



**NILIS**

**Proceedings of the  
6<sup>th</sup> International Research Symposium**

**National Institute of Library and  
Information Sciences  
University of Colombo**

***Research Excellence in Library &  
Information Science***

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**National Institute of Library and  
Information Sciences (NILIS)**

**University of Colombo  
Sri Lanka**



**06<sup>th</sup> International Research Symposium**

***“Research Excellence in  
Library & Information Science”***

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***Research Excellence in  
Library & Information Science***

**National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS)  
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka  
2023**

## **Vision of the NILIS**

To be the center of excellence in Library & Information  
Science education

## **Mission of the NILIS**

To be the leading Institute for Library & Information  
Science (LIS) education, training, and research in the  
national and South Asian context

## **Research Excellence in Library & Information Science**

*Proceedings of the NILIS 06<sup>th</sup> International Research Symposium held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.*

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Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge

Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara

Mr. T. Ramanan



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## **6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

### **“Research Excellence in Library and Information Science”**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
At the Senate Hall, University of Colombo

#### **PROGRAM**

##### **Inaugural Session**

08.30	Registration
09.00	Lighting of the oil lamp
09.05	National Anthem
09.10	Welcome Address by Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, Chair of the Symposium & Director – NILIS, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
09.15	Address by the Chief Guest: Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
09.25	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker I - by Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara (Symposium Co-chair, Senior Asst. Librarian, University of Colombo)
09.30	Keynote Address I - Senior Prof. Premakumara de Silva, Chair Professor of Sociology, University of Colombo, UGC member and Chairman Board of Management, NILIS.
09.45	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker II - by Mrs Anuja Silva (Senior Asst. Librarian, University of Colombo)
09.50	Keynote Address II – Dr. David Prosser, Executive Director, Research Libraries UK
10.05	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker III - by Mrs. Kalpana Manatunga (Senior Asst. Librarian, University of Colombo)
10.10	Keynote Address III – Dr. Rajesh Singh, University Librarian, University of Delhi, India
10.25	Launch of the Symposium Proceedings
10.30	Presentation of Mementos
10.35	Vote of Thanks – by Mr. T. Ramanan (Symposium Co-chair, Senior Asst. Librarian, University of Colombo)
10.40	Refreshments

### **Invited Paper Session (Virtual)**

- 11.30      Invited Paper Session - Chaired by Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge  
Chair of the Symposium & Director – NILIS
- 11.30      Research excellence in library & information science in Brazil  
Prof. Francisco Carlos Paletta  
*School of Communications and Arts, University of São Paulo, Brazil*
- 11.45      LIS research as impact: snapshot from a scholar's and researcher's perspective  
Prof. June Abbas  
*School of Library and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma, USA*
- 12.00      Focusing LIS research on societal imperatives: librarians' engagement with the climate crisis  
Associate Prof. Luanne S. Sinnamon  
*School of Information, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*
- 12.15      Empowering nursing students' digital literacy skills: the digital literacy project  
Associate Professor Konstantina Martzoukou  
*School of Creative and Cultural Business, The Robert Gordon University Aberdeen, The United Kingdom*
- 12.30      Advancing library and information science research in Sri Lanka  
Dr. Chaminda Chiran Jayasundara  
*Library, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka*
- 12.45      From metrics to eco-friendly practices: advancing Indonesia's research excellence & sustainability in LIS  
Assistant Professor R. Rahmi  
*Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Humanities, University of Indonesia, Indonesia*
- 13.00      The cultural information science: cultural knowledge as a valuable resource in the field of LIS research  
Dr. P. L. Perera  
*School of Engineering and Technology, Central Queensland University, Australia*
- 13.15      Analyzing the advancement of information landscape transformation through scientific communication by librarians  
Dr. Mohd Faizal Bin Hamzah  
*Library, University of Malaya, Malaysia*

- 13.30 Data-driven collections assessment: reviewing digital resources statistics for enhanced curriculum alignment  
Ms. Gouthami Vigneswaran  
*Faculty of Applied Science & Technology, Sheridan College, Ontario, Canada*
- 13.45 Discussion
- 14.00 Lunch

### **Technical Session 01 (Virtual)**

- 14.30 ***Session 01- Chaired by:***  
  
Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara (Librarian, University of Sri Jayewardenepura)  
Dr. M.M. Mashroofa (Senior Asst. Librarian, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka)
- 14.40 Higher diploma students' experience of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic: survey study on SLLA students  
Champa N. K. Alahakoon  
*Library, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*
- 14.50 Examining the use of the Delphi research method to advance research in library and information science  
Prasanna Ranaweera  
*National Institute of Library & Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*
- 15.00 Impact of open book examinations in online mode on student's performance: some observations  
Uditha Alahakoon and J.A.Wipularatna  
*National Institute of Library & Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*
- 15.10 Attention on ChatGPT research in Sri Lankan media  
Ruwan Gamage<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>2</sup>*Maldives National University, Maldives*
- 15.20 Scientometric analysis of the scholarly impact of ISERME proceedings 2017-2022  
T.M. Seneviratne<sup>1</sup> and C.L. Jayawardena<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Library, University of Moratuwa, Katubedda, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>2</sup>*Department of Earth Resources Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka*
- 15.30 Q & A
- 15.40 Refreshments

## Technical Session 02 (Virtual)

### 15.50 Session 02- Chaired by:

Dr. Champa Alahakoon (Deputy Librarian, University of Peradeniya)  
Dr. Prasanna Ranaweera (Senior Lecturer/ NILIS, University of Colombo)

- 15.50 A decadal analysis of library and information science research trends in Sri Lanka (2013-2022)  
C. Gunasekera  
*Main Library, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*
- 16.00 Overview of scholarly journal publishing in Sri Lanka with special reference to Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL)  
T. M. Seneviratne<sup>1</sup> and K. P. N. D. Peiris<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Library, University of Moratuwa, Katubedda, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>2</sup>*Library University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*
- 16.10 Computer literacy and social media awareness among the school librarians in Kandy district, Sri Lanka  
A. Dharmarathne  
*Library, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*
- 16.20 University libraries and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a global perspective on practices and contributions  
K. Sivalingham<sup>1, 2</sup> and Ruwan Gamage<sup>1, 3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>2</sup>*Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>3</sup>*Maldives National University, Male, Maldives*
- 16.30 Formats of library material preferred by visual and performing arts undergraduates  
G.F. Yasanthini<sup>1,2</sup> and G.R. Padmasiri<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>2</sup>*Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Eastern University, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>3</sup>*University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka*
- 16.40 Use of digital information resources and digital assistive devices by the undergraduates with visual impairments  
M. A. Lankathilake<sup>1,2</sup> and T. Ramanan<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>2</sup>*Science Library, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*  
<sup>3</sup>*Faculty of Technology, University of, Colombo, Sri Lanka*
- 16.50 Q & A
- 17.00 Closing of the session

## MESSAGE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

**Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne**

Vice-Chancellor

University of Colombo



National Institute of Library and Information Sciences is one of the six Institutes affiliated to University of Colombo, which is ranked as the best in the country by several international ranking systems. We are gathered here to inaugurate the 6<sup>th</sup> International Research Symposium of NILIS on "Research Excellence in Library and Information Science." It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you as the Vice Chancellor of our esteemed institution, and I wish to convey my deep appreciation for the dedication of NILIS to advancing the Library and Information Science through scholarly endeavors like this annual event.

