



# UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA NEWSLETTER



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## Feature Article

### Global University Ranking Systems: A Friend or Foe?

Sureni Weerasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka  
*weerasinghes@gs.pdn.ac.lk*



#### Introduction

In the recent years, there has been a remarkable rise in systems engaged in ranking and comparing universities over the globe. It has become prevalent in using global rankings to assess institutions over various sectors such as education, business and healthcare (Dugerdil et al., 2022). In this light, it is important to critically analyze and grasp insight into the existing ranking systems. University rankings are lists which attempt to evaluate the quality and performance of universities based on a variety of indicators and criteria (Taylor & Braddock, 2007). Ranking systems offer an indication regarding the overall quality of universities and provide valuable information to students, researchers, policymakers and various other stakeholders in the higher education sector (Marginson, 2007). The common goal of ranking systems is to rank universities transparently and independently within a global scale on the basis of their academic performances. Further, these systems seek to encourage the enhancement of higher education institutions via a process of constructive competition (Uslu, 2020). Yet, is this what is actually happening in reality? This should be considered with a critical eye. Moreover, the impact and effectiveness of global ranking systems remains a subject of ongoing debate (Dugerdil et al., 2022; Marginson, 2007).

#### Types of Ranking Systems

University Rankings are based on a range of performance indicators such as students, faculty, research output, finance, reputation, employability, bibliometric indicators, international collaboration, staff to students' ratio, international faculty ratio, international student ratio etc. (Uslu, 2020). Also, rankings can consider specific disciplines or subject areas. Accordingly, there are numerous ranking systems established worldwide each employing their own methodologies and several such prominent systems are as follows:

- QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings
- Shanghai Ranking Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)
- The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR)
- Times Higher Education (THE)
- U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings
- Webometrics Ranking of World Universities
- National Taiwan University (NTU) Ranking
- Forbes America's Top Colleges
- URAP (University Ranking by Academic Performance)
- Scimago Institutions Ranking
- CWTS Leiden Ranking

#### Comparative Analysis of Selected Ranking Systems

A comparative analysis was conducted using four major university ranking systems, namely, THE, QS, Shanghai and Webometrics. These systems were selected because they are among the most widely recognized and frequently used systems worldwide and reflect diverse methodological approaches including reputation-based, web-impact and bibliometric metrics. The comparison was carried out on the basis of their methodology, focus, coverage and limitations. Firstly, methodologies of these systems were taken into account. Methodologies used in ranking systems differ significantly; some systems rely on subjective data whereas others rely on objective data.

Times Higher Education (THE) system uses five key criteria, each further subdivided into specific performance metrics to evaluate global universities (Dugerdil et al., 2022). These criteria include Teaching-30% (reputation, Staff-student ratio, Income of institution etc.), Citations-30%, Research-30% (volume, income and reputation), International outlook-7.5% and Industry income-2.5% (knowledge transfer). In the same way, QS ranking system uses its own set of indicators: Citations per faculty-20%, Academic reputation-40%, Faculty to student ratio-20%, International faculty ratio -5%, Employer reputation-10% and International student ratio-5% (Dugerdil et al., 2022; Taylor & Braddock, 2007). However, the Shanghai system depends on research output, considering unique factors such as the number of Nobel laureates and Fields Medalists affiliated with the university. The criteria used in the Shanghai system is as follows: Quality of Education-10% (Nobel laureates, field medalists), Quality of Faculty-40% (highly cited researcher, staff winning Nobel prizes), Research output-40%, per capita Academic performance-10% (Marginson, 2007). On the other hand, Webometrics is solely based on the web presence and impact, incorporating factors such as Web visibility- 50% (impact of web content), Openness/transparency-10% (top cited researchers) and Excellence of scholars-40% (top cited papers) (Dugerdil et al., 2022).

Regarding the focus, both THE and QS ranking systems place major emphasis on academic/ education quality, research output and international collaboration. However, the Shanghai system has a heavy focus on research performance and impact, specifically towards scientific fields. Contrastingly, Webometrics primarily evaluates universities' online presence and influence, focusing on web metrics and digital impact. With regards to the coverage, all four systems (THE, QS, Shanghai and Webometrics) provides a global coverage by ranking universities from all over the world.

Considering limitations of these ranking systems, it should be noted that THE and QS utilizes indicators which are of subjective nature and primarily emphasize on research-related factors which may be disadvantageous to universities with a sound focus on teaching. Also, these systems strongly represent universities from English-speaking nations (Marginson, 2007; Dugerdil et al., 2022). The Shanghai system strongly captures the research output, potentially overlooking other significant facets of universities such as student satisfaction, teaching quality etc. In addition, this system has a bias towards natural and life sciences (Uslu, 2020). Limitations of Webometrics include the overemphasis of web presence and not fully capturing the overall quality of universities (Dugerdil et al., 2022).

### **Advantages and Disadvantages of University Ranking Systems**

Global ranking systems for universities offer several advantages. The main benefit is that they provide valuable and helpful information to students and parents to make correct decisions regarding higher education. Through the comparison of ranking of different universities, students could select the university that best fit with their academic goals (Taylor & Braddock, 2007). In this context, ranking systems serve as a measure of quality and reputation of universities. Also, researchers could use rankings to select potential collaborations (Dugerdil et al., 2022). Secondly, rankings open avenues for universities to assess their strengths as well as weakness and identify areas for improvement. Nevertheless, universities will be encouraged to enhance their performance in various areas including research output, faculty qualifications and student satisfaction (Uslu, 2020). Additionally, global rankings can contribute to the prestige as well as international recognition of universities, which will in turn lead to attracting talented students and staff from across the world. Further, rankings could facilitate as a tool for policy makers to help them assess performances of higher education systems and make informed decisions on resource allocation as well as policy development (Marginson, 2007). Ranking systems offer a global perspective, allowing the comparison of universities across different countries and regions.

Despite the advantages, ranking systems are also associated with several drawbacks. Overemphasis on particular indicators over the others is one such major criticism of these systems. Some ranking systems place great focus on research productivity and international reputation, which might not accurately reflect the overall university quality.

This may in turn cause a narrow focus on specific areas, overlooking other important aspects such as teaching quality and community engagement. Moreover, ranking systems are inclined to favour larger, well-funded universities which have more resources and facilities for research and internationalization. This may result in undervaluing and overlooking of smaller or less-funded universities while creating an imbalance in the landscape of higher education (Marginson, 2007). The presence of bias towards specific subject disciplines in certain ranking systems can also be a hindrance. Another criticism regarding many ranking systems is the Anglo-Saxon bias and favouring universities English speaking countries leads to the under-representation of non-English speaking country universities (Marginson, 2007; Dugerdil et al., 2022). In addition, details of methodologies of ranking systems are not fully disclosed which makes it difficult for universities and stakeholders to grasp how ranks are determined (Dugerdil et al., 2022). Moreover, ranking systems could promote a competing culture, chasing and cheating to increase ranks whereas losing focus on the real purpose of education and student needs (Taylor & Braddock, 2007).

### **Impact of Ranking Systems on Universities in Developed Nations vs. Developing Nations**

It is obvious that global ranking systems positively impact universities in developed countries while imposing negative effects on universities in developing countries. Universities in developed countries are equipped with more resources as well as massive funding opportunities which enable them to easily meet the criteria used in ranking systems. On the other hand, developing nation universities suffer from limited funds and resources making it difficult for them to compete in the global rankings. Also, universities in developed nations with well-established research networks, collaborations and funding opportunities generate a high research output. This will further increase their ranks and in turn will contribute to attract more international students (Marginson, 2007). Yet, in the developing country context, universities struggle to produce significant research output due to insufficient resources, infrastructure and funding which will result in lower ranks. As a result, it will be challenging for them to attract international students.

The lack of international students can further impact negatively on the university's reputation and rankings. Universities in developed countries possess a high number of international students and funds generated via these students could be utilized to enhance all their facilities and market themselves as world-class universities. On the other hand, universities in developing countries relying on government funds can only accommodate a limited number of students which lead to gaining a poor rank due to less attainment of degrees. Further, universities in developed nations have established reputations as well as global recognition whereas in developing countries universities strive to gain global recognition and may face biases or lower perceptions regarding the quality (Dugerdil et al., 2022). With better salary scales, research opportunities and working conditions, developed country universities can easily attract highly qualified faculty members and researchers. Yet, many universities in the developing countries often face the difficulty of attracting and retaining such qualified faculty and researchers. This is mainly because of inadequate facilities as well as comparatively low salary scales (Uslu, 2020).

Moreover, the strong focus given to specific indicators of ranking systems such as faculty qualifications and research productivity may be unfavourable for universities in developing nations that prioritize other aspects such as community engagement and access to education. This could create a disparity between universities in developed and developing countries, undervaluing the important contributions made by universities in developing nations (Taylor & Braddock, 2007). Nevertheless, many ranking systems are developed in higher income countries, thus presenting a bias towards socio-economic and cultural context of the western world. Yet, ranking systems may not reflect the unique factors specific to developing countries such as socio-economic factors, economic potential, political stability, government effectiveness etc. (Marginson, 2007).

### **Challenges Faced by Universities in Developing Nations in Achieving Higher Ranks**

In their quest to achieve higher ranks universities in developing nations face various challenges.

One major problem is insufficient funding and resources (Uslu, 2020). Limited finances restrict the investments in research facilities, infrastructure and faculty development all which are essential to enhance the quality of education and research output. In addition, developing country universities face brain drain, as skillful and talented scholars leave the country seeking better opportunities which creates a shortage of qualified staff within the country. As a result of brain drain their ability to compete globally and produce high-quality research hinders further. Also, universities of developing nations find it difficult to attract international students.

These universities may struggle with outdated teaching methods and curricula which can prevent them from meeting international standards and attracting students as well as faculty worldwide. Also, limited avenues for international collaborations, weak research networks and language barriers will pose huge challenges with regard to exchange of knowledge and internalization (Dugerdil et al., 2022). Addressing these challenges requires significant investment, policy reforms and international partnerships to support the development of these universities and enable them to achieve higher ranks.

### **Improving University Ranking Systems**

Methodologies employed in ranking systems vary significantly, making it difficult to make comparisons and interpretations of rankings from different sources leading to confusion and inconsistencies in the assessment of universities. Also, most of the prevalent ranking systems have been created in the developed world and these systems do not capture the unique challenges and contributions faced by universities in developing countries such as their role in addressing societal issues and promotion of inclusive education. Also, it is important to consider the starting conditions of universities and their subsequent progress. Additionally, incorporation of other country specific indicators like political stability, economic potential and government effectiveness as well as stakeholder requirements is highly important in the development of fair ranking systems.

In conclusion, global ranking systems have obviously played a vital role in influencing diverse sectors by setting up a benchmark for institutional reputation as well as performance. Ranking systems have encouraged institutions to strive towards excellence while supporting individuals in making informed decisions. However, limitations of these systems including potential biases and inability to fully capture all factors contributing to university quality must be acknowledged. Thus, these systems should be approached with a critical mindset and efforts should be made for a more comprehensive evaluation of universities, taking into account the factors beyond traditional metrics such as social impact, innovative pedagogy and cultural diversity. This would help to build better ranking systems which promote fairness and reduce inequalities. Such global ranking systems would reflect unique strengths and opportunities of different universities in both developed and developing nations, inculcating a more balanced and equitable global landscape.

