

SALIS NEWSLETTER

Society for Advancement of Library and Information Science

Plot No. 32(GF), 2nd Main Road, Sabari Nagar Extension, Mugalivakkam, Chennai - 600 125

E-mail: salislib.info@gmail.com

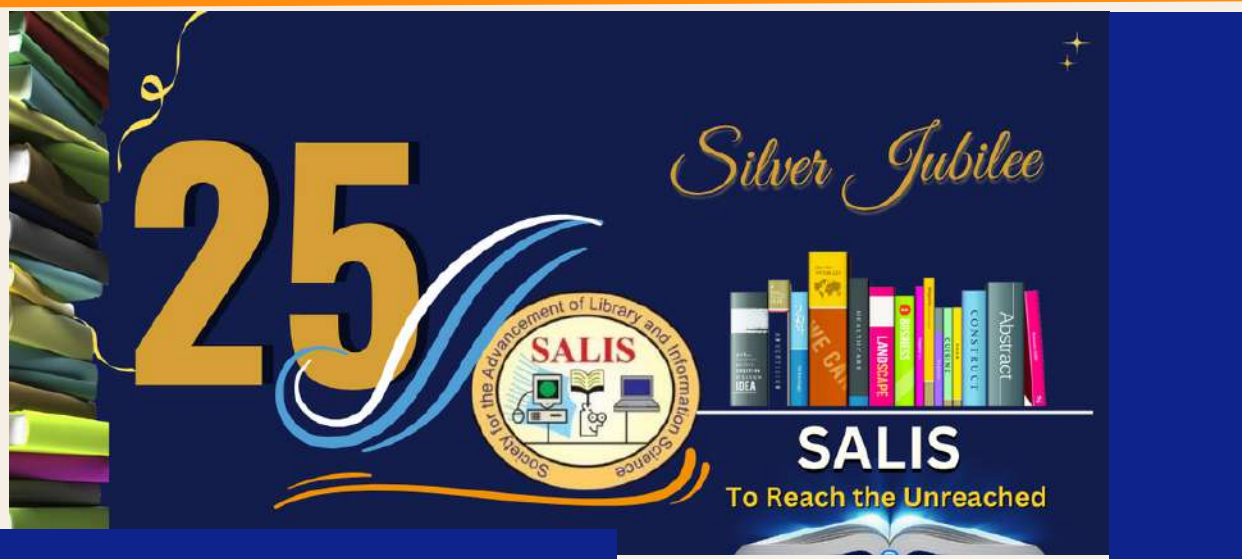
www.salis.in

Tel: 044-22532448

Dr. A. Hariharan
Founder President

Dr. A. M. Venkatachalam
President

Dr. T. Magudeeswaran
General Secretary



Editorial

Educating Gen Z: Building a Future with Truth, Critical Thinking and Purpose

Generation Z—those born roughly between 1997 and 2012—is the first generation to grow up entirely in the digital era. They have never known a world without smartphones, social media, artificial intelligence, and instant access to information. While technology has created unprecedented learning opportunities, it has also exposed young people to misinformation, superficial knowledge, and information overload. As a result, today's education system must evolve beyond traditional teaching methods and prepare Gen Z to become informed, ethical, and responsible global citizens.

The greatest challenge facing Generation Z is not the lack of information but the inability to distinguish between authentic and misleading content. Every day, millions of videos, social media posts, AI-generated articles, and online opinions compete for attention. Unfortunately, not all of them are accurate or trustworthy. Fake news, manipulated images, deepfake videos, and biased content can easily influence opinions and decisions. Therefore, education must prioritize information literacy, enabling students to identify credible sources, verify facts, and evaluate evidence before accepting or sharing information.

Schools and universities should shift their focus from memorization to understanding, analysis, and problem-solving. In an age where answers are available within seconds through search engines and AI tools, success depends not on remembering facts but

on interpreting information, asking meaningful questions, and applying knowledge creatively. Students should be encouraged to think critically, challenge assumptions respectfully, and solve real-world problems through collaboration and innovation.