Library and Information Science plays a crucial role in shaping the future of organising, accessing, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge. In this constantly evolving digital age, the role of libraries and information professionals has expanded far beyond traditional boundaries. The libraries are at the intersection of technology, data management, information literacy, and many more. Your commitment to exploring these frontiers, pushing the boundaries of knowledge, and striving for excellence is greatly appreciated. I am positive that Sri Lankan librarians will benefit from the three keynote speeches of Senior Prof. Premakumara De Silva, Dr. David Prosser, and Dr. Rajesh Singh. I am also aware that there will be eight distinguished speakers delivering invited papers representing Australia, Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, United Kingdom, United States and Sri Lanka, which I have no doubt would pave the way for better involvement and collaborations by NILIS in future.

I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Management of NILIS led by Senior Prof. Premakumara De Silva, all the speakers, and all those who were involved in organising this significant annual event. My very best wishes go out to all of you for a fruitful deliberation on this timely theme.

*Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR & SYMPOSIUM CHAIR

**Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge**

National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS)  
University of Colombo



The Annual Research Symposium of NILIS is a significant component of the series of annual symposia of the University of Colombo. This year, we selected the theme “*Research Excellence in Library & Information Science*” in conformity with the main theme of the university symposium, “*Research Excellence and Beyond*”. This symposium is unique because it is the first time a full symposium is dedicated for research in Library and Information Science in Sri Lanka. We strongly believe that the opportunity will generate a timely discourse on the contemporary issues and concerns of the LIS research in Sri Lanka. In keeping with the tradition, some select abstracts are presented here, while the complete volume of the NILIS symposium will include all national and international abstracts presented.

I am thankful to the Chief Guest, Vice-Chancellor of University of Colombo, Senior Prof. H.D. Karunaratne for his valuable leadership, and to the Keynote Speakers Senior Prof. Premakumara De Silva, Member of the UGC, Sri Lanka and the Chairman of the Board of Management of NILIS, Dr. David Prosser, Executive Director of Research Libraries UK (RLUK) and Dr. Rajesh Singh, Librarian, University of Delhi, India for gracing this occasion and their immensely inspirational addresses. I am also thankful to Prof. Tharusha N. Gooneratne, Chairperson of the ARS 2023 for her constructive guidance, and to all invited international and national speakers, to all the presenters, and to NILIS Graduate Student presenters for their remarkable presentations, to the Acting Librarian Mrs. Sajeewanie D. Somaratna, and all the academic staff of NILIS and the university library for their extensive support, visiting staff of NILIS, the reviewers, and the other staff lead by the Deputy Registrar Mr. Manjula Thalgahagoda and Senior Assistant Registrar Mr. J. Wipularathne and the Acting Senior Assistant Bursar Mr. Charitha Bandara for their continuous dedication and commitment to NILIS. I wish a very successful symposium.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

### **T. Ramanan**

*Senior Assistant Librarian*

*Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo*



### **Dr. Chiranthi Wijesundara**

*Senior Assistant Librarian*

*Library, University of Colombo*



Symposia are great platforms to share and bring new ideas amongst the likeminded professionals; hence such events strengthen the bondage between seekers and receivers of knowledge. In this vein, it is our great pleasure to co-chair this International Research Symposium of the National Institute of Library and Information Science (NILIS) held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Every year NILIS invests into creating such an academic atmosphere for the young researchers and incumbent librarians to listen to experienced local and overseas veteran librarians and scholars with a wide spectrum of interests in librarianship. This year, the theme of the research symposium is “*Research Excellence in Library & Information Science*” that connotes the undisputed explorations happening in the field of librarianship across the country. Nevertheless, the symposium has invited a number of delegates from around the world to share their thoughts and experience. The talks and presentations have been accommodated in various sub-themes such as research impact, data management, research ethics, informetric, digital technologies and sustainable development goals. We are honoured and thrilled to have worked towards the success of this event under the patronage of Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, the Director of NILIS, University of Colombo and the Chair of the symposium. We thank every contributor and participant of the symposium and wish everyone a fruitful engagement.



## INTRODUCTION TO THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER I

### **Senior Prof. (Chair) Premakumara De Silva**

*Department of Sociology*

*University of Colombo*

*Member of the UGC, Sri Lanka*

*Chairman of the Board of Management/ NILIS*

*University of Colombo*



Professor Premakumara de Silva received his B.A. (Hons) and M.A. in Sociology from the University of Colombo and MSc and PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Edinburgh, UK. He has won several prestigious international fellowships and awards including British Academy, American Academy of Religion, Sir Radcliffe-Brown and Sir Raymond Firth Fellowship of Royal Anthropological Institute in the UK, Award of Commonwealth Countries of University of Edinburgh (Sir Ernest Cassel Award), Overseas Research Student (ORS) Award from the Committee of UK Vice-chancellors, and Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research in New York.

In 2016, Prof. de Silva won the Vice Chancellor's award for best researcher at the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, and the Senate Awards for best researcher in 2017 and 2018. In 2018 he won the most prestigious CVCD (Committee for Vice Chancellor's and Directors) Excellence Award for the most outstanding senior researcher in the field of Humanities, Aesthetic and Social Sciences in Sri Lanka. In the same year he also won the State Literary Award for the best academic book translated.

He is a prolific writer who has published with reputed publishers and currently holds several positions; Chair Professor of Sociology at University of Colombo, member of University Grants Commissions, and the Chairman of several UGC Standing committees including Social Sciences and Humanities, Education, Fine and Visual Arts, Library and Information Science, and Social Reconciliation. Prof. de Silva is also the Chairman, Board of Management of National Institute of Library, and Information Science at University of Colombo.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS I**

### **Academic libraries in the digital age? An overview**

Senior Prof. (Chair) Premakumara De Silva

Libraries provide access to a wide range of digital resources, including e-books, online databases, and other digital materials that are not available elsewhere. One of the primary roles of libraries in the digital age is to provide access to a wide range of digital resources. Libraries can provide access to digital resources, technology training, and programs that help people develop the skills they need to navigate the digital world effectively and ethically. It will also enhance the availability of e-resources for digital research and publication. Digital age characterized by efficient graphical user interface, digital imaging, efficient transfer, and storage of texts, is presenting important challenges for the libraries. Information privacy, copyrights, and information security are some of the challenging issues faced by libraries in the digital age. Digital libraries are collections of online resources that can help you access, organize, and share information for your research and learning goals. Over the Internet platform, academic libraries are able to set up web-oriented information resources and services, such as Ask-a-Librarian, Bibliographic Instructions, Computerized Library Catalogues, Distance Learning Services, e-Government Information Resources, Information Literacy Programmes, Instant Messaging (IM). They can include books, journals, databases, multimedia, and more. Therefore, my talk will be mainly focused on academic libraries in the digital age while focusing on the challenges and their adoptability in the fast growing field of digital libraries.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER II

