South Asia Chapter
SALAM NAMASTE AYUBOWAN
Newsletter

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2023-24

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Md. Anwarul Islam
Bhakti Gala

South Asia Chapter
Association for Information Science and Technology

Welcome Message by the CHAIR

Hello Readers!

Greetings,

First to All, I would like to thank you for providing an exciting opportunity for professional and personal growth in the field of Library and Information Science, Knowledge Management. Working in ASIS&T South Asia with the team, I have learned and learned to be calm and passionate about professional growth.

The Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) South Asia is delighted and wanted to Congratulate Dr. Naresh Agarwal who is the recipient of the 2024 Watson Davis Award for Service. As our Chapter Advisor, he always supported us and especially motivated me to enhance this chapter.

87th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology is going to be held in Calgary dated on October 25-29, 2024 and its theme is Putting People First: Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Care in Information Research and Practice. I am sure everybody engaged with ASIS&T is enthusiastic for meeting and networking and learning innovative ideas and skills.

I am also thankful to all the officers of South Asia Chapter of ASIS&T and for their support and help in managing the chapter matters amicably. I want to pay my congratulations to Muhammad Tariq for producing third consecutive newsletter with attractive design and compilations. This newsletter is the face of South Asia and a bridge the gap between chapter and members.

Access and enjoy the reading of the newsletter.

Reshma Dangol
Chair
South Asia Chapter (ASIS&T)

REPORT

South Asia Chapter Members Receive the IIL Purdue Research Grants

Members of the South Asia Chapter from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Pakistan have received Purdue's Institute of Information Literacy (IIL) research grants of $4,000. This grants aims to develop or enhance information literacy models or techniques that support individuals, communities, or organizations in using information wisely. The current project will explore the perceived usefulness and readiness of artificial intelligence (AI) in health information literacy (HIL) among women in South Asia.

A group of five project members, led by Md. Anwarul Islam from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, includes Bhakti Gala, Central University of Gujarat, India; Aminath Riyaz, The Maldives National University, Maldives; Raj Kumar Bhardwaj, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, India; and Tabassum Aslam, Lahore School of Economics, Punjab, Pakistan. This two-year project, starting in September 2024, will investigate the intersection of HIL and AI in improving health outcomes for women in South Asia.

By understanding how women in South Asia perceive the usefulness of AI in enhancing HIL and the factors influencing their readiness to adopt AI-driven health information technologies, the project aims to yield valuable insights. Using a qualitative research method, the study will conduct focus group discussions with at least 30 women from each participating South Asian country. We believe that the project's outcomes can assist policymakers and governments in creating HIL policies tailored specifically for women in this region. We will reach you to get your support and valuable opinions on this project. We will be posting the updates of this project in the SA newsletter and other platforms.

Report by

Md. Anwarul Islam
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&
Chapter Advisor

The Team

HONOR

BHAKTI Gala Selected as the DIRECTOR at Large

Bhakti Gala, PhD, South Asia Chapter past chair (2020-2021) was selected as the Director at Large for a term of three years from 2023-2026. In her role as Director at Large, Bhakti is the Board Liaison for all ASIS&T chapters.

She began her ASIS&T journey in 2014 by winning the SIG-III IPC contest. She has been part of the South Asia Chapter since its inception in the year 2018. In the South Asia Chapter, she has volunteered in different positions viz., Secretary in 2018-19, Chair-elect in 2019-20, and Chair in 2020-21. As Chair of the SA Chapter, she steered the South Asia Chapter to win the ASIS&T Special Project Fund of $7000 in 2021-22 for the project on 'Dealing with COVID-19 and saving people's lives in South Asia (SA) areas & beyond - A health informatics promotion project'. The chapter also won the 2021 Chapter Innovation of the Year Award in her tenure as the Chair. and was the Chair of SIG-III (2022-23) and has previously worked as an SIG-III IPC Jury member in 2020 and has participated as member of the AM22 Program Committee, Poster Co-chair. She was the recipient of the 2023 James E Cretsos Leadership Award and the 2023 Chapter Member of the Year.

Bhakti is an Assistant Professor at the School of Library and Information Science, Central University of Gujarat, India. She has a doctorate from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India. She has been actively teaching and researching in the areas of information literacy, digital cultural heritage resources, metadata, and open content. Aside from her professional commitments she enjoys reading, and spending time with nature and family.