Equally important is the integration of digital literacy into every stage of education. Digital literacy goes beyond operating computers or using mobile applications. It includes understanding online safety, protecting personal privacy, recognizing cyber threats, identifying misinformation, and using artificial intelligence responsibly. As AI becomes a part of education and workplaces, students must learn not only how to use these technologies but also their ethical implications, limitations, and potential biases.

Another essential element of a modern education system is the development of character and values. Academic excellence alone is not enough to build a better society. Empathy, integrity, accountability, transparency, respect for diversity, environmental responsibility, and ethical leadership should be integral components of education. Young people should understand that knowledge carries responsibility and that every digital action—from posting on social media to using AI-generated content—has ethical consequences.

Teachers also need continuous professional development to meet the learning needs of Generation Z. Today's educators are no longer the sole providers of information; instead, they are mentors, facilitators, and guides who help students navigate an increasingly complex knowledge landscape. Professional training in digital pedagogy, AI-assisted teaching, media literacy, and

innovative instructional strategies is essential to ensure that education remains relevant and engaging.

Parents, educational institutions, governments, technology companies, and libraries all share responsibility for creating a trustworthy learning environment. Libraries, in particular, play a crucial role by providing access to reliable information resources, promoting reading habits, and teaching information literacy skills. Librarians have become indispensable partners in helping students evaluate information critically and develop lifelong learning habits.

The education system must also recognize that every student learns differently. Personalized learning, experiential education, interdisciplinary projects, internships, community engagement, and research-based activities should complement classroom instruction. These approaches help students connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications, preparing them for future careers and responsible citizenship.

Ultimately, the goal of education is not merely to produce graduates but to develop thoughtful, ethical, and capable individuals who can contribute positively to society. Generation Z possesses remarkable creativity, adaptability, and technological competence. However, these strengths can flourish only within an education system that values truth over misinformation, curiosity over memorization, and critical thinking over passive consumption. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and technology-driven, investing in a better education system is not simply an educational priority—it is a societal necessity. By providing Generation Z with authentic information, strong critical thinking skills, ethical values, and digital competence, we empower them to become informed leaders capable of addressing global challenges with wisdom, innovation, and integrity. The future of every nation depends not only on the knowledge young people acquire but also on their ability to use that knowledge responsibly, accurately, and for the common good.*

Inauguration of SALIS Silver Jubilee Celebrations 2026

The Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), Chennai inaugurated its Silver Jubilee Celebrations 2026 on 16 May 2026 (Saturday) at 10:00 a.m. in Visvesvaraya Hall, K.S.Rangasamy College of Technology, Tiruchengode. The programme commenced with prayer, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the kuthuvilakku, and a floral tribute to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of Library Science in India.

The gathering was welcomed by Dr. A. M. Venkatachalam, Director (Library & Student Affairs), KSRCT and President of SALIS. Dr. K. Elavazhagan, Chief Knowledge Officer, IIM Trichy and Advisor, SALIS, presented an overview of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. The Presidential Address was delivered by Dr. A. Hariharan, Founder President of SALIS and former Head, Knowledge Resource Division, CSIR-SERC (Rtd).

The special address were delivered by Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, Principal, K.S.Rangasamy College of Technology. The Guest of Honour addresses were delivered Shri. Erode Kathir, Founder, Erode Saaralaram Foundation, Erode.

The programme also included the felicitation of former office bearers, host institutions, MoU institutions, and SALIS members. Shri D. Venkateshwaran, Vice Chairman, Olirum Erodu Foundation, Erode, presided over the felicitation session. Members shared their professional experiences, enriching the event with valuable insights. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Major Dr. T. Magudeeswaran, Librarian, Chikkaiah Government Arts and Science College, Erode and General Secretary, SALIS.

The afternoon session featured a felicitation to Prof. T. Stephen, Advisor, SALIS, followed by a special address delivered by Rev. Sr. Dr. Mary Fabiola, Principal, Nirmala College for Women. The programme continued with cultural programmes, and concluded with the National Anthem.



