



# NEWSLETTER

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## ULA Webinar on “Efficient Library Operations in COVID - 19

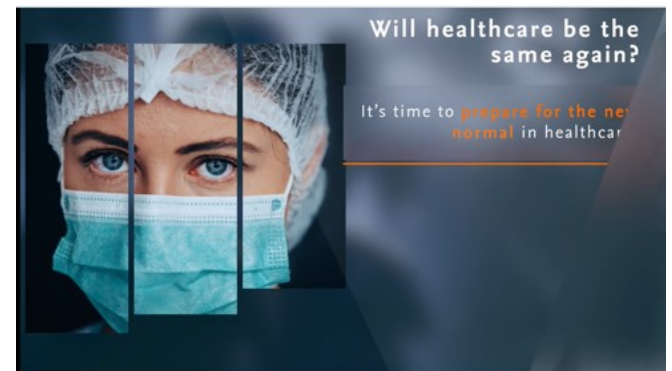
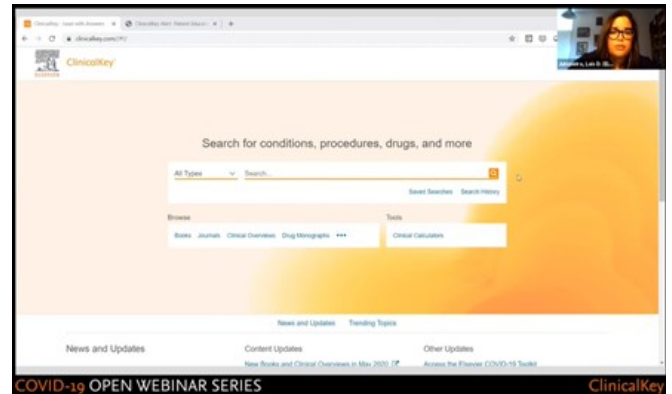
A webinar on Efficient Library Operations in COVID - 19 which was organized by Training Division of ULA was casted on 27th May 2020.

The resource person of the webinar was Dr. Ishima Baradwaj, Senior Clinical Consultant of Elsevier Inc.

There were 61 Library professionals from the state Universities who participated in this webinar. The webinar aims to make awareness about COVID - 19 pandemic and identify its impact on the Library operations.

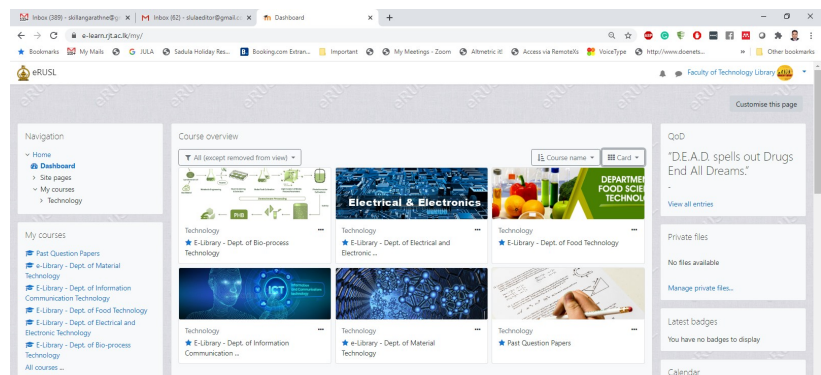
Several short terms and long terms guidelines were introduced during this webinar and Sri Lankan University Library professionals were fully enlightened about the immediate actions they should follow after re-open the libraries and re-start the services.

Libraries are highly affected by the COVID - 19 pandemic and special guidelines have been issued by several institutions to protect the library resources and health condition of the users. The workshop covered many practical solutions about the safety and protection from this global pandemic issue.



## Rajarata University Library System connects with LMS

The Library system of Rajarata University launched a new e-document delivery service to its users connecting to the University Learning Management System (LMS). Throughout the new service the users can access the past examination papers, book chapters and educational videos. The service can be accessed via the LMS URL <https://e-learn.rjt.ac.lk/>



Feature Article

## Role of librarians in building awareness among researchers on predatory publications

Predatory publications are mostly open access journals functioning mainly for money making through article processing charges often charged from authors without adapting to publication standards of scientific papers. These publishers guarantee the acceptance of manuscript without proper peer-review process. Many young researchers are victimized by these predatory publications. Publishing research findings in scholarly indexed journals is the aim of many researchers. Published information must be able to be accessed by other researchers and relevant people. Open access publications mainly break the barriers in accessing information. But, predatory publications are challenging the purpose of the open access publications. No one can expect every beginner in research to get an opportunity to publish articles in indexed journals. So some researchers approach other than the well reputed publishers to publish their articles. They find it very difficult to differentiate the probable predatory publications from the standard scientific publications. It is the duty of the librarians guiding them to identify the predatory publications.

The impact of predatory publications on researchers is huge. Predatory publications waste researchers' time and money. They make it harder to differentiate good research from bad ones. Once research findings are published in a predatory publication, it will not be used by any future researchers. There will not be any citations for the articles published in predatory publications. Predatory publications do not receive any academic rewards such as in getting new appointments, promotions in the professional careers, research allowances, getting research grants and satisfying the funding agencies etc. These days most of the indexed journals are very keen in the reviewing process of articles for acceptance of publications in their journals. If there are any references cited from the predatory publications, author receives a review comment to replace by another reliable reference source to justify the statement or delete the statement from the article. Researchers must be very careful, predatory publications are not only wasting the money and effort, but also importantly researcher will lose their prestige and the reputation in the scientific community. It will deteriorate the name of the institution, which authors' use as author affiliation.