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## Cosmetology Beyond the Salon: User-Centred, Health-Oriented Librarianship

Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana  
Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa



Can anyone imagine cosmetology finding its place within libraries? At a time when libraries are compelled to explore innovative approaches to retain and engage users, cosmetology-related information services might be introduced as a novel marketing and outreach strategy to attract users. For libraries to remain relevant to their customers, they must follow the fundamental rule of business: supply what their market demands (Scupola & Westh Nicolajsen, 2010). Cosmetology has a long and culturally rich history, and the word Cosmetology is derived from the Greek word refer to the study and practice of beauty treatment. Cosmeceuticals are products for the health and beauty of the skin. Cosmetics and Cosmeceuticals are becoming increasingly popular and gaining greater market share (Azam, 2024). The history of cosmetology in Sri Lanka is deeply rooted in indigenous knowledge systems, particularly HELA WEDAKAMA and Ayurveda. Sri Lanka's cosmetology field has shifted from evidence rooted in tradition to profit-driven cosmetic consumption today. Cosmetology is often seen as a practice limited to salons. However, contemporary cosmetology goes beyond aesthetics and connects health science, dermatology, psychology, and cultural identity.

### Cosmetic Information Literacy and User Well-Being

Libraries, like all customer-oriented service organisations, must innovate and continually evolve to meet their audience's needs better (Wojcik, 2019). Libraries are increasingly responding to users' diverse needs meanwhile providing the traditional information services. The user-centred and health-oriented librarianship emphasises health, accessibility and relevance (Lankes, 2016). Engagement with information about cosmetology is not only about aesthetics; it is closely related to self-perception, confidence, identity formation, and emotional well-being.

Providing information literacy is a main task of a Library. Libraries play an important role as trusted information institutions to support this form of literacy. By facilitating access to reliable resources and encouraging critical evaluation skills, libraries contribute to users' emotional and social well-being, reducing the risks of cosmetic misinformation. Before purchasing cosmetics, users must be aware of cosmetics, which can be defined as cosmetic information literacy. Finding, evaluating, understanding, and effective usage of information about cosmetic products are included there. User attention will be given to safety, ingredients, and potential health impacts. It involves managing personal health risks and making safe choices. When customers lack awareness of cosmetics, they face harmful risks from using poor-quality products containing parabens, sulfates, mercury, and artificial fragrances. The absence of such literacy in the face of the widespread allure of various cosmetics is a problematic situation, and a gap needs to be filled. Within the university student age group, where cosmetic use is common, especially among female students, there is a clear need for timely, accurate information, which presents an important opportunity for libraries to play a role.

Decisions about skin care, hair care, and cosmetics are increasingly influenced by the information customers receive. Most users refer to social media when selecting a cosmetic product (Hettihewa & Yasendri, 2022). In such a setting, users are often confronted with contradictory, exaggerated, or misleading statements on the internet, which may negatively affect physical safety and psychological well-being. However, details available in library sources are more trustworthy than those from digital platforms, social media influencers, and commercial advertising. Profit-oriented companies have increasingly entered the cosmetic industry, often introducing products to the market without adequate consideration of their potential harmful effects. In this context, conducting a SWOT analysis

is a useful first step in understanding the current situation, enabling libraries to plan appropriate interventions. Through librarian-supported, evidence-based information services, users can make informed decisions before purchasing and using cosmetic products.

When users have reliable knowledge, cosmetic practices can function as self-reflective self-care. In this sense, informed engagement in cosmetic information can have a positive impact on confidence, personal agency, and overall satisfaction in life, not because cosmetics are idealized, but because users have the power to make choices that align with their values, health needs, and cultural identities. Here we can see the direct relationship between cosmetology and psychology.

### **Librarians as Ethical Mediators of Cosmetic Knowledge**

The professional responsibility of librarians goes beyond the development of collections, including the ethical mediation of information. In the context of cosmetic information, this responsibility is particularly important because commercial pressures and convincing narratives dominate cosmetic content. Librarians should not act as cosmetics experts or medical experts; instead, their role is to maintain balanced, evidence-based resources and to guide users in evaluating the claims, sources and intentions behind cosmetics information.

Through readers' services, information literacy programs, and digital guides curated by librarians, users can distinguish between evidence-based information and promotional content, understand the transparency of components, and critically assess influencer-driven narratives. This mediation supports safer consumer behaviour and reduces anxiety, confusion and self-doubt often associated with decision-making related to appearance.

Importantly, this approach is consistent with user-centred librarianship. Recognizing that cosmetic information is a legitimate area of user research relating to identity, confidence and well-being, the library supports the everyday needs of its communities in terms of information while maintaining professional neutrality and ethical standards.

### **Preserving Indigenous Cosmetic Knowledge “HELA WEDAKAMA”: The Librarian’s Responsibility**

In Sri Lanka, traditional medical knowledge systems, including “HELA WEDAKAMA”, have a significant impact on cosmetics and self-care practices. The Sri Lankan indigenous medicinal system is unique. Thousands of years of history have made it evident that this system has a treatment for any illness, including rare dermatological conditions (Lakmali, 2018). Herbal skin care, hair treatment, body care rituals and natural cosmetics form part of a long tradition of indigenous knowledge rooted in cultural heritage, oral history and historical manuscripts. However, this knowledge is increasingly being exposed to erosion due to modernization, commercialization and the dominance of world beauty stories.

Librarians have the critical responsibility of collecting, maintaining, organizing and providing access to documentation on these traditional practices. This responsibility does not mean the approval or clinical validation of traditional cosmetic methods. Instead, it reflects the role of librarian as an ethical mediator who contextualizes traditional evidence within a contextual framework of appropriate history, culture, and information.

Library records handwritten manuscripts, printed texts, academic interpretations and oral histories of indigenous cosmetic practices and contributes to the protection of intangible cultural heritage. Proper cataloging, metadata creation and contextual annotation allow users to critically and respectfully explore this knowledge and recognize its cultural value and its limitations in contemporary health contexts.

## User Benefits of Contextualised Cosmetic Resources

When libraries actively promote awareness of cosmetic information resources available – both modern and traditional – users benefit in multiple ways. First, culturally-based resources support identity recognition and self-confidence by validating local knowledge alongside global perspectives. Secondly, access to contextual information reduces the likelihood of harmful experiments and non-critical adoption of unsafe practices. Thirdly, users are encouraged to view cosmetic practices as informed choices, rather than as reactions to external pressures.

From a well-being point of view, this balanced approach helps to enhance emotional comfort, reduce uncertainty and a sense of responsibility. Consequently, libraries help to ensure happiness and quality of life, not by strengthening aesthetic ideals, but by providing users with knowledge that respects diversity, safety and personal meaning.

## Implications for Library Practice

Integrating cosmetic information literacy into library services does not require specialised medical expertise, but it does require intentional curation and ethical drafting. Libraries may consider developing cosmetic resource collections: traditional knowledge, rare collections, HELA WEDAKAMA collection etc. And can also include cosmetic information assessment in digital literacy programs and working with health educators and cultural experts to ensure balanced representation. Clear disclaimers and context-specific notes can further support the responsible use of scientific and traditional resources. By adopting this approach, libraries reaffirm their evolving role as information spaces that support not only academic success, but also informed self-care, cultural continuity and general well-being.

## Conclusion

The concept of reading an organism as an information practice invites librarians to reconsider the boundaries of information literacy in modern society. Cosmetic information literacy provides libraries with an opportunity to support the trust, identity and well-being of users while preserving valuable indigenous knowledge when it comes to ethical and inclusive issues. By doing so, libraries strengthen their role as reliable, culturally relevant institutions, enabling users to navigate information related to appearance with critical awareness and informed choice.

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## Navigating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Librarians or Game Changers?

Thrishala Warnasooriya

Assistant Librarian, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



In an era dominated by technology and ever-expanding user expectations, the role of traditional librarians is being questioned. The most common question raised against librarians is "Whom do we need in the 21<sup>st</sup> century -librarians or changers?" This challenging debate extends far beyond library walls, addressing fundamental drivers of education, information management, innovations, economy, health, and societal development. This demonstrates the evolving nature of librarianship in the context of technological, educational, and societal transformations, and in overcoming the challenges they pose. This continuous adaptation addresses the needs of a changing society.

Before the 15<sup>th</sup> century, pre-print era librarians were the custodians of manuscripts and oral knowledge, preserving it within religious and royal institutions. Access to rare manuscripts was the only demand of the users. The silence, order, rules and restrictions were synonymous with the library. The role of custodians at knowledge sanctuaries has evolved into a multifaceted one, encompassing skills beyond storekeeping. The printing era (15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century), during which literacy, education, and publishing were noticeably expanded, converted librarianship into an organiser and preserver of printed collections. Then the users are expected to have access to books, catalogues, and reading spaces.

With the expansion of formal education and public libraries, their performance as Information gatekeepers and reference providers met the demands of Reference services and subject-based assistance during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But the contrast changed in the late 20's with the advent of computers and electronic databases, which enhanced information retrieval and user training. The well-known 21<sup>st</sup>-century, or digital, era views librarians as information specialists and digital literacy facilitators. These unsung heroes of literacy facilitated users' access to the internet, digital resources, and information evaluation as the internet revolution and rapid technological change emerged (Lankes, 2011). The conventional role of performing as gatekeepers or conservators of knowledge is no longer expected or accepted in today's constantly evolving social environment. However, today's librarian stands between the familiar past and the evolving future, meeting demands of multiple generations from the "silent generation" to "alpha", where the evolution is never-ending. This balancing act between tradition and transformation raises the next question: "Are they just information managers, or agents of change?"

Social media platforms produce an overwhelming flow of information, while artificial intelligence reduces human intervention by automating countless tasks and decisions. During the early period, people hunted data; now they are being hunted by data. The concept of an "informed society" is a topic of debate, especially on social media platforms. An unnecessary digital footprint during your holiday or vacation "off to ..... [destination]..with a cheerful emoji" can leave you, your family and your wealth at high risk. The link in your email can result in losing all the money in your bank account. The WhatsApp groups you are in can bring you unexpected hardships in your life. The harsh reality is that a large portion of the daily information we encounter is unnecessary, yet we remain entangled in it.

This is a point at which librarians can now engage as social connectors, community changers and change-makers, transforming their role from information disseminators. AI, a data-driven society, and misinformation pose challenges to people. Ethical guidance, personalised services, and lifelong learning support are necessary. They do not go for a printed book; instead, they have access to various news and gossip at their fingertips. Initially, they do not aim for unnecessary information. However, algorithms and AI perform their tasks effectively. You just utter the word "murder", the very next minute, your TikTok and Facebook will play the content related to murder. A girl from China very recently engaged with ChatGPT. People talk with AI tools, keeping their loved ones apart. The changing, ever-evolving technology innovations have brought us many valuable things. They made our tasks and operations easy. However, we must remember that they have taken our positive energy, our valuable time, our healthy relationships, and our mental peace. Alongside these risks, modern

initiatives and technologies offer opportunities in the library sector by providing access to information, enhancing research productivity, and enriching self and lifelong learning. Rather than competing with AI, librarians can collaborate with it by ensuring transparency, contextual understanding, and human-centeredness in the library settings.

Now it's the time for librarians who were once information managers to become community exchangers. Books were given earlier to improve knowledge. But now for mental health. The data flood constantly bombards people, leads to infophobia, misleads them, leaves them confused, causes regret, and fosters an inferiority complex, ultimately creating decision and digital fatigue. Ethical guidance has become more critical than ever as digital immersion intensifies. Therefore, "can librarians confine themselves only to information managers?"

