than 300 children from schools offering German as a subject.

The German Days started with a reading session by the acclaimed poet and essayist Max Czollek from Germany which was successfully held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, with the participation of staff and students of German Studies. The event was organised by the Centre for International Affairs in collaboration with the Goethe Institute, Sri Lanka German Days also marked a donation of German books to the University Library by the family of late Mr. Friedhelm Greve from Germany. The collection included rare books, dictionaries, encyclopedias and complete works of renowned German authors.

The Cultural Show of German Days was held at the Sri Dharmaloka Hall of the University under the auspices of Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, on 29<sup>th</sup> of January. The proceedings commenced with the welcome address by Senior Professor Neelakshi C. Premawardhena, Director of the Centre for International Affairs. Following the insightful speech by the Vice-Chancellor the audience was addressed by Dr. Sudath Senarath, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities; Ven. Senior Professor Nedalagamuwe Dhammadinna Thero, Head of the Department of Modern Languages; Mr. Stefan Winkler, Director of the Goethe Institute; Mr. Rakitha Karunaratna, Head of the Language Department, Goethe Institute; Ms. Nimaya Manudeva, Regional Officer German Academic Exchange Service; and Mr. Nadeesha Palliyaguru, President of the Sri Lanka German Teachers' Association. The Winners of the Creative Writing competition held for the students of German were awarded certificates by Ven. Senior Professor Nedalagamuwe Dhammadinna Thero and Mr. Stefan Winkler.

Over 300 undergraduates of German presented items that included a dramatized excerpt from *Verwandlung* - a German novel by Franz Kafka, an adaptation of the Ballad *Erk König* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a video presentation by the fourth-year students of German Studies on their journey of four years at the university, and famous German songs. Ms. Samali Irugalbandara, Temporary Assistant Lecturer in German served as the compère for the event, introducing the performances to the audience.



## Opening of new study area for students: Prof Ranil Fernando & Asvini Fernando student study quadrum

The newly established study area, attached to the Medical Library of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, was officially declared open on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. This facility was developed as part of the faculty's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and enriching the educational experience of its students. The faculty upholds the belief that producing doctors with a strong academic foundation and well-rounded attributes is essential to preserving the values of the free education system in Sri Lanka.

At the invitation of the Dean, two distinguished former academics, Emeritus Professor in Surgery, Prof Ranil Fernando and, a former Professor of Paediatrics, Dr Asvini Fernando, generously donated over Rs. 2 million to develop this facility. This contribution stands as a testament to their enduring support for student welfare. Both these distinguished academics dedicated decades of service to the faculty, instilling academic excellence, humanistic values, and professionalism in generations of students.

The study area was inaugurated by Professor Ranil Fernando and Dr. Asvini Fernando, in the presence of Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva, Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya and Professor Madawa Chandratilake, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Chiran Jayasundara, Librarian of the University of Kelaniya who attended to honor the generous contribution of the two esteemed academics. The event was also graced by Heads of Departments, academics, the Senior Assistant Registrar, the Deputy Bursar, non-academic staff members, and student representatives. This project is part of a broader initiative to improve faculty facilities for students by leveraging external funding.



Dr. Lakmini Marasinghe, the Senior Assistant Librarian of the medical library, its staff, the civil work superintendent, and the works supervisors of the faculty extended their fullest support in making this study area a reality. The Vice-chancellor and the Dean extended their heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed.

