

VOLUME 03

January - April 2023

ISSUE 01



# UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

Library Newsletter



e-ISSN: 2783-8714



# The Library Welcomes the New Year 2023 with Religious Observances



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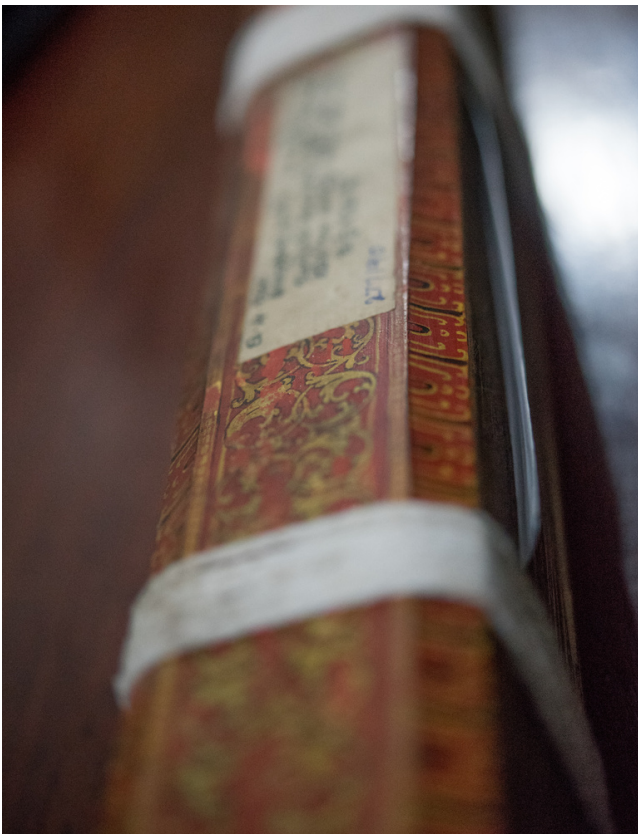


# UNESCO Includes 'Mahāwamsa' in Memory of the World Heritage

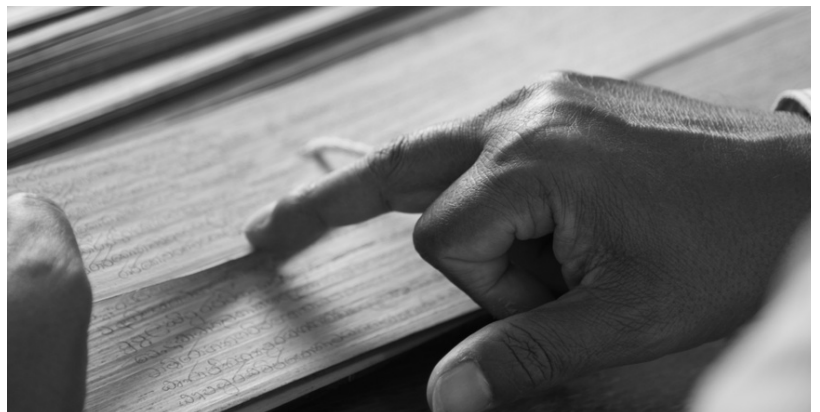
Upon the joint request made by the University of Peradeniya, the Sri Lanka National Library, the Ministry of Buddhism and Religious Affairs, and the Sri Lankan government, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has decided to include the *Mahāwamsa* (Great Chronicle), a significant historical account from Sri Lanka, in its list of documentary heritage inscribed on the Memory of the World International Register. This decision was confirmed in a recent communication from the UNESCO in April 2023. The official publication of this inclusion and the issuance of a certificate are anticipated in the near future.

The Memory of the World (MoW) Register is a compilation of documentary heritage items recommended by the International Advisory Committee (IAC) and subsequently endorsed by the Executive Board of UNESCO due to remarkable universal value and global significance.

The *Mahāwamsa* is renowned as one of the world's longest unbroken historical accounts and holds the distinction of being foremost of its kind in South Asia. Through its chronologically organized narrative, it presents Sri Lanka's history spanning from the 6th century BCE to the Kandyan Period, showcasing the mature historiographic tradition of the Sri Lankan people.