Inauguration of SALIS Silver Jubilee Celebrations 2026



Inauguration of SALIS Silver Jubilee Celebrations 2026



Silver Jubilee Celebration Special Discussion SALIS Tirunelveli Chapter

SALIS Silver Jubilee Celebration Special Discussion Meeting of the Society for Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), Tirunelveli Chapter was held on 10 July 2026. The meeting combined a felicitation ceremony for Dr. M. Antonyraj, Retired Principal of St. Xavier's College of Education, and a discussion on the branch activities planned in connection with the SALIS Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mutharasan (Chairman), Dr. R. Muthamilarasi (Secretary), Dr. A. Muthukrishnan (Advisor), Dr. R.R. Saravanakumar (Vice Chairman), Dr. T. Raja (SALIS Treasurer), Dr. R. Chellappa (Treasurer), Dr. Kennady, Dr. P.J. Rosario Vasantha Kumar (PRO), Dr. Sherlin, and other members.

The programme commenced with Dr. T. Raja welcoming the gathering. Dr. Mutharasan, Chairman of the Tirunelveli Chapter, delivered the welcome address and greeted all the members and guests.

During the felicitation function, Dr. A. Muthukrishnan, Advisor of the Chapter, appreciated the dedicated service and academic contributions of Dr. M. Antonyraj on the occasion of his retirement. Dr. T. Raja, SALIS Treasurer, also spoke about Dr. Antonyraj's valuable support and his contributions to the various academic programmes jointly organized by St. Xavier's College of Education and the SALIS Tirunelveli Chapter.

A memento was presented to Dr. M. Antonyraj as a token of appreciation and gratitude for his distinguished service. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Antonyraj expressed his heartfelt thanks to the members of SALIS and fondly recalled the memorable programmes jointly conducted by the college and the Tirunelveli chapter over the years.

The meeting then focused on the SALIS Silver Jubilee Celebrations. Members discussed several programmes to be organized across Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, and Kanyakumari districts. The following decisions were taken:

A seminar and Workshop to be conducted at Shankar Polytechnic College and St. Xavier's College, on behalf of Tirunelveli District.

A medical camp to be organized in association with the Public Library Department.

- For Thoothukudi District: an online seminar, a one-day seminar, and an inauguration function for library students to be held at Pope's College, Thoothukudi.
- For Kanyakumari District: plans to contact certain colleges to organize events there as well.



Reading Awareness Program: Based on members' suggestions, it was decided to conduct reading-awareness competitions in schools within the Tirunelveli chapter's jurisdiction that have more than 1,000 students, and to award prizes to participants. A committee was proposed to be formed for this purpose. As part of the 25th (Silver Jubilee) year celebrations, it was decided to extend this program to reach 25,000 students.

The members were also encouraged to actively participate in the forthcoming SALIS Annual National Seminar, scheduled to be held in October 2026 at the Central University of Pondicherry, by presenting research papers and ensuring wider participation.

The meeting concluded with the Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. P.J. Rosario Vasantha Kumar, PRO, who thanked all the dignitaries, members, and participants for their valuable presence and contributions, making the meeting a grand success.



IFLA Selects Brasília, Brazil to Host the 2028 World Library and Information Congress

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has officially announced Brasília, Brazil, as the host city for the 2028 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), which will take place from 21–24 August 2028. This marks the return of IFLA's flagship global event to Latin America and the Caribbean after 17 years, highlighting the region's growing importance in the international library and information community. The selection followed a competitive international bidding process, recognizing Brazil's strong commitment to advancing libraries, knowledge sharing, cultural heritage, and professional collaboration.

The choice of Brasília is expected to strengthen international partnerships, promote innovation in library and information services, and provide a global platform for discussing emerging trends such as artificial intelligence, digital transformation, open knowledge, sustainability, and equitable access to information. The congress will bring together thousands of librarians, information professionals, researchers, educators, publishers, and technology experts from around the world to exchange ideas and shape the future of libraries. Hosting WLIC 2028 also offers Brazil an exceptional opportunity to showcase its vibrant library sector, cultural diversity, and commitment to supporting knowledge societies while reinforcing the essential role of libraries in achieving sustainable development and lifelong learning.

Coimbatore Chapter Honours Five Retiring Academic Library Leaders in Grand Felicitation Program

Eminent academic leaders and library experts gather at Nirmala College for Women to recognize decades of exemplary service in higher education.

COIMBATORE — The Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), Coimbatore Chapter, hosted a grand Retirement Felicitation Program on June 12, 2026, at Nirmala College for Women to honour five veteran library professionals on their superannuation.

