Cultural Heritage: Bridging the Past, Present, and Future Through Libraries, Museums, and Archives

Proceedings of the

NILIS Research Symposium 2021

Organized by the

NILIS

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

In collaboration with

National Library of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka National Archives

Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka

SA Chapter of the Asso. for Info. Sc. and Tech.

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Sri Lanka National Archives (SLNA)

Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL)

And

South Asia Chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T SA)

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Bridging the Past, Present and Future Through Libraries, Museums, and Archives

National Institute of Library and Information Sciences
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

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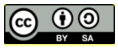

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Program: NILIS Research Symposium 2021

09.00	Start of the Inauguration - Lighting of the oil lamp
09.05	National Anthem
09.10	Welcome Address by Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, Director – NILIS, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
09.15	Address by the Chief Guest: Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, Vice-Chancellor, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
09.25	Brief video on dances in Sri Lanka courtesy of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation
09.30	Address of the Guest of Honor: Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva, Chairman, NILIS Board of Management, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
09.40	Launch of the Symposium Proceedings
09.45	Keynote Address by Senior Professor Raj Somadewa, Professor of Archaeology University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.
10.15	Presentation of Mementos
10.20	Vote of thanks by Symposium Chair: Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Senior Lecturer, NILIS, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
10.30	Tea Break
11.00	Lead Paper and Technical Session 01 (Cultural Knowledge and Awareness)
12.00	Lead Paper and Technical Session 02 (Cultural Heritage Collections)
13.15	Lunch Break
14.00	Lead Paper and Technical Session 03 (Preservation and Conservation of Cultural Heritage)
14.50	Technical Session 04 (NILIS Graduate Research)
16.20	Panel Discussion – Cultural Heritage: Bridging the Past, Present, and Future Through Libraries, Museums, and Archives.
17.00	Concluding remarks

Technical Sessions

Time	ID	Description
		Session 01: Cultural Knowledge and Awareness
11.00	1.1	The Temple Wall Paintings of Sri Lanka: A Permanent Visual Record of a Vibrant Society by **Vidya Jyothi Ashley De Vos,** ***ADV Consultants, Sri Lanka***
11.10	1.2	Traditional methods of knowledge transfer and acquisition with special reference to indigenous knowledge of indigenous medicine in Sri Lanka by **G. R. Padmasiri,** ***University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka***
11.15	1.3	Personal naming systems amongst the Igbo and Yoruba culture in Nigeria (a review analysis) by **Aderinsola E. Kayode,** ***Faculty of Management Science, Durban University of Technology, South Africa*** **and** ***Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan, Nigeria*** **and Fulufhelo G. Netswera,** ***Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan, Nigeria***
11.20	1.4	Bridging the past, present and future of a Cape slave's notebook by **Archie L. Dick,** ***Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa***
11.25	1.5	Identification of gender equality; archives as world documentary heritage in Indonesia by **Endang S. R. Rahayu,** ***National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia***
11.30	1.6	A study on the *ambalams* in Harispattuwa and Thumpane areas by **J. L. G. V. M. S. S. Jayasinghe,** ***Department of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka*** **and H. W. Nipuna Thathsara,** ***Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka***
11.35	1.7	A study of Indian mythologies contained in the Low Country Sindu Vannam by **K. C. Sampath Silva,** ***University of the Visual & Performing Arts, Sri Lanka***
11.45		Discussion

		Session 02: Cultural Heritage Collections
12.00	2.1	Special collections in Punjabi University Library as cultural heritage of Punjab: an exploratory study by **H.P.S. Kalra,** ***Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala, India*** **and Anuradha,** ***BKSN Library, Punjabi University, Patiala, India***
12.10	2.2	Importance of Times of Ceylon Christmas Supplement as historical evidence by **Sandaresee Priyathma Sudusinghe,** ***Library, Colombo National Museum, Sri Lanka***
12.15	2.3	The paintings used for palm leaf manuscripts: a study based on palm leaf manuscript collection at University of Sri Jayewardenepura by **H.D.M. Nishanthi, L.D.M. Premarathna, K.W.A.M. Konpola and H.U.C.S Kumara -** ***Library, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka***
12.20	2.4	A study on historically valuable Ceylon Blue Book Collection in the Library, University of Ruhuna by **R.A.P.S. Senevirathna and U.A. Lal Pannila,** ***University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka***
12.25	2.5	Importance of non-fiction movies as an information source to study cultural heritage by **Suminda Kithsiri Gunaratna,** ***Centre for Educational Technology & Media, Open University of Sri Lanka*** **and Uditha Alahakoon,** ***National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka***
12.30	2.6	Bibliometric study on folklore books published in Sinhala during 2010-2019 by **Uditha Alahakoon,** ***National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka***
12.35	2.7	A bibliographic study of the research articles published in Vol 1 (Issues 1-12) of the Journal of Ayurveda Sameeksha by **R. D. Ananda Tissa,** ***Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine, Yakkala, Sri Lanka***
12.40	2.8	An evaluative study of manuscript conservation in Maharashtra by **Vijay Srinath Kanchi,** ***Knowledge Resource Center, Moolji Jaitha (Autonomous) College, Jalgaon, India*** and **Jagdish N. Kulkarni,** ***Knowledge Resource Center, Swami Ramanand Tirth Marathwada University, Nanded, India***
12.45	2.9	World Digital Library: bridging the cultural divide by **Sumeer Gul,** ***Department of Library and Information Sciences, University of Kashmir, India*****, Sheikh Shueb,** ***Rumi Library, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir, India*** **and Aabid Hussain,** ***Department of Information, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, India***
13.00		Discussion
		Session 03: Preservation and Conservation of Cultural Heritage
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14.10	3.2	Preservation of cultural heritage: The role of archives, libraries, and museums of Kohima, Nagaland State of India by **Pichano Kikon,** ***School of Library and Information Science, Central University of Gujarat, India***
14.15	3.3	Preservation of information resources in selected school libraries in Badulla District by **W.R.N. Indrachapa,** ***CINEC Campus, Millennium Drive, Malabe, Sri Lanka***
14.20	3.4	Archiving experiential: a digital archiving approach to preserve Intangible Cultural Heritage by **C. Wijesundara,** ***Library, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*** **and S. Sugimoto,** ***University of Tsukuba, Japan***
14.25	3.5	Digitization of collections in cultural and heritage institutions of Pakistan by **Muhammad Rafiq,** ***Institute of Information Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan***

14.30		Discussion
		Session 04: NILIS Graduate Research
14.50	4.1	Improving resourced-based teaching-learning in schools using school library learning resource centres by **L.H. Wajira Ranjika Silva,** ***Co-curricular Activities, Research and Development/Western Province Education Department, Sri Lanka and*** **P.G. Pemadasa,** ***National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka***
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15.00	4.3	The attitudes of principals towards the functioning of School Library Learning Resources Centres as a partner of the curriculum by **H.A.L.P.Hapuarachchi,** ***Maho Zonal Education Office, Sri Lanka*** **and P.G. Pemadasa,** ***National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka***
15.05	4.4	Evaluation of reading programs conducted by Western Province School Libraries for the 2019 National Reading Month in Sri Lanka by **D. R. Chandima Dissanayake,** ***De Mazenod College, Kandana, Sri Lanka*** **and Uditha Alahakoon,** ***National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka***
15.50	4.5	Collection management of Pirivena Libraries in the Northwestern Province of Sri Lanka by **R.M.G.W.C.T.K. Ratnayake,** ***Public Library, Kurunegala Municipal Council, Sri Lanka***
15.55	4.6	A study on the contribution of public libraries for uplifting citizenship in Sri Lanka by **K.A.D.A.D. Gunarathna,** ***Library, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Sri Lanka*** **and Uditha Alahakoon,** ***National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.***
16.00	4.7	Identification of information needs for the development of Culture-Based Fisheries in Sri Lanka Considering Sustainability by **A.V.K.M.R. Amaraweera,** ***Library, Ocean University of Sri Lanka*** **and Uditha Alahakoon,** ***National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka***
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16.15	4.10	Effect of social media on reading habits of students during the Covid-19 pandemic by **Arundathie Anuradha Watagedara,** ***National Institute of Library & Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka***
16.20		Panel Discussion - Cultural Heritage: Bridging the Past, Present and Future Through Libraries, Museums and Archives
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Message from the Vice-Chancellor, University of Colombo

It is my privilege and pleasure to pen this message on the flagship event of the annual calendar of NILIS – the Research symposium. This year's theme Cultural Heritage: bridging the past, present, and future through libraries, museums, and archives, is highly momentous for the preservation of the cultural heritage in the country. According to UNESCO, "the Heritage is the cultural legacy we receive from the past, which we live in the present, and will pass on to future generations. UNESCO further specifies that cultural heritage is not limited to monuments and collections of objects. It is also comprised of living expressions inherited from our ancestors, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social manners, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe, and knowledge and techniques linked to traditional crafts." In the Sri Lankan context, cultural heritage is greatly appreciated and respected as an important factor in achieving sustainable development and I am happy that NILIS is highlighting the role of libraries, archives, and museums in safeguarding the cultural heritage through building connections between the past, present and the future.

