



# SLLA NEWSLETTER

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## President's Message

### Communicate your value



As the President of the SLLA for 2014-2015 I am pleased to send this message to all our valued members and LIS professionals. At the same time I'm very proud that our Association supports and contributes to the LIS field through our educational programmes and to our members' professional development through CPD, Seminars and the Research Sessions of the Annual Conference.

The library and information profession plays a major role in society providing a great service to the society and the community of its users and thereby creating a brand of its own. Although "Books" have been associated mainly when talking about this profession, we all know that there is so much more to it than just books in the information society and the digital revolution.

On the other hand, library and information services are changing, due to the heavy pressures of demand from the user who is adapting to the changes around him/her. Everybody is in the rapidly changing environment, be it a professional, entrepreneur, vendor, marketer, student, academic, researcher, and so on.

This phenomenon has undoubtedly affected the Library Science professional who has to be an information professional, because he or she needs to concentrate on value added and analytical information in the competitive environment in addition to bibliographic services and acquisition processes. Informative and creative products are evolving in nature and information is growing exponentially, globally. Information comes out in many formats - books, catalogues, presentations, articles, newflashes, conference deliberations, research findings,

business models, discussions in print and electronic media. Information is exchanged in a flash through social networks and other mobile applications. It is a complex information environment, where LIS professionals should play an important part, delivering required information, but in a responsible manner.

It is a profession in transformation. The nature and value of information is evolving affecting the LIS professionals' responsibilities and functions. It has become highly necessary for librarians to communicate their value to the clients as well as their parent companies, be it Public, Academic, Special, School, Research or Government Libraries. The services of these institutions remain essential as it was right along.

However, it is also a profession facing many challenges, such as declining budgets, IT investment, and dearth of human resources, thus affecting due recognition, LIS job market and competitive remuneration, both in the Public and the Private Sector.

So demonstrating the value of the profession and the professionals is a dire necessity. Librarians should continue to add value to their services through enhanced and innovative services with precise deliverables to the users, making every use of ICT tools for speed and easy access, and communicate the value of their services always being outward and proactive.

As a professional association, the SLLA will ensure continuous professional development and education towards this endeavour. It will be the goal of my team and myself as the President of SLLA to gear all our members to be ready for an interesting and exciting future in the knowledge economy.

**The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the Sri Lanka Library Association was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at the Sri Lanka Foundation (SLF), Colombo 07. Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka Ms Shiranee Tilakawardane, was the Chief Guest and Professor Ranjith Bandara, Chairman of SLF, was the Guest of Honour at the inauguration ceremony.



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### SLLA COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014 / 2015

**President :** Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe  
**Immediate Past President:** Ms. D.I.D. Andradi  
**President – Elect:** Dr. Ms. Pradeepa Wijetunga  
**Vice President:** Mrs, Swarna Jayatillake  
**General Secretary:** Ms. Lilamani Amerasekera  
**Assistant Secretary:** Ms. Purnima Jayasinghe  
**Treasurer:** Mr. Anton Nallathamby  
**Education Officer:** Mr. W. Sunil  
**Assistant Education Officer:** Mr. K.G.S. Gunathilake  
**Publication Officer:** Ms. Sunethra Kariyawasam  
**Information & Public Relations Officer:**  
Mr. Preethi Liyanage  
**Nominated Members :** Dr. (Ms) W. Seneviratne  
Mr. M.S.U. Amarasiri

### PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

**Academic Libraries:** Mr Sunil Premartne  
**Government Libraries:** Ms Sandya Gunawardena  
**Public Libraries :** Ms Chamila Samaratunga  
**Special Libraries:** Mr Sarath Nandakumara  
**School Libraries :** Ms Yamuna Geeganagamage  
**National Library:** Mr Wijeya Premadarshana  
**NACLIS Group:** Dr. (Ms.) Pradeepa Wijetunga

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President :** Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe  
**Immediate Past President:** Ms. D.I.D. Andradi  
**President – Elect:** Dr. Ms. Pradeepa Wijetunga  
**Vice President:** Mrs, Swarna Jayatilleke  
**General Secretary:** Ms. Lilamani Amerasekera  
**Assistant Secretary:** Ms. Purnima Jayasinghe  
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**Education Officer:** Mr. W. Sunil  
**Assistant Education Officer:** Mr. K.G.S. Gunathilake  
**Publication Officer:** Ms. Sunethra Kariyawasam  
**Information & Public Relations Officer:**  
Mr. Preethi Liyanage  
**Nominated Members :** Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya  
Mr. Punchi Banda Gallaba

## 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Library and Information Science (NACLIS – 2014)

(organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association) was held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo 01. 'Addressing future LIS Challenges : Through Technology, Innovation and Research' was the theme of this event. Dr. Jagtar Singh, President IATLIS and Professor Department of Library and Information Science, Punjab University of India, was the keynote speaker.



