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Special event by ULA

The ULA organized a productive session on “Academic Writing” on March 10th, 2022, via Zoom.

The resource person for the event was Dr. C.C. Jayasundara (Librarian/University of Kelaniya), and around 45 participants participated in the session.



ICULA 2022

Will be announced soon...

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Feature Articles

Library Space: Interpretation and Exploitation of University Libraries in Sri Lanka

T. Ramanan

Senior Assistant Librarian
Faculty of Technology
University of Colombo



Introduction

Despite the pride of century old libraries in Sri Lanka the attention to their architecture and space design attracts serious concerns, especially in an electronically evolving environment. Libraries in the developing world have experienced more or less the impact of western influences, although libraries of ancient times in the East had their own structures to house the resources (Banerjee, 1996). In the distant past, literacy was a majestic trait and laypeople seldom had the opportunity to read and write using appropriate equipment. However, in this modern age, information reservoirs have been easily accessible, either by visiting a library or browsing the Internet or across databases.

Yet, investing in enormous library buildings have to be justified for their exploitation by user communities since those fixed assets do not grow with time. Thus, the efficiency of libraries are regularly surveyed for their use of space, and are discussed as to how far their designs meet user needs and community's expectation when accessing information (Carlsson & Torngren, 2020). University libraries in Sri Lanka are no exception when considering the buildings against the demand for resources and services. Nevertheless, the physical space cannot be expanded along with the increasing number of user demands; hence the university libraries are in intense need to employ smart strategies to meet their objectives as well as to address the sustainable development.

Library Space as Service Tool

With exponential increase of information resources in electronic and or digital forms, the libraries have started strategizing adaptive technologies and service commons to address the demand. On one hand, ever increasing demand for relevant and credible information from users with a range of multidisciplinary subject backgrounds has positively influenced the use of library space in digital age. On the other hand, recent pandemic and current economic crisis have constrained the libraries' ability to achieve the maximum user satisfaction. Meanwhile, the transformation from traditional service protocols has been shifted to and even more dynamic and versatile library atmosphere. For instance, as Lehman (2022, April 17) writes in her Blog, the libraries are the places for the interaction of creative ideas. She further adds that library architecture or space is preferably conducive to thought-provoking among stakeholders. One such use of libraries entailed the human library concept in many countries including Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, the question resonating on everyone's mind is, as to what extent the library buildings do entice the users. Therefore, a probe is needed to see the proportional relationship between service parameters and library space designs in this country to rationalize the huge monetary investments.

Equal Access, Sustainable Designs and LEED standards

Modern society is increasingly concerned about equal access to buildings not to mention libraries. Jalalzadeh and Jalalzadeh (2013) stressed upon the importance of designing the libraries to accommodate the needs of everyone, especially differently-abled users. An equitable design of a library cannot underestimate the inclusion of sustainable elements. Stoss (2010) points out that it is necessary for the library architecture to address all the growing environmental and energy issues. The LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environment Design) standards include alluring interior, green roofs, solar energy, less carbon footprints, water saving, zone control and many more.

Considering the financial and other scarce resources in the country, the library design has a crucial place in society in terms of cultural heritage and sustainable development. However, cost-cutting and other engineering aspects restrict the freedom of designing libraries of the future, yet the architecture and innovative spaces are inevitable for establishing the heritage values of the country. Mere buildings may not communicate what a library's implicit values are intended for; unless the design represents the culture as well as sustainable development goals. Most importantly, libraries have now blurred the digital divide; hence they exist both in physical entities and virtual environment. Therefore, the library design is as complex as the neurons in human brain, which should be levelled up to international green standards and country's cultural identity.

References

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Re-emerging academic libraries as Learning Centers...

Sajeewanie D. Somaratna

Senior Assistant Librarian
Faculty of Science
University of Colombo



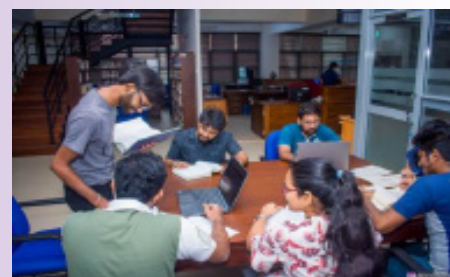
The role of academic libraries has undergone a series of evolutionary steps over the past few decades. Radcliffe et al. (2008), describe the evolution of the library under four generations; the first-generation as the “collection centric”, second-generation as the “client-centric”, third-generation as the “experience-centric” and the fourth generation as the “connected learning experiences”. Eventually “fourth-generation libraries offer diverse learning experiences where printed and digital information can be combined in an environment which is user-focused and service-rich, where students can work collaboratively in spaces that support current social and learning patterns” (p.8). Further fourth-generation libraries blur the demarcations between libraries and other learning spaces in the academic environment. Weise (2004) stressed out the responsibility of the librarians to guide the design of libraries and the role of the 21st-century libraries. Accordingly “the role of the library evolves beyond the ‘storage facility and even the ‘access facility’, focusing attention on the many other place-centred activities and services that the library can support”(p.12). Alternative names for academic libraries emerged with these evolutionary changes deviating from the term ‘library’ as ‘learning resource centre’ which reflects the qualities of future academic libraries far more than the term ‘Library’ itself (Choy, 2011).



Information & Learning Centre (ILC),
of the Faculty of Science,
University of Colombo

The seven-storied new library building, Information & Learning Centre (ILC), of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo was carefully designed incorporating unique features of a modern library. Different learning spaces of ILC cater to the diverse learning styles of next-generation library users deviating from the traditional libraries covering both ends of the learning spectrum, from informal learning to formal learning. The new library building includes five main study zones as a reference zone, a self-study zone, a collaborative study zone, an interactive zone and an open study zone. In addition to that state-of-the-art computer lab, Library skill lab, library studio, Librarian’s classroom and auditorium reflect modern features of a fourth -generation library.