The event celebrated the outstanding dedication and transformative contributions of senior librarians who have served leading academic and research institutions across Coimbatore and the surrounding region:

Dr. A. Aruna, Associate Professor Cadre Librarian, Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT), Coimbatore.

Dr. R. Jayabal, Associate Professor Cadre Librarian, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore.

Dr. A. Sokkalingam, Associate Professor Cadre Librarian, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Polytechnic College, Coimbatore.

Sri. S. Karthikeyan, Associate Professor Cadre Librarian, Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College, Coimbatore.

Dr. S. Ramkumar, Technical Officer, University Library, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.

The program commenced auspiciously at 6:00 PM with a traditional prayer song and the rendition of Tamil Thai Valthu. Dr. Mahalakshmi and Dr. M. Mandhirasalam (Librarian, CIT, Coimbatore) anchored the proceedings as Masters of Ceremonies. Dr. S. Swaminathan, Librarian, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya (SRMV) and Advisor to SALIS, delivered the welcome address.

Presiding over the function, Dr. Major T. Magudeeswaran, General Secretary of SALIS and Librarian, Chikkaiah Naicker College, Erode, highlighted the vital role played by library professionals in knowledge management, academic growth, and institutional development.



Distinguished Guests of Honour—

Sr.Dr. Mary Fabiola, Principal, Nirmala College for Women, Dr. Srinivasan Retired Principal, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya and Dr. R. Sarangapani University Librarian, Bharathiar University) honoured each of the five retirees with traditional shawls and commemorative mementos. Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries lauded the honorees for their unwavering commitment to learning resources and extended blessings for a healthy, happy, and fulfilling post-retirement life. Several colleagues including senior Librarian Dr.S. Elango, Dr.R.Senthilkumar and other

SALIS members shared fond memories and gratitude, acknowledging the guidance provided by the retiring leaders.

Sr.Dr.M.Jaculine Mary, Vice Principal, Nirmala College for women Sr.Dr.Arokia Saranya, Faculty member, DLIS, Nirmala College for women and DrA.Velayutham, Librarian, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Maruthi College of Physical Education organized this program very effectively.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. P. Baskaran, Secretary, SALIS Coimbatore Chapter, followed by the National Anthem and a fellowship dinner for all attendees and family members.





PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
Ananda Rangapillai Library
in collaboration with
Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS)
Organising International Conference

KNOWLEDGE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE EQUITY:
Libraries' Contribution to a Sustainable Nation (Viksit Bharat)
29–31 October 2026

 **Venue: Cultural-cum-Convention Centre, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India**
 **Official Portal: <https://kake26.in>**

About the Conference

Ananda Rangapillai Library, Pondicherry University, in collaboration with the Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS) is organizing an International Conference on “Knowledge Access to Knowledge Equity: Libraries’ Contribution to a Sustainable Nation (Viksit Bharat)” as part of the celebration of the 40th year of academic excellence at Pondicherry University from 29-31 October 2026.

The conference aims to bring together academicians, librarians, researchers, and professionals to discuss the evolving role of libraries in promoting equitable access to knowledge and contributing to a sustainable nation.

About the Organising Institutions

Pondicherry University: Pondicherry University, established in 1985, is a Central University located in Puducherry. Accredited with an “A+” grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the University reflects high standards in teaching, research, and academic excellence. It comprises 14 Schools and approximately 52 departments, spread across campuses in Puducherry, Karaikal, Port Blair, lakshadweep and Mahe, serving over 9,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes.

The University emphasizes research-enriched education and innovation. As noted by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Prakash Babu, the institution demonstrates a “tremendous commitment to innovation” and promotes “industry-focused teaching programmes and cutting-edge research.” Faculty members actively engage in advanced research and development, collaborating with leading universities and institutions at national and international levels. High-impact publications and the ability to secure competitive research grants stand as testimony to the University’s academic strength.

Spread over 780 acres, Pondicherry University has undertaken sustained efforts to develop a green campus, reflecting its commitment to sustainability and responsible environmental resource management. The University also maintains a strong outreach presence, hosting a Community College, Community Radio, and several other socially impactful initiatives.

