



Newsletter

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EVENTS IN FOCUS

ICULA 2019 International Research Conference on “Reinvigorating Libraries: SMART Responsiveness for Sustainability” winds up with Grandeur

The 10th International Research Conference organized by the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka commenced at 9.00 am on the 18th of September, 2019 at the Empire Ball Room, Mount Lavinia Hotel, Colombo. The Chief Guest of the occasion was, Her Excellency Robina P. Marks, the South African High Commissioner for Sri Lanka, and the Keynote Speakers were Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe, Senior Professor of English, University of Kelaniya and Prof. Susirith Mendis, Senior Professor of Physiology, General Sir Kotelawala Defence University were greeted and accompanied by Dr. Chaminda C Jayasundara, the President of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. W.J.Jeyaraj, the Conference Chair (Overall Management) for ICULA 2019, Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara, Immediate Past President of ULA and Mrs.Hiruni Kanchana, the General Secretary of ULA.

The Conference had a total attendance of nearly 160 local and International participants. The event opened with a traditional welcome dance by the students of the University of Kelaniya and was followed by a video documentary that elucidated the history, achievements and its milestones attained by ULA.

Dr. Chaminda Jayasundara, the President of ULA, delivered the welcome address and recalled some longstanding professional achievements that ULA has accomplished over the years. Subsequently, the Conference Chair (Overall Management), W.J.Jeyaraj addressed the audience with the Conference Introductory speech stressing the purpose and the nature of the Conference themed, “Reinvigorating Libraries : SMART Responsiveness for Sustainability”.

Ensuing the introductory address Prof. Susirith Mendis presented the first Keynote Speech. In his speech, he mentioned that “since information has branched into several forms, providing it in an efficient manner to the readers requires the reinvigoration, that is, “the re-insertion of the strengths offered through technology”.

In recognition of Prof. Mendis' presence and valuable address, he was presented with a token of appreciation by Dr. (Mrs). Nayana Wijayasundara, Immediate Past President, ULA.

Following that, the Conference Proceedings and the Official Journal of ULA 'JULA' & the Newsletters were ceremoniously handed over to the delegates of the Head table by Mr. Nishan Punchihewa, Co-Chair (Publications) and Mrs. M.M.Mashroofa, Editor, ULA respectively.

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EVENTS IN FOCUS

Gracing the lectern, next Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe delivered the second Keynote speech. In addressing the audience, she specified on concepts related to Gender studies and equality. She also stressed on “how readership could be aligned with modern user expectations by properly harnessing technology”. W.J.Jeyaraj, the Conference Chair (Overall Management) presented Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe with a token of her Portrait.

The highlight of the inaugural session arrived as the retired university librarians were called forth and honoured by Her Excellency Robina P. Marks for their research and professional contribution to the University librarianship in Sri Lanka for the first time in the history of ULA Conferences.

Nearing the end of the inaugural session, the Chief Guest Her Excellency Robina P.Marks delivered her address and she stated the rise of Librarianship as a profession recognised and respected in the present information arena and reminded the multi-dimensional functionalities enforced upon the responsibilities shared by librarians. The Chief Guest was presented with a token of gratitude by Dr. Chaminda C. Jayasundara, President of ULA.

Mrs. Hiruni Kanchana, General Secretary, ULA conveyed a note of appreciation through the formal vote of thanks ending the inaugural session of the research conference that was compered and anchored by Mr. Joel Outschoorn, the Television Host of MTV/MBC Channels.

The core of the conference began with the three technical sessions that discussed vital research papers on 'Whats on? : Fingers crossed for reckoning’, “A Passionate Locale : Branding libraries as interactives” and “the way forward : Globalization and information access paths”, chaired by the retired University Librarians Mrs. Sumana C. Jayasuriya, Dr. (Mrs.) Wathmanel Seneviretne and Mr. L. A. Jayatissa respectively. The librarians, Mrs.Ruvini Kodikara, University of Moratuwa, MR.G.R.Padmasiri, Visual & Performing Arts and Mr.M.M.Rifaudeen, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka served as the panel of judges. The 'Best Research Paper' award was presented to Dr. R.A.A.S.Ranaweera, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya.