Paradoxically, the concept of "connected world" through "WWW" does not really connect us; it fragments social cohesion. That is why the WHO reports loneliness affects 1 in 6 people and leads to 100 premature deaths each hour (WHO, 2025). As a community service provider, librarians can play a role in mental health initiatives. Some library practices and concepts have a direct or indirect impact on your mental health, though they have been introduced and recognised solely as library matters. It expands from the basic practice of "reading" to "bibliotherapy," aiming to promote behavioural changes, reduce stress and anxiety, and improve sleep hygiene. It also involves the "human library," which empowers social connectivity and social acceptance and reduces loneliness. Then, "what about counselling librarianship?" The "tree of librarianship" grows day by day, meeting society's ever-changing needs. This transformation does not replace traditional competencies; instead, it layers new social, technological, and emotional dimensions onto the profession's foundational values. Therefore, these novel approaches support experiential learning, empathy-building, and social cohesion while challenging stigma, stereotypes, and prejudice. The results of such initiatives are impactful for a contemporary academic and social set-up. A day is not far off when mental diseases or disorders will surpass the rate of chronic diseases. As librarians who prioritise social problems and meet societal demands, they will have to prepare themselves to be mental peace-makers, the game-changers in someone's life. These initiatives reposition libraries as community wellness hubs rather than solely knowledge repositories.

Libraries can reposition as safe intellectual and emotional spaces where users gain cognitive balance, improve reflective thinking, and cultivate mindful information-consumption habits. The librarian can play multiple roles to help achieve these goals. Then it will answer the question "Why and how librarians still survive in a changing society" by engaging with the social, economic, technological, digital, ethical, and psychological dimensions of knowledge. Librarianship can be uniquely positioned as an octopus in society, holding various ends delving into information stewardship for human well-being. They can stick to continuous professional development (CPD). They will rebuild their confidence and expand their roles through training opportunities in misinformation management, AI awareness, digital literacy instruction, and community engagement strategies.

Most importantly, institutional support for policy recognition, workload flexibility, collaborative partnerships, and resource allocation will ensure the formation and sustainability of innovative programming. To implement ideas and trends, librarians can strategically incorporate these initiatives into their action plans. They can organise digital well-being workshops, mental well-being programs, relaxation programs, rehabilitation programs, social reading circles, intergroup dialogue and Human Library conversations, develop mental health resource guides, and create online and on-site safe discussion spaces. Librarians can remain professionally relevant as game changers through incremental yet purposeful actions as they transform libraries into inclusive, responsive, and human-centred learning spaces.

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## ULA events

### The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ULA)



The University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ULA) has conducted its 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 at Galle Face Hotel, Colombo. The conference theme was “Navigating disinformation and misinformation: what’s next in librarianship?” which attracted more than 20 papers categorized under Invited Paper Session and four Technical Sessions. The conference was graced by the Chief Guest, Professor Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, the Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo. Two eminent keynote speakers were invited, namely, Professor Roshan G. Ragel from University of Peradeniya and Professor Simon Burnett from Robert Gordon University, Scotland, UK. Professor Ragel was presenting on the fast-evolving AI technologies in the information realm, while Professor Burnett shed his intriguing research on dark knowledge and its impact on humanity. Invited paper session included interesting topics of LIS scholars from countries like USA, India, Pakistan, and Thailand, where eminent scholars from the library sector shared their concepts and concerns with respect to the application of AI in research and learning. Dr C.C. Jayasundara, the Librarian of University of Kelaniya, was given a special honorary award for his outstanding achievements in the LIS research domain. Dr (Mrs.) Pradeepa Wijetunge, the Librarian of University of Colombo, served as the Conference Chair. Mr. T Ramanan, the General Secretary to the ULA served as the Conference Secretary, and Ms. Hiruni Kanchana, Deputy Librarian of Sir John Kotelawala Defense University, served as the Co-Secretary of the Conference. Dr PKS Manatunga, Dr C.J. Wijesundara, and Dr M.P.L.R. Marasinghe were the Editors of the ICULA 2025 Proceedings. The event was generously sponsored by the EBSCO Information Services, Crossref, DrillBit, Ijournal, Hayleys Fentons, Emerald Publishing, ELCOME, Sarasavi Bookshop, Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation, Vextop Holdings, and Bentham Science. There were 90 participants recorded to have attended the conference. The best oral presentation award was given to Ms Nadeeka Rathnabahu and the best research paper award was given to Ms Nadeesha Perera.





## Milestones and Achievements

### Inauguration of the Mahavamsa Digital Manuscript University of Peradeniya Library

The Mahavamsa Digital Manuscript was formally inaugurated at the Library premises of the University of Peradeniya on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Professor W. M. Terrence Madhujith.

The event was graced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ranjith Pallegama; the Librarian, Mr. R. Maheswaran; and the Acting Registrar, Mr. K. A. B. Damunupola. Also in attendance were Dr. C. Gunasekara, Deputy Librarian (Reader Services and Acquisitions Division); Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Senior Assistant Librarian (Reference Services – Ceylon Collection); and Mr. Anura Rajapakse, Assistant Network Manager of the Library.

The digitisation of the Mahavamsa manuscript represents a significant milestone for the University, particularly in light of its inscription in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2023. The official UNESCO certificate was awarded in 2024 by the Director-General of UNESCO, Madam Audrey Azoulay, at the premises of the University of Peradeniya Library.

The Mahavamsa Digital Manuscript will be made available to scholars and readers for academic study. Interested users are required to obtain prior approval from the Library. External readers must acquire temporary library membership, where applicable, and reserve a time slot in advance.



### SAARC Agriculture Centre Book Corner Launched at University of Peradeniya

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) has opened its new SAC Book Corner at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka, marking a fresh step in regional academic collaboration. The inauguration took place on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at the Agriculture Library of the University of Peradeniya and was led by Prof. D K N G Pushpakumara, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) at the University of Peradeniya with support of Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Head/Senior Assistant Librarian of the Agriculture Library. The Director/PGIA commended the initiative, noting that it would enrich academic engagement and broaden opportunities for students and researchers across South Asia.

The ceremony was attended by Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD and SDF), SAARC Secretariat in Nepal, whose presence highlighted the growing commitment of the SAARC network to foster stronger regional ties in agriculture and development. Dr. Md Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre, attended

the inauguration and highlighted SAC's continued efforts to deepen regional academic collaboration. He noted that shared knowledge platforms such as this corner play a vital role in supporting evidence-based policymaking across the region. He added that SAC remains committed to fostering stronger links between researchers, universities and national institutions to advance sustainable agricultural development.



Dr. W. A. R. T. Wickramaarachchi, Director General of Agriculture, Sri Lanka and SAC Governing Board member, joined the ceremony. He noted that such initiatives help strengthen cooperation between national research bodies and leading universities across South Asia.

Senior officials from SAC, members of academic and non academic staff of the Agriculture Library and the faculty of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya were also present, including Dr. M.d. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock), SAC. They emphasized the importance of shared scientific resources and accessible knowledge platforms to support researchers and policymakers engaged in advancing sustainable agricultural development.

The SAC Book Corner will act as a dedicated hub for SAC publications and research outputs. It aims to support students, faculty members and visiting scholars by providing authoritative resources on agricultural innovation, climate resilience, food security and agricultural development in South Asia.



## Tribute to Mrs. Chithrani Gamage, Deputy Librarian, University of Peradeniya (Retired on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025)



Mrs. U. G. C. C. Gamage rendered over three decades of distinguished, dedicated, and exemplary service to the University of Peradeniya Library System, leaving behind a legacy of professional excellence, academic leadership, and committed service to librarianship in Sri Lanka and beyond. She commenced her career as an Assistant Librarian on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1991, and through steadfast commitment and merit based progression, rose to the position of Deputy Librarian on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023, marking a remarkable professional journey spanning more than 34 years.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Gamage held numerous key leadership positions within the University of Peradeniya Library Network, including Headship of the Periodicals and Binding Division, Engineering Library, Cataloguing Division, Acquisitions Division, and the Palm Leaf and Conservation Project. Her final appointment as Head of the Engineering Library until her retirement stands as testimony to the confidence placed in her leadership and administrative capabilities. Her contributions significantly strengthened collection development, conservation practices, technical services, and access to scholarly resources within the university library system.

Mrs. Gamage made substantial contributions to professional scholarship and academic publishing. She served as Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Professional Development (IJPD), India (2018–2022) and later as an Editorial Consultant (2023–2025), demonstrating her international academic standing. She also contributed to university publications as the editor of the Access Guide to Printed E-Journals (University Library Publications No. 10). Her academic mentorship extended to postgraduate education as a Supervisor and Examiner for Master's degree programmes at the University of Kelaniya, reflecting her commitment to capacity building in library and information science education.

Her service to professional organizations is equally noteworthy. Mrs. Gamage served the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka (ULA) with distinction, including her tenure as Vice President (2006–2008), and maintained active membership until retirement. She also contributed extensively to national initiatives through committees, evaluation panels, recruitment examinations, and professional training programmes, including the establishment and development of book binding services in several national universities and institutions.

Mrs. Gamage holds a BA (Hons) Degree in Geography (Second Class Upper Division) from the University of Peradeniya, a Master of Social Sciences Degree in Library and Information Science (by research) from the University of Kelaniya, and an Advanced Master's Degree in Information Science (by research) from Delhi, India. Her lifelong commitment to scholarship, professional development, and service excellence was formally recognized when she received the Longest Service Award in the Library Service Category at the Founder's Day 2023 by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

Mrs. U. G. C. C. Gamage's retirement marks the conclusion of a distinguished chapter in Sri Lankan university librarianship. Her invaluable contributions to academic librarianship, professional development, institutional growth, and knowledge preservation will continue to inspire future generations of library and information professionals. The University of Peradeniya Library and the wider library community extend their profound appreciation and best wishes to her for a fulfilling and rewarding retired life.

## Conference Secretary-NILIS, University of Colombo

Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe served as a Conference Secretary of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS) International Research Symposium, University of Colombo held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo.



Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, has been appointed as a member of the prestigious Publications Committee for the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) for the 2025-2026 term. ASIS&T is a leading international association for information professionals, and this role aligns with a commitment to advancing scholarly and professional communication within the field. The ASIS&T Publications Committee is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and quality of all association publications, including journals, books, and digital communications. Its role encompasses developing editorial policy, identifying new publication opportunities, and ensuring the needs of both academic and practitioner audiences are met. Publication committee information available on <https://www.asist.org/about/committees-and-task-forces/>

## Appointment as a Co-Secretary at an International Research Symposium of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Mrs. Thushara Wanasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, served as one of the Co-Secretaries of the International Research Symposium of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka titled "Beyond Boundaries: Advancing Human & Planetary Well-being," held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This prestigious international symposium brought together researchers, academics, and professionals from diverse disciplines, providing a vital platform for interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and scholarly collaboration. Her appointment as Co-Secretary reflects the confidence placed in her professional competence, leadership, and organizational capabilities, and highlights the increasingly significant role played by library professionals in supporting and advancing the research culture of the university.



**Mr. I. D. K. L. Fernando promoted as SAL Grade I - SUSL**

Mr. I. D. K. L. Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka has been promoted from Senior Assistant Librarian Grade II to Senior Assistant Librarian Grade I, with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024. His promotion recognizes his dedicated service, professional commitment, and valuable contributions to academic librarianship. The library-SUSL and the university community congratulate him and wish him continued success in his career.

**Media Coordination at the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Convocation of the University of Ruhuna**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> General Convocation of the University of Ruhuna was successfully held on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 with great participation and academic enthusiasm. The event marked an important milestone in celebrating the achievements of graduating students across various faculties.

For the occasion, Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi, Librarian, served as the Chairman of the Media Committee, while Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian, contributed as the Convener of the Media Committee. Their efforts, together with the committee, ensured the smooth coordination of media coverage and communication activities throughout the convocation.



The event was a memorable academic celebration that highlighted the university's continued commitment to excellence in higher education.

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

Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Ruhuna, has been appointed as the Treasurer of the Humanities and Social Sciences Teachers' Union for the year 2025/2026. This marks her fourth tenure in this role, having previously served as Treasurer for the years 2022/2023, 2023/2024, and 2024/2025.

