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Connecting People through Transformative Libraries

organized by the

University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka

in collaboration with the

Standing Committee on Library and Information Sciences (SCOLIS)

of the

University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka

27 October 2022

AMAYA Beach Hotel, Pasirbadah

Thematic Areas

- ✳ Education Literacy
- ✳ Digital Technologies in Librarianship
- ✳ Social Networks
- ✳ Practices in Library Sector
- ✳ Digital Libraries
- ✳ Information Communication Technology
- ✳ Documentation of Cultural Heritage
- ✳ Bibliometrics/Scientometrics/Informetrics/Webometrics

Important Dates Full Paper Submission : **25 September 2022**

Notification of Acceptance : **05 October 2022**

Camera Ready Version : **10 October 2022**

For the details of Registration and submission of papers, please visit / contact :

<http://www.ulasl.lk/icula2022>



Conference Co-Secretaries

Dr. (Mrs) G. D. Manoja N. Samaradiwakara

Dr. Manjula Wijewickrema

secretary@icula2022.ulasl.lk

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27TH OCTOBER 2022

AMAYA BEACH HOTEL, PASIKUDAH

CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE LIBRARIES

International Conference of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka
in Collaboration with the

Standing Committee on Libraries and Information Sciences (SCOLIS) of the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka

CHIEF GUEST



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Premakumara De Silva**
Chairman, SCOLIS
University Grants Commission

GUEST OF HONOUR



**Professor
V. Kanagasingam**
Vice Chancellor,
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

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The Librarian,
University of Kelaniya,
Sri Lanka



Dr. W. J. Jeyaraj
President, ULA
The Librarian,
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Two Eminent Celebrities will deliver the Keynote addresses and it will be notified soon

The International Conference deliberates to concentrate information professionals, academicians and educationalists to generate a milieu to confer the requisite to transmute the libraries and to discourse the trials being faced by libraries in transforming the libraries by presenting papers, discussions, exchange of views and sharing learning experiences

IMPORTANT DATES

Full paper submission
25th September, 2022

Notification of Acceptance
05th October, 2022

Camera Ready Version
10th October, 2022

Main Conference
27th October, 2022

**AMAYA
BEACH
HOTEL
PASIKUDAH**



THEMATIC AREAS

- EDUCATION & INFORMATION LITERACY
- EMERGING TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARIANSHIP
- INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
- DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
- LIBRARIANSHIP AND SOCIAL NETWORKING
- BIBLIOMETRICS/ SCIENTOMETRICS/ INFORMETRICS/ WEBOMETRICS
- INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN LIBRARY SECTOR
- MARKETING LIBRARIES

PAPER SUBMISSION & REGISTRATION

Author guidelines can be downloaded from 'PAPER SUBMISSION' on the Conference Official Website for details.
<https://www.ulasl.lk/icula2022/>

For Registration details please visit :
<https://www.ulasl.lk/icula2022/index.php/registration>

CONFERENCE PROCEEDING

All submitted full papers will be peer reviewed by a panel of experts and Selected papers published in ICULA 2022 Conference Proceedings



Official Website
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Conference Website
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For more information
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Feature Article

Participatory Decision-Making in Sri Lankan University Libraries

S. Santharooban

Senior Assistant Librarian
Faculty of Health-Care Sciences
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

The university library professionals are very fond of talking about improving library resources and services, but often they fail to discuss the managerial or policy-related issues that govern the library human resource management which is the core for delivering services. In this regard, this article is written with the view of analysing whether the policy ensures participatory management/decision-making in the university library sector. First of all, we need to know what are bureaucratic management and participatory management. In bureaucratic management, decision-making power, control and authority are mainly concentrated on the manager; while subordinates work on command from the hierarchy (Cabral, 1987). Sharing authority and responsibility largely depends on the attitude of the manager. The bureaucratic management often leads to problems and conflicts and often reduces job satisfaction mainly due to the non-involvement of staff in decision-making. In contrast, participatory management ensures the managers' decision-making with input from the employees. The managerial decision has been taken in both top-down and bottom-up communication (Adams, 2020). This kind of management builds a cohesive team to achieve the organizational goal and increase job satisfaction as well. Participatory management enables the employees to involve with great dedication and to value their potential and thus provide highly effective service. Akpena (1997, p. 190) stated that "participative management in Libraries emphasizes the paramount place of recognition, consultation and involvement of all towards the realization of the library's goals and objectives."

