

Newsletter of the University Librarians' Association, Sri Lanka

Annual Research Session of ULA 2016

Annual Research Sessions of ULA (ARSULA-2016) was held on the 2nd of September 2016, at the Main Library, University of Colombo. Theme of the session was "Access to Information". The inauguration was enlightened by Professor, Athula Ranasinghe, Dean / Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo as the Chief Guest. The inauguration was addressed by Ms. S. Arulanantham, former president of ULA and Dr.P.Wijetunga, Librarian, University of Colombo.



A lively and plenary speech on "Computer literacy and aesthetic values among youth in Sri Lanka" was delivered by Senior Professor Indralal De Silva, Professor of Demography (Chair), Department of Demography, University of Colombo as the key note speech.



As a part of this event, Journal of University Librarians' Association Volume 19, Issue 2 was launched. Mr. T.Ramanan, former editor ceremonially issued the first copy to Chief Guest. Two parallel academic sessions followed after the inauguration were held with 13 abstract presentations of LIS professionals.



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ULA Workshop

Workshop for Teacher Librarians

University Librarians' Association organized a two day workshop for teacher librarians in Akuressa Educational Zone on 28th & 29th October 2016. The inauguration was held on first day at Main Library Auditorium, University of Ruhuna.



Chief Guest was Senior Prof. Gamini Senanayake Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna and Guest of honors were Ms. M.A.L. Silva, President of ULA, Ms. P.K.S. Manathunga, General Secretary, ULA and Mr. U.M. Nalin Jayamina, Zonal Director of Education, Akuressa. Mr. U.A. Lal Pannila, training officer of ULA coordinated the inauguration and the workshop sessions.



The workshop contents include School Library and Teacher Librarianship, Acquisition & organization of Library resources and School Library information service marketing and promotion, and use printed and electronic information effectively. Moreover the workshop provided the training on library resources classification and cataloging, and use of information technology for school Library. Mr. Ananda Karunarathne, Librarian, University of Ruhuna, Senior Assistant Librarians Mr. N. Hettiarachchi, Mr. U.A. Lal, Mr. J.J. Garusingarachchige, Mr. K.T.S Pushpakumara, Ms. S.L. Gammanpila, Ms. R.A.P.S. Senevirathna and Assistant Librarians Ms. P.K. Jayasekara, Mr. P.G.N. Kumara served as resource. Fifty teacher librarians were participated in this event and the participants appreciated the workshop and admired that valuable knowledge gathered by different resource persons.

Workshops & Seminars

Workshop on Information Literacy for Higher Education

A Workshop on Information Literacy for Higher Education was organized by the Library of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka with the assistance of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS). The two day workshop was held on 6th & 7th October, 2016 at the Auditorium of the Staff development Centre of the South Eastern University. The target audience was library staff of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Librarian (SEUSL) MM Rifaudeen, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka delivered welcome speech. Prof MMM Najim, Vice- Chancellor, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka addressed at the inauguration as chief guest. Dr. Prsanna Ranaweera, Director of NILIS gave introductory speech at the session. Librarian Mrs. T.Arulnandhy, Eastern University, Sri Lanka delivered vote of thanks.



Workshop covered the topics of Information and information literacy, Information literacy models with special reference to Empowering 8, Information skills, and importance of Information literacy in Higher Education. Dr.Presanna Ranaweera, Mr.PG.Premadasa, Mr.UP Alahakone and Mr.MM Rifaudeen served as the resource persons.



Workshop on Data Analyzing and Thesis Writing

Health-Care Sciences Library organized a workshop on data analysing through SPSS, selection of suitable statistical methods and thesis writing on the request of Department of Supplementary health sciences to the final year B.Sc Nursing students. The workshop held on 24th & 25th of October, 2016 at Faculty Computer Laboratory. Mr.S.Santharoban Senior Assistant Librarian served as resource persons.



