



NEWSLETTER

University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka

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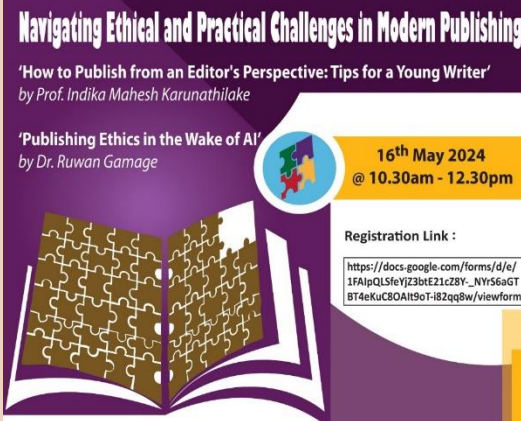
<http://www.ulasl.lk>

ULA EVENTS

ULA Training programme

ULA EXCO 2023/2024 successfully concluded the second webinar on 'Navigating Ethical and Practical Challenges in Modern Publishing' on May 16, 2024, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. The Resource Panel members were Prof. Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, Head Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Senior Lecturer, National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo. More than sixty members participated in the event.

This webinar consisted of two sessions. **The first session, conducted by Dr. Ruwan Gamage, delved into 'Publishing Ethics in the Wake of AI'. It explored the challenges of incorporating AI-generated content in scholarly works and covered essential topics such as AI literacy and applied ethics.** The second session, conducted by Prof. Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, focused on 'How to Publish from an Editor's Perspective: Tips for a Young Writer'. It offered valuable advice for aspiring writers on enhancing their chances of publication success and provided an insider's view of the decision-making process during manuscript reviews. LIS professionals, students, and researchers actively took part in this webinar.



Navigating Ethical and Practical Challenges in Modern Publishing


'How to Publish from an Editor's Perspective: Tips for a Young Writer'
by Prof. Indika Mahesh Karunathilake


'Publishing Ethics in the Wake of AI'
by Dr. Ruwan Gamage


16th May 2024
@ 10.30am - 12.30pm

Registration Link :
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfeyjZ3btE21cZ8Y_NY56aGTBT4eKuC8OAI9oT-i82qg8w/viewform

Resource persons:

 **Prof. Indika Mahesh Karunathilake**
Professor in Medical Education,
Head/Department of Medical Education,
Faculty of Medicine,
University of Colombo.

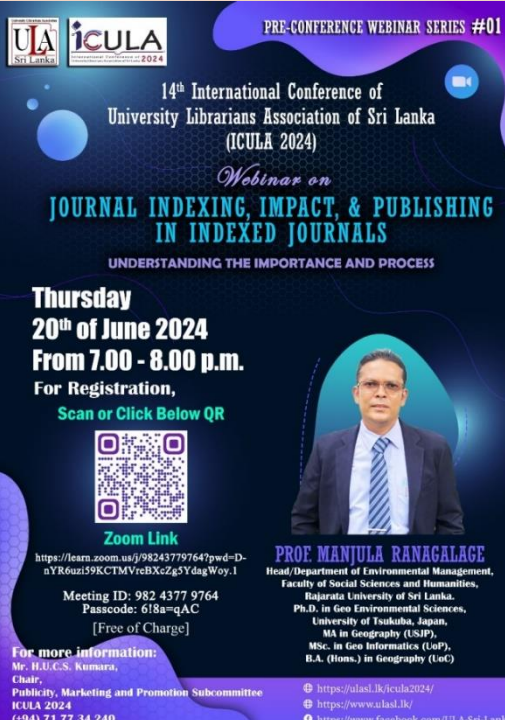
 **Dr. Ruwan Gamage**
Senior Lecturer,
National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS),
University of Colombo.

Organized by:  **University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ULA)**

For more information:
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ICULA Pre-Conference Webinar Series

In parallel with the 14th International Conference of the University Librarians Association, Sri Lanka, the Sub-Committee on Publicity, Marketing and Promotion of ICULA 2024 successfully launched a webinar series to foster knowledge sharing and professional development among librarians nationwide.




PRE-CONFERENCE WEBINAR SERIES #01

14th International Conference of
University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka
(ICULA 2024)

Webinar on
**JOURNAL INDEXING, IMPACT & PUBLISHING
IN INDEXED JOURNALS**
UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE AND PROCESS

**Thursday
20th of June 2024
From 7.00 - 8.00 p.m.**
For Registration,
Scan or Click Below QR



Zoom Link
<https://learn.zoom.us/j/98243779764?pwd=DnYR6uziS9KCTMVreBXcZg3YdagWoy.1>

PROF. MANJULA RANAGALAGE
Head/Department of Environmental Management,
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities,
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka,
Ph.D. in Geo Environmental Sciences,
University of Tsukuba, Japan,
MA in Geography (USIP),
M.Sc. in Geo Informatics (UoP),
B.A. (Hons.) in Geography (UoC)

Meeting ID: 982 4377 9764
Passcode: 618a=qAC
[Free of Charge]

For more information:
Mr. H.U.C.S. Kumara,
Chair,
Publicity, Marketing and Promotion Subcommittee
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<https://ulas.lk/icula2024/>
<https://www.ulas.lk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ULA-Sri-Lanka>

Webinar No.1 – Journal Indexing, Impact & Publishing in Indexed Journals

The first pre-conference webinar, titled "Journal Indexing, Impact & Publishing in Indexed Journals," was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. The resource person was Prof. Manjula Ranagalage, Head of the Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The webinar aimed to explore topics such as what a journal index is, how journal indexing works, reputed index databases and the impact factor. The session was introduced by Dr. (Mrs.) M. M. Mashroofa, the President of the University Librarians Association and moderated by Mr. Chamika Sanjaya Kumara the Co-Chair, Sub-Committee on Publicity, Marketing and Promotion of ICULA 2024. Altogether 80 participants actively joined the webinar out of 153 registered.

