



Issue Winter 2024

ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

Salaam Namaste Ayubowan Newsletter



Association for Information Science & Technology South Asia Chapter



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South Asia Chapter

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Reshma Dangol

Chair - Elect

Souray Debnath

Secretary

Amara Malik

Treasurer

Md. Atikuzzaman

Webmaster

Mohit Garg

Communication Officer

Muhammad Tariq

Membership Officer

Rehana Kausar

Chapter Advisors

Naresh Agarwal

Bhakti Gala

Md. Anwarul Islam







Message from the CHAIR

Hello everyone!

It is my great pleasure to take on the role of Chair for ASIS&T South Asia. I have been attending, enjoying, learning, and sharing this chapter from joining period 2021-2022 as Country Representative and 2022-2023 as Chair—Elect. My appreciation goes to Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Dr. Naresh Agarwal, Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam and Dr. Bhakti Gala for their warmth and affection as well as my previous team. Recently my ASIS&T team and librarian colleagues from Nepal continued to serve with the same enthusiasm and spirit. Praying for the success of this chapter.



As involved in ASIS&T I must share the benefit received from this organization. I am grateful for my mentor at ASIS&T South Asia. I have collaborated effort with Nepal's information professionals, librarians, libraries, and ASIS&T which is the core bonding for this chapter. It is always stimulating to build networking made possible by ASIS&T. Whenever I required recommendation letters and suggestions my Mentor and Advisors made it happen through the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter. I felt driven to do this so that I could meet my delightful community, which is thoughtful, loving, and always ready to support and motivate me to shine my research and other activities.

"There are numerous benefits to joining ASIS&T. After joining you can overlook the newsletters, journals, proceedings, ASIS&T digital library and most interesting is connecting with iConnect in regular basis to attend the conference, webinars and especially weekly emails and news we receive frequently for our perusal."

There are numerous benefits to joining ASIS&T. After joining you can get access to the newsletters, journals, proceedings, and ASIS&T digital library, and most interesting is connecting with iConnect regularly to attend the conferences, webinars, and especially weekly emails and news we receive frequently for our perusal.

My thankfulness to ASIS&T for all its support and motivation for adding my 3Ps that is Professional and Personnel Progress.

Reshma Dangol Chair – South Asia Chapter







Chapter Updates

Meet the newly elected officers 2023-24



Reshma Dangol Chair



Sourav Debnath Chair-Elect



Amara Malik Secretary



Md. Atikuzzaman Treasurer



Mohit Garg Webmaster



Muhammad Tariq
Communications Officer



Rehana Kousar Membership Officer



Syeda Hina Batool Past-Chair



Md. Anwarul Islam Chapter Advisor



Bhakti Gala Chapter Advisor



Naresh Agarwal Chapter Advisor







News from Afghanistan

افغانستان خبرونه

"Afghanistan's librarianship landscape"

Afghanistan's librarianship is a tapestry woven from ancient traditions, conflict-induced scars, and the unwavering dedication of its professionals. Despite facing resource constraints, security concerns, and gender barriers, librarians have tirelessly rebuilt libraries, restored collections, and provided communities with vital access to information. Now, with international support, they are digitizing collections, embracing technology, and welcoming women into the fold, all while fostering hope for a future where libraries empower Afghans and shape a brighter peace-filled tomorrow.



Generated text using ChatGPT prompt "Afghanistan's librarianship landscape".

"د افغانستان د کتابتون منظره"

د افغانستان کتابتون د لرغونو دودونو، د شخړو له امله رامنځته شوي داغونو، او د مسلکي کسانو د نه منلو وړ وقف څخه اوبدل شوی ټیپسټري ده. سره له دې چې د سرچینو محدودیتونو، امنیتي اندیښنو او جنسیتي خنډونو سره مخ دي، کتابتونونو په نه سټري کیدونکي توګه کتابتونونه جوړ کړي، ټولګه یې بیا رغولې، او ټولنو ته یې معلوماتو ته حیاتي لاسرسۍ چمتو کړي. اوس، د نړیوال ملاتړ سره، دوی ټولګه ډیجیټل کوي، ټیکنالوژي جذبوي، او د ښځو هرکلي کوي، په داسې حال کې چې د راتلونکي لپاره هیلې وده کوي چیرې چې کتابتونونه افغانان پیاوړي کوي او د روښانه سولې څخه ډک سبا جوړوي.