The collaborative study zone and the interactive zone are the most popular learning spaces among the faculty students which are located on the third and fourth levels of the new library building. Deviating from the previous generations, collaborative learning or group learning is now practised by the majority of the university students and most of the time they work with their peers as groups. During the last two decades, the curricula of university courses also changed notably with a significant component of project work, presentations and group assignments embedded in the main subject streams. Providing learning spaces with modern technology with teaching and learning aids will definitely help students to build up their confidence and competitiveness and eventually this uplift the quality of higher education in Sri Lanka.



Collaborative study zone

Preserving the traditional value of an academic library an individual study space or quiet study zone is designed on the first and the fourth floors for the students who expect a calm and quiet place to study. The Information and Learning centre is designed in accordance with the facilities of modern learning activities by introducing the blended concept, traditional shelving areas and E-resource centres. The reference zone is alongside the shelving areas giving chance to students to learn by discovery or learn by reading. To explore the electronic information sources it accommodates two state-of-the-art computer labs with 100 computers. The open study area or the informal learning area is designed on the ground floor of the library featuring a more relaxing environment with a natural landscape and wind breeze. This area also accommodates a coffee shop and vending machines.

The Library Skill Lab is specifically designed to encourage specific learning activities based on research projects with a flexible furniture arrangement and the seating capacity is sixty. Another most important learning space of the ILC building is the Librarian's classroom where students are provided facilities to learn Information literacy from faculty librarians. The library studio is featured with modern studio facilities with a conference table, sophisticated video cameras, sound controllers and other relevant equipment. This allows video conferencing and lecture recording facilities for the faculty. The academic staff reading room is specifically designed to attract teaching faculty to the library to a conducive learning environment. This can be used as an individual learning space or small group discussion or a meeting place. By providing such a learning space, academics can avoid the difficulties that they face when occupying a chair among students of the Faculty. The library auditorium is a community place and designed for public gatherings and university/ faculty functions and the Non-library classroom is located on the fifth floor of the library with an adjustable learning space that allows rearranging the space according to the nature of the learning activities.



Library Skill Lab



Library Auditorium

All the learning spaces of the Information & Learning Centre are embedded with modern technology with state-of-the-art computers, 24/7 Wi-Fi facilities, laptop charging facilities, an air conditioning environment, power backups, smart boards, and ambient and comfortable furniture, assuring optimum learning experiences for the university community. Eventually, the Information & Learning Centre, the new library of the Faculty of Science has become a model library of the fourth generation academic libraries in Sri Lanka.

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Achievements & Awards

Research Awards

Mrs. H.D.M. Nishanthi (Senior Assistant Librarian), Ms. J.G. Chandani (Senior Assistant Librarian) of University of Sri Jayewardenepura received Research Awards at the Annual Research Award Ceremony 2020 held on 18th March 2022.



Senate Awards

Dr. R.A.A.S. Ranaweera, Senior Assistant Librarian/ Subject Liaison Librarian for the Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies received a Senate Award and a cash prize at the 361st Senate meeting held on 30th March 2022 at the Senate Room, University of Kelaniya. Researchers who have published their research papers in internationally recognized journals were appreciated and Senate awards and cash prizes were awarded to these researchers by Cadre Chair & Senior Prof. Nilanthi de Silva, Vice-Chancellor of the university.



Award Presented During the NILIS Research Symposium



Dr. G. R. Padmasiri, Librarian of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence for his research on *“Traditional methods of knowledge transfer and acquisition with special reference to indigenous knowledge of indigenous medicine in Sri Lanka”* at the NILIS Research Symposium 2021 held on 24th January 2022.

Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Colombo has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence for her research on *“Archiving experiential: a digital archiving approach to preserve Intangible Cultural Heritage”* at the NILIS Research Symposium 2021 held on 24th January 2022.





The Best Student Presentation Award of the NILIS Research Symposium 2021 was awarded to Mrs. Yasanthini Godfrey Fernando, Assistant Librarian, Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Eastern University, Sri Lanka for her presentation on "*A bibliometric analysis of information sources used in research reports submitted by undergraduates*."

New Appointments



Mrs. M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine has been appointed to cover-up the duties in the post of Librarian from 1st April 2022 at the KDU Library. Mrs. Rajapaksha has more than 10 years of experience in the academic library sector. She completed her BA (Hons) degree in Library & Information Sciences with first class in the year 2007 at University of Kelaniya and earned her master's in LISC at the same University in the year 2015.

Completion of the PhD



Dr. (Mrs.) D.N.T. Gunawardhana, University of Moratuwa Library has successfully completed her Doctoral Degree at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo. At present, she serves as a Senior Assistant Librarian of the Technical Services Division at the University Library.

Annual Staff Sports Fiesta 2022 of University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The Librarian's women's volleyball team won the championship at the Annual Staff Sports Fiesta 2022, held on 25th March 2022 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Academic Contribution

Workshop on “Information Literacy for Academic and Research Success”

Dr C. Mallawaarachchi, the Librarian (acting) and Mrs T. C. Ranawella, Senior Assistant Librarian, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, conducted a workshop on ‘Information Literacy for Academic and Research Success’ for the Officer of the Sri Lanka Military Academy at Diyathalawa on 06th, 07th and 08th January 2022.