The officers of the South Asia chapter congratulate her for this wonderful achievement and honor.

Achievements – SA Members

AMARA Malik got a Fullbright Scholarship for a Post-Doc

Dr. Amara Malik, sectary South Asia Chapter, has been chosen among 959 candidates from

Pakistan to receive a Fulbright postdoctoral scholarship for the year 2024-2025. The Fulbright Scholar Award is among the world's most remarkable academic programs. Dr. Amara Malik will conduct her research on the topic "Spotting and Refuting Misinformation on Social Media: The Role of Information Literacy Programs in Libraries".

SOURAV Debnath has Published a Conference Paper

Under the mentorship of former Chapter Chair, Bhakti Gala present member, Sourav Debnath published a conference paper having following details:

Debnath, S. (2024). Name authority control in Shodhganga: Issues and challenges. In J. Kumar, I. Shettar & A. Sharma (Eds.), *Evidence based library transformations: Quality services for nextgen users (EBLT-2024)* pp. 309-315. Creative Books.

Which received the best paper award at the National Conference on Evidence-Based Library Transformations held at Indian Institute of Petroleum Energy, Visakhapatnam.

Muhammad TARIQ Conducted a Workshop on "AI"

Dr. Muhammad Tariq participated in the national workshop as a resource person and delivered a presentation on "AI around us". The information and library professionals participated from all over the areas of Pakistan

Conference on Public Community Libraries in **NEPAL**

Though the history of the establishment of Public/Community Libraries (P/CLs) in Nepal is around 100 years old, still the condition of theses libraries is not good. Very few attentions have been given to enhance the capacity of these libraries. Keeping in mind, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) along with the partner institutions motivated to organize state-level conferences on P/CLs.

Six conferences were held in the different states. Each state participating P/CLs shared their histories, services they are providing, current situation and future challenges. It was a good opportunity to advocate the need and importance of P/CLs. Participating libraries of each state conference, made their commitment of make a common platform. The unanimously declared the conferences manifestos shed light the duties and responsibilities can be provided by the P/CLs and the duties and responsibilities to the P/CLs by the State, Providences, Local levels and stakeholders. It was an opportunity to bring to sit in one place, share their ideas, feelings and opportunities and create a common network to advocate the use and importance of P/CLS.

Awards Distribution

Veteran Politician and Historian Dr. Dilliraman Regmai donated all his property along with around 35000 books, artifacts to the Government of Nepal (GoN) to establish library in his name in 1980s. After his demise in 2002, GoN established Dr. Dilliraman Kalyani Regmi Memorial Library Development Board in 2004 and open for the public.

This year in 2024, the library formed an independent committee to search the right candidate to select one candidate for Dr. Dilliraman National and International awards. The veteran journalist Mr. Bhairab Risal and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). These prestigious awards will be distributed by the Rt. Honorable president of Nepal organizing a handover ceremony. Likewise, the library announced nation level essay competition on the topic "Library form generation to generations." The prize handover ceremony was organized on 14th July 2024 it the Library.

Seminar on "Reading Habits for College Students"

A , "Reading Habits for College Students" was jointly organized by ASIS&T South Asia, ASIS&T SIG-ED and Peoples Campus dated 28th June 2024. This program was organized in hybrid mode and several participants who attended was 57 persons virtually and 61 persons physically. Dr. Naresh Agarwal presented a slide on (Reading Habits for College Students: Critical thinking in a Disinformed Hybrid World) Dr. Priya Vaidya presented slide on (Unlocking the Potential of Reading Habits Using MAXQDA Software), Mr. Saroj G.C. presented slide on (Reading to Disciplined yourself) and Mr. Maheshwor Acharya shared the thought on (Reading in the age of AI) were the invited speakers. Further, this seminar was host by Ms. Reshma Dangol Chair, ASIS&T South Asia, Librarian of SAARC Secretariat, Library Consultant of Peoples Campus. The banner and google form for participants and photos were prepared which is attached to this message.

A Research Paper Published by Md. Atikuzzaman

Md. Atikuzzaman published an article having the following citation:

Atikuzzaman, M & Sunvy, A. S. (2024). Students' Perceptions and Experiences of Using Cloud Services in Online Education During Pandemic Time: A Post-Covid Study. Science Technology Libraries, 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1080/0194262X.2024.2380265

This work is an output of his project funded by the Research Cell of Noakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh.

