



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

Library Newsletter

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Librarian's Message



It gives me great pleasure to write a brief note to this inaugural issue of the Library newsletter, which is launched in connection with the centennial year of the Library. As the principal information service provider to the University community, the Library should constantly communicate with you, the valuable patrons of the University Library, who are within the University precinct and outside. This Newsletter aims at informing the products,

resources, and services delivered by the Library so that you may reap immense benefit from your Library. Therefore, I firmly believe that this newsletter published on the Library website will be an effective tool that would propagate the usefulness of the Library for learning, teaching, and research purposes. The Newsletter will also keep you updated on the new developments in your Library and keep you in touch with us.

I thank Ms. Sureni Weerasinghe and Ms. Dilani Abeyratne the co-editors for doing a splendid job in a very short period. I also thank Mr. Ishan Senevirathna and Mr. Rivikantha Herath for attractively designing the layout.

I hope this web bulletin will keep our patrons stay connected with the Library.

R. Maheswaran
Librarian
University of Peradeniya

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Co-Editors :
Mrs. W.H.D.K. Abeyrathne
Mrs. S. Weerasinghe

Graphic & Layout Designers:
Mr. Rivikantha Herath
Mr. Ishan Senevirathne

Photography :
Mr. Ishan Senevirathne



Mr. NTSA Senadeera a tribute to a Librarian of Par Excellence

By Kanchana Dehigama

Senior Assistant Librarian, AHS Library, University of Peradeniya



The University of Peradeniya Library celebrates the completion of its 100 years today as the oldest university library of Sri Lanka. In parallel to the inauguration of University of Peradeniya Library Centenary Celebration, it was decided to present Mr. NTSA Senadeera, University's 5th Librarian (1982-2002) with a Felicitation Volume. Hence, this feature article is dedicated to revere him on this remarkable occasion.

Nambukara Tantrige Samarasiri Aryaratne Senadeera was born in Dikwella in December 1936 and he had his education at Vijita Vidyalaya, Moggaliputtatissa Buddhist Mixed School and Vijita Central College, Dikwella. In 1957 Mr. Senadeera entered University of Ceylon, Peradeniya and obtained Bachelor of Arts (Honors) with a Second Class Upper Division pass in Sinhala in 1961.

He started his career as a teacher and then became an Assistant Government Archivist before he started his professional carrier in librarianship. After joining the University of Ceylon Peradeniya Library as an Assistant Librarian in October 1965 he obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship from the School of Librarianship & Archives, University College London in 1968. He was an Honorary Fellow of Sri Lanka Library Association and holds the Associateship of the Library Association of Great Britain. In 1976, Mr. Senadeera gained further training in library technology and bibliographical research from the Royal Library, Denmark. On 1st January 1982 Mr. Senadeera was appointed Librarian, University of Peradeniya. Since then he has devoted his life developing the University of Peradeniya Library as a most comprehensive University Library in Sri Lanka.

As a member of Historical Manuscripts Commission as well as a former Archivist he was well aware of the significance of the protection of manuscripts and rare printed materials in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, he took initiatives in conservation and preservation of valuable materials at the University of Peradeniya. In the face of escalating LTTE violence, he arranged valuable materials of the library microfilmed and deposited at the Library Safety Vault constructed under his supervision and direction at the basement of the University of Peradeniya Library.

A cooperative venture of the University Libraries and Postgraduate Institutes in Sri Lanka that resulted in publishing an Annual Union List of Current Periodicals from early 1990s became a reality due to all out efforts and initiative steps taken by Mr. Senadeera.