### Conference Proceedings of 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference in Library and Information

- **Keynote Speech: Learning to be a *Face in the Crowd* is Heart of the Matter for addressing future LIS challenges.** by Prof. Jagtar Singh
- **Are Facebook library user groups in Sri Lanka doing an effective library-marketing role? an assessment of the face book groups in Sri Lanka.** by Sakunthala Amarakoon, and Lionel R. Amarakoon
- **Bibliotherapy in Sri Lankan higher education system: implications for university libraries.** by S. Arulanantham and S. Navaneethakrishnan
- **Fiction reading: readers' choices of fiction books in the library, University of Moratuwa.** By Thushari M. Seneviratne

- **Characteristics of journal articles published by the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna: a bibliometric study.** by S. Navaneethakrishnan
- **A survey on the use and user's satisfaction in library resources and services: a case study at the Faculty of Engineering and Social Sciences, Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.** by T.C. Ranawella and M.P. Rajapaksha
- **Information needs and Information seeking behaviors of residential female undergraduates of Faculty of Social Sciences in University of Kelaniya.** by R.A.A.S. Ranaweera and G.S. Dolage
- **Peer assisted research culture of the undergraduates: a case study at University of Peradeniya.** by Pradeepa Wijetunge and Sunil Premarathne
- **Evaluation of library material by the undergraduates: a case study at University of Peradeniya.** by Pradeepa Wijetunge and Chamani Gunasekera
- **Evaluation of Internet-based resources by the undergraduates: a case study at University of Peradeniya.** by Pradeepa Wijetunge and Neetha Damayanthi Peiris
- **The librarian as an information source and a mediator in supporting learning behavior of undergraduates: a case study at University of Peradeniya.** by Pradeepa Wijetunge and Ajantha Dharmarathne
- **Using Google Drive for developing information skills in students.** by P.G. Premadasa, P. Ranaweera, U. Alahakoon, and R. Gamage

*(Copies of the Proceeding are available at SLLA office for Rs.400.00)*

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

### Colombo Book Fair

The Welfare Society of the Colombo Public Library organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Colombo Educational Book Exhibition & Fair at the premises of the Colombo Public Library from 24<sup>th</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014. 46 stalls of major book publishers in Sri Lanka, were part of the exhibition.

The exhibition can also be considered as one of the services offered by the Library as it not only helps book publishers to market their publications but also gives readers the opportunity to select and buy books at discounted prices.

Colombo Public Library also organized a series of events parallel to the exhibition. A drawing competition, lectures on personal development, workshop of coloring and puzzles, a year 5 scholarship seminar were some of them.



### Book donation of School Library

The Kirulapone branch library of CPL has been involved in a project to uplift underdeveloped school libraries. This time they focused on a very poor school in Polonnaruwa district: Kekulawala Maha Vidyalaya. Valuable books were donated to the library in Kekulawala Maha Vidyalaya to encourage students to read, so they may enjoy the benefit of reading. Readers' circle of Kotahena branch library of the Colombo Public Library organized a CSR project at Srilankadara Elders & Children's Home at Wellawatthe.

They organized a get together & alms giving for the elders, children and teenagers of the Home. Competitions were held among the children & elders. Presents were distributed among the winners. Some necessary items for the Home were donated. All were given an opportunity to register for the mobile library service.



## **The Library of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI)**

The prime objective of establishing the Library of the HARTI was to provide information, data and statistics to its researchers. Further, it is also a result of positive measures taken to expand information and documentary services.

As set out in the HARTI Act, one objective is to carry out research relating to the issues of the agrarian sector in conjunction with Asian countries to serve their regional needs and provide a center for collection and dissemination of information on agriculture and agrarian issues.

The Agrarian Research Institute and its library was established in 1972 at Elibank Road, Thimbirigasyaya. The library which was the charge of an officer possessed a collection of 1490 books and 49 periodicals. The US funding wing, USAID funded the books and the Asia Foundation also donated some books to the library at the initial stage.

