# UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

## Library Newsletter

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# Congratulations!

Prof. M.D.Lamawansa was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya and the induction ceremony was held on the 4th August 2021, at the University premises.

Prof. Terrence Madhujith was appointed as the Deputy Vice Chancellor University of Peradeniya.

*The Librarian and the staff of the Library, University of Peradeniya congratulate the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor!*

## Editorial Board

**Editor in Chief:**
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# Launching of the Felicitation Volume Honouring Mr. N.T.S.A. Senadeera

Mr. NTSA Senadeera served university of Peradeniya for 37 years, since 1965. As the 5th Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, Mr. NTSA Senadeera completed service of 20 years and 9 months when he retired at the end of September 2002. Mr. NTSA Senadeera, is an eminent scholar, who contributed immensely in developing the University of Peradeniya Library as a most comprehensive University Library in Sri Lanka during his term of office.

A Festschrift was presented to Mr. NTSA Senadeera in parallel to the commencement of Centenary Celebration of University of Peradeniya Library on 08.04.2021 in recognition of his contributions made to the Field of Library and Information Science and Librarianship. The articles in it touch various ranges of Library and Information Science scholarship. This double blind peer reviewed volume is of two parts; Reminiscences on Mr. Senadeera and Essays written by his colleagues, contemporary academics, students and professionals in the Library and Information Science Field both from local and international arenas. Presentation of this Felicitation volume gives the admirers, well-wishers, friends, colleagues, students and rest of the Library Community a opportunity to show their deep gratitude and respect towards Mr. Senadeera. As the scholar, the felicitation work is also a veritable desire-yielding gem of knowledge. Sudharshan Seneviratne, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka to Bangladesh, Emeritus Professor. University of Peradeniya, a contemporary colleague and a friend of Mr. Senadeera, in the prelude to his article in the volume states:

*Academics, researchers, concerned citizens, students and children world over are in debated to the profession of Librarians and Information Sciences. They are entrusted with the task and noble profession of protecting, preserving and sustaining repositories of information and knowledge to humanity. Protecting knowledge indeed is an integral component in our culture. Mr. Senadeera, or Sene, as we popularly knew him, was very much part of that ethos - a tradition he continued from a lineage of dedicated librarians, such as, HAI Goonatillake. Sene had an encyclopedic knowledge on a vast array of subjects and I often depended on him to retrieve references and information on books from his repository of knowledge. We had many conversations in his office and I benefitted tremendously at every visit. I thankfully acknowledge his contribution and above all keeping the University of Peradeniya Central Library functioning and alive under much social, political vicissitudes, and above all, in spite of cruel budget cuts.*

At this important occasion, we should not forget to remember his beloved wife late Professor Sylvie Senadeera, who served as Professor of Education, University of Peradeniya.

We take this opportunity to offer our greetings and blessings to Mr. Senadeera and hope that he will continue to add to our knowledge for many more years to come. We wish him good health and happiness.

**Kanchana Dehigama**

# British Council Sponsored "Digital Wall"

The British Council assisted Digital wall was officially declared open for the University community, under the aegis of the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Parakrama Karunarathna, Guest of Honor British Council Country Director Ms. Maarya Rehman, Manager Library & Information Services at British Council Ms. Shiroma Benaragama and Librarian Mr. R. Maheswaran at a ceremony which took place on 8th April 2021 at the Main Library New building. The "Digital Library wall" presents a new way of accessing the library collection by facilitating the ability to download the content onto a device that can be read on the go. 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 download them free of charge. The British Council is willing to provide this valuable facility free of charge for the university.

# University of Peradeniya Library :
## Leading Light of the Excellence

By Kanchana Dehigama
Senior Assistant Librarian, AHS Library, University of Peradeniya

The University of Peradeniya is proud to possess its greatest treasure, the Library which is now one hundred years old. When describing the University of Peradeniya Library (UoPL), it is popularly said that " the Library is older than the University". This feature article deals with the brief account of UoPL, the leading light of the excellence of University of Peradeniya.



### Brief History

UoPL originated in the "College House", Thurstan Road , Colombo as the Library of the Ceylon University College established in January 1921. It became the University of Ceylon Library with the establishment of the first University of Sri Lanka in 1942. When the University was shifted to its permanent home from Colombo to the spacious University Park at Peradeniya the Library was also moved to the Arts Faculty building of new campus. in October 1952 with the collection of 30,000 materials housed at Villa Vanetia and the first professionally qualified Librarian in Sri Lanka, Mr. R.L.Enright. In 1960, the seven story Library building was constructed on the banks of the Mahaweli River.  Construction initiated during the colonial period. it is mainly a brick and mortar building which is a mix of colonial and local architectural characteristics. A forced draft ventilation system including a dust filtering mechanism installed in the library basement convey filtered air to the upper floors  during the warmer months of the year. Seven floors of the library are built for specific use and fixed functions. Six storied identical, new-wing to the library was added in August 2020 to extend and expand its services to patrons.

