BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE - 2025 (ICLIS 2025)

26th - 27th June 2025
Diamond Jubilee Conference Hall
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
Sri Lanka

International Conference on

Library and Information Science

(ICLIS 2025)

"Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital"

at

Diamond Jubilee Conference Hall, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

Sri Lanka

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

2025

ICLIS 2025

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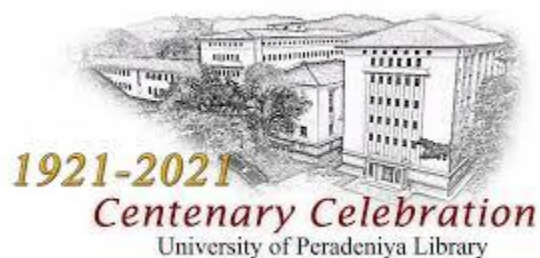Sri Lanka Convention Bureau

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Message from the Chief Guest

Prof. Terrence Madhujith
Vice-Chancellor
University of Peradeniya

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to all participants, organizers and contributors of the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS-2025), jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association and the Library System of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, on 26th and 27th June, 2025 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of the Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Geography and the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

This prestigious event provides a valuable platform for academics, professionals and researchers to share innovative findings and explore emerging trends that continue to shape the field of Library and Information Sciences.

ICLIS-2025 marks the first international conference organized by the Library of the University of Peradeniya. The selected theme, "Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital" reflects the evolving role of libraries in fostering intellectual growth, preserving cultural heritage and supporting social development.

In this context, the conference serves not only as a forum for scholarly exchange but also as an inspiration for envisioning the future of the Library and Information Science field. From advancing digital repositories to promoting inclusive access to knowledge, the contributions presented here highlight the dynamic and essential role of libraries in our rapidly changing world. I am pleased to note that over 60 participants from India, Nepal, Nigeria, and Maldives have registered for this event.

As the Vice-Chancellor, I am honored that the University of Peradeniya is hosting this significant international event for the first time through its Library System. I trust that the experiences and insights gained during this conference will continue to foster innovation, dialogue and progress in the years ahead.

With best wishes for a successful and impactful conference.

Message from the President of the SLLA

Dr. Preethi Liyanage
President
Sri Lanka Library Association - 2024/2025

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), in collaboration with the Library System of the University of Peradeniya is organizing the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS-2025).

It is with great pride and heartfelt appreciation that I extend my warmest greetings to all authors, reviewers, coordinators, presenters, participants, and members of the wider library and information science community who have gathered for this distinguished occasion the *International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS-2025)* hosted by the University of Peradeniya.

The theme of this year's conference, *"Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital"* is both timely and thought-provoking. At a moment when our societies are shaped by unprecedented technological advancements, shifting socio-economic landscapes, and global challenges, libraries continue to stand as enduring institutions that safeguard cultural heritage, champion equitable access to information, and nurture lifelong learning. The carefully selected sub-themes-ranging from data privacy and open access to transformative leadership, tourism, and the role of AI-eloquently capture the complexity and dynamism of our field today.

On behalf of the Sri Lanka Library Association, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Dr. R. Maheswaran, Conference Chair and Librarian University of Peradeniya and the organizers of ICLIS 2025 for their vision, commitment, and tireless efforts in bringing this important event to fruition. We are especially indebted to the University of Peradeniya for hosting this conference and providing an inspiring platform for scholarly exchange and professional dialogue. I also extend my sincere thanks to the authors and presenters for their valuable contributions to advancing our discipline; to the reviewers for upholding the highest academic standards; to the coordinators and organizing committee for their exemplary dedication; and to all participants for their active engagement and commitment to innovation.

ICLIS 2025 is not merely an academic gathering; it represents a vital opportunity for us to strengthen regional and international collaboration, share ideas, and collectively chart pathways for the future of libraries as transformative agents of sustainable socio-cultural development. I am confident that the deliberations and connections fostered through this conference will enrich our professional practice and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of library and information science in Sri Lanka and beyond.

I wish you all a productive, inspiring, and memorable conference.

Message from the Conference Chair

Dr. R. Maheswaran
Conference Chair – ICLIS 2025
Librarian, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

It gives me great pleasure and privilege to pen this message for the abstract proceedings of the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025), held under the compelling theme: "Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital." This theme resonates profoundly in an era where libraries transcend their traditional roles and emerge as dynamic institutions that empower communities, safeguard knowledge, and uphold cultural identity while contributing significantly to the sustainable development goals of our societies. ICLIS 2025 marks a historic milestone in the 104-year history of our University Library, as an International Library and Information Science Conference is being organized here for the very first time. We are proud to join hands with the Sri Lanka Library Association in hosting this scholarly endeavor. As the conference chair of this prestigious conference, I am truly honored to lead the organization of this academic gathering in the serene and intellectually vibrant environment of the University of Peradeniya, which has always upheld the values of knowledge creation, dissemination, and service to society.

This international conference brings together scholars, professionals, academics, and practitioners from diverse regions and disciplines to reflect on the evolving role of libraries in shaping resilient, equitable, and inclusive societies. The sub-themes of the conference-ranging from transformative leadership, data privacy, open access, and digital innovation to library education and community empowerment-highlight the multifaceted challenges and opportunities faced by the global library and information science community today.

I am pleased to note that this conference has attracted a diverse range of research submissions from both national and international contributors. These contributions represent not only scholarly excellence but also a collective commitment to advancing the profession in a rapidly changing digital landscape. The abstracts included in this volume stand as testimony to the intellectual vigor and creativity of our profession, and I am confident that the knowledge shared through these research efforts will inspire new dialogues, collaborations, and innovations.

My sincere thanks are extended to our Chief Guest, Professor W.M.T. Madhujith, for his gracious presence and encouragement, and to our Guest of Honor, Rev. Dr. (Sr.) Isabella Rajakumari, Principal of Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli, whose participation further elevates the stature of this occasion. I also take this opportunity to thank the chairpersons of the plenary sessions, all technical session panel chairpersons, and the distinguished panel members whose expertise and thoughtful moderation play a crucial role in facilitating meaningful academic exchange throughout the conference.

It is a great honor to acknowledge Dr. R. Balasubramani, Professor in the Department of Library and Information Science at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, India, for graciously accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address. We are deeply grateful for his presence and scholarly contribution to this conference. I also wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to Professor Liyanage Amarakeerthi, Professor in Sinhala at the University of Peradeniya, and Dr. (Ms.) Pradeepa Wijetunge, the Librarian of the University of

Colombo incumbent President of the University Librarians' Association for delivering the distinguished guest speeches and for their invaluable insights that enrich our proceedings.

Conferences such as ICLIS are never the work of a single individual but the result of collective dedication and teamwork. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the Council Members of the Sri Lanka Library Association, whose partnership and collaboration have made this joint conference a reality. A special word of appreciation goes to Dr. Preethi Liyanage, President of the Sri Lanka Library Association, for his unwavering commitment and leadership in fostering professional development among LIS professionals in Sri Lanka. I also take this opportunity to warmly acknowledge the Council Members of the Sri Lanka Library Association, including the President-Elect, the Immediate Past President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, and all the committee members, whose collective efforts continue to strengthen the Association and uplift the profession.

I am especially grateful to the Conference Secretary, Mr. B.N.G.S. Premarathne, for his exceptional coordination and commitment to ensuring the seamless organization of this event. My heartfelt thanks also go to Ms. Sureni Weerasinghe, the Editor-in-Chief of the Abstract Proceedings, for her meticulous work in compiling and presenting the research contributions in this volume with clarity and precision. Further, I extend my appreciation to Ms. Chamilka De Silva, the Co-editor for her dedicated efforts throughout the editorial process as well as her support in registration and finance committees. Also, I'm highly grateful to the members of the organizing committee for their invaluable support: Dr. Champa Alahakoon for handling Registration, Dr. Chamani Gunasekera for smooth coordination of Food and Logistics as well as Financial matters, Ms. Harshani Dissanayake for her contribution in managing Technical Sessions, Mr. Ajantha Dharmarathne for coordinating Transport logistics, Ms. Niranjala Sarojini and Mr. Isuru Herath for overseeing Decorations and Cultural events, Mr. S.A. Jeewan for coordinating Accommodation arrangements, and Mr. B.E.S. Bandara for his excellent work in managing Web, Media, and Publicity.

In conclusion, I welcome all participants and delegates to this meaningful scholarly endeavor and wish everyone a successful and enriching conference experience. May the discussions and collaborations that emerge from ICLIS 2025 continue to shape the future of libraries as transformative pillars of sustainable socio-cultural capital.

Message from the Keynote Speaker

Dr. R. Balasubramani
Professor
Department of Library and Information Science,
Bharathidasan University, India

"Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital"

India and Sri Lanka share strong religious traditions and diplomatic ties since 1948, strengthened by their common historical and cultural heritage. As per **Dharmashastra** and **Bauddha texts**, both nations reflect **Dharmic continuity**-shared respect for Karma, Ahimsa, and Moksha. Sanskrit texts like **Valmiki Ramayana** directly connect Sri Lanka to Indian spiritual geography whereas **Agama Shastra** and **Buddhist Vinaya** reflect-both countries follow **ritualistic continuity**. In Indic philosophy, "capital" wasn't explicitly used; analogous concepts have existed for ages: "Dharma", ethical living and social responsibility, "Samskāra", cultural rituals, and "Guru-Shishya Parampara," knowledge transfer. "Grāmya Jīvana" embodied social capital through shared values and community support. Socio-cultural capital has persisted in Indian and Sri-Lankan society through intergenerational transmission of knowledge and traditions, value and shared community living. Both countries share a multi-ethnic coexistence with mostly rural demographics. Libraries are mirrors of the mind; nurture personal introspection while offering space and support for intellectual and emotional growth. Nonaka & Takeuchi (1995) SECI Model eloquently understand the knowledge transfer through the interaction between tacit and explicit knowledge. After home and workplace, libraries always act as a community and provide a third place for engaging diverse communities, promoting cultural competency, fostering inclusion and equity, building partnerships, and continuous evaluation (Burlacu *et al.*, 2023). Librarians act as key facilitators in connecting users with the right kind of information, whether for learning, teaching, research, or everyday decision-making. Their role spans from promoting information literacy to supporting lifelong learning. Librarians are no longer just custodians of books (Plutchak, 2007). With the advent of AI and the Internet, libraries need an assessment checklist for countries like India and Sri Lanka, where the majority live in rural areas. The Internet and AI are changing the way libraries acquire and support materials. Academic libraries in the United States, for instance, spent $2.9 billion on e-resources (ARL, 2022); 99% of public libraries provide free internet (ALA, 2021); almost all libraries support tech and workforce training (IMLS, 2021); 75% of academic libraries maintain digital repositories (OCLC, 2022); 3.5 million educational programs are offered to children and adults each year (PLA, 2022); and 70% of marginalized groups find safety in libraries (ULC, 2023) These statistics are from wealthy nations like the United States. What about others? such are underdeveloped and developing countries!

India and Sri Lanka share historical, cultural and educational ties, making them ideal partners for collaboration in professional exchange, technological innovation, policy advocacy, sustainable development and research collaboration. Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital is built by libraries and librarians working on joint initiatives. Libraries and librarians contribute to their countries by offering verifiable information across fields. Countries need multimodal library infrastructure at each level - school, public, academic - and adaptable for any situation, such as cultural rehabilitation, community, digital inclusion and Gram-level needs. Additionally, financial limitations in areas of resource acquisition need to focus on open science, including open databases such as OpenAlex, Scilit, Dimension, Crossref, etc., especially in developing and underdeveloped countries. Sri Lanka has the most collaborative publications-more than the United States, China, and India, As per Web of Science data-and India ranks fourth in Stanford University's AI global vibrancy ranking. Collaboration helps both nations overcome financial constraints and foster joint innovation with technological power.

Message from the Director General, National Science Foundation

Dr. Sepalika Sudasinghe
Director General
National Science Foundation
Sri Lanka

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all participants of the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025), co-organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF) along with the Sri Lanka Library Association and hosted by the University of Peradeniya under the timely theme, "*Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital*".

As the apex body in Sri Lanka promoting science, technology, and innovation, the National Science Foundation (NSF) through its National Science Library and Resource Centre (NSLRC), hosts and coordinates the Sri Lanka Scientific & Technical Information Network (SLSTINET) which connects over 130 libraries across the country. Through such platforms, NSF is committed to fostering a vibrant research culture powered by equitable access to scientific information.

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, the need for libraries to reimagine their roles i.e., not only as repositories of knowledge but as dynamic enablers of innovation with community engagement, has become ever more important towards providing a better contribution to the digital economy. Embracing artificial intelligence, open access, digital archiving, and smart metadata practices is no longer optional but essential.

This conference presents a timely opportunity to explore how libraries can lead in building digitally inclusive, knowledge-driven societies and provides avenues for knowledge sharing, professional networking and policy advocacy. I am confident the discussions and partnerships formed here will inspire new directions in library practices which are grounded in technology, collaboration, and sustainability.

On behalf of the NSF, I wish all delegates a productive and enriching experience. Welcome to Sri Lanka, and to a conference that envisions the future of libraries with purpose and promise.

Message from the General Secretary

Mrs. R.M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu
General Secretary - 2024/2025
Sri Lanka Library Association

It is with great pleasure and professional pride that I extend my sincere greetings to all those participating in the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS) 2025, hosted by the University of Peradeniya.

This year's theme, "Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital" reflects the enduring relevance of libraries as inclusive, knowledge-driven institutions that respond dynamically to emerging global realities. As professionals in library and information science, we are tasked not only with preserving knowledge but also with adapting to the changing information landscape to serve diverse communities effectively.

As the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), I take this opportunity to recognize the dedication of all individuals and institutions involved in making ICLIS 2025 a success. From the meticulous work of the organizing committee and session chairs to the intellectual contributions of authors, presenters, and reviewers, your commitment continues to elevate the standards of scholarly engagement in our field.

I am also proud of the SLLA's continued role in supporting such national and international forums that promote discourse, research, and collaboration. Conferences such as ICLIS are vital for facilitating meaningful conversations, forging partnerships, and generating innovative ideas that strengthen both local and global library practices. This is one of the successful ICLIS conferences to have participation from the highest number of international researchers.

As we navigate the complexities of the digital era, sustainability, ethical information practices, and equitable access remain central to our mission. I am confident that the deliberations of this conference will not only broaden perspectives but also inspire new initiatives within our institutions and communities.

I would like to acknowledge the remarkable collaboration between the Sri Lanka Library Association and the Library, University of Peradeniya. My sincere thanks go to all members of the organizing committee for their dedication and hard work.

I wish all participants an intellectually stimulating and collegially enriching conference.

Message from the Conference Secretary

Mr. B.N.G.S. Premarathne
Secretary - ICLIS 2025
Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Peradeniya
Sri Lanka

It is my great pleasure to extend my warm wishes for the success of the International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025), jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association, the Library System of the University of Peradeniya, and the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka on the 26th and 27th of June 2025 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Faculty of Agriculture, with the support of the Department of Geography and the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya.

ICLIS 2025 marks a significant milestone as the first international conference organized by the Library of the University of Peradeniya. The theme, "Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital" underscores the evolving role of libraries in fostering intellectual development, preserving cultural heritage, and supporting inclusive social progress.

This conference provides a valuable platform for academics, professionals, and researchers to share innovative findings and explore emerging trends in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS). It also aims to motivate LIS professionals to embrace digital transformation and improve library services for the user community by adopting new technologies. A library is no longer just a reading room—it is a hub for knowledge creation, sharing, and continuous learning. Therefore, upgrading the LIS profession and its practices must be a priority. Conferences like this serve as vital platforms for the advancement of LIS professionals.

I would like to sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the outstanding support extended by Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, and Dr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, whose leadership and guidance have been instrumental in making this event a reality. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizing committee, keynote speakers, authors, paper presenters, and reviewers for their commitment and academic dedication.

The proceedings of ICLIS 2025 stand as a evidence to the spirit of collaboration and scholarly excellence. As Secretary of ICLIS 2025, I take great pride in being part of this landmark international event, and I am confident that the knowledge and experiences shared will continue to inspire innovation and advancement in the LIS field.

With best wishes for a successful conference.

Message from the Editors

Ms. Sureni Weerasinghe
Editor-in- Chief
Senior Assistant Librarian
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Ms. Chamilka De Silva
Co-Editor
Assistant Librarian
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

We are delighted to welcome you to the proceedings of the International Conference of Library and Information Science (ICLIS 2025). Our emphasis this year is on "Libraries as Pillars of Sustainable Socio-Cultural Capital". As the Editors, we are proud to introduce a collection of research articles that reflects our collaborative efforts to explore the vital role of libraries in fostering sustainable-socio cultural capital. Libraries as integral components of the educational landscape, contribute significantly to the enduring strength of socio-cultural capital. Their contribution extends beyond physical space and services to include the curated collections that preserve and disseminate knowledge as well as the educational missions that inculcate critical thinking and build an informed society, serving as essential pillars of a sustainable society. This conference sheds light on the multifaceted role of libraries in building a more resilient, equitable and sustainable future.

The selected research articles cover diverse aspects of this important topic, offering a range of viewpoints and insightful solutions ranging from emerging trends in information services, library outreach and education, leadership in librarianship to the role in libraries in empowering tourism, and preserving cultural heritage and functioning in the AI era, while addressing contemporary issues such as open access and e-learning tools, data privacy ethics and AI tools. These contributions demonstrate the collective knowledge and dedication of scholars who recognize the crucial role of libraries in building sustainable socio-cultural capital.

A total of 114 papers were received for consideration and underwent a rigorous double-blind peer review process. Following the review, 64% of the submissions were accepted for inclusion in the conference proceedings. This e-proceedings volume is published through the Institutional Repository of University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. It marks a significant and historic milestone for the university library, as it represents the first time that an international library and information science conference has been hosted by the library, featuring a high level of international participation.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to the Conference Chair, Secretary, Organizing Committee, and the library staff for their dedication, commitment and support in making this conference a success. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the authors, the panel of reviewers, and the editorial assistants for their invaluable contributions throughout the process. Our heartfelt thanks go to the dedicated members of the Editorial Board for their unwavering commitment to excellence in the publication process. Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Eranga Bandara for his exceptional work in cover design, formatting, and finalizing the conference proceedings, and to Mr. Anura Rajapaksa for his significant role in publishing the articles through the Institutional Repository of the University of Peradeniya. It is our hope that the insights shared at ICLIS 2025 will foster enduring sustainability within libraries and broader communities.