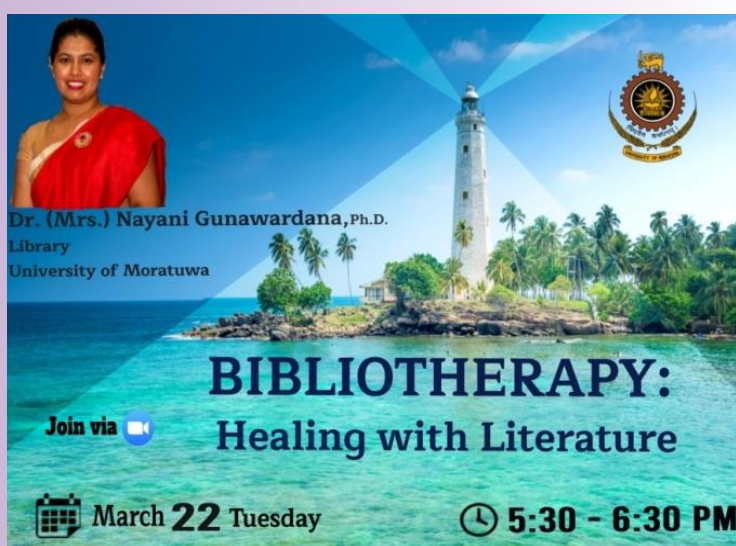


Webinar on How to Use the Open University Library Website Effectively

Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Assistant Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) conducted a webinar titled “How to use the OUSL library website effectively” for the students of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the OUSL on 28th March 2022 via zoom platform. This event was organized by the Learner Support Cell of the Faculty of Health Sciences, OUSL, with the main objective of expanding the knowledge of the students on using the library website, which would benefit their academic activities.

BIBLIOTHERAPY: “Light House Talk 06” organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa

Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana shared her experiences on “BIBLIOTHERAPY: Healing with Literature” at the “Light House Talk 06” organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa on 22nd March 2022. Prior to joining the library field, Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana had begun her career as a Career Advisor and Counsellor. She has been practicing “Bibliotherapy” as a treatment in the counselling process for years. She has successfully completed a diploma in Counselling at the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Dr. Gunawardhana currently works as a student counsellor at the university.



User education programme on “Online Resources and Services at OUSL library”

A user education programme on “Online resources and services at OUSL library” was conducted by Dr. Anoma Weerakoon, SAL, Kandy Regional Centre, OUSL for Bachelor of Management Students at Batticaloa and Badulla Regional Centres of the OUSL on 25th of February 2022. The focus of the session was on how to access online resources and effectively use the online services provided by the OUSL library.

Teaching session on “Reference management with Mendeley”

Dr. Anoma Weerakoon, SAL, Kandy Regional Centre, OUSL conducted a teaching session on “Reference management with Mendeley ” for postgraduate students of the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, OUSL on 02nd March 2022.

Session on “Exploring Information Resources for Research Writing”

Upeksha Kodithuwakku, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Moratuwa served as the resource person for the session on “Exploring Information Resources for Research Writing”. This session was organized by the Sri Lanka Technological campus situated in Padukka on 23rd of January 2022 for postgraduate students of the university. The online lecture was mainly focused on the searching techniques and specifically focused on scholarly resources on wireless communications and embedded systems.



Guest lecture on “Working with academic journals”

Senior assistant librarian, Mr. Kusala Fernando served as a resource person to deliver guest lectures on the following topics.

Topic: “*Working with academic journals*” organized by the Center for Research and Publication in Humanities and Social Sciences (RPCSS), University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka on 23rd February 2022 via ZOOM.

Topic: “*Research Methodology and Statistics: Literature Review*” organized by the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine on 7th March 2022 via ZOOM.

Visiting Lecture on Information Literacy and Scientific Communications Skills

Senior assistant librarian, Mr. Kusala Fernando served as a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna for the module on Information Literacy and Scientific Communications Skills.

Awariness programme Grammarly Premium

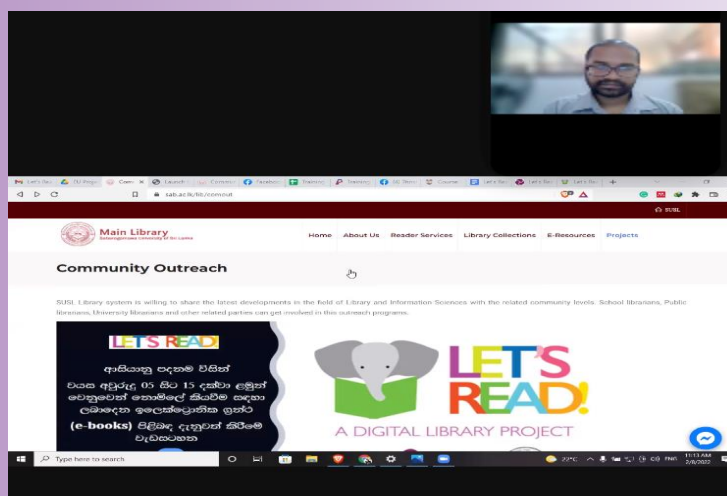
Mrs. Gayathiri Navirathan, Senior Assistant Librarian Grade 1, Grammarly Admin of Eastern University, Sri Lanka served as a resource person for conducting an awareness programme on Grammarly Premium on 21st March 2022 for staff of Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. She performed another training programme on Grammarly Premium on 31st March 2022 for the staff of Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



Community Outreach

Demonstration on a digital library project “Let’s Read”

The Asia Foundation in collaboration with the main library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka successfully conducted a demonstration on a digital library project “Let’s Read” introduced by the Asia Foundation on 08th February 2022 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am via ZOOM. This service facilitates the users with a reading platform which contains freely available e-books in 40 different languages including English, Sinhala and Tamil. This platform is managed by the Asia Foundation, and is being used in 18 different countries.



Workshop on “Librarians’ Role for Successful completion of Library Automation Project”

Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Acting Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka served as the chief resource person for the workshop organized by the Library Services Board, Kandy for the Central Province public librarians. The workshop was held on 28th March 2022 at the Auditorium of the Kandy Library Board, Gatambe, Kandy.



Contribution for the public library development: Opanayaka Public Library, Weligepola Pradeshiya Sabha

The main library, SUSL has expanded their community services providing their intellectual contribution to the Opanayaka Public Library, Weligepola Pradeshiya Sabha. As per the guidance of Professor R.M. Udaya Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor, SUSL, the librarian, Mrs. Neighsoorei Jayah, Senior Assistant Librarian, Mr. Kusala Fernando and Assistant Librarian, Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya visited this library on 18th February 2022. The discussion with Mr. Kelum Jayasinghe, the chairman, of Weligepola Pradeshiya Sabha and the library staff resulted in a proper plan for their key initiatives including the maker’s space, green library practices with a herbal garden, proposed children’s park, art gallery, museum and village house structure.



