



Newsletter

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SPECIAL EVENTS IN FOCUS

Workshop on “Research Methods and Statistics for Information Professionals”



The library of University of Kelaniya coordinated a two day workshop on “Research Methods and Statistics for Information Professionals”. It was organized by the University Librarians Association. The workshop was held at 5th and 6th February 2019 at University of Kelaniya. Prof. D. M. Semasinghe/ Vice-Chancellor, University of Kelaniya, Senior Prof. Sunil Chandra/ Chairman, Research Council, University of Kelaniya, Dr. Chaminda Jayasundara / President, University Librarians Association (ULA) & Librarian, University of Kelaniya, Mrs. Hiruni Kanchana / Secretary, University Librarians Association (ULA), ULA members and several academic and administrative staff members of University of Kelaniya participated at the inauguration ceremony in the workshop. Prof. Karuthan Chinna who is the associate professor at the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, served as the resource person of the workshop. More than 60 academics and administrative staff members participated in the workshop.

Visit of officials from Capital Market Information Centre (CMIC) of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Sri Lanka

Capital Market Information Centre (CMIC) of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Sri Lanka visited the Library of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka on 29th March, 2019. SEUSL Library has got permission to access their databases including updated capital data and full text published research articles. The officers from the centre provided brief training program on Capital Market Information, historical data and current and updated information to undergraduates and academics for their learning and research. Officers from SEC, Dr. A. Jahfer, Head, Dept. of Accountancy and Finance, Faculty of Management and Commerce, Mr. M.M.Rifaudeen, Librarian, Academic and Non-academic staff members of the library participated in this program.



Well known translator, Journalist and Author Mr. CMA. Ameen visited SEUSL Library

Mr. CMA. Ameen a well-known translator, journalist and author of many publications visited SEUSL library on 12th March 2019. Library has organized Guest Lecture programme and experience sharing session for the final students of BA. In trilingual studies in collaboration with Ms. MASF, Saadiya, Head of Languages in the library premises. Library has also organized an exhibition of books authored and translated by MR. CMA. Ameen at this occasion.

ACHIVEMENTS AND AWARDS

Guest Lectures

Awareness programmes on Library Services in the Digital Age

Mr.Ajantha Dharmarathne, Head, Reader Services Division of the Main Library of University of Peradeniya was invited by the Department of Education for delivering a guest a lecture with hands on experience for the students who follow the Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) and Masters Degree in Education (Med.). Students were made aware of the available print and electronic resources in the Main Library, the ways of using library online catalogue (OPAC) and doing a good literature search. The PGDE Session was held on 07th January 2019 while the Med. session was held on 25th January 2019.Both sessions were held at the Auditorium of the Department of Education. Dr.Samarakoon Banda and Dr.S.Yatigamma, Senior Lecturers of Education coordinated these couple of sessions.



Human Library

'USJP Human Library' 2019

In line with the University's 60th anniversary celebrations, Library, University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized a 'Human Library' on 27th of March 2019 which was open for all the university students, staff members and general public.

Eleven 'Human Books' were invited including Most Rev. Diviyagaha Yasassi Nayake Thero, Uruwarige Wannila Aththo, Prof. Narada Warnasuriya, Prof. Muditha Vidanapathirana, Dr. Saumya Liyanage, Mr. Mathugama Seneviruwan, Mr. Thilak Kandegama, Ms. Kaushalya Fernando, Ms. Indika Upamali, Mr. Wasantha Dugannarala and Mr. Sahan Ranwala. Sessions were held from 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. and the 'Human Books' shared their knowledge and experience with the audience during the sessions.



Library Collaboration

International Collaboration

University of Colombo and Tsinghua University, Beijing, recently entered into a memorandum of understanding to enhance resources sharing, at the Senate hall of the University of Colombo. The Acting Librarian, Dr. DC. Kuruppu signed on behalf of University of Colombo library while the Director, Dr. WANG .Youqiang signed on behalf of the Tsinghua University library. During the visit to the Library, delegation led by the Executive Vice-President of Tsinghua University, Prof. WANG Xiqin met the Library academic staff for mutual understanding of the ongoing information dissemination process.