PRE-CONFERENCE WEBINAR SERIES #02

14th International Conference of University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ICULA 2024)

Webinar on
A MODERN LIBRARY TOWARDS ENHANCING AI LITERACY: A ROADMAP BEYOND INFORMATION LITERACY AND DIGITAL LITERACY

Friday, 28th June, 2024
From 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.

For Registration,
Scan QR

Go to the link below
<https://forms.gle/3TWC1kPHuU46bXK7>
[Free of Charge]

PROF. INDIKA PERERA
Professor
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Faculty of Engineering
University of Moratuwa
PhD, University of St Andrews, United Kingdom
Masters in Business Studies, University of Colombo
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<https://www.ulasl.lk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ULA-Sri-Lanka>

Webinar No.2 – A Modern Library towards Enhancing AI Literacy: A Roadmap beyond Information Literacy and Digital Literacy

The second pre-conference webinar, titled “A Modern Library towards Enhancing AI Literacy: A Roadmap beyond Information Literacy and Digital Literacy,” was held on Friday, June 28, 2024, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. The resource person was Prof. Indika Perera from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa. The webinar aimed to explore topics such as information, digital, and AI literacy, AI and its progression, AI competency building, AI use cases, and AI integration in library systems. The session was introduced by Dr. (Mrs.) M. M. Mashroofa, the President of the University Librarians Association. Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian introduced the resource person, Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana moderated the session, and Mr. Chamika Sanjaya Kumara the Co-Chair, Sub-Committee on Publicity, Marketing and Promotion of

ICULA 2024 proposed the vote of thanks. Altogether 50 participants actively joined the webinar out of 92 registered attendees.

14th International Conference of University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ICULA 2024)

‘Artificial Intelligence (AI) Revolutionizing the Library Services: Challenges and Opportunities’

29TH OCTOBER 2024

Call for Papers

CONFERENCE TRACKS

- ✓ AI in Library Services
- ✓ Smart Libraries
- ✓ AI Literacy
- ✓ Information and Media Literacy
- ✓ Library Automation
- ✓ Access to Information
- ✓ Personalized Information Services
- ✓ Indigenous Libraries and Cultural Heritage
- ✓ Digital Environment and Machine Learning
- ✓ AI Tools and Academic Integrity
- ✓ Internet of Things and Higher Education
- ✓ AI for Service Quality
- ✓ Knowledge Management in AI Era

IMPORTANT DATES

Extended Abstract/ Full Paper Submission Open : 28th May 2024
Submission Deadline : 21st August 2024
Author Notification of Acceptance/ Rejection : 15th September 2024
Submission of Camera-Ready Paper : 25th September 2024
Early Bird Registration Open for Presenter/ Participant : 25th September 2024 [grabs the 10%]
Early Bird Registration Close : 10th October 2024

<https://ulasl.lk/icula2024/> ✉ secretary_icula@ulasl.lk

Conference Chair: Dr. M.M. Mashroofa, +9477 756 1660
Conference Co-Chair: Dr. S.K. Illungarathne, +9471 055 9888
Conference Secretary : Mrs. W.M.P.G.K.T. Wanasinghe, +9471 351 7703
Conference Co-Secretary : Mr. A.V. Muditha Ankumbura- 0718341508

Venue: Gall Face Hotel, Colombo

Our Collaborator:

14th International Conference of University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ICULA 2024)

The 14th International Conference of University Librarians Association (ICULA) 2024 will be held tentatively on 29th October 2024 on the theme of “*Artificial Intelligence Revolutionizing the Library Services: Challenges and Opportunities*”. This international conference intends to serve as a platform for international and especially Sri Lankan library professionals from university library sectors to meet, share and discuss the research findings, innovations, good practices, trends, and issues based on the theme. This year’s theme allows LIS professionals and researchers to think about the impact of Artificial Intelligence in academic and research environment, especially in the application of library services.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Book Donation to the Library of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

The Medical Library, University of Kelaniya received a generous donation of 58 books from Ms. Diana Lancaster, an Occupational Therapist from Hong Kong in April 2024. This donation was facilitated by Dr. Nanadana Welage, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Disability Studies, Faculty of Medicine.



The donated books will be a valuable resource for undergraduate students enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Degree program, enhancing their learning and academic experience.

The Library Awards Ceremony 2024 of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

The Library Awards Ceremony, organized by the Library, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, in collaboration with the Faculty Library Committee and the Students' Library Committee, was held on the April 01, 2024 at the Main Auditorium of the Faculty.

The event was aligned with the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. The event aimed to raise student awareness of library resources, inspire the current library user community, and enhance student engagement in library affairs.