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

**Executive member of the Teachers' Union**

Mr. Lal Pannila, Deputy Librarian at the Main Library, University of Ruhuna, has been appointed as the Executive member of the Humanities and Social Sciences Teachers' Union for the year 2025/2026.

**Ms. Thushari Seneviratne Appointed as Deputy Librarian at University of Moratuwa**



The University of Moratuwa is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Thushari Seneviratne as its first Deputy Librarian. Ms. Seneviratne holds a B.Sc. (Special) Degree in Zoology from the University of Kelaniya (1998), a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Colombo (2001-2003), and a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management from the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa (2000).

She has served the library profession with distinction as General Secretary of the University Librarians Association in 2008/2009, Editor in 2017/2018, and Chief Editor of ICULA in 2023. She is also the pioneering convenor of the ULA Oration series and has contributed extensively to reviewing and editorial processes. Ms. Seneviratne is a Fellow Member of the Sri Lanka Library Association.

**Treasurer of the 'University of Moratuwa Teachers' Association (UMTA)'**



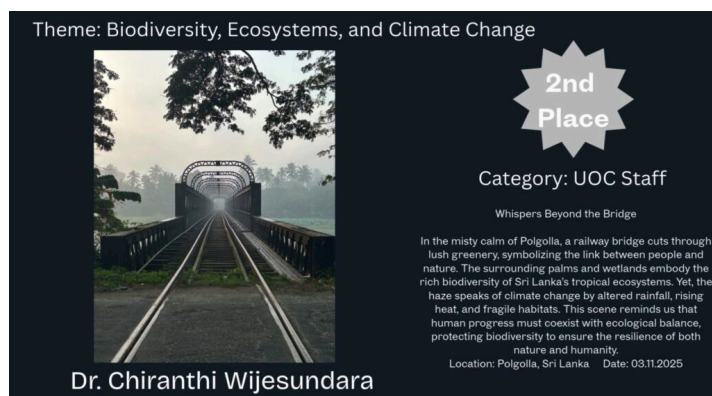
Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa, has been appointed as the Treasurer of the University of Moratuwa Teachers' Association (UMTA) for the year 2025/2026.

**Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara Wins Awards at "ECO CHAYA" Photography Competition**

Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Colombo, has been awarded both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in the Biodiversity and Climate Change category at the "ECO CHAYA: Saving the Planet Earth in a Frame" photography competition.

The competition, held as part of the Colombo Medical Congress 2025, aimed to raise awareness on planetary health through compelling visual storytelling. Dr. Wijesundara's photographs were acclaimed for their powerful environmental message and outstanding artistic quality.

Her remarkable achievement underscores the University of Colombo's enduring commitment to sustainability, creativity, and environmental stewardship.



## Vice Chancellor's Award for Output-Based Research



Mr. M. N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Output-Based Research – 2024 in recognition of his research publication in a Scopus-indexed journal. The award was conferred at the Meritorious Service Awards and Felicitation Ceremony held on 29 October 2025 at Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

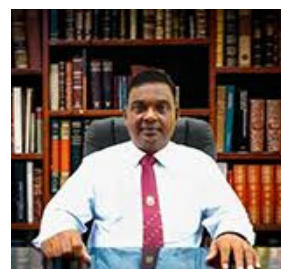
This recognition highlights the increasing contribution of university librarians to scholarly research and reinforces the role of library professionals as active participants in national and international research ecosystems.

## Professional Leadership and Recognition

Mr. S. Santharoban, Deputy Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, received Life Membership of the Institute of Applied Statistics Sri Lanka (IASSL). He also served as a Council Member of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) and was nominated for the fourth term as Convener of the Committee on Monitoring and Assigning in the Implementation of the Strategic Plan (COMAISP).

Further, he was elected Secretary of the Teachers' Association of Eastern University for the 2024/2025 term and re-elected for the 2025/2026 term. He also contributed to scholarly activities as a Member of the Editorial Panel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Emerging Trends in Healthcare Sciences (ICETHS-2025).

## Appointment to the Advisory Committee



Mr. Lal Pannila, Deputy Librarian of the University of Ruhuna, and Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Ruhuna, were appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Kumarathunga Munidasa Public Library, Matara. The library is a Grade I public library in the Matara District and operates under the administrative authority of the Matara Municipal Council.

## Sabbatical Appointment at the Library of Eastern University, Sri Lanka



Mr. MCM. Azwer has joined the Library of Eastern University, Sri Lanka on his sabbatical leave as a Senior Assistant Librarian – Grade I with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

## KDU Library Staff Shine at the Creative Writing Competition



Staff members of the KDU Library were recognized for their outstanding literary achievements at the Sinhala Creative Writing Competition organized by the Department of Languages, Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. At the competition, Mr. M. G. A. Thilanka, Assistant Librarian, achieved the first Place in both Poetry and Sinhala Essay categories while Ms. U. D. Hiruni Kanchana, Deputy Librarian secured the second place in Poetry category. All the winning writings have been included in the “Megha” book published in parallel to this competition. The Certificate Awarding Ceremony was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies Auditorium, KDU. Rear Admiral H.G.U. Dammika Kumara, VSV, USP, psc, the Vice Chancellor of the university graced the event as the chief guest. These achievements reflect the diverse talents of the KDU Library staff and underscore their valuable contribution to fostering a vibrant literary and academic culture within the university community.

## Professional Development- Completion of Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE)



Mr. MGA Thilanka, Assistant Librarian attached to the Main Library, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University has successfully completed the Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE) in the Programme XIII team, which was conducted by the Staff Development Centre of the university. The Certificate Awarding Ceremony was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025, with the presence of the Brigadier Pradeep Rathnayake, RSP, USP, psc Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration), KDU as the Chief Guest of the event.

Ms. M. P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian, KDU is on Sabbatical Leave

Ms. M. P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian attached to the Medical Library, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University has commenced a one- year period of sabbatical leave with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025. She has been obtained placement as a Senior Assistant Librarian at the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM). The Library wishes best wishes for her new appointment.

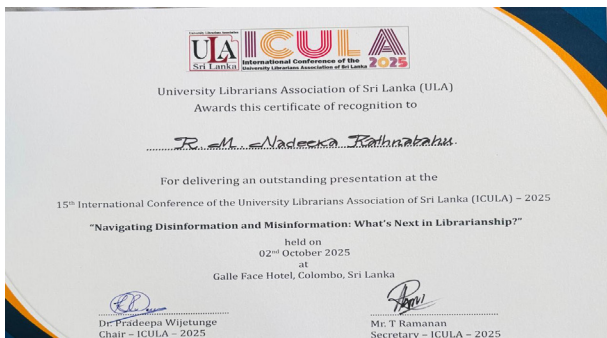


New sabbatical appointment at the KDU Library



Dr. M. M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, joined General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University with effect from 6 November 2025 during her sabbatical leave and has been attached to the Medical Library. The Library warmly welcomes Dr. M. M. Mashroofa to the KDU Library System.

Outstanding Presentation at ICULA 2025



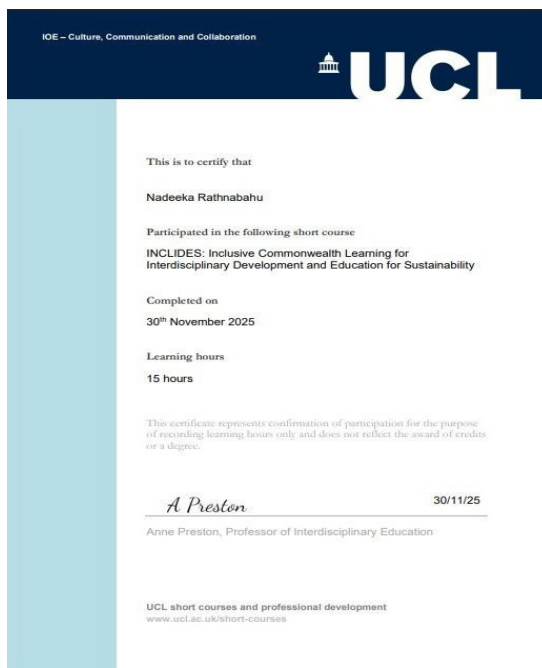
R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Grade 1 Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya awarded as an outstanding Presenter at the International Conference of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ICULA 2025), held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 at the Gall Face Hotel, Colombo.

Resource Person

Advertisement for a live webinar titled '2026 වර්ෂය සඳහා පුස්තකාල සැලසුම්කරණය' (Library Planning for the year 2016). It features a QR code, a photo of the resource person, and details about the event including the date (20th Dec 2025) and time (08.00 PM - 09.00 PM).

R.M.Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Grade 1, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, served as a resource person for the live webinar on “Library Planning for the year 2016”. This covered the preparation of a five-year strategic plan, an annual plan, proposal writing, project reports, and library budgeting. This was organized by the School Library Group, Sri Lanka Library Association. The webinar was held on 20th December 2025.

## International Course Followed



R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu, Senior Lecturer, Grade 1, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, completed the INCLUDES: Inclusive Commonwealth Learning for Interdisciplinary Development and Education for Sustainability short course offered by University College London, United Kingdom, on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

This comprehensive program, which integrates sustainability across interdisciplinary curricula through innovative approaches, perfectly aligns with her work in Library and Information Science education at the University of Kelaniya. Prof. Anne Preston and her team at University College London granted the opportunity to enhance curriculum development skills and contribute to sustainable education in Sri Lanka. Nadeeka was able to develop a comprehensive Library and Information Science Curriculum in the ESD Lens, aligned with SDGs 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 16, and 17.

## Regional and International

### Synergy, Vision, and Indelible Impact: Reflections on a Cross-Border Logistics Training-Programme

Mrs. H.W. Kusala Sajeewani, Assistant Librarian, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine, and Mr. B.E.S. Bandara, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Peradeniya, participated in a month-long advanced training programme titled “Cross-border Logistics Synergy Innovation Empowered by Digital Intelligence for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Participating Countries”, held at the Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunications (CQUPT), China, from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The programme brought together 24 participants from five countries and was conducted by 17 expert professors, complemented by visits to leading industrial and touristic sites. It provided valuable insights into the role of digital intelligence, smart logistics, and international collaboration in strengthening cross-border connectivity under the BRI framework.

Participants gained first-hand exposure to applications of Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, IoT, and smart logistics systems through academic sessions and industry visits to organizations such as SF Express, Baidu, YUXINO, YADEA, and WAYZIM. The programme also highlighted China’s commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, particularly through green and sustainable logistics practices.

Beyond academic learning, the programme fostered strong professional and cultural connections, supported by the exceptional hospitality of CQUPT professors and student volunteers. The experience concluded as a meaningful journey of knowledge exchange, collaboration, and lasting professional relationships among participants.



## Inside Australia's Future-Ready Libraries

Dr. Champa N. K. Alahakoon, Deputy Librarian of the University of Peradeniya had an opportunity to visit several university and state libraries in Australia during her sabbatical tenure, including the Monash University Library, QUT University Library, Swinburne University of Technology Library, the Brisbane Public Library, and the State Library Victoria. Through these visits, she observed that almost all the libraries provide spacious and well-designed environments that enable readers and visitors to use the facilities independently and comfortably. According to her observations, users face minimal challenges in accessing information, and library operations are efficiently managed with a limited number of permanent staff. A significant portion of routine services is supported by part-time students, who contribute during their free time by assisting with cleaning, shelving, and reader services.