I am also happy to learn that several key organisations like the National Library of Sri Lanka, the Department of National Archives, the Royal Asiatic Society and the South Asia Chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) are collaborating with NILIS in this endeavour. I am also aware that a panel discussion will be held as the plenary session with the participation of several eminent personalities, which I have no doubts that would pave the way for better involvement and collaborations of libraries, museums, and archives.

I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Management of NILIS led by Senior Prof. Premakumara De Silva, Prof. Raj Somadeva, the keynote speaker, and all paper presenters, all the members of the organizing committee, the Director, and staff of NILIS, and the symposium co-chair Dr. Ruwan Gamage and all the others who have committed themselves to make this event a success.

My very best wishes go out to all of you for a fruitful deliberation on this timely theme.

Senior Prof. Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne
Vice Chancellor – University of Colombo

Message from the Director – National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo

It is with great pleasure that I bring this message to the 2021 Annual Research Symposium of the University of Colombo. This year is exceptional as we celebrate establishing the university in 1921 as Ceylon University College. Together with the staff and students of the National Institute of Library and Information Science (NILIS), I offer my warmest greetings to all the staff and students of the 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 our symposium theme is Cultural Heritage: bridging the past, present, and future through libraries, museums, and archives. We selected this theme because the libraries, museums, and archives make incomparable contributions to protect that country's cultural heritage, though seldom recognised, appreciated, or supported. We strongly believe that NILIS will generate a timely discourse on our cultural heritage and preserve our heritage for future generations through the libraries, archives, and museums with this symposium. It is a pleasure to have the National Library of Sri Lanka, the Department of National Archives, and the South Asia Chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) as collaborators.

There are about fifty papers from national and international researchers, including India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, discussing a wide range of topics varying from temple paintings as a permanent representation of the vibrant ancient civilisation and indigenous medical knowledge sharing practices in Sri Lanka, to the identification of gender equality archives as world documentary heritage and bridging the cultural past, present and future through a slave's notebook protected in the Archives of South Africa. In keeping with the tradition, the abstracts of the students and staff of NILIS are presented here, while the complete volume of the NILIS symposium will contain all the abstracts.

I am thankful to the Chief Guest, Vice-Chancellor of University of Colombo, Senior Prof. Chandrika N Wijeyaratne and the Guest of Honour, Senior Prof. Premakumara De Silva, the Chairman of the Board of Management of NILIS, for gracing this occasion and for their immensely valuable guidance, motivation and inspirations, and to Prof. Raj Somadeva, the keynote speaker today, and to the lead paper presenters, to the Director and staff of UCSC for their support always extended to NILIS without any hesitation and also for providing the technical assistance to conduct the symposium virtually, to Dr. Ruwan Gamage the Symposium Chair of NILIS and the other co-chairs , to all the collaborating organisations, and the presenters for adding colour and vibrance to the symposium, the senior staff of the university library for the extensive support and last but not least to all the academic staff of NILIS and visiting, other staff lead by the SAR Mr. J. Wipularathne and the SAB Mrs. Sajeewani Jayasekara for their continuous dedication and commitment to NILIS.

Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge
Director – National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS),
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Message from the Chair – NILIS Research Symposium 2021

NILIS Research Symposium (NRS 2021) will be virtually held on 20th December 2021 starting from 9.00 am onwards. This year's theme is Cultural Heritage: Bridging the Past, Present, and Future Through Libraries, Museums, and Archives.

Cultural heritage institutions were traditionally keeping various forms of artefacts with the objective of preserving them for future generations. However, now the objectives are directed towards conservation as well as the use of time-tested knowledge for the benefit of the present generations as well. However, issues persist, such as conflicting narratives, identity, censorship, multiculturalism, inclusion, exclusion, intellectual property, privacy, data security etc. The objective of the NRS 2021 is to discuss, reveal, and find solutions to at least a few of these problems.

We are glad that several national institutions are collaborating with NILIS in this endeavour. These are the South Asia Chapter of the Association of Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL), Sri Lanka National Archives (SLNA), Colombo National Museum (CNM) and the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL).

We received over 60 abstracts from Sri Lanka and abroad. Thirty-two (32) of them have been selected for presentation. These include contributions from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nigeria, and South Africa. In addition to the three sessions dedicated to this year's theme, NILIS graduate research also will be presented. My gratitude goes to authors and co-authors, reviewers, editors, and the program committee members.

I am grateful to Senior Professor Chandrika N Wijeyaratne, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, who accepted the invitation to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest, and Professor Raj Somadeva, Professor of Archaeology of the University of Kelaniya, for accepting to deliver the Keynote Address.

A special note of thanks goes out to the Co-Chairs; Dr. Bhakti Gala, Mr. W. Sunil, and Dr. Malini Dias and the officials of the ASIS&T, NLSL, SLNA, CNM, and the RASSL who served in the program committee. Support of Dr. Champa Alahakoon in the editorial process is also of immense value.

The University of Colombo, School of Computing (UCSC) provides the event management and logistical support to conduct the online symposium. We extend our thanks to the Director – UCSC, Professor K.P. Hewagamage, who kindly agreed to provide support, and Dr. Samantha Mathara Arachchi, Senior Lecturer and his team, who oversees related technical activities.

Finally, I should thank Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, Director- NILIS, for her continued support and guidance. Senior Assistant Librarian Mr. Uditha Alahakoon's enthusiasm and knowledge of the thematic discipline brought many relevant researchers on board. Outstanding support from the academic, administrative, and other staff of the institution is also recorded with gratitude.

Dr. Ruwan Gamage
National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS),
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

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The temple wall paintings of Sri Lanka: a permanent visual record of a vibrant society

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The concept of a library could take many forms. Libraries are primarily repositories of books and manuscripts, both ancient and modern, but painted walls could also be interpreted as Libraries, a phenomenon that has had little consideration to date.

We want to propose this as a possibility. All traditional temples had their walls adorned by paintings depicting aspects of the life of the Buddha and the Jataka stories. At times, the temple painters, monks from the temple, *Ganninansela* or painters drawn from the village did not imagine and dream of strange fascinations to enhance the subject matter. But instead, they observed and used the subject material in the immediate environment, usually scenes from everyday life as they saw around them in the surrounding villages, as the subjects adopted for the story, to be depicted accurately in the paintings. This magical information, like dress, buildings, furniture, food types, and vehicles for transport, is carefully and faithfully recorded on the walls. Therefore, these temple paintings should be recognised and accepted as a complete visual historical record of the period. They are the most accurate graphic books recording the vibrant social history of the period. These libraries deserve to be registered and preserved.

Keywords: Temple Paintings, Preservation, Temple Art, Registration, Ancient Paintings, Sri Lanka

Abstract Number: 1.1/5003

Traditional methods of knowledge transfer and acquisition with special reference to indigenous knowledge of indigenous medicine in Sri Lanka

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Indigenous Knowledge (IK) is considered a country's national heritage. Indigenous medicine refers to local health care systems that have been practised by the local communities in many countries for thousands of years. The system encompasses plants, animals and minerals-based medicines, spiritual therapies, rituals and astrology. The Indigenous medical system is not only a healing system but also a lifestyle that teaches people to manage their lives and associated flora and fauna. Sri Lanka is a country rich in IK. The indigenous medical system of the country is referred to as '*Deshiya Chikitsa*', '*Sinhala Vedakama*' or '*Hela Vedakama*,' which is very popular, especially among rural communities.