Nature of the location of different faculties in the university had made it necessary for establishing a faculty-oriented library system. Accordingly, seven libraries were established gradually, provided with expanded services in each faculty forming a Library System. Main library basically caters to the faculty of arts and also function as a Central Library for the entire user universe of the university. This multi sited library caters around 10,000 members of the university community today, holds over 800,000 items of rare, valuable and significant work acquired by the University and bestowed by donors.

## Collection

Traditionally Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAMs) are developed and expected to handle different collections in various formats and media, employing different professional practices (Rayward, 1998; Tanackoviae and Badurina, 2008). Although development of LAM systems from a shared history (Bierbaum, 1994) libraries generally preserve printed materials, while museums posses two dimensional and three dimensional objects (Tonta, 2008). The early benefactors in their desire to promote growth of UoPL into a great seat of learning had acquired many valuable collections  in the form of textual and non-textual materials. Hence, notwithstanding the accepted norms, UoPL holds different formats of materials. The Aesthetic, historic and educational value of these collections are enhanced by the great number of rare books, manuscripts, paintings, Copper plate charters, maps, Gramophone records, hand drawings,  water colour drawings, microfilms and publications on Sri Lanka etc. Palm Leaf Manuscript Collection acquired in 1960s from Late Dr. N.B.P.Goonetilleke, on the recommendation of Professor Senarath Paranavithana and Government Archivist is considered the second largest collection in Sri Lanka. UoPL is eventually  developed as a legal depository, an archive of national repository of information through its massive collection and a museum that holds different forms of Cultural Heritage Resources (CHRs).

## Access

Users increasing expectation of accessing information in a single search, across the domains is the ever facing challenge of a Library. Bringing together the collections of various formats available, under the umbrella of term 'document' UoPL provides with a nearly a complete solution for information distribution and exchange in seamless way following the thingness of the information that  surpasses the distinctions of the nature of collections such as data, documents, objects, manuscripts, artefacts, specimen, record group or file (Buckland, 1997). This  provides a fertile ground for creating cohesiveness among collections through digital access.

Library card catalogue was the main key to the library's collections until year 2000 since the inception of library. The library which was among the pioneers in application of Information Technology in the field of Library and Information Science launched its automation project in 2002 using off the shelf Library Management Software (LMS) Package ; Alice for Windows and later on was shifted to Koha open source LMS. Library's Institutional Repository which demonstrates the intellectual output of the University research community is accessible on www.lib.pdn.ac.lk. Stimulated by growing user demands and expectations access to e-resources is provided through Library website. Faced with fast developing information and communication technology, scholarly needs and issues dealing with handling and maintaining of resources urged facilitating a centrally located complex for all kind of information. Hence spaces in the new wing of the Library are dedicated to differently able undergraduates, British Council Digital Wall, Zoom conference hall, etc.

## 100 years of impact and excellence

Now 100 years later, when we retrospect the history of the development of UoPL, perseverance, dedication and loyalty portrayed by its key figures are remarkable. The story of UoPL was built upon a strong vision of its key benefactors which made the Library where today. UoPL developed fast with the growth of the university, has contributed immensely in making undergraduates successful achievers and resourceful contributors for the future. An increased focus on research driven agendas has heightened interest in the services and resources provided by the library. Altruistic services, unrelenting labour and intellectual breadth of University of Peradeniya Librarians, its staff and patrons played a major role, when this Green and pleasant seat of learning, became a center of excellence and the most prominent higher education institute of Sri Lanka .
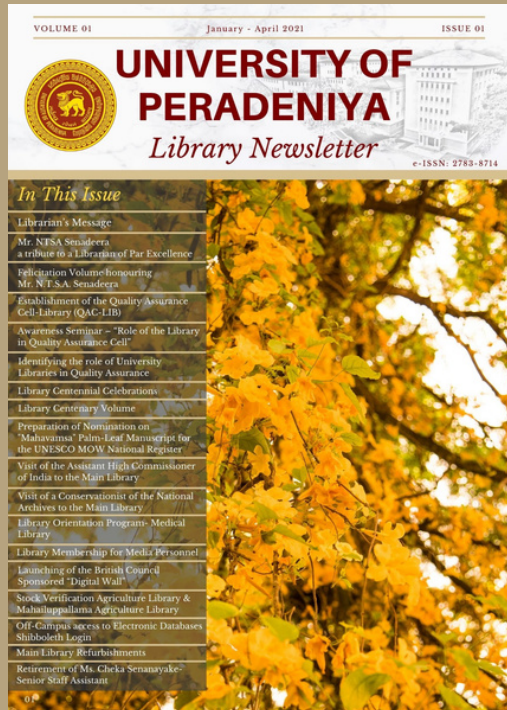
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# Workshop on Preparation of Detail Course Content and Teaching Plan for Library Academic Staff





Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE), University of Peradeniya organized a one day workshop on "preparation of detail course content and teaching plan" for lecturers of Diploma in Library and Information Services. It was held on 28th of April 2021 at the Board Room of the Centre for Distance and Continuing Education, University of Peradeniya. CDCE is planning to start Diploma in Library & Information Services program for external students. Deputy Director /Training, Centre for Distance and Continuing Education was the resource person of the workshop. Director CDCE and Academic staff of the University of Peradeniya Library participated in this workshop.

# Launching of Inaugural Issue of the Library Newsletter

In parallel to the Centenary celebration of the Library, University of Peradeniya, the inaugural issue of the Library Newsletter was officially launched by Prof. Parakrama Karunarathne, Acting Vice-Chancellor on 8th April 2021. Mr. R. Maheswaran was the Editor-in- Cheif and Ms. W.H.D.K. Abeyrathne & Ms. S. Weerasinghe were the Co-editors of this Newsletter. The graphic and layout designers were Mr. Ishan Senevirathne and Mr. Rivikantha Herath.

The Library Newsletter which is published on the Library website will serve as an effective tool propagating the usefulness of the Library for learning, teaching, and research purposes while updating the university community on new developments of the Library resources and services.



## Library orientation for new entrants to Management Faculty

Mr. R. Maheswaran,The Librarian of the University of Peradeniya conducted an orientation program for the new entrants of the Faulty of Management via Zoom on the 6th April 2021. Senior Lecturer Ms. Anoma Kolongahapitiya coordinated the event.

## Library Orientation for New entrants (2019 Batch) – Faculty of Science

Senior Assistant Librarian , Science Library conducted session on " Introduction to Library" for new entrants on 2nd June 2021 at 10.00 am – 11.30 am as a part of the orientation program for the Faculty of Science batch 2019. 538 students participated on-line to this session and it covered basic information about the University of Peradeniya Library system and the Science library.
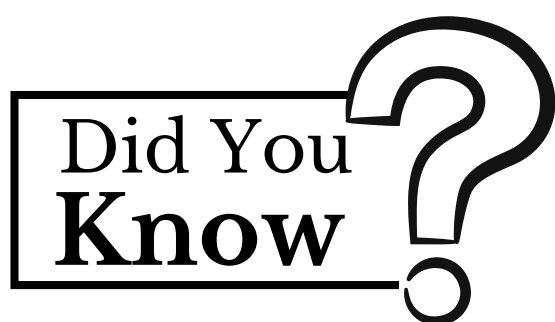
Senior Assistant Librarian also emphasized the special services provided by the library for undergraduates, teaching staff and researchers during this pandemic situation. This program was organized by the Student Advisory and welfare Committee (SAWC) of the Faculty of Science.

## Library Orientation for New entrants - Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science Library

The Library orientation on 'Introduction to Library' for the new entrants at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science was conducted by the Senior Assistant Librarian, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science Library on the 27th July 2021 at 2.30pm – 4.00pm. The orientation was conducted via ZOOM. The session covered the Introduction of University of Peradeniya Library and the Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science Library, available resources and services. Students received further information about online services provided by the library during COVID -19 pandemic situation.

Did You Know?

The most expensive book in the world is Codex Leicester by Leonardo Da Vinci. It was purchased by Bill Gates for 30.8 million dollars.

source : yahoo news

# Re-imaging Academic Library Services: during COVID 19 pandemic situation

By BMMCB Hindagolla
Senior Assistant Librarian, Science Library, University of Peradeniya

## Introduction

Institutions of higher education in all over the world are undergoing unprecedented change due to the sudden outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic. Universities around the world have been forced to shift online teaching and learning since March 2020. It has negatively impacted on university students life and their future plans. University closures, unplanned rapid shifts to online learning, introduction of non pharmaceutical interventions, and closure of university facilities have had ramifications for the educational experiences of university students and their mental, physical wellbeing.