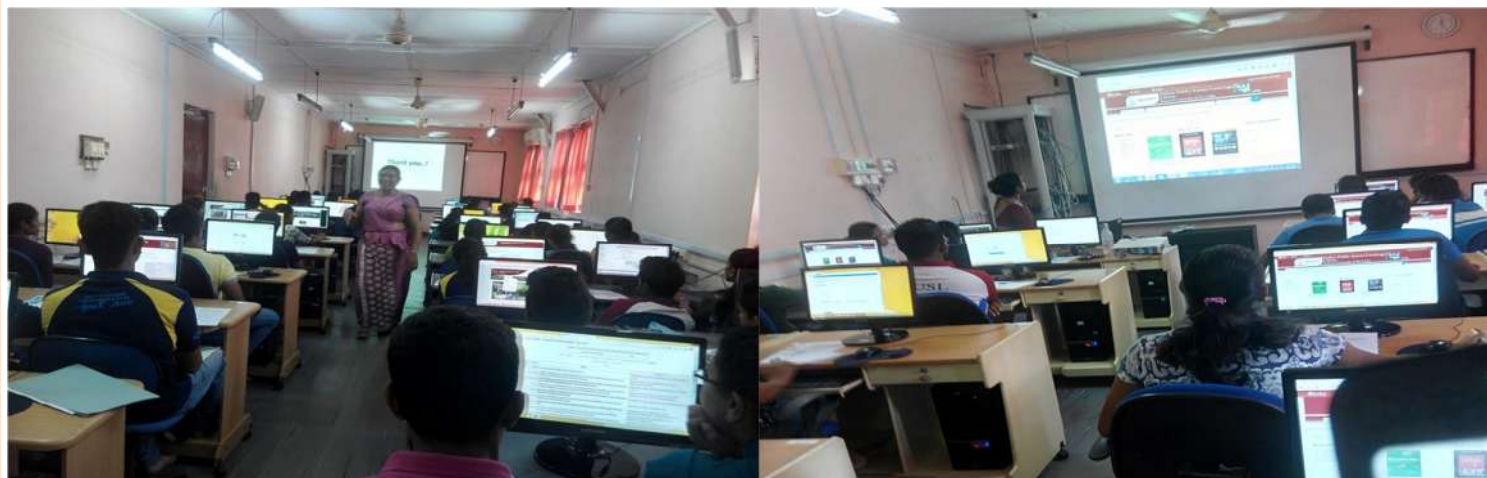
Workshop for Academic Staff of Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Library, EUSL organized a workshop for Academic staff of the University on 17th November, 2016 at newly opened e-Resource unit of Library. Senior Assistant Librarians Mr.M.N.Ravikumar, Mr.T.Ramanan and Mr.S.Santharoban served as resource persons of the sessions. Workshop provided hands on training on access to online databases, open access online resources and open access publishing and Mendeley reference manager.



Workshop on E-Resources

Mrs.Asoka Siriwardena, Librarian, University of Rajarata and Mrs.Thanuja Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian of same university have conducted a workshop to the students of Faculty of Agriculture, University of Rajarata to make aware of E-Resources and improve their usage. The workshop was held on 14th September 2016 .



Workshop on Koha

Library of University of Rajarata organized a workshop for library staff on the installation of Koha latest version on 11th and 12th of October 2016 at the Mian library. Mr.Nimal Hettiarachchi, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna served as resource person of this workshop.

Orientation programme

In collaboration with Pre-Academic Coordination Committee of Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Library conducted Orientation Programme for 2016 intake. First year students of Faculty of Engineering participated in Library Orientation programme started from 7th November to 5th December. Access to information sources via Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) along with Library Tour, Effective Internet search strategies and Google Applications for learning are the topics of interest for 2016. Senior Assistant Librarians Mrs. T.M. Seneviratne and Mr. C.N.D. Punchihewa served as resource persons.



Training workshop to Library Staff of EUSL

The Main Library of Eastern University, Sri Lanka organized a training workshop to library staff on 07th December, 2016. Senior Assistant Librarian Mr.S.Santharoban, conducted session of University Structure and Establishment Code, Senior Assistant Librarians Mr. M.N.Ravikumar and Mr.T.Ramanan conducted session on code of professional conduct and ethics.