News from Bangladesh -

থবর বাংলাদেশ থেকে

UNDPBD e-Library: A New Horizon in Bangladesh

Md. Atikuzzaman

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Bangladesh has begun a new era by launching a mobile library application called "UNDPBD e-library" on April 11, 2023, to provide rapid access to all digital resources in one place, on any handheld device. This e-library is one such endeavor that provides a diverse set of resources to everyone, including students, instructors, and researchers.

The library offers full-text, free publications on a wide range of themes, including Blue Economy, Climate, Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender Equality, General, Governance, Human Development, Partnership, Report, Research, SDGs, and Urban Resilience. The library began its journey with roughly 200 e-books. The UNDPBD e-library app is available at the Google Play Store. Users need to sign up to use the digital library.



UNDPBD ই-লাইব্রেরীঃ বাংলাদেশে একটি নতুন দিগন্ত

ইউনাইটেড নেশনস ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রোগ্রাম (ইউএনডিপি) ২০২৩ সালের ১১ই এপ্রিল "UNDPBD ই-লাইব্রেরী" নামে একটি মোবাইল লাইব্রেরি অ্যাপ্লিকেশন লঞ্চ করার মধ্য দিয়ে বাংলাদেশে একটি নতুন যুগের সূচনা করেছে, যার মাধ্যমে সকল ধরণের ডিজিটাল রিসোর্সে একটি হাতেধরা ডিভাইস দিয়ে প্রবেশ করা যায়। এই ই-লাইব্রেরিটি শিক্ষার্থী, শিক্ষক এবং গবেষকসহ সকলের কাছে বিভিন্ন ধরনের রিসোর্স সরবরাহ করে।

এই লাইব্রেরিটি বিস্তৃত বিষয়বস্তুর যেমনঃ ব্লু ইকোনমি, জলবায়ু, দুর্যোগ ঝুঁকি হ্রাস, নারী সমতা, সাধারণ বিষয়ারলী, গভর্ন্যান্স, মানব উন্নয়ন, পার্টনারশিপ, রিপোর্ট, গবেষণা, এসডিজি, এবং শহর স্থিতিশীলতা বিষয়ে ফুল-টেক্সট প্রকাশনা বিনামূল্যে প্রদান করে থাকে। আনুমানিক ২০০ ই-বুক নিয়ে এই ই-লাইব্রেরী যাত্রা শুরু করেছে।

UNDPRD ই-লাইব্রেরী অ্যাপটি গুগল প্লে স্টোরে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। এই ডিজিটাল লাইব্রেরিটি ব্যবহার করার জন্য বহারকারীদেরকে সাইন আপ করতে হবে।





National Library Day 2024 Celebrated at Dhaka University

Md. Anwarul Islam

The Government of Bangladesh declared February 5th as National Library Day in 2017, and it was first observed in 2018. Since then, February 5th has been observed as National Library Day in Bangladesh with a variety of programs, including rallies, seminars, symposiums, roundtable discussions, and other activities. The Department of Public Libraries (DPL), under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, serves as the apex body for the national observance of this day.

The Department of Information Science and Library Management (ISLM) at the University of Dhaka celebrated February 5th, 2024, as National Library Day



with joy and enthusiasm. The theme for this year's event was 'Gronthagare Boy Pori, Smart Bangladesh Gori' (Reading books in the library, building smart Bangladesh). The ISLM department adorned its premises with vibrant crafts, posters, floor drawings, and displaying colorful banners.

