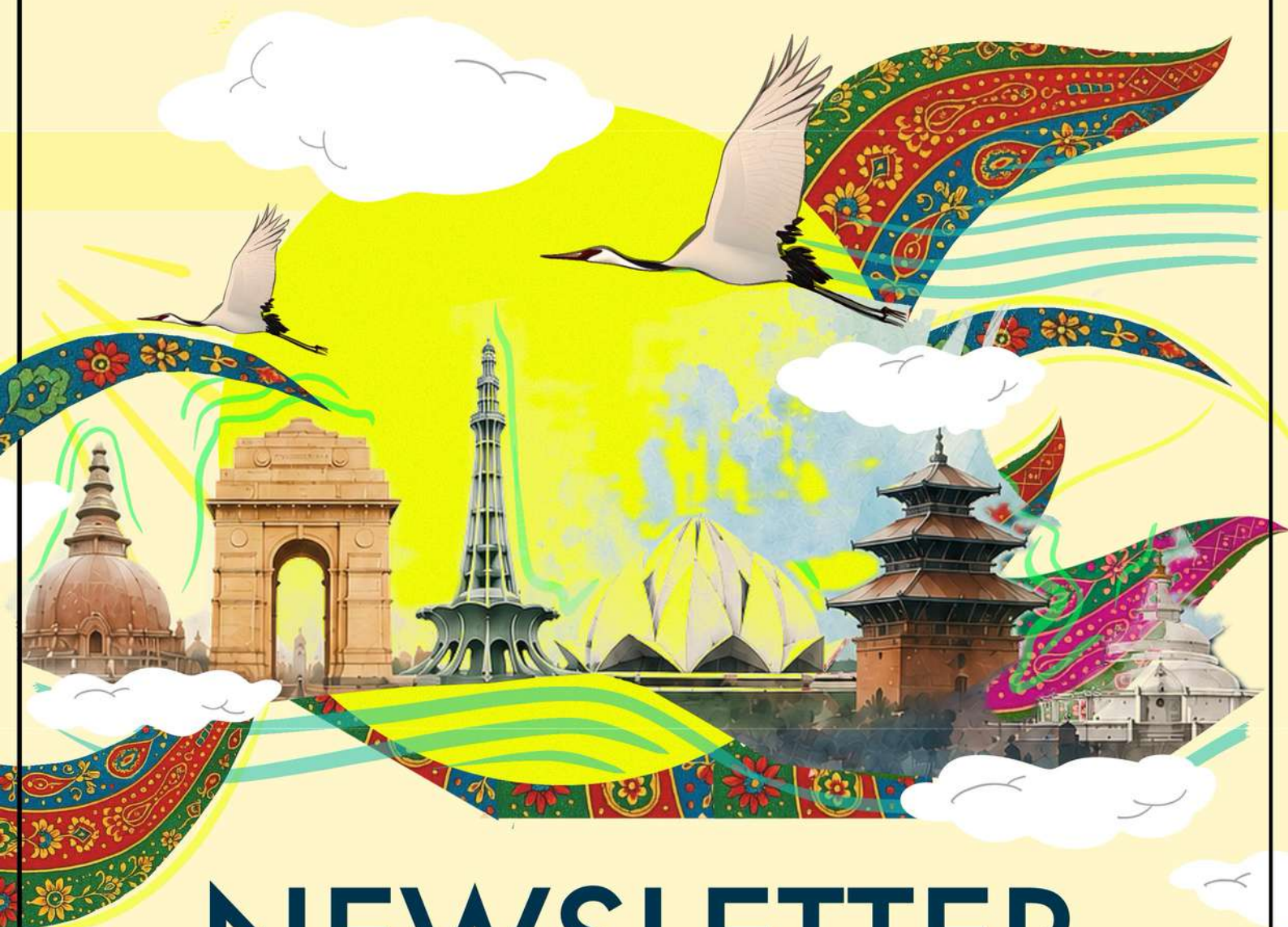


ASIS&T

SOUTH ASIA CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2
AUGUST 2026



asis&t
Association for Information Science and Technology
south asia chapter

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Message from the Chair



Dear friends, colleagues, fellows and members,

Greetings from the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter! As we prepare the second edition of our newsletter, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a rewarding and memorable year for our chapter. Like any active organisation, we have experienced both challenges and successes. However, looking back, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. We set out with an ambitious plan of activities, and thanks to the dedication and commitment of our officers and volunteers, we have successfully delivered nearly all of them.

I am sincerely grateful to our energetic and passionate executive team, whose enthusiasm has been the driving force behind our achievements. One of the highlights of this year has been the inclusion of members from the Maldives in the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter. This milestone was made possible through productive discussions with LIS professionals from the Maldives and our request to ASIS&T Headquarters to recognise the Maldives as a Tier 2 country, making membership more accessible through a fee waiver. I am delighted that our proposal was approved.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to ASIS&T Headquarters for their support. My sincere thanks also go to Aminath Riyaz for her leadership and tireless efforts in the Maldives and to our membership officer, Satyam Kumar, for initiating and coordinating this important effort on behalf of the chapter. I also gratefully acknowledge our advisors for their continuous guidance, encouragement, and support throughout this process.