An Awareness Programme “Green Concept” for Public librarians in Kaluthara District

Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Acting librarian, The Open University of Sri Lanka served as the chief resource person for an online workshop on the topic of Green Concept for public librarians which was held on 07th January 2022. The event was organized by Rev. Batuwangala Rahula for Kaluthara District librarians.

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Open University Library Support for Automating Aluthgama Public Library

The library staff of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) provided technical consultancy in –automating Aluthgama Public library with KOHA Open-source integrated Library Management System. The opening of the automated library was inaugurated on 29th March, 2022, at Aluthgama public library, with the participation of parliamentarian Hon. Piyal Nishantha as the chief guest.



This can be remarked as another project completed by the OUSL under the leadership of Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Acting Librarian of the OUSL. OUSL library has supported more than 90 libraries in the country to complete their automation.

Collaboration of OUSL with Public Libraries – Project 4

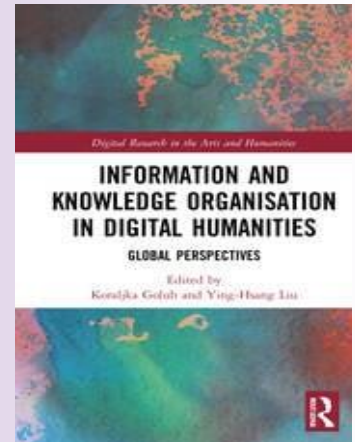
The fourth collaborative project of OUSL with Public libraries was launched at the start of 2022 between OUSL Polonnaruwa Study Center and Polonnaruwa Pulathisi Buddhi Mandapa Public Library. Resource sharing and user education is the main objective for organizing an awareness session and the session was held on 13th January 2022, via zoom. The participants were the OUSL Polonnaruwa study center staff, Polonnaruwa Pulathisi Buddhi Mandapa Public Library staff, and Municipal council staff. Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Dr. (Mrs.) Anoma Weerakoon, Mrs P.K.M. Kaushamalika and Mrs. Piumali Karunarathna Abeysinghe of the Open University served as resource persons. The participants were given a briefing about the Open University library and its services, how the project works, future expectations and, benefits of the project for both parties.



Research Contribution

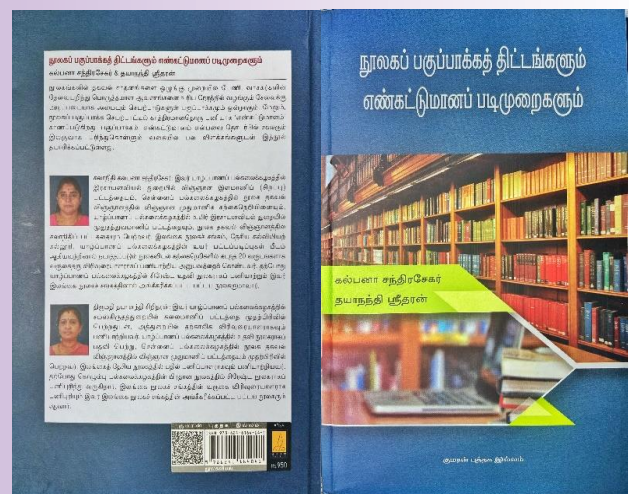
Contributed for a book chapter

Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Colombo, with a group of international scholars has collaborated on a book chapter titled “Modelling cultural entities in diverse domains for digital archives.” The title of the book is “Information and Knowledge Organization in Digital Humanities,” and it is published by Routledge. This book is intended for researchers, students, and professionals interested in the organization of information and knowledge in the Digital Humanities domain.



Tamil medium book on “Classification systems and Number building”

Dr. (Mrs). Kalpana Chandrasekar (Acting Librarian, University of Jaffna) and Mrs.T.Sritharan, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo jointly published a Tamil Medium book on “Classification systems and Number building”. This book consists of nine chapters which cover the following topics. Fundamentals of library classification, Dewey Decimal classification, Universal Decimal Classification, Colon classification, other classification schemes, online based classification schemes, Subject index and chain indexing, classification and arrangement of Children’s books, etc.



Student Support

Academic Contribution: Postgraduate, undergraduate or Diploma level LIS programmes, Information Literacy Teaching, Guest & Visiting Lectures

To improve the research skills of the undergraduates, the Faculty of Law, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, invited Mrs. M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine to conduct an Information Literacy Programme under the following topics:

- Different types of Information Sources
- Electronic Information Searching Techniques: a guide to effective literature search
- Avoiding Plagiarism and Research Ethics
- Managing references with Mendeley Reference Management Software: A practical guide.

Braille Collection System

The University of Kelaniya Library has developed a Braille collection system for undergraduates with various disabilities. The purpose is to provide reading aids, especially for differently-abled undergraduates. This system allows them to identify books in the Braille collection at university premises or at home and reserve them before visiting the library. This system has been designed in such a way that one can easily find the book they want through easy search methods.

Braille collection - University of Kelaniya LOGIN

Search for ISBN, Title or Author

Category: ALL

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294.3 GNA	බෞද්ධ ධර්මය හා බෞද්ධ ඕෂ්ටාවාරය කෙටි ප්‍රශ්න 11 vol. 2	Gnanaratna himi, Kuragampala	available
294.3 WID	සිංලී හාමුදුරු වෙර් vol. 1	Vidhanapathirana, Gayan Chanuka	available
294.3 WID	සිංලී හාමුදුරු වෙර් vol. 2	Vidhanapathirana, Gayan Chanuka	available
294.3 WID	කිසිකෙනෙහි මහ රහන් මේහෙණිය vol.1	Widhanapathirana, Gayan Chanuka	available
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Research Consultation Workshop- Reference Management using Mendeley

Main library of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) conducted a workshop for research students of the Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health Sciences, OUSL to help enhance their skills in managing literature and references. The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Irosha Marasinghe, Assistant Librarian of the OUSL, on 17th February 2022.