At that time, the Library was not considered a separate division but it was part of the Publication Unit. The Library consisted of studies and information related to agrarian issues of the country in eight research fields. In 1975, Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe was appointed as the first Librarian. He rendered a valuable service to the library in his capacity as the librarian. Taking a special note of his knowledge and expertise in the field of library and information sciences, he was assigned the task of organizing and planning of library related information by Mr. N.B Dorakumbura, a Library Advisor.

In 1983, the library was moved to another building where the Computer and Data Processing Unit was operated. The tangible development of the Library was evident in terms of the number of books and periodicals purchases made and the amount of donations and funds it received from various sources. The library book collection comprised a range of local and foreign publications. However, the library was again shifted to another place due to lack of space.

Becoming a pioneer among research Libraries in the country was a remarkable feat achieved by the Agrarian Research and Training Institute Library. This library serves as a training center for many library science students to receive hands-on training. Meanwhile, in 1987, it facilitated two library officials from the Maldives National Library to obtain library service training as per the request of the Asia Foundation.

In 1997, the library was shifted to its present location. In the new setting the library is primarily divided into two sections: the main library and the journal library. The library belongs to the special library category and it provides reference facilities. Separate book shelves have been allocated for local and foreign books since there is a large collection of foreign books, magazines, newsletters and periodicals. Computerizing of books in the library commenced in 1997. The process of computerizing of library bibliographical database was done using the CDS/ISIS software. In 2002, the library books were computerized to a new data base using more advanced library software called WINISIS. In addition, the internet and e-mail facilities have been provided for the library staff& others.

HARTI library has a collection of over 24,000 books, 20,000 issues of journals (local and foreign), dissertations, unpublished reports, maps, annual reports and newspaper clippings. A large number of periodicals, newsletters, annual reports from foreign and local institutions are also regularly received on complimentary or exchange basis. The Library has subscribed to eight foreign journals and four local journals.

The collection consists of local and foreign publications in the subjects of :Agrarian Structure, Agrarian Reform, Agricultural Credit, Agricultural Development agricultural Crops, Land Reform, Irrigation, Water Management, Economic Development, Social Sciences, Politics, Poverty, Rural Development, Gender Issues, Folklore, Plantations, Food and Nutrition, Environment and Natural Resources, Biotechnology, History, Marketing, Trade, Research Methodology etc.

The Library provides a range of services to the institute research staff including reference facilities, document delivery services from affiliated libraries, inter- library loan facilities, e-alert services on new arrivals and journal content pages, photocopying and internet facilities. Apart from that, facilities of the library are used by many outside persons including researchers, consultants, university students and staff.

**Main divisions and services of the Library :**Lending Section, Reading Section (Reference Section), Journal Section (Local/Foreign), HARTI Publications, Photocopy services, Inter-library Loans (ILL), Document Delivery Service (DDS), E-Repository (offline)

**Library Hours** - The HARTI Library is open on weekdays from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15p.m. It is closed on weekends, public and mercantile holidays.

### **Contact Details :Address**

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute, 114, Wijerama Mw, Colombo 07

Tele. : +94-11-2678131

Fax : +94-11-2692423

Email :[library@harti.lk](mailto:library@harti.lk)



## GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Information Services in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology(APIIT) in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Library Association sponsored an exceptional academic and professional training programme for School Librarians on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. The objective of this programme was to educate School Librarians on the development of current knowledge and technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The topics were decided on, keeping in mind that the School Librarians work with Students and Teachers to provide access to information resources and also assist with professional development in the school, especially with instructions in the use of technology.

There were around 25 Librarians from Government, Private and International Schools and initially the participants were addressed by Dr. Athula Pitigala-Arachchi, the Chief Executive Officer of APIIT Lanka Pvt. Ltd., and Ms Shivanthi Weerasinghe, President, Sri Lanka Library Association.

The Key Resource Persons were Dr Ms Wathmanel Seneviratne, Dr Ruwan Gamage, Mr P G Premadasa and Ms Ruwandhi Rajasinghe. The areas covered were Mind Mapping in the Learning Process, Networking Through Social Media:Guidance by the Librarian to Students, Information Literacy and also New Services for School Librarians.

Presentation of Certificates was also done at the end of the Programme.

Vote of Thanks was delivered by Ms Lilamani Amerasekera, Librarian, APIIT, General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Library Association.



#### Request

SLLA Newsletter is a bulletin intended to cater to the SLLA membership, students and all others connected with Library and Information Services. Its main aim is to exchange and disseminate news and views among the membership. The contents include SLLA activities; professional and educational matters; international training events; conferences, seminars, workshops etc.

Please co-operate with the Publication Officer by sending articles, news items, new appointments etc. related to the Library and Information Science field to be published in the next issue of the SLLA Newsletter.