While we celebrate this important milestone, our journey is far from complete. South Asia is home to a rich and diverse community of library and information professionals, and our chapter should reflect that diversity. In the coming months, we will continue our efforts to engage colleagues in Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan while strengthening our connections across the region. Our goal is simple yet ambitious: to build a truly inclusive South Asian network where knowledge, ideas, and opportunities flow freely across borders.

As the chair, I warmly invite each of you to remain engaged with our chapter, share your ideas, participate in our initiatives, and encourage others to join our growing community.

Together, we can continue to make the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter a vibrant platform for learning, innovation, leadership, and regional collaboration.

With best regards,
Md. Atikuzzaman, Chair
ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

A Chapter Through Its Chairs

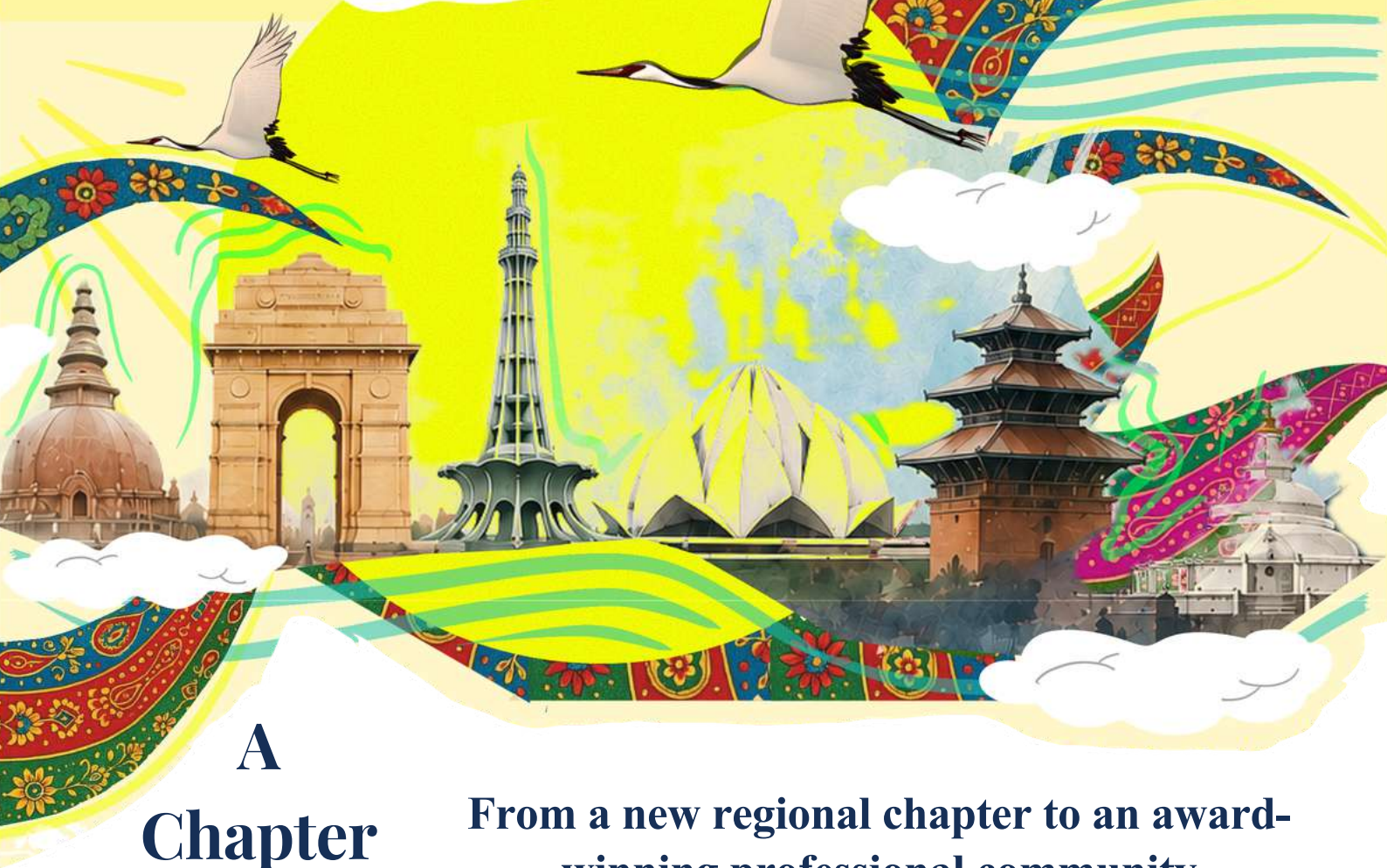
Guided by Vision. Driven by Service. United for Impact.

This issue traces the journey of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter through the eyes of its Chairs their leadership, vision, and contributions that have shaped the chapter over the years.

Our chapter's journey is woven through the vision, dedication, and leadership of those who have guided it forward.

Each Chair has left a lasting imprint, inspiring new ideas, strengthening connections, and shaping the chapter's path. Together, with our Chairs, mentors, and members, we continue to build a vibrant, inclusive, and connected information community across South Asia and beyond.





A Chapter Through Its Chairs

The History, Leadership and Journey of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

This special section traces the journey of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter through the experiences and reflections of its Chairs. From its early days of formation to its growth as a vibrant regional professional community, the Chairs share the milestones, challenges, collaborations, and memories that have shaped the Chapter.