A stimulating dialogue panel round table invited all the participants to a brainstorming discussion on “Challenges and Opportunities in Reinvigorating libraries in the digital era” led by Dr. (Mrs) Pradeepa Wijetunge. Along with the Lead, the panel was also joined by Prof.M.Doraswamy, Professor in LIS, Dravidian University Srinivasavanam Kuppam, Prof. Kuljeet Gurvinder Kahlon, Library Manager, SGPC'S GNIMS Business School, Affiliated to University of Mumbai, the retired University Librarians Mr. P.Vidanapathirana, Mrs. Sumana C. Jayasuriya, Mr. L.A.Jayatissa and Dr. (Mrs). Wathmanel Seneviretne.

Rewarding the presence and participation of the attendees, the valedictory session featured the summarization of the conference by the retired university librarians Mr. P. Vidanapathirana and Mrs Thavamanidevi Arulnandhy and concluded with the distribution of certificates.

The conference wrapped up in a magnificent manner as every single delegate who attended this event reaped the optimal research output discussed and dispersed by the theme of the conference, the keynotes and research paper presentations.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka was held on 19th September 2019 at Mini Theatre, Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University with the participation of academic librarians of state universities of the country. As a main office of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka for year 2018/2019, KDU library was the main organising party of the event. Felicitation programme and Annual Research Awards were the highlighted events of the inaugural session of the AGM. Air Vice Marshal HMSKB Kotakadeniya, Vice Chancellor of KDU

was the chief guest of the ceremony. Brigadier N Hathurusinghe, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Defence & Administration and Professor MHJ Ariyaratne, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic graced the event as guests of honour. Dr. Chaminda Jayasundara, President of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka, Deans of the Faculties, Directors, Adjutant of KDU, and Academic Librarians of state universities of Sri Lanka, library staff of KDU and both military and civil staff representatives of KDU participated and graced the event.





Two Day workshop on “Library Housekeeping and Operation Support”



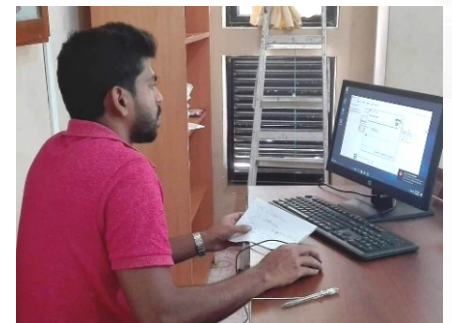
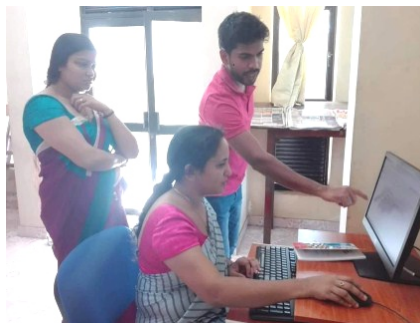
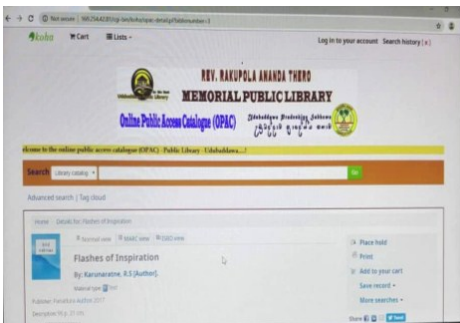
The University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Library of the University of Kelaniya organized a two-day workshop on Library Housekeeping and Operation Support for University Library Attendants. Over 50 participants from 12 universities attended the programme. The Registrar of the university Mr. W.M. Karunaratne, the Librarian Dr. C.C. Jayasundara, the Head of the department of Library Science Dr. Namali Suraweera and senior academic and administrative officers of the university graced the inauguration ceremony held on Monday 22nd July 2019. Mr. Lal Pannila, Senior Assistant Librarian of University of Ruhuna, Dr. Ananda Tissa, Senior Assistant Librarian of Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurvedha Institute, Ms. Shyamali Malkanthi, Senior Assistant Librarian of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka and Mr. Dhammika Ratnayake, Assistant Librarian of University of Kelaniya served as resource persons of the workshop. This workshop focused on familiarizing the participants with modern concepts and best practices of library housekeeping services, basics of conservation and preservation of library materials & shelf arrangement skills etc. Programme was conducted mainly in Sinhala and Tamil languages. Tamil translation was done by Mrs. Shyamali Malkanthi Senior Assistant Librarian, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.