### **Dr. David Prosser**

*Executive Director*

*Research Libraries UK*

*PO Box 3671*

*Stoke-on-Trent, ST8 9BL*

*United Kingdom*



Since March 2010 David Prosser has been the Executive Director of RLUK, the representative body for the UK's leading research libraries. Before moving to RLUK, he was, from 2002, the founding Director of SPARC Europe, an alliance of over 110 research-led university libraries from 14 European countries advocating new models of scholarly communication. Previously, he spent ten years in science, technical, and medical journal publishing for both Oxford University Press and Elsevier Science. During this time, he was involved in all aspects of publishing from production through to editorial and financial management of journals. Before becoming a publisher, he received a PhD and BSc in Physics from Leeds University, UK.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS II**

### **Building strength through collaboration: The role of research libraries UK in supporting our members**

Dr. David Prosser

Collaboration and cooperation are deeply embedded features of library communities. And Library Associations are often the vehicle through which that collaboration and cooperation is organised. Regional, national, and international associations; associations based on library type, from public, through university to business; and associations ordered by subject – art libraries, legal libraries, science and technical libraries, etc. Many libraries will be members of multiple associations as their interests cover a range of areas – a complex Venn Diagram of overlapping connections and networks.

Research Libraries UK (RLUK) is one such library association. RLUK represents the most significant research libraries in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. These are libraries that have exceptional research collections, and which provide superb services to enable researchers to undertake their work. The majority of our members are the libraries of leading universities (including all of the UK's Russell Group of universities). However, we also have the UK's national libraries as members, together with the Wellcome Trust.

The role of RLUK is to bring our 39 members together around the issues that affect them; to represent their collective voice; advocate on their behalf; and to support them as they face shared challenges. This presentation will describe how RLUK fulfils this role, with a focus on the current RLUK strategy: *Transforming the Library*. Through consideration of the strategy, the way in which UK research libraries collaborate and cooperate will be discussed.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER III

### **Dr. Rajesh Singh**

*University Librarian*

*University of Delhi*

*Delhi, India*



Dr. Rajesh Singh, a Gold Medalist from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, has served various organizations in different professional capacities. He has served Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, MJP Rohilkhand University, Bareilly, and Dr. RML Avadh University, Faizabad before moving to University of Delhi. His areas of interest and specialization include Information Literacy and Competency, WWW Resources, Online Information Retrieval Techniques, Meta/Federated Searching, Academic Integrity, Citation Analysis Databases and Research Metrics including Impact Factor and h-Index, etc. He has delivered invited lectures and keynote addresses in various national and international seminars, conferences, workshops, orientation courses, refresher courses, and other faculty development programs. He has authored two books and published widely in reputed national and international journals, seminars, and conferences. Dr. Singh is the recipient of ILA-Gidwani-Deshpandey best Academic Librarian Award in 2019. He has recently been conferred with “Best University Librarian Award” by COLLNET in 2022 at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference held at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS III**

### **Measuring research productivity and impact: Tools and techniques**

Dr. Rajesh Singh

Research and publications have witnessed exponential growth in the networked digital information environment. The numbers of research publications are increasing day by day in all the disciplines across the world. There has always been a practice to measure the research productivity and impact of scientists and scholars. From total number of publications to total number of citations for all publications and further average number of citations per publications, the academia has devised many systems to judge the productivity and impact of research publications.

Many new concepts and indexes have been developed to measure the research productivity and impact of scientists and scholars in the new information environment. These are commonly known as 'Research Metrics'. It is the quantitative analysis of scientific and scholarly research outputs and their impacts. It includes a variety of measures and statistical methods for assessing the quality and broader impact of scientific and scholarly research, as well as to track researcher impact. It measures impact and provides insight into the influence of specific journal publications, individual articles, and authors. The presentation will discuss the techniques, features, advantages and limitations of Impact Factor and h-Index.

## **INVITED PAPER SESSION**

## **Research excellence in library & information science in Brazil**

Professor Francisco Carlos Paletta

*School of Communications and Arts*

*University of São Paulo, Brazil*

The study presents reflections on research conducted at the University of Sao Paulo on librarian training, expertise, and continuing education needs in Brazil. Methodology: A survey was conducted to a stratified sample of 18,374 practicing librarians nationwide, receiving 3,320 responses. Results: 81% of librarians rate their LIS education as good or great, but only 46% feel fully prepared for the job market. 50% say their training prepared them "on average" for the market. 89% recognize need for continuing education and updating skills. Desired continuing education includes technology skills plus management, culture, and other areas. University libraries employ the most librarians in Brazil due to accreditation requirements. Public and school libraries need the most competent professionals but have fewest jobs. Training focuses on stable university library routines rather than emerging sectors. Rapid technological and social changes make continuous learning imperative for librarians. Conclusions: While LIS education is good, librarians need ongoing updating of skills. Programs should balance technical expertise with generalist qualifications. Holistic training is needed in management, culture, and systems thinking. Specializations should align training with specific market sectors. Librarian training must adapt to produce professionals who can change the market. Recommendations: Increase continuing education opportunities. Make LIS a graduate-level degree built on an undergraduate foundation. Develop specialized curriculum tracks aligned to job market needs. Modernize programs to produce librarians who embrace technology. Expand curricula to develop well-rounded qualifications beyond technical skills.

**Keywords:** *Library, Information Science, Librarian, Research Excellence*



## **LIS research as impact: snapshot from a scholar's and researcher's perspective**

Professor June Abbas

*School of Library, and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma*

*USA*

Library and information research is interdisciplinary and uses methods from many disciplines to explore social problems. It is human centered, complex, and practical. It is international. Considering the cultural context, it is actionable and intentional. Intentional in design, it is impactful, and it is inspiring. To take a closer look at the research trends, populations, and methods used in library and information science research, the author will present a snapshot of the research published in 2020 through 2023 in one journal, Library and Information Science Research (LISR), one of the most prestigious research methods journals in library and information science. LISR focuses on innovative methods and highlights the research process, which makes the journal unique from other library and information science journals that are focused primarily on reporting research and research findings. Through the lens of interdisciplinary, international, human-centered, actionable, and impactful, the author will highlight the new populations being studied (such as immigrants, ethnic minorities in China, proxy health information seeking by caregivers, etc.), innovative methods (eye tracking, cognitive mapping, photo elicitation, World Café, and visual diaries, ethnographic thematic analysis, etc.) used and the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the research being conducted and published during this time period. The author will close with remarks about the collaborative, interdisciplinary nature of library and information science research which make it broadly applicable across the world. The problems that are explored and the results found are international in scope, not isolated to our own community, and can inspire impact.