The shelving systems are movable and designed at a human-friendly height, ensuring ease of access for all users. A well-established user-centered library service model in Australia, commonly known as the “My Book” concept, has been admirably implemented across these libraries. Under this system, readers are not required to visit the stack area to locate materials. Instead, requested books are placed on designated shelves under the readers’ names, allowing users to save time and collect their materials conveniently. As these libraries are fully automated, readers can search, request, and access materials through the “My Book” service, even without physically visiting the library. Furthermore, ethics, courtesy, and professionalism are strongly embedded in library culture throughout the country. Some university libraries are open to the general public to encourage wider community use, and special children’s sections have been thoughtfully designed, enabling parents to engage in library use while their children are accommodated in a safe and engaging environment.



## NSIS Project: OLPWG Meeting Participation



Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian, and Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian, University of Peradeniya, participated in the Online Learning Platform Working Group (OLPWG) meeting held at the University of Ruhuna, Matara, from 01–05 December 2025. The meeting was conducted under the EU co-funded ERASMUS+ CBHE project, NSIS – Developing Information, Research and Digital Skills for Business, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. The project aims to strengthen information literacy, research, and digital skills in higher education institutions, with a focus on business and innovation. Discussions at the meeting centered on the development of the NSIS Online Learning Platform, including digital learning modules and implementation strategies. The participation of the University of Peradeniya reflects the continuing role of academic libraries in advancing digital learning and research capacity through national and international collaboration.

## National Development

### Literacy Programs at Padavi Mahasen National School

The Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka successfully conducted two literacy-enhancement programs at Padavi Mahasen National School on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025, strengthening its outreach and community engagement efforts.

The first program, titled “Pothen Lokayata Gamanak”, was delivered to Grade 8 students with the objective of developing information literacy competencies and promoting a strong reading culture among young learners. Additionally, the “Pothe Peraherak” program was organized for Grade 6 and 7 students, offering them an interactive and enjoyable platform to connect with books and library resources.

Both sessions were conducted by the Librarian of Rajarata University, who served as the resource person for the day. These initiatives reflect the university library’s continuous commitment to supporting school communities, enhancing literacy, and inspiring students to cultivate lifelong reading habits.



### Reading Camp at Mahawannammaduwa Vidyalaya, Galkulama

Mahawannammaduwa Vidyalaya, Galkulama organized a Reading Camp Programme for students from Grades 1 to 11 as part of its literacy development initiatives. The programme was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 with the objectives of fostering reading habits, enhancing language skills, and inspiring a lifelong love for books among students.

The camp was facilitated by Rajarata University library professionals, including Librarian, Mrs. Asoka Sirwardana, Assistant Librarians Mrs. Hansamali Wickramasooriya and Ms. Kaushalya Wijerathne, who guided students through engaging activities such as storytelling sessions, guided reading exercises, creative literacy games, and group reading tasks. These activities encouraged active participation, boosted confidence, and developed students’ comprehension and vocabulary.



## Reading Camp at Mihintale Pathiraja Thennakoon Primary School

A reading Camp was held on 27 October 2025 at Mihintale Pathiraja Thennakoon Primary School as part of the school’s literature Month celebrations. The program was conducted by library academic professionals including Mrs. Asoka Sirwardana, Mrs. W. P. T. Dilrukshi, Mrs. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, and Ms. Kaushalya Wijerathne, who together facilitated a range of engaging literacy activities.

Throughout the event, students took part in storytelling sessions, guided reading exercises, creative tasks, and interactive games designed to inspire a desire for reading and enhance language skills. The enthusiastic participation of 175 students contributed to the success of the program and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in strengthening early literacy.



## Promoting Reading Culture: National Reading Month Initiative

The Government of Sri Lanka, through the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage, has declared the month of October as National Reading Month, under the theme “Let’s Read for Revival.”

In support of this national initiative, SEUSL Libraries actively collaborated with the National Reading Month programme, contributing to its outreach objectives by engaging with schools, technical colleges, and public libraries in the Ampara and Batticaloa districts. As part of this effort, the University Librarian Mr. M. M. Rifaudeen and Senior Assistant Librarians Mr. M. C. M. Azwer and Mr. A. M. Nahfees were invited as Chief Guests to conduct awareness and motivational sessions on reading.



The sessions emphasized the importance of developing a strong reading culture from an early age. SEUSL Libraries strongly believe that cultivating a regular reading habit plays a pivotal role in enhancing students' language proficiency, creativity, critical thinking abilities, and overall academic performance. Participants were encouraged to view reading as a lifelong skill that contributes to personal growth, informed citizenship, and national development.

Through this collaboration, SEUSL Libraries reaffirm their commitment to social responsibility, community outreach, and national educational goals, while strengthening partnerships with public and school libraries as key stakeholders in promoting lifelong learning.



## Akkaraipattu Technical College Students Visit SEUSL Library to Mark National Reading Month

In celebration of National Reading Month, students, lecturers, and administrative staff from Akkaraipattu Technical College visited the South Eastern University Library on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The delegation was warmly welcomed by university officials and given an overview of the library's history, structure, services, and functions. They were then taken on a guided tour of the library, where each section and its resources were explained in detail.

As part of the visit, a special lecture on "Reading, Digital Literacy, and the Role of Technology in Modern Learning" was delivered by Mr. M. M. Rifaudeen, University Librarian, and Mr. A. M. Nahfees, Senior Assistant Librarian (Access Services). The session highlighted the importance of cultivating strong reading habits, while also showing how digital tools, online resources, and technology-enhanced learning can support education, research, and lifelong learning.

The visit provided a valuable and enriching experience, helping students understand the role of reading, libraries, and technology in academic growth and knowledge development.





**KM / TK Sri Ramakrishna College Students Visit SEUSL Library to Celebrate National Reading Month**

On the occasion of National Reading Month, students and teachers of KM / TK Sri Ramakrishna College (National School), Akkaraipattu visited the South Eastern University Library on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025. During the visit, students were guided through the various sections of the library and briefed on its activities, resources, and services, giving them insight into the opportunities available for learning and research.

A special address on “The Importance of Reading for Students” was delivered by Mr. S. L. M. Sajeer, Senior Assistant Librarian, at the library auditorium. The talk emphasized how developing strong reading habits can enhance language skills, critical thinking, creativity, and overall academic performance, inspiring students to embrace books as a tool for personal and academic growth.

This visit reflects SEUSL Library’s ongoing commitment to community outreach and fostering a reading culture among young learners, complementing the national initiative of “Let’s Read for Revival.”





## Enhancing Teaching, Learning, and Research through eLibrary USA

The University Library successfully conducted an awareness session on eLibraryUSA on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Library Auditorium.

The programme was conducted by Mr. Sujiraj, Coordinator, and American Corner – Batticaloa, who introduced participants to the features and benefits of eLibraryUSA and registered individual memberships to enable access to the platform.

The session was organized by Mr. M.M. Rifaudeen, University Librarian, with the support of Mr. Nowzad A. Jabbar, Director – American Spaces, U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka.

During the programme, it was announced that the University has been provided with a three-year license for eLibraryUSA, and that free individual access is available to all university students and staff. Users receive personal login credentials to access the platform.

The platform provides access to eight major scholarly and educational resources, namely Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, ProQuest Dissertations, PressReader, Flipster, BookFlix, Kanopy, and Libby.

The programme enhanced awareness of high-quality digital resources and supported the university community in strengthening teaching, learning, and research activities.



## “Vikasitha Semarum” Library Week

Malimbada Sri Sumedha Maha Vidyalaya organized “Vikasitha Semarum” Library Week 2025 for school students on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The program attracted nearly 200 students and aimed to promote reading habits and the effective use of library resources among learners. Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Ruhuna, participated as the Chief Guest and delivered an informative address highlighting the importance of reading books and the effective utilization of library services. In addition to the reading camp, several competitions and activities were conducted, including awards for the most frequent library reader, best short story and novel scriptwriter, best poet, and best art drawing. The students participated in the event with great enthusiasm, making it a successful and meaningful educational initiative.



## Workshop on Library Management for Effective Library Services

The Matara Municipal Council, through the Matara Kumarathunga Munidasa Public Library, organized a workshop on Library Management for Effective Library Services on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Kumarathunga Munidasa Public Library. The program was conducted for staff members of the main library and its three branch libraries, with the participation of nearly 25 library staff members. Mr. Lal Pannila, Deputy Librarian of the University of Ruhuna, and Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Ruhuna, served as the resource persons. The workshop focused on enhancing professional competencies and strengthening the delivery of effective library services to the public.





### School Library Week 2025

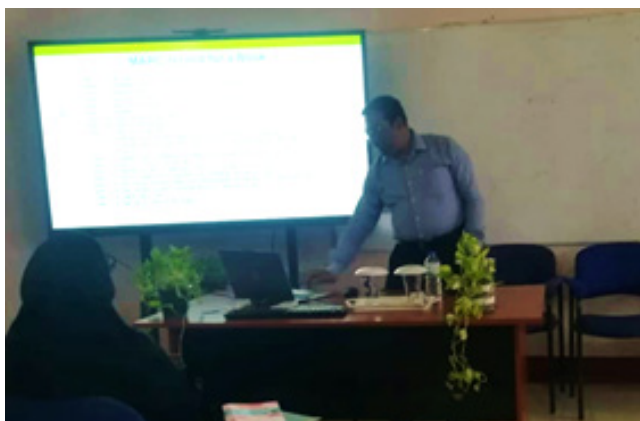
Matara Jamburegoda Maha Vidyalaya organized a School Library Week for school students on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. The program was conducted with the participation of nearly 80 students, along with the teaching staff of the school. Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Ruhuna, participated as the Chief Guest and Resource Person. During the event, she delivered an insightful address highlighting the importance of literature in maintaining a balanced and meaningful life. The students actively and enthusiastically participated in the activities, making the event a successful and enriching educational experience.



### Capacity Building for Public Librarians

Mr. M. N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, served as the Resource Person for a workshop on “Modern Library Management Practices”, organized by the Manmuni Pradeshiya Sabha, Arayampathy, on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Public librarians from Manmuni, Koralaipattu West, Porativu Pattu, and Eravur Pattu Pradeshiya Sabhas participated in the programme, which aimed to strengthen professional knowledge and management skills in public library services, contributing to regional library development.



### Participation as resource person- National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB)

Mrs. Shirani Ranasinghe, Deputy Librarian, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, was invited as a resource person to the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB), a Workshop on Systematic Review for its research staff, which held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the NDDCB premises from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe and Mrs. Chandima Wadasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarians also participated and assisted to the as resource person at the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB), a Workshop on Systematic Review for its research staff, which held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the NDDCB premises from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.



### Third Session of SLCARP–Agri-Net Awareness Program at the Sugarcane Research Institute (SRI) , Udawalawa

The Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP) has launched a series of awareness programs under Agri-Net, following a decision made at the National Advisory Committee meeting. The initiative aims to strengthen the research and information management skills of staff attached to SLCARP-affiliated research institutes, as well as librarians and information officers registered under Agri-Net.

The program focuses on:

- Introducing the latest print and electronic research journals, databases, and institutional repositories available in NARS libraries.
- Enhancing research capacity through training in literature searching and database use.
- Familiarizing participants with the Zotero Reference Management System.
- Providing guidance on publishing in reputed journals and using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to support research.



## Invited Speech on Bolgoda Ecosystem Held at Waskaduwa Public Library

Ms. Thushari Seneviratne, Deputy Librarian, University of Moratuwa delivered an invited speech on the Bolgoda ecosystem and its information management to the Readers Club at Rajaguru Sri Subuthi Public Library, Waskaduwa on October 23, 2025.

Working on the Bolgoda project with Prof. Chulantha Jayawardena, Department of Earth Resources Engineering, Ms. Seneviratne highlighted the ecological significance of Bolgoda Lake, its biodiversity, environmental challenges, and the importance of proper information management for conservation. The session successfully raised community awareness and encouraged active participation in conservation efforts among the Readers Club members.