Md. Anwarul Islam - Bangladesh

Md. Anwarul Islam was born and brought up in the northern part of Bangladesh. He graduated in Information Science and Library Management (ISLM) from the University of Dhaka (DU). In 2012, he participated in a visiting scholar program at the University of Antwerp, Belgium, under the VLIR-UOS scholarship. In 2013, he pursued a PhD in Knowledge Management at the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) in the School of Knowledge Science. During his PhD, he was also at Nanyang Technological University under the ACRC Fellowship in the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

After completing his PhD, he undertook a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of British Columbia, Canada in the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS), now known as *i* School.
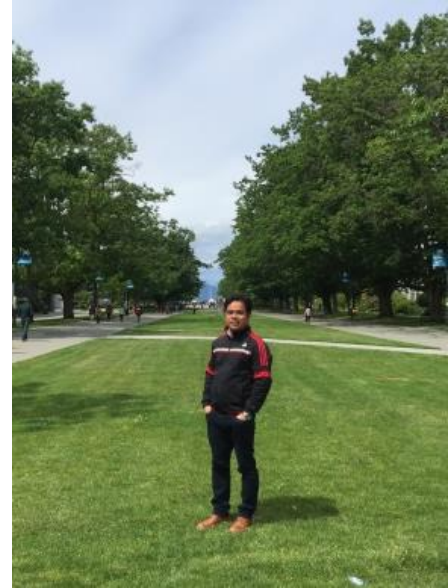
His research interests include information behavior, knowledge management, informetrics, and social informatics. He is currently co-authoring a book on knowledge management in libraries, to be published by Taylor and Francis. He has traveled to several countries, including Japan, Malaysia, the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Singapore, the USA, Canada, and Australia to present papers and serve as an invited speaker. He has published widely in the leading information science journals, serves as a reviewer for numerous flagship journals, editor for conference proceedings, and is currently an international editor for *Data, Information and Management* (Elsevier).

He has been actively engaged in national and international professional associations and received several awards, including the New Leaders Award, the James M. Crestos Leadership Award, and the Lois Lunin Award from The Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). Currently, he is leading an international research project on AI and health information literacy in the context of women in South Asia, funded by the IIL Research Grants of Purdue University, USA.

Reflecting on the person he was sixteen years ago compared to now, he noticed a complete transformation. Today, he is a LIS researcher and academic, and a proud father of three lovely and naughty boys (Arham, Afsan and Aymaan), two of them are school-aged. His wife is a civil servant in Bangladesh, and they live together in Dhaka. He is fond of traveling, loves coffee, and enjoys watching movies whenever he has the time. He always chooses to believe in people, regardless of how often they may break their promises. His greatest joy comes from helping others find happiness. He finds fulfillment in making a positive difference in people's lives and feels happiest when he can support others in achieving their goals.

Conference Flyer

'Artificial Intelligence (AI) Revolutionizing the Library Services: Challenges and Opportunities'

14th International Conference of University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ICULA 2024)

CONFERENCE TRACKS

✔ AI in Library Services
✔ Smart Libraries
✔ AI Literacy
✔ Information and Media Literacy
✔ Library Automation
✔ Access to Information
✔ Personalized Information Services
✔ Indigenous Libraries and Cultural Heritage
✔ Digital Environment and Machine Learning
✔ AI Tools and Academic Integrity
✔ Internet of Things and Higher Education
✔ AI for Service Quality
✔ Knowledge Management in AI Era

29TH OCTOBER 2024

Call for Papers

IMPORTANT DATES

Extended Abstract/ Full Paper Submission Open : 28th May 2024
Submission Deadline : 31st July 2024
Author Notification of Acceptance/ Rejection : 31st August 2024
Submission of Camera-Ready Paper : 15th September 2024
Early Bird Registration Open for Presenter/ Participant : 25th September 2024 [grabs the 10%]
Early Bird Registration Close : 10th October 2024

https://ulasl.lk/icula2024/   secretary_icula@ulasl.lk

Conference Chair: *Dr. M.M. Mashroofa*, +9477 756 1660
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