If the librarians don't raise awareness among the researchers they are also supporting predatory publications. It is up to the researcher to decide where to publish his/her scientific work. Researcher has the freedom to select the suitable publisher. But most of the victimized researchers, who published in predatory publications, said that they published the articles without knowing about the quality of the journal. Some research students added their supervisor's names as co-authors without getting consent from them, when publishing the articles in this kind of journals. It would give a bad image to the research supervisor as well. So it is very important to advise them how



SIGNS THAT A JOURNAL  
MAY BE

### PREDATORY

- Many are open access and require fees
- Quality is of substantial concern: poor or no editing and poor or no peer review
- Unethical business practices such as offering services not as advertised
- Making false claims about impact factors or indexing
- Failure to adhere to accepted standards of scholarly publishing
- Aggressive solicitation of manuscripts



Feature Article cont.

The followings are some tips to identify the predatory publications.

- ◆ Check the Beall’s list of predatory publishers and journals. (Updated list freely available Online) (<https://beallslist.net/>)
- ◆ Is the publisher a member of recognized publishers’ initiatives such as Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ); Open Access Scholarly Publication Association (OASPA), the International Association of Scientific; Technical & Medical Publishers (STM) etc.
- ◆ Check the indexing service. Not from the journal site. Check from the relevant indexing service site.
- ◆ Search about the journal in internet to see any information on fraudulent behavior. Confirm the exact name of journal title because they usually copy long standing journals titles with a small change.
- ◆ On the journal site check the publisher’s full information, review process, transparency of the author fees.
- ◆ Check the impact factor of the journal from the Thomson Reuters list.
- ◆ Look at the editorial board to check if it has experts in the field or whether editors are fake.
- ◆ Check previously published articles to assess the quality.
- ◆ Ignore the spam mail invitation about the conferences and to submit the research work or to serve as editor. Even the contact email address indicates whether it is non professional.
- ◆ We should be very careful about extremely fast acceptance of articles for publication because quality peer review process takes

Considerable experience and expertise are needed to assess the journals. It is a difficult task for young researchers to assess unfamiliar names of publications with the increasing pressure for more and more publications from institutions. If researchers do not submit articles to the predatory publishers, they may get an opportunity to adapt to the standards of publications. We are helping them to succeed in the scientific publishing industry. Librarians need to be true to researchers who seek help and advice on scholarly publications. It is suggested that academic institutions and research centers can arrange specially designed awareness sessions to the young researchers, postgraduate students and other faculty members to highlight about the impacts of predatory publishing industry on scientific communication.

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**COVID - 19 PREPARATION UPDATES AT SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY**

The Library system of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was reopened with the health guidelines to prevent from the Corona virus. Daily temperature testing of Library visitors, maintaining the social distance among the staff and library users and displaying guidelines are some of them.



**Awareness program on “ How to deliver library services during COVID -19”**

The division of Digital Resources Development and Staff Training, Main Library, University of Peradeniya organized an awareness program on “ How to deliver library services during COVID 19 pandemic” for library staff .The program was held at the Arts Faculty Seminar Room on 11th June 2020. The resource persons of the program were Dr. P.M.A. Samarakkody, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. H.A.D. Ruwanjith , Medical Officer and Mr. L.A.M.N. Lankathilake , Public Health Inspector of the Health Center of the University of Peradeniya. Academic and Non-academic staff members representing the Main Library and nine faculty libraries of University of Peradeniya were participated in this program. Ms.Chamani Gunasekera, Senior Assistant Librarian of the division of Digital Digital Resources Development and Staff Training was organized this program.



## UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA LIBRARY VISIT BY THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

The minister of Higher Education, Technology & Innovation Dr. Bandula Gunawardana, came for a study visit to the University of Peradeniya on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020. During this tour, the minister visited the Main Library of University of Peradeniya. Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Mr. R. Maheshwaran, Acting Librarian, Mr. Saman Rajapakse, Acting Registrar of University of Peradeniya and several other distinguished guests were accompanied with the minister in this study visit.



## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) PROJECT

An automation project for the Library, National Institute of Plantation Management (NIPM), Athurugiriya was implemented by Mr. Saman Girakaduwa, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Visual and Performing Arts during the COVID - 19 pandemic time. Under this project was their housekeeping activities were automated with KOHA Library Management System and now it is accessible via <http://124.43.18.70/>

The screenshot shows the NIPM website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Koha', 'Cart', and 'Lists' options. Below this is the NIPM logo and the text 'National Institute of Plantation Management Online Public Access Catalogue'. A search bar is prominently displayed. The main content area includes a 'Welcome to the Library OPAC' message, a 'Log in to your account' section with fields for 'Login' and 'Password', and a list of 'Important Links' such as 'International Atomic Energy Agency', 'Sage Knowledge', 'ResearchGate', 'Sciencedirect', 'Tea Research Institute', 'Rubber Research Institute', 'Sugarcane Research Institute', 'Coconut Research Institute', and 'Government of Sri Lanka'. The footer contains copyright information for 2020 and contact details for M.D.B. Jayawardana.

The screenshot displays the KOHA library management system interface. It features a top navigation bar with 'Circulation', 'Patrons', 'Search', and 'More' options. A search bar is located at the top right. The main area is divided into several sections: 'Circulation' with sub-links for 'Patrons', 'Advanced search', 'Lists', 'Course reserves', 'Authorities', and 'ILL requests'; 'Cataloging' with sub-links for 'Serials', 'Acquisitions', 'Reports', 'Tools', 'Koha administration', and 'About Koha'. A 'Log Out Your Library Acc' link is visible at the bottom right.

The screenshot shows the KOHA login page. It features the NIPM logo and the text 'National Institute of Plantation Management (NIPM)'. Below this, there are input fields for 'Username' and 'Password', and a 'Login' button.

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