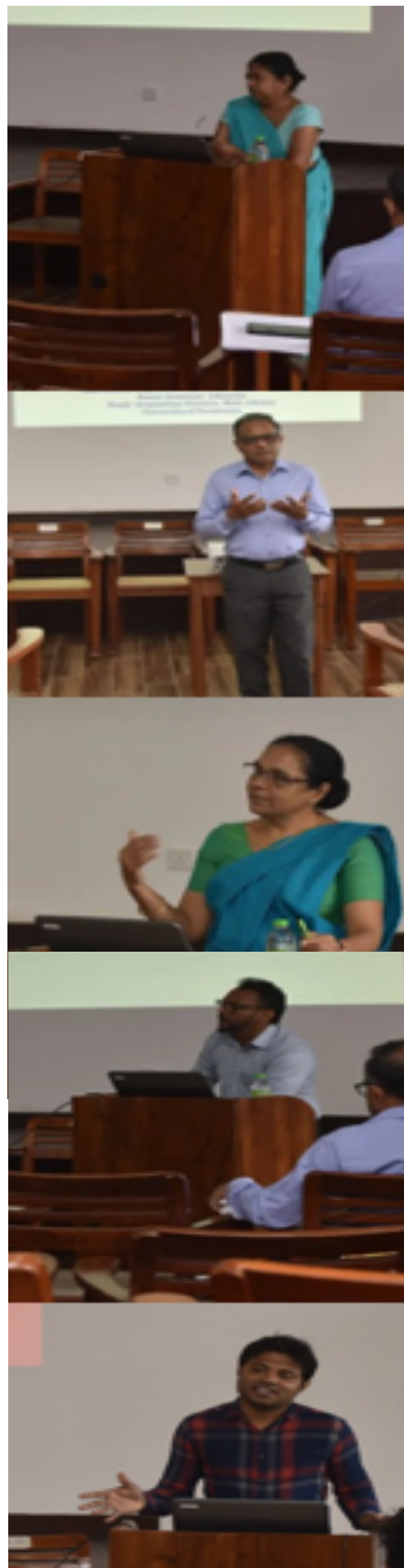




**Awareness Session for Library Staff on Modern Library Practices**

A Staff Training program organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Library of University of Peradeniya (IQAC-Library) was held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the New Library Building auditorium. The program *"Navigating the Digital Library Landscape: Mastering Modern Systems, Databases & Special Collections"* was conducted in two sessions [Session 1: 9.00 am-12 noon and Session 2: 1.00 pm -4.00 pm]. More than 60 Senior Staff Assistants (Library Services), Staff Assistants (Library Services), Library Information Assistants and Library Attendants participated in the program. The program was organized and coordinated by Ms S. Weerasinghe/IQAC-Library Coordinator, and Mr S.A. Jeewan/ Asst. Librarian –Main Library. The following Library academic staff members served as resource persons for this program:

1. Dr. R. Maheshwaran, Librarian UoP - 'Foreign Staff Opportunities'
2. Dr. Chamani Gunasekera / Deputy Librarian and Head of the Reader Services Division of the Main Library- 'Empowering Library Users: Essential Services through the Website'
3. Mr. Sunil Premarathne / Senior Asst Librarian-Acquisition Division- Main Library- 'Modern Library Concepts in Action: Transforming Libraries into Learning Resource Centers – Experiences at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM Library), Tiruchirappalli, India'
4. Mrs. Harshani Dissanayake / Senior Asst. Librarian AHS Library- 'Introduction to Library Consortia'
5. Mr. Ajantha Dharmarathne / Senior Asst Librarian Agriculture Library- 'Introduction to Library Website and Research Databases: Exploring JSTOR and EMERALD as Effective Research Tools'
6. Mr. B.E.S. Bandara / Asst Librarian- Medical Library- 'Overview of ORCID for Researchers'
7. S.A. Jeewan / Asst. Librarian Ceylon Room and Reference collection-Main Library-'Managing Special Collections in Academic Libraries: Strategies, Challenges, and Opportunities'



## International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS) - 2025



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE (ICLIS)-2025**

ORGANIZED BY  
SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

*"Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital"*

26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Important Dates:**  
 Call for Abstracts\* : 05<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
 Submission Deadline : 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
 Acceptance of Abstract : 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
 Camera Ready Copy : 05<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
 Early Bird Registration : 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
 Final Date for Registration : 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

\* It is requested to submit an extended abstract of less than 1500 words for reviewing purposes  
 \* Final abstract should be within 350 words  
 \* English translated abstracts should be submitted if the authors wish to submit their papers in other languages  
 \* The conference will be conducted in person  
 \* Please visit the conference website for more details

**Sub-Themes:**  
 1. Emerging Trends in Information Services  
 2. Empowering Tourism & Driving Growth  
 3. Library Education for a Dynamic World  
 4. Transformative Leadership in Librarianship  
 5. Data Privacy and Ethics in Information Access  
 6. The Power of Library Outreach & Development  
 7. Safeguarding Cultural Heritage for Future Generations  
 8. Open Access & E-Learning as Tools for Library Innovation  
 9. Connecting Library & Information Communities in the Digital & AI Era