National Collaboration

OUSL Library & Bandarawela Public Library Collaborative Project

The Open University of Sri Lanka had signed a MoU with Bandarawela Municipal Council on 26th February, 2019. This signing of MoU denotes the first ever collaborative project between a state University Library and a Public Library. The Vice chancellor of the OUSL, the Registrar, Librarian, Director regional educational services ,and Coordinator of the Project, Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, had participated in the event.



The Bandarawela Public Library has provided infrastructure facilities while the OUSL library will provide access to learning and course materials, past question papers, scholarly publications and journals of the Open University of Sri Lanka and, text books, journals and periodicals, annual reports from other sources. The Public Library will also receive an access to OUSL website, Online services, e-Books, Open Educational Resources and subject based Digital Reading Rooms and an entry to the User Education Programs that will be conducted at the Public library by the OUSL library staff.

The established center is named as the 'OUSL Library Corner' and Bandarawela Study Centre of the Open University will be the coordinating body. The 'OUSL Library Corner' will be opened for the OUSL learners as well for a wider audience including general public and researchers.

SHINES BEYOND THE HORIZON

Sajeewnie Somaratna, Senior Asst. Librarian, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo recently participated in the "AUA Library Directors Dialog " held at Tsinghua University of China which was organised by the Asian University Alliance.



ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION

Information Literacy at South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL)

Library, SEUSL has obtained approval of the university senate to conduct Information Literacy for undergraduate students of Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) at its 131st meeting. Information Literacy was conducted for second year students during their first semester as an optional course of two credits at FAS for the academic year 2016/2017. Altogether 38 students from Bio Science and Physical Sciences were registered to this subject and they are 100% successful in their end semester examination. Mrs. M.M. Mashroofa, Senior Asst. Librarian, SEUSL was the Lecturer in-charge and Mrs. H.M.D.S.D. Somarathna, Senior Asst. Librarian, University of Colombo contributed as a moderator and 2nd examiner for this course.

At present 201 students have selected this course and they are enthusiastically learning for the academic year 2017/2018. Mrs. M.M.Mashroofa, Senior Asst.Librarian, SEUSL is the Lecturer in-charge and Mr. M.M. Rifaudeen, Librarian, SEUSL, Mr. A.M. Nahfees, Senior Asst. Librarian, SEUSL and Mr. MCM. Azwer, Senior Asst.Librarian, SEUSL are the other lecturers involve in teaching. Mr. B.E.S. Bandara and Mr. S.L.M. Sajeer, Asst. Librarians, SEUSL are supportive in doing practical /tutorials. Mr. M.M. Rifaudeen will be the moderator and the 2nd examiner.

As the content of this course is highly essential for lifelong learning, university senate advised to implement this course to all faculties, too.

Academic Contribution from KDU to EUSL

Mr. V. Alagaratnam, Assistant Librarian, General Sir John Kotalawala Defense University (KDU) was appointed as a Visiting Lecturer and conducted lectures for Philosophy special degree students on "South Asian Philosophy" and Fine Arts special degree students on "Aesthetics" at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) from January to March, 2019.

Pre-Academic Term Programme for Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa

New students of Department of Town and Country Planning, Faculty of Architecture were offered a series of library programmes in their pre-academic term in this year. The sessions covered the Library OPAC, Internet Searching and Electronic Resources and Basic Plagiarism and Referencing. Senior Assistant Librarians, Mr. Nishan Punchihewa, Mr. Anura Kiriella, Mrs. Nayani Gunawardana and Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted the programmes.



TRAINING INVOLVEMENT

Training on e-resources and managing references at Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo



A workshop on “E – Resources and Managing References (Mendeley and End Note Reference Management Software)” for trainers of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) organized by Library, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo on 27th March 2019 at Auditorium, PGIM. Objectives of the workshop was creating awareness on e- resources among newly board-certified consultants of the PGIM and provide hands on training on Mendeley reference manager and End note reference manager.