The original palm leaf manuscript of the *Mahāwamsa*, which has been presented to UNESCO as the evidence document is currently preserved in the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya. Initially, this Palm Leaf Manuscript was kept among the Main Library's Palm Leaf Manuscript Collection which is considered as the second largest palm-leaf manuscript collection in the island.





# ***Appointment of the Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, as a Board Member of the National Library and Documentation Services Board***

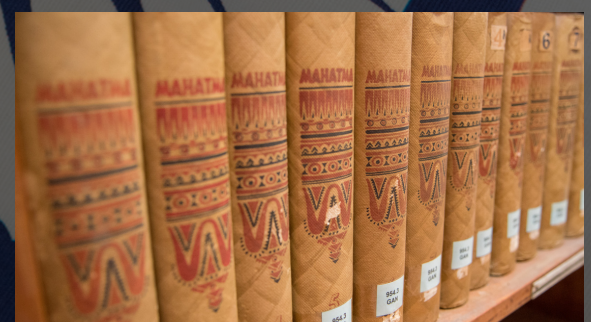
Mr. R. Maheswaran, the Librarian, University of Peradeniya, has been appointed as a Board Member of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, Sri Lanka. This appointment has been made by the Honorable (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, the Minister of Education with effect from March, 2023.



## ***Indian Corner***

As a significant move to enrich academic resources, the Main Library of University of Peradeniya has been instructed to establish an Indian Corner by the University Council in April 2023. This dedicated space will cater to readers with a keen interest in Indian studies.

Last April, officials of the Assistant Indian High Commission in Kandy paid a brief visit to the Main Library to explore potential collaborations and to lay the groundwork for the proposed Indian Corner. The librarian, senior staff members and several academics were present during this occasion.





# Reopening of the E.R. Sarachchandra Museum

Professor E. R. Sarachchandra Museum has been relocated at the 'New Library Building' in January 2023. Earlier it was situated in the Old Building of the Main Library. The museum is open for both the university community and the general public. The Library Administration requests that all visitors outside of the university community should obtain prior permissions from the Public Relations Office of the University before planning their visit. This measure is in place to maintain a balance between public interest while preserving the museum's academic and research-focused environment.





# Status of the Bar-coding Project of the Reading Room 2, Main Library



The Reading Room 2 of the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya is considered the largest of its nature in the University Library System of Sri Lanka. It consists of more than 21,000 reference materials related to different subject disciplines taught at the eight Faculties of the University of Peradeniya. Of the collection, the largest portion is acquired by the Faculty of Arts as the Main Library basically caters to the faculty of Arts. This project was initiated and monitored by Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Head/Senior Assistant Librarian of the Reader Services Division (RSD), with the utmost support of RSD staff aiming to streamline the records available in Reading Room 2. Accordingly, as the first step, all the materials logged in the collection will be crosschecked with the *KOHA* Library Management System. If missing items are found, steps will be taken to enter those in the library management system. Apart from this, the project is also aiming to find the materials to be obsolete, discarded, and withdrawn. Ms. Uditha Perera and Ms. Hashani Wijesinghe Library Information Assistants of RSD are mainly responsible for this task while Ms. Awanthi Ratnayake, Senior Staff Assistant of the RSD Office and Staff of the Circulation Counter will provide partial support despite the main tasks in their normal routines. Ms. Asoka Malini and Ms. Niroshini Bandara, Library Attendants are also attached to this task so they perform a supportive role in this project. Most significantly, all these library staff members are engaged in the project as a part of their normal routine. According to records, amid March 2023 a total of 14,568 records have been edited and bar-coded while a sum of 5068 records are remaining to barcode. The remaining materials can be divided upon Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) range as; 3431 (001-332), 1637 (942-999).





# Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) – Library

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) – Library organized the monthly meetings with all categories of staff to prepare for the Institutional Review (IR) team visits on 08<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. The committee decided to prepare a special presentation covering all services rendered by the library. The librarian and the coordinator informed the all IQAC members to table the evidence documents which have been collected according to the library standards numbers 5.2 & 5.3. Further the IR team will meet the branch library staff separately at their respective faculties. The librarian and the coordinator attended the management committee meetings of the Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA), University of Peradeniya. members of the committee prepared the first draft of the Library Hand Book and shared it among the senior staff members for their observation.

The committee requested to add the past paper collection of the Faculty of Arts to their LMS. The Management Committee of the IQAC-Library agreed to conduct reading promotional programmes. Librarian instructed to continue the monthly library lecture series.



