



# Newsletter

University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka

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# Achievements and Awards

## First Chairman of the University Publications Committee



The University Senate of the Eastern University Sri Lanka appointed Mr. W. J. Jeyaraj, Librarian as the Chairman of the University Publications Committee for two years from 2021 to 2022.

Mr. Jeyaraj is the first Chairman of the University Publication Committee after the Committee was merged into a single legal unit from the Research and Publication Committee. The two committees were segregated as functioning single statutory bodies as the Research Council and the Publication Committee in the year 2021.

## Academic Progress

Mrs. Pearl K. Wijesekara, Assistant Librarian of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University successfully completed her MLIS degree at the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo. At present, she serves in the Southern Campus, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.



## Appointed as Student Counselor



Mrs. D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Moratuwa was appointed as a Student Counsellor of the University for three years. She had earlier worked as a Career Advisor and Counsellor (on contract basis) at the University of Ruhuna more than two years before joining the University of Moratuwa.

## Staff Promotions



Mrs. H.D. Menaka Nishanthi and Ms. J.G. Chandani, Assistant Librarians of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Mr. S.L. Mohammed Sajeer, Assistant Librarian of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka were promoted to the Senior Assistant Librarian Grade II.



# Academic Contribution

## Webinar Series at Library of the University of Colombo



Under the centenary celebrations of the University of Colombo, the Main Library of the University of Colombo commenced conducting a webinar series every month starting from March, 2021.

The second webinar was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 via Zoom, where Dr. Prathiba Mahanamahewa, Rector, Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo, delivered an illuminating

speech under the theme "*Defamation in the Digital Age and Freedom of Expression*". This speech is available at: <https://lib.cmb.ac.lk/defamation-in-the-digital-age-and-freedom-of-expression/>.

Similarly, the third webinar was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via Zoom, where Prof. Vidya Jyothi Vajira H. W. Dissanayake, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, delivered a comprehensive speech on the theme "*Your Genes: Your Health*".

All these webinars saw many enthusiastic participants from various categories, such as academics, researchers and students. The upcoming seminars will be notified on the website of the Main Library, University of Colombo: [www.lib.cmb.ac.lk](http://www.lib.cmb.ac.lk).

## First Library Orientation Sessions for the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa

The University of Moratuwa warmly welcomed the students of the newly established Faculty of Medicine in the month of May. The library had the opportunity to serve the students online to introduce the medical collection which is the newest addition to the University Library. Senior Assistant Librarians, Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku delivered the importance of using the library collection, and Mr. Buddhin Kumara provided guidance on searching Online Public Access Catalogue.



# Community Outreach

## Workshop on Home Libraries for School Children

Southern Campus, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University launched a project on development of home libraries for school children in the area, as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. At the outset, one day workshop was conducted for school children on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Seventy-five students from five schools in the locality accompanied by their teacher librarians attended the workshop.



Mrs. A.S. Siriwardana, Librarian and Dr K.R.N. Harshani, Senior Assistant Librarian from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka enlightened the event as resource persons. Brigadier Prasad Edirisinghe, the Rector of Southern Campus graced the event as the Chief Guest. The event was coordinated by Mrs. Pearl Wijesekera, Assistant Librarian of the Southern Campus.



# Research Contribution

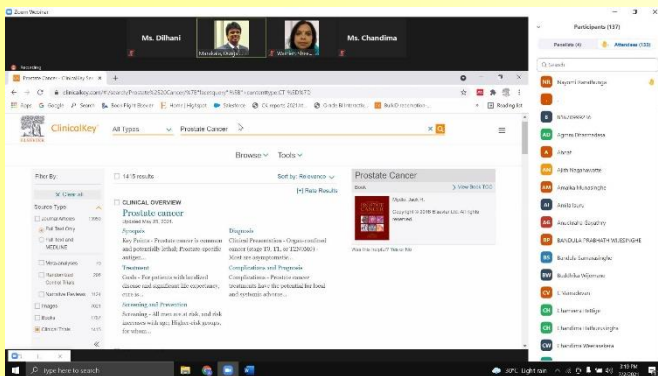
## Webinars on Mendeley and Scopus

The Library of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine of the University of Colombo organized a webinar on “How to use ClinicalKey, Mendeley” and “Introduction to Scopus for the PGIM trainers and trainees”. The webinar was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom. The resource person of the webinar was Mr. Durga Ranganath, Customer Engagement Manager of the ELSEVIER Health Sciences, India.