Under these circumstances, there is an enormous challenge faced by university libraries to support the university community and maintain its academic research activity through remote and virtual teaching and learning. This article describes the services provided by academic libraries, challenges faced when providing services to academic community and lessons learned during this pandemic situation.

## COVID 19 – Impact on Libraries

Academic libraries were directly impacted by the Covid-19 virus not only in terms of physical space but also in the collections and services they provide to their community (Medawar 2020). Such as,

- Due to COVID 19 pandemic situation, libraries had to deal with the closures and interruptions to regular services and activities. As reduction and suspension of access to libraries which paralyzed the borrowing activities and all related services offered inside the Library.

- Libraries had to implement new systems in place to continue undisrupted and reliable services.

- In some countries going along with government policies, Library visits should be pre confirmed by booking system.

- Diminishing value of print collections : Inthis pandemic situationcirculating print collections have become immaterial, therefore libraries had to search for ·alternatives to make content readily available.

- E – Everything : Since March 2020, libraries are experiencing the use of electronic resources, increased tremendously compared to previous years. Internet and the electronic resources became main portals of the information gathering by students, teaching staff and research.

## COVID 19- Transform the Role of Libraries

Due to unannounced and indefinite shut downs, Librarians had to change their strategies to support the users' activities during the pandemic. This created major challenges and opportunities such as,

- **Support for online teaching and research** After sudden shutdown of the universities, libraries are working hard to support online teaching, learning and research of the university community. Most of the library resources are available and accessible through library websites. Library websites are main access point to the library users. Further, libraries organized the off campus access to library electronic resources (shibolith access to subscribed e journals, databases) and Thesis, past papers. In addition to that, Libraries increased their virtual communication methods. Library users can consult, contact list of information specialists

who are working online and they communicate throughchat, email queries. In the meantime, librarians are negotiating with publishers and content providers to acquire free access to e books which users can refer in this challenging period.

- **Increase of Digital content services** Libraries extended its digital content with library guides, free e – copy service, book chapters, articles, and inter library loan service.

- **Recalibrate reference desk** This crisis created physical counter desk into online mode. Librarians and the staff continuously help students and researchers requests and provide services through online method.

- **The rise of Open Educational Resources (OER)** As libraries remain closed through this pandemic, librarians had to develop alternative pathways for research dissemination through institutional repositories and support open access publishing. Librarians are working with members of faculties in educating about the benefits of creating and adopting open educational resources, free or low cost text books (Cox, 2020)

## COVID 19- Challenges

- **Lack of digital infrastructure** Digital advances have opened up new avenues for librarians to create new roles and new ways of delivering library services (Huwiler, 2016) However, some libraries may not have the equipment to accomplish digitization. At the same time, organizational & cultural barriers aggravate this problem (Tammaro, 2020). The corona virus pandemic has uncovered these problems and accelerated the digital transition of educational institutions & libraries

- **Copyright issues** As university courses are conducted online, students' require greater access to materials for their courses. However, copyright laws has always been unreasonably restrictive. Librarians must educate faculty members on copyright issues as well as fair use of copyrighted materials for educational purposes. Further, encourage authors to use creative commons licenses for publishing their research (Cox, 2020).

- **Budget cuts** Decreasing institutional budgets is a great challenge for subscribing and purchasing library materials. Unlike print materials, usage of electronic resources has become popular among academic community. Therefore, over the next few years libraries have to spend more money for subscribe and develop electronic collections. Librarians have to come up with new strategies to negotiate preferable deals with publishers. Also they should campaign for greater access to streaming media and e-books to individuals cheaply since individuals cannot afford to pay hefty sums like libraries. In the meantime, librarians have to deal with the publishers and suppliers to extend their terms of agreements (Wijetunge 2021).

## COVID 19 – Lessons Learned

The pandemic situation has changed and expanded services of the academic libraries in to new paradigm. This lesson revealed that online services of the libraries are priority sources of the information in the context of non–contact education (Zhou,2021). It has unveiled the need for digital transformation strategies and programs for libraries. Based on this experience, libraries are recommended to adopt emergency plans to be able to carry out library services in safety management, digital optimization of library services in unexpected situation (Zhou,2021). If the pandemic situation continues in future, academic libraries should draw their attention to 'open science agenda policy'. This will promote researcher and institutional internet visibility as well as research impact. Further, librarians should make an effort to encourageacademics and researchers to publish their research in open access policies and produce OERs. OER suddenly became vital source of supplementary academic resource in this pandemic era.