The main objective of this study was to explore existing methods of knowledge transfer and acquisition in Sri Lanka on indigenous medicine. The qualitative method was employed for this study. Selected indigenous medical practitioners were the study population, and data collection was done through a documentary survey and interviews.

It was identified that IK in indigenous medicine remains in tacit and explicit forms. Acquisition of IK of indigenous medicine is predominantly local and individual. 85% is from parents or family, and the rest is through institutional education and practising as an apprentice under a reputed traditional indigenous medical practitioner. Indigenous medical practitioners have acquired knowledge mainly from their forefathers. Apprentices acquire IK while practising with their masters. Practitioners who serve with spiritual power claim to have acquired power from invisible agents or developed by themselves. The views of the respondents about the transfer of their indigenous medical knowledge to the next generation can be summarised as follows. Some only share within the family members through learning, demonstration, observation, and practice. Some may transfer to a non-relative who is interested and reliable. Some believe that the knowledge cannot be transferred, but the interested persons must grasp it. The rest believe that the knowledge cannot be transferred at all because they treat their knowledge as their own or family heritage. Their perception is that the spiritual power cannot be transferred.

Keywords: Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Medicine, Knowledge Acquisition, Knowledge Transfer, Sri Lanka

Abstract code: 1.2/5009

Personal naming systems amongst the Igbo and Yoruba culture in Nigeria (a review analysis)

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The naming structure among the Igbo and Yoruba cultures in Nigeria is perceived as an important procedure in giving a child a name as a symbol of uniqueness. Naming practices among Nigeria's Igbos and Yorubas serve a variety of cultural frameworks and have a profound cultural impact on someone's life. The alignment of the person's name with the circumstances in which they were born is one of the cultural dynamics engaged in the naming issues. In this context, a child's name may be derived from the seasons or significant days (e.g. cultural, market, festival days), remarkable history (e.g. the Nigerian civil war), birth order patterns, and occupation of the child's relatives. The name given to a child has an impact on that child's life throughout childhood and adulthood. In this context, there is a cultural perception that a child's name might predict their behaviour throughout infancy and adulthood. For example, giving a child a name with a negative connotation may negatively impact the child's life in both childhood and adulthood, and vice versa. Therefore, there is also a cultural significance in the meaning of the names given to children in Nigeria's Yoruba and Igbo communities. While the onomastics of various civilisations have been researched in the African environment, this study highlights the significance of naming events in the Igbo and Yoruba cultures.

Keywords: Cultural Beliefs, Personal Naming, Traditions, Yoruba Community, Igbo Community, Nigeria

Abstract code: 1.3/7013

Bridging the past, present and future of a Cape slave's notebook

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Over a decade ago, I transcribed and translated the text of a notebook kept by the Dutch East India Company slave, Johannes Smiesing. The text written in Dutch consists of personal information, examples of writing, reading, arithmetic, and a morning hymn. Across two pages, there is also a fascinating list of medical remedies in the Tamil language written into the notebook by Nicolas Ondaatje, who was exiled as a convict from Colombo in Sri Lanka. Johannes was born in the Old Slave Lodge in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1697 to a Company employee and a slave mother. He attended the Slave Lodge School, and at 17, he became a teacher there and a healer or a kind of doctor as well. His name, and that of his mother, are inscribed in the baptismal record of the Dutch Reformed Church archives. And it appears on the bright red front cover of his notebook that was deposited independently and anonymously in the *Cape Archives* in 1969. A member of the Council of the *South African Heritage Resources Agency,* who established family connections with Johannes on his mother's side, is also *a* co-founder of the recently established and primarily online *Camissa Museum* in Cape Town. This museum features Johannes Smiesing and his notebook in its section for African and Asian Enslaved Peoples.

This paper argues that South African libraries, archives and museums should collaborate to bridge the past, present and future of this important piece of international cultural heritage.

Keywords: Cape Slave Notebook, International Cultural Heritage, South Africa, Sri Lanka

Abstract code: 1.4/7011

Identification of gender equality; archives as world documentary heritage in Indonesia

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Indonesia holds an enormous number of archival documentary heritages that record the memory about the role of women in the country. These archives narrate the activities of women leaders, female heroes, and other women activists whose activities deserve to be documented as a Memory of the World.

This research aims to identify the archives holdings kept in the custody of the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia that is being categorised as one of the Gender Equality Marker (GEM) of UNESCO. These could also potentially be nominated for the inscription on the UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW) Register.

The research was prioritised on the archives that already have retrieval tools (finding aids). The process was conducted through archival research based on gender and historical approaches within the period of the 1900s.

The findings were then verified and mapped based on the Gender Equality Marker and criteria of the inscription on Memory of the World Register of UNESCO. One of the criteria taken for the Memory of the World inscription in this research is world significance. The research output consists of 31 folders, 620 pages, and three volumes of textual archives, 337 photographs, one video, 1 DVD, and 18 cassettes of sound recording. Two collections among these archives are potentially nominated as the Memory of the World program, namely, Kartini letters (for the category of Gender Equality Marker III – gender transformative) and the First Indonesian Women Congress archives (for the category of Gender Equality Marker II – gender-responsive.

Keywords: Documentary Heritage, Gender Equality Marker, Memory Of The World, Kartini Letters, Indonesian Women Congress Archives

Abstract code: 1.5/7015

A study on the A*mbalams* in Harispattuwa and Thumpane areas

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"*Ambalama*" is a roadside lounge for the use of passengers. In the Kandyan era, many ambalams were situated on the old roads in Kurunegala, Trincomalee, Harispattuwa and Thumpane. However, at present, many small *ambalams* in the Harispattuwa and Thumpane areas have been destroyed.

This study aims to identify the present condition of the Ambalam situated in the Harispattuwa and Thumpane areas. The research problem is identifying the current situation of the *ambalams* in Harispattuwa and Thumpane areas. The study used qualitative research methodology, and the primary data were collected from observations and interviews. The secondary data were collected from library studies and map studies.

This study could identify that many of the *ambalams* in the selected areas have been re-constructed. Therefore, the original forms of *ambalams* cannot be identified. However, wooden carvings can still be seen on some of the *ambalams* and among those carvings are images of cobra, elephant, peacock, lion and horse. Rope carvings, *bo* leaves and floral designs are also found. *Pen thalia,* a pot of water left for the people who stayed in *ambalams* can still be found near some. Also, there are moonstones made of stone. Special attention was paid to the architectural features of these *ambalams* and especially to the study of their roof design. *Ambalams* that were created by raising them above the ground level also could be seen among these *ambalams*. Through secondary sources, the researchers could identify that the *ambalams* had been used not only to relieve the fatigue of the passengers but also as a *Dhamma Sabha pavilion* (space for religious discussions), a village council auditorium and a meeting hall.

According to this study we observed that although *ambalams* have undergone some renovations in the present, the past appearance also has been somewhat preserved in the Harispattuwa and Thumpane areas.

Keywords: *Ambalams*, Harispattuwa, *Pen Thalia,* Thumpane, Wood Carvings, Sri Lanka

Abstract code: 1.6/5013

A study of Indian mythologies contained in the Low Country *Sindu Vannam*

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The *Sindu Vannam* originating from the *Sri Upulwan Vishnu Devalaya* (shrine) in Devinuwara can be described as a traditional dance form in the low country dance tradition of Sri Lanka. This reflects a belief system about the concept of *Lord Vishnu*, a popular belief among the lowlanders of Sri Lanka. *Sindu Vannam* is a thirty-two-verse poem. This research aimed to study the Indian mythology contained in low country *Sindu Vannam* and their impact on the establishment of social morality. Qualitative research methodology was used. Library studies, interviews, field visits, participatory observations under primary and secondary sources were used to collect data.

The stories identified include the *Sura-Asura* War, *Rama-Ravana* war, destruction of the *Hiranyaksha* by *Lord Vishnu*, defeating the evil monsters by *King Rama*, rescuing an elephant from the clutches of a crocodile by *Lord Vishnu*, destruction of *Puthana Yakshani* by *Krishna,* incarnation of *Lord Vishnu* as *Mohini*, defeating *Brahmasura* and giving refuge to *Lord Shiva*. Further analysis of these myths identified that they contained a set of ethical principles that could influence the establishment of social morality. Accordingly, the Indian myths contained in the *Sindu Vannam* communicate moral principles such as the dispensation of injustice, fairness, suppression of evil, non-violence, friendliness, self-sacrifice, benevolence, compassion, equality, righteousness, etc. The moral qualities embodied in the myths associated with the *God Vishnu* are grasped by the devotees through the *Sindu Vannam*. This can be explained by using Hegelian Dialectical theory. Hegelian dialectical theory states that a new truth (Synthesis) is formed when a certain truth (Thesis) collides with its opposite (Antithesis). The socialisation of internally developed individuals minimises social problems and leads to social development.