Content

Sub Theme 1

Emerging Trends in Information Services

An Assessment of the Undergraduate Satisfaction of the Allied Health Science Library of University of Peradeniya: a Case Study

Harshani N. K. Dissanayake

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The library of the Faculty of Allied Health Science was established in 2007. The resources of the library include about 4500 publications such as books, periodicals, pharmacopeias, reports and CDs, DVDs, electronic journals and databases. The library serves the students and the staff members of the faculty. Examining the user satisfaction of the current services and future needs is important to provide an effective and proactive library service. The objectives of the study are to assess the user satisfaction of print and electronic resources, services, facilities offered by the library and future expectations of the undergraduates. A random sample of 10% of the total population (976) was selected. A structured questionnaire was developed as a Google form and the respective QR code was kept in the library for students to access the questionnaire. The response rate was 76.53% which included the undergraduates of all four academic years following all degree programmes. The results depicted that the undergraduates were satisfied about lending (64%), reference (75.6%), print journal (66.7%) and thesis collections (65.4%). The circulation of books was the most satisfying service provided by the library (86.6%) followed by the reference services (77.4%), staff assistance in using library catalogue and databases in the web page (76%). The students were satisfied about the facilities provided by the library such as the location of the library, (81.33%) opening hours (81.3%), lighting (86.6%), reading environment (84%) etc., except the number of student computers. (45.5%). Their future expectations were to have e-books (89.3%), Wi-Fi facility (81.3%), discussion areas (72%), computer lab (66.7%) and leisure reading areas (65.3%). The students were satisfied with the print books but they expected to have e-versions of books too. Students' requirements of e-books, Wi-Fi facilities and better facilities to use computers, discussion and reading areas show that their needs are focused towards modern library concepts. Librarians and the university authorities should be sensitive towards students' needs and take necessary steps to provide e-books, facilities to use computers in the library such as Wi-Fi and spacious reading areas.

Keywords: *Allied Health Science undergraduates; Library collections; Library facilities; Library services; Student satisfaction*

Formulating a Strategic Framework for Documenting and Preserving Tamil Newspapers Published in the 19th and 20th Centuries in the Jaffna District of Sri Lanka

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Newspapers serve as a medium that disseminates information on news, science, education, politics, sports, and social affairs to the public. In that context, Tamil newspapers published in Sri Lanka have gained the trust and support of Tamil-speaking communities. The purpose of preserving newspapers in libraries is due to their historical significance and their value as documents reflecting education, research, and social life. In the 21st century, most newspapers are published electronically by their publishers, either through databases or on their websites. As a result, libraries have a significantly reduced role in preserving contemporary newspapers. This study aims to identify the existence of Tamil newspapers published in the Jaffna District during the 19th and 20th centuries, quantitatively analyze them, and understand the actions taken by libraries to preserve, safeguard, and document these newspapers. To achieve this objective, direct contact was made with libraries in the Jaffna District known to preserve newspapers during the study period. It was found that the University of Jaffna Library and the Jaffna Public Library are the primary institutions preserving these newspapers. Further data were collected through pre-tested questionnaires directed at library staff and librarians working in the newspaper sections of these two libraries. The findings revealed that the Jaffna Public Library preserves, *Indusathanam* (1916–1981), *Eelakesari* (1934–1956), *Udayatharakai* (1841–1980), *Eelanadu* (1981–1986) and *Uthayan* (1985–2025). At the University of Jaffna Library, the following newspapers were preserved mainly: *Indusathanam* (1899–1978), *Pathukavalan* (1935–1970), *Suthanthiran* (1952–1978), *Eelakesari* (1944–1953), etc. Regarding preservation efforts, the analysis found that the Jaffna Public Library had microfilmed *Indusathanam* and *Eelakesari*, and bound monthly editions of other newspapers. The University of Jaffna Library had preserved over 50 newspaper collections categorized annually and by title through binding. University library was involved in digitizing Tamil newspapers. The newspaper collections were proven useful in providing newspaper clipping services, as highlighted by staff in the relevant departments. Furthermore, many respondents emphasized the need for training library staff and librarians in both institutions on newspaper preservation and protection. Noolaham foundation played a significant role in the digitization of Tamil-related documents. Key goals include documenting, protecting, and digitizing knowledge relevant to Tamil-speaking communities in Sri Lanka to make it widely accessible. Based on the insights gained through this data analysis, the study proposes a strategic policy for the preservation and safeguarding of Tamil newspapers.

Keywords: *Digitization; Northern Province; Safeguarding; Tamil newspapers*

Green Initiatives for Sustainable Libraries: a Case Study from Postgraduate Institute of Medicine Library

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Environmental sustainability is a major concern in academic institutions around the world at present. The libraries strive to minimize their ecological footprint to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) introduced by the United Nations. The Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) Library at the University of Colombo targeted this study for the improvement of operational sustainability and encouragement responsible resource usage. This study aims to investigate the sustainability practices of the PGIM Library, with an emphasis on digital transformation and ecologically responsible operations. The research, which used a qualitative case study methodology, was based on the author's professional experience and was reinforced by a thorough analysis of scholarly works, institutional policy papers, and sustainable library development strategies. The library had launched several important projects, including online leave and vehicle request systems and the usage of Microsoft Teams for internal document processing and communication. The collection and preservation of digital soft copies of postgraduate medical and dental trainees' theses, dissertations, case studies, and portfolios was a noteworthy contribution. These were stored on the safe digital system of the library and made available to authorized users, which allowed easy retrieval while drastically cutting down on the amount of paper used. Additionally, the library had embraced the Koha Integrated Library System (ILS) for classification and circulation based on NLM and MeSH standards, and it had digitized the academic holdings. Paper usage was further reduced by email-based services such as user communication and article request process. Plagiarism detecting software was also utilized to ensure that submitted work maintains academic integrity. Energy-saving techniques, trash management procedures, and encouragement of a paperless environment were examples of complementary green practices. Future call for the sustainable implementation features, rainwater harvesting, natural ventilation, and energy-efficient lighting, even though architectural redesigns were not yet completed. It was also noticed that a formal sustainability strategy will be created and that user education initiatives on green information practices would be implemented. The findings affirm that strategic digital adoption and sustainable policies can reduce environmental impact while improving academic access. These practices align with SDG 4, 9, 12, and 13, positioning the PGIM Library as a replicable model for academic libraries in developing countries.

Keywords: *Digital transformation; Green libraries; PGIM library; SDG; Sustainable practices*

Use of Social Media by Primary School Teachers for the Teaching- Learning Purpose: a study in the Udunuwara Educational Division, Kandy, Sri Lanka

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This study investigates the utilization of social media tools by primary school teachers (grade one) in the Udunuwara Education Division of Kandy district, Sri Lanka, within the context of their teaching and learning processes. The objectives of the study are to measure the extent of the use of social media by Grade 1 Primary teachers for their teaching-learning process, to identify the purposes of using social media, to examine the issues and challenges encounter when using social media in their teaching- learning process and to obtain the suggestions and recommendations from primary school teachers for the effective use of social media in the teaching and learning process. The sample comprised 39 teachers from the Udunuwara Education Division. A survey was employed, using a questionnaire as the primary data collection instrument. The findings indicated that all participants used social media in their daily lives, with 97.2% incorporating social media into their teaching and learning activities. The most widely used social media tools were WhatsApp and YouTube. Particularly, 48% of the teachers frequently used social media tools for their instructional practices. Over 65% of the participants utilized social media for various professional development activities, including self-learning, English language teaching, co-curricular activities, communication with parents, and the creation of teaching aids and worksheets. However, the findings indicate that only a smaller percentage of respondents used social media tools for conducting online classes. Benefits emphasized by respondents included enhanced communication between teachers and parents, increased creativity among primary teachers, improved access to relevant educational resources, fostered communication among teachers, enhanced student engagement in the learning process, and greater awareness of educational trends in other regions related to Key Stage1. The challenges identified included inadequate internet connectivity and insufficient devices for students, particularly in rural areas, improper use of devices and the internet by students, and limited technological knowledge among educators etc. In order to address these challenges, respondents suggested several measures, such as providing reliable internet access to all schools, establishing smart classrooms, and conducting training programs to enhance teachers' awareness of the effective use of social media tools in education.

Keywords: *Primary education; Primary teachers; Social media; Teaching-Learning process*

The Use of Colloquial Language in Contemporary Newspaper Headlines to Attract Readers

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A headline is a writing style that summarizes the information contained in a news or feature article in a concise and attractive way. Headlines are intended to directly attract the readers' attention to the news or feature article. It is frequently observed that colloquial language is used in modern newspapers to creatively present information. Accordingly, this study investigates how colloquial language has been used to create newspaper headlines to attract readers. Under the qualitative analysis method, the content of headlines published in newspapers in contemporary society such as Lankadeepa, Divaina, Dinamina, Sathi Aga Aruna, Silumina, etc. was analyzed. The data obtained by examining the headlines which contained colloquial language were used as sources and were subjected to comparative self-analysis. In this context, the way in which colloquial language had been used for the creative needs of expression, both semantically and phonetically were examined. It appeared that colloquial language had been used for headlines for the purposes of conveying information simply and concisely, enhancing the meaning, attracting and instigating reader curiosity and enhancing the creativity of the content. The use of colloquial language in the way it is existing, the use of colloquial phrases together with modern language patterns and the use of colloquial words and colloquial verbs for headlines were notable. Accordingly, the newspaper, which is becoming a traditional medium with the development of media technology, is making efforts to attract readers by improving its linguistic capabilities through the usage of colloquial language. This effort can be considered as a creative attempt to motivate the reader to read the newspaper.

***Keywords**: Colloquial language; Information; Newspaper headlines; Reader; Motivation*

Building Sustainable Libraries: a ISM-Based Investigation of Adoption Challenges

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As sustainability garners global focus, academic institutions are progressively acknowledging the role of libraries in fostering environmental stewardship. Green libraries have become crucial proponents of sustainable methods in the knowledge and information sector. The execution of green library programs is constrained by numerous significant obstacles. This study seeks to investigate and comprehensively evaluate the principal barriers that impede the implementation of sustainable practices in academic libraries. Data were collected from many stakeholders, including administrators, librarians, and faculty members, through structured interviews. The study utilizes Interpretive Structural Modeling (ISM) as a methodological framework to discover, categorize, and delineate the contextual linkages among the obstacles impeding on adoption of green practices. The investigation identified six principal obstacles such as, insufficient awareness and comprehension of sustainable practices, budgetary restrictions, weak institutional regulations, infrastructure deficiencies, resistance to change among personnel, and the absence of recognized concrete advantages. These obstacles hindered the incorporation of sustainable practices and underscored a greater necessity for strategic alignment, resource distribution, and capacity enhancement within academic institutions. The ISM model applied in this study established a hierarchical framework of these barriers, facilitating the identification of their causal and dependent relationships. For example, insufficient awareness and policy deficiencies were fundamental difficulties that affected additional obstacles, such as resistance to change and infrastructural challenges. The findings provide essential insights for politicians, university administrators, and library professionals by delineating a clear framework for tackling the most significant obstacles. Recommendations encompass the establishment of awareness initiatives, the modification of institutional policies to align with sustainability objectives, the acquisition of dedicated financing, and the incorporation of sustainability into library design and operations. By proactively tackling these obstacles, academic institutions can progress towards establishing green libraries that preserve resources and exemplify environmental stewardship within the educational ecosystem.

Keywords: *Barriers to sustainability; Eco-Friendly practices; Environmental responsibility; Green libraries; Interpretive Structural Modelling (ISM)*

Identifying the User Satisfaction of the Public Library of Karachchi Pradeshiya Sabha, Kilinochchi

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The purpose of this research is to identify user satisfaction with the public library of Karachchi Pradeshiya Sabha, Kilinochchi. Public libraries play a crucial role in community learning and development, also for understanding the level of patron satisfaction can enhance their effectiveness. This study focuses on three primary service areas: the reference section, the lending section, and the children's section. This study determined the appropriate sample size for a population of 2,052. Based on this, 322 participants were selected by using the Krejcie and Morgan sample size table to ensure statistical accuracy. Of these, 298 responded, resulting in a 93% response rate. Data were collected through the use of structured questionnaires, allowing for an in-depth assessment of users' needs and experiences. To ensure a balanced representation of various user groups, data were collected using a stratified random sampling method. The analysis revealed that Library Physical Resources had a positive impact on user satisfaction ($R^2 = 0.177$, $R = 0.420$, $p = 0.000$), indicating a significant relationship. Information Resources had a significant positive effect on user satisfaction ($R^2 = 0.214$, $R = 0.462$, $p = 0.000$), indicating a strong relationship. Organization of information resources also showed a strong positive effect on user satisfaction ($R^2 = 0.284$, $R = 0.533$, $p = 0.000$), indicating a significant relationship. Library Human Resources had a strong and significant impact on user satisfaction ($R^2 = 0.284$, $R = 0.533$, $p = 0.000$), explaining 28.4% of the variance in satisfaction. This high level of participation reflects strong engagement and supports the reliability of the study findings. Based on these findings, a number of recommendations have been made to increase service efficiency, refresh the library collection, and improve the overall user experience. These findings show both strengths and areas for improvement, providing useful assistance to local governments and library personnel in improving service quality and user satisfaction.

Keywords: *Information resources; Kilinochchi; Public library; User satisfaction*

Emerging Acquisition Trends in Health Science Libraries: a Framework

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Health science libraries are currently experiencing a shift in acquisition strategies, driven by advancements in technology, evolving user needs, and budgetary constraints. This study explores the modern trends in acquiring information resources in health science libraries, focusing on how libraries are adapting to new demands from students, clinicians, and researchers. The study aims to present a comprehensive framework to guide effective acquisition practices suited to the dynamic environment of health sciences education and practice. The research is based on a qualitative review of existing literature, supported by case studies and structured interviews with library professionals from health science institutions. The findings revealed a significant move towards demand-driven and evidence-based acquisitions, with an increasing preference for digital resources accessible via mobile devices. Libraries were focused on acquiring multimedia materials and point-of-care tools to support clinical decision-making and learning. Short-term loan models and subscription-based access were also emerging as practical solutions for resource selection and cost control. This research highlights the integration of digital tools such as citation management systems, electronic resource management software, and instructional technologies in the acquisition process. These tools enhance efficiency, track usage data, and support better decision-making. The study also identified the need for continuous professional development among library staff to stay updated with technological changes and user expectations. A strategic acquisition framework is proposed, emphasizing flexibility, user involvement, and alignment with institutional goals. It is concluded that embracing innovative acquisition models and technologies will enable health science libraries to remain relevant, efficient, and responsive to their academic communities.

Keywords: Health science libraries, Acquisition models, Digital resources, Library technology, User-Centric services

Sub Theme 2

Empowering Tourism and Driving Growth

Cultural Tourism in Architecturally Significant Libraries and Economic Growth: a Global Perspective

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Libraries have beyond their conventional function as mere stores of books and information; they now serve as influential cultural landmarks that substantially enhance tourism and economic development. Libraries, characterized by their architectural grandeur, historical significance, and extensive literature collections, draw millions of tourists each year, promoting intellectual and cultural tourism while enhancing local economies. This paper examines the diverse functions of libraries in advancing cultural tourism and economic development, utilizing global case studies and current trends, focusing on prominent institutions such as the British Library (UK), the Library of Congress (USA), and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (France), highlighting their roles as both guardians of cultural heritage and dynamic tourist attractions. These renowned libraries enthrall tourists with their architectural splendour and historical significance, generating income through admission fees, guided tours, gift shops, and collaborations with adjacent hospitality and retail industries. The study investigates how libraries enhance their cultural influence through activities such as literary festivals, book fairs, exhibitions, and author discussions, drawing a varied audience ranging from academics to casual visitors. These events invigorate economic activity and foster cultural interaction, augmenting the library functions as centers of community involvement. Moreover, the document underscores the increasing significance of digitization and virtual accessibility. Libraries today engage global audiences through digital archives, online exhibitions, and virtual tours, so extending their reach beyond physical limitations. This digital transformation not only safeguards cultural assets but also fosters sustainable and inclusive cultural tourism, particularly in the post-pandemic period. In conclusion, libraries are not merely academic institutions but vibrant cultural assets that connect the past, present, and future. Their conservation, strategic enhancement, and incorporation into tourism projects are vital for optimizing their contributions to intellectual advancement and economic growth. The results highlight the necessity for ongoing investment in libraries as essential contributors to the global knowledge economy and cultural tourist industry.

Keywords: *Cultural tourism; Heritage preservation; Digital archives; Global knowledge economy; Sustainable tourism*

Some Leisure Tourism Sites - Sustainable Cultural Development

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Tourism has become an important source of income and economic growth, especially for many developing countries. The World Tourism Organisation (WTO) and the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) are two of the most well-known organisations that recognise the tourism industry as a major driver of cultural interchange, economic growth, and international collaboration. Leisure tourism is the largest type of tourism, and it includes travel for fun, relaxation, and pleasure. It also includes vacations, visits with relatives, cultural explorations, and trips to beautiful places like beaches, hill stations, waterfalls, zoos, and historic sites. Factors such as people's ability to buy things and the stability of the government are very important for the growth and success of tourism. For tourism to thrive there must be peace, prosperity, and good public infrastructure. Leisure tourism includes a wide range of activities, such as cultural, religious, sports, medical, and eco-tourism. These activities enhance the overall trip experience and help the region grow. Tourists engage in touring, relaxing on the beach, going to local festivals, and learning about the area's history. These activities improve cultural understanding and bring economic benefits to the towns that host them. This article focuses on South India as a popular vacation destination because of its rich history and lively culture. South India has many historical sites, temples, natural landscapes, and traditional festivals. This makes it a place with a lot of cultural depth and natural beauty. The study looks at important places for leisure tourism in South India and talks about their historical and cultural importance. It also explores how the area fits into India's wider tourism picture in today's global environment. This study examines South Indian leisure tourism from economic, cultural, and historical points of view to demonstrate how the sector could grow in a way that is good for the environment. The study insights will support responsible tourism, protecting cultural assets, and better infrastructure to make the visitor experience better and help local communities in the long run.