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# Resource Centre for Special Needs Students

University of Peradeniya as the Main Grantee of a Capacity Building project funded by Erasmus Mundus; Developing Inclusive Education for Students with disabilities in Sri Lankan Universities (IncEdu Project) is planning to develop a resource center for disable students. The Library will facilitate the special needs students with the aid of the project.The project has received 60.00 Mn LKR (Approximately) and several equipment ; computers (35), Laptop + UPS (05), Photocopier (01), Duxbury Software for brail Translation (02) have already been purchased and another more to come. The project coordinator is Senior Professor ASP Abayarathne , Department of Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Arts.

# *New appointments*

**Mr. E.K.P.S. Epa** was appointed as the Assistant Librarian in University of Peradeniya. He completed Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours, special degree in Accounting & Finance) from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Further, he is a qualified Chartered Management Accountant in the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants in the United Kingdom (CIMA - UK) and a Finalist of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. Previously, he has worked as an Assistant lecturer at the Department of Finance, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya. He was awarded the "Best intern" at the University of Peradeniya which combines the awards for Best Industrial research & Industry experience, CIMA - A STAR" fully funded "Scholarship from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants in the United Kingdom for being the Best graduate in Sri Lanka and the "Commonwealth Learning" full Scholarship by Commonwealth Learning, Canada in 2019. His research interests mainly focus on the Information Management Systems, Digital Libraries, Electronic Information Resources and Knowledge Management. He is currently attached to the Reader Service Division, Main Library, University of Peradeniya.

**Mr. H.M. Isuru Herath** was appointed as the Assistant Librarian, University of Peradeniya. He completed Bachelor of Arts (honours, special degree in History) and achieved second class upper division and Masters in Arts from University of Peradeniya. He served as a Visiting Lecturer of the Open University of Sri Lanka and has published more than 130 research Books, articles and research papers presented in national seminars and conferences.
He is currently attached to the Cataloguing Division, Main Library, University of Peradeniya.

**Ms. M. T. C. N. S. De Silva** joined as an Assistant librarian at Main Library, University of Peradeniya. She is reading MSc. in Management at University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (Hon) specialized in Marketing Management, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. She served as an assistant lecturer in the Department of Management, Faculty of Management, Universtiy of Peradeniya for two and half years. As an academia she has published several research articles and her research interests focus on Digital Libraries, Information Literacy and Management, Library Management, Knowledge management and Innovations Management.

# Ongoing Projects



## BAR-CODING OF REFERENCE COLLECTION IN THE MAIN LIBRARY

Main Library of the University of Peradeniya has started to barcode Reference Collection from 20th August 2021 by using the KOHA Library Management Software. This collection is located at the Reading Room I , Ground Floor of the Main Library

## DUMBARA LENDING COLLECTION



The Lending collection of the Main Library is comprised of 'Dumbara Books' where the books housed at the Dumbara sub-campus were also shifted to the University of Peradeniya premises. Before merging these books to the main library collection, the re-classification has been conducted according to the Main Library Classification Scheme.

This collection was started to barcode in 2017 with the KOHA software and presently, the barcoding project of the lending collections in the main library is completed. The books brought from the Dumbara campus also amalgamated with the Main Library Collection.



## COMPLETING GAPS OF ACCESSION REGISTERS

"The Library has started a special project to complete the gaps of the Accession Register which is the most requisite for the library. The project mainly focuses on finding the incomplete segments of the existing accession register and completing the Accession Register of the UoP Library system".

## PROJECT ON STREAMLINING THE RECORDS OF THE READING ROOM 2 OF THE MAIN LIBRARY

The Reading Room 2 of the Main Library of University of Peardeniya considered the largest of its nature in a University library of Sri Lanka. It consists of more than 21,000 of reference materials related to different subject disciplines taught at the eight faculties of University of Peradeniya. By the way, the largest portion of the collection is acquired by the faculty of Arts as the Main Library basically caters for the faculty of Arts. Recently the Reader Services Division of the Main Library has been initiated a project to streamlining the records available in the Reading Room 2. Accordingly, all the materials logged in the collection will be crosschecked with the KOHA Library system. If missing items found, steps will be taken to enter those in the library management system. Apart from this, the project is aiming at to finding the materials to be obsolete, discarded and withdrawn. The project is monitored and supervised with the support of Reader Services staff by Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Reader Services of the Main Library.



"My best friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read." –Abraham Lincoln

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