**Keywords:** *Library and Information Science, Information Science Research (LISR), Researchers*

## **Focusing LIS research on societal imperatives: librarians' engagement with the climate crisis**

Associate Professor Luanne S. Sinnamon  
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Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*

The devastating impacts of recent world-wide health and environmental crises have shifted perspectives on the role of libraries and librarians. While, traditionally, librarians have focused on preserving the safety of buildings and collections in the face of disasters, we now see them in proactive social roles, providing information services to combat misinformation, supporting and providing educational opportunities to community members struggling in the face of crisis, and serving as places of refuge and shelter. Across the world, the impacts of the climate crisis are escalating and further deepening inequities, and libraries and librarians are finding ways to respond. Yet, much of the work is being done in the absence of time to study the situation, develop a solid understanding and share what is effective. As an evidence-based field, Library and Information Science needs widespread, community-engaged research to guide responses to the climate crisis. This presentation will outline a major research project underway in Canada to explore these issues and will report on the challenges and opportunities experienced by librarians engaged in climate crisis work.

**Keywords:** *Librarians, Climate Crisis, Library and Information Science, Disasters*

## **Empowering nursing students' digital literacy skills: the digital literacy project**

Associate Professor Konstantina (Dina) Martzoukou

*School of Creative and Cultural Business*

*The Robert Gordon University*

*Aberdeen United Kingdom*

The 'Digital Literacy project' is an ongoing research project at the Robert Gordon University, the aim of which is to drive and support the development of digital literacy skills among students in different discipline areas (e.g., nursing, law, library science, marketing, business, computing). In line with UK and global strategic priorities, the project aims to identify pockets of digital inequalities in students, to enhance their digital capacity as future digital citizens and professionals, and open conversations around digital literacy training and support for students. The project utilises a self-assessment digital competencies survey tool and a Digital Competencies Toolkit (DCT) the aim of which is to support planning for the enhancement and enrichment of digital capacities of students as learners, citizens, and future professionals. The toolkit is co-created with Student Interns and offers recommendations and ideas for the further training and support of students. This presentation will offer an overview of the empirical exploration of self-assessed digital competencies of students studying in nursing courses in particular, addressing a range of digital competencies: information and communication technology proficiency and productivity, information literacy, digital creation, digital research, digital communication, digital learning and development, digital innovation, digital identity management and digital well-being. In the dataset presented, students reported low competencies in information literacy, digital research, and digital innovation and significant statistical subgroup differences were found between age demographics and pre/post-registration within most of the digital competence dimensions. The survey open-ended comments revealed that students encountered challenges around digital skills they had mostly developed via everyday life experiences and trial-and-error approaches. The presentation will also provide an overview of the Digital Competencies Toolkit that has been tailored for nursing students, together with current plans for embedding it into the curriculum. Increasing awareness of existing digital gaps and offering tailored digital skills enhancement can empower students as future-proof evidence-based practitioners in an evolving digital healthcare landscape. However, it is important to develop clear insights into digital competencies gaps of students and design targeted educational digital skills training interventions.

**Keywords:** *Nursing Students, Digital Literacy Skills, Digital Literacy Project, United Kingdom*

## **Advancing library and information science research in Sri Lanka**

Dr. C.C. Jayasundara

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*Sri Lanka*

The Library and Information Science (LIS) research landscape in Sri Lanka stands at a critical juncture, grappling with the challenge of aligning with global trends while addressing significant local issues. While the LIS research landscape is not yet on par with developed countries, LIS research endeavours are primarily focused on tackling pressing local issues and challenges. This delicate balancing act necessitates strategic navigation and innovative approaches to bridge the gap between local and global LIS requirements. LIS research heritage in some areas of LIS is rich in Sri Lanka, encompassing diverse areas such as digital libraries, information-seeking behaviour, service quality, information literacy, and outreach initiatives. However, juxtaposed against their counterparts in developed countries, Sri Lankan LIS researchers find themselves trailing in terms of research maturity and visibility, thus curtailing the nation's ability to harness the full spectrum of information resources, services, and technology for societal advancement. LIS research in Sri Lanka, although contextually pertinent, falls behind prevailing international standards and benchmarks. This gap is evident in several areas. For instance, when compared to leading international LIS research institutions that consistently publish in renowned journals with high impact factors, Sri Lankan researchers often face challenges in achieving similar levels of recognition and visibility. This disparity underlines the missed opportunities for Sri Lankan LIS research to contribute innovative solutions to local and worldwide challenges, highlighting the need for further development and integration with international research standards and practices. Sri Lankan LIS professionals stand to benefit significantly from structured training programs, mentorship initiatives, and improved access to research resources. Expanding funding sources, including international collaborations and partnerships, is imperative to overcome financial impediments. Diversified funding will enable the support of innovative projects and facilitate cutting-edge research. Implementing structured interdisciplinary training programs will empower LIS researchers with a broader skill set, allowing them to navigate multifaceted research adeptly. Active advocacy campaigns at both the national and institutional levels will emphasise the significance of LIS research. The LIS research community in Sri Lanka, teeming with potential, faces critical challenges that demand immediate attention. By diversifying funding sources, enhancing interdisciplinary training, and advocating for the recognition of LIS research, Sri Lanka can unlock the full potential of its LIS researchers. In doing so, the nation can proactively address local issues, make substantial global contributions, and emerge as a dynamic hub of knowledge and innovation within the Library and Information Science domain.

**Keywords:** *LIS Research, Sri Lanka, Funding, Researchers*

## **From metrics to eco-friendly practices: advancing Indonesia's research excellence & sustainability in LIS**

Asst. Prof. R. Rahmi

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have emerged as an integral blueprint for developed and developing countries. They pave the way for transformative progress across numerous health and education sectors. Situating the emphasis on Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), this combined research provides a novel bibliometric analysis of academic endeavors at Universitas Indonesia (UI) and scrutinizes the eco-friendly practices of academic libraries in Indonesia. The bibliometric portion of the study extends beyond traditional peer-reviewed articles to encapsulate the rich tapestry of student research, spanning from undergraduate to doctoral levels. This inclusive approach ensures the comprehensive mapping of research trajectories, themes, and inter-topic connections over a decade, bolstering the understanding of SDG-aligned scholastic pursuits. Simultaneously, the profound influence of libraries, particularly in the context of SDG 3 indicators, is investigated to bridge the research gap within the Indonesian setting. In parallel, the eco-centric aspect of the study pivots to the advancement of sustainable libraries. By harnessing the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards and the guidelines provided by ENSULIB IFLA, the sustainability initiatives of 10 academic libraries at Indonesia's Legal-Entity State Higher Education Institutions are meticulously appraised. The assessment divulges a two-fold revelation: a limited enactment of green practices in libraries and a nascent but growing awareness among librarians about sustainable, eco-friendly strategies. This research intertwines academic excellence and sustainable practices, promoting a holistic narrative for Indonesia's advancements in the Library and Information Science domain while underscoring the symbiotic relationship between informed research and sustainable actions.