Keywords: *Eco-Tourism; Leisure tourism; Religious tourism; Sustainable tourism; Travel trends*

Preserving Literary Heritage: The Role and Challenges of the *Noolthettam* Bibliography

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Publications serve as critical indicators of an ethnic group's cultural values and intellectual pursuits. National libraries and archives worldwide systematically document the publications of their respective communities. However, Sri Lankan Tamils, a globally dispersed ethnic group, largely depend on institutions within their host countries to record and preserve their literary contributions, often under the influence of dominant national narratives. In this context, Noolthettam has functioned as the national bibliography of Sri Lankan Tamils since its inception in April 1990 by Mr. N. Selvarajah in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. This study examines the role of *Noolthettam* in documenting and preserving the literary heritage of the community, while also analyzing the challenges encountered in its continuity. Historical and document review methods were adopted for this study. Since the publication of its first volume in 2002, *Noolthettam* had cataloged 18,000 books authored by Sri Lankan Tamil writers worldwide, with the 18th volume scheduled for release in 2025. Despite its significance, *Noolthettam* had not gained adequate recognition among Tamil writers and intellectuals in Sri Lanka, nor had it received institutional support from public and academic libraries. Furthermore, bibliographic documentation efforts faced sustainability challenges, as seen in the discontinuation of H.A.I. Goonetileke's bibliographic work at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Without a structured organizational framework, *Noolthettam* may also face a similar fate after its founder's lifetime. To ensure the continuity of this bibliographic initiative, collective responsibility is essential. Sri Lankan publishers, printers, and author-publishers must actively contribute by submitting copies of their publications. Universities, public libraries, and the National Library of Sri Lanka should incorporate *Noolthettam* as a reference resource in their collection. In addition, booksellers should feature it in trade bibliographies and media advertisements, while educators and researchers should advocate its use among students and scholars. The preservation of Tamil literary heritage must be a proactive effort, one that safeguards history for future generations rather than leaving them searching in the dark.

Keywords: *Bibliography; Cultural preservation; Documentation; Eelam Tamil literature; Noolthettam*

Safeguarding Cultural Heritage through Tourism– A Special Reference to "RAMAPPA" UNESCO World Heritage Site

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Safeguarding both intangible and tangible cultural heritage is a crucial challenge in the modern era. One such example is the Ramappa Temple in Telangana, India, which gained UNESCO World Heritage status in 2021. It is a responsibility to safeguard heritage and pass it on to future generations. This study explores how tourism contributes to the preservation and sustainable development of the Ramappa heritage site, and how it positively influences on the local community. "Ramappa" Tourism helped the Monument development and livelihood for community, by giving employment opportunities, and using ecosystem which finally gave way for protecting cultural heritage which goes on to future generations. The study was a comparative survey, gathering qualitative and quantitative data from local residents, stakeholders, and tourists, both before and after the UNESCO recognition. According to 2011 census Palampet village population was 1925 people. To collect data, a one-on-one survey with 9 participants, along with an online survey was conducted. It was observed that, during the post-UNESCO recognition, there was a significant increase in India government funding and tourism-related income. Local communities benefited from employment opportunities in restoration and tourism services. Cultural activities such as traditional performances and handicrafts experienced a revival, showcasing the Kakatiya heritage. It is recommended that similar heritage sites adopt tourism-based conservation models with active local participation and consistent funding to ensure sustainability. The local communities got employment in all forms i.e., renovation, roads construction, etc. Further, they were given the opportunity to share their great Kakatiya culture. The local sections expanded exposing the earlier traditions and customs of music, drama plays by which continued to grow day by day taking it to future generations. Accordingly, it was seen that Ramappa site with the help of tourism became profitable for its development. These results indicates that cultural heritage sites combining tourism render a profound positive outcome, increasing tourism and the income generated was used for the development which passes to future generations as a tangible site. The study concludes that amalgamating tourism with heritage conservation can lead to sustainable development, community empowerment, and long-term cultural continuity; "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future."

Keywords: Cultural heritage; Ramappa; Tourism; UNESCO

The Impact of Digital Marketing and Digital Public Relations on Empowering Tourism in Sri Lanka

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Tourism is a key component of Sri Lankan economy, contributing to foreign exchange earnings, employment, and cultural exchange. Digital marketing uses digital channels and technologies to promote brands while Digital Public Relations (DPR) builds its brand awareness, reputation, and goodwill using online platforms. Both involve creating a positive impact digitally through increasing reach, engagement, and reputation. It supports promotion of tourism destinations and traveler engagement. In recent years, Sri Lankan tourism has used Digital Marketing and DPR as a high usage of mobile penetration, internet, and social media usage in the country. The research examines how Digital Marketing and DPR influence the empowerment of the tourism sector in Sri Lanka. Research objectives are to evaluate the impact of digital marketing strategies on empowering Sri Lanka's tourism, to examine the role of DPR in enhancing Sri Lanka's tourism, and to identify the barriers of Digital Marketing and DPR implementation in Sri Lanka's tourism. The research was qualitative; under the content analysis, the study analyzed a range of online resources like websites, social media pages, news articles, annual reports, etc. Preliminary findings indicated that Digital Marketing initiatives, such as targeted social media campaigns and influencer marketing, had significantly increased global visibility of Sri Lanka's tourism offerings. DPR efforts had played a crucial role in reputation management and crisis management, particularly in the Covid-19 impact, Easter attack, and economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The study highlights implementation barriers in Digital Marketing and DPR, including digital literacy gaps among rural tourism providers and lack of communication infrastructure. Conducting training programs for small and medium tourism enterprises, developing internet infrastructure, digital literacy awareness are the actionable recommendations for barriers to implementation. The research outlines how developing tourism economies can leverage Digital Marketing and DPR not merely as promotional tools but as mechanisms for empowering the tourism sector in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Digital marketing; Digital public relations; Empowering tourism; Social media; Sri Lankan tourism*

Sub Theme 3

Transformative Leadership in Librarianship

An Analytical Study on Information Resources and Services of Dr. K.S. Janakarathnam Memorial Library, Gobi Arts & Science College, Erode, Tamil Nadu

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The research explores the scope of information resources and services offered by the Dr. K.S. Janakarathnam Memorial Library at Gobi Arts & Science College in Erode, Tamil Nadu. A total of 670 participants, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty members were surveyed using a structured questionnaire to evaluate their engagement with the physical and digital resources of the library. The results showed that users from all groups actively utilized electronic resources, with growing awareness contributing positively to their adoption. Most users accessed these digital materials from the College Computer Centre and hostels. However, despite this trend, only a limited selection of e-resources was frequently used, and many individuals still relied on external facilities such as cyber cafes to access them. Several challenges were identified that hinder optimal use of e-resources, including limited computer skills, low levels of information literacy, a shortage of computer systems, and slow internet connectivity. Direct challenges included inadequate browsing skills, restricted internet bandwidth, and underdeveloped ICT infrastructure. Indirect factors such as lack of home internet access, absence of online academic requirements, low motivation, and the unavailability of personal devices like laptops also played a role in limiting usage. Statistical analysis showed no major differences in user opinions across these issues. The study also highlighted the infrequent use of e-resources, pointing to the need for significant improvements to increase accessibility and adoption. The library itself is fully automated, using barcode technology and proprietary software called "NOOLAGAM." Its collection includes 1,10,000 books, 6,050 bound volumes of journals, 7,250 digital resources (CDs/DVDs), and subscriptions to 138 national and international journals, along with databases such as INFLIBNET and NDLI. The browsing centre of the library features 40 computers and offers free internet access. An important trend identified was the gradual transition from printed to digital content, evidenced by the declining demand for physical journals and the growing preference for e-journals. The study concludes by addressing the current limitations and offering recommendations to improve the library services in order to better meet the academic and research needs of its users.

Keywords: *Dr. K.S. Janakarathnam memorial library; Library resources; Library services; E-Databases; OPAC*

Sustainable Management: Library Scrap

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Right from the classical era the 'Library' is treated as a holy place, destined to seek knowledge and promote literacy. As library is an accelerating network to access information automatically it accumulates a lot of aged services and practices. It's been a corrigendum to overcome the ancient practices and adapt contemporary practices simultaneously orienting to sustainability goals. Thus, this study emphasizes to achieve sustainable-ecological environment through scrap management of libraries. Mostly managing library scrap involves a thematic procedure of picking up, depositing and disposing of scrap that are outdated to information and comprising of a false statistic. Mussing with the approach, this particular study distinctly accentuated the discarding of hard copy debris from libraries into construction sector focusing the stream of Pavement Design and Management serving as the key purpose of the research. SMA (Stone Matrix Asphalt), a gap graded mixture had high content of coarse aggregate which contributed to better stone-to-stone contact and high interlocking structure to pavement. As aggregates do not deform much, it provided better rut resistance and skid resistance. Cement material was used as a filler to fill the voids between the aggregates and bounded with Bitumen as a binding agent which contributed to better durability from premature cracking and raveling. Major potential problem associated with the SMA was drainage and bleeding caused due to improper compaction process as well as temperature accoutrements of Bitumen. To overcome this obstacle, stabilizing additives such as Fibers could be used which stiffen the matrix, thereby reducing the draining and bleeding activities significantly. Various stabilizing agents commonly used in SMA were generally expensive. Hence, in this context it was attempted to use unconventional natural cellulose fiber, namely paper fibers from waste debris of used paper fibers. Samples prepared from these constituents was tested for Marshall Stability Test against durability and resistance to rutting resulting in high stability and low flow value with 18% increment in comparison to SMA without fibers. It can be concluded that fibers of paper waste could be used as stabilizing additive without affecting design criteria of SMA mixture.

Keywords: *Library debris; Marshall Stability Test; Scrap management; Stone matrix asphalt*

Humidity Impact on Insect Infestation in Leather-Bound Science Journal Collection of Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka Library

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The Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka (RRISL) has been located at Dartonfield of the Kalutara district in the Western province since 1909 and it is an agroforestry area. The Library of RRISL was established in 1953 with the responsibility of providing the information needed for the rubber sector. The objective of the study is to investigate the impact of humidity on insect infestation in the leather-bound science journal collection. The researchers used sticky traps, photographs, and visual observations to collect the data on the insects and excel sheets of the Microsoft office package to process the data and used meteorological data as secondary data. The researchers used Pascal Querner's indoor climate response model for the analysis of the data. The study showed that the high humidity level of the indoor climate of the library caused a high infestation of insects in the leather-bound science journal collection and other printed materials. The mean humidity level suitable for hatching eggs of drugstore beetles was between 60% and 90%. The infestation of drugstore beetles *(Stegobiumpaniceum)* was highlighted. Through visual observation, researchers were able to find larvae stages of some insects with frass and dust inside of the library materials. The conservation plan for the library should be planned under the supervision of the National Library of Sri Lanka collaborating with the National Archives and contacting with the management of the RRISL. Findings suggest that, regular checking and cleaning of library materials with proper methodology, using suitable insect control methods such as fumigation and traditional methods. Through this research, researchers attempt to reveal that the humidity of the library should be controlled to control the infestation of the insects in the library. Moreover, the cleanliness of the library impacts the reduction of insect infestation in the library environment. Also, the contribution of the authorities of the institute is important to implement relevant mechanisms.

Keywords: *Agroforestry; Climate; Conservation; Humidity; Insect harm*

Forming the Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations (REFSALA): a Collaborative Framework for Advancing Library and Information Science

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Libraries play a pivotal role in knowledge dissemination, cultural preservation, and lifelong learning. However, libraries across South Asia face several common challenges, including limited collaboration, inadequate funding, and technological disparities. In response, the establishment of the Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations (REFSALA) is proposed to bridge these gaps by promoting regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and policy advocacy among library associations in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The primary objective of REFSALA is to create a unified platform that strengthens library systems across the region. Its proposed structure includes a governing council with representatives from each member country, a rotational presidency, and specialized working committees focused on key areas such as policy, research, digital transformation, and professional development. REFSALA will function as a non-profit organization with international recognition, guided by a constitution that outlines membership criteria, governance structures, funding models, and operational strategies. Key areas of collaboration include policy advocacy, digital transformation, capacity building, academic research, and the development of regional library standards. Signature initiatives such as the South Asian Library Summit, the REFSALA Journal of Library & Information Science, and cross-border resource-sharing programs will serve as cornerstone projects. Strategic partnerships with global organizations like UNESCO and IFLA will be sought to ensure sustainability and global integration. The implementation of REFSALA will follow a phased approach: initial agreements among national library associations, followed by legal registration, fund-raising, and membership expansion. Long-term goals include establishing a regional digital library network, professional training programs, and technology-driven innovations in library management. The formation of REFSALA represents a transformative opportunity for South Asian libraries to collectively address regional challenges, enhance professional competencies, and advance robust library policies for the future.

Keywords: *Digital transformation; Knowledge sharing; Library collaboration; REFSALA; South Asian libraries*

From Collection to Connection: a Comparative Insight from Indian Government Initiatives and UNESCO's Global Efforts for Transforming Libraries into Socio-cultural Hubs

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Translating libraries into socio-cultural hubs is significant globally, as it promotes lifelong learning, digital inclusion, and cultural preservation. In India, initiatives like the National Mission on Libraries (NML) and the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) aim to modernize libraries, while UNESCO's global programs, such as the IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto and the Memory of the World Program, recognize libraries as the key to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This study compares these efforts, focusing on their role in education and inclusive societies. The objectives are to study initiatives of India such as the National Mission on Libraries and NDLI, to review UNESCO initiatives such as the IFLA-UNESCO Manifesto, Memory of the World, and UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) and to compare India and UNESCO approaches in transforming libraries into socio-cultural hubs. The study focuses on initiatives launched post-2014 that address library modernization, digital transformation, and community engagement. It examines India's NML, NDLI, UNESCO IFLA-UNESCO Manifesto, Memory of the World, and IFAP. Documents were selected based on relevance, data availability, and impact. A qualitative research method was used to analyze government policies, official reports, UNESCO publications. The results showed that the Government of India and UNESCO had played key roles in transforming libraries into socio-cultural hubs. India focused on local challenges such as, digital inclusion through NML and NDLI, while UNESCO provided global guidelines for inclusive, community-oriented libraries. Both aimed to enhance libraries' educational and community roles, though challenges including funding and reaching marginalized communities that require a collaborative tech-driven approach. The study concludes that the transformation of libraries into socio-cultural hubs, led by Indian government initiatives and UNESCO, enhances community engagement, education, and cultural preservation. Continued collaboration and innovation is the key to ensuring their success and sustainability globally.

Keywords: *IFLA-UNESCO public library manifesto; Information for All Programme; Memory of World Program; National Digital Library of India; National mission on libraries*

Content Analysis of the Official Websites of the Indian Library Association and the Sri Lanka Library Association: a Comparative Study

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Library associations play a vital role in promoting the Library and Information Science (LIS) profession through education, advocacy, and professional development. In today's digital era, their official websites serve as primary platforms for communication, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement. This study presents a comparative content analysis of the official websites of the Indian Library Association (ILA) and the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA), aiming to assess and compare how these two national-level associations represent themselves online. Given their shared colonial histories but differing national contexts, the study explores the scope, structure, and effectiveness of both websites. The primary objectives are to analyze the nature and breadth of website content, covering membership, publications, events, and professional resources; evaluate website accessibility and usability, with a focus on search functionality, responsiveness, and language options; and assess the effectiveness of interactive features, such as contact forms, feedback mechanisms, social media links, and member login capabilities. A systematic content analysis was adopted, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques. Data were collected through direct observation and structured examination of both websites in March 2025. A customized checklist, based on earlier studies and web best practices, guided the analysis. Key parameters included navigation structure, visual design, frequency of updates, user engagement tools, and resource availability. The study excluded user feedback, server-side or technical backend evaluations, or any updates made to the websites after the study period. The findings indicated that both ILA and SLLA had made effective use of their websites to disseminate core information. While the ILA website excelled in content volume and social media presence (e.g., Twitter (X) integration), the SLLA site offered better navigability through its search feature. Both platforms were professionally maintained, yet opportunities for enhancement remained. Suggested improvements include adding multilingual support, visitor counters, AI-powered chatbots, and compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). In conclusion, while both associations serve their communities well online, adopting advanced digital practices can further improve user experience, accessibility, and engagement thereby strengthening their role in supporting LIS professionals in the digital age.

Keywords: *Content analysis; Indian Library Association; Library Association websites; Sri Lanka Library Association; Web usability*

Public Libraries as Catalysts for Digital Empowerment: a Case Study of the Gampaha Public Library Computer Center

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The increasing reliance on digital technologies in all aspects of life has made digital literacy a fundamental skill for personal development and social participation. In this context, public libraries serve as vital institutions for narrowing the digital divide and fostering inclusive access to information and communication technologies. The study sets out to achieve three primary objectives: to identify the digital services provided by the computer section of Gampaha Public Library, to evaluate the impact of these services on enhancing digital literacy among users, and to assess the broader contribution of the library's digital initiatives toward community-level digital empowerment. A case study method approach was adopted, comprising the analysis of secondary data from the library annual statistics, action plans, and budget reports (2022–2025), along with primary data collected through semi-structured interviews with 20 regular users of the computer section. Findings revealed a consistent increase in user engagement and digital participation by registered users by 3% of the total increment by 2024. The noticeable point was that unregistered users increased considerable amount and numbered 5061 participants were in virtual and physical mode. It was observed that annual action plans, computer literacy training (2022), professional development courses (2023), an educational YouTube channel (2024) were the major projects to increase these unregistered users in the library. According to interviews with the users, 12 participants reported improvements in their academic performance and 8 participants mentioned employment opportunities, while handling digital tasks such as e-banking, online payment, application completion and usage of artificial Intelligence through this unit. The study concludes that targeted investments, staff capacity building, and strategic collaborations with educational institutions are essential for maximizing the impact of library-based digital initiatives. Recommendations include expanding outreach to marginalized groups, upgrading digital infrastructure, and enhancing public awareness about available library services.

