



NILIS International Research Conference (NIReC) 2026

Bridging Knowledge, Technology, and Society through Information Literacy and Digital Transformation

22nd October 2026 - Online Mode

PROGRAMME

8.30 am - 9.00 am	Registration
9.00 am - 9.10 am	Lighting of the Oil Lamp
9.10 am - 9.15 am	Welcome Address Dr Prasanna Ranaweera/ Conference Chair Senior Lecturer, NILIS, University of Colombo
9.15 am - 9.20 am	Inauguration Address Professor (Dr) Ruwan Gamage/ Director NILIS, University of Colombo
9.20 am - 9.30 am	Address by the Chief Guest Professor Indika Mahesh Karunathilake Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo
9.30 am - 9.35 am	Launch of the NIReC 2026 Proceedings
9.35 am - 9.40 am	Introduction to the Keynote Speaker Mr. S. A. Jeewan Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Peradeniya
9.40 am - 10.05 am	Keynote Address <i>Bridging Knowledge, Technology, and Society: Reimagining the Role of Librarians in the Digital Age</i> Maria Teresa M. Cabance Head Librarian, Philippines Department of Labour & Employment The Philippines
10.10 am - 10.15 am	Short Video - “25 Years of Academic Excellence: NILIS, University of Colombo”
10.15 am - 10.25 am	Vote of Thanks Mr. T. Ramanan/ Conference Co-chair Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo
10.30 am - 12.00 pm	Technical Session 1: Information Literacy, Education, and Knowledge Communication
12.00 pm – 1.30 pm	Technical Session 2: Digital Transformation, AI, and Information Technologies
1.30 pm - 3.00 pm	Technical Session 3: Intellectual Property, Sustainability, and Heritage
3.00 pm	End of the Conference

10.30 a.m.

to

12.00 p.m.

TECHNICAL SESSION - I

Information Literacy, Education, and Knowledge Communication

Session Chair- Dr Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian, University of Colombo

Co-chair- Mr. N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, Eastern University Sri Lanka

Invited Speech:

Rethinking Media and Information Literacy in the Age of AI-Generated Social Media Content

Professor (Dr) Dilara Begum, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Information Studies and Librarian (In-Charge), East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

- 1 Role of digital library services (DLS) in enhancing research productivity among postgraduate students at the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

S. T. Wadugedara, G. D. M. N. Samaradiwakara

- 2 Preparation of final year students in national colleges of education to use technology in the teaching-learning process: Study of Polgolla National College of Education

B. N. G. S. Premarathne, B. E. S. Bandara, D. K. G. Wimalarathne

- 3 Evaluation of the usage of generative AI tools among undergraduates at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU)

W. P. I. M. Warnasooriya, T. Sriitharan

- 4 Integration of new media applications in primary school classroom teaching: Evidence from Kandy District, Sri Lanka

A. Dharmarathne

- 5 A comparative analysis of research support services provided by academic libraries in Sri Lanka: A study based on selected academic libraries

K. H. H. M. Somarathna

- 6 Students' information literacy in transition: From search engines to generative AI

P. B. Rathnayake, A. U. Jayawardhane

- 7 An analysis of research dissertations submitted to the Master of Teacher Librarianship program at the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, Sri Lanka

R. P. P. Ranaweera, U. P. Alahakoon

12.00 p.m.

to

1.30 p.m.

TECHNICAL SESSION - II

Digital Transformation, AI, and Information Technologies

Session Chair- Dr Kalpana Manatunga, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo

Co-chair- Ms. Hansamali Wickramasooriya, Assistant Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Invited Speech:

Bridging Knowledge, Technology, and Society: Enhancing Resource Findability through AI and Localization

Professor (Dr) Ruwan Gamage, Director, NILIS, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

- 1 Digital transformation and user engagement in academic libraries: A case study of final-year social science undergraduates at the University of Kelaniya

W. R. N. Indrachapa

- 2 Exploring trends and contributions in metadata quality research on institutional repositories: A bibliometric analysis

S. Weerasinghe, R. C. G. Gamage

- 3 Mapping algorithmic power in university libraries: A systematic review of research on search bias

G. Katugampala, K. G. Ridmika

- 4 Digital transformation and the disappearance of space: The erosion of social capital in the physical library

K. Ajita

- 5 An ontological framework for Sri Lankan medicinal plants: A web-based prototype

H. E. P. Mayuri, C. Wijesundara

- 6 Barriers to institutional repository deposit among academic staff at the University of Ruhuna: A content analysis

K. A. I. M. Amarasekara, R. C. G. Gamage

- 7 Publication trends on metadata and artificial intelligence in GLAM: A bibliometric analysis

S. Weerasinghe, C. Wijesundara

**1.30 p.m.
to
3.00 p.m.**

TECHNICAL SESSION - III

Intellectual Property, Sustainability, and Heritage

Session Chair- Dr. S. Ketheeswaren, Deputy Librarian, University of Jaffna

Co-chair- Ms. Irosha Marasinghe, Senior Assistant Librarian, Open University of Sri Lanka

Invited Speech:

Academic libraries and the preservation of intangible cultural heritage: Pathways towards sustainable development in Sri Lanka

Dr (Mrs.) Mohamed Majeed Mashroofa, Senior Assistant Librarian, Science Library, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

- 1 A novel Tri-Cryptographic Chain-of-Trust (TCCT) Model for Block chain-based intellectual property protection
M. G. Shruthi, N. Kumaresh
- 2 Organizational support as a determinant of service quality in private university libraries in Sri Lanka
M. P. M. K. De Silva, G. Aththanayaka
- 3 The relationship between organisational culture and lecturers' job satisfaction: a study of a private higher education institution in Sri Lanka
P. H. S Arshiya
- 4 Staff awareness of disaster resilience in Sri Lankan public libraries: A study based on the public libraries of the Colombo District of Sri Lanka
H. U. C. S. Kumara, K. W. A. M. Konpola
- 5 The role of bibliotherapy in resolving post-*Ditwah* psychosocial challenges among university students
D. N. T. Gunawardhana
- 6 Historical evolution of libraries in Army Training Institutions in Sri Lanka: A case study of the Sri Lanka Military Academy
A. E. Weerakkody, W. Senewirathne
- 7 Awareness and participation of users in the conservation and preservation of palm-leaf manuscripts in Sri Lanka
S. A. Jeewan