In the university managerial system, participatory management is a key element, especially in academic entities. The library professionals are also academic staff according to the University act and Establishment code. However, the chance for them to participate at least in library-related decision-making is very minimal or nil sometimes. In the Sri Lankan university system, all the academic entities have a participatory decision-making system and this system is ensured by the policy. For example, at the faculty level, there is a faculty board and at the university level, there are Senate and Council. These are statutory meetings i.e. defined by law to ensure participatory decision-making. However, among the academic entities in the university system, the library is the only entity in which participatory decision-making is not properly ensured by the policy. However, there are few university libraries where participatory decision-making is in practice, which is purely of personal interest of librarians but not ensured by the policy. When it is not defined by the act, there is more chance that the administrator enters into autocratic decision-making without consulting fellow staff.

One may argue that there is a library committee to ensure participatory decision-making. The library committee itself is a sub-committee of the senate and its composition and meetings have not been defined by the university act no 16. of 1978. Because of this poor definition of library committee in the act, only the librarian was a member of the library for a long time. In a few universities membership of the library committee has been given to all the library professionals very recently. Further, it has been noted that holding library committee meetings is haphazard/irregular in nature in some universities because the number of meetings has not been defined properly in the act.

Apart from the library committee, the librarians or library professionals are not given membership of important committees to which the librarian's presence is necessary. One such committee is the finance committee. As per the internal audit circular letter No 01/2021, the librarian is not a member of the finance committee. In the university system, similar to faculty the library also utilizes university allocation to support academic activities. Therefore, the librarian or his/her representative should be a member of the finance committee. This committee is an important committee which makes decisions on procurement of items. Since the library is handling the procurement of information materials, the presence of a librarian or his/her representative is essential.

Further, the Dean, professors, Head and two representatives from departments participate in the Senate as members of faculties. However, only the librarian participates in the Senate representing the library. Nowadays many library professionals are excelling in their research and academic careers and they are competent enough to contribute to decision-making. The library should be provided with one more membership in the senate for library staff in addition to the librarian.

Similarly, there are several standing committees at the university level where membership is not given to the library. Some areas covered by standing committees such as the curriculum evaluation committee and study leave committee are relevant to the library staff as well. In many universities membership of these important committees is not given at least to the librarian. The librarian's contribution to curriculum development was emphasized by educators a long time ago. Lanning (1988) proposes that "librarian and faculty member should work towards a common goal of curriculum development." However, the role of the librarian in curriculum development is not realized in the Sri Lankan university system. The library professionals are also entitled for study leave to pursue their postgraduate studies. In such instances, the decisions are made by administrators without the presence of librarian in a few universities.

The major reason for such exclusion from university-level committees is the passive nature of library professionals in the universities. I reiterate the statement made by Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunga (2012, p. 4) in her paper submitted to SCOLIS, "... It is unfortunate that the senior academics who are responsible for policy making in university education will tend to take decisions with regard to the contributions of librarians and libraries based on their perceptions of this kind of passive librarians they interact with." This statement clearly emphasizes that the library professionals should be active and defend/advocate the library and library professionals in the forums rather than being passive officers within the walls of the library.

As a conclusion, the following can be recommended to ensure participatory decision-making in library and related systems:

1. The library professionals should encourage the library administration to adopt participatory decision-making as much as possible within the library.
2. University librarians and senior library academics should advocate the necessity of giving membership to librarians or library professionals of university-level committees.
3. The UGC standing committee (SCOLIS) has the biggest role to play in proposing changes at national level policies such as UGC circulars and university act amendments.
4. On top of this, the University Librarians Association, as the only trade union which solely represents the university librarians should raise their voice against the autocratic management system with respect to the library sector in universities and take initiative to bring changes in policies to ensure the participatory decision making within and beyond university libraries.

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Special Tribute

Tribute to Mrs. Rohini Pararajasingam (Founder member of ULA)



Mrs. Rohini Pararajasingam

BSc Hons (Zoology)(Madras), PG Dip. (Librarianship) (Peradeniya),
MSc (LIS) (Madras)

Retired Librarian, University of Jaffna
(March 1995 – September 2005)

We are profoundly saddened with the demise of Mrs. Rohini Pararajasingam (Retired Librarian of the University of Jaffna), one of the Founder members of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka. She passed away at the age of 82 on 27.04.2022 in Point Pedro, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

She was born in Point Pedro, Sri Lanka and studied at the J/Methodist Girls High School. She started her distinguished career with a BSc Honours Degree in Zoology from the University of Madras (India) in 1961. Later she followed the *Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship* at the University of Peradeniya (Sri Lanka) during the period of 1964 to 1965, and completed her Master of Library and Information Science at the University of Madras (India) in 1983, where she secured '*Outstanding*' grade in the Master's degree examination for her abilities and commitment during her studentship.