**Keywords:** *Bibliometric Analysis, Sustainable Development Goals, Green Libraries, Academic Libraries, Sustainability, SDG 3, Eco-Friendly Initiatives, Student Research Endeavors, Indonesian Higher Education*

## **The cultural information science: cultural knowledge as a valuable resource in the field of LIS research**

Dr. P.L. Perera

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Australia*

The LIS trend in Australia underscores the critical necessity of considering cultural variations and norms when studying information-seeking behaviors. The latest research criticizes the prevalent focus on individual information seekers, highlighting the need to recognize the influence of language, religion, and cultural behaviors on their information-seeking patterns. It emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the broader social context in which information is sought. Existing frameworks for information practices are critiqued for their lack of inclusivity regarding social norms, values, emotions, and embodiment within different cultural groups. This limitation consequently limits the scope of information practices research, hindering the understanding of various cultural behaviors. The presentation contends that without a comprehensive grasp of the cultural community or phenomenon under study, researchers lack the informed insight necessary to make appropriate choices about adopting specific information practices and values. To address these limitations, the author proposes exploring new theoretical paradigms for information practice research called "Cultural Information Science", where he suggests that Researchers must move from the four walls of the library to the communities outside the library. He emphasizes the significance of local knowledge and insight as indispensable tools for comprehending information practices within culturally diverse contexts. To do this, the researchers must transcend their own cultural experiences and engage with a wider array of formal theories, as their personal experiences inherently constrain their viewpoints. A notable contribution of this research trend is its focus on recognizing the profound influence of cultural norms on the outcomes of cultural information practices. This understanding enhances the field's comprehension of the complex interplay between cultural dynamics and information behavior. In conclusion, the author underscores the crucial need to transcend Western-centric assumptions and adopt a more culturally sensitive and context-aware approach to studying information practices, particularly within non-western contexts. This would promise a richer and more nuanced understanding of how culture shapes information-seeking behaviors and their outcomes.

**Keywords:** *LIS Trend, Information Practices, Spiritual Information Practices, Religious information Practices*

## **Analyzing the advancement of information landscape transformation through scientific communication by librarians**

Dr. Mohd Faizal Bin Hamzah

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The digital revolution has profoundly transformed the information landscape, ushering in a new era that demands a redefinition of librarians' roles in facilitating scholarly communication. This study explores this ever-evolving terrain, focusing on librarians' active involvement in scientific communication and its profound implications for the broader academic community. In today's rapidly evolving information landscape, librarians have transcended their traditional roles, evolving into dynamic knowledge creators rather than mere information managers. They must now extend their expertise beyond collection management to embrace knowledge acquisition and management as essential aspects of their work. In an era characterized by the ubiquity of digital information, librarians and information professionals have become indispensable stewards of knowledge access, repositories of expertise, and champions of open and equitable information dissemination. The transformation of librarians and information professionals is evident as they transition from being custodians of physical collections to becoming active collaborators in the digital realm. Their pivotal role lies in connecting researchers, educators, and students to a wealth of digital resources, navigating the complexities of online databases, open data initiatives, and the advancement of artificial intelligence-driven information provision. At the heart of this transformation is librarians' unwavering commitment to advancing open access and open science initiatives. Embracing scientific communication empowers librarians to access research findings, promote the adoption of open educational resources, and dismantle barriers to information. This underscores the multifaceted role of librarians in shaping the transformation of the information landscape. They achieve this by fostering digital resource management, advocating for open access, providing vital information literacy education, and engaging in collaborative research through scientific communication. This multifaceted engagement highlights their critical position as catalysts for positive change within the evolving scholarly ecosystem, bridging the gap between technology and human intelligence to ensure the continued growth and dissemination of knowledge in the digital age.

**Keywords:** *Scientific Communication, Scholarly Communication, Librarians, Open Access, Information*

## **Data-driven collections assessment: reviewing digital resources statistics for enhanced curriculum alignment**

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In the rapidly evolving landscape of information abundance, academic libraries find themselves facing the challenge of maintaining a steadfast commitment to information quality and the continuous assessment of their collections. This commitment is vital to ensure that library resources remain relevant and effectively aligned with the needs of both students and faculty. Sheridan College's Library Services has undertaken a strategic shift, prioritizing the acquisition of digital materials over print collections, a journey that has spanned several years. This shift has culminated in the holdings of over 600,000 digital resources, accessible through a network of 280+ subscription databases. This strategic shift not only reflects the institution's evolving priorities but also represents a significant investment in the future of academic resources. To ensure the optimal utilization of these digital resources, Sheridan Library has implemented a quarterly review process. This process hinges on the analysis of data-driven factors, which focuses on both user engagement and curriculum alignment. Usage statistics, drawn from COUNTER reports, are collected and integrated into the Library Management System through the SUSHI protocol (Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative). By deciphering usage patterns, download frequencies, and other user engagement metrics, librarians identify the digital resources that flourish and those that may need reconsideration or increased promotional efforts. Curriculum alignment is measured with the support of faculty liaison librarians who are embedded in their respective program areas. In addition, data from Springshare and Google Analytics are used to determine access patterns thereby gaining deeper insights into user engagement. This approach assists in the Library's web presence and empowers it to respond to the evolving needs of the academic community. This review will examine the methodologies used in collecting digital resource statistics, evaluate the effectiveness of current collections, delve into strategies to seamlessly embed collections within the curriculum, and address challenges associated with data interpretation. These challenges include not only issues of data accuracy but also privacy concerns that underscore responsible data stewardship. By making data-driven decisions, librarians can not only meet the current demands of their academic communities but also drive future innovation in digital library services

**Keywords:** *Digital Resources, Academic Libraries, Library Management Systems, Librarians*



## **TECHNICAL SESSION 1**

## **Higher diploma students' experience of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic: survey study on SLLA students**

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The COVID-19 pandemic has made its impact on almost all educational programs in a radical manner, and compelled to get everyone to adapt to a new way of online learning. The Sri Lanka Library Association also quickly shifted to online education during the period of COVID-19. The current study aimed at assessing the students' preference for online learning, examining the students' satisfaction with online learning, and identifying learning problems of online learning of Higher Diploma Students. By using the Google Forms, a survey research method was employed among 150 students who followed Higher Diploma Level I and II of the Sri Lanka Library Association. Of the survey sample, 140 (93%) were responded from both levels. Data was analyzed with the SPSS software. Of the respondents 98 (70%) were female and 42(30%) were male students. Result indicated that more than 83 (59.28%) preferred to have online lectures during the COVID-19 pandemic period by indicating highly satisfied and satisfied. They were of the view that presentations and lectures were clear in having online classes 71 (50.71%). Relating to the students' satisfaction, 87 (62.1%) mentioned that they are highly satisfying and satisfying with online teaching and learning. More than 99 (70%) of them have Smartphone and only 28 (20%) of them are equipped with laptops for online learning. Nonetheless, the use of desktops, tablets and other equipment is not indicated. Some of the students alternatively used to use get notes (35%), help from friends (28%) and recordings (16%) which are not very significant. Online learning problems were reported as no attention to the lecture 86 (61%), inability to learn practical subjects 77 (55%), inability to access for online 71 (50.71%) and sometimes not being able to clearly hear the lectures due to signals 67 (47.85%). According to the survey results, the study concludes that students are more capable enough to transmit to online learning even without being given proper training on it. This is a positive sign that indicates the students were needed to take part of this e-learning method. The study recommends mitigating the problems by having more concern of the challenges faced by the students and need to enhance the teaching methods on practical subject teaching by using online teaching aids.