Workshop on “YouTube as a Ubiquitous Learning Aid” for Undergraduates Students”

Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Acting Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) conducted a workshop on “YouTube as a Ubiquitous Learning Aid” for Undergraduates students on 25th February 2022. This workshop was organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the OUSL and held as an online session using the Zoom platform.

Quality Assurance

Establishment of an Internal Quality Assurance Cell for the Library (IQAC)

As per the decision made at 232 library committee, an IQAC for the library system of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was established in the library on 14th February 2022. The IQAC committee represents Mrs. Neighsoorei Jayah (Librarian) as the chairperson, Mr. Kusala Fernando (Senior Assistant Librarian) as the coordinator, Dr. Lalith Wickramanayake (Deputy Librarian), Dr. P.K.C.M. Wijewickrama (Senior Assistant Librarian), Mr. A.R.M.M. Rathnayake (Senior Assistant Librarian), Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya (Assistant Librarian) as members, 2 undergraduates and Mrs. H.P.K.N.D. Siriweera (Assistant Registrar, library services) as the convener of the committee. The progress and related matters are regularly discussed at the monthly meetings for further internal quality development and service quality enhancement.

Erasmus+ programme for transforming Sri Lankan University Libraries to a Digital Era

Erasmus+ programme 2021-2024 funded by the European Union is an international project derived with the aim of “transforming Sri Lankan University Libraries to a Digital Era”. At national level, 5 state universities including Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and 2 other institutions contributed to the first phase of the project. Senior Assistant Librarian, Mr. Kusala Fernando and Assistant Librarian, Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya have been nominated to represent the main library, SUSL for this collaborative project. Their specialized contribution to this project is to stabilize and enhance the quality assurance of the university library system in Sri Lanka.

More.....

Year 2022 towards a Fruitful Green Library

The Open University of Sri Lanka started the new year of 2022 by planting several fruit plants around the library, continuing “Fruitful Green Library Project” for the 03rd time, which was initiated in 2020. The project concept was developed and initiated by Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Acting Librarian, OUSL with the main purpose of creating an interactive green garden around the library while preserving under-utilized fruit plants in the country. All the library staff members of OUSL library participated in the event.



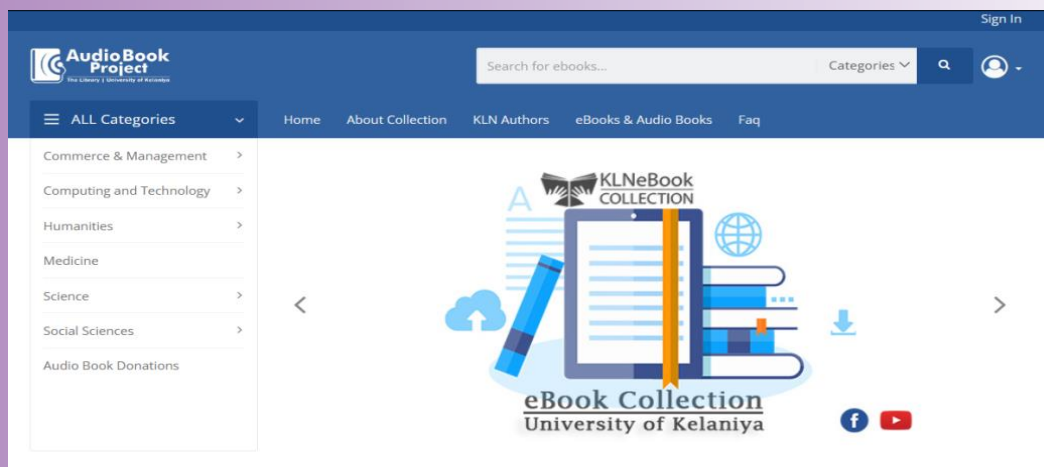
Audio Book Project

The Interactive Media Unit (IMU) of the Library, University of Kelaniya has developed its first audiobook Collection in the university history and it was launched by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Kelaniya, Senior Professor (Mrs.) Nilanthi De Silva at the board room.

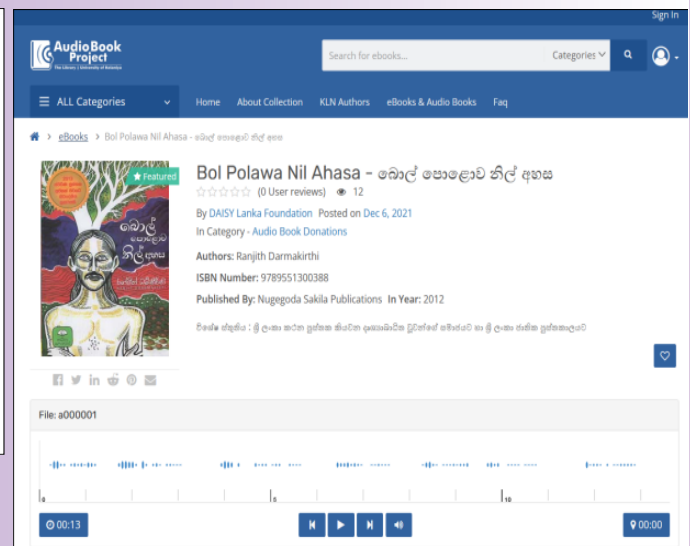
The key objective of this massive project is to facilitate the library users with a distance library service of an audiobook collection which is a timely need during this COVID 19 pandemic. This audiobook collection will provide access to 3 sub-collections as follows.

1. The books written by the academic staff of the University of Kelaniya
2. The books written by the differently-abled undergraduates of the University of Kelaniya
3. The books recreated by the IMU

“Kanda Saha Mitiyawatha” by Senior Professor Anura Manathunga was published as the first audio poetry on this occasion. The generosity of the authors is highly appreciated in making this project a success.