Keywords: *Community engagement; Digital empowerment; Digital literacy; Library services; Public libraries*

Impact of Organizational Culture on Workplace Spirituality

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This study investigates the complex interplay between organizational culture and workplace spirituality, emphasizing how different cultural factors within organizations affect employees' spiritual experiences and general well-being. The research seeks to determine the extent to which various cultural contexts and theoretical frameworks promote or hinder the manifestation of spirituality in professional environments. This paper examines the feasibility of empirical research by creating conceptual frameworks that link cultural values such as shared meaning, purpose, alignment, and community to spiritual fulfillment in the workplace. The fundamental premise of the research posits that organizational cultures prioritizing meaningful work, ethical congruence between individual and organizational ideals, chances for personal development, and a sense of community and transcendence are more conducive to fostering workplace spirituality. These cultures facilitate profound employee engagement, foster personal importance in their roles, and cultivate a connection to a greater purpose beyond mundane job responsibilities. Conversely, inflexible, hierarchical, or exclusively profit-oriented organizational settings may stifle spiritual expression and undermine employee well-being. The study examines current theoretical models and suggests potential frameworks to facilitate additional empirical research on the culture-spirituality connection. It delineates essential markers for evaluating the spiritual environment of an organization and offers a series of pragmatic consequences for organizational leaders, Human resource (HR) experts, and policy-makers. These encompass tactics for cultivating inclusive, purpose-oriented workplace settings where people can flourish professionally and personally, as well as spiritually. The study enhances the debate on workplace spirituality by highlighting the crucial influence of organizational culture on spiritual experiences in the workplace. It promotes future research and organizational practices that acknowledge spirituality as an essential element of comprehensive employee well-being and organizational success.

Keywords: *Employee well-being; Meaningful work; Organizational culture; Organizational values; Workplace spirituality*

An Evaluative Study on the Role of Data Carpentry Tools in Library Management

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This study examines the utilization of data carpentry tools in contemporary library management, highlighting its capacity to improve data organization, analysis, and informed decision-making. As libraries evolve into data-centric settings, the incorporation of open-source data technologies presents significant enhancements in operational efficiency, digital resource management, and strategic planning. The study utilized a descriptive research design to thoroughly assess secondary data sources for the evaluation of several data carpentry tools frequently employed in libraries. The analyzed tools were OpenRefine, Koha, MarcEdit, Pandas, Tableau, SQL, DSpace, R, Google Refine, and Zotero. The tools were evaluated according to their usability, functionality, interoperability, and overall influence on library operations. Research findings indicated that these techniques markedly enhanced multiple facets of library management, encompassing cataloguing precision, meta-data enhancement, digital repository up keep, and bibliometric evaluation. The work flow automation and data cleansing functionalities offered by technologies such as OpenRefine and Pandas diminished manual labor and redundancy, resulting in enhanced data processing efficiency. Moreover, Koha and DSpace improved integrated library systems and digital asset management, and technologies such as Tableau and R facilitated sophisticated data visualization and predictive analytics. These features allowed libraries to discern user behavior trends, anticipate resource needs, and enhance collection development strategies. The study emphasizes the significance of interoperability and easy data inter change among library systems, enabled by these tools. By endorsing standardized formats and open protocols, data carpentry tools enhance collaboration and facilitate data reuse across platforms. The implementation of data carpentry tools is revolutionizing conventional library management into nimble, data-driven operations. These tools enhance resource management and service delivery while also promoting the long-term sustainability of library systems. Future research may encompass comparative studies among institutions, case-based implementation evaluations, and user-focused assessments to enhance data carpentry methodologies in library science.

Keywords: *Data carpentry; Data visualization; Digital repositories; Predictive analytics; Workflow automation*

Sub Theme 4

IT applications, Data privacy and Ethics in Information Access

Mapping the Cyber Security Research: a Scientometric Analysis of Global Publications

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The present study describes how the growing dependence on digital technology has caused cyber security research to pick up substantially in recent years. Using data from the Web of Science, this study conducts a scientometric analysis of global cyber security research trends covering the period of 2020-2024. Prominent institutions, prolific writers, significant funding agencies, document types and the rise of research output were among the key parameters examined. Result indicated that, publications were steadily increasing, reaching a peak in 2024 (1,973; 23.70%). Most publications were journal articles (91.53%) and English was the most common language (99.86%). India had made significant strides in cyber security research, as seen by its 2024 Activity Index of 124.74. In addition, King Saud University, the Egyptian Knowledge Bank and the National Institute of Technology were among the top providers. The most prolific authors were Wang Y (47 records), Li J (39 records), and Choo KKR (36 records), indicating essential figures in the field of research. The report highlights the importance of international funding organizations and the importance of computer science and information systems in cyber security research. Keywords such as "security," "cyber security," "machine learning," and "Internet of Things" that appeared frequently suggest a heavy emphasis on cutting-edge technologies. Researchers, legislators and funding agencies can use these insights to help shape the future of cyber security research.

Keywords: *Activity index; Cyber security; Internet; Scientometric ;Web of Science.*

The Role of 5G in Enhancing Information Services in Libraries

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The advent of 5G technology marks a transformative era for information services, particularly within the domain of Library and Information Science (LIS). As the fifth generation of mobile communication, 5G introduces ultra-fast data speeds, low latency, and the ability to connect a vast number of devices simultaneously. These features hold tremendous promise for revolutionizing library operations, enhancing digital content delivery, supporting immersive learning environments, and fostering equitable access to information. This study explores the multifaceted applications of 5G in libraries, focusing on its capacity to modernize library services, support real-time digital interactions, and facilitate smart library infrastructures powered by the Internet of Things (IoT).Through an analytical review of both primary and secondary data sources, including scholarly literature and case studies, this research investigates the specific features of 5G, such as millimeter (mm)-wave frequency, massive MIMO, network slicing, beam-forming, and edge computing and assesses their practical implications for LIS. Key findings showed that 5G enabled rapid access to e-resources, supported interactive services such as virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR), and enhanced remote access to library facilities. It also allowed for intelligent inventory tracking, personalized user experiences, and environmentally responsive library spaces. However, the integration of 5G into library ecosystems was not without challenges. High infrastructure costs, limited mm Wave coverage, increased cyber security risks, and potential data privacy concerns presented significant hurdles. Furthermore, the digital divide remained a critical issue, with unequal access to 5G networks exacerbating existing disparities in information access. This paper provides targeted recommendations for libraries, including strategic planning for 5G deployment, investment in staff training and digital literacy programs, adoption of IoT-based library solutions, and the establishment of ethical data practices to ensure user privacy and security. Collaborations with telecommunication providers, educational institutions, and community organizations are also emphasized to maximize outreach and impact. In conclusion, 5G holds the potential to reposition libraries as dynamic, inclusive, and tech-driven hubs of knowledge. By thoughtfully navigating implementation challenges and embracing emerging technologies, libraries can harness 5G to redefine their role in the digital age, ensuring continued relevance and service excellence in a rapidly evolving information landscape.

Keywords: *5G; Augmented reality; Information services; Libraries; Virtual reality*

Evaluating the Research Performance and Impacts of the National Institute of Oceanography India: a Scientometric Dimension

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This study aimed at analyzing the research productivity and citation impacts on National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), India. A web-based literature survey using the Web of Science (WoS), database identified 4,204 publications affiliated with CSIR –NIO, India from 2000 to 2024. The Research output of the NIO had experienced substantial growth over the past two decades. The number of publications increased from 78 in the year 2000 to a peak of 260 in 2021. Over the period from 2000 to 2024, NIO had contributed a total 4206 publications which collectively received 88,437 citations. The total citation impact over the study period was recorded at 2391.04%, underscoring the substantial global relevance and rising influence of NIO's scientific contributions. The research highlighted a shift toward collaborative work with many authors contributing to most publications. International collaborations were prominent, especially with scientists in the 'United States', 'France', and 'Germany'. Seventy-three fields were explored at NIO, most notably environmental science, oceanography and marine biology. The institutional research was frequently published in prominent journals such as Current Science (297 publications), the Indian Journal of Geo Marine Sciences (124 Publications) and Marine Pollution Bulletin (118 Publications), representing the breadth and depth of its scientific contributions. Prominent authors including Sarma, V.V.S.S. (162 papers), Anil, A.C. (149 papers), and Naqvi, S.W.A. 9133 papers) had made substantial contributions to the field, with many of their most cited works focusing on Indian Ocean monsoon dynamic and marine ecosystem studies. According to the 2024 Scimago institutional performance rankings, NIO ranked within the top two percent of institutions, globally for research output and social impact. The analysis noted that relying solely on WoS leaves out publications indexed elsewhere, such as Scopus. Future studies could incorporate additional databases, metrics of achievement and a broader examination to develop a more thorough understanding of the long-term research effects of the NIO.

Keywords: *CSIR Institute; National Institute of Oceanography (NIO); Research performance; Scientometrics*

Data Privacy and Ethics: Paving the Way for Sustainable Information Access

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In the digital age, data privacy and ethics play a crucial role in shaping sustainable information access. With the increasing reliance on big data, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing, organizations and individuals face significant ethical dilemmas in balancing open access to information and protecting sensitive data. This paper explores the intersection of data privacy, ethical considerations, and sustainability in information access. Sustainability in information access requires responsible data management practices that align with legal frameworks, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other global data protection laws. Ethical principles such as transparency, accountability, and fairness must be integrated into data governance to ensure that information access promotes inclusivity, environmental sustainability, and social equity. The study examines the role of AI and machine learning in processing vast amounts of data while addressing biases, ensuring security, and fostering responsible decision-making. Furthermore, the paper highlights the potential risks of unethical data practices, such as surveillance, data breaches, and misinformation, which can undermine trust and long-term sustainability efforts. It discusses best practices for organizations to adopt privacy-enhancing technologies, ethical AI frameworks, and stakeholder collaboration to balance accessibility with security. Case studies on ethical data use in sectors like healthcare, finance, and environmental monitoring illustrate the real-world implications of responsible data governance. By emphasizing ethical principles in data privacy, this study advocates for a sustainable approach to information access that prioritizes human rights, equitable resource distribution, and long-term digital resilience. Future research should focus on developing AI-driven privacy-preserving techniques and regulatory policies that support ethical data sharing without compromising security. In conclusion, ensuring ethical data privacy practices is essential to fostering a sustainable digital ecosystem where information can be accessed responsibly and equitably.

Keywords: *Data privacy; Sustainability; Information access; Artificial Intelligence; Security*

Reengineering Library Services through Intelligent Information Systems: a Case Study on Zoology Departments in Arts and Science Colleges under Bharathiar University

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As the digital revolution reshapes academic ecosystems, university libraries are compelled to re-structure their services through the focus on technology and user-centric design. This study explores the integration of Intelligent Information Systems (IIS) to reengineer library services, with a targeted case study on Zoology departments in colleges under Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. The research addresses how tailored intelligent systems can enhance library access, usability, and discipline-specific resource discovery, based on the subject dependence on evolving taxonomies, ecological datasets, and visual learning materials. Employing a mixed-methods research design, the study drew from faculty interviews, student usage analytics, and library staff surveys across selected affiliated Arts and Science colleges. It identified key limitations in current systems, such as inconsistent metadata tagging, minimal adaptive search capabilities, and a lack of Zoology-focused digital repositories. Through an exploration of intelligent tools including machine learning-powered content curation, semantic search, and multilingual virtual assistants, the study documented improvements in research efficiency, academic satisfaction, and user engagement. Recommendations include specialized librarian training in life sciences metadata, digitization of local biodiversity archives, integration of AI-assisted reference services, and inclusion of Tamil-language support to reflect user diversity. The findings position IIS not merely as tools of modernization but as enablers of more equitable, accessible, and responsive academic environments for life science disciplines. By focusing on the Bharathiar University context, this case study offers localized yet scalable strategies for transforming traditional library models, underscoring how intelligent systems can empower a new generation of Zoology scholars in India's semi-urban and rural higher education spaces.

Keywords: *Digital transformation; Visual learning materials; Virtual assistants*

Unveiling Digital Literacy Trends: Insights into Impact, Engagement, and Sustainable Development

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In the age of swift digital transformation, the notion of digital literacy is consistently growing to include a broad spectrum of skills essential for navigating modern digital environments. This study examines learners' choices and priorities concerning digital literacy, specifically in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). This research analyses engagement with essential digital domains, including cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital wellness, Extended Reality (XR), blockchain, digital accessibility, green digital literacy, and personal branding, using data gathered from a structured survey of 269 participants. The results indicate that cybersecurity literacy was the foremost priority among respondents, reflecting an enhanced understanding of data protection and online safety in an increasingly linked environment. This was succeeded by AI literacy, indicating the increasing impact of machine learning and automation on education and the workforce. Digital wellness, pertaining to mental and physical health in the digital realm, had emerged as the third most pressing topic, highlighting the necessity for balanced and aware technology usage. These insights highlight the evolving expectations of learners in the digital era and stress the importance of matching digital education methods with contemporary technical advancements and societal issues. The study enhances the dialogue on inclusive education by promoting the creation of adaptive, forward-thinking digital literacy initiatives. It underscores the capacity of these programs to diminish the digital divide, foster equal technological access, and facilitate innovation-driven sustainable development. This study identifies key areas for learners and aligns them with global objectives, providing essential direction to educators, policymakers, and organizational leaders seeking to develop pertinent digital skills and empower individuals within the digital economy.

Keywords: *Blockchain; Cybersecurity; Digital literacy; Sustainable Development Goals; Green digital literacy*

Mapping Research Contributions to Sustainable Development Goals: a Case Study of Birla Global University

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United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) comprises many areas of research which represent real-world challenges to be solved by conducting scholarly and scientific work. Various conferences, research papers, and case studies assist in tracking and evaluating SDG implementation across the globe. This study aims to assess, through scholarly research papers, the contribution of Birla Global University (BGU) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and how research findings align with the SDG. Due to significant research contribution to SDG Birla Global University was selected as the sample by using the SDG data mapping tool in Scopus. The data-driven approach in Scopus showed that BGU had published 186 research papers by 48 scholars, 15 of which mapped to the SDG. A more comprehensive analysis showed that 14 of the papers met more than one SDG, such as SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) most frequently addressed topics in BGU research publications. Most research articles emphasized on economic resilience, job opportunities, financial inclusion, and sustainable business (SDG 8); followed by SDG 17, which reflects the enormous contribution of the institution to worldwide sustainability goals. It is recommended that Birla Global University enhances its research focus to include a broader range of SDGs beyond SDG 8 and SDG 17, encouraging interdisciplinary and community-based research that addresses diverse sustainability challenges. Strengthening international collaborations, integrating SDG themes into the curriculum, and establishing dedicated research centers can further enhance the impact. Regular monitoring using tools like Elsevier SDG Mapping and greater visibility of SDG-aligned research outputs can support continuous progress towards global sustainability goals.

Keywords: *Birla Global University; Research publication; Scopus SDG Mapping; Sustainability assessment; Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)*

Research Output of Beacon Technology with Special Reference to Scopus Database: Scientometric Analysis

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This study explores the landscape of research on beacon technology, focusing on publications indexed in the Scopus database from 1932 to February 2025. Beacon technology, which allows smartphones to detect signals from small physical devices via Bluetooth, has seen as an increasing research activity over the past few decades, particularly after the early 2000s. This study aims to analyze research productivity, authorship patterns, institutional contributions, and international collaboration trends in the field. The data set includes 4,026 documents published across a span of nearly 90 years. The analysis revealed significant growth in beacon technology research, with a peak in publications observed in 2019 and 2024. The most prolific authors, such as LI Y and CHEN Y, were identified based on their citation impact, H-index, and G-index, indicating their substantial contributions to the field. The study also highlighted the dominance of single-author publications (83.9%), suggesting that a small number of highly productive researchers drive the majority of the research output. Institutional analysis shows that Chinese universities, particularly Zhejiang University of Technology (n=65) and Wuhan University (n=66), led in beacon technology research, with a significant proportion of publications originating from China. The USA and several European countries exhibit a higher level of international collaboration, contrasting with China's domestic focused in research. Beacon technology research is predominantly published in conference proceedings, with journals such as Proceedings of SPIE and Sensors (Switzerland) being key sources. The paper also identified the most cited documents, with Paull L. (2014) and Petryayeva E. (2011) leading in total citations, reflecting the sustained impact of their work over the years. This analysis provides a comprehensive view of the evolution, trends, and global distribution of research in beacon technology, offering valuable insights into its growth and impact on multiple fields.

Keywords: *Beacon technology; Mobile technology; Research impact; Scientometrics; Scopus data analysis*

Predatory Publishing and Research Integrity: a Review on Institutional Challenges in Indian Academia

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Predatory publishing poses a severe threat to research integrity, particularly in developing academic ecosystems such as India. With the proliferation of journals that exploit the open-access model, offering rapid but low-quality publication options at significant financial cost. The scholarly community faces challenges in ensuring research quality, data privacy, and ethical publication practices. In India, where academic promotions and funding decisions often emphasize publication quantity, these practices have led to the dissemination of substandard research, erosion of trust in scholarly communication, and misallocation of institutional resources. This paper presents a theoretical review that synthesizes key ethical frameworks (deontological, utilitarian, and virtue ethics) to explain the ethical principles that guide academic publishing; conducts a comparative policy analysis of major initiatives (UGC-CARE journal list, GDPR, COPE "Principles of Transparency and Best Practices"); and critically evaluates representative case studies, such as the U.S. FTC's action against OMICS and Indian institutional responses to identify recurring patterns and gaps. Three principal drivers of predatory publishing emerge; publication pressure, regulatory framework, and limited researcher awareness. Further, less than one in three Indian institutions maintain formal publication-ethics policies. While premier technical institutes demonstrate some examples of good practice (e.g., internal manuscript review), most universities and government laboratories lacked clear sanctions or structured training programs. To safeguard India's research integrity, it is recommended to establish a real-time journal-verification portal integrating indexing and ethical-code data; embedding mandatory, credit-bearing ethics coursework in graduate curricula; empowering institutional oversight committees with clear enforcement mechanisms; and leveraging AI-driven tools to flag suspect journals. A coordinated national strategy, blending policy reform, researcher education, and technological innovation are essential to stem the tide of predatory publishing and uphold the global credibility of Indian scholarship.