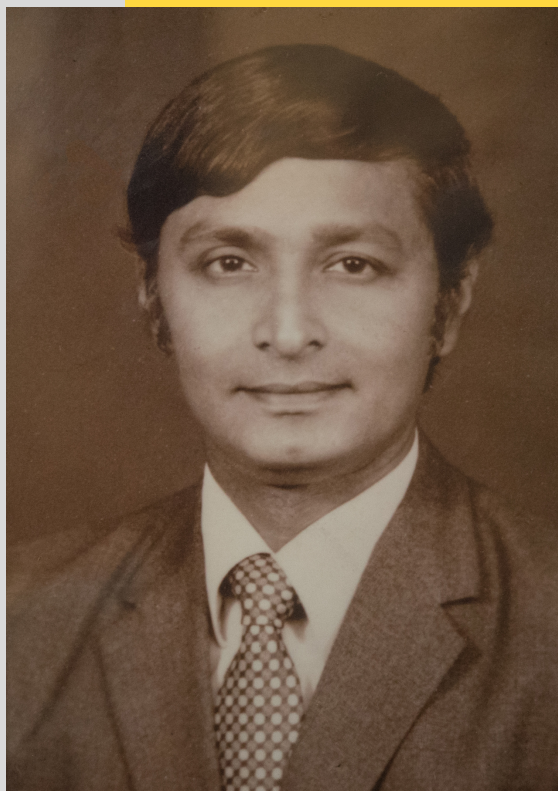
His forward planning and strategic skills led University of Peradeniya Library to be the leader in application of Information Technology in Library Services becoming a prototype among other Libraries. Mr. Senadeera introduced Computerization using CDS/ISIS, and then moved to Alice for Windows, off the shelf software management package, and led the Library to become a networked system across the campus. Consequently the acceptance of his proposal submitted to UGC to computerize the University Libraries using CDS/ISIS database management system paved the way for the other university libraries also to enter the computer world.

Mr. Senadeera, believed in the requirement of a formal professional association that could promote professional aspirations of University Librarians while maintaining a harmonious relationship with the university authorities. Hence he pioneered in setting up the University Librarians' Association and became the President of ULA in 1985, 1988, 1993 and 1994. He was also an active member of National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka National Library Services Board, Sri Lanka Standard Institution and Jaffna Public Library Reconstruction Committee.

Mr. Senadeera's exemplary way of life reflects his ability to skillfully balance his personal life with academic life. At present, after the recent demise of his beloved wife Professor Sylvie Senadeera, who served as Professor of Education, University of Peradeniya Mr. Senadeera, devotes his time to enriching his spiritual life. At this historic occasion, we wish him good health and happiness.

Felicitations Volume Honouring Mr. N.T.S.A. Senadeera

A Felicitations volume to acknowledge and applaud the services of Mr. N.T.S.A. Senadeera, the 5th Librarian University of Peradeniya (1982-2002), is published on the 8th April 2021 in line with the Centennial Anniversary of the Library Collection, University of Peradeniya. Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian is the Editor-in-Chief and Dr. (Ms). C.N.K. Alahakoon, Senior Assistant Librarian-Main Library & Ms. K. Dehigama, Senior Assistant Librarian-AHS Library are the Co-Editors of this Felicitations volume. The launching ceremony of the Mr. NTSA Senadeera Felicitations volume is held on the 8th April 2021 at the Senate Auditorium of University of Peradeniya at 2.00p.m.





Establishment of the Quality Assurance Cell-Library (QAC-Lib)

A Quality Assurance Cell was established for the Library in January 2021 and Mr. B.N.G.S. Premaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian/Dental Library was appointed as the co-coordinator of this cell.

The committee members of the QAC- Lib are: Ms. P.C. De S. Gunasekera/Senior Assistant Librarian –Main Library, Ms. K.P.N.D. Pieris/ Senior Assistant Librarian –Engineering Library, Ms. H.N.K. Dissanayake/Senior Assistant Librarian-Agriculture Library, Mr. W.G.A. Dharmarathne/Senior Assistant Librarian – Main Library, Dr. (Ms.) B.M.M.C.B. Hindagolla/ Senior Assistant Librarian –Science Library, Ms. K. Dehigama/ Senior Assistant Librarian –AHS Library, Ms. W.H.D.K. Abeyrathne/ Senior Assistant Librarian –Medical Library and Ms. S. Weerasinghe/ Senior Assistant Librarian - Veterinary Medical Library, Mr. A.B.Adikari /Systems Analyst, Mrs. Ayeasha Senarathne/Assistant Registrar-Library Services and Ms. N.S. Somarathne/Secretary.

Awareness Seminar – “Role of the Library in Quality Assurance”

The Quality Assurance Cell of the Library (QAC-Lib), University of Peradeniya organized an awareness seminar for the preparation of the Institutional Review (IR) writing report. This was held on Thursday 11th February, 2021 at 10.00 at the Seminar Room, Faculty of Arts. The target audience was the committee members (QAC-Lib) /Academic Staff of the Library / Academic Supportive staff/ Assistant Registrars of the Library. Prof. R. W. Pallegma, Director, Internal Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU), UoP, was the resource person. The main theme of this seminar was “Role of the Library in Quality Assurance (QAC-Lib)” and the contribution and support of the Library in the IR writing process was discussed.