Publication Officer  
baskariyawasam@yahoo.com

#### Sri Lanka Library Review

The Publication Committee wishes to receive articles from the members to be published in the next issue in June 2015. Article will be accepted till 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2015. Please follow the SLLA website (<http://www.slla.org.lk>) for guidelines on submitting articles. You may submit articles written in Sinhala, Tamil or English. Please send your contribution to the Publication Officer ([bgs kariyawasam@yahoo.com](mailto:bgs kariyawasam@yahoo.com)) in electronic format.

The SLLA Publication Group intends to highlight one library with its special features in each Newsletter. If you wish others to know about your library, please email a write-up accompanied with photographs to the Publication Officer. ([bgs kariyawasam@yahoo.com](mailto:bgs kariyawasam@yahoo.com))

**Information is free at the library**

**Just bring your container ...**

## EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

### AWARDS AND SCHOLRSHIPS

For the Academic year 2012/2013 & 2013/2014

#### S.C. Blok Memorial Scholarships

##### Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level 1 – 2013/2014

Sinhala Medium – Ms. P M Chamarika Erandi Pathiraja

Tamil Medium – Mr. Pathinathar Jude Prinson

##### Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level 11 – 2012/ 2013

Sinhala Medium – Ms. W G Kanthi Roshini Duleeka

##### Gold Medal for Best Achievement - Level 111 -2012/2013

Mr. K A C Priyantha Abeygunawardena

### Vijita De Silva Research Award – 2014



The Inaugural Vijita De Silva Research Award of the SLLA was awarded to Ms. Ruvini Champa Kodikara, Librarian University of Moratuwa for outstanding work on Improving library facilities and services to enhance the learning environment at the campus. This was awarded at the SLLA Annual General Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Diploma in Library & Information Science (DIPLIS) – Level 3- 2014  
Distance Course Inauguration  
Ceremony at the SLLA Auditorium  
(16<sup>th</sup> August 2014)



### What is Plagiarism?

*Plagiarism is the act of taking another person's writing, conversation, song, or even idea and passing it off as your own. This includes information from web pages, books, songs, television shows, email messages, interviews, articles, artworks or any other medium. Whenever you paraphrase, summarize, or take words, phrases, or sentences from another person's work, it is necessary to indicate the source of the information within your paper using an internal citation. It is not enough to just list the source in a bibliography at the end of your paper. Failing to properly quote, cite or acknowledge someone else's words or ideas with an internal citation is plagiarism.*  
(<http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/whatisplag.php>)

### Congratulations



The Council and its membership of the Sri Lanka Library Association Congratulate Professor Ranasinghe for his achievement as the Senior Professor of the Department of Library and Information Science of the University of Kelaniya. He is the first ever academic in the LIS profession to achieve the Senior Professorship. Professor Ranasinghe was the President, Sri Lanka Library Association during 2007-2009. Prior to that he has held many significant positions as Treasurer and Vice President of the SLLA.

He has been involved with various LIS professional engagements, actively participating and presenting papers at many conferences, both local and foreign. He has also contributed as a resource person and key note speaker in many conferences and seminars especially in the LIS sector.

Further he has obtained many special academic and professional distinctions and his contribution to the Universities and to the LIS field is immense.

Professor Ranasinghe has held many senior positions in National and International level Associations. and has constructively contributed to research, authored books and book chapters, journal articles, and has also reviewed/ edited scholarly works. He has been a Supervisor/Examiner of Postgraduate Degrees and Doctoral Theses.

### PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Ms Sunethra Kariyawasam –  
Convenor

Ms Nanda Wanasundera

Ms Dilmani Warnasuriya

Ms Pushpamala Perera

Ms Swarna Jayatilleke

Ms Kumari Wickramasinghe

Mr K.G.S. Gunthillake

Mr R Maheswaran

Ms Damayanthi Jayasundara

## Conference Alerts

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### ULA Academic Session – 2014

The ULA EXCO 2014/2015 decided to hold its Academics Sessions-2014 on 20th November at University of Ruhuna. The sessions are intended to provide a forum for the ULA members to communicate their research findings. Please contact [jagathga@lib.ruh.ac.lk](mailto:jagathga@lib.ruh.ac.lk) and [sanathka@lib.ruh.ac.lk](mailto:sanathka@lib.ruh.ac.lk) for more details.

