ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

Salaam Namaste Ayubowan

Newsletter

Association for Information Science & Technology
South Asia Chapter
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### Officers

**South Asia Chapter**

- **Chair**
  - Reshma Dangol
- **Chair - Elect**
  - Sourav 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.

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

"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”.
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.

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UNDPBD ই-লাইব্রেরীঃ বাংলাদেশে একটি নতুন দিগন্ত

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

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

UNDPBD 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 ‘Grontthagare 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

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
**Library Landscape in India**

The landscape of librarianship in India is undergoing dynamic transformations, reflective of the evolving information and technology landscape. Traditional roles of librarians as custodians of physical collections have expanded to encompass digital resources and information literacy. Libraries are increasingly adopting technology to enhance accessibility, with 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. Collaborations with educational institutions, government initiatives, and the integration of modern library management systems are shaping the profession, ensuring that librarians in India play a pivotal role in facilitating information access, fostering research, and contributing to lifelong learning in an increasingly digital age.

*Generated text using ChatGPT prompt “Landscape of Librarianship in India”.*
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”.

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 भूपररवेजठित देश हो, चारैततरिाट जममनले घेरिएको छ। आधिकारिक रूपमा यसलाई संघीय लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्र नेपाल भनिन्छ। यसको कुल क्षेत्रफल 147,516 sq.km छ। नेपालको राजधानी काठमाडौं हो र काठमाडौं उपत्यकाको क्षेत्रफल नेपालको कुल क्षेत्रफलको ५५० sq.km (0.4%) छ। लोकतान्त्रिक संघीय गणतन्त्र नेपालको उत्तरी सिमाना चीन र दक्षिणमा भारतसंग छ। यसलाई तीन भौगोलिक क्षेत्रमा विभाजन गरिएको छ, उत्तरमा हिमालय, मध्यमा पहाड र दक्षिणमा तल्लो भूभाग। यसमा सात प्रदेश र ७७ जिल्ला छन्।

सन् 1903 ब.स (1846 एड) मा राणा शासन प्रणालीको उदय भए। 904 वर्षको अधिधीमात्र 31 विभिन्न पुस्तकालयहरू स्थापना भएको थियो। स्वतन्त्रतापछि राणा शासन प्रणालीका कारण सार्वजनिक तथा सामुदायिक पुस्तकालयहरू स्थापनाका सार्थक शैक्षिक र विशेष पुस्तकालयहरुको विकास भए। हाल देशभर करिब ७२८ सार्वजनिक र सामुदायिक पुस्तकालयहरू छन् तर त्यस्तथर सार्वजनिक तथा सामुदायिक पुस्तकालयहरुको संख्या ३३० भन्दा बढी हुन्।
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.
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 resources. Embracing technological 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 a commitment to staying abreast of industry trends. Despite potential challenges, the librarian landscape in Sri Lanka demonstrates a dedication to facilitating knowledge dissemination and community engagement.

Generated text using ChatGPT prompt “Library landscape in Sri Lanka”.

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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.
What Next?

Webinar 1  Click here for registration

ASIS&T WEBINAR
BALANCED LIFE IS IDEAL LIFE

REGISTRATION
Please click here

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.
Academic Profile: https://shorturl.at/iqAC8
LinkedIn Profile: https://shorturl.at/ouiT8

HIGHLIGHTS
Learn to Live a Balanced Life to
• Increase Your Income Up to 700%
• Achieve Excellence in Professional Career
• Become a Characterful Human Being

TARGET AUDIENCE
• Information Professionals
• Academicians
• Librarians
• Industry professionals

COLLABORATIVE EVENT BY
• ASIS&T SOUTH ASIA
• SIG-INFOLEARN

March 14, 2024
11.00 am EDT (Time Converter)
Free for ASIS&T Members
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 hype 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 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/meetings-events/webinars/ai-for-information-access-how-do-we-do-it-responsibly/
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 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**
JOIN ASIS&T
FREE MEMBERSHIP
FOR SOUTH ASIA CHAPTER WITH EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS

Membership Benefits:

- Access to ASIS&T Community site
- Listing In and Access to Member Directory
- ASIS&T Award Eligibility
- Membership in the Regional Chapter of Choice
- Unlimited Special Interest Group Membership
- Mentorship Program
- Subscription to JASIST
- Access to ASIS&T Career Site
- Annual Meeting Proceedings
- Free Webinars
- Meeting Discounts
- Continuing Education Discounts
- Insurance Program Eligibility
- Publications Discounts
- Past Issues of ASIS&T Bulletin
- Inside ASIS&T Newsletter
- Vote on Governance Matters
- Governance Eligibility (Committees/Board)

Accepting Entries from
Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal & Maldives

Sign up at https://www2.asist.org/ap/Membership/Application/zLwZ4zPA

Write us for any related query at rehana.kousar@uvas.edu.pk
For Suggestions and comments:

Dr. Muhammad Tariq
tariqnajmi@cuilahore.edu.pk

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