Outreach Services

Awareness Programme on Prevention of Cancer

According to the National Cancer Control Programme, cancer is the second most common cause of mortality in Sri Lanka. However, people do not have enough knowledge on Cancer. As such, the Main Library of University of Colombo organized an awareness programme for the undergraduates on primary prevention of cancers, in collaboration with the National Cancer awareness programme, on 26.10.2016, at the Main Library auditorium. The purpose of the workshop programme was to empower undergraduates of University of Colombo with the knowledge on prevention and control of cancers. The session mainly focused on primary prevention of cancers in the breast, oral cavity, esophagus, cervix and lungs.



ORGANIZED BY
NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMME OF SRI LANKA



Story Telling Session

The Library University of Colombo conducted a Storytelling Session as a Reading Promotion programme parallel to the National Reading Month. It was held on 18th October, 2016 at the Early Childhood Development Centre, University of Colombo and was conducted by Emeritus Professor J. B. Dissanayake and Senior Lecturer Nirupama Mahagamasekara.



Outreach Services

Thoughts for Parents

An awareness programme under the theme - "ලොව දිනන ඔබේ දරුවා" was organized by Library, University of Moratuwa, in collaboration with Bodhiraja Vidyalaya, Katubedda on 27th September, 2016. The programme was organized to commemorate World Children's Day 2016 and the targeted audience was the parents of the school. Assistant Librarian Mrs. Nayani Gunawardena conducted the programme. An undergraduate of Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa volunteered to share his past memories throughout the journey to reach University of Moratuwa. Principal and Deputy Principal of Bodhiraja Vidyalaya were also participated in the programme.



Reading promotion among pregnant mothers

A programme to improve the reading habits among pregnant mothers were organized at MOH Clinic at Pulliyar Junction and at Mihinthale on 15th and 30th September, 2016. The session was conducted by Mrs. A.S. Siriwardana, Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Mrs. K.R.N.Harshani Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Applied Sciences Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Workshop on Professional Ethics

Mrs. A.S. Siriwardana, Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka served as a resource person for the workshop on Professional Ethics, conducted by Sri Lankan Library Association for the public librarians of the Jaffna District on 28th September 2016 at the Jaffna Public Library. Mrs.K.R.N.Harshani, Senior Assistant Librarian, of the Faculty of Applied Sciences Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka served as a resource person for the same workshop, conducted by Sri Lankan Library Association for the public librarians of the Colombo District on 29th September 2016 at the Auditorium of the National Library and Documentation center.



Training for Teacher Librarians

Library services board of North Central Province organized training programme for teacher librarians at Hugurakgoda Educational zone on 4th November 2016 and Kekirawa Educational zone on 8th November 2016. Mrs. A.S. Siriwardana, Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Mrs.Thushara Wanasinghe Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences served as resource person for the above training programmes.



Training Workshop to Librarians

The Public Library of Eravur Pattru Pradeshiya Sabha had organized a training workshop for Library Assistants of public libraries from Eravur Pattru North on 12th October, 2016 to mark the Library Week. Mr. T. Ramanan, Senior Assistant Librarian from Eastern University, Sri Lanka served as resource person. The participants were trained on organizing the information materials in their libraries. First session covered cataloguing principles and its practical application and the second session was focused on training on classification using Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). Participants recorded a positive feedback about the training workshop and they requested their authority and the resource person to conduct similar training programmes in future on various library operations.



Human Library at University of Kelaniya

The Librarian and staff of the main library together with the Coordinating Centre for Students with Disabilities organized 'Duologues', a Human Library event on Wednesday 07th December 2016 at 2.00 p.m. at the Library Lobby of the main university library. The main aim of this 'disability-awareness' event was to afford opportunities for the general student population at our university to engage in conversations with nine key resource persons from the disability rights community.



Achievements

First Sri Lankan Public Library's Koha Based OPAC on the Web

Mr. M.N.Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, Eastern University Sri Lanka has successfully installed and customized Koha open source LMS at Pethalai Public Library, which is coming under the authority of Koralaipattu Pradeshiya Sabha, Batticaloa and launched the OPAC of the library on 11th October 2016. This is the first Koha based full featured OPAC of a Public Library live on web in Sri Lankan history. In this event Mr. M.N. Ravikumar was honored by the Asst. Commissioner of Local Government for his valuable service rendered to the library.