She joined the University of Jaffna as an Assistant Librarian in 1978, climbed the ladders with colours and dedicated service, and promoted to the post Librarian of the University of Jaffna in March 1995, after serving in the capacity of Acting Librarian for 10 months. She served as Librarian (1995-2005) during the times when Jaffna Peninsula was witnessing several challenges due to the conflict. She was able to save valuable collections of the Library from possible damage and destruction in a very difficult civil situation ignoring considerable risk to her personal life. This proves her commitment to the Library profession. Due to her total commitment to the Library, she did not utilize her sabbatical leave at all.

As an able academic administrator, she managed the Library with the handful of staff during the most challenging period in the Northern Sri Lanka. The construction work of the Library building started in 1980 and was completed in 2001 during her tenure, which was a great achievement at that time. Besides, Library automation project initiated in 2003 is one of the landmarks of her visionary service to the university. With regard to professional development, she was instrumental in commencing the *Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science* course in 2005 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Jaffna.

In order to develop professional competencies among the library professionals in the region, her involvement in the recommencement of *Diploma in Library and Information Science* course of the Sri Lanka Library Association in Jaffna in 2002 is remarkable. Considering her valuable contribution to the profession, Sri Lanka Library Association honoured her by awarding the '*Fellowship*'.

She also published monographs on cataloguing, indexing and library management, and an annotated bibliography on library education. She served as a resource person at several seminars and conferences related to library science.

She retired in 2005, after serving in the Library, University of Jaffna for 27 long years in several capacities. By recognizing her services to the library profession, she was felicitated by the ULA in 2006. Even after retirement, she continued to contribute towards the development of the library profession by delivering lectures for library information science courses until 2015.

Her remarkable contribution to the upliftment of the Library, University of Jaffna during the most challenging period in the region will be remembered forever. The ULA expresses deep sadness and sorrow on her demise and conveys deep gratitude to the bereaved family and friends.

May the departed soul rest in peace...

Achievements & Awards

The New Librarian of the KDU



Dr. (Mrs) Wathmanel Senevirathna (BA (Hon) in Economics, Dip. in Com., DipLIS, MLS, Ph.D., ASTHE, FSLLA), the former Librarian of the Open University (Retired) who also contributed her services to the Sri Lanka University Library Sector for more than twenty (20) years, has been appointed to the post of Librarian (On Assignment) with effect from 1st July 2022 at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

Librarian as the Sri Lanka National Hockey Team Manager for the AHF Cup Tournament



Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian of University of Peradeniya was assigned by the Sri Lanka Hockey Federation to perform duties as the Manager of the National Men's Hockey squad for Asian Hockey Federation Cup Tournament which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Sri Lankan National Hockey team became second-runner-up in the tournament.

Appointed as a Member of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Mrs. P. K. Wijesekara, Senior Assistant Librarian, Southern Campus of the KDU, is appointed as a member of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Science, Southern Campus of the KDU.

Treasurer of FHSSTU 2022/2023

Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna was elected as the Treasurer of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science Teachers Union (FHSSTU), University of Ruhuna for the year 2022/2023. Also, she has served as the Assistant Secretary year 2021/2022.

Assistant Secretary and Committee Member of the PAFTA 2021/22



Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian of Reader Services of the Main Library was elected as the Assistant Secretary of the Peradeniya Arts Faculty Teachers Association (PAFTA) for the year 2021/2022, while Mr. S. Premaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian of Acquisitions of the Main Library was appointed as a Committee Member of the PAFTA for the year 2021/2022.

Academic Contribution

Workshop for Students

Dr. Anoma Weerakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka, served as the resource person for a workshop on “How to do a literature review” organized by the Department of Zoology of the Faculty of Natural Science, OUSL on 07th June via zoom. The workshop covered aspects such as searching techniques and planning a search, information evaluation and, structuring and writing a literature review.