SALIS (Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science): SALIS is a registered professional body established in the year 2002 and it has been actively involved in the development of all spheres of Library and Information Science by organizing various programs including Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Training programs on emerging topics in various parts of the country. These programs are being organized through its chapters located in many places. SALIS publishes National and International Journals, proceedings and newsletter for exchange of information and knowledge among LIS Professionals. SALIS instituted many awards to encourage and motivate LIS professionals. One of the objectives of SALIS is to train the LIS professionals in the country to handle the latest IT tools and techniques more effectively and efficiently and to adopt the best practices in order to provide high quality library services. The current focus of SALIS is to 'Reach the Unreached' LIS Professionals in rural settings in order to minimize the digital divide.

Important Dates

Last date for submission of abstracts

5th August 2026

Notification on acceptance of abstracts

11th August 2026

Last date for submission of full-text articles

25th August 2026

Notification on acceptance of full-text articles

7th September 2026

Dates of the conference

29-31 October 2026 (Thu, Fri & Sat)

Paper Submission Link: <https://www.kake26.in/paper-submission/>

Conference Themes & Sub-Themes

Theme 1: Knowledge Access, Equity, and Social Inclusion

Sub-Themes

- Ø Democratisation of Knowledge and Information Access
- Ø Libraries as Instruments of Social Justice
- Ø Inclusive Library Services for Marginalised Communities
- Ø Gender Equity and Library Services
- Ø Library Services for Persons with Disabilities
- Ø Bridging the Urban-Rural Knowledge Divide
- Ø Indigenous and Tribal Knowledge Access
- Ø Information Equity in the Digital Age
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 2: Libraries and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sub-Themes

- Ø Libraries Supporting the UN SDGs
- Ø Green Libraries and Environmental Sustainability

- Ø Climate Literacy and Community Awareness
- Ø Sustainable Information Practices
- Ø Libraries as Catalysts for Community Development
- Ø Measuring Library Contributions to Sustainability
- Ø ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Perspectives in Libraries
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 3: Libraries for Viksit Bharat 2047: Sub-Themes

- Ø Libraries in Nation Building
- Ø Knowledge Infrastructure for a Developed India
- Ø Libraries and Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Ø Public Libraries and Civic Empowerment
- Ø Policy Frameworks for Knowledge Equity
- Ø National Education Policy (NEP 2020) and Libraries
- Ø Libraries as Centres for Lifelong Learning
- Ø Other areas related to the theme.

Theme 4: Digital Transformation and Emerging Technologies**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Artificial Intelligence in Libraries
- Ø Machine Learning Applications in Information Retrieval
- Ø Big Data Analytics for Library Decision-Making
- Ø Blockchain for Knowledge Authentication
- Ø Internet of Things (IoT) in Smart Libraries
- Ø Cloud-Based Library Services
- Ø Digital Twins and Virtual Libraries
- Ø Chatbots and Intelligent Information Services
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 5: Open Knowledge, Open Science, and Research Ecosystems**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Open Access Publishing
- Ø Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Ø Open Science Initiatives
- Ø Research Data Management
- Ø Institutional Repositories and Knowledge Sharing
- Ø FAIR Data Principles
- Ø Citizen Science and Public Engagement
- Ø Transformative Agreements and Scholarly Communication
- Ø Other areas related to the theme.

Theme 6: Academic Libraries and Research Excellence**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Research Support Services
- Ø Bibliometric/ Scientometric/Webometrics/Altmetric and related metrics
- Ø Academic Integrity and Research Ethics
- Ø Systematic Reviews and Evidence-Based Research
- Ø Research Impact Assessment
- Ø Digital Scholarship and Humanities
- Ø Data Curation and Preservation
- Ø Other areas related to the theme.