Cash awards and certificates were presented to winners of the Poster Competition on Breast Cancer Awareness, the Best Library User in 2023, and the Online Library Quiz competition, organized by the Medical Library. The publication of "Medical Library News, Volume 02" was also launched at this ceremony. Professor Aranjan Karunanayake from the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, delivered the guest speech titled "How to prevent injuries during sports and physical exercises".

Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva, Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Professor Madawa Chandrathilake, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Dr. Chiran Jayasundara, the Librarian of the University of Kelaniya; Senior Professor Janaki Hewavisenthi, Former Dean of the Faculty; Ms. Chithra Abeygunasekera, Former Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty; Professor P. Paranitharan, Chair of the Faculty Library Committee; Dr. (Ms.) Lakmini Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Faculty and Secretary of the Faculty Library Committee; Dr. Kavinda Dayasiri, Chairperson of the organizing committee of the Library Awards Ceremony; Dr. R. Suraweera, Former President of the Medical School Alumni Association, Heads of Departments, Academic Staff members of the Faculty and the Main Library, Senior Assistant Registrar, and Senior Assistant Bursar of the Faculty graced the event.



The members of the Faculty Library Committee, the Students' Library Committee, students from MBBS, Speech & Hearing Sciences (SHS), and Occupational Therapy (OT) degree programs of the Faculty and Non - Academic Staff members actively participated at this event.



National Conference on Library & Information Science (NACLIS)-2024 of Sri Lanka Library Association

Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) has conducted its 18th National Conference on Library & Information Science (NACLIS) 2024, by giving a special focus on state-sector libraries and library professionals who mainly work in national languages, with the aim of encouraging research culture among library professionals of these sectors. Dr. M.M.Mashroofa, the Convener of the Research Committee, organized NACLIS as 02 sessions under the patronage of Mr. Preethi Liyanage, President of SLLA, and Council Members of SLLA 23/24.

The main theme of NACLIS 2024 was ***“Libraries and Societies Connect: Strengthening the Bonds through Community Outreach”*** which allowed LIS professionals and researchers to think about how libraries can revitalize or reinvigorate their library services, collections, programmes, and space to meet the needs of the present generation and to strengthen the bonds with societies. The theme intended to showcase the status of our regional libraries and to find strategies on how libraries can provide innovative services, equitable access to information, and developing collections amidst various types of challenges such as pandemics, economic, financial, and disasters. NACLIS 2024 was conducted in two sessions.

NACLIS 2024-Session I

NACLIS Session One was chaired by Dr. M.M.Mashroofa, Convener of the Research Committee of SLLA, which was held at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) on 18th April, 2024. Mr. S. Santharoban, Deputy Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) contributed as the Co-chair, and Mrs. T. Janen, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Jaffna (UoJ), and Mr. A.L.M.Mushtaq, Librarian of Public Library Kalmunai acted as the Secretary and Co-Secretary, respectively. Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian, University of Peradeniya delivered the keynote address. Dr. W.J. Jeyaraj, Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, and Mr. N. Manivannan, Commissioner of Local Government in Eastern Province, graced the occasion by delivering Guest speeches. Dr. Kalpana Chandrasekar, Librarian (Acting), University of Jaffna chaired the plenary session which concludes the Session I in a fruitful way.

NACLIS 2024- Session II

NACLIS Session-02 was held on April 26, 2024, at the Gampaha Public Library in the Gampaha District. The session provided a vibrant platform for public, school, and special librarians to share research findings, exchange best practices, address common challenges, and explore emerging trends. Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa of GWAIM chaired the session, Mrs. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi, Librarian Public Library, Colombo was the co-chair. It was supported by a committee that included prominent figures such as Dr. Madhubhashini Disanayake Ratnayake from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura. The Chief Guest, Marshall of the Air Force Roshan Goonatilleke, and Mr. Gamini Moragoda shared their expertise, enriching the discussions.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Workshop on the "New Procedure for Valuation of Donated Books"



"The Quality Assurance Cell of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Sri Lanka (KDU) Library has organized a workshop on the "New Procedure for Evaluation of Donated Books" for library staff on June 26, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the main library, KDU. Ms. M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine served as a resource person, explaining the evaluation criteria while providing hands-on experience. "

FEATURE ARTICLE**Intellectual Values of Rare Materials and Legal Elements of Digital Repositories****T. Ramanan**

Senior Assistant Librarian

Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo

[Member, IFLA Asia-Oceania Regional Division/Rare Material Section]

ramanan@lib.cmb.ac.lk

**Scholarly Values and Historical Significance of Rare Material**

The definition of 'rare material' may differ from library to library depending *inter alia* on the geography, institutional goals, and socio-cultural factors. Potter and Holley (2010) refer to rare material as part of a special collection where resources are based on their oldness, heritage value, craftsmanship of physical and intellectual contents, and other aspects of rarity. Hence, the scope of rare material collection immensely varies across different disciplines and user communities. Incidentally, academic librarians are essentially required to possess relevant knowledge of the scholarly contents as well as the preservation techniques of rare material collection. Compared to Western countries we stay behind in preserving personal manuscripts, letters, and family records since there are reasons and hindrances to developing collections with private documents unless the owners donate such resources to libraries. However, the National Library of Sri Lanka, university libraries, trusts of renowned individuals, and certain public libraries do maintain highly rich collections of rare material in the country. Despite those efforts and the availability of rare material collection, there is an apparent gap in terms of research extensively carried out with rare material, especially, private manuscripts or personal communications. Rare material collections often serve researchers with an interest in literature, history, cultural studies, language, and ethnography, although they cover environmental, climatological, and biological research, for instance, extinct animals or cultures. As Kilmarx et al (2020) mention rare material collections hold an immense value of cultural heritage; therefore, archivists have the position of trust to protect the valuable rare resource with necessary ethical and legal aspects, such as copyright laws.