Participation of Cultural Partnership Initiative (CPI) Programme at Korea

International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) of the UNESCO is operating Cultural Partnership Initiative (CPI) Programme, since 2012. In 2016, ICHCAP had selected four highly qualified young professionals in the intangible cultural heritage field throughout the Asia-Pacific region, out of thirty-four applications. Miss. A. V. M. K. Ankumbura, Assistant Librarian, University of the Visual and Performing Arts had been one of the four. Other three professionals came from Mongolia, Tonga, and Malaysia.



Program was held from August to December 2016. In early August 2016, the participants began their five-month sojourn in Korea. As part of the program, Miss. A. V. M. K. Ankumbura involved in various projects, including individual research, participation in ICHCAP's projects and meetings, and networking with other ICH experts. The various projects were designed to help the participants better understand how Korean policies and systems for ICH safeguarding operate, which will then enable the participants to compare the Korean systems with their own country's system. ICHCAP expects this year's program to play a significant role in building a strategic project model in partnership with the participants' agencies to foster an ICH network in the Asia-Pacific region.

Award Received

Dr. (Mrs.) N D Wijayasundara (Librarian), Mrs C S Ranasinghe (Deputy Librarian) and Mrs. P G R Samaravickrama (Senior Assistant Librarian) of University of Sri Jayewardenepura received research awards at the Annual Research Award Ceremony 2016 held on 29th September 2016.



Promotion

Mrs. A.P.U. de Silva from University of Kelaniya has been promoted to the post of Senior Assistant Librarian Gr.II with effect from 21.02.2016.



Mrs. M.P.L.R. Marasinghe from University of Kelaniya has been promoted to the post of Senior Assistant Librarian Gr.II with effect from 21.03.2016.



Retirement from Service

Retirement of Senior Assistant Librarian, Mr. Punchibanda Gallaba

Senior Assistant Librarian Mr. Punchibanda Gallaba was retired from his 32 years long service. A felicitation ceremony was organized by the Library Welfare Society for the retirement of Senior Assistant Librarian, Mr. Punchibanda Gallaba on 30th October 2016 in the Main Library. Prof. Sampath Amarathunga (Vice-chancellor) and Prof. Surangi G. Yasawardene (Dean of the Medical Faculty). The event was filled with Mr. Punchibanda Gallaba's 32 years of memories in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and his noble services to the Library, University and to the nation as a leading library specialist.



Academic Progress

Ms. Champa Alahakon has completed Ph.D at National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo. Her research title was “ICT Self-efficacy and the use of Electronic Information Resources by undergraduates in Sri Lanka.” She is the first Ph.D of NILIS.



Ms. K. K. N. L. Perera, Assistant Librarian attached to the Main Library of University of Colombo recently completed her Master's Degree on Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), offered by the National Institute of Library and Information Science, University of Colombo. Her research interests include promotion of pleasure reading in academic libraries.



Ms. C.J.Wijesundara, Assistant Librarian attached to the Main Library of University of Colombo recently completed her Masters from the Graduate school of Library, Information and Media Studies, University of Tsukuba, Japan. Her research interests include 'Heritage information, metadata, linked open data, geo-information and archaeology. The title of the dissertation of her Masters' degree is "Enhancing accessibility to heterogeneous Sri Lankan cultural heritage information across museums through metadata aggregation'. She is currently reading for her PhD at the University of Tsukuba, Japan.



Members Registered for Doctoral Research

- Mrs.DC Kuruppu, Deputy Librarian, University of Colombo had registered for PhD at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.
- Mrs.PKS Manatunga Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo had registered for MPhil/ PhD at Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo.
- Mr. N.M. Karannagoda, Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo, had registered for PhD at National Institute of Library and Information Sciences.
- Mr. Kokila Ramanayaka, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna is on study leave and reading for a PhD in China.
- Mrs. Theja Kuruppuarachchi, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna is on study leave and she is reading for a PhD in Queensland University of Technology in Australia.
- Mr. Jagath Garusingarachchige, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna is on study leave and he is reading for a PhD in Sri Lanka.