The second webinar of the series, “How to simplify reference management using Mendeley” was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 via Zoom for members of the board of specialty of the PGIM.

The resource person of the webinar was again Mr. Durga Ranganath, Customer Engagement Manager of the ELSEVIER Health Sciences, India.

Two hundred and twenty participants attended the webinar. Mrs. M.P.P. Dilhani and Mrs. Chandima Wadasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarians at the PGIM coordinated the events. The tutorial of the session is available at: <https://library.pgim.cmb.ac.lk/2021/07/07/webinar-on-how-to-use-clinicalkey-and-how-to-simplify-reference-management-using-mendeley-held-on-2nd-july-2021-at-0300-pm/>



## Webinar on Plagiarism Detecting Software

The webinar series organized by the academic staff of library of the University of Kalaniya commenced on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 which is continuing for the benefit of the students and scholars of the university. Six webinars were completed, and the 7<sup>th</sup> webinar on this series, ‘use of URKUND software’ was conducted by Ms. D.S. Priyangika, Senior Assistant Librarian on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via ZOOM.



## Contribution to Research Outputs of the KDU Library

Ms. Hiruni Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Allied Health Sciences Library of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) provided her service as a resource person to the workshop on “Referencing and Mendeley Reference Management Software” organized by the Section D of the Sri Lanka Association of the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) in collaboration with the Faculty of Research and Development, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Ms. M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Medicine Library of the KDU provided her service as a resource person at the fifth lecture / workshop of the

short course on 'Let's write a Systematic Review' organized by the Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021. She delivered her session on the topic “Search strategy for systematic review”.

Ms. T.C. Ranawella, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library provided her service as a resource person to the CTHE programme in 2021 organized by the Staff Development Centre, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021 where she lectured of “Referencing style and the Turnitin plagiarism software”.

## Sessions for CTHE Programme on Research

A full day library session was conducted by the library academic staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 via zoom for the junior academics in the university following the Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education course.

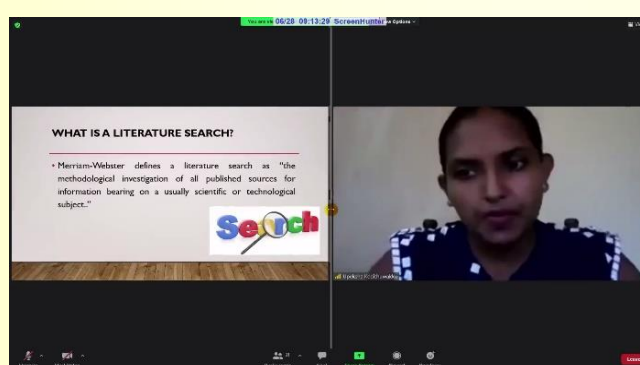
The introduction and briefing of the scheduled sessions were delivered by the Librarian, Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara. The first session of the programme was carried out by Senior Assistant Librarians, Mr. Santha Angamma, and Ms. J. G. Chandani, on the topic “Citation databases and full-text databases: search techniques”.

Second session was conducted by Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara, Librarian, on the topic, “How to identify suitable journals, awareness on indexed journals and avoid predatory journals”. Dr. Manoja Samaradiwakara, Senior Assistant Librarian conducted the third session which was on “Citation styles and avoiding plagiarism”. Final lecture was conducted with the assistance of Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunga, Director of the National Institute of Library & Information Science, University of Colombo on the topic “Mendeley-Reference Management Software”.

## Sessions to Improve Research Skills of Undergraduates

During the pandemic era, ‘working from home’ concept was actively carried out by the Library, University of Moratuwa. The library was able to support the research writing skills of the students through online sessions. The undergraduate students in the disciplines of Architecture (Level 3 & 5), Integrated Design (Level 4) and Landscape

Architecture (Level 3) of the Faculty of Architecture were privileged by the sessions carried out. Senior Assistant Librarians, Mr. Nishan Punchihewa conducted the sessions on “Plagiarism and Referencing” and Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku conducted the sessions on “Literature Searching for Research”.