Necessity of Preservation and Conservation

Curating rare material is a tedious and expensive task for libraries whose budgets are waning yearly. The recent economic crisis in Sri Lanka almost paralyzed libraries' capacity to acquire and maintain information resources, not to mention the preservation of old resources. Meanwhile, building rare material archives is quite challenging since they are not only expensive to acquire but also too fragile to handle and maintain (Potter & Holley, 2010). However, a digital library is necessary to preserve rare materials since frequent handling of brittle or fragile folios will destroy them forever. Therefore, providing remote access to rare collections will increase their use and longevity. Pendse (2020) stresses on the importance of low-use yet high-value resources since they herald the past heritage and cultural values when their creators are long gone. She continues that the rare collections are becoming important and being consulted owing to the new technologies that made remote access easier than ever before. Moreover, Sri Lanka being a multilingual country the rare materials come in all three languages and their dialects, therefore, the digital collection must accommodate access in multiple languages. For example, Matusiak et al (2015) in their project built digital libraries with rich descriptive records for Chinese scrolls and paintings, where multilingual options were given to aid the users in understanding the contents in

their language of convenience. Similarly, in Sri Lanka, palm-leaf manuscripts, handwritten documents, old administrative records, and other rare books must have metadata and translations in Sinhala, Tamil, and English.

Legal Considerations around Authorship or Ownership

Once again the rare material librarian needs to bear special knowledge about the collection as well as their legal elements. Copyright issues arise for the library when it comes to building and making public access to rare collections. Most importantly, obtaining written permission from the authors and original owners/publishers is a serious obstacle laid before the rare material librarian. Restricted access could be an option to avoid legal repercussions of sharing rare material content with the public. While Kilmarx et al (2020) emphasize the awareness of national and international laws on rare material, Thomas (2015) states that the confidentiality of users is also important along with copyright laws associated with access to such rare materials. Therefore, it is obvious that collection development and management with rare materials demand special legal knowledge and subject caliber of archivists.

Future Requirements of Rare Collection Development

Having all the obstacles and practical difficulties in mind, libraries ought to explore the potential of developing rare material collection, thus, scholarly values of rare material collection cannot be underrated or ignored in academic and social domains. Since the proclivity of rare material content is more or less leaning on arts and humanities, not hard science it is likely many academic institutions avoid focusing on building such special collections. Since heritage values and indigenous knowledge reservoirs are the soft power of any nation the librarians hold tremendous responsibility of developing virtual collections of rare materials that range from hand-written and bound books to palm-leaf manuscripts to other private collections. One of the ways to develop such collections is by obtaining support from the community that surrounds the library (Kilmarx et al, 2020). Nevertheless, there are legal constraints to acquiring and selling certain rare materials which should be known and tackled by special collection librarians. The IFLA guidelines prepared by Kilmarx et al (2020) are very helpful in guiding rare collection librarians. Therefore, rare material preservation and digitization is a joint effort to be coordinated by the National Library of Sri Lanka. At the regional level, discussions are being tabled to develop repositories that can run searches across different databases, while recommendations are made to connect all rare material repositories through global partnerships.

References

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Human library: a dose for mental wellbeing



Thrishala Warnasooriya
Assistant Librarian
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Mental well – being has become a prominent concern more than physical concerns in today’s fast-paced world. Due to the significant impact on each other, mental well-being is essential for physical well-being and vice versa. As human library (HL) concept is developed for empathy, understanding, open dialogue, and often challenging stereotypes, discrimination, personal issues, and social barriers, HL is among the global innovative approaches for mental well-being in the evolving library landscape.

Human library concept and its origin

HL concept marks a new chapter in the library context transforming “books from shelves to stories”. Voluntary individuals (human books) share their personal experiences and life stories to the readers in one on one or small groups. According to the HL organization, this concept works as (1) a hands-on learning platform to understand the cultural, religious, social, and ethnic diversity for more inclusive and cohesive communities. (2) a training center aiming at social understanding and cultural awareness; (3) a safe framework for personal conversations; and (4) a special dialogue room for taboos (Human Library Organization, 2024)

The “Stop the Violence” led by Ronnie Abergel was an active anti-racism, anti-violence Danish youth organization established in 1993 in Copenhagen, Denmark (The Early Years - The Human Library Organization, 2024). The initial start group of 5 people increased to 7000 in 1995 and gradually 30,000 within a few years. This activism was eye catching at the Roskilde musical festival in 2000 and well-known as “living library project”. This set the background for the initiation of “human library organization” today (Dreher & Mowbray, 2012). However, due to a copyright issue, the organization could not continue as “living library” and therefore, named their trademark as “human library”(Dreher & Mowbray, 2012). The human library events are active not only in libraries but in museums, festivals, conferences, schools, universities and in the private sector representing more than 85 countries (Human Library Organization, 2024).

Human libraries and mental wellbeing

HL concept contains a profound impact on mental health through storytelling, experiential learning, human interaction, community building, empathy, understanding diversity and especially unjudging people.