Keywords: *Academic institutions; Data privacy; Predatory publishing; Researchers; Research integrity*

Artificial Intelligence Research Visibility as Reflected in the Web of Science: a Scientometric Approach

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This paper examines the research visibility of "Artificial Intelligence" in the Web of Science over a span of 20 years, from January 2005 to December 2024. The study is confined only to full-text articles included in the Web of Science database. The data were collected from the Web of Science database using the keyword "artificial intelligence." To identify the research productivity of "artificial intelligence," a total of 44,313 records were downloaded and recorded in the MS Excel spread sheets for further analysis. Furthermore, this study used VOS viewer software tools to create data visualization. Findings depicted a positive correlation between the number of articles and the year they were reflected in the Web of Science database; the correlation was significant ($r=.796^{**}$, $p=.000$). The study found that most articles were published in 2005 (122, or 0.3%), while the highest number of articles were identified in 2024 (11,869, or 26.8%). It was noticed that 21,002 articles were identified as being related to artificial intelligence. The study found that Attia, ZachiItzhak, had the most publications (151) and ranked first among the top 20 researchers. Noteworthy findings included that Harvard University ranked first among the top 20 institutions, with 1,086 publications. It was found that the article entitled "Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI): Concepts, taxonomies, opportunities and challenges toward responsible AI", by Arrieta and others published in 2020 received 4,313 citations. In addition, USA led the global rankings with 11,306 (23.8%) published articles, securing the top position among the 20 leading countries. Further, results exhibited that overall, 9,031 articles were recorded in computer science subjects secured in rank one. The study provides insights into, the growth rate of research publications on "artificial intelligence" in terms of publications, citations, types of publications, author productivity, productive countries, and authorship patterns etc. The study recommends that the researcher needs to publish quality research articles in reputable journals in order to have more visibility. The study highlights that there are significant trends in publication patterns and citation impacts in recent years.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence; Publications; Research visibility; Scientometric; Web of Science*

Postgraduate Students' Theses as a Source of Literature: a Citation Analysis between 2005-2010 in the Agriculture Library, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

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The Agriculture Library, used by postgraduate students at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, is underutilized in understanding citation usage among Master of Business Administration (MBA) students. This lack of insight hinders academic libraries' ability to evaluate resource usage and guide future collection development. A detailed citation analysis is needed to assess literature use patterns among MBA theses submitted. The period from 2005 to 2010 was selected to provide a manageable and meaningful sample size for bibliometric analysis, capturing half a decade of academic output. Additionally, these years represent a complete and archived set of MBA theses available at the Agriculture Library, ensuring consistency in data collection. The study examined 2783 citations from 46 MBA theses between 2005-2010, focusing on the literature form, citation sources, and authorship patterns. All the reference lists which were obtained from each MBA theses were analyzed individually. Data tabulation, percentage calculation, and graphical presentation of the data were carried out in alignment with the objectives of the study using Excel spreadsheets. It was revealed that journals and books were the most preferred sources of literature. Fifteen Journals were identified as most productive journals in the Business Administration field. The Journal of Business Venturing ranked first with 65 citations accounting for 5.03% of total citations and Journal of Small Business Management was ranked second with 4.49% of citations. The majority of contributors were two authors with 42.61% of all citations, followed by single authors with 33.99%. The data set fits with the Leimkuhler model of Bradford's law since the percentage error was negligible. The research outlined that researchers had used printed and open access journals in the Library and had accessed the open access journals in the web. According to the findings, some journals can be recommended for acquisition by the library to enhance the collection and provide better services to the postgraduate students. It is suggested to aware the postgraduate students regarding new databases subscribed by the Agriculture Library. It is necessary to conduct additional research on various postgraduate degrees in order to determine the literature that was employed in their studies.

Keywords: *Authorship patterns; Bradford law; Citation analysis; Leimkuhler model*

Digital Health Information-Seeking Behaviors of Rural Women in Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu

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The Indian government has introduced numerous healthcare initiatives to improve public health, yet rural communities continue to face significant challenges due to limited awareness and information access. This study investigates the digital health information-seeking behaviors of rural women in Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu, with a focus on the role of digital tools in improving health awareness and decision-making. The primary objectives were to understand the purpose behind health information seeking, identify preferred formal and informal sources, explore barriers to access, and assess user satisfaction with information services. A survey was conducted using structured interviews and questionnaires across three blocks of Namakkal District: Namakkal, Rasipuram, and Tiruchengode. Out of the 320 questionnaires distributed, 219 were valid for analysis. Among the respondents, 144 were educated and 75 were uneducated. The block-wise distribution revealed that Rasipuram accounted for the highest proportion (46.58%) of participants, followed by Namakkal (26.94%) and Tiruchengode (25.58%). Educated women were found to be more engaged in seeking digital health information, particularly in Rasipuram (46.53%), while uneducated women largely relied on traditional sources such as local healthcare providers. The findings indicated that although digital platforms were underutilized, there was increasing interest among younger and more educated rural women. Barriers such as limited internet access, low digital literacy, and distrust in online sources were prevalent. However, a positive attitude toward adopting digital tools was observed among those familiar with technology. The study recommends the introduction of free digital literacy programs, better infrastructure in rural areas, and the development of trustworthy, government-endorsed health portals to improve access. This research highlights the potential for digital health solutions to bridge the rural information gap, provided targeted support and inclusive policy measures are implemented effectively.

Keywords: *Digital health; Health information-seeking; Rural women*

Two Decades of Global Research Productivity Trends in Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge Management: a Bibliometric Analysis

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This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of global research trends in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Knowledge Management (KM) over the past twenty years, from 2005 to 2024. The primary objective is to examine how AI contributes to knowledge sharing, capture, and utilization within academic and industrial frameworks, while identifying publication trends, key contributors, affiliations, funding sources, and country-wise output in this interdisciplinary domain. The research data were collected from the Scopus database using a well-defined search strategy involving the keywords "artificial intelligence" and "knowledge management" combined with Boolean operators. A total of 3953 documents were retrieved for the defined period after applying filters for language and document types. Analytical tools such as MS Excel and VOS viewer were employed to assess publication metrics, visualize co-authorship networks, and identify thematic clusters and keyword co-occurrences. Findings indicated a substantial and consistent rise in publications, particularly from 2018 onwards, with annual output increasing from 75 papers in 2005 to 385 in 2024. The analysis revealed that most publications were in the form of conference proceedings (66.9%) and journal articles (24%). China and the United States emerged as major contributors, with the Chinese Academy of Sciences being the top publishing institution. Additionally, the National Natural Science Foundation of China was identified as the most active funding agency, supporting 206 research works. The dominant subject area was Computer Science, reflecting AI's technical foundation in KM applications. The results underscore the growing scholarly interest in integrating AI with KM, highlighting opportunities for future research in science education, ethical considerations, and policy development. The study offers valuable insights for academics, librarians, educators, and decision-makers seeking to understand and expand the impact of AI in KM.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Bibliometrics; Knowledge Management; Research trends; VOS viewer

Application of AI tools in Academic Libraries with Particular Reference to University Libraries

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The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in academic libraries, particularly in university contexts is reshaping the landscape of information services, user engagement, and library operations. This study investigates the diverse and transformative applications of AI in university libraries, focusing on how these technologies enhance information retrieval, automate administrative processes, and provide personalized support to users. AI technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing, chatbots, and intelligent search systems are increasingly employed to deliver faster, smarter, and more user-centric services. The study highlighted how AI improved resource management and decision-making through predictive analytics, enabling libraries to analyze usage patterns, allocate resources efficiently, and tailor services to individual needs. AI-driven tools also played a crucial role in enhancing accessibility, offering services like real-time language translation, speech-to-text, and screen reading, there by promoting inclusion among diverse user groups. Furthermore, AI contributed significantly to academic research support by offering literature review assistance, plagiarism detection, and citation management, ultimately accelerating research workflows. Despite these advancements, the study acknowledged several challenges including ethical concerns, data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the need for staff training. These considerations underscore the importance of responsible AI adoption that complements human expertise rather than replaces it. The research advocates for a strategic approach to AI implementation that includes infrastructure development, skill-building, and ethical oversight. In conclusion, the study emphasizes that AI is not merely a technological upgrade but a strategic tool for reinventing the role of university libraries in the digital age. Its successful adoption can lead to more intelligent, inclusive, and efficient academic libraries, aligned with the evolving needs of students, faculty, and researchers. Through thoughtful integration, AI holds the potential to strengthen the academic mission of university libraries and elevate their role as central hubs of knowledge, learning, and innovation.

Keywords: *AI; AI tools; University libraries*

Sub Theme 5

Library Outreach Programs and Library Education for Dynamic World

Usage of AI Tools in Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli for Teaching, Learning, and Research

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Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, is a century-old institution dedicated to the empowerment of women through education in the fields of Arts and Science. In the light of the increasing integration of technology in academia, this study aims to investigate the adoption and utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in teaching, learning, and research activities by students and faculty members of the college. The study is rooted in the belief that understanding how AI tools are used can help to enhance educational outcomes and inform future academic strategies. The key objectives are to assess AI awareness levels, identify the most commonly used tools, examine their purposes, evaluate their impact on academic quality and efficiency, and explore challenges in their usage. A structured questionnaire was developed and distributed online via Google Forms to library users, adopting a random sampling method. Out of 564 total responses, 512 were valid and analyzed using Excel to detect usage patterns across academic groups. The findings revealed that 100% of the respondents, including undergraduate (UG), postgraduate, and Ph.D. scholars, as well as faculty members were aware of AI tools. The most popular tools identified include ChatGPT, Grammarly, Gemini, Gamma, QuillBot, Canva, Elicit, and Scite. While Ph.D. scholars primarily used AI for article writing and language correction, UG students commonly utilized AI tools for preparing seminars (88%) and assignments (87%). Faculty members employed these tools for question bank preparation (92%), article writing (72%), classroom teaching (40%), and research proposal development (22%). Canva, in particular, was widely used for creative tasks such as designing brochures and presentations. The study concludes that AI tools significantly contribute to academic efficiency, creativity, and productivity. However, ethical concerns regarding AI usage remain, particularly among UG students. Therefore, it is recommended that the college conducts awareness programs, workshops, and establish clear institutional guidelines to promote ethical and effective use of AI tools in academia.

Keywords: *AI tools; Chat GPT; Digital literacy; Higher education; Holy Cross College*

Community Engagement through Public Libraries in Nepal: Outreach Initiatives in Gandaki Province

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Modern libraries extend beyond traditional four-wall services, actively engaging with communities to foster socio-economic and cultural development through diverse initiatives. The current study aims to analyze the community engagement of selected public libraries in Gandaki Province Nepal and their impact on literacy, digital skills, and community development. This study employed mixed method approach, including qualitative data collected through in-depth interviews of key persons of the concerned libraries and quantitative data obtained from the publication and social media. Data sources included interviews with key people, literature (books, journal articles, and theses), policy documents (government reports, regulations), national and international databases, and online resources (regulatory websites, news, and professional blogs). Out of 48 actively running public and community libraries, four libraries namely, Pokhara Public Library, Deepshikha Community Library, Vidhya Mandir Library, and Moti Community Library were purposively selected based on some criteria, such as, international collaboration and funding, historical background and performance, community engagement and sources of funding. This study found that these four libraries contributed to community literacy and education with distinct focuses. Vidhya Mandir Library preserved culture, Pokhara Public Library emphasized digital literacy and job support, Deepshikha Community Library promoted IT skills and women's empowerment, and Moti Community Library specialized in vocational training and healthcare. They supported underprivileged students, provide digital training, and fostered leadership through women's programs. Further these libraries promoted health, social inclusion, and outreach initiatives such as book donations and environmental campaigns. They also aided career development through CV writing, counseling, and training. It is concluded that public libraries significantly contribute to society through education and literacy by supporting underprivileged students, digital training, women's empowerment, job skills, leadership programs, health promotion, book donations, and environmental campaigns. The activities performed by public libraries need to be continued as these activities have a positive impact on society. It is recommended that public libraries address their ongoing financial constraints by securing sustainable and permanent sources of funding, as reliance on international development organizations may not provide long-term financial stability. They can raise funds through collaborating with libraries and carrying out income-generating activities.

Keywords: *Digital empowerment; Literacy promotion; Modern library; Public library, Skill development*

A Study on the Use of Group Teaching Methods and Utilization of Library Resources for the Success of the Learning and Teaching Process of Junior Secondary School Students.

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Education plays a vital role in the development of every nation, including Sri Lanka, where junior secondary education serves as a foundation for students' future academic success. This study explores the effectiveness of the group learning method, combined with the use of library resources, in addressing persistent challenges in the Sri Lankan education system, such as weak teacher-student interaction, low student engagement and reliance on passive learning strategies. The research was conducted with 100 junior secondary students and 40 teachers from four selected schools in the Kandy district using a mixed-method approach, including interviews, oral questionnaires, and classroom observations. Initial findings indicated that the conventional lecture-based approach contributed to reduced student participation and lack of critical thinking skills. However, after the introduction of group teaching methods supported by library resources utilization, there was a notable improvement in the classroom dynamics. Students collaborated more effectively in groups, using library resources to gather additional information and enhance their group discussions and presentations. This led to an increase in active learning, development of leadership and research skills, and deeper understanding of subject content. Moreover, the integration of library resources into group activities encouraged students to develop independent learning habits and promoted a reading culture within the schools. Teachers observed increased student motivation and confidence during group tasks, fostering a more interactive learning environment. The study concludes that combining group teaching methods with library resources use boosts student engagement and learning outcomes, making it an effective strategy for junior secondary education in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Group method; Junior secondary grades; Learning and teaching process; Library resources; Student engagement*

Empowering Communities through Webinars: a Case Study of University Library Outreach at Wayamba University Library Network

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This case study explores the use of webinars as a strategic research support service at the Wayamba University Library Network (WULN), with particular emphasis on their implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study aims to examine how WULN adapted its library and outreach services to support academic research and knowledge dissemination among diverse communities through web-based seminars. Specifically, the study evaluates participation and engagement across a variety of webinar topics, considering key factors such as accessibility, digital literacy, inclusivity, user satisfaction, and ethnographic insights. The research analyzed data collected from webinars conducted by WULN from November 2021 and March 2024. The sessions were designed to enhance academic and research skills among participants and were structured to facilitate easy access and high levels of engagement. A mixed-method approach was adopted, integrating quantitative attendance data with qualitative feedback from participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of webinar effectiveness. A total of 1676 individuals participated in these webinars. Findings from the study indicated that webinars can significantly contribute to the transformation of library services by extending traditional service boundaries and fostering digital confidence and engaged learning. Many participants highlighted the accessibility and convenience of webinars, which allowed them to benefit from academic content without geographical constraints. However, the study also identified several limitations, including inconsistent attendance, technological barriers, and the need for better planning and delivery mechanisms. In response to these challenges, the study recommends the systematic collection of user feedback, the development of librarian training programs focused on online content delivery, and the removal of language-related access barriers to broaden the audience base. These improvements would support the sustained and effective use of webinars as an innovative tool for academic and community outreach. The WULN case study ultimately demonstrates that when thoughtfully implemented, webinars have the potential to overcome physical limitations and reposition university libraries as agile, responsive partners in education, research, and community engagement.

Keywords: *Community empowerment; Digital learning; Library outreach; University library; Webinars*

Exploring Classroom Anxiety among Library and Information Science Undergraduates in Sri Lanka

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The phenomenon of anxiety is a crucial issue in the higher education context related to fear, unpleasantness and worries at present. It is a widespread feeling of apprehension due to a natural reaction to stress disorder. On the other hand, it is an anticipated belief of psychological distress. Therefore, this study aims to find classroom anxiety among Library and Information Science (LIS) undergraduates at the Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS), University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. The objectives of the study are to identify the sources of classroom anxiety, to assess the impact of classroom anxiety on academic performance, and to explore coping strategies employed by students. The study used a qualitative research method based on the case study approach. A total of 72 BA honours undergraduates from 1st year (35), 2nd year (20) and 3rd year (17), out of the Bachelor of Arts degree undergraduates, were selected under the purposive sampling technique because it fulfilled the purpose of research. The response rate was 100% and the collected data were analyzed accordingly. The study results indicated that failing to attend classes regularly, getting nervous when they don't understand the lessons, speaking in front of the class, performing poorly in classroom activities, and receiving lower grades in activities were significant factors that affected the feeling of anxiety. Furthermore, the relationship between classroom anxiety and academic performance was also at a standard level. To cope with classroom anxiety, undergraduates found some strategies, such as seeking help from their peers and meeting student counselors at the university. Undergraduates proposed to arrange friendly discussions in the classroom and for lecturers to become closer to the students to help overcome their fear, unpleasantness and worries. In conclusion, classroom anxiety feelings impact LIS undergraduates at a standard level, and peer support, counseling, and closer lecturer-student relationships will help to overcome the anxiety feelings and enhance well-being.