## **IQAC: Science Library**

Ms. S. Weearsinghe / Senior Assistant Librarian of the Science Library participated for the Key-Stake Holders Meeting with the programme review team for B.Sc. Honours study programme in Cluster 1- 'Chemistry, Geology, Physics' of the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya. The meeting was held via zoom at the conference room of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023.





## An Overview of the Green Library Concept

By S. Weerasinghe

Senior Assistant Librarian, Science Library, University of Peradeniya

### Introduction

The rapid proliferation of technology has given rise to many environmental issues and it has been realized that mankind has overlooked something crucial. In order to fulfill endless human needs great focus is laid on sectors such as economical growth, poverty eradication, employment issues etc., whereas the nature is endangered by insensitive human activities. These activities have caused various threats to the environment such as climate change, deforestation, coastal erosion, air and water pollution, ocean acidification, ozone depletion and instability of the eco-system. It is a major responsibility of every citizen to contribute to going green and protecting the nature. Nevertheless, all organizations should strive to protect the environment through sustainable development. The green concept or making the world green has become an important and trending topic in various fields and imperatively in the library field too. All kinds of libraries can play an active and significant role in sustainable development. The concept of green library is prevalent and highly embraced in the international context; yet in Sri Lanka it is still at the grassroots level. Thus, it is salient that the Sri Lankan library sector takes measures to implement green library initiatives and contribute to a greener world.

### Green Library

According to the Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science (ODLIS) a “Green Library” is, “a library designed to minimize negative impact on the natural environment and maximize indoor environmental quality by means of careful site selection; use of natural construction materials and biodegradable products; conservation of resources like water, energy, paper, and responsible waste disposal recycling, etc.” and “Sustainability” is defined as, “the capacity to meet the needs of present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Further, “Green Library” which is also referred to as “Sustainable Library” is, “a library built with environmental concerns in mind” (New World Encyclopedia). IFLA defines a Green Library as “a library which takes into account environmental, economic and social sustainability”. Green Library comprises multi-facets of sustainability which includes aspects such as Green building, Green library services and programs, Green collections, Green practices and Green information systems (Warnasooriya, 2019)



## Green Building

The California Integrated Waste Management Board defines a green building as “a structure that is designed, built, renovated, operated or reused in an ecological and resource efficient manner.” A green library building must be built by reducing the negative and enhancing the positive impacts while concerning the usage of natural and renewable energy sources (Nikam, 2017). The green library building reinforces the effective utilization of finite energy resources while reducing carbon footprints. These buildings are carefully structured by considering the site selection to structural design, energy use, material usage and health issues (Mondal, 2021). In the construction of a new library building or renovating an existing building, focus should be laid on green features including natural lighting, natural ventilation, suitable external and internal plantation, interior design, implementing vegetative roofs, installing solar energy systems, use of wind energy, water harvesting and use of eco-friendly products. The green library building should be created in a manner in which air will be recycled and will not stagnate, thus harmful toxins would not be entrapped within the building (Mondal, 2021). Under the US Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) performance system, a green building is one that is built incorporating the following design elements:

- Sustainable site selection and development
- Water conservation
- Energy efficiency
- Local resources, material conservation and waste reduction
- Indoor environmental quality
- Innovation in design

Some Green Library Buildings in the world include National Library of Singapore, Public Library of Charlotte Mecklenburg, Minneapolis Public Library, Council Tree Library, Fort Collins, Dexter Library, Ashland, Eden Prairie Library, Eden Prairie., Seattle Central Library, Harper Woods Public Library, Michigan, Kilton Public Library, West Lebanon and Ossining Public Library, New York.

## Developing Green Collections

In the development of a green collection, librarians should mainly focus on educating themselves on green collection resources, green practices and green programming. Also, they should seek ways to obtain and disseminate green information among the library users. American Library Association (ALA) suggests strategies to support community needs for green information and these include:



- Offering an open forum for green book clubs and facilities for environmental video viewings or lecture presentations
- Opening up avenues for children to gain interest on ecology through poster competitions or poetry
- Selecting collection materials on organic gardening and composting or green computing and energy conservation
- Setting library computer links and book marks to environmental related sites
- Working with local schools to support green curriculum and projects such as models of eco-systems

Furthermore, user engagement in green libraries includes organizing workshops and events on topics such as recycling, energy conservation, and sustainable gardening. By actively engaging users in green initiatives, libraries can inspire and empower individuals to make environmentally conscious choices and contribute to a more sustainable future.