Storytelling as a mental healing

Human beings are natural born storytellers. Hence, they seek opportunities to share thoughts. In human libraries, individuals known as human books can reveal their story along with their emotions which drives towards catharsis. “it’s an opportunity for you to actually just share who you are in the service of understanding”(Dreher & Mowbray, 2012). When those expressions are empathetically listened by the audience, the story and the feelings of human book are validated. Release of pent-up emotions and sense of acceptance are therapeutic for stress relief, emotional pain. Additionally, some stories such as of prisoners, HIV

patients, or other marginalized groups are not accepted by conventional society. Stoke Heath Prison in United Kingdom as the prison where the first human library conducted aimed to understand different perspectives and reduce reoffending rates. (First Prison to Host a Human Library - The Human Library Organization, 2022). But the human library becomes a safe space where their stories are accepted and understood, and emotions are validated without a personal judgment. Thereby HL works as a therapeutic approach to emotional expressions and release.

Social connectivity and reducing isolation

As humans are social beings by nature, they look for community interaction, networking and gathering. People get isolated not because they love it, but they have no option other than isolation due to social, cultural, and ethnic barriers. Human libraries make a safe space for relationship building as the organizer of Lismore living library Shauna MacIntyre mentions “[human library] is an opportunity ... to share ... who is curious or has questions but wouldn't ever feel able to ask you. Or they don't know you and so therefore can't ask. In the hope that by meeting someone, through a conversation – it's about relationship building across lives of difference.” (Dreher & Mowbray, 2012). Thereby, HL challenges social distances and encourages social connectivity.

The readers perhaps find their own story or similar experiences among the human books which give the sense of belonging. It gives an idea to the reader that he or she is not lonely, or it is not only him or her these issues have been encountered. This common mental issue of loneliness or isolation is often among adults. The public libraries can use HL as an innovative approach to deal with isolated retired groups. Their life experiences will be tacit knowledge which has no access anywhere else. Such an initiative can minimize the conventional thought of society “adults are dependents and an extra weight for the society to maintain them”. Being human books in public libraries, they can silently contribute to the betterment of society.

Empathy and mutual understanding

Walter Fisher shows the effectiveness of the stories to understand others and our own than good arguments through his narrative theory. The ability to look at the world through others' perspectives, respecting others' views and challenging prejudices are unique features of HL. Moreover, HL creates open dialogues, and it supports in reducing misconceptions among people. As the motto of human library organization encapsulates how the concept encourages empathy and understanding through “unjudged someone”.

When the story of the human book is sensitive topic, a taboo, struggles, triumphs, emotions or a veiled area of someone's life, HL motivates its readers to unjudged the person and the story and connect with a deeper and empathetic understanding. The HL organized by University of California, Berkeley has focused on respecting diversity, understanding, and showing empathy among student.

Self-reflection and inspiration

The readers can find their own story among human books. The way that the story is defined, interpreted, and reacted to by someone else can be different. It can change personal perspectives and increase self – awareness. Therefore, HL gives a chance to reflect on their own stories and get deeper insight into themselves. The purpose of HL conducted at McGill University in Canada was exposing to new perspectives through shared stories. On

the other hand, revealing a story can be a way of empowerment, increase of confidence, identifying own strength and resilience. Furthermore, HL can inspire the readers to overcome similar challenges they encounter. Then the reader gets the idea that “it is not only me facing this”. This hope is a recovery or a motivation for them not to give up and hold on.

Conclusion

Embracing the psychological facet of HL drives towards the mental well-being of people through understanding, empathy, emotional release, self-reflection, and community building. Therefore, initiation of HL concept in library setting should not be considered as just another library service but a service with a significant impact on human psychology which is the most struggling, and challenging domain of people now. The impact to foster human well-being appears to be the remarkable benefit of HL initiative.

References

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- Human Library Organization. (2024). About Human Library. <https://humanlibrary.org/about/>
- The Early Years - The Human Library Organization. (2024). <https://humanlibrary.org/about/the-early-years/>

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTION

Appointment as the President of Sri Lanka Iranology Society



Dr. C.C. Jayasundara, Librarian of the University of Kelaniya appointed as the President of the Sri Lanka Iranology Society at the Cultural Section of the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran on May17, 2024. The anniversary of the great Persian poet Omar Khayyam was held that day. A large number of artistic souls who love Persian literature joined the occasion. Mandawala Pangnawansa Thero, Mr. Mahinda de Lanarol, and Professor Balasuriya, who participated as special guests, gave very successful and meaningful interpretations of Persian literature.



Dr. SK Illangarathne Appointed as Librarian of Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka



Dr. SK Illangarathne, the Vice-President of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka, has been appointed as the Librarian of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka (BUSL), effective April 4, 2024.

Before joining BUSL, Dr. Illangarathne served for over 15 years as an Assistant Librarian and a Senior Assistant Librarian at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. He brings a wealth of experience and dedication to library sciences, promising to introduce fresh perspectives and innovations to the Bhiksu University library.

Dr. Illangarathne is a Fellow of the Sri Lanka Library Association and a distinguished member of the International Cooperation Committee of the International Engineering and Technology Institute (IETI) in Hong Kong. He earned his Ph.D. in Management Sciences and Engineering, with a focus on Information Management and Information Systems, from the School of Management at Wuhan University of Technology, P.R. China, in 2017.