A long rally, comprising more than 250 students along with faculty members, was organized by the department. The program was inaugurated by the honorable Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Dr. A. S. M. Maksud Kamal. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Dr. Abdul Bashir attended as a special guest. The rally was officially commenced by the Vice Chancellor releasing balloons. In a short speech, both guests talked about the importance of libraries in our society, promoting reading habits and encouraging students to read books to build a knowledgeable society.

Professor Dr. Md. Shiful Islam, Chairman of the ISLM department, along with the convener of the National Library Day observing committee, Professor Dr. S.M. Zabed Ahmed, and other faculty



members were also present. The rally proceeded along the main roads of the campus, adorned with festoons, placards, banners, and various colorful items. The banners displayed different messages about the library, capturing the attention of pedestrians and other members of the campus community. This rally served to encourage and inspire individuals to utilize the library to foster a knowledge-based society. The rally ended at the premises of Oporajeo Bangla with expressions of gratitude.







News from Bhutan

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National Library - Bhutan

Nestled in the Himalayas, Bhutan's library scene blends tradition and progress. The National Library, established in 1967, safeguards rare texts and fosters cultural heritage, while public libraries like Jigme Dorji Wangchuk offer modern resources and internet access. Though challenges like funding and remote locations persist, dedicated librarians strive to provide knowledge and literacy opportunities, contributing to Bhutan's unique cultural tapestry.

Source: https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/167092/1/What%27s%20Past%20is%20Prologue%20AAM.PDF

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News from India

भारत से समाचार

Library Landscape in India

भारत में प्स्तकालयाध्यक्षता का परिदृश्य गतिशील परिवर्तनों के दौर से ग्जर रहा है, जो उभरती सूचना और प्रौद्योगिकी परिदृश्य को प्रतिबिंबित करता है। भौतिक संग्रह के संरक्षक के रूप में पुस्तकालयाध्यक्षों की पारंपरिक भूमिकाओं का विस्तार डिजिटल संसाधनों और सूचना साक्षरता तक हो गया है। सांस्कृतिक विरासत को संरक्षित करने और ज्ञान तक पहंच को व्यापक बनाने के उद्देश्य से डिजिटलीकरण प्रयासों के साथ, प्स्तकालय पहंच बढ़ाने के लिए प्रौदयोगिकी को तेजी से अपना रहे हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त, विविध उपयोगकर्ता समूहों को पूरा करने की आवश्यकता को पहचानते हुए, प्स्तकालय सेवाओं के भीतर समावेशिता और विविधता को बढावा देने पर जोर बढ रहा है। शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के साथ सहयोग, सरकारी पहल और आधुनिक पुस्तकालय प्रबंधन प्रणालियों का एकीकरण इस पेशे को आकार दे रहा है, जिससे यह स्निश्चित हो रहा है कि भारत में प्स्तकालयाध्यक्ष सूचना पहंच को स्विधाजनक बनाने, अन्संधान को बढ़ावा देने और तेजी से बढ़ते डिजिटल य्ग में आजीवनसीखने में योगदान देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

ChatGPT प्रॉम्प्ट "भारत में लाइब्रेरियनशिप का परिदृश्य" का उपयोग करके जेनरेट किया गया टेक्स्ट। The landscape of librarianship in India undergoing dynamic transformations, reflective of the evolving information and technology landscape. Traditional roles librarians as custodians of physical collections have expanded encompass digital resources and information literacy. Libraries are increasingly adopting technology to enhance accessibility, digitization efforts aiming to preserve cultural heritage and broaden access to knowledge. Additionally, there is a growing emphasis on promoting inclusivity and diversity within library services, recognizing the need to cater to diverse user groups. with educational Collaborations institutions, government initiatives, and the integration of modern library management systems are shaping profession, ensuring librarians in India play a pivotal role in information facilitating fostering research, and contributing to lifelong learning in an increasingly digital age.