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**Conference Secretary**  
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**Registration Fee:**  
 Rs.5000.00 per SLA member  
 Rs.6000.00 for Non-Members  
 Foreign: US Dollars 100.00

The conference fee will cover accommodation, meals, city tour and Conference tour to Nuwara-Eliya, Sri Lanka for foreign participants

**Conference and City Tour to Kandy on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025**  
**Interactive Program with Library Professionals on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Website:** <https://iclis25.slla.lk/>  
**Email:** [iclispera2025@gmail.com](mailto:iclispera2025@gmail.com)  
**Telephone:** +94812 392471

**Address:** Main Library, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, 20400, Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), in collaboration with the Library Network of the University of Peradeniya, plans to conduct the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS) in 2025. This prestigious event will bring together professionals, researchers, and Library and Information Science (LIS) experts to exchange knowledge, explore innovative ideas, and discuss the latest trends and advancements.

The conference will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

ICLIS has historically focused on high-quality research presented in English. However, to promote inclusivity and broaden participation, we are now accepting submissions in Sinhala and Tamil, requiring English-translated abstracts to accompany them. This initiative aims to encourage contributions from a diverse range of libraries, including Academic, Public, Special, and School Libraries, and ensure that library professionals' experiences, challenges, and innovative practices are well represented in the research forum.

ICLIS 2025 will emphasize the role of state-sector libraries and library professionals. We look forward to your participation in this exciting academic event.

## Awareness Program on E-Resources for the Academic Staff of the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT)

The academic staff of the University of Peradeniya Library conducted an awareness program for the teaching staff of the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT) of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya upon the request of the Department head. The session, Mastering E-Resources for English Language Teaching, was successfully held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at the Library Auditorium.

Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian and Head of the Reader Services Division, delivered a comprehensive presentation on Mastering E-Resources for English Language Teaching: Access through the University of Peradeniya Library. Her session highlighted the importance of utilizing e-resources effectively in teaching and research. Following this, Mr. B.E.S. Bandara, Assistant Librarian and Head of the Medical Faculty Library, conducted a practical session on How to Search Resources in the JSTOR Database.





His session provided hands-on guidance on navigating JSTOR for scholarly resources. Additionally, Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian and Head of the Ceylon Room & Reference Section, presented An Introduction to the British Council Digital Wall, offering insights into its resources and applications in English language teaching.

Thirty-eight teaching staff members from the Department of English Language Teaching actively participated in the session. The program enhanced awareness and practical knowledge of e-resources, reinforcing the library's commitment to supporting academic excellence at the University of Peradeniya.

### Professor Ariya Rajakaruna Donates Personal Library to University of Peradeniya Main Library

The University of Peradeniya's Main Library is pleased to announce the generous donation of a personal library collection from former Professor Ariya Rajakaruna, an esteemed academic from the Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Arts. This thoughtful contribution in 2024 enriches the university's academic resources and will be an invaluable asset for future students and researchers.

Professor Rajakaruna's collection encompasses various books across various disciplines, including Sinhala grammar, literature, philosophy, Buddhism, sociology, history, and archaeology. The donation also features a significant selection of Japanese-language books, expanding the library's international holdings.

In recognition of this exceptional contribution, a delegation from the Main Library and the Faculty of Arts, including Mr R. Maheswaran, the Librarian; Dr P.L.Nugapitiya, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sinhala.





Mr Buddhika Konara, Lecturer in the Department of Sinhala; Dr Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian at the Reader Services Division; Mr Sunil Premaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Acquisitions Division; and Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian at the Reference Services Division, visited Professor Rajakaruna's home on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025. The visit was an opportunity to formally thank the professor for his support, with attendees from the Library and the Department of Sinhala expressing their appreciation.

The University extends its heartfelt gratitude to Professor Rajakaruna for his generosity, which will undoubtedly enhance the academic pursuits of future generations.

### Book Donation Ceremony Honoring Professor Qadri Ismail's Legacy

A special book donation ceremony was held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Library Auditorium at the University of Peradeniya to honour the memory of Professor Qadri Ismail, a distinguished scholar and Professor of English, Cultural Studies, and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Professor Ismail, an alumnus of the University of Peradeniya, left an indelible mark on academia, profoundly impacting his students and colleagues.