In addition to his Ph.D., Dr. Illangarathne holds a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science (MSSc. LIS) and a Bachelor's Degree in Monetary Economics (BA Hons) from the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. He is also a reviewer for the Journal of Sri Lanka Library Review (SLLR) and the Journal of Sri Lanka University Librarians Association (JULA).

Dr. Illangarathne's librarianship is anticipated to bring significant advancements and positive changes to the Bhiksu University Library. The university community warmly welcomes him and looks forward to his contributions to preserving the rich heritage of Buddhist texts while embracing modern information technology.

General Secretary, SLLA



Ms. R.M. Nadeeka Sanjeewani, Senior Lecturer, Grade 1, Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya was appointed as the “General Secretary 2024 /2025, Sri Lanka Library Association.

Vice President, SLLA



Mr. M.G.A. Thilanka, Assistant Librarian, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Sri Lanka, was selected as the New Vice President of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) for 2024/2025 at the 64th Annual General Meeting was held on June 28, 2024 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

Ms. Vijita de Silva Research Award 2024: Recognizing Excellence in Library Science



The “Ms. Vijita de Silva Research Award” for the best-completed research in the Library and Information Science (LIS) field in Sri Lanka for 2024 has been awarded to Mr. Buddhin Kumara and Mr. Nishan Punchihewa, Senior Assistant Librarians at the University of Moratuwa. This honour was presented by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) on June 28, 2024 during the Annual General Meeting.

The award-winning project, titled “Library Verification System Integrated with Existing KOHA Database,” addresses challenges in verifying library materials efficiently and accurately. Developed using PHP, MySQL, Apache, and Bootstrap, this system integrates seamlessly with the KOHA database, maintaining compatibility with future upgrades.

The system offers a user-friendly interface for verifying library materials, eliminating the need for manual cross-checking within the KOHA system. Accessing relevant data from the KOHA database, including shelving location, title, author, and other essential details, the system facilitates a thorough verification process without modifying the KOHA database.

The streamlined verification process allows users to confirm the accuracy of library materials easily, storing verified item data separately from the KOHA database. This separation enhances data management and retrieval efficiency while providing a centralized repository for verified information.

Mr. Buddhin Kumara and Mr. Nishan Punchihewa have been recognized for their innovative approach, addressing a critical gap in the KOHA system and improving library operations significantly. Their project sets a new benchmark in library management, ensuring collections can be managed more efficiently and accurately. The “Ms. Vijita de Silva Research Award” celebrates their significant contribution to the LIS field, underscoring the importance of continuous innovation in library systems.

Fellowship, SLLA



Ms. R.M Nadeeka Sanjeevani, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya, received a Fellowship at the Sri Lanka Library Association Annual General Meeting held on June 28, 2024 at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

Associate membership, SLLA

Ms. M.P. Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian of KDU was awarded the Associate membership by SLLA at the 64th Annual General Meeting which was held on June 28, 2024 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.



Awards for poem writing

Mr. M.G.A. Thilanka, Assistant Librarian, and Ms. P.R.D.N.K. Perera, Assistant Registrar, Library won first and third place in the Poem Writing- Sinhala Competition, which was held by the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality (CGEE) in celebration of International Women's Day-2024. The certificate awarding ceremony took place on May 21, 2024, at the Staff Development Center (SDC), General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Sri Lanka.



ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION

Access to E-Resources and introduction to TURNITIN, University of Ruhuna

A two-hour hands-on workshop on “Access to E-Resources and Introduction to TURNITIN” was held on June 11 2024 for the academic staff members of the Faculty of Science. The workshop venue was the Department of Computer Science computer laboratory. Dr. Theja Kuruppu Arachchi, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Main Library University of Ruhuna, contributed as the resource person. The first half of the workshop introduced VPN access for remote access to the library E-Resources. Moreover, it helped the participants acquainting themselves with database search options and important strategies to be currently aware of the new research outputs. The second half of the workshop introduced Turnitin for similarity checking and accessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage reports. The primary goal of the workshop was to provide educational content to increase the E-Resources and Turnitin usage. The workshop was organized by the Science Faculty Library Committee.



Library Skills for Earth Resources Engineering Research

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR RESEARCH

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH RESOURCES ENGINEERING
in partnership with
LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

If you're at the stage of thinking about your literature review and not sure where to start, join us via zoom

Meeting ID: 640 8261 0329
Passcode: ERE@20th

07 June 2024 - Literature search	🕒 9:00AM-12:00PM Colombo, Sri Lanka
10 June 2024 - Plagiarism	
14 June 2024 - Referencing	

Speakers

Mr. CND Punchihewa
Senior Assistant Librarian
UoM

Mrs. UN Kodithuwakku
Senior Assistant Librarian
UoM

The Department of Earth Resources Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa needed joining the final year students for a “Library skills for research” programme. Three online sessions were held in the first stage by Senior Assistant Librarians attached to University of Moratuwa. ‘Searching for academic scholarly literature’ was done by Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku on June 7, 2024 and Mr. Nishan Punchihewa conducted the sessions on plagiarism and referencing on 10th and 14th June 2024 respectively. The feedback of the students revealed that they were able to receive a sound knowledge on the resources useful for them and how to use them in their research writing.