Generated text using ChatGPT prompt "Landscape of Librarianship in India".







News from Maldives

Berita dari Maldives

Librarianship in Maldives

Librarianship in the Maldives encompasses the management and facilitation of information services across a network of libraries, including public, school, academic, and potentially special libraries. Librarians play a vital role in aiding users in accessing information, curating collections, and promoting literacy initiatives. With an emphasis on technology integration, librarians in the Maldives may engage in the incorporation of digital resources and electronic databases to enhance their services. Despite potential challenges such as resource limitations, librarians are likely involved in collaborative efforts with educational institutions and



community organizations to foster a culture of reading and knowledge dissemination. Keeping abreast of industry trends and professional development, librarians in the Maldives contribute to the continued growth and accessibility of information within their communities.

Generated text using ChatGPT prompt "Librarianship in Maldives".



Pustakawan di Maldives merangkumi pengurusan dan pemudahcaraan perkhidmatan maklumat merentasi rangkaian perpustakaan, termasuk perpustakaan awam, sekolah, akademik, dan perpustakaan yang berpotensi khas. Pustakawan memainkan peranan penting dalam membantu pengguna dalam mengakses maklumat, menyusun koleksi dan mempromosikan inisiatif literasi. Dengan penekanan pada penyepaduan teknologi, pustakawan di Maldives boleh melibatkan diri dalam penggabungan sumber digital dan pangkalan data elektronik untuk

meningkatkan perkhidmatan mereka. Walaupun menghadapi cabaran seperti keterbatasan sumber, pustakawan berkemungkinan terlibat dalam usaha kolaboratif dengan institusi pendidikan dan organisasi masyarakat untuk memupuk budaya membaca dan penyebaran ilmu. Mengikuti aliran industri dan pembangunan profesional, pustakawan di Maldives menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan berterusan dan kebolehcapaian maklumat dalam komuniti mereka.



News from Nepal

11

नेपालबाट खबर

Nepal

Nirmala Subedi

Nepal is a landlocked country, surrounded by land on all sides. Officially it is called the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Its total area is 147,516 sq.km. The capital city of Nepal is Kathmandu, and the area of Kathmandu valley is 570 sq. km (0.4%) of the total area of Nepal. The democratic federal republic of Nepal shares the northern frontier with China and south with India. It is divided into three geographical regions, Himalaya in the north, Hill in the middle, and Terrain low land in the south. It has seven provinces and seventy-seven districts.

In 1903 B,S (1846 A.D) The Rana ruling system emerged. In 104 years, only 31 different libraries were established. After the independence of the Ranas ruling system, the establishment of Public and community libraries as well as academic and special libraries flourished. Currently, there are around 928 public and community libraries throughout the country, but the number of well-managed public and community libraries is not more than 330.

नेपाल भूपरिवेष्ठित देश हो, चारैतिरबाट जिमनले घेरिएको छ । आधिकारिक रूपमा यसलाई संघीय लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्र नेपाल भिनन्छ। यसको कुल क्षेत्रफल 147,516 sq.km छ। नेपालको राजधानी काठमाडौं हो र काठमाडौं उपत्यकाको क्षेत्रफल नेपालको कुल क्षेत्रफलको ५७० sq.km (0.4%) छ। लोकतान्त्रिक संघीय गणतन्त्र नेपालको उत्तरी सिमाना चीन र दिक्षणमा भारतसँग छ। यसलाई तीन भौगोलिक क्षेत्रमा विभाजन गरिएको छ, उत्तरमा हिमालय, मध्यमा पहाड र दिक्षणमा तल्लो भूभाग। यसमा सात प्रदेश र ७७ जिल्ला छन्