## Discussion on Bolgoda Tourism Zone Development Held

Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, Deputy Librarian, joined a discussion on the development of the Bolgoda tourist zone for Bandaragama on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at University of Moratuwa. It was led by Dr. Shammika Liyanage, Department of Public Policy, University of Ruhuna.

The meeting brought together experts including Emeritus Professor P.K.S. Mahanama, Department of Town and Country Planning who developed the Tourism Development Plan for Bolgoda, and Prof. Chulantha Jayawardena, Department of Earth Resources Engineering. Mrs. Seneviratne and Prof. Jayawardena have been involved in raising awareness about the Bolgoda ecosystem. The discussion was initiated at the request of Mr. Samith Jayagey, Chairman of the Bandaragama Pradeshiya Sabha, as part of efforts toward the revival of Bandaragama tourism. The collaborative meeting focused on leveraging expert knowledge to develop strategies for establishing Bolgoda as a sustainable tourism destination. Final-year students attached to the Department of Public Policy, University of Ruhuna were also participated.



## Research Contributions

### International Library Research Symposium iLRS-2025

The library conducted its first International Library Research Symposium on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025, themed “Social Responsibility of Librarians: Leveraging Information for Sustainable Development,” marking a significant milestone in its academic initiatives. The symposium was chaired by Dr. (Mrs.) Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian, University of Colombo, with Mrs. Shabnam Johoran, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo, serving as the convener. The event was held virtually via the Zoom platform, bringing together scholars, librarians, and researchers around the world to explore how libraries could effectively support a sustainable future, addressing challenges and seizing opportunities through the power of information.

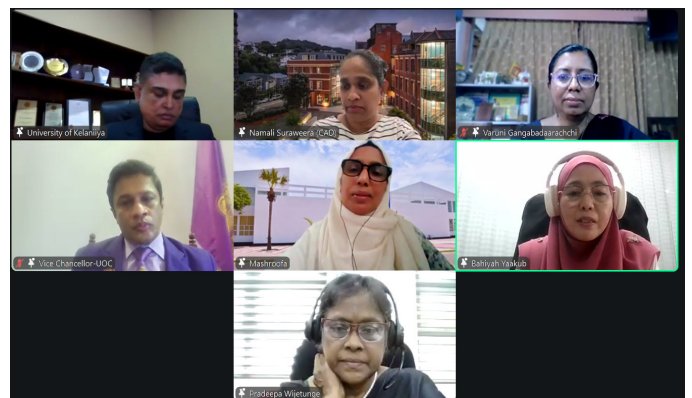
The Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Professor Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event featured two distinguished Keynote Speakers: Emeritus Professor Saroj Jayasinghe, a retired senior academic of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, and Mr Stephen Wyber, Director, External Affairs, at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Netherlands. Emeritus Professor Saroj Jayasinghe delivered the keynote address on “Libraries and the SDGs: Enhancing Collective Intelligence for Sustainable Development,” highlighting the pivotal role of libraries in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, while Mr. Stephen Wyber delivered the keynote address on “The Social Responsibility of Librarians: To Whom, How and When?”, drawing attention to the ethical and professional obligations of librarians in a rapidly changing information landscape.

The symposium featured an Invited Speaker Session with both national and international contributors: Professor Anwarul Islam (Bangladesh), Dr. (Mrs.) M. M. Mashroofa (Sri Lanka), Mrs. Khairulbahiyah Yaakub (Malaysia), Dr. Namali Suraweera (New Zealand), Ms. Indreswari Nurmalia Sulasmi (Indonesia), and Mrs. Varuni Gangabadarachchi (Sri Lanka). Additionally, the symposium included three technical sessions with 18 research papers presented. Overall, it offered a lively platform for scholarly discussion on the social responsibility of librarians in promoting sustainable development. Through keynote addresses, invited speaker sessions, and technical presentations, the event highlighted the vital role of libraries in advancing the SDGs, fostering innovation, improving digital and AI literacy, and strengthening community sustainability, while emphasising the profession’s commitment to ethical responsibilities and national development.

## International Library Research Symposium 2025

Social Responsibility of Librarians:  
Leveraging Information for  
Sustainable Development

12<sup>th</sup> December 2025



### Invited Speaker Session



**Professor Md. Anwarul Islam**  
Department of Information Science and Library Management  
University of Dhaka  
Bangladesh



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



**Mrs. Khairulbahiyah Yaaku**  
Chief Librarian  
University of Technology Malaysia (U  
Malaysia



**Dr. Namali Suraweera**  
Academic Developer  
Victoria University of Wellington  
New Zealand



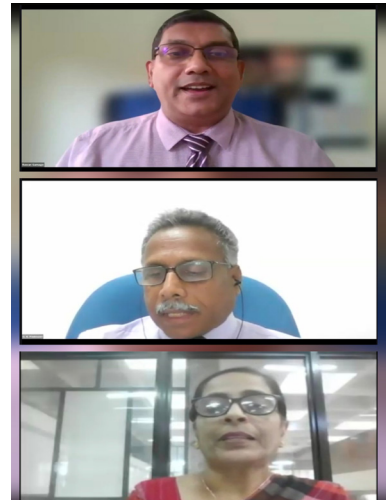
**Ms. Indreswari Nurmalia Sulasmi**  
Librarian  
Centre for Bibliography and Library Materials Processing  
National Library of the Republic of Indonesia



**Mrs. Varuni Gangabadaraci**  
Chief Librarian  
Colombo Public Library  
Sri Lanka  
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i-LRS 2



### NILIS Annual Research Symposium -2025

NILIS Annual Research Symposium -2025, was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2025. The theme of this conference was " Research for Resilience: Advancing Knowledge in a Changing World. ".





## International Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference 2025 Held at the University of Kelaniya

The International Multidisciplinary Desk Research Conference 2025 (DRC 2025), organised for the third consecutive year by the Library of the University of Kelaniya, was held with resounding success on October 31, 2025, at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Computing and Technology.

This flagship academic event has now become one of the largest and most intellectually vibrant multidisciplinary research forums in Sri Lanka, drawing together over 600 registered participants, 27 session chairs, and 30 rapporteurs. It provides an influential platform for local and international scholars to share evidence-based insights derived from desk and secondary research, fostering innovation and collaboration across diverse disciplines.

The conference was graced by the presence of Dr. Anil Jayantha Fernando, Hon. Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development, who attended as the Chief Guest, and Professor M. M. Gunatilake, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, honoured the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

This year's conference featured an outstanding lineup of five keynote lectures delivered by eminent scholars representing multiple disciplines, symbolising the spirit of intellectual diversity that defines DRC: Emeritus Professor Mudiyanse Dissanayake, University of the Visual and Performing Arts; Professor Nuwan Kodagoda, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT); Professor Praneeth Abeyesundara (Retired), University of Sri Jayewardenepura; Dr. Dulani Kottahachchi, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya; Professor Lasanthi Manaranjanie, Department of Fine Arts, University of Kelaniya.

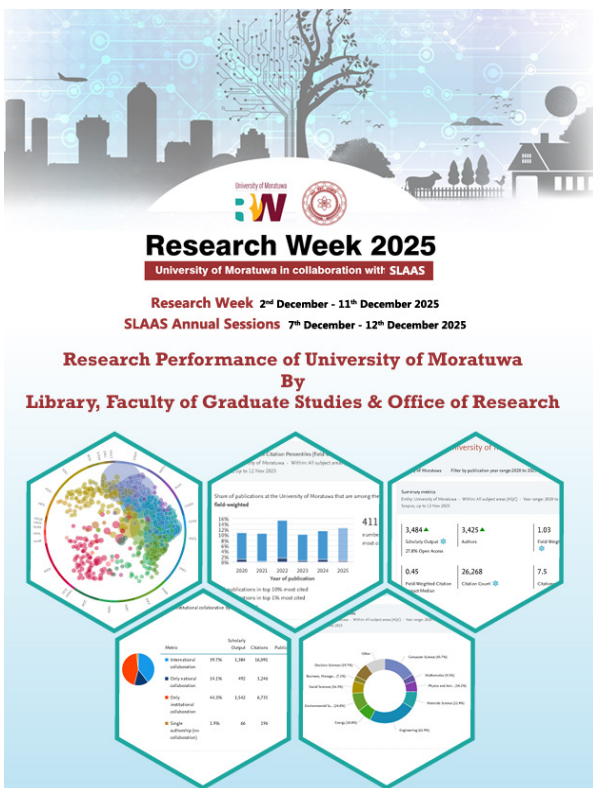
Their thought-provoking presentations spanned themes of artistic expression, technological innovation, social transformation, medical advancement, and cultural resilience, enriching the multidisciplinary dialogue that the conference promotes.

Also in attendance were Professor Sachith Meththananda, Chairman of the Research Council of the University of Kelaniya; Dr. C. C. Jayasundara, University Librarian and Conference Advisor; Mrs. Sajeewanie Rubasinghe, Conference Chair, DRC 2025; along with academic and non-academic staff from all faculties, library professionals, and a distinguished array of research presenters from universities and research institutions across the country.

The conference reaffirmed the University of Kelaniya Library's leadership in fostering multidisciplinary scholarship through innovative approaches to desk-based and secondary research. It also emphasised the growing importance of evidence synthesis, data-driven policy insights, and meta-analytical research in shaping modern academia and informed decision-making.



Research Performance Display



UOM Research Week 2025 was held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at the university premises, under the theme “Connecting Academics, Practitioners, and Society: From Research Labs to Village Roads: Bridging the Gap Between Academic Research and Real-World Impact.” Aligned with this theme, our focus this time was to present data and related outputs on “Where the University of Moratuwa is Located Globally.” Accordingly, the data, statistics, and analysed outputs were displayed mainly under the following areas:

- i. Sustainable Development Goals
- ii. Collaboration
- iii. Global Visibility
- iv. Research Performance Overview

The Advisory Panel consists of Mrs Ruvini Kodikara, Librarian, Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Former Dean/FGS, Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Dean/FGS, Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara, Director/Research and Prof. Gayathri Ranathunga, Chairperson/Research Week, Dr Menaka Hindagolla, Client Experience Librarian, Deakin University, Australia. As per the advisory board's direction, content creation, context-building, and editorial work were carried out by Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, with the assistance of library staff.



## Workshop on 'Enhancing Research Support at the University of Moratuwa'

### ENHANCING RESEARCH SUPPORT AT UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA:

A COLLABORATIVE DIALOGUE

FOR ACADEMIC STAFF

- RESEARCH GRANT SCHEMES
- UOM LIBRARY SUPPORT
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND RESEARCH COMMERCIALIZATION
- STUDENT REGISTRATION, PROGRESS REVIEWS, AND SERVICE FROM FGS
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**DATE**  
15 October, 2025

**TIME**  
08:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**VENUE**  
University of Moratuwa

**REGISTER HERE:**

<https://forms.gle/47yPvybM5QxobXi82>

**EXTENDED**  
Registration Deadline  
08 October, 2025

CO-ORGANIZED BY

- Office of Research
- Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Enterprise
- Library
- International Relations Division

The workshop, which was co-organised by the Office of Research, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Library, the Enterprise, and the International Relations Division on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025, at the University of Moratuwa, aimed to educate the university's academic staff on the current research landscape, available facilities, and support provided by the university.

The event featured six key sessions covering the university's research ecosystem, funding opportunities, research degree procedures, commercialization, university ranking and library support. Prof. Ruwan Gopura/Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara, Director/Office of Research, Dr Ajith Pasquel, Director/Enterprise, Amali Hettige, Manager/Enterprise Prof. Deleeka Dias, Chairperson/University Ranking Committee, Dr. G.V.I. Samaradivakara, Director/International Relations, and Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana/Senior Assistant Librarian, contributed as resource persons.