The Librarian Mr. R. Maheshwaran welcomed the audience and Mr. Sunil Premarathne, coordinator, QAC-Lib delivered the vote of thanks. The Quality Assurance Cell in the Library (QAC-Lib) is the Vice Chancellor approved cell and this is the first time a quality cell was established for the library in order to accomplish Quality Assurance tasks successfully.



Identifying the Role of University Libraries in Quality Assurance : an overview

By BMMCB Hindagolla

Senior Assistant Librarian, Science Library, University of Peradeniya

As in many other western countries, higher education institutes in Sri Lanka have been going through transformations since the introduction of the Quality Assurance (QA) Council in Sri Lanka. The main purpose of the council is to ensure quality, continuous development and efficient performance of Sri Lankan higher education institutions, and to gain the confidence of the community in their graduates in accordance with the internationally recognized evaluation mechanism (Quality Assurance Council, 2021). In Sri Lanka, internal quality assurance units were established in all state universities in 2005 to plan, organize, develop, facilitate and monitor all internal quality assurance programs and activities (Pieris, 2006).

University Libraries play an important role in achieving the goals and purposes of universities by providing scholarly information for learning and research activities since their establishment. Therefore, the connection between university academic performances and library services is a closely bound inter-related process recognized in higher education. There is no doubt that in the quality assurance process, university libraries have a significant role to play in universities' educational and research excellence. Thus, university libraries should find proactive ways to align with university quality assurance practices which will lead to achieving the overall goals of the university.

"Expected outcome from Libraries in the process of QA "

According to the quality assurance process, university libraries are exposed to the observations of internal and external expert review teams.

They are expecting programs and activities related to QA from libraries such as library goals to be in line with university goals, learning outcomes correspond with the library collection management policy and how library and its services provide optimal support for learning outcomes etc. Based on the framework set out by the QA council, library management should consider the following facts when supporting quality assurance process at the university level:

1. How library maintains the standards of information products and services
2. How efficiently library services are delivered
3. What are the perceptions of users and their level of satisfaction with library services
4. How libraries maintain quality-based best practices to support users learning and research activities

"Criteria to be followed to enhance the accreditation status "

After the introduction of QA process into Universities in Sri Lanka, libraries have been inspired to start planning their activities and explore ways to measure and report them. According to QA guidelines (Pieris, 2006; Senevirathne, 2008) libraries have to identify the following indicators at the initial stage of quality assurance:

1. Structural Indicators
2. Input Indicators
3. Process Indicators
4. Output Indicators

To develop structural indicators, libraries should prepare strategic documents such as;

Vision, Mission and Objectives of the Library needed to comply with the institutional vision, mission and objectives.

**Organizational structure,
Library policies,
Strategic plan, flow charts of the library,
Annual Reports
Library rules & regulations
Library manuals etc.**

Input indicators are another area that should be developed in order to raise the level of quality services in the library. It can be done through knowledge (printed, online, audio & video materials etc...), physical (infrastructure, Information Communication Technology related resources etc.) and human resources (professional and trained staff).

Process indicators include the library's internal technical processes such as acquisition, cataloguing, circulation and reader services. Introducing new innovative services and popularizing existing library services among students and staff which will directly influence the users' information behavior.

Output indicators demonstrate the extent to which library serves for the academic and research activities of the University by providing services and facilities. It can be measured through several ways.

E.g. Number of materials acquired to the library during a specified time period which are recommended by the academic courses.

Number of electronic journals or databases subscribed

Number of students who used the library every yearly or monthly basis

Number of staff who used the library to produce learning materials for teaching and research purposes

Number of subject related inquiries by faculty or students

Number of inquires directly related to assignments

Number of inquiries over the counter and web based

User satisfaction surveys and feedback by library users.

Conclusion

Sri Lankan universities are engaged in the continuous process of quality assurance to enhance their quality standards in academic programs according to international recognized evaluation mechanisms. To enhance the quality standards in academic programs, libraries have to undertake a pivotal role. There are number of ways to connect the library and university quality assurance practices which were discussed above. As a baseline, the criteria discussed in this article can be used to efficiently and systematically assess overall quality of service provided by the Libraries.