Keywords: *Classroom anxiety; Library and Information Science; Sri Lanka; Undergraduates; University of Kelaniya*

A Study on Reading Habits among Ordinary Level Students of Pilimathalawa Central College

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Reading is considered as one of the main pillars of language skills and is undoubtedly essential for academic success. Students may achieve good grades as well as perform well academically. In the modern context, teachers and parents often complain that children have poor reading habits because of poor performance in class, semester examinations, and assessments. Recent studies worldwide have revealed that modern day children do not show much interest in reading due to number of reasons. Mass media and online gaming have contributed to a decline in quality reading time. The main objective of this study is to identify the reading habits among Ordinary Level (O/L) students of Pilimathalawa Central College. The specific objectives are to identify the types of information material read by O/L students, to examine the purposes of reading, to identify the time allocated for reading, and to investigate the preferred places and format for reading. The study involved 120 students selected through a purposive sampling technique and a descriptive survey was used to gather data. An online self-administered questionnaire was circulated among ordinary-level students of Pilimathalawa Central College. This study found that students primarily engaged with materials for leisure and relaxation (73%) and general knowledge acquisition (62%). This indicates a preference for non-academic reading purposes. Further, it was found that a significant portion of students either spent less than 30 minutes daily or allocated time based on specific purposes, suggesting limited time allocation to a consistent reading habit. Interestingly, it was found that most students (55%) preferred reading at home, while a few students utilized school libraries (25%) or read while traveling (15%). It was identified that print formats were overwhelmingly preferred (71%) as students found it easier to concentrate on physical books compared to electronic devices. The study recommendations are to encourage diverse reading habits by introducing a curated reading list and promoting the importance of regular reading and also to improve school library facilities and create more inviting spaces to encourage library use. In addition, it is suggested to conduct workshops on effective time management to support more consistent time to reading; provide access to digital reading platforms; provide guidance on selecting age-appropriate and engaging materials for students; and introduce programs that teach students how to effectively use devices for educational purposes.

Keywords: *Cognitive development; Intellectual development; Ordinary level; Reading Habits; School students*

Impact of Library Use on the Vocabulary Development of Primary School Students in Sri Lanka

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This study was conducted to evaluate the impact of library use on the vocabulary improvement of primary school students. The study sample consisted of 20 students in the grade 3, 4, and 5 in a rural 1-C School in Sri Lanka. Mixed research method was adopted for the study and questionnaires, structured interviews, observations, printed sources and past research studies were used as data collection tools for the study. Descriptive statistics were used in analyzing the data collected. The findings revealed that 60% school students were occasional book readers, 30% of students were frequent readers and 10% of the students were non-readers. The majority of the students in the sample could be identified as occasional book readers. The use of library books had an impact on the improvement of students' vocabulary by 40% only. Accordingly, occasional readers and non- readers were selected for teacher interventions. Separate reading activities were conducted for the two groups of students, following the 'Room to Read' Child Friendly Library Activities. Reading activities were planned and implemented to suit the vocabulary level of each student. Two teacher interventions were conducted and, at the end of the first intervention, students' reading level and vocabulary improvement were measured. Based on the results, the second intervention was planned and implemented. It was revealed that 50% of students had become frequent readers by the end of two interventions. Also, the number of vocabulary words known by 50% of those students ranged from 41-50. The study concludes that the library use has an effective and positive impact on the primary students' vocabulary improvement. Accordingly, the vocabulary improvement of students increases in proportion to teachers' involvement in the teaching learning process. Teacher interventions such as picture reading, word reading, sentence reading, loud reading, shared reading, pair reading, and independent reading can be recommended for vocabulary improvement of primary students.

Keywords: *Library; Library use; Primary education; Promote reading; Vocabulary*

"Thopudu Bandi" (Trolley Cart) and its Services in Telangana, India

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Libraries are the knowledge hubs where wisdom could be acquired freely. In modern days, libraries have become part of human life, and with globalization, information is shared without boundaries. This is about one side of a coin, but the other side, many rural areas, even most of the communal areas, have not been touched by the book. The concept of "Thopudu Bandi" (one who pushes the cart with hands like a vegetable vendor/fruit vendor) is introduced to overcome this situation. The main objective of this study is to explore how the concept of "Thopudu Bandi" inculcates the habit of reading books in public, and to know how the concept of Thopudu Bandi can bridge the gap in reading capability and education. The 'Thopudu Bandi' concept had vibrantly changed lifestyle of the public living in remote and slum areas, where basic needs and transportation were a big challenge. Further, this concept had reached to the unreached. This service was initiated on 24th January 2016 with an aim of 100 days, travel 1000 Kilometers to remote areas and introduce the library concept (book) to the unreached. This endevour was accomplished. The founder spent a considerable amount (nearly 30 lakhs) on books and other amenities, establishing 139 libraries with a collection of 10,000 books for competitive and other exams in rural areas of Telangana from his earnings in a single year. This article revealed the situation of the unreached people and how they benefited from the concept of "Thopudu Bandi". The research was based on an interview with the founder and a survey method from beneficiaries. Questionnaires were prepared and distributed to 190 members. Out of 190 distributed, 176 filled questionnaires were returned.Most of the beneficiary group had cherished their lives by adopting and acquiring these privileges. It is suggested that the government and educational institutions should also implement this type of service to provide more education to the underprivileged people in the society.

Keywords: *Knowledge hubs; Mobile Library; Slum areas; Trolley Cart*

Enhancing School Library Services in Sri Lanka: a Comparative Study of Western and North Central Provinces under IFLA/UNESCO Standards

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School libraries are pivotal in advancing information literacy and educational success, as outlined in the IFLA/UNESCO School Library Mission Statement, which emphasizes equitable access to quality library services. In Sri Lanka, despite educational advancements, school libraries face challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, staffing shortages, and significant urban-rural disparities. This study evaluates library services in the urban Western and rural North Central Provinces to assess alignment with IFLA/UNESCO standards. Research objectives were to examine the current state of library services, identify disparities in resources and professional support, and propose strategies for improvement. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research surveyed 50 schools (25 per province) under purposive sampling. Data were collected through observational studies, interviews, and questionnaires. Observations assessed infrastructure, interviews with librarians and educators explored operational challenges, and surveys captured student and teacher perspectives. Findings revealed that stark contrasts: 65% of Western Province libraries had dedicated spaces compared to only 15% in North Central Province, where just 10% offered digital tools and 5% employed trained librarians. Interviews identified chronic findings as shortages and inadequate training as key barriers, while surveys indicated 80% of students valued libraries but found resources insufficient. Urban libraries significantly outperformed rural ones, underscoring inequitable educational support. Both provincial libraries fell short of IFLA/UNESCO standards, particularly in rural areas, limiting learning outcomes. The study recommends, increasing government funding for rural library infrastructure, annual regional training workshops for librarians, and partnerships with local communities and stakeholders, to foster collaboration and resource sharing. These measures will support to bridge disparities, ensuring equitable and high-quality library services to enhance educational equity and information literacy across Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Educational equity; IFLA/UNESCO standards; Information literacy; School libraries; Urban-rural disparities*

Understanding the Role of Public Libraries in Supporting Parents of Child Users: a Case Study of the Kesbewa Municipal Council Public Library

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In line with the current trends in education, parents actively support their children's education by providing resources. In this context, public libraries are highly accessible for all and it plays a vital role. It is compulsory for them to identify their role to serve accordingly. This study aims to understand the information requirements of parents whose children are schooling. A public library was chosen as a case study focusing on understanding parents' access to educational resources, their expectations, and members' participation in library events. The research population consisted of 5710 library members and 90 children under the age of 12 years. The sample size (375) was determined by using the Krejcie and Morgan table. The simple random sampling method was employed for data collection. Data were gathered through a structured Google form that included both open-ended and closed-ended questions. There were a total of 170 responses (45.3%) and MS Excel was utilized for data analysis. The findings indicated that parents mainly sought costly and rare educational resources through the public libraries (72.4%). The results revealed that a considerable number of parents required educational resources and services such as reference services (35%), printed periodicals (25%), and children and other services (20%). Respondents (85%) expressed a preference for online awareness sessions, while (59%) indicated their willingness to participate in workshops, lectures, and on-site training. The study further indicated a significant demand (80%) for outreach programs like storytelling competitions, reading camps, and personal development courses. Parents also expected to have reading materials for public education and common exams. In light of the findings, there is a lack of awareness among individuals regarding all services offered by public libraries. Nevertheless, it is widely recognized that libraries are vital to children's education. It is recommended that public libraries improve their existing services / new services to better cater to parents' information needs. Parents suggested new programs, Dharma educational session (45%), mindset development workshop (19%), Mobile library services for children (30%), Digital awareness sessions (13%), storytelling contests, and motivational sessions (15%). Potential programs may include enhanced support. This study focuses only on parent's information needs, further research can cover the children's information needs to identify the future services and development of the library.

Keywords: *Educational resources; Library outreach; Parental information needs; Public libraries*

The Benefits of Reading in Childhood: Case Studies of Ten Writers

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This study focuses on the importance of library outreach programmes that connect schools and communities and make children have close contact with books and reading, by showing how much this connection has helped ten award winning Sinhala and English writers in Sri Lanka who have also proved to be fair and upright citizens of this country, leading successful lives at present. The objective of this study is to make adults realize how valuable it is to get children to read for fun when young. This is an interpretative study, using ethnographic methods to find the common denominator in all ten varied lives functioning as case studies. To find their sense of justice and fairness, a literature analysis of their work in the decade after the war between Tamil separatist militants and the Sri Lankan state ended in 2009 was conducted to identify their stance on the ethnic minorities of Sri Lanka. Findings showed that the influence common to all ten childhoods was that they all had connections to libraries and were avid readers, often encouraged by an adult around them. All of them also took a clear stand against racial discrimination and prejudice in their work. All of them were also leading economically stable lives, measured here by the successful careers they have. This concludes that having a childhood that prioritized reading may have helped all of the ten writers to become what they are at present. It is recommended to replicate such connections between reading, libraries and children wherever possible. Given that Sri Lankan has a strong library system, this would not call for extra resources; good qualified librarians and dynamic teachers and volunteers networking may be able to instill the habit of reading in children.

Keywords: *Ethics; Libraries; Reading; Success; Writers*

Use of Search Engines and Search Strategies: a Comparative Study of Rural and Urban LIS Students in Universities of Karnataka, India

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Searching, accessing and evaluating digital content is crucial for postgraduate students. In order to effectively search the internet for information, the search strategies that make the process easier and faster must be understood. The search engine is used to retrieve relevant query-based information. It consists of crawling, indexing, ranking and querying modules and a page repository for temporarily storing web pages. This study investigates the usage patterns of search engines and the application of search strategies among rural and urban postgraduate Library and Information Science (LIS) students in universities across Karnataka, India. A total of 13 state universities were established and 11 universities offered library and information science programs. A structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among 153 LIS postgraduate students across 11 universities in Karnataka, India. The data were analyzed to identify usage trends, behavioural patterns and differences in search strategy application between rural and urban respondents. The data were analyzed using SPSS software. The findings showed that 94.11% of students used the Internet daily. Google was the most widely used search engine among rural and urban students (mean = 4.88), followed by Yahoo (mean = 3.47) and Bing (mean = 2.56). The study also found that Dogpile (mean = 1.67) is one of the most used meta-search engines. However, with regard to Boolean search techniques: 79.08% of rural students responded that they are using Boolean logic, compared to only 6.53% of urban students. Despite these disparities, both groups expressed a shared interest in learning search strategies, primarily through classroom instruction and online sources. The study highlights a critical need for structured user education programs within the LIS curriculum. Universities should incorporate specialized training modules, online tutorials, and webinars focusing on effective search strategies. By enhancing students' information literacy and search capabilities, these interventions can significantly improve academic performance and better equip future LIS professionals to meet the dynamic challenges of the digital information landscape.

Keywords: *Postgraduate students; Search engines; Search strategies; Search techniques*

Sub Theme 6

Safeguarding Cultural Heritage for Future Developments

Bibliographical Study of Buddhist Cosmology

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Buddhist cosmology describes the universe through wisdom. This data can be found in *Theravada, Sarvastivada*, and *Mahayana* sources. It clearly explains the origin, existence, movements, and destruction of the universe. The aim of this study is to collect, compile, and analyze data from selected Buddhist cosmological texts and compare them with modern cosmological science. This study incorporated a standard bibliographic system. *Anityavada* (impermanence) and *Anatmavada* (no self) are two important intellectual concepts for the understanding the structure of the universe. *Abhidharma* discusses the structure, elements, movement, and time of the universe. According to Buddhist cosmology all objects in the universe are a combination of qualities. These are constantly perishing and changing. The *Pratitya Samutpada* explains the destruction of a pre-existing material and the emergence of another from it. The *Buddha-kshetra* contains references to mathematical cosmology. The world cosmology explains the structure of the universe, and the temporal cosmology explains the origin and destruction of the universe. The *Chakravala* 31 divisions describe different world systems, and the Sahasra describes the larger universe of *lokadhātu* (different worlds). They are the *Arūpadhātu* (the formless world), the *Rūpadhātu* (the world of form), and the *Kamadhatu* (the world of pleasure and pain). A scale called yojana measures the location of the world. Buddhism speaks of five pure worlds: *Aganistha, Sudarsana, Sudirusa, Adapam* and *Aviruha*, similarly, the four worlds of *Brihadapala* are *Asanjasatva, Vehapala, Punyapravasa* and *Anapravaka*. In the *Sahasra* cosmology, it is said that there is a *Divisahasramatyamalokadhātu* (the world destroyed by wind) and a *Sahasra Sudikalokadhātu* (the world destroyed by water). The cycle of time is infinite, and its basic unit is the *Mahakalpa*. It consists of the *Vivartakalpa* (the period of time when the universe was created), the *Vivartastayakalpa* (the period of time when the universe remained stable), the *Samvartakalpa* (the period of time when the universe was destroyed), and the *Samvartastayakalpa* (the period when the universe was destroyed and became void). The results of the analysis showed that many of the data were consistent with modern astronomical theories.

Keywords: *Abhidharma; Bibliography; Buddhist cosmology; Mahakalpa*

The Role of Buddhist Monastic Libraries in Cultural Heritage Conservation

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Buddhist monastic libraries, since time immemorial, have been custodians of cultural heritage through conservation of holyscripture, palm-leaf manuscripts and historical papers underpinning tradition and education for Buddhism. As much as these libraries contain religious literature, these are dissemination centers for philosophy and ethics as well. This study brings to light how Buddhist monastic libraries safeguard cultural heritage, both through traditional and modern technologies to underpin calls for an integrated conservation process. Using a qualitative research process, textual research, site monitoring at large centers of monasticism such as Sri Dalada Maligawa, surveys and interviews with Buddhist scholars and custodians underpin the research. The study showed that methods of conservation historically utilized, including herbal treatments of palm-leaf manuscripts, word-of-mouth memorization to safeguard textual remembrance and housing to protect textual material, continued to be utilized. However, climate, pest attack and unavailability of resources raised serious issues. Many of these libraries offset these with adoption of digital technology: digital repositories creation, AI script recognition utilization, metadata cataloging and utilization of blockchain for digital provenance. With these developments, issues with digital obsolescence, ethical issues with open-source provision of holy literature and loss of tangible heritage were identified as challenges. The research justifies an equilibrium approach to conservation balancing harmoniously traditional expertise with probable technologies. It calls for enhanced partnership for action between centers of monasticism and academic or archival bodies and training programs for custodians with specific targets for sustainable governance of heritage.

Keywords: *Buddhist monastic libraries; Cultural heritage conservation; Digital archives; Manuscript preservation; Religious knowledge management*

A Case Study of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Collection of the National Library of Sri Lanka

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The cultural heritage of a society extends beyond tangible features, reflecting its life, evolution, and continuous community development through intangible elements such as beliefs, attitudes, behaviour, and knowledge transmitted across generations. The identification, documentation, preservation, promotion, and transmission of this heritage are essential to safeguard it effectively. Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and developing a national collection are responsibilities that libraries can undertake in preserving and curating cultural knowledge in the evolving social systems. Hence, National Library of Sri Lanka is a place for community knowledge management. This study aims to analyze the existing ICH collections housed in the National Library, identify their usage, assess the challenges and issues in collecting and organizing and finally to create the inventory for the ICH collection. This case study adopted a qualitative approach. Primary data was collected through an interview. The participatory observation was undertaken to compile an inventory of the existing ICH collection. To analyze the data gathered through interviews, thematic analysis was used. Findings indicated that ICH collection of National Library of Sri Lanka included 523 books, 03 significant files including 23 newspaper clipping articles, and some CD/DVD materials related to *Dalada Perahera, and Baila* etc. Developing the inventory list for the ICH collection of the National Library of Sri Lanka supports the systematic organization, identification, and accessibility of ICH resources, contributing to preserving and promoting Sri Lanka's cultural heritage. This ICH collection was developed based on the legal repository rule in Sri Lanka; there was no proper collection method to collect and record ICH. The usage of ICH collection in the National library was very low due to the users' unawareness of the collection. It is notable that the ICH collection of the National library was isolated. It is recommended to build an ICH collection hub interconnecting with other units of the library, especially library preservation section etc. Also, proper mechanisms must be initiated to safeguard the ICH.

Keywords: *Cultural heritage; Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH); Knowledge management; Library collections; National libraries*

Digitalization of Tamil Palm Leaf Manuscripts Using a Transfer Learning Approach

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The Tamil language, renowned for its rich cultural heritage and historical significance, has been preserved for centuries through palm leaf manuscripts. These ancient records serve as invaluable repositories of knowledge, encompassing literary, religious, and historical texts. Tamil palm leaf manuscripts contain invaluable medicinal and scientific knowledge passed down through generations. However, due to aging, environmental degradation, and limited accessibility, digitizing these manuscripts has become essential for preservation and knowledge dissemination. This research proposes a transfer learning-based approach to digitize and translate ancient Tamil palm leaf manuscripts, ensuring their preservation and wider accessibility. The process begins with high-resolution image acquisition, followed by preprocessing techniques such as noise reduction, binarization, and morphological transformations to enhance text clarity. A custom-trained Optical Character Recognition (OCR) model, built on ResNet1.7 with Bidirectional LSTM, was employed to extract Tamil script characters from the processed images. The extracted text undergoes post-processing corrections using sequence modeling techniques to enhance readability. Experimental evaluations demonstrated that the transfer learning-based OCR model outperforms traditional methods in recognizing Tamil script from deteriorated manuscripts, significantly reducing character recognition errors. To improve accuracy, an attention mechanism was integrated into the OCR pipeline, ensuring robust recognition even in faded or degraded manuscripts. The transformer-based translation model effectively converts historical Tamil into a more accessible form, ensuring the preservation and dissemination of ancient knowledge. The system has also been designed to handle various dialects, handwritten scripts, and complex ligatures present in ancient Tamil texts. This research contributes to the preservation of Tamil cultural heritage while advancing the field of document image processing, OCR, and neural machine translation.