Special events

Launching KOHA Integrated Library Management System and OPAC at Udubaddawa Public Library, Udubaddawa Pradeshiya Sabha.

The Udubaddawa Public Library of Udubaddawa Pradeshiya Sabha has successfully installed KOHA - Integrated Library Management System and launched the OPAC on 28th July 2019. Koha- LMS has been installed, consulted and customized by Saman Girakaduwa, Assistant Librarian, University of the Visual and Performing Arts."



“The World India Corner” at Sabragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Sabragamuwa University of Sri Lanka has fortunate to have “The World India Corner” which was declare opened by His Excellency Mr. Dhirendra Singh, The Asst. High Commissioner of India on 25th July 2019.. The Librarian at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka Ms.Neighsoorei, T.N. warmly welcomed His Excellency Mr. Dhirendra Singh, The Asst. High Commissioner to the opening ceremony of " The World India Corner". Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Sunil Shantha also graced the

occasion. His Excellency Mr.Dhirendra Singh donated 56 books to the Main Library at SUSL to establish "The World India Corner". Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Sunil Shantha received the books and presented the souvenirs with His Excellency Mr. Dhirendra Singh, The Assistant High Commissioner for



India Corner at Uwa Wellassa University

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Satti, inaugurated tenth India Corner " Bharat Ek Parichay (Know India): Sharing knowledge with the World" at Uva Wellassa University, Badulla on 17th July 2019. Attache (Admn) presented various books on Indian art, culture and values to Professor J.L. Ratnasekara, Vice Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University, Badulla for the established India



Prime Minister's visit to Sabragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe visited the Sabragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The Librarian at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka is getting the remarkable signature to witness of the Prime Ministers ' visit at the Library in the Faculty of Medicine at Kuruwita, Rathnapura on 17th Jan.2019.



Foundation Stone for New Library Building at Uwa Wellassa University

The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for the New Library Building of Uva Wellassa University was held on July 18, 2019 at UWU premises with the participation of Academic, Administrative and Non-Academic staff members and Students of UWU.



Achievements and Awards

Completion of Doctor of Philosophy



Manjula Wijewickrema, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was obtained the doctoral degree in July, 2019 from the Berlin School of Library and Information Science, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, under the principal supervision of Prof. Vivien Petras. His dissertation topic was: “Developing a content and knowledge-based journal recommender system comparing distinct subject domains”, which is available under DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18452/20132>.



Dr. W. M. T. D. Ranasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, Main Library, University of Kelaniya successfully completed his PhD in Library and Information Sciences at Chonnam National University in the Republic of Korea on 26th August, 2019.

This achievement was recently celebrated at the main library auditorium with the presence of the Librarian Dr. C.C. Jayasundara and senior academic staff members, Administrative staff and support staff of the library.



Awards



Mrs. Achala Ranaweera, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya has received the best research paper award at the ICULA 2019.

The University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka has introduced three awards in 2018/2019.

Three annual research awards which aims to recognize and promote the quality contribution of academic research, writing and inventions among the members of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka were proudly introduced by the ULA Sri Lanka as indicated below.

1. Best Research Paper Award for Junior Researchers (BRPA- JR)
2. Best Research Paper Award for Senior Researchers (BRPA- SR)
3. Most Outstanding Innovator of the year (MOIY)

Dr. Kusala Fernando Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna has received the best research paper award for junior researchers. Two of his research papers were published in ISI indexed (Calvairate) journals during the year.

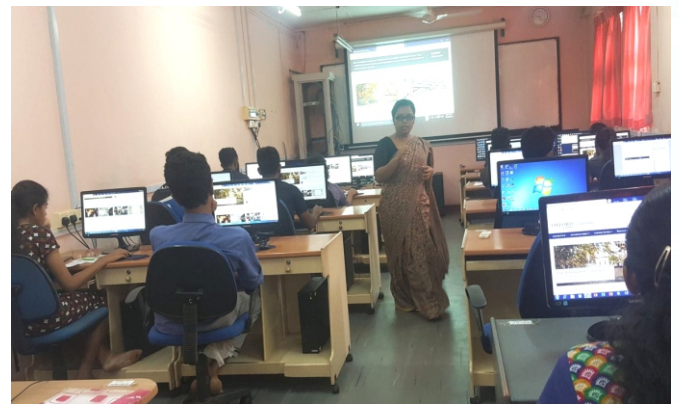


Mr. Harsha Balasuriya, Senior Assistant Librarian, Open University of Sri Lanka has received the award Most Outstanding Innovator of the year. This is awarded for his contribution of development of Public Library Information Network (PUBNet) in Sri Lanka.