References

Barlog, K.;Jelsuic, A.; Matasoic, M. (2015). Quality Assurance practices in Croatian Academic Libraries: Two case Studies. 34th International Conference on Organizational Science development Internationalization and corporation, Portoriz, Slovenia, 25th -27th March 2015.

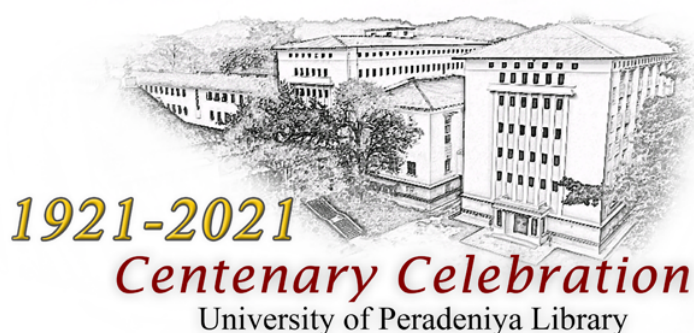
Peiris, Colin N. (2006). Need for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Seminar on "Knowledge for Development: Assessing the Capacity, Quality and Relevance of Universities in Asia" Colombo, Sri Lanka, 25th of January.

Senevirathne, W. (2008). Quality assurance indicators for academic libraries in Sri Lanka.Conference presentation of National workshop of Quality Indicators and Best Practices for Academic Libraries organized by the Department of Library and Information Science. Punjabi University, Patiala 04 -06 March 2008.Quality Assurance Council (2021). Available at <https://www.eugc.ac.lk/qac/>

Library Centennial Celebrations

The Library of Peradeniya University was originated in 1921 as the Library of the Ceylon University College. Since then over a span of 100 years, this knowledge base has expanded astronomically. At present, the University of Peradeniya claims the ownership of this invaluable asset. On 8th April 2021, this book repository fulfils its 100 years of service. Therefore, to commemorate this milestone several events have been organized by the Library, University of Peradeniya.

Unveiling the Centenary Logo



“Centenary celebrations” of the Library, University of Peradeniya was inaugurated on the 23rd February 2021 at the Auditorium of the New Library building under the aegis of Vice Chancellor Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne, and Acting Registrar Ms. Jayantha Dharmasiri. The event was organized by the Librarian Mr. R. Maheswaran and the Library staff. The “Centenary Logo” was launched at this ceremony. Thereafter, a press conference was held and the Vice Chancellor briefed about the history, value and services provided by the Library. Four monumental articles; the first accession register which was started on 08th April 1921, the first Ten books in the accession register which belong to the Arunachalam Padmanabha Collection, “Mahavamsa” palm leaf manuscript and “Visuddhi magga Teeka” were exhibited during this event.

Library Centenary Volume

More Open than Usual

“The Unparalleled Repository of Knowledge at the Centre of Excellence in University Education: The Past, the Present and the Future”.

University of Peradeniya Library is planning to publish a Centenary Volume to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary. Scholarly works such as research articles, descriptive articles, literature reviews, dialogues and discussion papers are invited from esteemed research scholars of the country to contribute to this volume. Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian is the Editor-in-Chief and Ms. C. Gunasekera, Senior Assistant Librarian-Main Library, Mr. W.G.A. Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian – Main Library, and Dr. (Ms.) B.M.M.C.B. Hindagolla, Senior Assistant Librarian – Science Library serve as the Co-Editors of this Centenary volume.

Preparation of Nomination on "Mahavamsa" Palm-Leaf Manuscript for the UNESCO MOW National Register

The "Mahavamsa" palm leaf manuscript is nominated to be inscribed in the Memory of the World (MOW) list. The UNESCO MOW expert committee members; Mr. Vijitha Nanda Kumara, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Mr. W. Sunil, DG, National Library and Documentation Services Board, Prof. Malini Endagama, Dr. Nilan Coorey, University of Sri Jayawardenapura and Prof. Mahinda Somathilake, University of Peradeniya, have decided to prepare a nomination on Mahavamsa palm leaf manuscripts for the UNESCO MOW National Register (World Heritage list for documentary heritage).



Did You Know?

The Palm Leaf (Ola-Leaf) Manuscript Collection of the Main Library possesses over 5000 palm-leaf manuscripts which is the second largest Palm Leaf collection in the country and this is the largest collection available in a University Library in Sri Lanka. This rich collection consists of highly valuable and rare material.