Mr. S. Santharooban, Senior Assistant Librarian Faculty of Health Care Sciences, Eastern University contributed as a resource person for two reference manager tools and Mrs. M.P.P. Dilhani, Senior Assistant Librarian, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo conducted lecture on e - resources, subscribed databases and searching techniques.



CREATING A VIBRANT RESEARCH CULTURE

User Education Programmes

Information Library Workshop at KDU

The KDU Library has organized the Information Literacy workshop for final year Civil Engineering Students, in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on 25th February 2019. As a resource person the following academic staff members of the KDU library were contributed.

- o “A guide to Effective Literature Searching” – by M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine
- o “Referencing and Mendeley Reference Management Software” – by U.D. Hiruni Kanchana, Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
- o “Harvard Referencing Style” – by Mr. V. Alagarathnam, Assistant Librarian, Main Library

Workshop on Literature Review, Plagiarism and Reference Management at OUSL

Several User Education workshop were conducted by the Library in January and February 2019, for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Health Sciences, of the OUSL. Dr. Wathmanel Seneviratne, Librarian of the OUSL conducted 2 workshop on “Writing a Literature Review and avoiding Plagiarism” whereas, Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Assistant Librarian, OUSL conducted 2 workshop on “Reference Management using Mendeley”.

Mrs. Thushara Abeysekera, Senior Assistant Librarian, OUSL conducted a workshop on Electronic Resources and Library Services on 14th February 2019 at the Audiovisual Resource Centre of the Library.

Feedback given by the students implies that these workshops are highly useful to enhance their theoretical and practical knowledge on these aspects.



Enhancing Research Skills of Undergraduates of KDU

Library, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University jointly conducted different programmes with different faculties with the aim of improving research skills of the undergraduates. Under this collaboration, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Para Clinical Sciences invited Mrs. M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine to conduct a session on “How to do an Effective Literature Search” for the 3rd year MBBS students from the Department of Para Clinical Sciences on 21st January 2019.

Also, Department of Pharmacy and Radiography from Faculty of Allied Health Sciences invited Mrs. U.D.H. Kanchana, Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences as a resource person of their Research Methodology Module for final year undergraduates. Under this session the following lecture series were conducted under the following Topics.

- o Information Sources & searching techniques on 9th January & 14th February, 2019
- o Referencing and Mendeley Reference Management Software on 22nd February & 28th March, 2019

Further, Mrs. Pearl K. Wijesekara, Assistant Librarian, Southern Campus, KDU was invited to conduct the session on “Information Literacy” for the Intake 34 undergraduates from the Department of Architecture on 27th & 30th March 2019. The session covered the topics on “Literature searching, avoiding plagiarism and referencing using Mendeley Reference Management Software”.

Served as the resource person at the workshop

The Second workshop of the Series of Ten Seminars on Research: Contemporary Research



The event was organized with the objective of promoting research in the University of Kelaniya. The resource persons of the seminar were Prof. Ajith De Alwis, - Director of COSTI, Prof. N.P. Sunil-Chandra, and the Librarian, C.C. Jayasundara, Dr. C.C. Jayasundara conducted a technical session on “Using proper sources to do a literature survey” at the seminar on Contemporary Research on 14 February 2019 at Staff Development Centre, University of Kelaniya. It was organized by the Research Council, University of Kelaniya. Both academic and administrative staff members in University of Kelaniya participated in the workshop.

Lectures on “How to do a literature survey” at the Research Methodology workshop

Ms. A. S. Rubhasinghe and Ms. A. P. U. de Silva, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya contributed as resource persons in the Research Methodology workshop and conducted lectures on “How to do a literature survey.” The workshop was conducted for the students reading Linguistics for their Bachelor in Arts special degree on 28th March 2019 at the Computer Lab, Department of Linguistics, University of Kelaniya.

Enhancing Research Culture in University of Moratuwa

Library has initiated different kinds of programmes for enhancing the research culture in University of Moratuwa. With this effort, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted “Literature searching for research” sessions to discuss the information needs of the students. Mr. Nishan Punchihewa directed the students to handle the information in ethical manner by conducting “Plagiarism and Referencing” sessions introducing effective reference management system. The sessions were conducted for the students of Bachelor of Design students (Level I, III and IV), Department of Textile, Faculty of Engineering, Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Level IV), Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, MSc/PG Diploma in Environmental Engineering Management and MSc/PG Diploma in Environmental Management.