User awareness programme on Online Resources for Agriculture Students, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The Library Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a user awareness programme for the first year students of the Agriculture Faculty on 26th & 27th of August, 2019 at the Agriculture Faculty. The aim of the workshop was to introduce online databases and Library online system which they can use for their academic activities.



Human Library

'University of Colombo Human Library' 2019

The Library, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, organized a Human Library Project on 10th July 2019, at the Main Library premises. This event was organized to build an encouraging environment for students to communicate with subject specialists and eminent personalities in the field of law. Six subject experts shared their knowledge and experience with students



Academic Contributions

A Computer Literacy Programme by IMU, Library, University of Kelaniya



Interactive Media Unit (IMU) in the library, University of Kelaniya conducts a special training programme “Library Professionals' Training Programme - LPTS” with the sole objective of producing a professionally qualified staff with IT skills and modern technology to enhance both effectiveness and efficiency in the services provided by the library. The target group of the programme was both para - professional and supporting staff members.

Three series of workshops: LPTS - Part I, Part II and Part III have been designed to cover the basic IT knowledge, IT usage in the office environment and automation system development respectively at the end of the entire programme. The very first workshop LPTS - Part I was successfully held on 2nd of September 2019 at the library auditorium with the honorable presence of the Librarian Dr. C. C. Jayasundara and the programme instructor; assistant librarian, head - IMU Ven. Deiyandara Pannananda Thero. The termination of LPTS programme will mark with distributing recognized certificates by the university.

Information Literacy Session on use of the library for research

Information Literacy Session on “the use of the library for research” was conducted for the 3rd year undergraduates of the Department of Decision Science, Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce on 11th July at the Multimedia Centre of the library, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Mrs. Shirani Ranasinghe, Deputy Librarian and Mr. A.M.S. Angamma, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura served as the resource persons.

Staff development

1.Seminars / Lectures under Continuing Professional Development Programme

Workshop Participation

Towards National Development Community Outreach

Story Telling

Mrs. Ms.Neighsoorei, T.N, Librarian, Sabragamuwa University of Sri Lanka took part as a resource at a story telling session for "Sarasavi Preschool" kids. This session was organized and conducted by the Main Library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.



Foreign Visits

Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian, University of Colombo took part as a session chair at the 11th Conference on Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries held in European University Institute, Florence, Italy during 28-31 May, 2019. She also presented a research paper at this conference.



Presentations at International Conferences



Ms. M. P. L. R. Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya attended a conference of (Association for the Study of Medical Education) ASME's Annual Scientific Meeting at Scottish Events Campus, Glasgow at 3rd - 5th July 2019. She presented as an oral presentation of the abstract titled "Information seeking behavior of medical undergraduates, Sri Lanka" authored by M. P. L. R. Marasinghe (Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya), M. N. Chandratilake (Professor, Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya) and K.T. A. Kasturiratne (Professor, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya).



Hiruni Kanchana Ukwattage, Assistant Librarian, Allied Health Sciences Library, Kotelawala Defence University has presented research paper titled "Content Analysis of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Websites in Sri Lanka" at the International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research in Social Sciences and Engineering 2019 (ICMRSE 2019) organized by Asian Scholars Network which was held on 27th and 28th July 2019 at Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Presentations at National/International Conferences/Symposia

New appointments and Promotions



Mr. Lal Pannila, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna worked as the president of the HSSMFTU in the year 2018-2019. According to the dedication with success towards the professional works and experienced as a union leader, Mr. Lal pannila was reelected as president for the 2019-2020 at AGM held on 2019-09-11 at Pearl Cliff Hotel, Matara. Currently, he is actively involving in FUTA actions for staff rights.

Publication

“Analyzing user Satisfaction with Academic Library Services using CRISP-DM Process”

I. M. Nawarathne, R. M. Kapila Tharanga Rathnayaka, SRELS Journal of Information Management,

Volume 56, Issue 3, June 2019. DOI: 10.17821/srels/2019/v56i3/145170

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