"Visit of the Assistant High Commissioner of India to the Main Library"

The Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy, His Excellency Raakesh Natraj paid a visit to the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya on Friday, 12th March 2021. The Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, R. Maheswaran warmly welcomed him and invited him for a guided tour of the Library.



The Assistant High commissioner made a valuable donation of Sanskrit books to be added in the Library collection for the benefit of students and academic staff members who are

interested in Sanskrit language and Literature. The Librarian presented the Assistant High Commissioner with a Jade plant as a souvenir to signify the Centennial



Celebrations of the Library of the University of Peradeniya. Future, support for the library and collaborations were also discussed during the meeting.



Visit of a Conservationist of the National Archives to the Main Library

According to a request made by the Librarian, a conservationist attached to the Department of National Archives visited the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya. The main purpose of his visit was to examine the physical condition of the palm-leaf manuscript collection available in the Library and to inspect the ongoing palm-leaf manuscript preservation process. The officer was highly satisfied with the prevailing physical condition of the materials and the preservation and conservation measures that had been taken by the Library.



photographs by: Mr. R.Chandimal

Library Orientation Program- Medical Library

The Library orientation on 'Introduction to Library' for the new entrants at Faculty of Medicine was conducted by the Senior Assistant Librarian, Medical Library on the 17th March 2021 at 8.30 am – 10.30 am. The orientation was conducted via ZOOM. The session covered the Introduction of University of Peradeniya Library and the Medical Library, resources and services, searching techniques etc and also virtual library tour.



photograph by: Mr. WASP Watareka

- The following article by Mrs. Sureni Weerasinghe- Senior Assistant Librarian/ Veterinary Library and Dr. (Mrs.) Menaka Hindagolla- Senior Assistant Library/Science Library was published in the IFLA Journal (Sage Publications) in January 2021.

*New
Publications*

Weerasinghe, S. and Hindagolla, M.C.B. (2021).
"Acceptance of social network sites by university
librarians."

IFLA Journal . Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0340035220983362>

Library Membership for Media Personnel



In parallel to the opening ceremony of the New Library building held on 28th August 2020, reference library facilities of the Main Library were declared open to journalists in the Kandy region who have registered in the Department of Government Information. At present, library membership has been granted for 21 journalists.



**"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . .
The man who never reads lives only one."**

- George R.R. Martin



Launching of the British Council Sponsored “Digital Wall”

Opening of the Digital Wall in the New Library Building takes place on 8th April 2021 at 11.00am with the aegis of Vice Chancellor-Prof. Upul. B. Dissanayake , Director of the British Council Library and Librarian Mr. R. Maheswaran. This facility contains rich electronic resources which will be immensely beneficial for the university community. The ‘Digital Wall’ includes Books that changed the world, Learning apps including IELTS, Poetry Corner, British Council reports etc which can be accessed by scanning the QR codes and subsequently downloading them free of charge. The British Council is willing to provide this valuable facility free of charge for our university.

Stock Verification

Agriculture Library

Stock verification was conducted in the Agriculture Library from 18th of February to 28th of February 2021 by a committee appointed by the Vice Chancellor.

The stock verification process of the Library attached to the sub-campus, Faculty of Agriculture in Mahailuppallama was conducted on 23rd and 24th March 2021.