Theme 7: Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Cultural Heritage**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Preservation of Traditional Knowledge
- Ø Libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Ø Manuscript Heritage and Digitization
- Ø Sanskrit and Classical Knowledge Repositories
- Ø Cultural Memory Institutions
- Ø Knowledge Repatriation and Heritage Preservation
- Ø IKS Integration in Higher Education
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 8: Digital Libraries and Knowledge Management: Sub-Themes

- Ø Next-Generation Digital Libraries
- Ø Knowledge Organisation and Discovery Systems
- Ø Semantic Web and Linked Data
- Ø Metadata Standards and Interoperability
- Ø Knowledge Management Practices
- Ø Digital Preservation Strategies
- Ø User Experience and Digital Access
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 9: Community Engagement and Information Literacy**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Information Literacy for Digital Citizens
- Ø Media and News Literacy
- Ø Financial Literacy through Libraries
- Ø Health Information Literacy
- Ø Community Knowledge Hubs
- Ø Libraries and Social Innovation
- Ø Digital Inclusion Programs
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 10: Public Libraries and Community Resilience**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Public Libraries as Community Anchors
- Ø Libraries and Disaster Preparedness
- Ø Rural Library Development
- Ø Mobile and Outreach Library Services
- Ø Libraries and Social Cohesion
- Ø Community Archives and Local History
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 11: Library Leadership, Governance, and Policy: Sub-Themes

- Ø Leadership for Future Libraries
- Ø Library Governance Models
- Ø Evidence-Based Library Management
- Ø Strategic Planning and Innovation
- Ø Library Advocacy and Public Policy
- Ø Funding and Resource Mobilisation
- Ø Quality Assurance and Accreditation
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 12: Future Skills and Capacity Building for LIS Professionals**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Competencies for the Future Library Workforce
- Ø AI and Data Skills for Librarians
- Ø Continuous Professional Development
- Ø Leadership Development in LIS
- Ø Digital Curation Skills
- Ø Entrepreneurship in Library Services
- Ø International Collaboration and Capacity Building
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 13: Knowledge Equity through Technology and Innovation**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Assistive Technologies for Inclusive Access
- Ø Multilingual Information Systems
- Ø AI for Knowledge Inclusion
- Ø Affordable Access Technologies
- Ø Digital Public Infrastructure and Libraries
- Ø Knowledge Equity Metrics and Assessment
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Theme 14: Scholarly Communication and Publishing Futures**Sub-Themes**

- Ø Future of Academic Publishing
- Ø Predatory Publishing and Research Integrity
- Ø Diamond Open Access Models
- Ø Copyright, Licensing, and Intellectual Property
- Ø Digital Publishing Innovations
- Ø Scholarly Communication in the Global South
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Special Track: Young Professionals & Emerging Researchers Forum

- Ø Innovative Library Practices
- Ø Library Startups and Entrepreneurship
- Ø Research-in-Progress Presentations
- Ø Student and Early Career Librarian Contributions
- Ø Bibliometric/ Scientometric/Webometrics/Altmetric and related metrics
- Ø Other areas related to the theme

Registration Details & Fee StructureRegistration Link: <https://forms.gle/p8K3jtYTwFxB3HP8>

The Registration fee should be paid by online bank transfer/DD.

Registration Category (Without Accommodation)	Early Bird Registration (On/Before 29th Sep 2026)	Normal Registration (30 Sep to 29 Oct 2026)
Indian Self-financed Professionals	INR 2500	INR 3000
Indian Institute Sponsored Professionals	INR 3000	INR 3500
Indian Nationals Working in Other Countries	INR 4000	INR 5000
SAARC Nationals	INR 5000	INR 6000
Foreign Nationals Other than SAARC	\$150	\$200
Full-time Students / Scholars / Retired	INR 2000	INR 2500
Accompanying Persons	INR 2000	INR 2500
Sponsors	INR 10,000	INR 15,000
Stall	INR 50,000	INR 75,000

* **Important Note:** Registration fee is non-refundable but transferable. It does not include accommodation.

** The registration fee does not include the conference kit and accommodation for Accompanying persons.

Accommodation

Nearby Hotels & Stay Options

Please contact the respective properties directly for room availability, tariffs, and booking confirmation.