Keywords: *Digitalization; Neural machine translation; Optical character recognition; Tamil palm leaf manuscripts; Transfer learning*

Preserving Cultural Imprints Leveraging Non-Fungible Token for Secure and Transparent Artifact Protection through Blockchain

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Cultural Imprints such as arts and artifacts hold an important significance in connecting a community that shall embody itself with its previous generation to hold pride and relate in stories; it's a form of a symbol to remember and relate themselves to their ancestors. In the current decade where technology limps on, certain connections with our Ancestorial Imprints are found to be impending, upon which pride, ally identity and knowledge preservations are leaned. Certain conservatives fanatical in their imprints collect artifacts through illegal trading, thus leading to dysfunctionality in retention of knowledge. The illegal trade of these cultural artifacts which hold significance in history has led to the loss of invaluable heritage, artifacts often culminate up in private collections or the black market. Preserving cultural artifacts which hold a major significance in the ancient imprints of the yonder humanity has been an enormous issue, as illegal trade thus auctions in black market have amplified suggestively. Many historical relics which have been excavated from sites end up in private collections, depriving the public and future generations of their cultural heritage. Traditional initiatives to illegal artifact trading like the international treaties the UNESCO 1970 convention and UNIDROIT 1995 which have not been met successfully. These measures remain largely reactive, relying on state cooperation and extensive legal processes, often failing to prevent illicit trade at their first crackle. In order to tackle these issues, the proposed system uses Blockchain Enabled Decentralized Preservation Model (BDPM); each artifact can be digitally scanned via High resolution Scanning techniques and Multimedia encoding techniques for generating distinct 3D- identity modeling and this creates a verified digital twin afterwards. These liabilities are tokenized into distinct Non-Fungible Token (NFT), with metadata such as historical context, place of origin, relative finds etc. This initiative provides a comparative analysis of blockchain based and traditional factors for Integrity, Transparency, Access Latency and Authentication with ownership likely by Inter Planetary File System (IPFS) which is used to safe guard off-chain resources in public chain where tokens are placed. The proposed approach can help in curbing the transaction illegal by combining innovation and preserving heritage that can be accessible for generations to unlock their novices.

Keywords: *3D-Identity modeling; Blockchain Enabled Decentralized Preservation Model (BDPM); Inter Planetary File System (IPFS); Non-Fungible token*

Adapting Global Cultural Competency Practices to Sri Lankan State University Libraries: Bridging Multilingual and Multicultural Challenges

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State-owned public universities in Sri Lanka embody the nation's rich multicultural, multiethnic, and multilingual diversity. Hence, Sri Lankan state university libraries operate in contrasting linguistic and cultural environments. Sri Lanka university statistics (University Grants Commission [UGC], 2023) suggest University Libraries in the North and East predominantly serve Tamil-speaking communities within a Tamil cultural setting but also accommodate Sinhalese students. Conversely, libraries in the South are situated in a predominantly Sinhalese cultural and linguistic environment yet serve Tamil-speaking students and library users. Despite these challenges, there is a lack of documented evidence on how these libraries address cultural competency or adapt to the best global practices and standards to meet the needs of their multicultural and multilingual user populations. The objective of this rapid review is to explore global practices in cultural competency within academic libraries and to evaluate their applicability to Sri Lankan state university libraries. The review attempts to address the following review questions: What are the essential components of multicultural competence in academic libraries? How do university libraries contribute to promoting diversity and inclusivity? How can library staff enhance their readiness to serve diverse populations effectively? Literature search was done based on title and research questions using databases such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, Taylor & Francis, and Emerald. Fifteen Articles from 2000–2024 were screened, filtered by inclusion criteria, and analyzed thematically for cultural competency practices. Findings emphasized the need for professional development and institutional support through ongoing training in cultural competence, inclusive information literacy programs for Library users, and the formulation of policies promoting diversity and inclusion, such as the IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto. Recommendations include adopting inclusive recruiting practices to ensure a diverse workforce, conduct surveys to identify cultural gaps, host cultural events, workshops, and exhibits, enhance access to multilingual resources, improve communication strategies to address multilingual and multicultural challenges in Sri Lankan university libraries. Reviewers identified a research gap specific to Sri Lanka and encourage future empirical studies on cultural competency, particularly in academic and public library settings.

Keywords: *Cultural competency; Multicultural; Multilingual diversity; State Universities; University libraries*

Prominent Buddhist Libraries of the Dambadeniya Era: The Role of the Dambadeniya Vijayasundarārāma

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This study investigates the Vijayasundarārāma Pothgul, a monastic library central to preserving Sri Lanka's Buddhist and intellectual traditions during the politically turbulent Dambadeniya period. Following the collapse of the Rajarata civilization due to climatic crises, malaria, invasions, and shifting trade dynamics, the Sinhala kingdom relocated southwestward. Under monarchs like Vijayabāhu III, Parākramabāhu II, and Vijayabāhu VII, the polity resisted Kāliṅga-Māgha invasions and environmental challenges while safeguarding the Buddha Śāsana, Sinhala literature, and cultural institutions. The Vijayasundarārāma Pothgul, established as the kingdom's inaugural monastic library, emerged as a pivotal institution in this cultural conservation. Administered by Venerable Sangharakkhita Thera, chief monastic and intellectual leader the Pothgul systematized operations through codes like the Dambadeniya Katikāvata and Vijaya Katikāvata. It functioned as a scholarly nexus, fostering interdisciplinary studies in religion, linguistics, and literature. Affiliated with the monastic college (pirivena), it housed a curated multilingual collection of Buddhist and Hindu texts, grammatical treatises, and syncretic works in Sinhala, Pali, Tamil, and Sanskrit. Key figures, including Medhaṅkara Thera and princes Buwanekabāhu and Parākramabāhu, advanced doctrinal and literary scholarship. Sangharakkhita authored seminal texts like the Dharma Vinaya Vyākaraṇa, Subodhālaṅkāra, and Vuttodaya, Sri Lanka's first indigenous Pali grammar while supporting royal literary projects such as Parākramabāhu II's Kavsiḷumiṇa. The institution's self-sustaining structure and integration into Dambadeniya's administrative networks enabled it to sustain intellectual discourse and supply knowledge to scholars. Its role extended beyond textual preservation, cultivating a legacy of monastic leadership, scholarly patronage, and cross-cultural exchange. By analyzing institutional frameworks, textual outputs, and contributions to Buddhist education, this research underscores the Vijayasundarārāma's centrality in maintaining medieval Sri Lanka's academic heritage amid socio-political instability. The Pothgul tradition, exemplified by this institution, highlights the symbiotic relationship between monastic stewardship, literary production, and the resilience of cultural identity during periods of upheaval.

Keywords: *Buddhist intellectual heritage; Cultural preservation; Dambadeniya era; Monastic libraries; Vijayasundarārāma Pothgul*

The Royal *Potgul* Tradition in the Rajarata Civilization and the Dambadeniya Period: a Study of Scholarly and Administrative Practices in Medieval Sri Lanka

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This study examines the institutional frameworks and socio-cultural significance of royal *Potgul* in medieval Sri Lanka during the Rajarata Civilization and the Dambadeniya period. Positioned near royal palaces, these repositories functioned as intellectual and administrative hubs, facilitating knowledge production, literary preservation and bureaucratic governance, there by shaping the era's intellectual and administrative paradigms. The earliest evidence of *Potgul* traditions is traced to the reign of King Dutugemunu with the authorship of *Pin Poth* documented in the *MaraṇaMañcaka* chronicle. These texts, recited during Buddhist funerary rites, were systematically preserved in *Potgul*, reflecting their role under Buddhist doctrinal influence. Royal scribes affiliated with these institutions produced seminal works such as the *Sārārtha Saṅgrahaya*, *Jānakīharaṇa* and *Dampiya Aṭuvā Gaṭapadaya*, illustrating the repositories' capacity to house religious, linguistic and literary resources essential for advanced scholarship. Beyond Buddhist texts, *Potgul* archived Hindu Vedic scriptures, Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, legal codes like the *Manusmṛti*, underscoring their syncretic scholarly traditions. Historical records emphasized their administrative utility. King Dappula II archived judicial rulings for posterity, while Vijayabahu I commissioned the *Dhammasaṅgaṇī Prakaraṇa* within a *Potgul*. Parakramabahu I's dissemination of the *Arthashastra* to military commanders highlighted their strategic governance role. Archaeological evidence near Dambadeniya, including temple remnants in Sirigala and the site termed *Potgul Kanda*, corroborated their existence. Scholarly accounts, such as those by Ven. Sumaṅgalajoti Thero, affirmed the enduring legacy of these institutions in safeguarding state documents. The establishment of *Potgul Kanda* under monastic custodian Vācissara Thero further underscored their role in preserving administrative records. Monarchs like Parākramabāhu II utilized *Potgul* resources to compose works such as the *Kavisilumiṇa*, demonstrating their centrality to intellectual endeavors. In conclusion, royal *Potgul* were institutionalized centers of erudition and administration, synthesizing Buddhist and Hindu scholarly traditions. They enabled knowledge production, legal codification and military strategy, underpinning the cultural and bureaucratic achievements of Sri Lanka's medieval kingdoms. Their legacy, preserved through textual, epigraphic and archaeological evidence, underscores their enduring socio-cultural significance as pillars of medieval Sri Lankan governance and scholarship.

Keywords: *Dambadeniya period; Knowledge preservation; Rajarata civilization; Royal Potgul tradition; Siyabaslakara*

A Study on Quotes, Famous Statements and Sayings Displayed in Public Libraries

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Public libraries display various mottoes, sayings, and quotes expressed by renowned individuals, both past and present, to raise awareness among readers. As patrons encounter these texts, their thinking is unconsciously broadened, demonstrating that such displays positively shift the mindset with minimal effort. The primary objective is to analyze the texts displayed in all twelve branch libraries of the Colombo Public Library, which collectively exhibited 33 sentences. Four branches exhibited five sentences each, one branch three sentences each, three branches two sentences each, and four branches a single sentence. One branch relied solely on the thematic text provided by the National Library for National Reading Month. Several insights emerged from these observations. Most of the displayed texts were traditional and longstanding (29), thus familiar to readers. Therefore, they contributed less in shaping contemporary perspectives. Moreover, the majority of the statements (18) were presented in abstract form about reading and books, limiting its social and cultural impact. The sayings also can be categorized as thematic (20), proverbs (06) and other (07). Most of the sayings were related to reading (10) and books (08). Only one library attempted to exhibit quotations of renowned personalities such as Abdul Kalam, Swami Vivekananda. None of the libraries had used such activity to promote their own collection. It was revealed that most of the libraries used extremely common quotes. Additionally, 80% of libraries changed these quotes from time to time. However, these displays had limited appeal to younger readers. Very few libraries (02) displayed quotations in English language. It discloses that such an activity can attract readers more effectively and maximize their participation. If librarians are able to explore such quotes, proverbs etc. from their own collections, it would be a more effective strategic opportunity to promote the collection itself. If the readers have necessary facilities and skills, digital technology can be used to upgrade the type of presentations more attractively. In addition, the main library can provide strong leadership to collect such quotes not only on books and reading but also those which depict and relate to contemporary social and cultural thinking.

Keywords: *Cultural influence; Mottos; Public libraries; Quotation displays; Reader engagement*

Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sri Lanka: Insights from a Systematic Literature Review

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According to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)-2003, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) refers to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and the tools, artifacts and cultural venues associated with them, social groups, and in some cases individuals, recognize as part of their cultural heritage. Current concerns globally for loss of diverse ICH reflects the risk to traditional means of living, knowledge, and modes of expression resulting from globalization, urbanization, climate change, migrations, displacements and other processes. The threat to the ICH is most often reported as the loss of knowledge and the fear of it being forgotten due to lack of practice or not being transmitted to the new generation. UNESCO has pointed out that some components of ICH could disappear without appropriate safeguarding measures. In the Sri Lankan context as well, the potential for its loss has been identified. This systematic review analyzed the scholarly literature on safeguarding Sri Lankan ICH, with the objective of identifying challenges, implementation of hurdles, providing recommendations to improve safeguarding and recognizing research gaps. The majority of Sri Lankan studies on ICH had focused on identification and documentation, with limited attention given to safeguarding concerns. Thus, out of the publications between 2003- 2024 on ICH in Sri Lanka, 30 sources including journal articles, conference papers, and institutional reports that highlighted safeguarding issues, suggestions and research gaps were examined. Through thematic analysis employed in this review, governance and institutional limitations, community and generational challenges, knowledge and capacity deficiencies, outside influences, environmental and behavioral impacts, and safeguarding restrictions were identified as the key themes in recurring challenges in safeguarding ICH in Sri Lanka. The key suggestions identified to overcome barriers and ensure better safeguarding were; policy and institutional support, education and awareness, community and cultural involvement, innovation and technology, documentation and inventory, sustainable tourism and research, capacity building of library professionals. The review emphasizes the need for further research on minority cultures, multidisciplinary approaches, contemporary preservation techniques, knowledge transfer, and efficacy of policies. It concludes that Sri Lanka's ICH can be raised internationally by reviving lost customs, improving research, and expanding national and UNESCO ICH listings.

Keywords: *Intangible cultural heritage; Safeguarding challenges; Systematic literature review*

Sub Theme 7

Open Access & E-Learning as Tools for Library Innovations

Awareness and Use of Open Courseware (E-Pg Pathshala) among the Students of Periyar University, Salem

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Open Courseware is a term applied to course materials created by universities and shared freely with the world via the internet. Open Courseware is primarily the repository of study and learning materials in digital form on the web, which is open to every user, i.e., Open Access. These repositories are envisaged to store, index, preserve, distribute, and share digital learning resources with any time access, offering interoperability. On the other hand, e-learning covers a myriad of applications and processes, such as computer-based learning, web-based learning, virtual classrooms, etc. The present study investigates the awareness and use of open courseware (e-PG-Pathshala) among the Post Graduate (PG) students of Periyar University, Salem. This is a survey-based study in which a structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed randomly among 110 PG students of Periyar University, Salem, for the collection of primary data, out of which 96 (87%) questionnaires were received and analyzed for data interpretation. The study revealed that 67% of the respondents were aware of e-PG Pathshala, while 33 % were not aware. 12.5% of the students were most satisfied, 64.6% of the students were satisfied, 20.8% were moderately satisfied, and only 0.2% of the students were not satisfied with the PG-Pathshala. The majority of the students felt that e-PG Pathshala had an easy browsing and searching facility, and they benefited from it. It is recommended that universities should conduct awareness programs for students to make them more aware of e-PG Pathshala, and teachers should also be involved in this awareness program.

Keywords: *E-PG-Pathshala; E-Learning; Open courseware; Periyar University; PG students*

Trends and Growth of Open Access Research in Sri Lanka: a Decade of Scholarly Contributions

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Open Access (OA) publishing has gained significant global momentum over the past decade, promoting wider dissemination of knowledge and greater visibility for scholarly outputs. Understanding the growth and characteristics of OA publishing in developing countries like Sri Lanka can offer valuable insights into the research visibility and alignment with global open science movements of the country. The present study examines the trends in OA publishing among Sri Lankan researchers from 2015 to 2024, utilizing data from Scopus. The analysis focused on contributions, institutional involvement, collaborative networks, and funding sources. The findings revealed a gradual increase in the total research output in Sri Lanka, from 1523 publications in 2015 to 4592 in 2024. However, OA publications had significantly increased, from 686 in 2015 to 1,771 in 2024, and this growth underscored a growing commitment to OA publishing. University of Colombo (21.02%) and University of Peradeniya (17.74%) emerged as the leading contributors to OA research. The United Kingdom (22.48%), the United States (20.76%), and Australia (18.57%) were the top international collaborators. The UK Research and Innovation (8.65%) and the European Commission (7.59%) were the primary funding agencies supporting OA research. In conclusion, the study highlights the evolving academic publishing landscape and increasing commitment to OA practices in Sri Lanka. These developments place the country on a promising path toward enhanced research visibility, increased global collaboration, and stronger advocacy for open scholarly communication.

Keywords: *Open access publishing; Researchers; Research trend; Sri Lanka*

Harnessing Open Access, E-Learning, and Web Crawlers for Library Innovation using Hybrid Framework

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The rapid evolution of digital technologies necessitates a paradigm shift in library systems to enhance knowledge dissemination and user accessibility. The digital transformation of libraries is essential to address the persistent challenges of limited academic resource accessibility, outdated content management, and inefficient information retrieval. Traditional systems such as DSpace and Koha often suffer from manual updates, static metadata indexing, and low user engagement rates. The proposed method uses a hybrid framework integrating Open Access (OA) databases, E-Learning platforms, and Web Crawlers (HOEW) to catalyze library innovation and enhance knowledge dissemination.This system aims to automate resource collection, real-time content updates, and intelligent metadata management using AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) engines. Open Access integration and web Crawlers systematically fetch academic documents and repository content, continuously enriching the library database with current information. This hybrid methodology improves resource availability, reduces average search time and enhances user satisfaction. The metadata extraction module utilized a fine-tuned Deep Learning model to achieve 92% of metadata accuracy, enabling high-precision identification of document titles, author names, keywords, and publication attributes from heterogeneous academic sources. Automated web crawlers consistently indexed a high volume of scholarly documents from open repositories which improves the crawler efficiency reaching 500 documents per hour, significantly outperforming manual indexing methods. The proposed system achieved the highest accuracy of 96.8%, significantly outperforming the Content-Based Recommender (92.5%), Collaborative Filtering (89.3%), Hybrid Recommender System (87.1%), and Keyword-Based Search (85.4%). The precision of the proposed system reached 95.4%, ensuring high relevance of retrieved content compared to other systems. The F1-Score of 96.1% and the recall value of 97.2% indicated the system efficiency in retrieving relevant information. These measurable improvements validate the hybrid system effectiveness in enhancing academic resource accessibility, retrieval efficiency, and user experience.