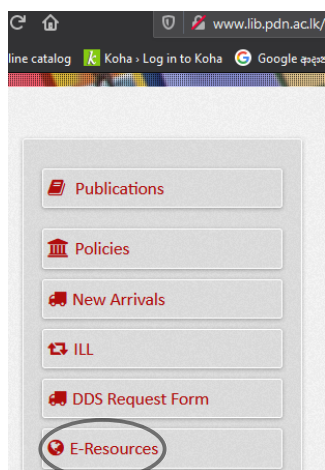


Off-Campus Access to Electronic Databases

Shibboleth Login

By Mr. Anuruddha Adikari

Systems Analyst, Main Library, University of Peradeniya



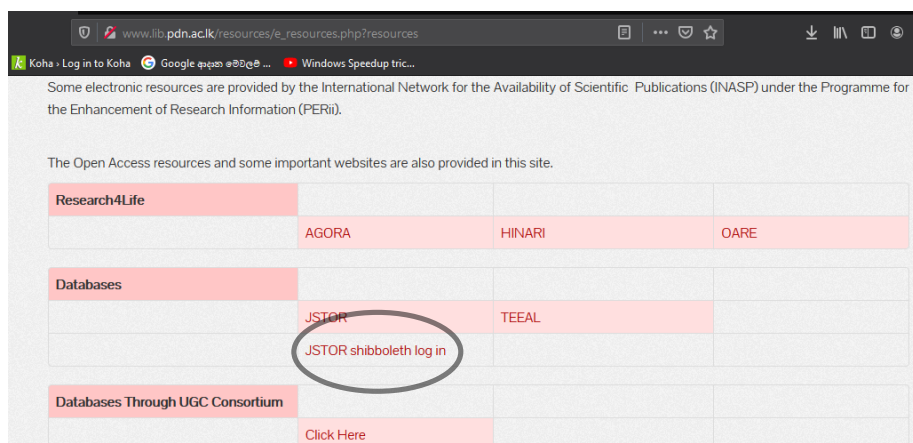
The e-journals subscribed by the University of Peradeniya and some e-journals provided through the National Digital Library consortium under the University Grants Commission are now available to access from outside the University premises.

To do this, first go to the University of Peradeniya Library webpage

(www.lib.pdn.ac.lk)

In the Quick Access window provided on the left, select the Electronic Resource link.

In the table that appears, you can see the Shibboleth link to accessing the JSTOR Journal from off campus.



Click on it. Shibboleth then asks for the username and password required for access.

All you have to do is enter the first part of the email address provided by the university and the relevant password (email id).

Eg: if the pdn mail is rathnayakesb@pdn.ac.lk you should enter only **rathnayakesb** and your **pdn email password**.

It will give your pdn email details and provide three options to select. Select and accept one of the given choices.

Similarly, the same process can be used to get access to other resources that provides Shibboleth links to e-journals under the UGC Consortium for access from outside the University

Login to JSTOR SP

Username

rathnayakesb

Password

.....

☐ Don't Remember Login

☐ Clear prior granting of permission for release of your information to this service.

Login



JSTOR Shibboleth Service Provider

> Forgot your password?

> Need Help?

Select an information release consent duration:

☐ Ask me again at next login

• I agree to send my information this time.

☒ Ask me again if information to be provided to this service changes

• I agree that the same information will be sent automatically to this service in the future.

☐ Do not ask me again

• I agree that **all** of my information will be released to **any** service.

This setting can be revoked at any time with the checkbox on the login page.

Reject

Accept

Main Library Refurbishment

Rewiring process of the Main Library has been commenced after (1952) 69 years and this will enhance the safety measures of the library. Simultaneously, the ventilation plant which was not functioning over the years is planned to be re-operated in the Main Library.



Retirements

Ms. Cheka Senanayake- Senior Staff Assistant

Ms. Cheka Senanayake, Senior Staff Assistant (Library Services) attached to the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya retired after having served the University for Thirty Two years. The Library welfare society organized a ceremony, presided over by the Librarian, to bid farewell to Ms. Senanayake to acknowledge her commendable service to the Library.



Ms. Cheka Senanayake worked in the private sector before joining the University service in 1988. Initially, she had performed her duties in the Reader Services Division and later worked at the Acquisitions Division and at the time of her retirement she was attached to the Librarian's office. She has obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Science from the University of Peradeniya and a Diploma in Library and Information Science from the Sri Lanka Library Association. To further enhance her career, she had undergone CDS/ISIS Library Automation Software training programmes conducted by the CIGC/CINTEC/NARESA and the Institute of Information Technology of the University of Colombo. She has also participated in a Library Skills Development organized by the British Council. Being a wildlife and environmental enthusiast, she has followed a wildlife conservation certificate course offered by the Open University of Sri Lanka. She is also a gifted wildlife photographer and an avid reader. The Library will be devoid of her vast knowledge and skills and the void created by her retirement would be difficult to fill on account of her wealth of experience.





Contacts

Librarian
Main Library
University of Peradeniya
Peradeniya - 20400
Sri Lanka

Phone : +94 81 239 2470 / +94 81 238 8678
Fax : +94 81 238 8678
PABX : 2470

Email : librarian@pdn.ac.lk

Office : +94 81 239 2471
PABX : 2471