This study concludes that the low country *Sindu Vannam* contains a number of Indian myths associated with the *God Vishnu*, which contribute to the development of personalities and the morality of society. The research suggests that this Intangible Cultural Heritage can be used creatively for personal and social development. It is also helping to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Keywords: *Sindu Vannam*, Indian Mythology Of *Lord Vishnu*, Morality, Social Development, Hegelian Dialectical Theory

Abstract code: 1.7/5019

Special collections in Punjabi University Library as the cultural heritage of Punjab: an exploratory study

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Punjabi University is the second university in the world to be named after a language. It was established in 1962 to promote the Punjabi language and literature and the history and culture of Punjab. Its main library is named Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha Library (BKSN Library) after a renowned Punjabi Sikh lexicographer and encyclopaedist Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha (1861 – 1938). Within BKSN Library is another special library named 'Dr. Ganda Singh Punjabi Reference Library' (PRL). BKSN Library contains 77 special personal collections donated by eminent Punjabi persons or their families. These eminent persons include litterateurs and famous writers in Punjabi and other languages, statesmen (e.g., a former prime minister of India, Inder Kumar Gujral, 1919-2012) and others. These special collections are diverse in their content, both in terms of the languages the content is available and its format. A Special Collection Section (SCS) was recognised with the first personal collection donated in 1966 by the family of Bhai Mohan Singh Vaid (1881-1936), an apothecary, writer, collector of books and social reformer. In subsequent years, the library received many other personal collections, and it decided to keep all these rare materials at one place. Today, the SCS has 76 personal collections within the PRL. In addition to Inder Kumar Gujral Collection is a part of the BKSN Library but not a part of PRL. This exploratory study focuses on these 77 special collections, particularly those that are large in the number of documents. This study explores the different facets of some of the large collections such as language, format of documents, subject diversity, place and year of publication.

To preserve the manuscripts, some of them have been laminated, and a few of these are digitised. The resources available in these collections are some of the finest materials available in the personal collections of eminent personalities. Thus, these represent the cultural heritage of Punjab. BKSN Library and the PRL play an important role in preserving this cultural heritage and providing access to these materials to users, especially research scholars who come from different parts of the country, to use these rare materials. The bibliometric study of other special collections, as well as a comparative study of these collections available in this library, should also be carried out.

Keywords: Punjabi University Library, Special Collections, Punjabi Reference Library, Punjab

Abstract code: 2.1/7001

Importance of Times of Ceylon Christmas Number as historical evidence

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This research focuses on the unique collection of 'Times of Ceylon Christmas Number' - the annual periodical published by the 'Times of Ceylon'. A collection is housed at the National Museum Library in Colombo (NMC), Sri Lanka. It is reported that the publication was started in 1905. However, the NMC collection is limited to the issues from 1909 to 1979. These contain time-bound information from within the country and overseas.

The study includes exploring the evolution of the newspaper structure and its contents using the content analysis method. The size of the magazine, page numbers, font size, photographic techniques, and photograph layouts are included in the structure. The content includes the author naming conventions and the content of the articles. The author names follow diverse writing conventions, and for example, some authors are represented by single letters or designation. Some have been identified by the parents' names. Local and international authors have covered a wide range of subjects, including cultural, social, historical, political, religious, and environmental aspects. It includes rare photo collections of people, places, and incidents. For instance, descriptions of traditional industries, studies of ethnic groups in the country, anecdotes on old construction projects, and old advertisements are a few of them.

Therefore, this collection is a valuable source to archaeologists, anthropologists, sociologists, historians and other researchers of contemporary society. As per the observations, it can be concluded that they contain a complete knowledge base as a small-scale encyclopedia.

Keywords: National Museum Library, Periodicals, Times Of Ceylon Christmas Number, Sri Lanka

Abstract code: 2.2/5032

The paintings used for palm leaf manuscripts: a study based on palm leaf manuscript collection at University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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Throughout entire human history, people have used letters and paintings for communication purposes. The temple paintings were a communication tool used by early artists. Most paintings display Buddhist *Jathaka katha*, the events of the Buddha's life and his discourses. Like temples, palm leaf manuscripts **(**PLM**)** also use paintings with text. The main objective of this study is to identify the paintings that are used in PLM. This study was based on the collection of PLM available in the library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Among them, the manuscripts containing paintings were selected as the sample of the study. These PLMs are dated back to the 18th and 19th century A.D. Data were gathered using the observation method, and the content analysis technique was used to analyse the data.

According to the data analysis, two main categories of paintings were identified; the *kamba* (cover) paintings and the paintings inside the folios. Most Buddhist manuscripts had paintings in the *kamba*. For example, *Manorathapuraniya, Saddharmarathnawaliya, Chullakammavibhanga sutta, Thupavamsa, Kurudharma jathakaya, Mahabinikman Kavya, Pirinivan Jathaka kavya* were some of the manuscripts that have *kamba* paintings. The inside paintings are of different categories. These include sketches of pressure points in the human body that are related to medicine, veterinary sketches, astrological sketches, black and white magic-related rituals, human sketches, geometric sketches etc. The compilers may not be artists, but they have tried to paint sketches for communication and decorative purposes. These PLMs should be protected and conserved for the next generation.

Keywords: Traditional Communication Methods, *Kamba* Paintings, Sketches, Palm Leaf Manuscripts, Sri Jayewardenepura University Library

Abstract code: 2.3/5002

A study on historically valuable Ceylon Blue Book Collection in the Library, University of Ruhuna

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The Ceylon Blue Book was published in 19th and 20th Centuries when Sri Lanka was under British rule. It is a Government publication and was published to showcase the colonial progress during the said period. The book is called the Blue Book for its cover is blue in colour. This study analysed the content of Blue Books in the Ceylon Blue Books Collection in the Library of the University of Ruhuna. There are 80 books published from 1876 to 1937 under government regulations.

This report was produced annually to the British Government by the Governor of Ceylon through the Secretary for the crown colony. The content is contributed by the Department of Registrar General, Department of Census and Statistics, Department of Commerce and Industries etc. The publication covers social, political, economic, historical data and statistics relevant to different events that happened in the country within a particular year. It also includes data related to agriculture, manufacture, transportation, education, population & statistics, military expenditure, government railway, irrigation work, shipping, currency & banking, and export & import. The data are arranged by the province. The content is in English and includes diagrams where necessary. These have a history running back to 150 years and include a beneficial collection of information for scholars.

The preservation of Blue Books is currently challenged, and the digitalisation of content can be a possible solution.

Keywords: Ceylon Blue Book, University Of Ruhuna Library, Government Reports

Abstract code: 2.4/5020

Importance of non-fiction movies as an information source to study cultural heritage

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Sri Lanka can be considered as a country with rich cultural heritage. Various information sources such as monuments, manuscripts, and printed documents are used to study the cultural heritage. Documentary and non-fiction films are another valuable and important information source that could be used for such studies. These films are highly useful to study cultural heritage from an anthropological perspective. In Sri Lanka there is a strong documentary and non-fiction tradition going back to the beginning of the 20th century. This film genre was also popular in the Western world and vastly used to study anthropology visually. The study's objective was to investigate the visual anthropological value of certain non-fiction films produced in Sri Lanka.

According to the colonial film website, films had been produced during the colonial period in Sri Lanka covering folklife in the country and various events regarding the British rule. Italian Julio Petroni and Britisher Ralph Keen were the leading directors who introduced this film genre in Sri Lanka. Living Wild (1959) and *Sathveni Sandawe Geethaya* (1993) directed by Irvin Weerakkody and Sudath Mahadivulweva, respectively, can be considered as the two non-fiction films produced totally compatible with the anthropological criteria. Most of these films are stored and conserved in the Government Film Unit.