The donation, made by Emeritus Professor Arjuna Parakrama, a distinguished scholar, poet, and former Chair Professor of English at the University of Peradeniya, was further supported by Professor Ismail's family as a tribute to his enduring legacy. The collection included nearly 800 books spanning various subjects, including English literature, comparative literature, sociology, history, archaeology, philosophy, political science, and more.

In addition to the book collection, a symbolic rack was donated to the library, providing a dedicated space to house the books. This donation is a lasting tribute to Professor Ismail's passion for knowledge and commitment to fostering intellectual curiosity, ensuring that his academic contributions will continue to inspire future generations.

The event featured a moving speech by Professor Ruvani Ranasinha, a renowned academic and Professor of Global Literatures at King's College London. In it, Professor Ranasinha reflected on Professor Ismail's academic legacy, emphasizing his contributions to literature and cultural studies.

The ceremony was attended by a distinguished group, including faculty members from the Faculty of Arts, library staff, Professor Ismail's family and friends, and students from various departments. Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian at the Reference Services Division, Main Library, organized the program under the supervision of Mr. R. Maheswaran, the Librarian of the University of Peradeniya.

This event marked a meaningful tribute to Professor Ismail's legacy, ensuring his influence on the academic community will be felt for years.



## Quality Assurance

### Upgrading of the University of Moratuwa Institutional Repository

The University of Moratuwa Institutional Repository (<http://dl.lib.uom.lk>) has been successfully updated to the newest stable version, which improves usability and accessibility. The repository now uses the most recent stable DSpace version, which provides a more user-friendly interface and increased capabilities, making research discovery more efficient.

Mr. A. D. B. Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian, oversaw the renovation, which ensured smooth integration and better functioning for students, researchers, and teachers.

The enhanced repository is anticipated to increase knowledge exchange and provide a more efficient user experience when accessing essential research resources.





## Student Support

### MRC Library Forum 1: "Books to Shape Your Academic Journey"

The inaugural MRC Library Forum, titled "Books to Shape Your Academic Journey," was held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the Matara Regional Centre (MRC). The program aimed to bridge the gap between students and library resources by introducing books essential to academic success in the curriculum of Primary Education Degree students. 35 students from levels 3 and 5 of the Primary Education Degree programs attended the forum.

Mrs PKM Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian at Matara Regional Centre, and Mr Sampath Vidhanagama, Coordinator of the Primary Education Degree Program, served as resource persons. To provide hands-on exposure, the MRC library discussed and exhibited selected books. Students were given the opportunity to explore these resources and familiarize themselves with their content. The program successfully informed students about the value of library resources, encouraged their active engagement with books, and promoted the habit of independent learning.

This event enhanced students' awareness of essential reading materials and strengthened their connection with the library, setting a strong foundation for their academic growth.



### Artistic and Conversational Singing for Undergraduates



A workshop on "Artistic and Conversational Singing for Undergraduates" was held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Sri Dharmaloka Hall, University of Kelaniya. The workshop aimed to develop various skills among participants, including creativity, teamwork, and communication. Mr Kithsirimevan Jayasena, Director of TalentAsia, and Mr Nishantha Kularathne and the TalentAsia team conducted the programme. R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, coordinated the programme.

## An Online Session for Final-Year Undergraduates of the Faculty of Technology at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The Library of the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, organized an online session on Academic Writing for final-year undergraduates on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Ms. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, the Assistant Librarian, provided expert guidance and insights on academic writing.



## An Online Session for Final-Year Undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The Main Library of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized an online session on Academic Writing for the final-year undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Ms. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian, provided expert guidance and insights on academic writing.

## An Online Session for Final-Year Undergraduates of the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The Library of the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, organized an online session on a Guide to writing a research report for the final-year undergraduates of the Faculty of Technology on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Ms. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, the Assistant Librarian, provided expert guidance for the session.

## OER Workshop at the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Uva Wellassa University

Mr Ramanan, Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade 1), was invited as a resource person by the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Uva Wellassa University (UWU) of Sri Lanka to conduct an interactive session/workshop on Open Educational Resources (OER) as a part of an activity of Faculty's Quality Assurance Cell. The session was conducted at the Computer & Media Center of the University on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The workshop's objectives were to develop policy documents, embed OER components in the Faculty's Strategic Plan, and implement short courses and resource hubs with OERs. The session was arranged by Dr Chathura Wijerathne (Senior Lecturer of the Department of Science & Technology) and Dr Kumari Kulatunga (Acting Librarian) with the guidance of Professor A.S. Ratnayake, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, UWU.