From a new regional chapter to an award-winning professional community

Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam

Professor, Department of
Information Science and Library
Management, University of Dhaka,
Bangladesh

Chair: 2019–2020

Advisor: 2021–Present



Serving as the Chair of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter during 2019–2020 was a deeply rewarding experience that strengthened my commitment to advancing the library and information science (LIS) profession across the region. As a relatively new chapter representing eight South Asian countries, our primary goal was to build a vibrant professional community by increasing membership, promoting collaboration, and creating opportunities for knowledge sharing.

One of the most satisfying achievements was expanding member engagement through regular communication, social media outreach, webinars, and collaborative activities. We actively promoted the benefits of ASIS&T membership, encouraged existing members to recruit colleagues, and strengthened connections with LIS schools, professional associations, and local communities across South Asia.

A Chapter Through Its Chairs

ASIS&T South Asia
Chapter Chair,
2019–2020

**Looking back, the
experience taught me
the value of inclusive
leadership, teamwork,
and resilience in
managing an
international
professional community
during a challenging
period.**

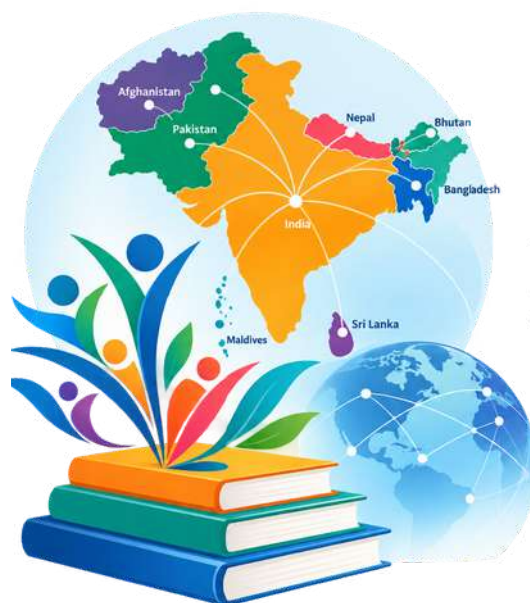
A major milestone during my tenure was the successful organization of the International Symposium on "Empowering the Library and Information Professionals for Achieving the SDGs" at the University of Dhaka, which attracted more than 200 participants from several countries. This event highlighted the important role of information professionals in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals while showcasing the growing presence of the South Asia Chapter within the international ASIS&T community. At the ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2019 in Melbourne, I had the privilege of presenting the paper "Mobilizing International ASIS&T Chapters" during the International Incubator Sessions on 22 October 2019. It remains one of the most memorable moments of my tenure as South Asia Chapter Chair. I still vividly remember sharing the story of our newly established chapter with a global audience, highlighting our vision, achievements, and aspirations for strengthening the ASIS&T community across South Asia. The opportunity to represent the region on an international stage was both an honor and an inspiring experience that continues to motivate my commitment to advancing the profession.

We also collaborated with ASIS&T SIGs and Chapters organized webinars that fostered international dialogue on emerging topics such as misinformation, digital libraries, and knowledge management. Finally, our hard work paid off when the South Asia Chapter received the ASIS&T Chapter of the Year Award in 2020.

Looking back, the experience taught me the value of inclusive leadership, teamwork, and resilience in managing an international professional community during a challenging period. I remain grateful to the dedicated chapter officers, volunteers, and members whose enthusiasm and commitment made these accomplishments possible. I believe the experiences gained during my tenure will continue to inspire future initiatives that strengthen the South Asia Chapter and contribute to the global ASIS&T community.



A Chapter Through Its Chairs



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across South Asia
and beyond.*

Leading the South Asia Chapter through the Pandemic: A Journey of Growth (2020-2021) and Innovation

The History, Leadership and Journey of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

Dr. Bhakti Gala

Assistant Professor
Central University of Gujarat, India

Chair: 2020–2021

Advisor: 2022–Present



I assumed the role of South Asia (SA) Chapter Chair in 2020, during the chapter's third year and during the onset of the epidemic. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, I worked with an outstanding and dedicated team of officers and advisors to launch several new initiatives that marked many firsts for the SA Chapter.

One of our earliest achievements was the publication of the inaugural issue of the chapter newsletter, *Salaam Namaste Ayubowan*, in August 2021. We also introduced the chapter's first logo, along with a dedicated newsletter logo selected through a logo design competition.