Visiting Lecture on Information Literacy and Scientific Communication Skills

Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna served as a Visiting Lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of Ruhuna for the module of Information Literacy and Scientific Communication Skills.

Special Workshops and Training Programmes by Library, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU)

- Mrs. T .C. Ranawella, Senior Assistant Librarian, Main-Library of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), conducted two lectures to familiarize the academic staff members of the Faculties of Technology and Criminal Justice with Turnitin Anti Plagiarism Software. On 27th June 2022, she also conducted a lecture on “Turnitin” for the students of the Certificate Course in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE), Staff Development Center of the KDU.
- Mrs. M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian – Faculty of Medicine Library, conducted an introductory lecture on 20th June 2022 on the KDU Library system for the students of the CTHE, Staff Development Center of the KDU.
- Ms. U.D. Hiruni Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian, attached to the Allied Health Science Library, Kotelawala Defence University, was the resource person and delivered the lecture titled “Literature review and accessing electronic information” at the Webinar on Scientific Writing organized by the Staff Development Center, KDU in collaboration with Section D of the Sri Lanka Association of the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) on 20th April 2022.

Training Programs of the User Education Unit of the University of Moratuwa Library

User Education Unit of the University of Moratuwa Library organizes various programs with the main objective of improving the research skills of students. The undergraduate students of the department of Architecture (Level 3) were privileged by the sessions carried out on 27th and 28th April 2022. Senior Assistant Librarians, Mr. Nishan Punchihewa conducted the sessions on “Introduction to Plagiarism” and “Referencing”, and Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana conducted the sessions on “Information Sources and Searching”.

Research Contribution

Publications by the ULA Members

- Narmada, K. A. V. and Weerakoon, W.R.W.M.A.U. (2022). It is time to break the boundaries: Profiling practices and perceptions on marketing in special libraries in Sri Lanka. *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal). 7177. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/7177>
- Hindagolla, B.M.M.C.B. & Weerasinghe, S. (2022). Acceptance of electronic information resources by library users: A review of literature from the Asian and African perspective. M. P. Singh, S. Kumar Sonkar (Eds.), *Management of Modern Libraries in New Normal – Memorial volume in loving memory of Dr. Suchetan Kumar*, pp. 372-383. Corvette Press.
- Weerasinghe, S., (2022). Citation analysis of Veterinary dissertations. *Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka*, 25(1), pp.31-54. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/jula.v25i1.8052>

Student Support

Student Support and Advocacy Services by the Library, OUSL, Kandy

Students who have registered for the most demanded Bachelor of Software Engineering Degree programme (BSE) launched by the OUSL is experiencing their successful second academic year at the University. Being the opening batch of this course, it is a challenge, and despite the support given by the relevant authorities these students are facing difficulties in carrying out their academic activities in the distance mode. They are further afflicted by the social and economic turmoil in the country. The Kandy regional center library of the OUSL has taken steps to provide advocacy services to the students who are following BSE programme at the center. This need was identified after analysing numerous inquiries posed at the library which are not directly related to library or its services. Hence, the Senior Assistant Librarian Dr. Anoma Weerakoon has launched an advocacy service with the collaboration of the Assistant Director of the center for the benefit of these students. The first student group discussion was held on 11th June at the library with the participation of more than 20 students. After lengthy discussions with students, the Assistant Director recommended support strategies and interventions in accordance with existing university policies. The library incites the need of academic support programmes, social welfare and social gatherings, and carrier guidance programmes with industrial partners. The group scheduled some activities for the coming months and also decided to invite a faculty representative for future discussions.



Quality Assurance

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the KDU



To ensure quality assurance of activities of the Library Network in providing services, resources, and facilities for teaching-learning and research activities of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the Library Network, KDU was established.

Mrs. M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine, has been appointed as the Coordinator of KDU Library IQAC. Mrs. T.C. Ranawella, Senior Assistant Librarian, Main Library; Mrs. U.D.H. Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences and Mrs. Peral Wijesekara, Senior Assistant Librarian, Southern Campus are the other Academic staff members appointed to support the activities of the IQAC of the KDU Library Network.

Quality Assurance Steps Carried out by the Uva Wellassa University

A workshop on “Office Etiquettes” was conducted by Vice Chancellor, Uva Wellassa University /Prof. Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera on 23rd May 2022 at Uva Wellassa University Premises for library staff members and other staff members of the University. This workshop was organized by Dr. K.M.R.K. Kulathunga, Coordinator/ Library Quality Assurance Cell in collaboration with the Staff Development Center of the Uva Wellassa University.