Also, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted a session on “Online resources and Effective searching techniques” for the new intake of MSc in Structural Engineering (2019/2020) students. The postgraduates were keen on identifying the resources available for them as they are not frequent visitors to the University premise.



Workshop on “How to conduct an Effective Literature Search”

A workshop on “How to conduct an Effective Literature Search” was conducted for the fourth year undergraduates of the Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce and B.Sc. Nursing program, Faculty of Medical Sciences on 12th of February 2019 at the Multimedia Centre of the library, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Mrs. Shirani Ranasinghe, Deputy Librarian and Mr. A.J.P. Samarawickrama, Assistant Librarian of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura served as the resource persons.

Lecture on “Information resources and Literature Searching Techniques”

Mrs. Shirani Ranasinghe, Deputy Librarian conducted a lecture with hands on practice on “Information resources and Literature searching techniques” on 29th March 2019 for 4th year undergraduates of Bachelor of Pharmacy degree program at IT Center, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Workshop on "Conducting Literature Survey and Refraining from Plagiarism"

A workshop on “Conducting Literature Survey and Refraining from Plagiarism” organized by the Library was held on 30th March 2019. Dr. Wathmanel Senevirathna, Librarian of Open University Sri Lanka served as the resource person of this workshop.



Workshop on Research Indicators at Uva Wellassa University

Workshop on Research Indicators, Scholarly Publications and Research Management organized by the Library of UWU was held on February 12, 2019 at the Main Computer Lab. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) J.L. Ratnasekera, the Vice Chancellor with the presence of Deans of the Faculties, Registrar, Librarian and Bursar. The Main objective of the workshop was to brainstorm on how to enhance research and publication output in the era of modern technology. The workshop covered various topics related to Research Indicators, Reference Management tools, Plagiarism control, Citation Databases, Copyright, Intellectual Property Rights, Journal Selection Tools and Open Online Resources for Research. The participants were provided hands-on practice on the use of many databases and software. Workshop was conducted by 04 eminent resource personal who came from India. There were 104 participants from 07 universities of Sri Lanka, National Science Foundation and UWU. Attendees characterized the workshop as very useful, very effective and targeting the right areas to enhance quality and quantum of research and publication. They were highly satisfied with workshop resource personal and the topics discussed. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. T. Pratheepan, Senior Assistant Librarian.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Awareness Programme for Library Staff on Plagiarism and Turnitin Tool

In the process of developing the research culture of the University of Moratuwa, library has identified the importance of having the basic knowledge on Plagiarism among the library staff. For fulfilling this requirement, a workshop was organized for the library staff on 6th and 7th March 2019 to introduce the concept of plagiarism and the functions of Turnitin plagiarism checking tool. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Nishan Punchihewa, Senior Assistant Librarian of University of Moratuwa.



Awareness program for Academic Staff on URKUND ANTI-Plagiarism Checker

The University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka (UGC) has subscribed to anti plagiarism software called URKUND and distributed among all 15 state universities for the benefit of their academics and students. Libraries of such universities are the Focal Points of operating URKUND. Therefore relevant university libraries have to organize the awareness programmes to make aware of their academics on URKUND Anti-Plagiarism Software with hands on experience. Accordingly University of Peradeniya Library Network organized an awareness programme for the academic and library staff of all faculties on 5th and 6th February 2019 from 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm at the University IT center. The programme was coordinated by Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library and Mr. H.N.K.M. Herath, Local Agent for URKUND participated as the resource person of the program. About 150 academics participated in the event.