A Chapter Through Its Chairs

ASIS&T South Asia Chapter | Chair, 2020– 2021

**“The pandemic became
a catalyst for growth,
innovation, and new
forms of collaboration
across South Asia”**

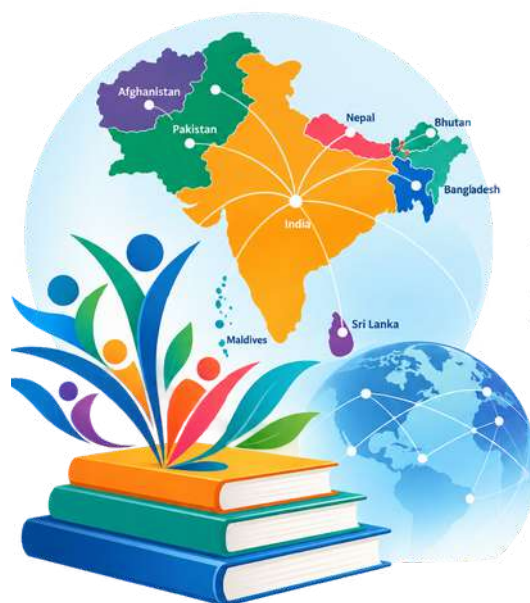
The Chapter secured the **Chapter Special Project Fund of USD 7,000 for 2021-2022** for the project Dealing with COVID-19 and saving people's lives in South Asia (SA) areas & beyond - A health informatics promotion project, developed in collaboration with the Asia Pacific and European chapters. A multidisciplinary team representing members from five countries- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong volunteered to work collaboratively on this project. As part of this project, we organized the International Digital Story Writing Competition in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong & Academy 22 Education for All Foundation. This project produced 46 videos in five languages, led to the organization of nine programs and fostered collaborations with 16 organizations and professional library associations. These efforts significantly enhanced the Chapter's visibility and contributed to 72% increase in membership over the previous year. We also launched for the first time the SA Chapter blog and YouTube Channel, creating additional platforms for outreach and engagement.

To strengthen member interaction, the Chapter organized its first **Salaam Namaste: Meet and Greet** event bringing together both new and existing members. Chapter members also collaborated with SIG-III and the Africa Chapter to participate in a panel discussion at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2021 and presented the outcomes of the project at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2022 through a poster presentation.

These collective efforts enabled the Chapter in receiving the Chapter Innovation Year Award for 2020-2021, the 2022 Chapter Publication of the Year (Volume 1 Issue 1), and the 2022 Chapter Member of the Year Award.



A Chapter Through Its Chairs



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and beyond.*

My Journey: From Connection to Leadership Impact

The History, Leadership and Journey of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

Dr. Syeda Hina Batool

Associate Professor, Institute of
Information Management
University of the Punjab, Pakistan

Chair: 2022–2023



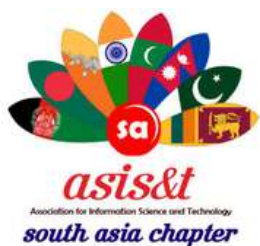
Serving the South Asian Chapter has been one of the most rewarding professional experiences of my career. My journey with the chapter began in 2019 when I joined as the Social Media Officer. Over the years, I contributed in multiple capacities, and this sustained engagement ultimately led to the privilege of serving as Chapter Chair during 2023–2024. Looking back, this progression reflects not only a leadership trajectory but also a continuous learning experience shaped by dedicated colleagues, supportive mentors, and a vibrant professional community.

Throughout my involvement, I had the opportunity to work alongside an exceptional team whose commitment and collaborative spirit made every challenge meaningful. I also benefited greatly from the guidance of chapter advisers, whose vision and mentorship encouraged me to lead with purpose and strategic clarity. Working within a community that shared similar cultural backgrounds, languages, and lived experiences created a strong sense of belonging and made collaboration both natural and enriching. This shared context fostered open exchange of ideas and helped strengthen collective goals.



A Chapter Through Its Chairs

ASIS&T South Asia
Chapter | Chair,
2022–2023



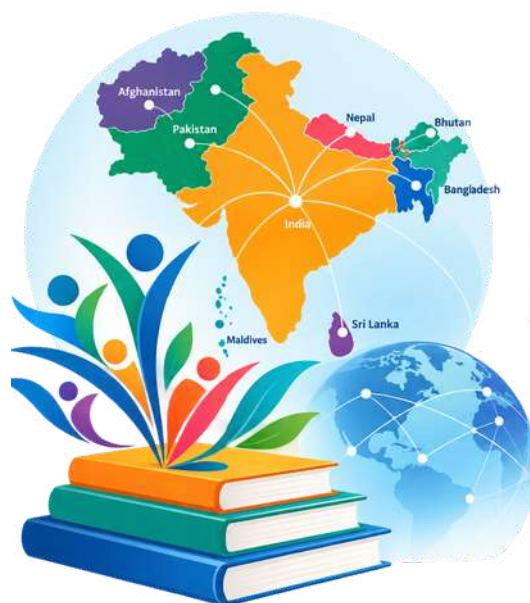
Reflecting on my tenure as Chair, I am especially proud that the chapter received the **Chapter of the Year** and **Publication of the Year** awards. These recognitions reflect the collective dedication and effort of the entire leadership team. Another milestone of personal significance was designing the official logo of the South Asian Chapter. Selected through a competitive process, the logo continues to represent the chapter and remains a lasting contribution I am honoured to have made.

Like any leadership role, this journey also came with challenges. During my service as Chair-Elect and Chair, I relocated to North America to begin my postdoctoral studies. Leading a chapter based in South Asia while working across time zones required adaptability, coordination, and consistent communication. Despite these challenges, the leadership team's commitment ensured that the chapter remained active, engaged, and successful throughout this period.

Beyond leadership, the South Asian Chapter significantly contributed to my professional growth. It provided opportunities to secure grant funding, collaborate on publications, expand my research network, and engage with scholars across South Asia. These experiences strengthened my research skills and deepened my understanding of international collaboration. I remain deeply grateful for the mentorship, opportunities, and relationships that shaped my journey as both a researcher and a leader. I look forward to seeing the continued growth of the South Asian Chapter and hope it achieves even greater impact and recognition in the years ahead, including the attainment of multiple future awards and milestones.