## Green Library Practices

Fundamental practices of “reduce, recycle and reuse” are vital for the green library system. It is highly important that libraries incorporate green practices into their day-to-day operations. Several such green practices that could be adapted by libraries are as follows (Gupta, 2020; Wranasooriya, 2019):

- Optimum use of energy efficient lighting or natural lighting
- Maximum use of natural ventilation
- Reduce paper usage by using recycled , chlorine free paper and reusing paper
- Shut down computers during library closure, use of LCD monitors and consolidated servers
- Minimize printing and setting the printer default to ‘duplex’
- Replace hazardous toxic chemical products with eco-friendly products mainly for cleaning
- Select ‘green’ inks, refill or recycle toner cartridges
- Instead of discarding material, reuse or donate them
- Eliminate the use of plastic and polythene
- Use of electronic media for communications
- Using stairs rather than elevators
- Waste separation
- Using sensor taps and dual–flush toilets
- Running multiple servers on one server box to conserve energy



## Benefits of a Green Library

Green libraries, offer numerous benefits to both the environment and the community. They contribute to environmental conservation by reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through utilizing energy-efficient lighting systems, smart sensors, and renewable energy sources (Mwansu et al., 2022). This will in turn result in lower operating costs. Also, green libraries promote sustainability education and awareness by providing resources and programs on topics such as climate change, renewable energy, and waste reduction. This helps to foster a culture of environmental responsibility among library users. Additionally, sustainable building materials and designs used in green libraries enhance indoor air quality and user comfort, leading to improved health and well-being (Ho et al., 2023). Green building features in libraries would positively influence physical and mental health of library users enhancing the overall user experience of the library.

## Challenges and Barriers

Implementing green concepts in libraries can present several challenges and barriers. One major challenge is the cost associated with adopting sustainable practices and technologies. Green initiatives require high investments in energy-efficient equipment, renewable energy systems, and eco-friendly materials, which will be difficult to fulfill due to limited library budgets (Mondal, 2021). On the other hand, reconstructing existing library buildings to meet green standards can also be logistically complex and expensive. Also, lack of awareness and knowledge about sustainable practices can hinder the implementation of green concepts in libraries. Library staff may require training to grasp the benefits and strategies regarding the green library concept. In addition, resistance to change can pose barriers to the adopting green practices. There may be staff or stakeholders who are comfortable with traditional practices and reluctant to adapt to changes in workflow. Nevertheless, limited space and eco-friendly resources can also be a challenge for libraries looking to implement green initiatives. Despite these challenges, libraries could seek funding opportunities, engage staff and users in sustainability initiatives, and collaborate with external partners to share resources and knowledge.

## Green Library Movement in the Sri Lankan Context

In the Sri Lankan context, the library of the Open University of Sri Lanka is in the fore front of applying the green concept by deciding to go for solar power, saving the energy cost of the library (Liyanagama et al., Undated). Also, the Sri Lanka Army Sinha Regiment Headquarters at Ambepussa formed an eco-friendly community-based library and was awarded the Silver Medal in Switzerland defeating 151 competing countries (Sri Lanka Army, 2015). Premarathne and Bandara (2019) explored the green library initiatives taken by public libraries in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. The authors observed that the selected libraries inadvertently applied the green concept partially in areas such as disposal of waste, cleaning, energy savings, gardening, natural ventilation etc. However, results revealed that the application of green library concept in public libraries was not at a satisfactory level.