**Keywords:** *Online Learning, Higher Diploma, LIS Education, Preferences, Satisfaction, Library Association, Sri Lanka*

## **Examining the use of the Delphi research method to advance research in library and information science<sup>a</sup>**

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Greek mythology, which is linked to the capacity to see into the future, is where the word Delphi originated. The Delphi method is a blend of qualitative and quantitative methods that develops concepts and future forecasts using the opinions of expert panelists. The Delphi technique, which enables getting the most reliable consensus of a group of experts by a chain of concentrated surveys combined with controlled feedback, was reportedly utilized in research at the RAND Corporation as early as the 1950s. Researchers in the social sciences and information and communication technologies frequently use the Delphi approach. This method avoids direct interaction between the expert panelists by utilizing multiple rounds of anonymous questioning of specialists. Due to its adaptability and utility, the Delphi approach has been used in many disciplines. The following are the primary attributes of the Delphi research method: 1. Panelists are kept anonymous; purposeful or reputational sampling is utilized; 2. Having at least two rounds; 3. Distributing comments on the responses; 3. Open-ended or literature-based round one questions; 4. Round two consensus building based on round one results; 5. Round three 5-point Likert type survey. The final verdict is reached using statistical evidence. The study's validity and reliability are upheld by selecting the right number of panelists. 15 to 20 people are taken into consideration if the panel is homogeneous. If the group is heterogeneous, more people are taken into account. At the same time, the Delphi technique consistently yields a collective decision. Agreement on the items by over 75% of the participants in the second round or later can be considered as the final agreement. The measurements of central tendency (means, median, and mode) and degree of dispersion (standard deviation) are the statistics employed in Delphi investigations to display data regarding the group agreements of respondents. Thematic investigation and content analysis are both important elements in the research process according to the Delphi approach. Delphi's analytical techniques enable a deeper comprehension of the collected data and aid in identifying important trends and topics. In summary, the Delphi research method can be a valuable research tool in Library and Information Science, particularly when addressing complex, forward-looking, or controversial issues. When used appropriately, it can provide insights and consensus from experts to inform decision-making, planning, and policy development in the field.

**Keywords:** *Delphi Method, Research, Library and Information Science*

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## **Impact of open book examinations in online mode on student's performance: some observations<sup>b</sup>**

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Covid-19 pandemic compelled the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo to offer its education programs and the examinations in the online mode using the Learning Management System (LMS) and WhatsApp Groups. Of the programs, Diploma in School Librarianship (DSL) at SLQF Level 3, has the highest number of students, covers eight subjects with 30-hours of classroom contact hours for each module. LMS is used extensively for the teaching and learning process and the examinations were held in online open-book mode. Each question paper consists of eight questions of which the students have to answer any five, within a three-hour period. Twenty marks are allocated to each question. Despite the open-book nature of the examinations, it was evident that the students' results are mediocre. The objectives of this study were to analyze the marks gained by the students, and to identify the significant characteristics of the answer scripts. The study is expected to help understanding the answering pattern and to help improve the teaching/ assessment strategies and guidance, in order to stimulate better examination results. The candidates (58) of the Information Literacy paper of the 2020/2021 cohort of the DSL were the study population. Data was collected through an in-depth content analysis of the answer scripts, and interviews with the teachers/ evaluators of the module. The majority (77%) have written elongated answers for the first two questions they have answered, and relatively short answers for the next three questions. This illustrates a problem of time management across the questions, 15% have not answered five questions, as required, but a lesser number. Though they were allowed to use their notes and books, it was not evident that they had exploited them to provide quality answers, 8% have written factual details successfully but not the analytical part of the questions, and 8% have been able to develop their own writing style. Interviews with the lecturers revealed that this could be due to the poor direct interaction between students and lecturers throughout the semester. Based on the findings it can be concluded that the open book examinations model is not the ideal method for the DSL program, because the students need more support through direct contacts in time management and analytical answering skills at the examinations despite the online guides provided. It is recommended to provide more direct support in developing their examination answering skills, to augment the written guidelines and video clips already provided. It is also recommended to invite the students to NILIS for at least one or two on-site sessions to motivate and have individual discussions with the lecturers about their teaching/learning issues.

**Keywords:** *Open-book Examinations, Online Examinations, Online Learning, Analytical Writing Skills*

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## Attention on ChatGPT research in Sri Lankan media<sup>c</sup>

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ChatGPT has gained significant attention in Sri Lanka over the past few months. However, there is a lack of understanding of which types of publications are more likely to mention research on ChatGPT. By understanding which types of publications are more likely to give attention to trending topics, researchers can better understand the dynamics of attraction to their work. It also offers insights into media behavior and biases. To analyze which Sri Lankan media frequently mentioned ChatGPT, Altmetric Attention Scores (altmetric.com) were used. A search on the Altmetric explorer was conducted on 14 August 2023. Mentions were categorized into articles and news mentioned in social media, and articles and news mentioned in news stories. Descriptive analysis was applied to these categories for comparison. Accordingly, from among all social media, only 'Twitter' (now 'X') was mentioning ChatGPT news and research within the Sri Lankan context. Other social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn have no mentions. Although ChatGPT and related research have gained significant attention in Sri Lanka's media, the outlet "nation.lk" is noticeable. This indicates a high level of interest in AI and machine learning technologies in the country. On the contrary, the number of outlets interested in the topic is very low. Average scores for articles mentioned in Tweets and news stories were 2505.45 and 1787 respectively. News stories about ChatGPT that are in a 'News' format have the lowest average score (446.4). It reveals that the highest Altmetric Scores are with articles shared on Twitter. Articles mentioned in news stories also gain a high score. On the contrary, news stories in a 'News' format have lower scores. This concludes that research on trending topics is highly mentioned on Twitter, followed by research discussed in news stories. However, news on these topics is not attractive as such. Therefore, media and researchers may focus on promoting research articles via social media to maximize reach and impact. The low average score for news stories in the 'News' format suggests a need for re-evaluation. Tweeting snippets or highlights from the articles that are covered in news stories may boost overall attention.

**Keywords:** *Altmetrics, ChatGPT, Sri Lanka, News, Social Media*

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## Scientometric analysis of the scholarly impact of ISERME proceedings 2017-2022

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Symposia are helpful in displaying the latest scientific developments and findings in dedicated fields of knowledge. The International Symposium of Earth Resources Management & Environment (ISERME) has been annually organized by the Department of Earth Resources Engineering of the University of Moratuwa (UoM) since 2017 to connect academia and industries of different geographies. Proceedings of ISERME are accessible via the Institutional Repository (IR) of UoM Library. Despite the availability of usage statistics, a comprehensive scientometric analysis was required to evaluate the research trends, authorship impact, productivity and collaboration dynamics in Earth Resources and Environment. Additionally, the scholarly impact, access, and reference sources could also be identified to help library functions. A scientometric analytical method and techniques were utilized to evaluate the scholarly contributions. Usage statistics as of 30 June 2023 were obtained from the IR. Citations were analyzed to find out the type of information source and age. Bradford's law of scattering was used to identify the core journals. Google Scholar was used to determine the citation impact. ISERME has held 6 times publishing 136 papers, of which 114 are full text with -16.37% relative growth rate and 4.23 doubling time. The majority (97.79%) of the papers was multi-authored and 25.74% out of those had the highest number of authors, which is six. Out of 136 papers, 36.76% were collaborative works having 64% strong local collaborations, 15% foreign collaborations and 6% a combination of both. Hokkaido University, Japan and Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka are the most popular foreign and local collaborators. Rare Earth Elements, Minerals, Aggregates, and Mines are the most prominent areas of research. Journal articles (49.02%) are identified as the most preferred reference source including 32 core journals. Authors preferred to refer to recent information sources published within a 5-year period. Almost 25% of online viewing occurred from researchers in the United States. Nearly 25% of the papers have been cited to date. A total of 46 citations were discovered out of which 52% were from authors affiliated to foreign institutions. ISERME has made an impactful contribution to scholarly communication, despite a negative growth rate. ISERME proceedings have showcased research of national interest such as Rare Earth Materials, Minerals, and Aggregates and research collaborations have extended widely securing global viewership and citations. It is beneficial to seek the possibility of incorporating bibliometric/almetric widgets in the IR and providing DOIs to facilitate such studies. In general, promoting international collaboration could improve the overall visibility of scholarly contributions.