Audio Books



Motivational program

A motivational program on “Understanding the Reality and Living & Working Happily” was conducted by Dr. Ranil Sugathadasa, Senior Lecturer from Transport & Logistics Management of Faculty of Engineering for the library staff of the University of Moratuwa on 22nd March 2022.



During the one-hour session, he presented several themes useful for the day to day life such as; The beauty of Self Love, Knowing how to love yourself, The power of a deep breath at a difficult moment, Techniques of understanding the exact reality, The power of gratitude in teamwork, How to help & motivate your co-workers, The power of meththa, generosity, love, empathy, kindness at your heart and brain, How we can clean our heart brain from jealousy, frustration, competition, worry, hatred, How to live happily so that there will be no regrets at the deathbed, Why we should love our country and do our small duty to help our country

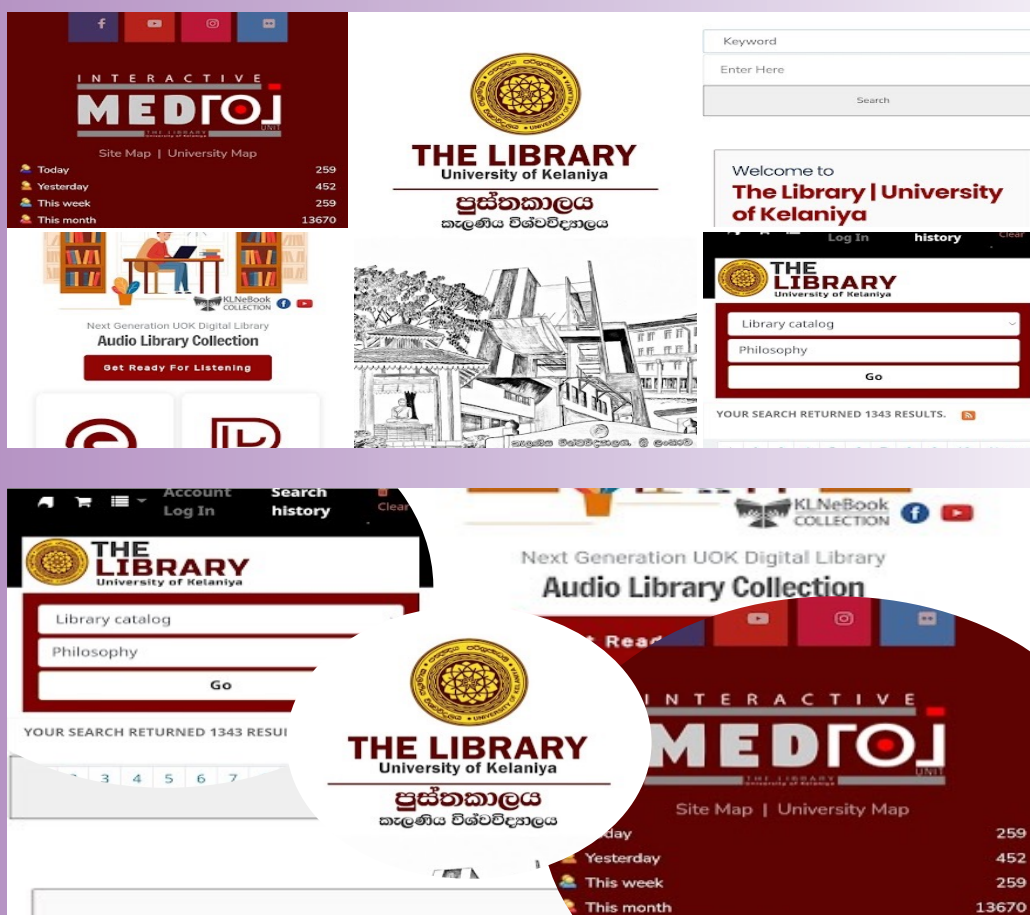


Library Mobile App

Developed by the Interactive Media Unit of the University of Kelaniya Library, the Library Mobile App has become the easiest method of accessing library services. This App makes it easy to find a book in the library and access all the databases. The first edition was released on 1st January 2022, and the second edition was released on 10th March. The service has over 2000 users and can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.

Download from Google Play Store

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.libraryuok.thelibraryuok>



Skills Development Workshop on Preparation of Examination Papers

Information Studies Unit of the library, Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) conducted a workshop collaboratively, with the Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the OUSL on 25th March 2022. The workshop comprised 02 sessions.

01. Finalizing course structures of diploma level of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Library and Information Studies (BALIS) programme, which is offered under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, OUSL. This session was chaired by Dr. (Mrs.) Wathmanel Seneviratne, Former Librarian, OUSL.

02. Training academic staff members who are involved in conducting day schools, on the preparation of examination papers of the BALIS programme. Senior Prof. Marie Perera, Professor in Humanities Education served as the resource person for this session. Dr. S.N. Morais, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mrs. H.P.S.D. Gunasekera, Head, Information Studies Unit, Mr. A.H.K. Balasooriya, Acting Librarian, Mrs. K.M.R.K. Amarasekara, Deputy Librarian, and all the academic staff members of the OUSL library and Dr. (Mrs.) K.R.N. Harshani, Senior Assistant Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka participated in the workshop.

Human Library Project

Human Library (HL) project was initiated for the first time in the history of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka with the aim of creating a learning platform; promoting active, open, and live discussions; enhancing knowledge sharing and a research culture among the university community. The project concept, planning and development were by the Assistant Librarian, Ms. Thrishala Warnasooriya and the supervision and consultation were by the librarian, Mrs. Neighsoorei Jayah and Senior Assistant Librarian, Mr. Kusala Fernando.

Event 01

The first event was successfully held on 28th January 2022 at 10.00 a.m. at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, SUSL, Belihuloya. Professor R.M. Udaya Rathnayake, the Vice Chancellor, SUSL was the first "Human Book". The readers representing the deans of faculties, librarian and library staff, directors of centres, administrative officers and other delegates of the university could read this interesting autobiography via both physical and online modes. The end of this iconic event was remarked with the distribution of a plantable eco-friendly pen to encourage the readers to go green.