## Research Support for Postgraduates, University of Moratuwa

The lecture series on ‘Introduction to Research’ organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa offered the necessary knowledge and hands-on experience on both quantitative and qualitative methods of research for postgraduate research degree students of the University of Moratuwa. The lectures were conducted by resource persons of many disciplines and expertise at the University of Moratuwa to ensure a good variation and variety in research approaches.

The first series of the lectures were held last year and second round of the lecture series

commenced on 07<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as an online lecture series via ZOOM technology due to the pandemic situation of the country.



Mr. Nishan Punchihewa, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Moratuwa conducted the lecture under the topic of “Resources for Research” on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

He introduced different types of information sources in many subject disciplines including open access resources. He further highlighted

different strategies to perform an effective searching of resources and techniques to identify indexed journals.

## Turnitin Startup Seminars at SEUSL

Turnitin startup seminars at the library of the South Eastern University were conducted faculty wise during the month of April, 2021.

The first session was conducted to the Faculty of Technology on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with the coordination of Mr. A.M. Nahfees, Senior Assistant Librarian from the library and Mr. K.M. Riffthy from the faculty.

Second session was conducted for the Faculty of Arts and Culture on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 with the coordination of Mr. S. Sajitharan from the faculty and Mr. M.C.M. Azwer, Senior Assistant Librarian.

Faculty of Engineering was educated on the above subject on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 with the faculty representation of Eng. M.N.M. Aashiq and library representation of Dr. (Mrs.) M.M. Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian.

Session for the Faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic Language was held on the same day with the coordination of Mr. A.C.M. Nafrees

as the faculty coordinator and Mr. S.L.M. Sajeer, Senior Assistant Librarian from the library coordinator.

Fourth session was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Management and Commerce both.

Dr. (Ms.) Akmal Jahan, Mr. S. Shabras Nawaz were the faculty representatives of the sessions respectively. Dr. (Mrs.) M.M. Mashroofa and Mr. A.M. Nahfees, Senior Assistant Librarians were the corresponding library representatives of the two programmes.

An online training session on Turnitin feedback studio (plagiarism detection tool) was held at the library of the Eastern University on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Ms. Purna Bosh from the Turnitin participated as the resource person. Librarians and academic staff of the university attended this training session.

## Online Training Session on Functioning of Turnitin at SEUSL



An online training session on Turnitin feedback studio (plagiarism detection tool) was held at the library of the Eastern University on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Ms. Purna Bosh from Turnitin participated as the resource person. Librarians and academic staff of the university attended this training session.



# Student Support Services

## Launching of the Digital Wall at the Library, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The digital wall facility was launched at the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 in collaboration with the British Council, Sri Lanka. The event was graced by Senior Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice Chancellor of the University and Ms. Maarya Rehman, Country Director of the British Council Sri Lanka together with academic, administrative and non-academic staff members of the university.



The established digital wall facility enables the University's community to scan QR codes and download the available books, podcasts and reports on UK contents. Launching of the digital wall has attracted positive comments from the students and academics alike. This facility transforms the university library services to be in par with international library experience.



## Ceremony of Launching the Digital Wall at EUSL

The library network of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka ceremonially erected a digital wall which is an illustrated wall paper with active QR codes that provide access via a phone or tablet to a variety of UK content including audio books, e-books, e-journals, videos, learning apps, podcasts, reports and IELTS related materials. The ceremony of the launching of the digital wall was held on the 09<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 under the patronage of the British Council, Sri Lanka.



Prof. F.C. Ragel, the Vice Chancellor of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka and Ms. Maarya Rehman, the Country Director for British Council, Sri Lanka graced the occasion as the chief guest and the guest of honour respectively. Mr. W. J. Jeyaraj, Librarian, preceded the ceremony and in his introductory welcome address, spelt out the necessity to go deep into the virtual connectivity age especially during this calamity. Prof. F.C. Ragel, the Vice Chancellor, in his speech focused on the standards of research outputs of the university community



by utilizing the digital literary resources which are more current and vibrant to avail the researchers. Ms. Maarya Rehman, the Country Director elaborated the aims of the British Council which is to keep playing its role as a bridge between the people of Sri Lanka and the UK by making cultural relations and educational opportunities more accessible.