**Keywords:** *Scientometrics, Bibliometrics, Proceedings, ISERME, Earth Resources Engineering*

## **TECHNICAL SESSION 2**

## **A decadal analysis of library and information science research trends in Sri Lanka (2013-2022)**

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Library & Information Science (LIS) discipline, which is developing rapidly in Sri Lanka, requires an analysis of its research trends to comprehend its scope. Yet, there is a scarcity of recent studies, and the objective of the study was to fill this void by identifying the LIS research and collaboration trends in Sri Lanka. The findings of the study will be significant for the researchers, librarians, and policymakers to understand the gaps and overlaps in the discipline, and to take appropriate action to improve the research in LIS domain. A Content Analysis was made of the articles published during 2013-2023 in the Journal of University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka, which is peer reviewed and indexed in LISA. The study identified 99 research papers which were categorized based on a widely accepted classification scheme that was mostly cited in the LIS research domain. The study also examined the authorship patterns and the degree of collaboration. Of the papers, 34.34% are on "Library and Information Service Activities", 25.25% on "Information Seeking", 16.16% on "Scientific & Professional Communication", and 12.12% on "Other Library Topics". Less popular topics were "Information Storage & Retrieval" (06.06%), "Library Profession" (03.03%), "Analysis of LIS" (02.02%), and "Library History" (01.01%). Notably, there were no articles on "Publishing & Book Publishing" or "LIS Education," but new subject areas such as measuring service quality from customers' perspectives, the level of utilization of open-access sources, tools and techniques of digitization, and metadata harvesting showed an increasing trend after 2014. It was established that 46.46% of the papers were single authored, 42.42% had two authors, 10.10% had three authors, and 01.01% had more than three authors. These results confirm the dominance of single authorship, although collaborative research is also evident. The degree of collaboration in LIS research in Sri Lanka was calculated at 0.53. The study established that there is an imbalance in the research covered with more emphasis on conventional topics. Yet, there is a balance between single/two authors and a moderate collaboration. It is recommended that the LIS educators, senior professionals and the Professional Associations encourage the prospective authors to focus their research on the less explored areas and emerging trends in librarianship to fill the voids in the LIS research literature.

**Keywords:** *Authorship Pattern, Library and Information Science, Research Trends, Sri Lanka*



## **Overview of scholarly journal publishing in Sri Lanka with special reference to Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL)**

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Scholarly journal publishing in Sri Lanka plays a crucial role in disseminating research nationally and internationally. Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL) is a significant initiative in the country's academic publishing landscape. SLJOL was implemented in collaboration with INASP (International Network for Advancing Science and Policy) in August 2008 and managed by the National Science Foundation. Currently, the SLJOL database hosts 129 open-access journals listing 19281 articles in 2211 issues. No recent studies have been conducted, therefore this study attempted to examine the current status by analyzing the contents of SLJOL to provide an overview of the performance of SLJOL and the current status of scholarly journal publishing in Sri Lanka. It will also reveal trends in academic research. To perform content analysis, all journals hosted in SLJOL were evaluated in terms of the publisher category, frequency, subject contents, language, up-to-datedness, ratings by the Journal Publishing Practices and Standards (JPPS), indexing services, etc. Researchers relied on the information available on the SLJOL website for their analysis as of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The majority of the content creators (50.4%) of SLJOL represent state and private universities followed by learned colleges (13.2%), associations and institutes (10% respectively), societies (9.3%), foundations (2.3%), and other types of organization (0.8% each). The main subjects covered by SLJOL are medical sciences, management, and agriculture. The journal publication frequency varies with biannual (76%); annual (11.6%); quarterly (9.3%); tri-annual (2.3%) and throughout the year (0.8%), 96.9% of the journals are in English language while 3.1% caters to English, Sinhalese, and Tamil languages. Only 24.8% of journals are inviting international authors and 75.2% of journals accept articles from local authors. Of the journals, 46.5% have released current issues to the SLJOL by the study date. JPPS ratings indicate 21.7% of the titles have got "Two Stars", 19.4% got "One Star", 25.6% are working towards JPPS ratings, 0.8% are pending and 16.3% are new titles. Further 6.2% of titles are inactive and 10% of the journals do not indicate JPPS status. Out of 129 journal titles, 25 titles appear in other publishing services such as Web of Science, Scopus, EbscoHost, AGRICOLA, DOAJ, etc., while one title each is included in Science Citation Index and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA). SLJOL has created a robust platform for diversified academic content mainly contributed by universities and academic institutions. Though varied frequencies were recorded, SLJOL has taken steps to disseminate current issues. It is essential to invite international authors or collaborations to further enhance the visibility. It will be beneficial to authors if an impact tracking mechanism could be introduced to SLJOL. Librarians of respective universities and academic institutions have to be proactive with content creators to achieve higher standards, visibility, and reputation.

**Keywords:** *Scholarly Output, Journal Publishing, SLJOL, Sri Lanka, Online Journals*

## **Computer literacy and social media awareness among the school librarians in Kandy district, Sri Lanka**

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The modern school librarians cannot make a positive contribution to their clientele without the digital literacy skills. They are compelled to support the teachers and students to exploit the advanced information landscape using the modern information technologies, especially, through the exploitation of computers and social media (SM). For this, the school librarians must necessarily be empowered in digital literacy skills, to make a positive impact on the teaching learning culture of the Sri Lankan school system. This study aimed to gain insights into the current state of digital literacy which encompasses the competencies of computer applications and social media behavior of the school librarians in Sri Lanka. The findings are expected to enable the development of strategies to enhance their digital literacy skills. The study measured the digital literacy of the School Librarians in government schools in three educational zones (Denuwara, Mahanuwara, and Gampola) in the Kandy district. The total population (32) were considered and 30 (94%) responded. Main data gathering tool was a semi-structured questionnaire distributed at a training program conducted for them. In addition to the biographic data, their familiarity with the computer applications and the social media (SM) were studied. Of the respondents, 93% were female, 47% were in the age groups of 48-53 and 54-59 and only 06 % in the 30-35 age group. According to findings 80% do not have computers in their school libraries. Only 43.3% owned a computer. 60 % of them were using computers for their personal activities. 70% has received a formal training on using computer applications. Only 56.6 % of respondents had SM accounts and 40.4% are not involved with SM at all. WhatsApp was the most popular SM platform among (46.7%), followed by Facebook (43.3%) and Messenger (30%). Apart from using SM for entertaining purpose, 35% had used YouTube for viewing video clips for teaching and learning purposes. In conclusion, most of the respondents have a good awareness in handling computers and social media but are still reluctant to reap the maximum benefits of these technologies. Even though social media has the potential for educational purposes, the findings indicate that a significant number of school librarians are not aware of its importance and potential for educational activities. The study further confirmed that many school librarians primarily use social media for entertainment and recreation. Based on the findings, it can be recommended that the educational authorities must take action to develop the digital literacy of School librarians by training them in exploiting the digital technologies, and also developing the IT infrastructure in the schools, so that the school librarians can play a more empowered role in serving the school community to enhance their teaching and learning environment.