“Another milestone of personal significance was designing the official logo of the South Asian Chapter. Selected through a competitive process, the logo continues to represent the chapter and remains a lasting contribution I am honoured to have made”

A Chapter Through Its Chairs



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From Student Member to Chapter Chair: A Journey of Learning, Service, and Leadership

The History, Leadership and Journey of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

Sourav Debnath

Assistant Librarian, IIT (ISM)
Dhanbad, Jharkhand, India

Chair: 2024–2025



To share reflection and experience about chairship, I have to start from my student membership year, i.e., 2018-19. The student membership was sponsored by another Chapter Chair, Dr Bhakti Gala, who was my Library and Information Science School professor. Consecutively I volunteered for Social Media Manager, Secretary, Chair Elect and finally Chair position for this chapter. ASIS&T South Asia Chapter's every activity was a new learning for me. Under the guidance of chapter advisors and other officers' collaboration, I built confidence to serve the Chair responsibilities.

A Chapter Through Its Chairs

ASIS&T South Asia Chapter | Chair, 2024– 2025

**“To get representation
from Maldives and
Afghanistan we tried a
lot even ready to
sponsor the
membership from a
benevolent donor fund.”**

I minutely observed how other chairs had conducted events and planned chapter activities. As a Co-Chair my priority was to elect officers from representing countries for the next term. Fortunately we had a good representation for the officer's position, and all the officers did a wonderful job. To get representation from Maldives and Afghanistan we tried a lot, even ready to sponsor the membership from a benevolent donor fund. The first activity during my tenure was Dhaka University's Department of Information Science and Library Management organised a road show on the National Library Day led by Prof. Anwarul Islam. We also organized two webinars on Open Science & Creative Commons and status of resource access initiatives in South Asian countries through subscription models like One Nation One Subscription in India. One panel discussion was organized with past chairs, in which Prof. Naresh Agarwal, Chapter Advisor, moderated the session. A special project grant was awarded to the chapter for the proposal submitted by officers which is being executed in the 2025-26 term.

The chapter's newsletter was brought out in the winter session, and the content was well accepted by members as it covered the personal experience of Prof. Shalini Urs, a well-known information professional from South Asia. We received a good number of submissions for the Best Research Paper award call. Making a jury committee was a challenging task; however, the chapter advisors came forward and reviewed all submissions and helped declaring the result in time. Unfortunately we were not able to organize a Salaam Namaste Ayubowan event in that term.

The chapter annual report was prepared in time and by the Annual Meeting of ASIS&T my tenure came to an end. The Chair's responsibilities were handed over to Md Atikuzzaman. The term was eventful for me, and I am thankful to the advisors and other officers. Happy to see the chapter's flourishing activities!

Digital Literacy Workshop in Sri Lanka's Tea Estate Community



Sakeena Ali Khan,
Senior Assistant Librarian
University of Colombo
Sri Lanka



A half-day digital literacy workshop titled “Digital Tools and Platforms: Opportunities, Risks and Coping Strategies” was successfully conducted on 6 July 2026 at Saraswathi Tamil Maha Vidyalayam, Lindula, Talawakelle, Sri Lanka.

The workshop engaged 40 Advanced Level students aged 18–20 years from the tea estate community and was delivered entirely in Tamil to support accessibility, understanding, and active participation.

The main sessions helped students understand how digital technologies can create educational, economic, and social opportunities while also increasing awareness of behavioural, relational, and structural digital risks. Participants also discussed proactive and reactive coping strategies for using digital tools and platforms safely and responsibly.

Outreach activities by the chapter

Digital Literacy Workshop in Sri Lanka's Tea Estate Community

The main sessions helped students understand how digital technologies can create educational, economic, and social opportunities while also increasing awareness of behavioural, relational, and structural digital risks.



The workshop was facilitated by:

- Mrs. Sakeena Alikhan, Chair-Elect, ASIS&T South Asia Chapter, and Senior Assistant Librarian, Main Library, University of Colombo, who served as the lead facilitator and conducted the main session on digital opportunities, risks, and coping strategies.
- Dr. Alikhan Mohideen, Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya, who conducted a session on digital technology and university life, providing students with useful information on how digital tools can support their future education and transition to higher studies.
- Mrs. K.G.C. Rasadari, Acting Librarian, Talawakelle Public Library, who conducted an awareness session on public library resources, services, and the effective use of the library for further information and educational support.

This outreach activity was funded by the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) as part of its commitment to promoting digital literacy and equitable access to information among marginalized communities.



RAOWA Book Fair



Contributed by Jesmine Ara
Assistant Librarian
Retired Armed Forces Officers
Welfare Association

Guided by the motto "Read for Good" and the slogan "Develop the Habit of Reading—Whether in Service or Retirement".



The Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA), Bangladesh is a well-known non-political welfare organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of retired armed forces officers and their families while fostering social cohesion, education, literature, culture, and intellectual development. Through a wide range of social, educational, cultural, and publishing initiatives, the organization has played a significant role in encouraging knowledge sharing and lifelong learning. RAOWA commenced its activities in 1982 and was officially registered under its present name in 1984.