The library network, Eastern University, Sri Lanka stepped into another milestone by erecting the above with the participation of the above dignitaries, Mrs. Shiroma Beneragama, the Manager, Library & Information Services of the British Council, Sri Lanka, Ms. Mrinali Thalgodapitiya, the Manager Events of the British Council, Sri Lanka, the Deans of the Faculties, Director of CICT, Registrar, Bursar, members of the Library Committee of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The whole programme was compered well by Mrs. Lavanya Jegatheesparan, Assistant Librarian.

# Quality Assurance

## Chair of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell

Representing the Library, Mrs. Theja Kurupparachchi, Senior Assistant Librarian has been appointed to serve as the new Chair of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the University of Ruhuna with effect from April of 2021.

## Extension to JULA Newsletter 15(1) January-March/2021

## Eastern University Won All Best Presentation Awards

The National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo in collaboration with the South Asia Chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS & T) organized a virtual research symposium on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021, and all presentation awards prescribed for the symposium were awarded to two professionals attached to the library network of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

### Best Student Presentation Award



Best student presentation was awarded to Mrs. Lavanya Jegatheesparan, Assistant Librarian of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka for her presentation on 'Present status of the human resource capacity of public libraries in the Batticaloa district'. The research paper was co-authored by Dr. (Mrs) G.D.M.N. Samaradiwakara, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

### Best Presentation Award



Mr. M. Jeyakanathan, Systems Analyst of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka was awarded the best presentation for his research paper on "Integrated library systems - discovery interface (ILS-DI): A standard framework for real time connectivity with information discover application".

## Research Contribution

Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku, Senior Assistant Librarian of University of Moratuwa presented a research paper on "Speaking to little minds: taking literary activities to a children's society at Illuppankadawala, Anuradhapura" at the NILIS Research Symposium 2020 (NRS 2020) held virtually at the University of Colombo on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. The theme of the symposium was "Challenges and opportunities for the libraries in the new normal".

## Training Session on Catalogue Editing

A brainstorming and training sessions was conducted for the library academics and para professionals on 02<sup>nd</sup> and 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at the Eastern University of Sri Lanka. The training session was aimed at editing library bibliographic database.

## Silver Jubilee Celebrations of SEUSL

### Distinguished Lecture Series

The Library of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) conducted virtual distinguished lecture series to mark its Silver Jubilee Celebration targeting Tamil speaking library professionals in the country. Number of library professionals and para-professional librarians from various universities and public and school libraries attended the event.

The first programme of this distinguished lecture series titled, "Bridging the gap between LIS theory and practice" which was held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 under the patronage of the Librarian and Mr. M.C.M. Azwer, Senior Assistant Librarian, Prof. Swapna Banerjee, Acting Dean, Faculty Council of Education, Journalism and Library Science, Department of Library & Information Science, University of

Calcutta, India participated as the resource person.



The second programme of the lecture series was titled, "Machine readable cataloguing for Tamil bibliographic records" which was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 under the patronage of the Librarian and Mr. M.C.M. Azwer, Senior Assistant Librarian. Mr. S. Ketheeswaren,

Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Jaffna participated as the resource person.



The third programme of the lecture series was titled, “Organization of Arabic and Islamic knowledge in academic libraries: The role of Arabized DDC 21” which was held on 04<sup>th</sup> March 2021 under the patronage of the Librarian and Mr. M.C.M. Azwer, Senior Assistant Librarian. Mr. Ash S.M. Azahim, Head of the Library, Kingdom University, Bahrain participated as the resource person.

## Sharing of Arabic Union Catalogue

The Arabic Union Catalog (AUC) is one of the advanced infrastructures of Arab libraries and information institutions. It is a comprehensive bibliographic database and a digital repository representing Arab and Islamic literature in all fields of knowledge. Librarian with the support of Mr. M.C.M. Azwer, SAL, sought advice from Arabic Union

Catalogue (AUC) to obtain their membership to facilitate access to their wide-range of services, as they are beneficial to the Faculty of Islamic Studies & Arabic Language. Two virtual meetings were conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 between library staff and faculty members, and Mr. Tareq Al Nouri, Services Manager, Arabic Union Catalogue.

## Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Visited the SEUSL Library

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Abdul Azees (former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva) visited SEUSL library on 05<sup>th</sup> March 2021. He discussed with the academic librarians about various matters related to the field and donated library materials.





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