**Keywords:** *Teacher Librarians, School Librarians, Social Media, Digital Literacy, Sri Lanka*

## University libraries and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a global perspective on practices and contributions<sup>d</sup>

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This research highlights the integral role of university libraries globally in advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing their strategies, initiatives, and contributions to sustainable development. The specific strategies and contributions of university libraries towards SDGs remain ambiguously documented and understood, necessitating a focused exploration. This research bridges the knowledge gap by detailing university library practices related to SDGs, providing vital insights for academic institutions and policymakers, and emphasizing libraries' pivotal role in driving sustainable development agendas and community awareness. The primary objective was to illuminate the role of university libraries in advancing the SDGs. A Qualitative mixed method was used to address the research questions of libraries' SDG integration, and tangible contributions. Data sources comprised academic journals and authorized institutional websites, with 74 pertinent articles analyzed from an initial pool of 103. A limitation was the study's primary dependence on available literature and website content, which might overlook certain unrecorded practices or nuanced SDG initiatives. Findings established that the university libraries globally are actively embedding SDGs into their regular functions, strategic plans, and community outreach, and five core themes define their initiatives: capacity building and partnership, access and inclusion, environmental responsibility, innovation, and ethics. Contrary to initial perceptions, libraries significantly contribute to all SDGs, including sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and biodiversity. Besides regular services, they are proactive in projects, partnerships, and programs tailored to SDGs. They play pivotal roles in knowledge dissemination, research support, and fostering a culture of sustainability. Importantly, these institutions exhibit commitment through strategic alignments, stakeholder collaborations, and broad-reaching community initiatives promoting sustainable development. University libraries globally are pivotal in advancing SDGs through integrated operations and outreach, however, SDG reporting by Sri Lankan Universities is lacking. They should intensify collaborations with stakeholders, update SDG strategies, prioritize underrepresented SDGs, boost awareness programs and share best practices globally to optimize their contributions to sustainable development initiatives. For Sri Lanka, focused research is essential to ascertain SDG implementation within university libraries.

**Keywords:** *Sustainable Development Goals, University Libraries, Academic Libraries, Library*

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## Formats of library material preferred by visual and performing arts undergraduates<sup>e</sup>

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The exponential growth of resources for visual and performing arts education presents opportunities and challenges for librarians to develop effective collection development plans in academic libraries. A disciplinary investigation is needed to get a better idea of the format preferences of library material on its' user community as their preferences widely vary by discipline. It would help to make possible modifications in the current acquisition models and to build and maintain the library collection to satisfy the disciplinary needs of the users. Therefore, this study was carried out to explore the formats of library materials preferred by visual and performing arts undergraduates. A sample of 381 undergraduates was selected from the total population of three selected universities by using two stages of stratified random sampling. A structured questionnaire was administered to collect the data and analysed it through SPSS. The findings revealed that visual and performing arts undergraduates access a wide range of information materials for their learning and research development. Books (94.7%) were the most accessed materials while music scores (60.6%) were the least accessed. Correspondence analysis revealed that the type of material was significantly associated with the student's academic discipline. The discipline of drama and theater art is significantly associated with videos, journals, and reference materials ( $p < 0.05$ ) compared to other types of materials. The dance is significantly associated with videos and reference materials ( $p < 0.05$ ). The discipline of music is significantly associated with audio ( $p < 0.05$ ) while visual art is significantly associated with images ( $p < 0.05$ ). Further, they preferred to access printed books (53.9%), music scores (39.2%), and magazines (35.5%). In contrast, they prefer to access digital and online formats of journals, audio, and videos while they gave conditional preference (34.4%) to access images or artworks. Undergraduates prefer both print and e-resource collections based on availability, easy access, usage, needs and personal interest, and they want the library to acquire more performance-based digital collection. Finally, this study suggests that librarians make possible modifications to the current acquisition plan, considering the necessity for purchasing physical media collections, finding a way to use faculty materials, and educating students on the reliability, quality, and comfort level of resources freely accessible.

**Keywords:** *Library Materials, Performing Arts, Resources, Visual Arts*

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## **Use of digital information resources and digital assistive devices by the undergraduates with visual impairments<sup>f</sup>**

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Visual impaired undergraduates (VIUs) mostly rely on digital information resources (DIR) for accomplishing academic tasks with the help of assistive devices and technologies (ADT). Despite the availability of latest technologies and devices, accessing such DIR by the VIUs was affected by many other factors. Technological improvements make digital devices more accessible to the VIUs. Accordingly, the nature of the use of DIR also changed. Therefore, it is important to investigate the use of DIR and ADT under the present circumstances that created new challenges. Previous research studies on this topic focused only on the responses of the VIUs, but finding out the observations of other related parties is equally important. This study aimed to find out the use of DIR and ADT by the VIUs and investigate the challenges faced when accessing DIR and using ADT. The study adopted a qualitative research approach and interviews were conducted to collect data. The study population (n=77) was the VIUs in three state universities in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. Additionally, selected teachers of VIUs, and library and special center staff who support them were interviewed. Descriptive statistics and thematic analysis were used to analyze the data. Qualitative data were visualized using NVivo 10. Google and other search engines (52.7%) were mostly used to get information, followed by social media. Smartphone (83.8%) was the mostly used device. Laptop or desktop with a screen reader was ranked the second highest-use device by VI students. The lack of subject-related audio books, followed by poor Internet connectivity and the cost of mobile data were the key issues faced by them. The lack of compatibility of screen readers with some websites and PDF documents, and the inability to employ screen readers to access Sinhala text was the second most prevalent issue encountered by the respondents when using assistive devices. The most challenging factor was the high cost of assistive devices which prevents them from using them unless provided by libraries or disable-units. Devices such as smart phones and laptops were frequently used compared to traditional assistive devices. Access to the Internet and online information resources has increased as devices are more user-friendly to the VI in accessing the Internet although certain challenges need to be addressed. It is recommended to conduct training to enhance IT and language skills, and to develop self-confidence in learning new technologies. Institutions have to provide the required facilities and resources.

**Keywords:** *Visually Impaired Students, Digital Information Resources, Assistive Devices*

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