Recognizing the importance of reading culture and intellectual engagement, the RAOWA Library, Media and Publication Department has been organizing the RAOWA Book Fair annually since 2014. The fair is generally held over two or three days at the Helmet Hall on the second floor of the RAOWA Convention Hall, RAOWA Complex, Dhaka, usually between September and November. To maximize public participation, the event is scheduled to include one working day along with weekend days. The fair remains open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and entrance is free for all visitors.

The RAOWA Book Fair brings together authors, publishers, booksellers, and readers, promoting reading, knowledge exchange, and cultural enrichment. It features leading publishers such as Prothoma Prokashan, UPL, Mawla Brothers, and The Bookworm Bangladesh, offering books on literature, history, the Liberation War, religion, children's literature, academic subjects, and more.

Event Focus

RAOWA Book Fair

Contributed by Jesmine Ara
Assistant Librarian
Retired Armed Forces Officers Welfare
Association



The primary objective of the fair is to cultivate a culture of reading, strengthen the relationship between authors and readers, and provide a meaningful intellectual platform for retired armed forces officers, their families, and the wider community.

Guided by the motto "Read for Good" and the slogan "Develop the Habit of Reading—Whether in Service or Retirement", the fair seeks to inspire people of all ages to embrace books as lifelong companions.

The fair featured distinguished guests, student competitions, book launches, discussions, lectures, poetry, cultural programmes, and author–publisher sessions. Publishers receive certificates, with special recognition for the best publisher. Overall, the RAOWA Book Fair promotes reading, knowledge sharing, cultural enrichment, and a knowledge-based society.



Guided by the motto "Read for Good" and the slogan "Develop the Habit of Reading—Whether in Service or Retirement".

When Books Become a Bridge: The UAF Bibliotherapy Corner

Muhammad Umar Farooq
Chief Librarian
University of Agriculture,
Faisalabad (UAF)

“For librarians, message is simple but influential: we don't always need big budget to make our libraries visible and beneficial. Through innovation and thinking outside the box, library professionals can make a difference”.



University students regularly struggle with academic pressure, social isolation, financial stress, and excessive screen time. Recognizing these challenges, the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), under the visionary leadership of its Vice Chancellor, launched Pakistan's first formal Bibliotherapy Corner in its Main Library. The initiative shows how innovation can achieve significant impact with a zero budget. By bringing together four existing resources—library space, selected books, library staff, and volunteer psychologists—the UAF Library created a welcoming environment and a safe space where students receive both emotional support and guided reading. In partnership with Health 360, volunteer psychologists conduct counseling sessions, while library staff have indexed relevant books by themes such as exam anxiety, homesickness, self-confidence, and stress management, enabling students to quickly access the most helpful pages in the books. The outcome is promising. Within a short period, 76 students received free counseling and bibliotherapy support. Around 90% of the participants were female students, highlighting the importance of providing a safe, approachable, and stigma-free space for students seeking help. Students reported reduced anxiety, improved concentration during examinations, and greater confidence in pursuing their academic goals.

The initiative is expected to expand to other libraries. A team from the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) visited UAF, appreciated the model, and is exploring its replication in other university libraries across the province.

Event Focus

Generating Smart Data for Diverse Cultural Heritage Resources in the New Era of AI



Contributed by Tanjina Parvin
Junior Assistant Librarian,
BRAC University, Dhaka,
Bangladesh

Speaker: Marcia Lei Zeng

Professor Emeritus

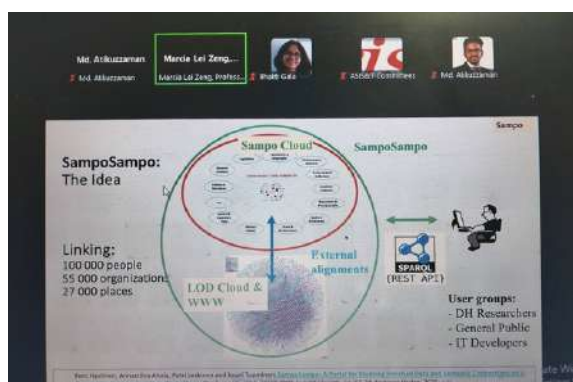
Professor of Information Science at Kent State University

Date: April 2, 2026

In collaboration with DCMI Education committee

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming knowledge organization, metadata management, and data organization by making data processing faster and more efficient. These ideas were highlighted during the webinar “Generating Smart Data for Diverse Cultural Heritage Resources in the New Era of AI” on April 2, 2026. The discussion emphasized that effective AI applications for cultural heritage require wellstructured vocabularies and domain-specific ontologies. It also stressed that the value of big data depends not only on its volume, velocity, and variety but also on removing noisy or irrelevant data. Once refined, data become smart data, providing meaningful and actionable information for cultural heritage management. AI plays a key role in transforming raw data into smart data by extracting semantic relationships, enriching metadata, and supporting the creation of shared ontologies that enable linked data. Linked data enhances accessibility of smart data by establishing relationships among entities. It improves semantic understanding in AI through ontologies and knowledge graphs, while enhancing data quality with common vocabularies that minimize ambiguity and inconsistencies. Additionally, it integrates metadata from multiple sources into a unified knowledge base. However, despite AI’s efficiency and time-saving capabilities, its outputs require careful human evaluation.