Event 02

The 2nd “Human Library Event” organized by the main library, SUSL was successfully held on 30th March 2022 from 02.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. at the auditorium, Faculty of Geomatics, SUSL, Belihuloya. The famous folklorist and senior lecturer, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Mr. Mahinda Kumara Dalupotha was the “Human Book” with his thematic thoughts on “Sinhala - Tamil new year and challenges”.



The readers representing SUSL, Vice-Chancellor, the deans of faculties, librarian and library staff, directors of centres, administrative officers and other delegates of the university could read this interesting human book via both physical and online modes. The end of this event was remarked with the distribution of a Sinhala and Hindu New Year almanack with auspicious time slots and greetings from the main library to its users.

Opening of the Digital Wall, Library, University of Colombo

The official opening of the digital wall of the Library, the University of Colombo was declared on the 15th March 2022. The digital wall was created and displayed with the assistance of the British Council of Sri Lanka which enables readers to access the digital collections of the British Council through scanning the QR codes. Ms. Maarya Rehman, the Country Director of the British Council attended the event to officially hand over the digital wall to the library.

The digital wall contains QR codes of resources that empower students, teachers, and researchers to access a vast array of information available at the British Council. Resources include many essential resources not only for educational purposes but also for leisure reading, and for preparing undergraduates and junior staff for IELTS. The inaugural ceremony of the digital wall launching was graced by Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijayratne, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo as the Chief Guest. Registrar of the University of Colombo and many other dignitaries from the British Council were also present at the occasion.



Opening of the Library Boardroom

Opening ceremony of the Library Boardroom was held on the 15th of March 2022. The Boardroom is a modern meeting space that is equipped with modern technologies with a seating capacity of 25. Senior Professor Chandrika N Wijeyaratne, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Mr. K.A.S. Edward, Registrar of University of Colombo, and other academic and administrative members have taken part in this ceremony.



File Management System

File Management System has been introduced as an internal service of the Library of the University of Kelaniya. This service also reflects the concept of a green library. Developed by the Interactive Media Unit, this system enables the academic and non-academic staff of the library to perform their duties efficiently. It also makes it easy to manage library documentation.



file management system

The Library - University of Kelaniya

	Username
	Password
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep me logged in
Log in	
Forgot your password?	

Weidong Smart Classroom of the University of Colombo

The University of Colombo ceremonially opened its Weidong Smart Classroom on the 17th February 2022. The Smart Classroom is located on the fifth floor of the Main Library of the University of Colombo is well equipped with high-end computer terminals, smart board, audio-visual gadgets, and Internet connection. This was materialized through a memorandum of understanding between the University of Colombo and Southern University of Science and Technology, China and the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO and sponsored by Weidong Cloud Education Group, China. The Smart Classroom has been designed to accommodate the latest modes of teaching-learning and other academic interactions.

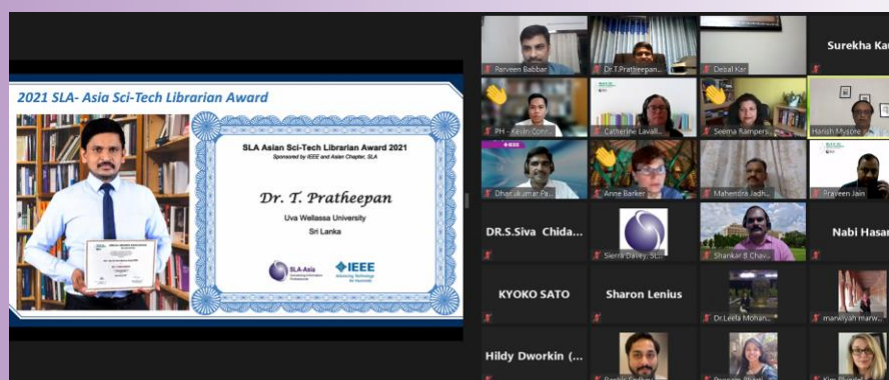
The opening was graced by Senior Professor Kapila Perera, the Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Senior Professor Chandrika N Wijeyaratne, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Professor Wei HAN, the Executive Deputy Director of the UNESCO-ICHEI, Mr. Zhiqian WANG, Vice President of Weidong Cloud Education Group, Senior Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Rector, Deans, Directors, Registrar, Bursar and other academic, administrative staff and technical experts from the University of Colombo and UNESCO-ICHEI.



Some news from last year...

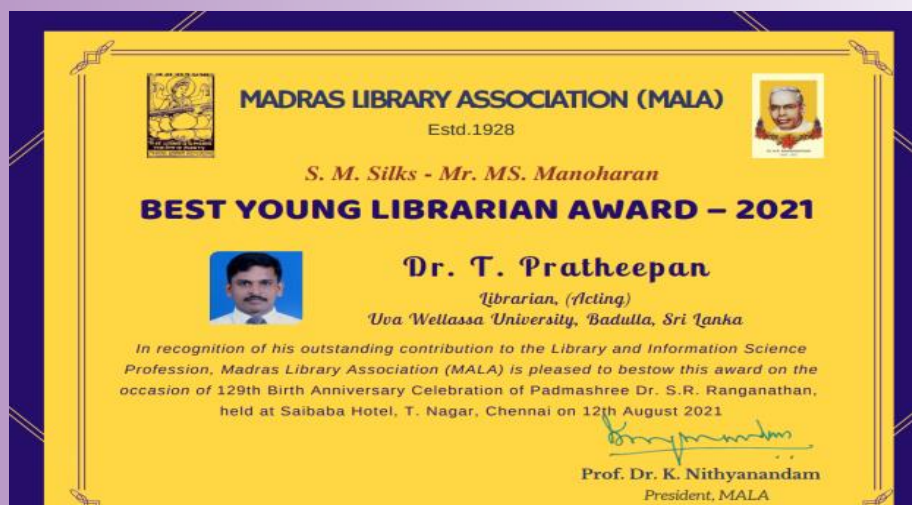
SLA Asian Sci- Tech Librarian Award – 2021 Winner