## Research Capacity Building in Indigenous Medicine

Mr. S. Santharoban, Deputy Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, served as a Resource Person for the Training Programme on Research Methodology in Indigenous Medicine held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025. He delivered sessions on Basic Data Analysis and Introduction to SPSS, supporting evidence-based research practices among academic staff and contributing to the enhancement of research quality within the university.

## Participate as an Invited Speaker at the International Library Research Symposium 2025

Dr. M. M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian (on contract), attached to the Medical library, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University participated in the International Library Research Symposium (ILRS) 2025 organized by the University of Colombo. She delivered a speech titled “Roles of Librarians in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals,” highlighting the vital contribution of librarians in promoting sustainable development through effective information services and community engagement. The symposium was held virtually on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 under the theme “Social Responsibility of Librarians: Leveraging Information for Sustainable Development.”

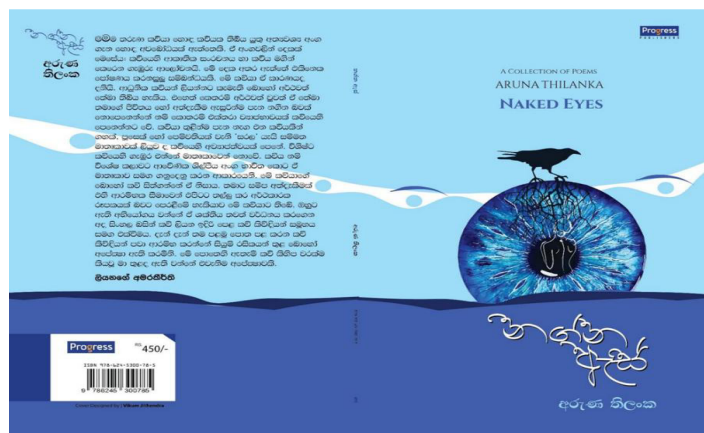
## Journal publication

Mrs. T. C. Ranawella, Senior Assistant Librarian attached to the Main Library, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University published an article titled “The Forgotten Gift: Revisiting the University of Virginia Library Endowment for Ceylonese Materials” in the Volume 7, Issue 2 (November 2025) of the KDU Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies (KJMS). The study critically examines a historically significant of library endowment at the University of Virginia, highlighting its relevance to Ceylonese heritage and scholarly resources.

## Conference Publication

Ms. P. K. Wijesekara, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Southern Campus, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University has contributed to the field of special education and assistive technology through her research publication titled “Adapted Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Technologies and Literacy Development in Children with Intellectual Disability (ID): The Roles of Mediators and Moderators.” The paper was published in the proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Research Conference on Psychology and Mental Health- 2025, organized by the Nāgānanda International Institute for Buddhist Studies, Sri Lanka held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

## Book Publication



Mr. M. G. A. Thilanka, Assistant Librarian, Main Library of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University has published a poetry collection titled “Nagna As”, under the Progress Publishers in October 2025. The publication reflects Mr. Thilanka’s creative engagement with contemporary Sinhala poetry and highlights his contribution to literary scholarship and cultural expression.

## Senate Awards for Research Excellence and Publications 2025



Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe was deeply honoured by the Senate Awards for Research Excellence and Publications awarded by the University of Colombo, 2025

## Quality Assurance

### Workshops on Literature Search and Writing Literature Reviews

As part of quality enhancement initiatives, the Eastern University Library Network conducted academic support workshops on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for third- and final-year undergraduates engaged in research.

- A Workshop on Literature Searching was facilitated by Mrs. Gayathiri Navirathan, Senior Assistant Librarian.
- A Workshop on Writing Literature Reviews was conducted by Mrs. Lavanya Jegatheesparan, Senior Assistant Librarian, Health-Care Sciences Library.

These workshops strengthened students' competencies in scholarly information retrieval, critical

### Installation of CCTV Surveillance System at the Health-Care Sciences Library

Under the Kuwait Fund Project of the Faculty of Health-Care Sciences, the Health-Care Sciences Library received a CCTV surveillance system, which became fully operational in December 2025. The total cost of the project was LKR 8.28 million.

The installation has enhanced library security, user safety, and service quality, contributing to an improved learning environment.

### Workshop series on "KOHA library management software -version 25.11.00" at SUSL

The Library Quality Assurance Cell (LQAC) successfully conducted its first workshop on "KOHA Library Management Software" on 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at the Staff Development Center, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL). The workshop was facilitated by Mr. I. D. K. L. Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, who served as the resource person.

The workshop was organized following the recent system update to KOHA version 25.11.00 and data migration at SUSL. Its primary objective was to familiarize library staff with the new interface of KOHA version, and to discuss key aspects related to policies, procedures, guidelines, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) associated with the library management system. The sessions also emphasized the need to update existing policies in line with current system requirements and best practices.

Prof. (Mrs.) Ruwandeepika, Director of the Centre for Quality Assurance, SUSL, also addressed the gathering, motivating the library staff and appreciating their valuable contribution toward enhancing the quality of teaching, learning, and research at the university.

### Strengthening Library Procurement Practices at SEUSL

As part of staff development initiatives, the SEUSL Libraries organized a Procurement Awareness Program on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Main Library Meeting Room. This session highlighted an often-overlooked yet crucial area procurement procedures for books, periodicals, e-books, e-resources, and online databases, essential for enhancing the library collection.

The program was conducted by Mr. S. H. Safeek (B.B.A, ICASL – Corporate Level, AAT-SL and MBA - reading ), Senior Assistant Bursar, SEUSL, who shared his extensive professional experience from Government Auditor to Government Accountant, and later joining SEUSL as Assistant Bursar before his recent promotion.

Mr. Safeek, a recognized trainer in accounting, finance, and professional examinations, provided practical guidance on procurement workflows, documentation, and best practices specifically relevant to library operations.

Our resource person covered the essential areas outlined in the Procurement Guidelines and the Manual of the National Procurement Agency of the Commission, and also touched upon relevant Financial Regulations.

He highlighted important aspects such as procurement planning, various procurement methods, preparation of procurement documents, steps involved in bid receipt, evaluation, and awarding processes related to the acquisition of books.

Library staff members, including the Librarian, Senior Assistant Librarians, and Library Support Staff, greatly benefitted from his insights.

We sincerely thank Mr. Safeek for generously sharing his expertise despite his busy schedule.



## Student Support

### Workshop on Citing Literature Using Mendeley

A workshop titled “Citing Literature Using Mendeley Reference Manager” was conducted by Mr. M. N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the e-Resources Unit, Main Library, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

The workshop targeted final-year undergraduate students engaged in research projects and focused on effective reference management, accurate citation practices, and ethical academic writing, thereby supporting student research quality and academic integrity.



### Information Literacy and Library Skills Course Successfully Completed

The Information Literacy and Library Skills course at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, was completed for Level III, Semester I students in the academic year 2024/2025.

Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian, made a significant academic contribution to the program by serving as the Course Coordinator, Examiner, and Invigilator. The lecture panel included Mrs. Sandya Gammanpila and Mr. K.T.S. Pushpakumara, Senior Assistant Librarian, serving as Visiting Lecturers.

The course aimed to strengthen students' abilities in information literacy and library skills, supporting their academic growth and research activities.

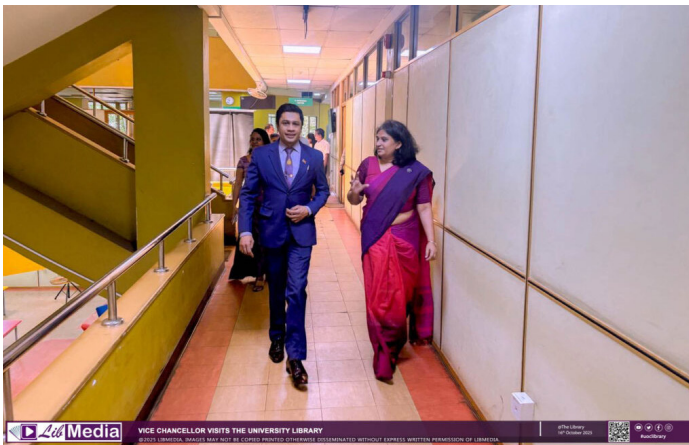
## Special Events

### Vice Chancellor Visits the University Library

The Library of the University of Colombo had the honour of welcoming Professor Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, for an official visit to the Main Library on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Professor Karunathilake was warmly welcomed by the Library staff and engaged in discussions with both academic and non-academic members. During his tour, he visited key service points, reading areas, and special collections, taking a keen interest in recent developments and ongoing modernization efforts. The Vice Chancellor commended the Library's continuous contribution to the University's teaching, learning, and research excellence.

The visit concluded with warm interactions and gratitude, reaffirming the Library's role as a vibrant centre of knowledge, creativity, and collaboration at the University of Colombo.



### Celebrating Literary and Reading Month 2025 – University of Colombo Library

The Library of the University of Colombo is celebrating Literary and Reading Month 2025 by organising a series of programmes aimed at inculcating reading habits among undergraduates.

#### Event 01-Book Talk

The first programme, "The Book Talk", was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at the Main Library premises. The featured book was "භාෂාධර්මයන්හි හා වාග්විද්‍යාව : සිද්ධාන්ත, ක්‍රමවේද හා මතවාද", compiled by Senior Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa.

During the session, Professor Coperahewa shared his editorial experiences and provided valuable insights into the content of the book. The discussion encouraged students to explore reading from new perspectives and inspired them to actively engage in research. The programme was highly interactive and well-received by both academic staff and students. On this occasion, Professor Coperahewa generously donated a copy of his book to the Library, which was formally accepted by the Acting Librarian, Dr. Kalpana Manathunga. The event was successfully coordinated by Ms. H.I.S.M. Adhikari, Senior Assistant Librarian, Reader Services.



**Event 02 – Book Hunt 2025**



In celebration of Reading Month, the Main Library of the University of Colombo organised an exciting and intellectually stimulating competition titled “Book Hunt 2025” for the library users. The event aimed to encourage greater use of library resources among undergraduates while enhancing and recognising their awareness of the Library’s collections and services.

The competition was initiated and coordinated by Dr. N. M. Karannagoda, Senior Assistant Librarian, under the guidance of the Librarian, with the dedicated support of the entire Library staff.

### Event 03 – Bookmark Design Project

The Library of the University of Colombo implemented a special project titled “Bookmark Design Project” to commemorate National Reading Month 2025. This creative initiative was designed to foster a culture of reading while highlighting the artistic talent and innovation of the library staff.

The project was successfully coordinated by Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara, Senior Assistant Librarian, with the enthusiastic participation of the Library staff.



### Event 04- Book Exhibition at the Main Library

In celebration of Literary Month, the Library of the University of Colombo, in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs, organized a Book Exhibition on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 at the Main Library. The exhibition commenced at 9.00 a.m., showcasing a wide range of publications from the Department of Cultural Affairs, which were made available to readers at special discounted rates.

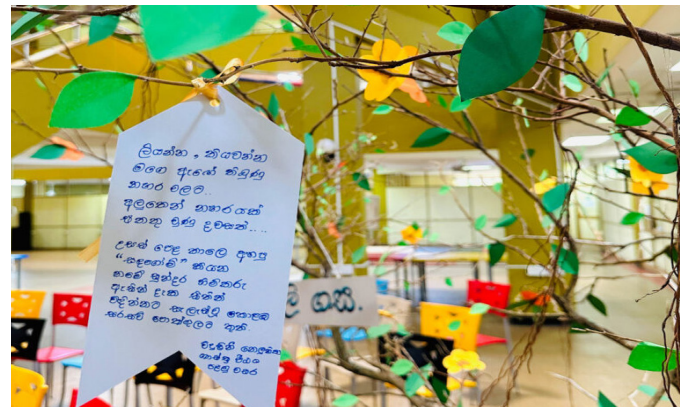
The exhibition provided an excellent opportunity for the university community to explore and acquire valuable literary works, promoting reading and cultural appreciation among students and staff.