Workshop on “Inculcating effective reading and note-taking skills”, KDU

The workshop on “Inculcating effective reading and note-taking skills” was held on June 26, 2024 at the Staff Development Center, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Sri Lanka (KDU). The resource person of the workshop was madam Dr. Wathmanel Seneviratne, Librarian of the KDU. The event was organized by the SDC in collaboration with the library. Academic and non-academic staffs were attended to the workshop.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Story Telling for children

Mrs. P.K.M. Kaushamalika, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), conducted a ‘Story Telling session’ for “SUPILI” Preschool children of OUSL using 'English for Fun' videos available at OUSL library website. The session was held on May 02, 2024 at Matra Regional Centre, OUSL.



Bolgoda Environmental Awareness Efforts Inspiring the Nature Club Members at the St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa

The inaugural meeting of the newly established Nature Club of the St Sebastian's College, Moratuwa was held on June 27, 2024 to commemorate the World Environmental Month 2024. Senior Assistant Librarian Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne and Senior Lecturer Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena from the University of Moratuwa were invited to the occasion to share their environmental awareness efforts on Bolgoda Ecosystem. The session highlighted the overall importance of the Bolgoda Ecosystem, the need for conservation through sustainable development efforts and policy level long term interventions based on the available scientific information. Also, individual responsibilities, routine activities and best practices that could be executed without any monitory involvement were discussed. The student engagement during the session by sharing their insights and experience with Bolgoda was remarkable. As a result, the Rector Rev. Fr. Daya Darshana Perera expressed that there will be a field excursion organized to explore the Bolgoda Lake, which is in the vicinity of the school. This event was an important step in encouraging students to take an active role in protecting the natural environment.



Celebration of World Women's Day 2024



The library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka has celebrated the World women's day 2024 at the Public Library, Balangoda. Especially pregnant mothers were invited for the events. Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei, Librarian, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, addressed the gathering. She donated publications Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to the Public Library Balangoda to mark the "World Women's Day 2024".



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION

21st Research Lounge on Research Design

The twenty-first Research Lounge was held on April 24, 2024 at 2.30 pm in the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa in hybrid mode. This Research Lounge was organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in collaboration with the University Library under the theme "Research Design: Aligning Question to Philosophy to Synthesis". This session unpacked some of the nuances of the research design through research alignment, which helped improve the integrity of the research by enhancing the reflectivity of researchers. Research philosophies, paradigms, methodologies, methods, and analytical techniques that influence research alignment were discussed with research students. Prof. Thayaparan Gajendran, Acting Dean of Built Environment, The University of Newcastle and Mr Thamasha Jayanetti, Research Scholar, Dept. of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, contributed as resource person. Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa was the Moderator of the session.

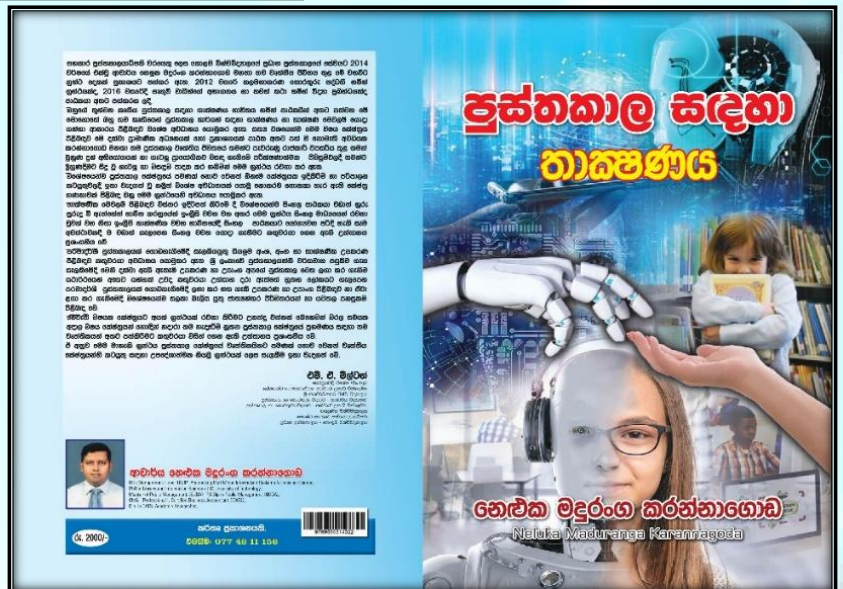
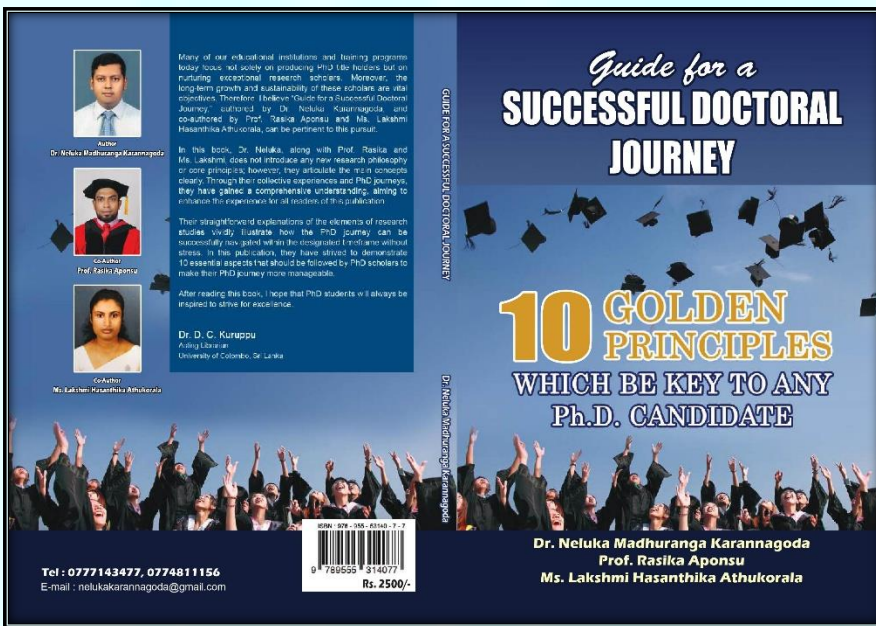