The study clearly proved that this film genre could be used to explore folklore, culture, identities, costumes, language variations, vocations and behaviour of specific cultural groups and tribes in depth. It is important to convert such films into digital format and store not only in the Government Film Unit but also in the National Library of Sri Lanka and some other major cultural libraries in the country and make them available for researchers and users for their study purposes.

Keywords: Non-Fiction Films, Visual Anthropology, Sri Lanka

Abstract code: 2.5/5027

Bibliometric study on folklore books published in Sinhala during 2010-2019

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Folklore is one of the major areas of cultural heritage. It can be described as the memory of society. Folklore has a close connection with the traditional knowledge attached to science, arts, literature, human behaviour etc. Though folklore is basically considered as a tacit knowledge, it can be converted into explicit knowledge through printed publications. In Sri Lanka, there is a long tradition of publishing books on folklore, conserving intangible knowledge. This bibliometric study focused on analysing books published in Sinhala during 2010-2019. Sri Lanka National Bibliography was used as the primary source of data.

During this decade, 499 books on folklore had been published, including reprints. According to the analysis, there is no significant variation in the number of books published each year. However, a severe imbalance between sub-themes of folklore were identified. Altogether 31 sub-themes were identified, 09 sub-themes were most influential than others. These were folk tales, folk poetry, fables, idioms, customs, folklore, fairy tales, festivals and folk culture. From books within these 9 sub-themes, 267 books belonged to folk tales and folk poetry. Forty-two books from 34 foreign languages had been translated into Sinhala. Fifty-three books related to 42 geographical places and areas in Sri Lanka had also been published. Gunasekara Gunasoma, Mahinda Kumara Dalupotha, Norman Siripala, Siripala Maduwage, and Gamini Kandepola were the leading authors who greatly contributed to enhancing folklore literature during the period. Tennison Perera, Sisira Alahakoon, Parakrama Wijewardhana and Tissa Hewawissa could be identified as main translators. According to the study, it was clear that most folklore literature in Sri Lanka still relies on presenting information rather than developing a knowledge base founded on that information. Therefore, in the future, authors and publishers must focus their attention on not limiting folklore literature to its appreciation but expanding it towards knowledge synthesis and preservation.

Keywords: Folklore Literature, Cultural Heritage, Traditional Knowledge, Bibliometric Study

Abstract code: 2.6/5028

A bibliographic study of the research articles published in Vol 1 (Issues 1-12) of the Journal of *Ayurveda Sameeksha*

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This study attempts to analyse systematically the research articles published in the vol. I issue 1 to 12 of the *Ayurveda Sameeksha* during a period of nearly two decades (1985-2003).

Among the various medical methods globally, Ayurveda medicine has a historical heritage of thousands of years. Sri Lanka occupies an important place among the countries where Ayurveda medicine is practised. This can be well illustrated by the association of Ayurvedic medicine in the country from the time of *King Ravana*. *Ayurveda Sameeksha*, which has been published by the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka since 1985 can be considered a scientific research journal. This academic journal has so far been published in 2 volumes, the Volume 1 with 12 issues (1985-2003) and the Volume 2 with 7 issues (2004-to date) with irregular frequency. Except for the first issue, the other issues have been organised under three sections: Academic section (*śāstrīya khaṇḍaya),* Literary section *(sāhitya khaṇḍaya)* and Research section *(paryēṣaṇa khaṇḍaya).* In addition, a collection of articles on each issue is published on a specific topic related to Ayurveda medicine. The first volume of this journal contained 757 articles. The existing literature reveals that the contents of the academic articles in *Ayurveda Sameeksha* had not been previously analysed. Therefore, this study fills the void, which will help Ayurveda practitioners to locate the academic information they need for studies and practice.

Analysing the diversity of the articles published in the journal may also reveal the research areas not adequately discussed. Descriptive research methods were used to collect data, tabulate, and analyse them. Most articles have discussed about indigenous *Cikitsa* (therapy) systems (721). The dominant medium of articles is Sinhala (609). The other articles are in the English medium. The articles in the Volume 2 (300 in number) published so far will be analysed in a future study.

Keywords: Indigenous Medicine, Ayurvedic Medicine, Ayurvedic Literature, *Ayurveda Sameeksha,* Bibliographic Studies

Abstract code: 2.7/5030

Evaluative study of manuscript conservation in Maharashtra

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India is known globally as the repository of one of the ancient-most civilisations of the world, with more manuscript collections than any other country in the world. It is estimated that there are 50 lakhs of manuscripts scattered around the country, of which only a small percentage has been surveyed, and about 25% of them catalogued. While handmade paper manuscripts abound across the country, palm leaf and birch bark manuscripts are also found in coastal and Himalayan regions, respectively. A first of its kind evaluative study of conservation activities of the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) and its partner centres in Maharashtra is carried out to assess their strengths and weaknesses and suggest a policy framework for effective conservation of the manuscripts. This study aims to carry out an evaluative study of 13 NMM partner centres and about 42 manuscript custodian centres in Maharashtra. The survey used an elaborate questionnaire coupled with personal visits and telephone interviews. All the 13 NMM partner centres have been surveyed, and their data analysed.

All the NMM partner centres in Maharashtra (100%) have acquired their manuscript (MSS) collections through voluntary donation. Most MSS custodian centres do not know the exact number of their MSS collections. Most of the MSS primarily belong to the period 1601 AD to 1900AD. Sanskrit and Marathi are the predominant languages, with Farsi MSS also found in many partner centres. Devanagari, and Modi are the most common scripts found in the MSS.

Only six centres (46.15%) employ modern conservation methods such as the sprinkling of pesticides, use of fumigation chamber and the use of naphthalene balls. Almost all partner centres suffer from inadequacy of funds. The budgetary allocations of these NMM partner centres range from 2-9 lakhs per annum. Eleven out of 13 centres (84.61%) have partially or entirely digitised their manuscript collection. In all, more than 47,800 manuscripts and about 300000 documents have been digitally preserved by the NMM partner centres. Digital copies of only 4 out of 11 centres have been uploaded on the Internet or the intranet. It is recommended that this study be replicated in other Indian states to know the current situation of the various manuscript custodian and conservation centres.

Keywords: Manuscripts, Conservation, Maharashtra State, National Mission For Manuscripts, Cultural Heritage, Digital Preservation

Abstract code: 2.8/7002

World Digital Library: bridging the cultural divide

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Cultural heritage is the legacy we receive from the past, experienced in the present, and transmitted to future generations. The preservation of cultural heritage needs scholarly attention and involves the identification of initiatives taken in this context to safeguard our identity. The current study explores the cultural treasures trapped in the World Digital Library (WDL) and reflects its progression since its inception. It showcases the cultural items available along with geographical and institutional contributions across the globe. The data were collected from the website of WDL. Each of the specific tabs on the website was examined to answer the research objectives.

19,147 items are available in the World Digital Library, which mainly includes prints & photographs (9,491), newspapers (3,561) and books (2,195). The items are contributed by 193 countries across the globe. Among the regions, the Middle East and North Africa contribute the highest number of items (3,629), followed by Central and South Asia (3457) and North America (2,093). Among the countries, Russian Federation leads with 4,246 items, followed by the United States of America (1,890), Iraq (1,705) and Afghanistan (1,180). Most of the items belong to the period; 1900 CE- 1949 CE (7,386) and 1850 CE – 1899 CE (5,960), with most of the contributions from the Library of Congress (8537), Iraqi National Library and Archives (1509), and National Library of Argentina (966). Most of the cultural items are about the topic; History & geography (16,135), Computer science, information, general works (3,560), Social sciences (3,163) and the arts; fine & decorative arts (3,124).

The current study adds to the growing body of knowledge to the existing literature on the initiatives to preserve cultural heritage and promotes international and intercultural understanding. It highlights the volume and variety of cultural content on the Internet via-WDL; provides resources for educators, scholars, and general audiences, to narrow the cultural divide within and among countries.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, Digital Divide, Manuscripts, Cultural Artefacts, Digitisation Projects

Abstract code: 2.9/7016

Role of the National Library of Sri Lanka in building, safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage

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Sri Lanka is among the few countries that boast of its vast and rich cultural diversities. The main role of the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) is to build, safeguard and promote Sri Lankan cultural heritage dating back to 2500 years of history that is unique and thereby contributes to the Sri Lankan identity.