Seminars /Lectures under Continuing Professional Development Programme

The division of Digital Resources Development and Staff Training, Main Library, University of Peradeniya conducted a couple of seminars in February and March. The first seminar was on 'Optimal Use of Research Indicators, Tools and Techniques, Research Intelligence and Scholarly Communication' on 11th February 2019 at the Senate Room, University of Peradeniya. Academic staff members and research scholars of the University of Peradeniya were invited for the event and the seminar was conducted by Prof. S. Ravi, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Central University, Tamilnadu, India; Prof. P. Ravichandran, Annamalai University, India; Prof. R. Balasubramani, Department of Library and Information Science, Bharathidasan University, India and Prof. K. Raja, Dhaanish Ahmed College of Engineering, India.

The second seminar was conducted for the Library staff of the University of Peradeniya on the theme of 'Stress Management and Motivation by Dr. Chaminda Weerasiriwardana, Senior Counselor and Psychotherapist, Teaching Hospital, Kandy on 11th March 2019 held at the Appadurai Auditorium of Faculty of Agriculture.



Library Seminar Series Organized by the Main Library, University of Peradeniya

A seminar series (පොත්ගුල් ශාස්ත්‍රීය සංවාද මාලා) open to library staff, faculty staff and students, aiming to cover common topics, will provide a forum for useful discussions.

The first seminar was conducted by Dr. Piyatissa Senanayake, Senior Lecturer Department of Archeology, on 28th January 2019 at the seminar room, Faculty of Arts. The topic was on Making, Using and Preserving Palm-leaf Manuscripts (පුස්තකල පොත් සම්පාදනය භාවිතය හා සංරක්ෂණය). Dr. Senanayake delivered an interesting speech on the above topic with special reference to Palm-leaf Manuscripts collection of the University of Peradeniya. The speech was very useful to library staff, specially who are involved in the ongoing Palm-leaf Manuscripts conservation project in the Main Library.





The second seminar was conducted by Dr. Danister L. Perera, Visiting Lecturer of the University of Kelaniya and Sri Jayawardhanapura, on 19th March 2019 at the B Room, Faculty of Arts. The topic of the seminar was Cultural Literacy for Healthy Life (සෞඛ්‍යමත් ජීවිතයක් සඳහා සංස්කෘතික සාක්ෂරතාව). Dr. Perera delivered an admirable speech on the influence of thinking pattern on human health.



OTHER EVENTS

Display of Tripitaka Sacred Books in parallel with 'Tripitakabhiwandana' National Programme, University of Peradeniya

Sacred Tripitaka Books were displayed for the readers in parallel to the 'Tripitakabhiwandana' National Programme from 21st to 29th, March 2019 at the Entrance of the Main Library. Several print resources and Palm Leaf Manuscripts which contain the Tripitaka Dharma were displayed during this period.



TOWARDS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Community Outreach

Mrs.T. Sritharan, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo presented and published Sir. Pon. Ramanathan Memorial Oration on " Current status of Sri Lankan School Libraries and their impact on education -a review " at the annual prize day of Ramanathan College, Chunnakam.

FOREIGN VISITS

Presentations at International Conferences

Mr. V. Alagarathnam, Assistant Librarian, Main Library & Mrs. Pearl Wijesekara, Assistant Librarian, Southern Campus served as a rapporteurs at the International Conference at IIM, Tiruchirapalli, India, 10-12 December 2018.

Presentations at National/International Conferences/Symposia

- Mr. Saman Girakaduwa (Assistant Librarian), University of Visual and Performing Arts made a research paper titled on "Usage of electronic resources and services by the library users in University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka" at the 2nd Singapore – International Conference on "Research in Social Science & Humanities (ICRSSH)" organized by The National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) The Graduate Club on 12th & 13th of March 2019 at Suntec City (Tower 5), Singapore.



- Mr. V. Alagarathnam, Prasanna Ranaweera and T. Pratheepan, presented a research paper on "Impact of E-Resources and Information Seeking Behavior among Military Students of General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University" in the International Conference at Uva Wellssa University, Badulla, Sri Lanka, 7-9 February 2019.