As Professor Marcia Lei Zeng concluded, AI-generated data may still contain inaccuracies, making critical assessment and cautious vocabulary selection essential for semantic web applications. Metadata quality and visibility are therefore fundamental to trustworthy linked data. If AI introduces incorrect information, those errors can propagate throughout linked datasets, misrepresenting cultural heritage resources and reducing the reliability of semantic relationships. Ultimately, the success of linked data depends not on the quantity of data but on trusted, valuable, and well-curated smart data that ensure accurate and meaningful knowledge connections. As a library professional, I learned from this webinar that metadata must be double-checked before generation and caution is advised when using AI tools for data validation to ensure centralized ontology services. I am immensely thankful to the South Asia Chapter, ASIS&T, for arranging such a significant and engaging webinar for the members.



Opening Doors Through Continuing Professional Development Independent (LIANZA member), New Zealand

**Contributed by Brendon Young
New Zealand**

From Indigenous knowledge, metadata and cataloguing to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, the learning continually broadened my perspective on the sector. With each new discovery, I came to appreciate just how diverse, dynamic, and interdisciplinary the profession really is.

Imagine starting your journey into the library and information profession without a recognised library qualification. For many, returning to university simply is not feasible because finances may be tight, or family and work commitments leave little room for formal library study. Feeling unsure where to begin, what opportunities exist, or how to get a foot in the door is a common hurdle. It was certainly the exact position I found myself in until I discovered the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa's (LIANZA) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) pathway.

After countless hours searching the internet for an alternative pathway into the profession, fuelled by more coffee than I care to admit, I eventually stumbled upon LIANZA's CPD pathway, which offered a flexible professional development route that could ultimately lead to professional recognition and was ideally suited to my circumstances while living in New Zealand. Needless to say, I jumped at the opportunity.

Through webinars, reflective writing, and documenting my ongoing learning, I gained a much deeper understanding of contemporary library and information practice while connecting with a supportive community of practitioners. From Indigenous knowledge, metadata and cataloguing to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, the learning continually broadened my perspective on the sector. With each new discovery, I came to appreciate just how diverse, dynamic, and interdisciplinary the profession really is.

Upon completing the LIANZA Certificate of Professional Development, I realised that the true achievement was not simply earning the certificate itself, but discovering the profession it represented. Through its inclusive and community-minded approach, LIANZA brought together experienced practitioners from across the sector, recognised diverse pathways into the profession, and created opportunities to learn, connect, and participate.

As one of the early participants in LIANZA's recently introduced CPD pathway, I feel fortunate to have experienced firsthand the opportunities it has created for those exploring the library and information profession. I hope sharing my journey sparks interest in flexible professional development, encouraging individuals to seek out similar pathways where they exist and inspiring professional communities to create them where they do not. Sometimes, all it takes is one open door to begin a new journey.

MEET & GREET Program

سلام
نمسته
نمسکار



Salaam Namaste Ayubowan: Giving Members a Voice

On May 14, 2026, the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter organized "Salaam Namaste Ayubowan", a Meet & Greet session for newly joined SLA members and members of the South Asia Chapter. Moderated by Satyam Kumar, Membership Officer, the event provided a welcoming platform for new participants to introduce themselves, share their ideas, expectations, and perspectives, and engage directly with chapter officers and advisors. The officers and advisors introduced their roles, responded to participants' questions, and discussed opportunities for greater involvement in chapter activities. The event fostered interaction and professional networking among members from across South Asia. Building on this initiative, the chapter plans to organize future meetings that will provide members with opportunities to present and share their work, ideas, and professional experiences with the wider South Asian LIS community.



MEET & GREET Program

سلام
नमस्ते
नमस्कार

Salaam Namaste
Ayubowan: Giving
Members a Voice

There are a few first-time participants who
have shared their experience:



Debashish: सलाम, नमस्ते, आयुबोवन' इवेंट एक ऐसा स्वागत करने वाला मंच था जिसने नए सदस्यों को अपने विचार और उम्मीदें साझा करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। चैप्टर लीडर्स और एडवाइज़र्स से मिलना और उनके भविष्य के विज़न के बारे में जानना प्रेरणादायक था। वॉलंटियर्स और प्रोफेशनल्स के साथ बातचीत ने एक दोस्ताना और सबको साथ लेकर चलने वाला माहौल बनाया। मैं चैप्टर की आने वाली पहलों, गतिविधियों और सदस्यों की भागीदारी के अवसरों का बेसब्री से इंतज़ार कर रहा हूँ। मैं भविष्य की मीटिंग्स में शामिल होने और ASIS&T साउथ एशिया चैप्टर की तरक्की में योगदान देने के लिए उत्साहित हूँ।

Sweta: A good day. I spent time with many enthusiastic professionals on a single platform to discuss their involvement, and they all shared their experiences. I couldn't speak for this time, but I experienced the session. Happy to see the young professionals being part of the leading team. Looking forward to more interactive sessions in the future. Thank you, South Asia Chapter.



Muskan: It was my first interaction with the officers. I learned how people get involved in ASIS&T and about upcoming opportunities. Excited to participate in upcoming programs hosted by the SA chapter.

Sriparna: Delighted to be a part of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter "Meet & Greet" program. I had a wonderful experience meeting with the members from different regions across South Asia and listening to their valuable words and experiences. I also learned about the chapter's vision. I am looking forward to more interactive and engaging sessions about diverse topics in library and information science. Thank You!