Cultural heritage comes mainly in two forms: tangible forms, such as sites, buildings, landscapes, and intangible forms, such as memories, emotions, values and customs. As the focal point of the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage (ICH) of Sri Lanka, the NLSL builds an ICH collection that consists of manuscripts on Sinhalese folklore, folk songs, folk tales, Sinhalese legends, Sinhalese customs and ceremonies, rituals, deities, demons, etc. In 2018 through the intervention by the NLSL, UNESCO included String Puppets (*rookada*) in the 'Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity', and Dumbara mats were proposed to be included (to be added by the end of 2021).

The specific objective of the study is to identify the usage level of the ICH collection by its reader population. Also, this aims to recognise challenges encountered by the NLSL in preserving cultural heritage. The exploratory approach was adopted in this study. An online survey was conducted by sending a questionnaire to registered users in the NLSL database. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with relevant officials to gain information on the preservation and promotion of the ICH collection from its inception.

The findings revealed that the usage of ICH collection is not satisfactory as there is a lack of interest shown by younger generations. Preservation measures are applied, but constant supervision needs to be improved. In conclusion, the challenges encountered by the NLSL are financial restrictions, lack of skilled staff in the preservation, and not having a country-wide network to coordinate with other libraries with similar collections at the provincial level. This fundamental study showcases the need to preserve and document Sri Lankan intangible cultural heritage and elaborates the role of the National Library of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: National Library Of Sri Lanka, Intangible Cultural Heritage Collection, *Rookada*, String Puppets, Dumbara Mats

Abstract code: 3.1/5024

Preservation of cultural heritage: The role of archives, libraries, and museums of Kohima, Nagaland State of India

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The role of archives, libraries, and museums in preserving cultural heritage resources is essential to sustainable development. Preservation of cultural heritage by the archives, libraries, and museums of Kohima, Nagaland has helped to recognise the importance of cultural practices of *Naga* history. The *Naga* culture is on the verge of decay with the introduction of Christianity and education by the western missionaries. The people of *Naga* are carried away by Western culture and gradually forget their cultural practices. Archives, libraries, and museums are the cultural heritage institutions preserving the *Naga* cultural practices in the form of documents, records, and artefacts. Therefore, there is a need to study archives, libraries, and museums and understand their significant role and services rendered in preserving *Naga* cultural heritage. A self-survey was conducted on the selected institutions which are involved in the collection, storage, preservation, and promotion of the cultural heritage resources. The data were obtained by visiting and interviewing the staff working in these State Archives, State Libraries, and State Museums (ALMs) Kohima, Nagaland. Only these three government institutions were selected for easy accessibility and convenience.

The number of employees of archives, libraries, and museums varies from one another. State Archives has a total of 3 employees in charge of the archive services, the State Library has 17 employees, and the State Museum has a total number of 10 employees.

The findings show there is a lack of effective strategy in coordinating the functions of archives, libraries, and museums, in Kohima, Nagaland. There are challenges of funding, expertise, preservation, coordination, public support, and government intervention. The study shows the need for recruiting professionals, strategy for training the staff, and the need for coordination to ensure preservation and promotion of the use of cultural heritage resources of Nagaland State.

It is recommended there is a need of training programmed for the ALM staff to deliver effective services. The LIS professionals and researchers should combine their thoughts and develop a practical design to enhance the strategy of implementing good services of ALMs Institutions.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, *Naga* Culture, Nagaland, Archives, Libraries, Museums

Abstract code: 3.2/7007

Preservation of information resources in selected school libraries in Badulla District

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A library is one of the social institutions whose major function is to acquire, process, organise, preserve, and conserve print and non-print information resources for users. The primary functions of a school library are the acquisition, organisation, processing, storing, preservation, and transmission of information resources to students, staff, and the community of users. The preservation of information resources in school libraries has been observed to be ignored by the school administration. The majority of information resources in school libraries are print documents that can deteriorate due to various circumstances, preventing users from having long-term access to them when needed. As a result, it becomes a topic worth researching.

The study's research problem is whether the information resources of the Badulla District School Libraries are properly preserved. The survey research method was used in this study. The researcher had the following objectives in carrying out the research; identifying information resources available in the school libraries, identifying barriers to the preservation of information resources in the school libraries, and identifying the support given to preservation by the school management. The research population was all Central Schools in Badulla district (27). From these 1AB Central Schools, 18 libraries having Advanced Level Science stream classes were selected to the sample.

It was identified that the usage of preservation policies was very low. Dusting and regular floor mopping were the available preservation measures put in place. Lack of funds and inadequate infrastructure on the aspects of preservation of information resources were the major confrontations in selected school libraries. Among this sample, only seven libraries used simple methods for preservation. Eleven libraries did not use any preservation method for the safety of library resources.

It can be concluded that the main reason for this is that the school management staff did not pay much attention to this need because of a lack of awareness. The researcher recommends conducting awareness sessions. Also, the Government should provide adequate funding for the conservation of school library materials. Conservation policies for school libraries should also be formulated.

Keywords: Preservation, School Libraries, Information Resources, Badulla District

Abstract code: 3.3/5031

Archiving experiential: a digital archiving approach to preserve Intangible Cultural Heritage

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Cultural Heritage mirrors the legacy and the uniqueness of human society. Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is one subset that comes under the Cultural Heritage, which is mainly associated with the nonphysical and ephemeral activities such as folklore, customs, beliefs, traditions, knowledge, performances, and language. Preserving and capturing ICH is not easy as it is not material or perpetual. Since physical preservation of ICH is challenging, the author seeks avenues for preserving ICH digitally and informationally. The existing Digital Archives provided by renowned memory institutions are typical examples for ICH archiving, but they only archive specific instances of a certain ICH. The authors have identified these common issues related to ICH information and propose a model to organise this information so that its originality is preserved. The proposed CEDA (Concepts, Embodiment, and Digital Archives) model distinguishes the "embodiment" and "conceptual" entities allied with the ICH while providing comprehensive coverage on archiving them as digital objects. The same model can be applied to archive events such as disasters, exhibitions, and performing arts, which are termed as "experiential". Separation of conceptual and embodied entities is crucial when creating "Archived Digital Objects" and their metadata because embodied entities are used to create digital surrogates while conceptual entities are used for the organisation of digital archives based on the intellectual contents of the archived resources. The CEDA comprehend these aspects, providing a novel approach to archiving ICH digitally.

Keywords: Digital Archives, Intangible Cultural Heritage, CEDA Model

Abstract code: 3.4/5026

Digitisation of collections in cultural and heritage institutions of Pakistan

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The Digital era is on the rise in all kinds of institutions, including cultural and heritage institutions. The users are demanding information in digital formats that offer significant advantages. The first of this kind in Pakistan, this study assessed the digitisation capabilities of current practices, including criteria for material selection, goals, approaches, etc., and metadata practices and barriers. The study used a quantitative survey research method to meet its objectives, and data were collected from twenty museums situated in different parts of the country.

The cultural and heritage institutions situated in Pakistan were the target population for the study. The list of the cultural and heritage institutions was made by personal efforts, and data were gathered through personal contacts. The study received 20 responses (10 from Punjab; five from Islamabad Capital Territory, two from Sindh, two from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one from Baluchistan).

The study revealed that 60% of respondent institutions were involved in digitising material and artefacts, whereas only 40% had a formal digitisation policy. In terms of their capabilities to initiate, accomplish, and sustain digitisation projects, the respondent institutions rate technological resources availability higher than the availability of human resources, financial resources, and the development of digitisation plans, policies, and procedures. In terms of criteria to select the material for digitisation, fragility and demand of the visitors were considered most important. The top three goals of digitisation projects were to minimise damage to original materials, ease for academic use, and enriching information access. The study concluded that digitisation activities at museums are in infancy and face many problems. The study offers theoretical implications for researchers and practical implications for policymakers, related government departments, and administrators of cultural and heritage institutions. The study recommends that government bodies and ministries provide funds for digitisation projects and the museum administrations to initiate collection digitisation projects on the line of global practices

Keywords: Digitisation, Museum Collections, Barriers, Cultural And Heritage Collections, Pakistan

Abstract code: 3.5/7004

Improving resource-based teaching-learning in schools using school library learning resource centres

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The field of contemporary education faces the challenging task of creating a global citizen who can succeed in the 21st century. In this process, the main responsibility of educators is to develop a child with the knowledge to cope with the global society. Therefore, developing a child with critical thinking and communication skills, media literacy, supportive capacities, information literacy, and creativity is essential. School Library and Learning Resource Centre (LLRC) is extremely important to achieve this goal. Without the necessary support from LLRC, developing students as independent learners would not become a reality. This can succeed by integrating more learning resources other than textbooks and teachers' guides.