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### NILIS Symposium - 2014

NILIS, University of Colombo will have its annual sessions on 21st November 2014 at the NILIS Auditorium. This year, the keynote speaker will be Professor Diljit Singh, Associate professor, Department of Information Science, University of Malaya, Malaysia. He is also the President of the International Association of School Librarianship, USA.

NILIS has already called for papers and posters for the symposium under the general theme, 'Information Literacy: Global Challenges, Local Solutions' in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil, and English). Last date for submission of abstracts is 30th September 2014.

Details of the symposium can be downloaded from the NILIS Web site ([www.nilis.cmb.ac.lk](http://www.nilis.cmb.ac.lk))

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**4<sup>th</sup> IEEE International Symposium on 'Emerging Trends and Technologies in Libraries and Information Services' (ETTLIS 2015)- 6-8 January, 2015** Venue : JAYPEE INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, A-10, Sector – 62, Noida – 201 307, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA  
Phone: +91 120-2594190 Fax: +91 120-2400986, +91 120-2401006 (M) +91 9810503341, Email: [ettlis2015@gmail.com](mailto:ettlis2015@gmail.com)

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**Submit your proposal for ACRL 2015 Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) 2015 - March 25-28, 2015, Portland, Oregon. More details :** <http://conference.acrl.org>

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**ALIA Information Online 2015 Conference - February 2, 2015 – February 5, 2015 at Hilton Sydney Hotel, 488 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia**  
More Details : <http://information-online.alia.org.au/>

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**5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Libraries, Information and Society (ICOLIS2014) November 4 – 5, 2014. Organizer - Universiti Malaya. More details:** [http://perpun.upm.edu.my/myuninet/?tribe\\_events=5th-international-conference-on-libraries-information-and-society-icolis2014](http://perpun.upm.edu.my/myuninet/?tribe_events=5th-international-conference-on-libraries-information-and-society-icolis2014),

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**6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Information Retrieval. 21-24 October, 2014 - Venue: Rome, Italy. More details:** <http://kdir.ic3k.org/Home.aspx>

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**17<sup>th</sup> National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking - NACLIN 2014 Organised by DELNET, with French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry. December 9-11, 2014 at Hotel Anandha Inn Convention Centre, Pondicherry. More details:** <http://www.naclin.org/>

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**Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy**  
October 10-11, 2014  
[Coastal Georgia Center](http://coastalgeorgiacenter.org/), Savannah, GA. More details :  
<http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ce/conferences/infolit/>

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## **Excerpts from the incoming President's Speech - AGM – 20.6.2014**

Ms Shivanthi Weerasinghe, President 2014/2015, in her inaugural address emphasized that we are right in the middle of an information and knowledge based economy or society that has been dynamically emerging for the past decades and also keeps on changing. We are in an exciting era, where we, as library personnel and information specialists, are able to influence many areas performing multi disciplinary tasks related to our extensive field.

The newly elected President said that together with her team, she will in the coming year work towards bringing diverse and valuable networking, education and learning opportunities, collaborative and international interactions, at the same time showing the value of LIS professionals to society and the user community.

She further stated that as a recognized profession, librarianship in the 21st century goes beyond deskwork. Librarians are expected to perform multiple tasks and lead in all areas of information. "Our roles as information managers and disseminators are the key factors in building progress in our society". She said to bear in mind that while methods may change or become outdated, our duty remains the same.

The incoming President, on behalf of the SLLA's Council, outlined the plan of work for the coming year as;

- Revisiting the Education programme of the SLLA, and reviewing the LIS curriculum to meet the changing needs of industry and communities. Hence both the Diploma Programme and the COLA programmes will be revisited and reviewed to impact LIS student population aspiring to become library and information professionals.
- Advocate library values, in order to bring value to libraries and to the communities we serve. In this endeavour the new team will engage in the development of professional ethics among library professionals in Sri Lanka and continue to work on the revision of the Code of Ethics
- Enhance CPD initiatives to develop professional and ICT applications, which is highly necessary to inspire and support continuous member learning.
- In the landmark year next year when the Association reaches 55 years, it is hoped to hold an international conference or to have the annual conference with an international blend.
- The new team will work towards strengthening the direction of the Association through the Strategic Planning and Direction Committee.

She also stressed that LIS professionals must respond to change and embrace ICT led information management and delivery. She ended by advising to turn away the hype on information professionals going obsolete due to evolving ICT, by proving that the future will need more and more LIS professionals in the rapidly changing ICT environment.

**If undelivered please return to:      To :**

**Sri Lanka Library Association  
OPA Centre  
Stanley Wijesundera Mawatha  
Colombo 07  
Sri Lanka**