**Event 05 Thought Tree**

In celebration of Literary Month, the Library of the University of Colombo introduced an inspiring initiative titled “Thought Tree”, designed to encourage creativity and self-expression among library users. The Thought Tree was ceremonially opened on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at the Learning Commons area, located on the ground floor of the Main Library. This creative platform invites students and staff to share their reflections, ideas, and literary thoughts, symbolically “planting” them on the tree for others to read and enjoy.

The initiative aims to foster a culture of reading, writing, and idea sharing within the university community, making the library not only a place for learning but also a space for inspiration and creativity.



**Event 06 Colombo Discourses 2025**

The Library of the University of Colombo launched its new flagship initiative, Colombo Discourses 2025, on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025, marking a new milestone in the University’s commitment to fostering knowledge sharing and intellectual collaboration. The inaugural session, themed “Talk to an Expert,” featured an engaging discourse by Professor Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo.

The event brought together academics, students, and professionals, creating a vibrant space for dialogue and exchange of ideas. Through Colombo Discourses 2025, the Library aims to cultivate a culture of inquiry and continuous learning, inspiring participants to explore diverse perspectives and engage in meaningful conversations that go beyond the boundaries of the classroom. By transforming the Library into a “living classroom,” the initiative reimagines its traditional role, from a repository of books to a dynamic hub for creativity, collaboration, and scholarly growth.

Organised alongside the Reading Month 2025 celebrations, the programme was coordinated by Ms. S. M. Adhikari, Senior Assistant Librarian (Reader Services), in collaboration with the Library staff. With this initiative, the University Library continues to strengthen its role as a catalyst for intellectual engagement and a key partner in shaping a future-ready academic community.



## Training/ Awareness/ Motivational sessions conducted by the Library

A Staff Motivational Session was successfully held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at the Library Auditorium. The programme was designed for the staff members of the Main Library and the branch libraries to enhance motivation and teamwork.

The session was conducted by Professor M. T. M. Mahees attached to the Department of Sociology, University of Colombo, who served as the Resource Person. The event drew the participation of almost all library staff members and was organised under the Non-Academic Staff Development domain of the library. It was coordinated by Ms. S M Adhikari, Senior Assistant Librarian (Reader Services). The session was highly inspiring and productive, providing valuable insights into workplace motivation and personal development. Participants expressed their appreciation for the engaging and thought-provoking presentation.



## Breast Cancer Awareness Session at the Main Library, University of Colombo

The Main Library of the University of Colombo organised a Breast Cancer Awareness Session on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025, under the theme “Early Detection Saves Lives – Empowering Knowledge Against Breast Cancer.” The programme aimed to raise awareness on the importance of early detection, prevention, and support for individuals affected by breast cancer. The session was conducted by the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) coordinating team, led by Dr. Suraj N. Perera and Prof. Udari A. Liyanage from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Their active involvement and expertise greatly contributed to the success of the programme.

The session was graced by Professor Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, as the Chief Guest. Distinguished medical professionals from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, shared valuable insights on breast cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment.

The awareness session featured informative presentations and interactive discussions, emphasising the importance of regular screenings, healthy lifestyle choices, and community support in reducing the burden of breast cancer.

The programme was well attended by university staff members, students, and guests whose enthusiastic participation reflected their commitment to promoting awareness, compassion, and proactive health practices within the university community.

Through this initiative, the Main Library reaffirmed its role as a hub of learning and well-being, promoting public health education and empowering individuals with knowledge that can save lives.



**Intensive Library Training Programme Conducted at the University of Colombo, Main Library**

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## Generous Book Donation from the Former President Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga

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## Inauguration of Higher Diploma in Library and Information Sciences – 2025/2026

The Centre for External Degrees and Extension Courses (CEDEC) of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, inaugurated the Second Batch (Intake 02) of the Higher Diploma in Library and Information Sciences (HDLIS) – 2025/2026 on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at the CEDEC Auditorium.

The programme is designed to enhance professional competencies in library and information science and to address the growing demand for trained information professionals in academic, public, and special libraries. The inauguration marked a significant milestone in continuing professional education in librarianship and human resource development within the library sector.





**Human Library**



In parallel to the “Research Week 2025”, the University of Moratuwa organised the “Human Library” event on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2025. The Human Book was Prof. Samath D Dharmaratne, Chair Professor of Community Medicine and a Board-Certified Specialist in Community Medicine at the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. He was in Stanford/Elsevier’s Top 2% Scientists of the World list in 2023 and 2024.

The content of the Human Book included ‘Research journey: the past, the present and the future’. There were two special events under this program: the Human Book Launching Ceremony and the Human Library. Dr (Mrs) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa, organized the event.

"Connecting Academics, Practitioners and Society: From Research Labs to Village Roads"

**Research Week 2025**  
 University of Moratuwa in collaboration with SLAAS  
 Research Week 8<sup>th</sup> December - 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
 SLAAS Annual Sessions 7<sup>th</sup> December - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**HUMAN LIBRARY**

"My research journey, the past, the present and the future"

**Human Book**  
**Prof. (Dr.) Samath D Dharmaratne**  
 Chair Professor of Community Medicine and Board-Certified Specialist in Community Medicine,  
 Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine,  
 University of Peradeniya.

15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 1.30 pm - 3.00 pm  
 At Board Room: Faculty of Graduate Studies  
 University of Moratuwa

**For More Information**  
 Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana : nayani@uom.lk

## Workshop on Conservation and Binding

The Conservation and Preservation Unit of the Main Library, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, organized a Workshop on “Conservation and Binding” on 20th November 2025 as part of the Library’s Community Outreach Programme.

The programme brought together public library staff and Library Science students from the region. Hands-on training was provided by professionals from the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), promoting best practices in document preservation and sustainable library management.



## Library Skills Training for Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) Pre-Sessional Course Student Officers at the KDU

The Main Library of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University organized a Library Skills Development Session on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 for the Tri-Forces Student Officers of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) Course No. 20/2026 during their Pre-Sessional Course. The session was conducted by Mrs. T. C. Ranawella, Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade I). The program focused on introducing the wide range of library resources and research support services available at KDU to the participants. Special emphasis was placed on the effective use of print and electronic resources, including academic databases, scholarly journals, and reference management tools, to support advanced academic and professional studies.



## Contribution on Research and Development by KDU Library staff



Ms. UD Hiruni Kanchana has made contribution as a resource person of the awareness session on “How to identify right journal and avoid predatory publications” organized by the Staff Development Center of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025. The session was conducted for the Academic Staff members of the university which aimed to enhance the research culture at the university while maintaining the quality of the publications. Dr. Faiz Marikkar, Director Staff Development Centre also attended as a resource person of this session.

## Workshop on practical skills on Crossref DOI for the Para-professional staff of KDU Library

Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Library of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University successfully conducted a workshop on practical skills on Crossref Digital Object Identifier (DOI) on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at the Main Library premises targeting library para-professionals. The session was facilitated by Ms. M. P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian attached to the Medical Library and focused on enhancing practical knowledge and skills related to scholarly publishing support. The workshop provided participants with a comprehensive overview of DOI registration processes, metadata management, and the role of Crossref in ensuring accuracy, discoverability, and global visibility of scholarly publications.

## Workshop on use of Microsoft 365 applications for effective Library Services

Workshop on use of Microsoft 365 applications for effective library services was conducted by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Library of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for its para professional Staff on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Computer Laboratory of Faculty of Computing of the university. Ms. UD Hiruni Kanchana, Deputy Librarian attached to the Allied Health Sciences was the resource person of the workshop. Use of Microsoft Sway and list application in compilation of new arrivals and directories or indices at the library were mainly covered by the workshop.

## Lectures delivered by the KDU Library Staff for the officers of the Defence Services Command and Staff College Course



Three academic sessions were conducted by the academic staff members of the library, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the postgraduate students of the Defence Services Command and Staff College in their Research Methodology Pre-Sessional Course. Dr. M. M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian attached to the Medical Library was conducted the lecture on Literature Review on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Mrs. U. D. Hiruni Kanchana, Deputy Librarian was conducted two sessions on Literature Survey: identifying resources and Citing and Referencing with Mendely Reference Management Software on 27<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 respectively. All the sessions contributed significantly to enhancing the research competencies of postgraduate students and highlighted the active role of the KDU Library in supporting academic research and scholarly development.



### University of Peradeniya Library Seminar Series No. 18

The University of Peradeniya Library Seminar Series No. 18 was successfully held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., at the Library Auditorium of the University of Peradeniya. The seminar featured an engaging and intellectually stimulating book review of *Journey of a Civilization: Indus to Vaigai* authored by R. Balakrishnan, a significant scholarly work that proposes a direct cultural and linguistic continuum between the Indus Valley Civilization and ancient Tamilakam in South India.

The review was presented by Dr. Sundar Ganesan, Director of the Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai, India. In his presentation, Dr. Ganesan offered insightful perspectives on the book's interdisciplinary approach, highlighting its use of archaeology, linguistics, and historical geography to reinterpret early South Asian civilization. He thoughtfully elucidated the author's arguments, emphasizing the relevance of the work to contemporary scholarship on ancient civilizations and South Indian history.

The seminar attracted a diverse audience comprising academic staff from the Faculty of Arts, library academic and non-academic staff, and students, fostering a vibrant atmosphere for scholarly engagement and discussion.

The event was organized by Mr. S. A. Jeewan, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library, under the supervision of Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya. The seminar series continues to serve as an important platform for promoting academic dialogue and intellectual enrichment within the university community.





## Library Staff Get-Together and Support Programme

The Library System of the University of Peradeniya organized a Get-Together and Pain Relief Programme on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at 4.30 p.m. at the Common Room of the Department of Animal Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture. The programme aimed to strengthen staff cohesion and extend support to colleagues affected by the recent Dithwah cyclone.

The event commenced with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp, followed by a two-minute silence in memory of those who lost their lives due to the cyclone. A welcome address was delivered by Mr. H. G. G. Bandara, Library Attendant, Main Library, followed by addresses by Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian, and Dr. (Ms.) Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian (Reader Services). As part of the initiative, practical assistance was extended to the most affected staff members. Ms. Nandani Malkanthi, Library Attendant, Agriculture Library, expressed appreciation for the efforts of the organizing team. The formal proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. H. G. G. Bandara.

The programme provided a supportive platform for staff to share experiences and engage in mutual discussions, fostering a sense of solidarity and collegiality. Approximately 60 academic and non-academic library staff members participated. The event concluded at 10.30 p.m., reinforcing unity and collective resilience among participants.





**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA**

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University of Sri Jayewardenepura  
email: [mnsamara@sjp.ac.lk](mailto:mnsamara@sjp.ac.lk)

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University of Colombo  
email: [chiranthi@lib.cmb.ac.lk](mailto:chiranthi@lib.cmb.ac.lk)

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Sabaragamuva University of Sri Lanka  
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**Dr. Lynn Kleiveldt**  
Department of Information Studies  
University of the Fraser Valley  
email: [Lynn.kleinveldt@ufv.ca](mailto:Lynn.kleinveldt@ufv.ca)

**Dr Shri Ram**  
Librarian  
Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology  
Patiala  
email: [hrram@thapar.edu](mailto:hrram@thapar.edu)

#### **Layout Design**

**Mr. Chinthaka Senanayake**  
Assistant Librarian  
University of Colombo  
Email: [chinthaka@lib.cmb.ac.lk](mailto:chinthaka@lib.cmb.ac.lk)



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