सन् 1903 B,S (1846 AD) मा राणा शासन प्रणालीको उदय भयो। 104 वर्षको अवधिमा मात्र 31 विभिन्न पुस्तकालयहरू स्थापना भएको थियो। स्वतन्त्रतापछि राणा शासन प्रणालीका कारण सार्वजनिक तथा सामुदायिक पुस्तकालयको स्थापनाका साथै शैक्षिक र विशेष पुस्तकालयको विकास भयो। हाल देशभर करिब ९२८ सार्वजनिक र सामुदायिक पुस्तकालयहरू छन् तर व्यवस्थित सार्वजनिक तथा सामुदायिक पुस्तकालयहरू को संख्या ३३० भन्दा बढी छैन।









News from Pakistan

پاکستان سے خبریں

Trending Moving Libraries in Pakistan

Rehana Kausar

The concept of **libraries on wheels**, also known as **moving libraries** or **book bus libraries**, has been a beacon of hope for bringing knowledge and literacy to remote and underserved communities in Pakistan. Their evolution over the years reflects a dedication to making books accessible to all, despite geographical and socioeconomic barriers.















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Library Landscape in Sri Lanka

The librarian landscape in Sri Lanka is marked by a diverse array of libraries, including public, academic, and specialized institutions. Librarians play a crucial role in organizing and disseminating information, managing collections, and assisting users in accessing **Embracing** technological resources. advancements, they are likely involved in incorporating digital tools to enhance library services. Collaboration with educational institutions and community organizations is common to promote literacy and information awareness. Professional associations offer a platform for networking and continuous professional development, reflecting commitment to staying abreast of industry trends. Despite potential challenges, the librarian landscape in Sri Lanka demonstrates dedication to facilitating knowledge dissemination and community engagement. Generated text using ChatGPT prompt "Library landscape in Sri Lanka".

ශී ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල භූ දර්ශනය පොදු, ශාස්තීය සහ විශේෂිත ආයතන ඇතුළු විවිධ පුස්තකාල වලින් සලකුණු කර ඇත. පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් තොරතුරු සංවිධානය කිරීම සහ බෙදා හැරීම, එකතු කිරීම් කළමනාකරණය කිරීම සහ සම්පත් වෙත පුවේශ වීමට පරිශීලකයින්ට සහාය වීම සඳහා තීරණාත්මක කාර්යභාරයක් ඉටු කරයි. තාඎණික දියුණුව වැලඳ ගනිමින්, පුස්තකාල සේවා වැඩි දියුණු කිරීම සඳහා ඩිජිටල් මෙවලම් ඔවුන් ඇතුළත් කිරීමට සම්බන්ධ සාක්ෂරතාවය සහ තොරතුරු දැනුවත් කිරීම පුවර්ධනය කිරීම සඳහා අධාාපන ආයතන සහ පුජා සංවිධාන සමහ සහයෝගීතාවය පොදු වේ. වෘත්තීය සංගම් ජාලකරණය සහ අඛණ්ඩ වෘත්තීය සංවර්ධනය සඳහා වේදිකාවක් ඉදිරිපත් කරයි, කර්මාන්ත පුවණතා සමඟ සමීපව සිටීමට ඇති කැපවීම පිළිබිඹු කරයි. විභව අභියෝග මධායේ වුවද, ශීු ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල භූ දර්ශනය දැනුම වාහප්තිය සහ පුජා සහභාගීත්වයට පහසුකම් සැලසීමට කැපවීමක් පෙන්නුම් කරයි.