The study's main objective is to develop a resourced-based Teaching and Learning curriculum and implement it in selected schools. Eleven schools of 1AB and IC types representing all educational zones in the Western province were selected as the sample. The mixed approach was used, mainly with questionnaires, observations, group discussions and interviews as the data collection methods. This study also explored the involvement of principals into the process by distributing a questionnaire among principles. While implementing the curriculum, regular supervision and monitoring were carried out. Principals, subject teachers, library teachers and information technology teachers maintained reflective journals and reports to confirm how the teaching and learning process occurred.

The data analysis indicated that the majority of principals' attitudes on LLRC were changed into positive direction. Around 73% of the principals agreed to provide more support to the LLRC to develop students' independent learning skills. Further, teachers and students also realised the importance of the LLRC for integrated teaching and learning within the framework of resource-based activities. It also revealed that principals' involvement was the decisive factor in succeeding such a practice in the school. The study recommends implementing a similar program to other schools in the Western province.

Keywords: Resource-Based Learning, Independent Learners, School Library, Library Learning Resource Center

Abstract code: 4.1/3006

Impact of online learning methods on the qualitative development of the learning-teaching process

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With the global epidemic of Covid-19, children's access to traditional education from Preschool to University had been tremendously limited. Education was identified as a critical area challenged due to this epidemic. As a result, the online distance learning approach was applied during the period. However, poor coverage of internet access has been mentioned as a drawback. The study's main objectives were examining the use of online method for the general school education process and identifying the major challenges and problems faced in the use of online methods. Eighteen (18) schools in the Kelaniya educational zone participated in this study. A sample of teachers (226), principals (18) and students (370) were selected using the stratified sampling method.

Most students (66%) were girls. 76% of the teachers were ladies. The data collected from questionnaires were descriptively analysed. It was realised that 91% of the students were studying online. 99% of the teachers had taught using online methods. Teachers' age or level of education was not a contributing factor for the decision to teach online. Students' age was also not contributing. 51% were using mobile phones to connect to online classes. 42% of students and 54% of teachers were using multiple devices (mobile phones and laptops for example). The percentage of students who do not have devices or internet access at home is 14% and 24%, 65% of the teachers have started teaching online because of the directions of the Government and school administration, 55% of teachers had no formal training on online teaching and 67% of children had good technical knowledge. There was no difference in technical knowledge based on gender. 99% of students accept they had actively participated in online learning. However, 17% of teachers think that the active participation of students is very low in online teaching. 58% of teachers agree there are disturbances due to technical glitches. The above results confirm that most students and teachers were using mobile phones for online education, though there had been problems. Teachers do not have adequate and formal training for online teaching, which is a major obstacle to the effectiveness of online education. Therefore, a proper program should be implemented to expeditiously provide very formal and adequate training to teachers. As a significant number of students are hampered by the lack of technical tools and internet connectivity required to study online, it is imperative to expedite the launch of financial facilitation projects to increase those facilities.

Keywords: Schools, Sri Lanka, Teaching, Learning, Online Education

Abstract code: 4.2/3005

The attitude of principals towards the functioning of School Library Learning Resource Centres as a partner of curriculum

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School Library and Learning Resources Centre (SLLRC) has a crucial role in conducting resource-based learning within the schools. SLLRC consists of a library, audio visual unit and computer laboratory. To successfully implement this teaching and learning process, the collaboration between the subject teachers, library teachers, and information technology teachers is essential. Because without having information skills, and resource-based learning (RBL), students cannot reach the higher-order thinking skills. As an educational leader of the school, a principal's attitude becomes a pivotal factor in implementing the RBL practice successfully in the school. The study's main objective was to investigate the attitude of principals toward the SLLRC and the RBL. Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect data from the selected sample. Descriptive statistical methods and qualitative methods were used to conduct thematic analyses. The study population was all the principals of schools with an SLLRC in Maho education zone in Sri Lanka. Forty principals from secondary schools were selected, representing schools of types 1AB, 1C and type 2 as the sample. The study revealed that the principals' attitude towards SLLRC and RBL was positive, without considering the factors such as location and type of the school, educational and professional qualifications and service experience of principals (significance of the factors were 0.05<, i.e. 0.063).

Moreover, unclear and insufficient awareness of RBL among principals was evident (65%). This contradiction had negatively affected the implementation of RBL and enhancing students' information skills in schools. It is essential to conduct regular training and awareness sessions for principals about the relationship between RBL and SLLRC. Also, it would be highly supportive for principals to overcome the limitations as curriculum partners and provide necessary guidance for the proper functioning of SLLRC and RBL.

Keywords: School Library, Resourced Based Learning, Curriculum Partner, Principals, Attitudes, Sri Lanka

Abstract code: 4.3/3007

Evaluation of reading programs conducted by Western Province School Libraries for the 2019 National Reading Month in Sri Lanka

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National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) declared October as National Reading month in Sri Lanka in 2004 and provide guidance to conduct various reading activities and programs to enhance reading culture in the country. Especially, public and school libraries organise reading programs according to the guidelines annually issued by the NLDSB. Accordingly, libraries compile a report on events they conducted. The theme of 2019 was "Let's read with children".

The objective of this study was to identify trends in selecting programs by school libraries for National Reading Month. The content analysis methodology was used for this study. Main categories given in the National Library Circular for reading month programs were used to code types of programs. Only the reports submitted in Sinhala by Western Province schools were analysed. There are 1133 libraries in 1360 schools in the province. But only 11 reports had been received. There were 108 Sinhala medium reports from school libraries in the country. Therefore, this analysis is limited to 10% of all Sinhala reports received from schools. These libraries have conducted 77 programs.

The majority of libraries had implemented programs on reading promotion (04) and organising creative circles (04). Purchasing new materials related to the theme (01), having a story hour program (01), and membership drives (01) were the least popular. Many libraries had conducted at least 5-10 projects under the 2019 reading month program. Compared with the number of schools in the country, the response was extremely low. All programs had been conducted for school children. No program included teachers and parents in their projects. A significant diversity of programs also could not be seen. Therefore, it is important to motivate and provide necessary guidance to school librarians to conduct such programs and increase the awareness of education officials responsible for monitoring and supervision. Also, increasing the social impact of programs and the relevance to the theme is required. Utilising audio visuals for conducting programs is recommended. The NLDSB also should issue the circular for the next year at least by October of the previous year.

Keywords: School Libraries, Reading, Reading Promotion, National Reading Month, National Library, Sri Lanka

Abstract code: 4.4/3016

Collection management in *Pirivena* Libraries in the Northwestern Province of Sri Lanka

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Buddhist temples have served as the centres of education in Sri Lanka since the ancient Anuradhapura period. Buddhist educational establishments are called *Pirivenas*. However, it is a fact that since the introduction of the British education system, the importance of *pirivena* education has gradually declined. However, there are several *pirivenas* throughout the country performing the educational role. These *pirivenas* function under the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Education Departments. An administrative structure similar to the general education system is also available. Most *Pirivena* Education Centres have libraries to support the teaching and learning process.

This study's objective was to analyse the current situation of collection management in *pirivena* libraries in Northwestern province. Five major *pirivenas* were selected as the sample. A questionnaire, interviews and observation were used as data collection tools. According to the results obtained, all *pirivena* libraries function without a trained and qualified librarian. Also, there is no proper procedure to recruit librarians. There is no systematic funding channel for purchasing library materials. Though the authorities allocate a certain amount of funds for the administration of *pirivenas*, the chief incumbent decides the amount to be allocated to the library. Hence, *pirivena* libraries use donations from staff members and students to develop their collections. The organisation of collections mainly rely on their own classification systems. No consistency could be seen in classification. A cataloguing system has never been used. It was clear that there is no relationship between the teaching-learning process and the library.

Therefore, it is recommended to create the post of Librarian and formulate a systematic recruitment scheme for *pirivena* libraries. A systematic collection development procedure should be introduced, and regular training sessions for persons in charge of the libraries must be conducted including all aspects of collection management. Further, organising awareness programs for Pirivena Directors and other higher officials who are responsible for decision making is also extremely important.