A workshop on “University Administrative Procedures” was conducted by Registrar, Uva Wellassa University / Mr. M.F. Hibathul Careem on 24th May 2022 at Uva Wellassa University premises for library staff members and other staff members of the University. This workshop was organized by Dr. K.M.R.K. Kulathunga, Coordinator/ Library Quality Assurance Cell in collaboration with the Staff Development Center of the Uva Wellassa University.



Special Training, Conferences & Visits

Visiting Foreign University Libraries by the Science Faculty Librarian, University of Peradeniya

Senior Assistant Librarian of the Science Dr.(Ms).Menaka Hindagolla visited three University libraries during April to May 2022, namely, St. Matheson Library, University of Monash, RMIT University Library and the Library of Federation University of Australia in Melbourne, Australia. During her visit she had discussions with the library staff regarding emerging library services offered by university libraries for their users in the post pandemic context as well as about the librarians' role of promoting open education resources in universities.



Special Training Programme for Uva Wellassa University Library Staff

A training programme on “How to generate barcode number for library furniture” conducted by Ms. H.A.I. Kaushalya 1st year Computer Science Student of Uva Wellassa University on 27th June 2022 for Library staff at the Library premises.



Training Workshop on “Ethical Issues in Research”

Mrs. T. C. Ranawella, Senior Assistant Librarian – Main Library, attended the Training Workshop on “Ethical Issues in Research” conducted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the KDU on 25th April 2022.

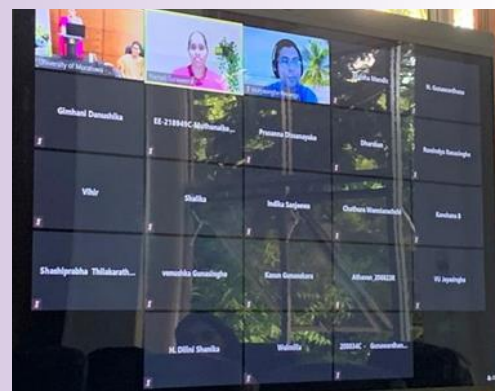
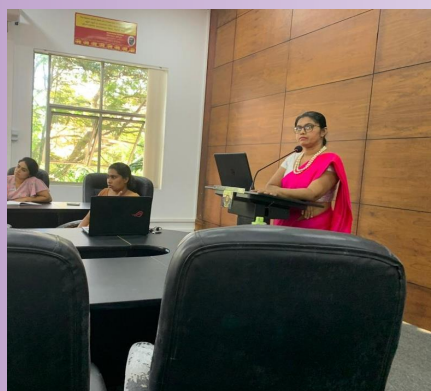
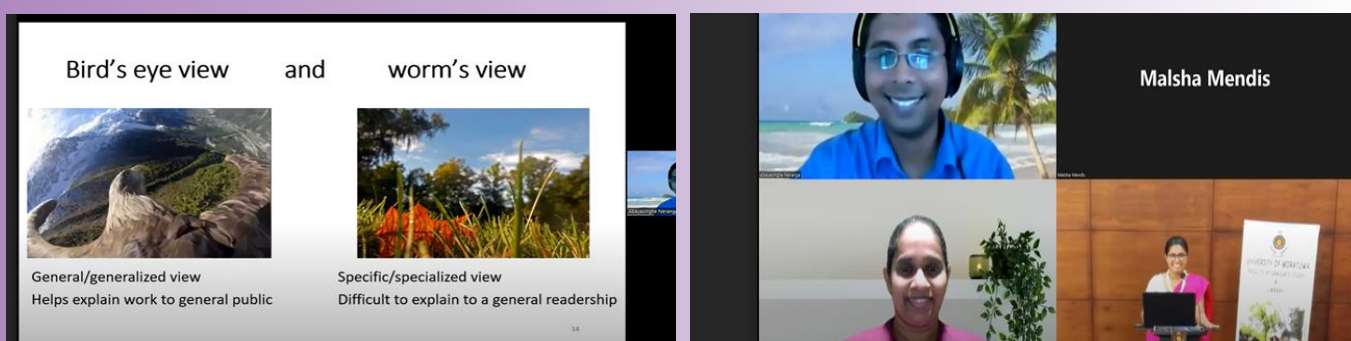
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Research Lounge: A Trailblazer Event