S.No	Hotel Name	Contact Number & Email	Approximate Distance from conference venue
1.	Ashok Beach Resort	reservations@ashokresort.com ☎ +91 413 2655160-63	2 KM
2.	Hotel Atith	reservations@tgihotels.com rooms@atithipondicherry.com ☎ +91 90030 43207	10 KM
3.	Hotel Surguru	info@hotelsurguru.com ☎ +91 413-2339022 / 2227290	10 KM
4.	SHENBAGA Hotel & Convention Center	reservation@shenbagahotel.com fom@shenbagahotel.com ☎ +91 95970 85012 / +91 95970 85011	10 KM
5.	Ocean Spray Resort	reservation@oceanspray.in ☎ +91 413 200 0500	7 KM
6.	Hotel Le Royal Park	 reservations@hotelleroyalpark.com ☎ +91 413 2231500/95363 85555	12 KM

For more details: [https://www.google.com/maps/search/hotels+near+Pondicherry+University/Exhibition / Sponsorship](https://www.google.com/maps/search/hotels+near+Pondicherry+University/Exhibition+Sponsorship)

The conference will allow our commercial and industrial partners to showcase their products and services to support summit activities through sponsorships. Further details may be obtained from the Organising Secretary, KAKE, or the conference website.

General Information & Location

Weather: Pleasant weather (25-30°C) with refreshing sea breezes in Puducherry.

How to Reach:

- By Air: Pondicherry Airport (PNY) or Chennai International Airport (MAA - 135 KM).
- By Train: Puducherry Railway Station (PDY) or Villupuram Junction (VM - 40 KM).
- By Road: 135 KM from Chennai via scenic East Coast Road (ECR), approx 3.5 hours.

CONTACT FOR COMMUNICATION

Dr. M. Vijayakumar

Organising Secretary & University Librarian, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India

Phone: +91 94307 02887 | Email: kake@pondiuni.ac.in / librarian@pondiuni.ac.in

Conference Website: <https://kake26.in>



Libraries as Catalysts for Unity and Lifelong Learning: Lessons from Malaysia's National Unity Week 2026

Libraries have long been recognized as gateways to knowledge, but their role extends far beyond providing books and information. During Malaysia's National Unity Week 2026, the National Library of Malaysia (NLM) demonstrated how libraries can become powerful institutions for fostering social harmony, cultural understanding, and lifelong learning. Organized by Malaysia's Ministry of National Unity across six regions from April to June 2026, the nationwide celebration promoted the spirit of Malaysia MADANI by encouraging inclusive community participation, cultural appreciation, and stronger social cohesion. The National Library played a leading role in showcasing how libraries can connect people from diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds through meaningful educational and cultural programmes.

The Northern Zone celebration in Ipoh, Perak, featured exhibitions, reading initiatives, cultural programmes, the Perak Book Fair 2026, and the National Library Book Awards 2025–2026, creating opportunities for citizens to celebrate diversity while strengthening mutual respect and understanding. These initiatives highlighted libraries as welcoming public spaces where individuals of all ages can learn, interact, and appreciate different cultures. Rather than serving solely as repositories of books, libraries emerged as vibrant community hubs that encourage dialogue, creativity, and social inclusion.

One of the most significant messages from Malaysia's National Unity Week is that lifelong learning is essential for building resilient and inclusive societies. Libraries support this mission by offering free access to information, digital resources, literacy programmes, cultural events, and learning

opportunities that benefit people throughout their lives. In today's rapidly evolving digital environment, libraries also promote digital literacy, critical thinking, and informed citizenship, enabling individuals to navigate information responsibly while combating misinformation. These functions align closely with the principles of the IFLA–UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, which recognizes libraries as essential institutions for education, culture, lifelong learning, and democratic participation.

Malaysia's experience provides an inspiring model for libraries worldwide. As societies become increasingly diverse, libraries can play an even greater role in strengthening community relationships by organizing multicultural events, promoting intercultural dialogue, supporting local heritage, and ensuring equitable access to knowledge for all citizens. By bringing people together through learning, culture, and shared experiences, libraries help build more informed, tolerant, and united communities. The success of Malaysia's National Unity Week 2026 reaffirms that libraries are not merely centres of information—they are dynamic institutions that promote social cohesion, lifelong learning, and sustainable national development in an increasingly interconnected world.*

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. A. M. Venkatachalam
President, SALIS

Editor

Dr. O. Sessaiah
Librarian, PBR VITS, Kavali

Editorial Board

Dr. E. Kiran Kumar
Librarian, PRR & VS GOVERNMENT
COLLEGE, Vidavalur

Dr. Vijay Mahesh
Librarian, SKR Degree College,
Gudur