Keywords: *Academic resource accessibility; Automated information retrieval; Digital libraries; Open access; Web crawlers*

Open Access Publishing Today: Global Leaders and Emerging Models

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Open Access (OA) publishing has brought a significant shift in the landscape of scholarly communication by improving the accessibility and visibility of academic research. The growth of prominent OA publishers and the emergence of hybrid publishing models have contributed to a dynamic transformation of the publishing environment. This study aims to analyze current developments in Open Access publishing, focusing on the publishing strategies and journal output of major OA publishers. It specifically investigates the distribution of fully OA and hybrid journals and their indexing across major bibliographic platforms, including Scopus, Web of Science, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and PubMed. A descriptive-analytical method was applied, with data gathered from the official websites of key publishing houses and bibliographic databases. The analysis involved counting the number of journals, identifying the types of publishing models in use, and examining the indexing status of these journals. The study focused on leading publishers such as Springer Nature, Wiley, Elsevier, and Frontiers to draw meaningful comparisons. The findings showed that Springer Nature held a leading position with more than 1,600 fully Open Access journals and over 3,100 hybrid titles. Wiley and Sage together offered 444 fully OA journals and around 2,448 hybrid ones. The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) currently listed over 21,000 journals, while Scopus indexed 6,126 Open Access titles. These numbers reflected a growing momentum in favour of Open Access models, largely fuelled by requirements from funding agencies and institutional policies aimed at promoting wider dissemination of research. The study concludes that Open Access publishing is not merely a disruptive force but rather a progressive evolution of the academic publishing model. It represents a forward-looking strategy that aligns with the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and digital accessibility. As scholarly communication becomes more data-driven and globally interconnected, OA publishing is playing a crucial role in shaping a more open and sustainable future for research dissemination. Libraries, researchers, and institutions alike are adapting to this trend, which continues to redefine how knowledge is produced and shared.

Keywords: *Bibliographic databases; Hybrid journals; Indexing metrics; Open access publishing; Scholarly communication*

India in the Open Science Era: a Bibliometric Insight into Two Decades of Open Access Publishing

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This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of Open Access (OA) publishing landscape of India from 2004 to 2024, reflecting the growing engagement of the nation with the global Open Science movement. Using data retrieved from the Scopus database, 2,302 publications were examined to assess trends in research productivity, impact, collaboration, and institutional contributions. Analytical tools including Bibliometrix and VOS viewer were employed to evaluate citation metrics, author networks, international partnerships, and source impact. Findings revealed a steady annual growth rate of 11.02%, with a notable surge in publication post-2008, indicating policy-driven momentum and digital infrastructure enhancement. The study highlighted significant contributions from institutions such as the University of Kashmir, AIIMS and IITs. Further, prolific authors such as Kumar A and Sharma A. were identified. International collaborations, especially with the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, were found to enhance citation impact. High-impact journals such as PLOS ONE and Journal of Insect Science emerged as leading publication platforms. The thematic analysis underscored interdisciplinary growth across health sciences, engineering, and environmental studies. While the data showed increased visibility and quality of India OA research, challenges remained in terms of publishing ethics, predatory journals, and uneven disciplinary engagement. The study findings provide actionable insights for policymakers, researchers, and institutions to strengthen India's open access ecosystem and global research visibility.

Keyword: *Bibliometric analysis; India; Open access; Scholarly publishing; Scopus*

Demystifying Open Access: Exploring Publishing Literacy and Awareness among Health Science Researchers

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This study provides a thorough evaluation of Open Access (OA) awareness and publication literacy among health science academics, concentrating on their comprehension of OA publishing formats, copyright regulations, funding processes, and the recognition of predatory journals. As the global demand for accessible and transparent scientific research escalates, it is crucial to assess researchers' readiness to adeptly navigate the changing open access scenario. The study employed a mixed-method approach to poll health science academics from several institutions, assessing their understanding of essential open access concepts, such as Gold, Green, and Hybrid access paths. The results indicated a notable gap in understanding, as numerous participants struggle to differentiate between OA models or express the subtleties of transformative agreements and the function of institutional repositories. Clinical researchers exhibited inferior literacy levels relative to their peers in the basic sciences. Furthermore, early-career researchers indicated increased challenges in publication selection, comprehending copyright retention, and maneuvering through intricate open access policy frameworks. Three significant areas of deficiency were identified: inadequate comprehension of copyright retention and licensing alternatives; incapacity to critically assess the quality and legitimacy of open access journals, resulting in susceptibility to predatory publishing; and ambiguity regarding funder mandates and compliance obligations. The identified inadequacies underscored significant systemic problems, such as insufficient institutional support, absence of formal training in academic communication, and ambiguity regarding open access publishing revenue models and Article Processing Charges (APC). The research outlines the necessity for focused educational programs and institutional policy changes to close the knowledge gap. Recommendations encompass the establishment of organized OA training modules, incorporation of publishing literacy into graduate and faculty development initiatives, and enhanced institutional direction regarding funding options and repository utilization. By tackling these problems, the health science community may more efficiently adopt OA publication, enhance research exposure, and guarantee adherence to changing funder and institutional requirements.

Keywords: *Article Processing Charges (APC); Funder compliance; Open access; Publishing literacy; Transformative agreements*

Sub Theme 8

Connecting Library and Information Communities in the Digital and AI Era

AI-Driven Research: Revolutionizing Activities in Higher Education

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is ushering in a transformative era for research within higher education, redefining traditional methodologies and facilitating groundbreaking advancements in the way academic knowledge is created, analyzed, and shared. This study explores the multifaceted impact of AI on academic research activities, focusing on its role in enhancing data acquisition, analytical accuracy, knowledge synthesis and dissemination processes. The integration of advanced AI technologies such as Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and data visualization tools empower researchers to work with increasingly complex and voluminous datasets, revealing hidden patterns and generating new insights with unprecedented speed and precision. The study investigates the practical uses of AI, particularly the automation of literature reviews with NLP algorithms capable of analysing and summarising extensive collections of academic texts. Machine learning models are utilised for sophisticated data analysis and predictive modelling, facilitating empirical research across various fields. Moreover, AI-augmented data visualisation technologies enable academics to convey findings in more comprehensible and interactive formats, enhancing interpretation and stakeholder involvement. AI-driven collaborative systems facilitate real-time communication, resource sharing, and project coordination among academics across institutions and geographical boundaries. Nonetheless, whereas AI offers substantial opportunities, its incorporation into research also prompts significant ethical and practical issues. This study outlines data privacy, algorithmic openness, bias in training data, and the evolving relationship between human intuition and machine intelligence. Confronting these problems is crucial to guarantee that AI adoption fosters responsible, inclusive, and trustworthy research methodologies. By examining current applications, case studies, and emerging trends the study underscores the revolutionary potential of AI in redefining the research environment of higher education. The insights will aid to create awareness among academic institutions, policymakers, and researchers on strategic methods for utilizing AI while upholding ethical standards and academic rigour.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence; Higher education; Natural language processing; Predictive modeling; Data visualization*

An Overview of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Batticaloa District Public Libraries

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Librarians play an important role in providing reliable knowledge; integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) can improve library services, similar to how technology is transforming other fields. The study examines how AI can support library operations and enhance efficiency in managing information and assisting readers, also the usage of AI in public libraries in the Batticaloa district, focusing on the awareness and ability of library officials to integrate AI into their library operations. The objectives are to educate public librarians on using AI in library activities and promote the use of open-source AI resources. By adopting AI, libraries can improve their services, build their good will, and strengthen their role as reliable knowledge providers. This study used a quantitative research method, surveying librarians and library attendants from all 83 public libraries in the Batticaloa district via online means. A structured questionnaire (Google Form) was used to collect data. Data analysis was done using Excel Spreadsheet and SPSS. The analysis, based on 56 responses, revealed that 6.67% of the class II libraries and 93.33% of the class III libraries were managed by the local government. Out of these libraries, 30% were managed by Librarians, 57% by Library Attendants and 13% by other employees. Internet access was limited, with only 23.5% of libraries having internet facilities. While 94.1% of the respondents believed AI can improve library operations, only 17.6% of them had introduced AI tools for translating documents, preparing invitations for events and certificates for competitions, and 41.2% of them were aware of AI, mostly gained through training seminars. In addition, all respondents were interested in implementing AI in their libraries. The results clearly showed that most libraries were managed by Library Attendants. They often did not have the necessary educational background to carry out library operations using AI. Therefore, the study highlights the need for AI education among library staff, as many lack the necessary background. It is recommended that parent institutions provide AI training, encourage further studies, and promote online AI-related courses to help integrate AI into library operations effectively.

Keywords: *Artificial intelligence; Batticaloa district; Library office management; Open source AI tools; Public libraries*

Investigating the Role of AI in Shaping Academic Research Habits and Learning Outcomes among University Students

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This study investigates the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in creating the study culture and learning experience of university students. Drawing upon a comprehensive review of over 40 peer-reviewed articles between the years 2018 and 2024, the study endeavors to investigate how AI technologies are transforming the academic work and performance of students. Strong focus is given to both advantages provided by such technologies as well as the associated challenges and ethics. The article highlights the significant ways in which AI-based tools such as intelligent research assistants, AI-supported academic databases, citation managers, and adaptive learning systems improve the research process. The finding showed that the incorporation of AI served to establish more dynamic, autonomous, and concentrated research and learning methods within students, resulting in improved academic outcomes. However, the study also uncovered some of the problems that moderated the optimistic vision of AI in schooling. Included among them were algorithmic bias, which could anchor errors and cement discrimination; data privacy vulnerabilities, which undermined the protection of private and academic information; and the danger of overreliance on AI technologies, which would be purchased in terms of autonomous scholarly consideration and critical mind. Besides, unequal access to AI tools among and within groups of students questions the issue of equity and fairness at the post-secondary level. In conclusion, as great as AI promises revolutionary opportunities for enhancing research habits and academic achievement, its use must be approached carefully and ethically. This study revealed that universities formulate generic policies that incentivize ethical use of AI, for example, provisions for ensuring ethical conduct, and regular workshops on AI literacy for students and instructors, and measures for ensuring equitable access to AI technology by students. Such steps are required in order to maximize the benefits of AI while maintaining academic integrity and stimulating independent intellectual development in university settings.

Keywords: *AI Tools; Ethical AI; Learning outcomes; Research habits; University students*

The Artificial Intelligence Revolution for University Libraries

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This study examines the revolutionary impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on university library systems, its applications, advantages, disadvantages, and future direction. AI technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), and predictive analytics are becoming part of library operations to automate cataloguing, inventory management, information retrieval, and user support services. Using a qualitative research methodology, this investigation draws on information from academic literature, industry reports, and case studies to provide a comprehensive analysis of the role of AI in improving library performance and accessibility. The findings revealed that AI-driven innovations were significantly improving the efficiency and personalization of library services. AI-powered search engines refined information retrieval processes by analyzing user behavior and context, providing more accurate and relevant results. Virtual assistants provided 24-hour support and answered user questions about resource availability, research support, and library policies, reducing the workload of library staff and allowing them to focus on more technical work. However, the use of AI in university library systems was not without its problems. Some of the most significant challenges included data privacy risks, algorithmic bias, prohibitively expensive deployment, and the potential to replace human workers. Ethical imperatives were even more critical in ensuring the responsible and equitable deployment of AI technologies. To overcome such issues, libraries should develop open policies, implement strong security practices, and invest in AI literacy training for users and staff. Partnerships between AI developers and libraries are needed to create effective, accessible, and user-centric AI systems. AI has unparalleled potential to re-engineer library services, and successful adoption requires a careful balance of technological innovation and ethical responsibility with human experience. Ongoing research should further explore the long-term impact of AI in library spaces. By carefully addressing these challenges, university libraries can secure their role as rich, open, and critical knowledge sites in the evolving digital landscape.

Keywords: *Algorithmic bias; Artificial intelligence; Digital libraries. Library innovation; Machine learning*

Transfiguration in Information Retrieval Using AI-Quantum Hybridization for Decentralized Knowledge Discovery

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Libraries have traditionally been the center of socio-economic growth, advancing education and culture while giving everyone equal access to knowledge. However, in the digital era conventional library Systems (JSTOR, DSpace) face challenges such as low search speeds, scattered data storage, and insufficient global accessibility. Together with algorithmic bias, data privacy concerns, and over-reliance on centralized cloud infrastructure, these problems substantially hinder equitable knowledge access throughout academia, research, and cultural preservation. Therefore, to address these challenges a Cloud based Quantum Driven Information Retrieval System is proposed. The proposed Cloud based Quantum Driven Information Retrieval System utilizes a hybrid AI-Quantum model with Cloud Computing architecture. It enables much faster access to books by using heuristic-optimized AI search algorithms for personalized recommendations, while a decentralized, blockchain-based storage framework will connect worldwide library systems. Preliminary simulations revealed that the proposed system had the potential to reduce search latency by as much as 70% in comparison to conventional digital repositories such as D-Space and JSTOR. In a hypothetical case study that involved a global academic repository, the AI-powered search algorithm successfully identified relevant papers in less than three seconds, thereby substantially improving efficiency compared to existing systems. Additionally, the incorporation of quantum optimization algorithms demonstrated promised enhancements in search accuracy and speed, with a 15% increase in retrieval precision compared to conventional methods. The future enhancements will include transitioning to real quantum hardware, integrating multimodal retrieval, and expanding global access through a scalable, ethical, and federated framework.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence (AI); Blockchain technology; Heuristic search; Information retrieval; Quantum computing*

The Commuter Rail Reading Trends in Sri Lanka: a Case Study of the Rabukkana - Panadura Office Train

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Public transportation plays a vital role in daily routines, including the reading habits of commuters. This study views reading as the interpretation of symbols to comprehend meaning, which encompasses the act of reading books, watching films and more. It investigates the reading trends of passengers travelling on the *Rabukkana–Panadura* semi-express office train (No. 1531-8729), which departs from *Rabukkana* at 5:59 a.m. and arrives at *Panadura* at 9:02 a.m. The main objective was to understand how commuters use a space in public transportation for reading. Specific objectives were to identify the types of reading sources frequently used by passengers and identify factors influencing reading habits of commutes. Surveys and on-site observations were used to collect data from regular commuters. The survey forms were randomly distributed among 100 commuters from each of the 10 compartments. A total of 1,000 questionnaires were distributed and 852 valid responses were received. Microsoft Excel 2020 was used for the data analysis. A majority (608) were over the age of 30. Despite there being fewer second-class compartments, more respondents (531) travelled in second class compared to other classes. Most commuters engaged in chatting (69%) with familiar friends while travelling. 27% of the sample engaged in both reading and chatting. Digital reading was more popular (83%), while physical reading accounted for 17% of the sample. Executive-grade employees and smartphone users were more likely to read during travel. Facebook was the dominant platform for digital reading (52%), with many users accessing teledramas (30%). The study revealed that the primary obstacle for reading was distraction from mobile entertainment (87%) and limited mobile data availability within the train. Despite the rise in digital content, print media remains relevant, especially among passengers over age 30. The data suggested a strong correlation between smart-phone usage, education level and reading habits. The study highlights other challenges such as overcrowding and noise against reading habits. It is recommended to provide onboard Wi-Fi, which can further support digital reading by improving mobile internet and to set up mobile libraries or mini book kiosks at railway stations for those who prefer print media.

Keywords: *Commuter rail; Digital reading; Literacy; Public transportation; Reading habits*

Transforming Library Services through AI in SAARC Countries: a Review and Practical Implications

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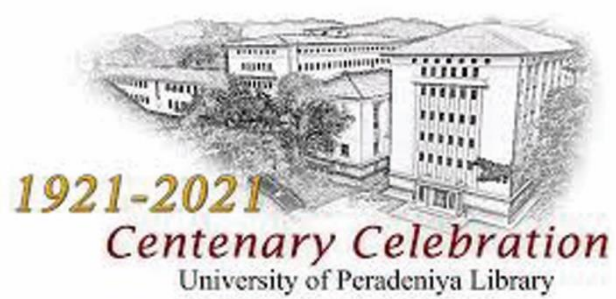
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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a transformative influence in redefining library services worldwide, providing unparalleled prospects for improved efficiency, automation, and user interaction. Libraries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region are increasingly utilizing AI technologies to enhance their operations and broaden equal access to information. This research examines the present condition, obstacles, and practical ramifications of AI implementation in libraries throughout SAARC nations, emphasizing the varied technological and socio-economic contexts of the area. The study is qualitative and a comprehensive literature assessment was performed through Scopus. Keywords including "artificial intelligence" "smart libraries" "digital transformation" "Internet of Things" "chatbots" and "library automation" were employed to retrieve pertinent English-language sources. Data were thematically analyzed to discern repeating patterns, encompassing significant AI applications, implementation obstacles, and strategic objectives specific to the South Asian libraries. Particular focus was on the actual implementation of AI tools, such as big language models, chatbots, and virtual assistants in improving fundamental library operations. The results indicated that AI technologies possessed considerable potential for enhancing library services in the SAARC area, especially in augmenting operational efficiency and delivering personalized, user-focused services. The rate of adoption differed significantly among nations due to enduring obstacles, including insufficient digital infrastructure, constrained financial resources, low AI literacy among library personnel, and inadequate regulatory frameworks regarding data ethics and privacy. India and Sri Lanka emerged as regional frontrunners in AI-driven library innovation and research productivity, whilst nations such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh are still progressing through the digital transformation. This assessment emphasizes numerous practical implications: the pressing necessity for investment in digital infrastructure, the creation of AI-specific training programs for library professionals, and the establishment of inclusive, region-specific regulations to enable responsible AI implementation. In conclusion, AI possesses the capacity to transform library services throughout SAARC nations by enhancing their intelligence, inclusivity, and alignment with changing user requirements. Notwithstanding budgetary and infrastructural constraints, the growing accessibility of open-source and affordable AI tools offer feasible avenues for libraries to adopt digital transformation. Achieving these benefits necessitates a coordinated effort to address difficulties associated with digital preparedness, workforce capability, and governance.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence; Digital transformation; Information access; SAARC, Smart libraries.*

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