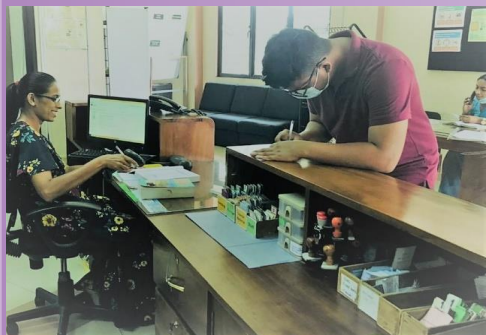
The Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa in collaboration with the University Library marked a special day by starting the Research Lounge for the first time in Sri Lankan history. Research Lounge is a meeting space for researchers. Experts in the field and students are admitted to the lounge for in-depth discussions on a selected area of research. Both parties actively engage in the discussions by sharing their knowledge. For questions which are not taken into the discussion due to the limited time factor, answers will be prepared using instructions from expert panellists and will be sent to requester. Materials and documents that they use for discussion will be uploaded to Moodle. This concept was formulated and introduced by Senior Assistant Librarian, Dr Nayani Gunawardhana.

The first Research Lounge was held on 29th June 2022 at the faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa (in hybrid mode) in accordance with the guidance and direction of the Dean/FGS Prof. Ajith De Alwis. The theme of the first Research Lounge was "Starting a Research Project: Getting off the ground". How to think about the impact, the outlining document to plan the project and assist its (their) evolution and the road map for literature review were the brief content therein.

Dr Neranga Abeyasinha, Senior Lecturer at the University of Colombo and Dr Namali Suraweera, Senior Lecturer at the University of Kelaniya contributed to this forum as experts of the Research Lounge. Dr Masha Mendis, a past student who earned her PhD from FGS, participated as an invitee. Dr Nayani Gunawardhana was the moderator of the Research Lounge. A limited number of registered students were admitted to the Research Lounge. The first Research Lounge ended as a successful event.



Initiation of Automated Circulation



The Open University of Sri Lanka initiated automated circulation through KOHA system in one of the regional centre libraries. Kandy Regional Centre Library being the largest regional centre library in the OUSL library system is the second library to initiate automated circulation. The service was started in June 2022 and the students are given integrated borrowing facilities at the main library and centres in addition to other online facilities offered by the KOHA LMS.

Opening of Engineering Library 24 x 7 Study Room, University of Peradeniya

Engineering Library of University of Peradeniya has expanded its services by providing serene atmosphere for students by offering a 24 x 7 Study Room near the main entrance to the library. This 24 x 7 Study Room was declared open for students of Faculty of Engineering on 26th May 2022. The Chief Guest was Dr. Udaya Dissanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

This Study Room can be accessed around the clock, any day of the week, including holidays and will facilitate group and individual learning. This Study room is equipped with free hi-speed Wi-Fi system and students can use this facility for group and individual learning. This can be considered as a vital asset to all students (undergraduate and postgraduate students) of Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya.

This Study Room project is partially funded by Peradeniya University Alumni Association, NSW (PUAAN), Australia and rest of the cost is borne by Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya.



31st day Remembrance of Retired Former Librarian Mrs. R. Pararajasingam, University of Jaffna

The Library, University of Jaffna organized the 31st day death remembrance event to remark the contributions towards the development of library profession, made by venerable Retired Former Librarian Mrs. Rohini Pararajasingam who passed away at the age of 82 on 27th of April 2022 in Point Pedro, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The event was held at the Library auditorium, UoJ on 27th of May 2022 with the participation of library professionals attached to university, public, school libraries in the region, retired library staff of the UoJ and her family members. The event commenced at 3.00 p.m. on 27th of May 2022 by lightening the traditional oil lamp, followed by Pushpanjali to the photograph of Late Mrs. R. Pararajasingam as a symbol of paying the last respect to departed soul. Thereafter, speeches of tribute were delivered by Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah (Vice Chancellor, UoJ), Emeritus Prof. P. Balasundarampillai, Dr. (Mrs.) K. Chandrasekar (Acting Librarian, UoJ), Mr. M. Sinnarajah (Retired AR/Library services), library staff, university lecturers and representative from the Jaffna Public Library. The event was concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. S. Ketheeswaren (Senior Assistant Librarian, UoJ) around 4.30 p.m.





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