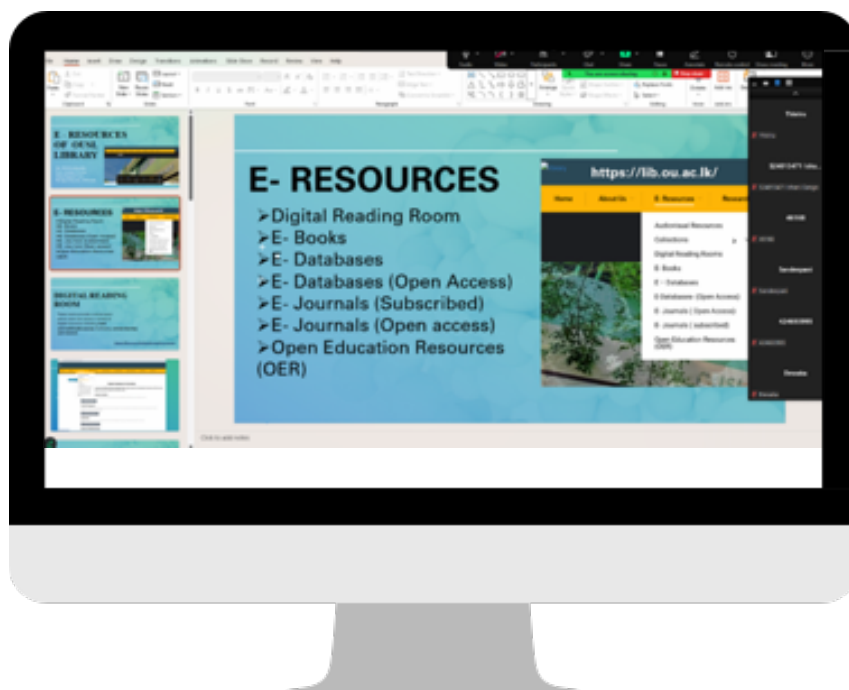




### User Education program: "Open the Door to Success: OUSL Library Online Resources for Distance Learners."

The Matara Regional Centre Library conducted a User Education Program titled "Open the Door to Success: OUSL Library Online Resources for Distance Learners" on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm via Zoom for BMS students at the Ambalanthota Study Centre. Mrs. PKM Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Matara Regional Centre, served as the resource person.

The program aimed to equip distance learners with essential skills for effectively using OUSL's online library resources for academic success.



### Library Orientation Programme for the New Intake 2024/2025

The Library Orientation Programme for the new intake of 2024/2025 of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences was successfully held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the University of Ruhuna Library. This program aimed to familiarize new students with the library's resources, services, and facilities, ensuring they make the most of the library throughout their academic journey. The orientation was conducted by the following library academic staff members, who contributed as resource persons:

Mr. U. A. Lal Pannila – Deputy Librarian

Mrs. Sakunthala Senevirathna – Senior Assistant Librarian

Mr. J. A. Ajith – Senior Assistant Librarian

The program included a guided library tour to help students explore the library's collections, study areas, and digital resources. Additionally, practical sessions were conducted to provide hands-on experience using the library's catalogue, databases, and other research tools.

**Nearly 700 students participated in the event**, reflecting their enthusiasm and eagerness to engage with the library's facilities and services. This orientation was a valuable initiative that supported students in achieving academic success by equipping them with essential library skills.



## Guest Lecture for Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Undergraduates at the University of Peradeniya

Mr. Sunil Premaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian and Head of the Acquisitions Division at the University of Peradeniya's Main Library, delivered an insightful guest lecture at the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The lecture was part of a workshop focused on teaching practice and dissertation writing for final-year Bachelor of Education students, held from 17<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025.



During his session, which took place from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Mr. Premaratne addressed the topic, "How to Use the Library and Its Services for Research Purposes." He provided invaluable guidance on effectively utilizing library resources to enhance academic research, offering students practical tools and strategies to support their dissertations and other academic endeavours.

The session was well-received, with students understanding how the library's services can aid in their scholarly work. Mr. Premaratne's expertise and practical insights contributed significantly to the workshop's success, empowering future educators with essential research skills.





**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA**

<https://www.ulasl.lk>

## **Editorial Board (2024/2025)**

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