- Mrs. T. Sritharan, Senior Assistant Librarian published a research article on "Impact of electronic resources on postgraduate medical education : a study at postgraduate institute of Medicine (PGIM), University of Colombo" at the Sixth International Conference on Asian Special Libraries on " Libraries and Librarianship in digital plus era" held on 14-16th February 2019 in New Delhi, India.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Mrs. M.M. Mashroofa has been appointed as one of the writing team member of the Institutional Review report of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. She has taken responsibilities to write for the Criterion 8 titled as "Community engagement and Outreach" of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. Mr. A.M. Nahees, Senior Assistant Librarian and Mr. B.E.S. Bandara Assistant Librarian are also appointed as members who assist this venture.

Visit of review team to the SEUSL Library

The programme review teams visited the Main Library and evaluated the available information resources and services related to the programmes of B.Sc. MIT on 24th January 2019 and B.Com. Special on 13th February, 2019. Both review teams appreciated the efforts taken by the library to provide reading materials for each and every subject code as well as materials related to research activities. They discussed regarding the challenges faced in acquiring such materials and also suggested some strategies to be imposed in providing information services in the future.

FORTHCOMING EVENT



ICULA 2019
University Librarians Association
Sri Lanka

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION - ICULA 2019

18 September 2019, Mount Lavinia Hotel Colombo

Registration is now open

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS



Mrs. Dilani Abeyratne, Assistant Librarian of Main Library of University of Peradeniya has been promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian Grade II with effect from 01st July 2018.



Mrs. S. D. Somaratna, of the University of Colombo has been promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian -Grade I, with effect from 07.03.2016. Currently she is the Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo.



Dr. (Mrs.) Menaka Hindagolla, Senior Assistant Librarian of Faculty of Science University of Peradeniya has been promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian Grade I with effect from 01st June 2017.



Mr. Ajantha Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian, Reader Services of Main Library, University of Peradeniya has been promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian Grade I with effect from 01st June 2017.



Mrs. Chandima Wadasinghe assumed duty as a Senior Assistant Librarian of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo with effect from 1st March 2019. She obtained Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with Second Class Upper from University of Colombo and completed her MA in Sociology in 2005. She completed MSc degree in Library and information Science in 2010 from University of Kelaniya. Before joining the PGIM library she worked as a Deputy Director in the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

Editor

Mrs. Mohamed Majeed Mashroofa,
B.Sc. (Hons) (EUSL), PGD in Edu. (OUSL), MLS (UoC), ASLLA
Senior Assistant Librarian,
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Members of Editorial Committee

Dr. (Mrs.) Nayana Darshani Wijayasundara
B.Sc.(Hon.) (Eng.) (Moratuwa), MLS (Colombo), Ph.D (LIS) (UM)
Librarian,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur
PGDCA, MLISc, PhD.)
Director, Library & Information) & Head, Kalanidhi Division,
Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)
New Delhi 110001

Dr. Nabi Hasan,
Ph.D. (LIS), PDF-Cornell Univ. (USA)
Librarian
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) - 110016, India
Ex. University Librarian, Aligarh Muslim University

Dr. Ramesha
M.L.I.Sc., Ph.D. Professor, Department of Library and Information Science
Bangalore University, Bangalore- 560056
Karnataka, India

Dr.(Mrs) Chandrani Kuruppu
B.Sc (Ruhuna), M.Phil (Ruhuna), M.Sc (Sheffield), PhD (Colombo)
Acting Librarian, University of Colombo

Mr. Wilfred Jeyatheese Jeyaraj
B.A. (Hons), PGD in Edu. (OUSL), M.Ed.(EUSL), MLS. (UoC), ASLLA
Acting Librarian, Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Dr. (Mrs.) Kalpana Chandrasekar
B.Sc.(Hons) (Chem.)(Jaffna), M.Sc (LIS)(Madras), M.Phil (Biochem.)(Jaffna), Ph.D (LIS)(Jaffna)
Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Jaffna

Dr. (Ms.) Champa Nilmini Kumari Alahakoon
B.A. (Hons) (Sinhala) (Peradeniya), MLS (Colombo), Ph.D (LIS) (Colombo)
Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Peradeniya

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BA (Hons), MMS (Jilin University), PhD (Jilin University)
Senior Asst. Librarian, University of Visual and Performing

Mrs. Geethani Attanayake
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Senior Assistant Librarian,
Postgraduate Institute of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya

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