Keywords: Buddhist Education, *Pirivena,* Libraries, Collection Management

Abstract code: 4.5/3004

A study on the contribution of public libraries for uplifting citizenship in Sri Lanka

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According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, citizenship is a relationship between an individual and the state to which the individual owes commitment and is entitled to its protection. The 16th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) ensures promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. The goal is finally connected with a democratic society. Public libraries have a significant responsibility in this regard amongst other influential social institutions.

We explored how public libraries address this through appropriate measures as a social institution that is close to the public. The objectives of this research were to consider the awareness of public librarians on citizenship and to analyse the services provided by public libraries to enhance citizenship. The researcher used mixed methods in conducting the research and a judgmental sample was selected. A questionnaire was administered to eleven Public Librarians of the main public libraries in the Colombo District. In-depth interviews were conducted with ten social science and library science academics (05 from each group). These were supported by non-participatory observations and the responses were analysed using descriptive methods.

Seventy per cent of the sample believed that public libraries have a considerable responsibility to uplift the citizenship of citizens. Most libraries (73%) had followed IFLA guidelines in this regard. The Supra and Grade I libraries (45%) had achieved good results in uplifting citizenship.

Public libraries are required to undertake programs on information literacy promotion in accordance with national and international guidelines. However, the knowledge of public librarians concerning citizenship and information literacy for citizenship is inadequate. Therefore, awareness programs must be conducted to enhance their knowledge. Furthermore, in-depth studies are vital to identify stimuli that impact enhanced citizenship.

Keywords: Citizenship, Public Libraries, Information Literacy, Democracy

Abstract code: 4.6/3002

Identification of information needs for the development of Culture-Based Fisheries in Sri Lanka

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The fisheries sector is one of the significant income-generating industries in the Sri Lankan economy, contributing 1.5% of the GDP. Culture-Based Fisheries (CBF) play an important role in providing numerous benefits to society. Food-fish is the main agent that provides animal protein to the nation. Due to the increasing population, the decline of fishery resources globally is a major challenge to sustain food security in the country. Therefore, culture-based fisheries is identified as an alternative to meet the current food-fish demand and reduce the pressure to capture fishery resources.

Thus, this study aimed to investigate the required economic information, level of education and skills, effective methods of enhancing knowledge and skills, potential opportunities for culture-based fisheries, and challenges and gaps between fisheries production and demand to increase the per capita consumption recommended by the WHO. The study approach is the mixed method. A questionnaire and interviews collected primary data from well-qualified experts in related fields.

Results show that economically most essential information are on the suitable sites (89.74%), water quality (84.61%), potential species (58.97%), and culture techniques (48.71%). Socio-economic conditions (74.35%), Investment cost (64.10%), nutrition value (64.10%), policy, and law (69.23%) were identified as essential information for developing CBF. Concerning the level of education required for CBF development, higher education is required in planning/operation, growth/yield estimation, and disease/treatments. Training is important for all aspects, including farm organisation, water quality maintenance, feed supplements, record keeping, and pond monitoring. Further, the study revealed that CBF can be integrated with agriculture, environmental management, and tourism for creating more job opportunities. Possible challenges in CBF were environmental issues, availability of technology, investment promotion, and market access. As the study reveals, the overall fisheries management process in Sri Lanka needs to be improved. Therefore, the study recommends constructing an information system/database as a tool for gathering data sharing knowledge and information effectively and efficiently.

Keywords: Fisheries Industry, Culture-Based Fishery, Food Security, Sustainable Development

Abstract code: 4.7/3003

A bibliometric analysis of information sources used in research reports submitted by Undergraduates

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The use of information sources in academic writing relates to the growing interest and the possibilities of the material in the respective discipline. Undergraduates are new to the field of research culture. Therefore, they face difficulties in locating, citing, and effectively utilising the library resources for their research reports. This study investigated the patterns of information sources access and use in undergraduate research reports submitted by the undergraduates of the Swami Vipulanananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies. The study examined 32 research reports submitted by the Special Degree students of Drama and Theatre of the academic year 2014/2015. Bibliographic data of referred materials were extracted from the reference list of each research report. The collected data was entered and analysed in Microsoft Excel.

The study revealed that the total number of references yielded from research reports was 828 of which 529 (63.9%) were books, 16.4% were web sources, 9.8% were magazines, 6.2% were journals, 2.4 % were reports, and 1.3% were newspapers. A total of 294 authors contributed to all references. S. Mounaguru was the most influential and predominant author among the students, with 81 (11.7%), followed by K. Sivathampy with of 30 (4.3%). Tamil was the preferred medium for most students, which is 85%. Further, 75.3% of referred materials had been published in Sri Lanka, 18.8 % in India, and 5.9% in other countries. Only 10% of the referred material were recent publications (2016 and above). Moreover, 42.3% of in-house materials had been used in research reports. The findings of the study will guide the improvement of the existing library collection and help make decisions on journal subscriptions for the field. Further, this study recommends conducting a library outreach programme for undergraduates on material selection, in-text citing, and effective use of information sources in research reports and mentoring them for academic writing. The translation services should introduce in the library to enhance the usage of other language materials.

Keywords: Academic Writing, Bibliometric Analysis, Library Collection, Reference Sources

Abstract code: 4.8/3015

Effects of Covid-19 pandemic on finding support materials by Postgraduate Students attending online classes

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The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic led to the closure of educational institutions, including libraries. In response, almost all educational institutions switched from face-to-face teaching and learning to distance learning through online modes.

The main objective of this study was to examine the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on finding academic support materials by postgraduate students attending online classes. Specific objectives were to examine the types of materials available, frequency of use of different materials and services, information searching techniques utilised, and describe the difficulties they face in accessing and using academic support materials.

An online questionnaire was used to gather data. The total population was the current students of postgraduate courses currently in operation at NILIS. Out of 33 students, 26 responded.

The majority of respondents (73%) have used academic support material during the period. Also, most users preferred to use English language academic support materials. Providing access to E-resources by the institution also has significantly increased.

Findings show that among the methods of accessing support materials, searching the Web, Google Scholar and scholarly databases during the pandemic were 81%, 69% and 58%, respectively. Accordingly, the main technique was using popular search engines. Asking a librarian, teacher, or a colleague was low (35%) during the pandemic. 42% of respondents stated that they purchased support materials online. Only 4% of respondents had visited bookstores during the pandemic.

65% of respondents stated that they have difficulty accessing academic support materials due to the closure of libraries and barriers in accessing the Internet. Low access to e-books and printed materials was experienced. Out of 26 respondents, 08 respondents stated that they have low signal coverage and network issues. Half of the respondents stated that they have language barriers too. 19% of all respondents had used translation applications to overcome the obstacle. These findings of this study can be extended for an in-depth analysis in future.

Keywords: Academic Support Materials, Online Classes, Electronic Resources, Postgraduate Students, COVID-19

Effect of social media on reading habits of students during the Covid-19 pandemic

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Social media played a vital role during the Covid-19 pandemic period as a mode of information sharing. Students used social media for their education, entertainment, and for maintaining social interaction. They used social media for reading for pleasure and knowledge as well. Because libraries and bookshops were closed, they used to read through social media. This study examined the effect of social media on reading habits of students during the Covid 19 pandemic. To determine whether there is an effect of social media on reading habits of the students, a survey was conducted. This study used an online questionnaire for quantitative data collection and a structured interview for qualitative data. The Diploma and Higher Diploma students at NILIS was the research population. Out of 78 students, only 18 students responded to the questionnaire. Fourteen (14) of them were females, while 4 were males. Ten (10) of them agreed to participate in an in-depth interview.

83% had used social media daily. The main reason for use is 'information purpose' (32%) followed by entertainment (30%) and academic purposes (27). 75% agreed that the pandemic influenced the use of social media. 56% strongly agreed that social media had satisfied their information needs during the pandemic. More than 61% of the students agreed that their reading behaviour had changed during the pandemic.

Therefore, social media had a significant effect on students' reading habits during the Covid 19 pandemic. The quality of the information received through social media was not evaluated as it was not within the scope of this study. It is recommended that in a future study, this aspect is also taken into consideration.

Keywords: Social Media, Reading Habits, Reading Behaviour, Covid-19

Abstract code: 4.10/3017

Abstract code: 4.9/3010

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