Met SA Member

Rehana Kousar

Rehana Kousar is an enthusiastic library professional working at the University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Lahore, Pakistan. She has been in the profession for over 16 years and has a wealth of experience in a variety of settings. She is also associated with Chughtai Public Library (A Network of Public Libraries in Pakistan) since 2013 as a Library Consultant. She is pursuing her PhD at the Institute of Information Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. Her main areas of expertise include Library Project Management, Establishment and growth



of Libraries, Digitization/Digital Library, and Community Engagement in Public Libraries. She has introduced wage system in library digitization to increase the work productivity in Pakistan. Every scanner operator has been remunerated based on the pages he scanned and post processed, the practice is being appreciated and adopted by many other organizations. Moreover, she is pioneer to introduce online/free lancing work of cataloging and metadata curation in Pakistan, expanding



the talent pool and streamlining workflow. Her publications include a book titled Health by Education as contributor, Nanhey Likhari (bilingual kids' magazine) as Chief editor. She has presented many research papers at national conferences and participated in numerous training courses, workshops, seminars, webinars, and conducted various workshops and trainings as well. She loves to travel, explore places, and meet diverse groups in society.













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SPEAKER

PROF. DR. RAO ADEEL NAWAB

Dr. Rao Muhammad Adeel Nawab holds a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from the University of Sheffield, UK. Dr. Adeel has been working on a range of research projects in the domain of Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Data Science. He is the author of 3 Books and 31 Impact Factor Journal Publications. His motivational and life coaching seminars aim to assist academicians and industry professionals to achieve excellence in both technical skills and becoming a balanced and characterful human being.

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AI for Information Access: How Do We Do It Responsibly?

Over the last several years, AI-driven informational systems have proliferated around us. The pace at which AI is getting integrated in search, recommendation, and decision-support systems has quickened recently. Many of these are built on hopes and hypes of what AI could deliver, but it is not always clear when or if a real value to individuals and society is provided that justifies the risks we take in building and delivering such solutions. We are at a crossroad where we have important choices to make that will impact many aspects of our lives in profound ways:

LO1: Can we overcome the challenges posed by applying AI solutions and leverage their potential for all of us?

LO2: Can we mitigate risks and harms enough to bring the reward-to-risk ratio high enough for various areas like education, healthcare, and information access?

LO3: Can we do this right? Providing examples of accessibility, education, healthcare, and policy.



Chirag Shah

Chirag Shah is Professor of Information and Computer Science at University of Washington (UW) in Seattle. He is the Founding Director for InfoSeeking Lab and Founding Co-Director of Center for Responsibility in AI Systems & Experiences (RAISE). The most recent engagements included Amazon, Getty Images, Microsoft Research, and Spotify.

March 20th at 11 am EST.

MEETING LINK:

https://www.asist.org/meetingsevents/webinars/ai-for-informationaccess-how-do-we-do-it-responsibly/





Webinar 3

Registration link will be shard through iConnect









Developing a Responsible AI Strategy for your Library

AI has potential uses in many aspects of library work and supporting users in its effective use is also part of their remit. Given the complexity of AI itself and its many impacts there is a need for clear strategic thinking about how to respond. The presentation considers the potential impact of AI on library work; analyses the benefits and ethical challenges; and identifies some strategy forming tools that can help give library response a direction.

Attendees will gain the ability to:

- Analyze the possible relevance of AI to libraries in general and their context in particular
- Weigh up the benefits and ethical challenges of AI in this context
- Pick strategy forming tools and approaches



Andrew Cox

Andrew Cox is a senior lecturer at the Information School, University of Sheffield. Much of his research relates to the impact of detariffication and AI on the information profession. As well as the current chair of the ASIS&T SIG-AI, he is the convenor of the IFLA SIG on AI and a co-chair of the CODATA task group on data ethics.

APRIL 29, 2024

AT 11:00 AM EDT





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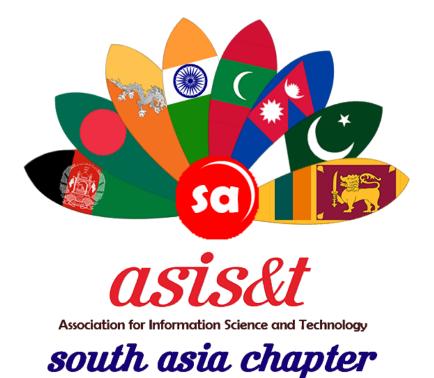
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