## Conclusion

The green library concept is an evolving and trendy concept which is popular among researchers, scholars and librarians over the globe. Traditional libraries focus primarily on providing access to information and preserving materials, often resulting in high energy consumption, paper waste, and limited emphasis on environmental sustainability. In contrast, green libraries prioritize eco-friendly practices and sustainability. Green libraries also emphasize digital resources, reducing paper waste, and actively engage their communities in environmental education and awareness initiatives. Crystallizing the green concept via libraries would have a positive impact on the community and every small initiative in going green will influence the library image greatly. It is a crucial role of the library to strive towards establishing the green concept and contributing to overcome the present environmental issues and make the world green. Libraries have long been icons of sustainability and the library is ideally suited to embrace the newer and urgent call for sustainability. Libraries as knowledge gateways could play an active role in creating awareness on green concepts among the community while setting an example by applying green strategies within libraries. Library associations such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and policy makers also play a crucial role in advocating for green library initiatives (Hawke, 2023). Library Associations can collaborate with policy makers to develop and promote policies that support and encourage sustainable practices in libraries. By advocating for green library initiatives, associations and policy makers can raise awareness about the importance of environmental sustainability, motivate libraries to adopt eco-friendly practices, and contribute to a collective effort in reducing the environmental impact of library operations.

Immediate attention must be laid on “going green” and environmental, sustainable information services and systems. The time is right for libraries to support the green library movement and contribute to make mother earth a better and healthier place to live.

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## Library Orientation for the New Entrants to the Faculty of Management

The Faculty of Management organized a library orientation program for its new entrants on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The event aimed to familiarize approximately 181 students with the vast array of library services and resources available to support their academic journey.

The orientation began with a presentation led by Dr. (Mrs.) Chamani Gunasekera, the Senior Assistant Librarian and Head of the Reader Services Division, who provided an insightful introduction to the various library services. She highlighted the diverse range of resources, including academic journals, databases, books, and other research materials accessible to all students. Following the presentation, Mr. S. A. Jeewan, the Assistant Librarian, guided the students through the library registration process. This crucial step allowed students to gain access to the library's facilities and borrow materials for their academic needs. Mr. Rodney Fernando, Senior Staff Assistant, played a vital role in translating the information into Tamil Language.

After completing the registration, the participants were taken on a Guided Tour of the library premises. This tour allowed them to familiarize themselves with the different sections and facilities, such as study areas, reference desks, computer catalogues, and special collections. The aim was to make the students feel comfortable using the library in the future. To ensure the success of the orientation, the staff of the reader services division of the main library worked collaboratively with other divisions.



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# Information Literacy program for Sociology Undergraduates

In response to a request made by the Department of Sociology of University of Peradeniya, a comprehensive library visit with a guided tour was organized by the Reader Services Division for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduates who are following the special degree in Sociology. The program was undertaken at the Main Library on 05th February, 2023. Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Head/Senior Assistant Librarian of Reader Services, Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian of Reader Services and Special Collections and Mr. B.E.S. Bandara, Assistant Librarian of Reference Services & Ceylon Collection of the Main Library participated as the resource personnel of this session. Mr. Dharmarathne gave a brief introduction about the available print and electronic library resources for sociological research, while Mr. Jeewan gave a hands-on experience on searching the Library Online Catalogue and available open access e-resources for Sociology and allied fields. Mr. Bandara made a presentation on Ceylon Collection of the Main Library and its validity for the Sociological research, as well as the Institutional Repository (IR) and available electronic databases for sociological research. This practical session was coordinated by Dr (Ms.) Priyadharshani Premarathne, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Sociology.



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# Lecture Series on “Practical Approaches to Evidence-based Dentistry”.

The Department of Community Dental Health, Dental E-Learning Unit (DELU) and the Dental Sciences Library, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya organized a lecture series for the Bachelor of Dental Sciences (BDS) students of the third year batch. It was scheduled from 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 9.00 am – 12.00 noon at the E-Lab Faculty of Dental Sciences. Resource person for this lecture series was Mr. Pradeep Epa, Assistant Librarian of the Dental Science Library. Main theme of this Lecture series was “Practical approaches to evidence-based dentistry”.

This lecture series mainly focus to disseminate knowledge and skills on the importance of literature searches, using of electronic resources for their researches, and practical approaches with Dental Sciences related electronic databases.

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## ***Appointments***

- Dr. (Ms.) C. Gunasekera, former Senior Assistant Librarian of the Periodicals and Binding has been appointed as new Head/Senior Assistant Librarian of the Reader Services Division with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.
- Mr. S.A. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian of the Special Collections, Main Library has been appointed as the new coordinator for Diploma in Library and Information Services, Centre for Distance and Continuing Education, University of Peradeniya with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

## ***On Leave***

- Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Head/ Senior Assistant Librarian of Reader Services is on Sabbatical Leave with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.



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