Book launch



Dr. N. M. Karannagoda, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Colombo Library, launched two books on 14th June 2024, at the Auditorium of National Library and Documentation Services Board, Colombo. The first book, titled “Guide for a Successful Doctoral Journey: Ten Golden Principles Key to any PhD Candidate,” is authored by Dr. N. M. Karannagoda and co-authored by Prof. Rasika Aponu and Mrs. L. H. K. Athukorala. It is a comprehensive guide for PhD candidates, providing essential principles for a successful doctoral journey. The second book, titled “පුස්තකාල සඳහා තාක්ෂණය” focuses on the integration of technology in libraries and is an essential read for library professionals and academics.

Both books were officially presented to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne, on 2nd July 2024, at the College House premises.



Paper Presentations/ Publication



Mr. H.U.C. Sanjaya Kumara, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura presented a research paper titled “Palm leaf manuscripts in Sri Lanka: a bibliometric study using Google Scholar articles published during 2015-2022” at the 18th national Conference on Library and Information Science (NACLIS 2024) On April 26, 2024, organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA). It was a co-authored article by Mrs. M. Nishanthi, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Mrs. J. G. Chandani, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. II) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Ms. K.W.A.M Konpola, Senior Assistant Librarian (Gr. I) of the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Presentation on Bologda Ecosystem at the SUNFO Sustainability International Summit

Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian from the University of Moratuwa addressed the SUNFO Sustainability International Summit in BMICH, Colombo on May 04, 2024 under the theme “Environmental Awareness on the Bologda Ecosystem: Approaches and Actions”. She presented the strategic and innovative approaches taken towards environmental awareness from the perspective of a library and the collaborative works with Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena, a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Earth Resources



Engineering, University of Moratuwa. During the summit, a project report and a proposal on digital repository with a web-space linking the scholarly work on Bologda on SUNFO website, was officially handed over. The summit organized by SUNFO Global Federation provided a valuable platform for discussing and promoting initiatives for the sustainable future developments in Bologda region.



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Workshop on Curiosity-based Reading Enhances English Proficiency among Undergraduates



Mrs. H.E. Pavithra Mayuri, Assistant Librarian at the Library, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the Faculty English Unit, hosted a highly successful workshop titled "Curiosity-based Reading as a Stimulus for Improving English among Undergraduates" on April 30, 2024, at Lecture Hall 01, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance intrinsic motivation among undergraduates to learn English by harnessing curiosity.

The targeted audience of this workshop was first-year undergraduates in the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna with nearly 80 students in attendance. Ms. H.E. Pavithra Mayuri and Dr. (Ms.) K.G. Pramudika Nirmani, Senior Lecturer, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna also participated as the organizers of the event. The workshop featured Mr. Ruwan Gunawardane, Senior Lecturer from the Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, as the esteemed resource person. Also, Ms. Kavidya Jayawardena, Assistant Lecturer in English, Faculty of Science, and Ms. L.H. Vishmi Dilprabha, Assistant Lecturer in English, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, provided their invaluable support for this workshop.

Mr. Ruwan captivated participants with his expertise, insightful concepts, methodical teaching, and engaging presentation style. His passionate and stimulating session inspired lively discussions and significantly enhanced the participants' interest in learning English.



The participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the profound impact of Mr. Gunawardane's contributions on their understanding, motivation, and appreciation of the subject matter. The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences expressed their sincere gratitude to Mr. Ruwan for his invaluable contribution and looks forward to future collaborations.

ANY OTHER NEWS

The library, University of Colombo has called abstract on May 21, 2024 for Library Research Symposium.

Library Research Symposium 2024
Fostering Sustainable Future:
Libraries for Impactful Research **Call for Abstracts**

Call for Abstracts: From Academics of UoC, University Librarians and Postgraduate Students supervised by UoC Academics

Sub Themes:

- Research Data Management
- Academic Integrity
- Library Resource Enrichment
- Emerging Technologies
- Innovative Library Services
- Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis
- Sustainable Libraries
- Community Engagement

Submission deadline
19th July 2024
Send your abstract to:
editor.uoclives@gmail.com

Important Dates:
Abstract submission: 19th July 2024
Final submission: 2nd September 2024
Notification of acceptance: 18th September 2024
Symposium date: 19th November 2024

Contact Us

Symposium Chair Mrs. R.K.S. Manaranga lrs@lb.cmb.ac.lk	Symposium Convener Dr. M.M. Karanagoda convener.lives@gmail.com	Symposium Editor Mrs. S.M. Adilwati editor.uoclives@gmail.com
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