Dr. T. Pratheepan, Senior Assistant Librarian, Uva Wellassa University was awarded the SLA Asian Sci-Tech Librarian Award – 2021 by the Special Librarians Association and the award was sponsored by IEEE and SLA Asia Chapter. As an international professional association for library and information professionals working in academic, government, business and non-profit organizations and head office located in USA, the SLA recognizes and honours well deserved SLA members for achievements and contribution to the field annually. Among the applications of more than hundreds SLA members from various parts of the world Dr. T. Pratheepan, was recognized as one of the well deserved and influential information professionals to receive SLA – Asia Sci-Tech Librarian Award – 2021 at the SLA Annual Conference in the Asia Community Award Ceremony, which took place on 09th August, 2021 via virtual platform.



Best Young Librarian Award – 2021 Winner

Dr. T. Pratheepan, Senior Assistant Librarian, Uva Wellassa University was awarded the Best Young Librarian Award – 2021 for his outstanding contribution to the Library and Information Science Profession. The awarding ceremony was held on the occasion of 129th birth Anniversary Celebration of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, which took place on 12th August, 2022.

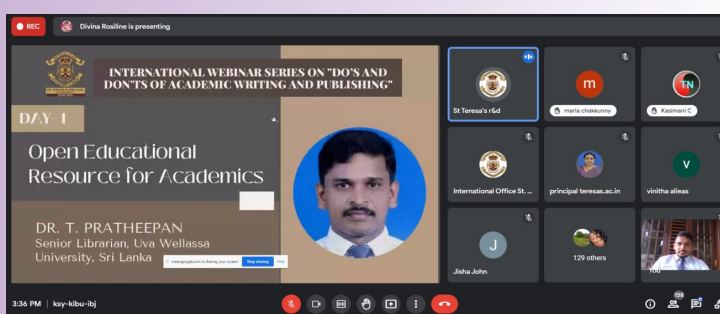


Resource Person at the International Conference on Education & New Learning Technologies

Dr. T. Pratheepan, Senior Assistant Librarian, Uva Wellassa University participated as a resource person at the International Conference on Education & New Learning Technologies organized by the YMCA College of Physical Education, Chennai, India which was held on 7th August, 2021. Dr. T. Pratheepan delivered a lecture entitled “*Open Access Technologies: Teaching, Learning & Research*”. There were 447 participants attended from various parts of India for this event.

Resource Person at the International Webinar on “Do’s and Don’ts of Academic Writing and Publishing

Dr. T. Pratheepan, Senior Assistant Librarian, Uva Wellassa University served as a resource person at the International Webinar on “Do’s and Don’ts of Academic Writing and Publishing” organized by the St. Teresa’s College, Kerala, India, which was during 25th -29th, August, 2021. Dr. T. Pratheepan served as the resource person on the first day of the webinar on Open Educational Resources for Academics, which took place on 25th August, 2021. There were 130 participants attended from various parts of Indian Higher Educational Institutions.





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Editorial Board (2021/2022)

Editor

Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara

BA (Hons) (Peradeniya); MSc (Peradeniya); MSc (Tsukuba); PhD (Tsukuba); ASIS&T
Senior Assistant Librarian
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
email: editor@ulasl.lk

Members of the Editorial Board

National Members

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Librarian
Eastern University, Sri Lanka
email: president@ulasl.lk

Dr. C. C. Jayasundara

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(South Africa); Certified Professional Librarian (ALIA)
Librarian
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
email: librarian@kln.ac.lk

Dr. Champa N. K. Alahakoon

BA (Hons) (Peradeniya); MLS (Colombo); PhD (Colombo); FSLLA
Deputy Librarian
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
email: kumaria@pdn.ac.lk

Dr. W.R.W.M. A.U. Weerakoon

BSc (Hons) (Peradeniya); MSSc in LIS (Kelaniya); PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Assistant Librarian
Kandy Regional Centre
The Open University of Sri Lanka
email: auwee@ou.ac.lk

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BA (Harvard); MSc (Illinois, Urbana-Champaign); PhD (Syracuse)
Associate Professor
Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information
Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
Singapore
email: ASSGKHOO@ntu.edu.sg

Dr. Shigeo Sugimoto

BEng (Hons) (Kyoto); MSc (Kyoto); Phd (Kyoto)
Professor Emeritus
Faculty of Library, Information and Media Science
University of Tsukuba
Japan
email: shigeo.sugimoto@gmail.com

Dr. Bhuvan Narayan

BA (Hons) (Chatham, Pittsburgh); Graduate Diploma in Publishing
Procedures (Columbia, New York); MLIS (Pittsburgh); PhD (QUT,
Brisbane)
Associate Professor
School of Communication & Graduate Research
Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
Australia
email: Bhuvan.Narayan@uts.edu.au

Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge

BA (Hons) (Peradeniya); MLib (Wales); MIS (Canberra); MA (Colom-
bo); PhD (Colombo); FSLLA; FCILIP
Director,
National Institute of Library & Information Sciences (NILIS)
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
email: director@nilis.cmb.ac.lk

Dr. G. D. M. N. Samaradiwakara (Former Editor- JULA)

BSc (Hons) (SJP); MLS (Colombo); PhD (Colombo)
Acting Librarian
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
email: mnsamara@sjp.ac.lk

Dr. Manjula Wijewickrema

BSc (Hons) (Ruhuna); MLS (Colombo); Dr phil (Humboldt, Berlin)
Senior Assistant Librarian
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
email: manju@lib.sab.ac.lk

Layout Design

Mr. M. A. Lankathilake

BSc (Hons) (SJP)
Assistant Librarian
University of Colombo
Email: madhushan@lib.cmb.ac.lk