Event Focus

How AI Can Disrupt Traditional Learning: Some Insights from Sri Lanka

Speaker: Professor Ruwan Gamage, PhD
Director| National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS) | University of Colombo| Sri Lanka.

Date: April 12, 2026

An international webinar titled “How AI Can Disrupt Traditional Learning: Some Insights from Sri Lanka” was organized on April 12, 2026, as part of the project “AI-Driven LIS: Transforming Library and Information Science Education in South Asia through AI Integration in Pedagogy, Curriculum, and Assessment.” The project was supported by the ASIS&T Chapter Development Fund 2025–2027.

The webinar featured Professor Ruwan Gamage, PhD, Director of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, as the speaker. The session examined the disruptive potential of artificial intelligence in traditional learning, with particular emphasis on the Sri Lankan educational context. It explored both the opportunities and challenges associated with AI integration and highlighted emerging possibilities for transforming teaching, learning, pedagogy, and assessment in Library and Information Science (LIS) education.

The webinar was open to all and was promoted through ASIS&T iConnect and the chapter’s social media platforms. The outreach attracted 63 participants from different parts of the world, representing a diverse audience of LIS students, educators, researchers, and professionals.

The session was highly engaging, with an especially interactive Q&A discussion. Participants actively explored the potential applications of AI in LIS education, while also raising important questions concerning its challenges, implications, and responsible integration. The webinar thus provided a valuable international platform for exchanging perspectives on how AI can reshape traditional approaches to learning and contribute to the future of LIS education.



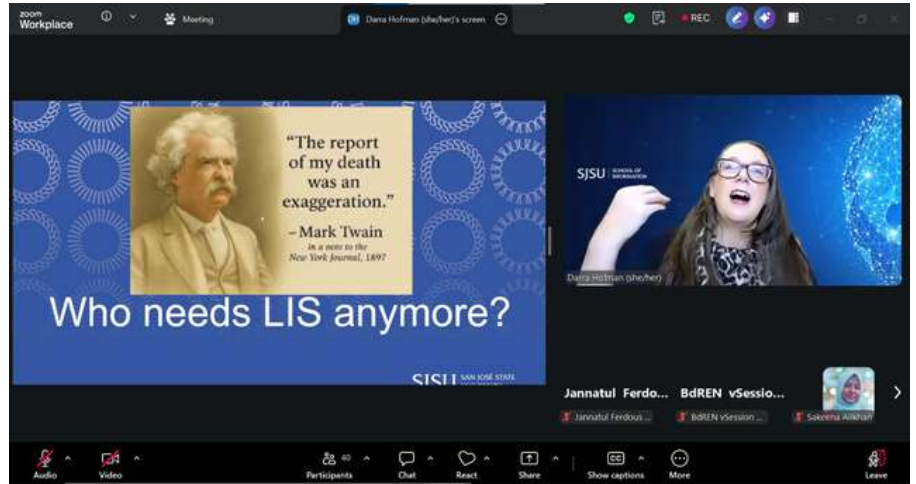
Note: This webinar was organized as part of the ongoing project “AI-Driven LIS: Transforming Library and Information Science Education in South Asia through AI Integration in Pedagogy, Curriculum, and Assessment,” supported by the ASIS&T Chapter Development Fund 2025–2027.

Event Focus

LIS Education and the Need for Information Literacy in the Age of AI

Speaker: Dr. Darra Hofman,
Program Coordinator of the Master of Archives and Records Administration at the School of Information |San José State University| California, USA

Date: May 14, 2026



asis&t International webinar on **asis&t**

LIS Education and the Need for Information Literacy in the Age of AI

Project name - AI-Driven LIS: Transforming Library and Information Science Education in South Asia through AI Integration in Pedagogy, Curriculum and Assessment

Date: May 14, 2026 (Thursday)
On Zoom:
• Meeting ID: 96046795551
• Passcode: 9146
Time (GMT+5):
• 2:00 PM, Bangladesh
• 6:30 PM, India
• 6:30 PM, Sri Lanka

Webinar Speaker

Dr. Darra Hofman
Program Coordinator
Masters of Archives and Records Administration
School of Information
San Jose State University, San Jose, California

Dr. Darra Hofman is an Assistant Professor and the Program Coordinator for the Masters of Archives and Records Administration in the School of Information at San Jose State University in San Jose, California. Hofman received her PhD in library, archival, and information science from the University of British Columbia in 2020. She completed her MSLIS from the University of Kentucky and her JD and BA Honors from Arizona State University. Hofman's research examines the intersection of recordkeeping, technology, and law. She is the principal investigator of the Cross-Campus Interdisciplinary Responsible Computing Learning Experiences (CIRCLE) Project, a Mozilla Foundation-funded project offering responsible computing curricular and extracurricular experiences for faculty and students from a variety of backgrounds.

Welcome speech **Moderator** **Closing remarks**

Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam
Project member & Advisor, ASIS&T SA Chapter

Md. Asfuzzaman
Project member & Chair, ASIS&T SA Chapter

Mrs. Sakina Ahsan
Project member & Chair Elect, ASIS&T SA Chapter

is ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ASIS&T) **is**

The international webinar “LIS Education and the Need for Information Literacy in the Age of AI,” held on May 14, 2026, featured Dr. Darra Hofman, Program Coordinator of the Master of Archives and Records Administration at the School of Information, San José State University, California, USA. The session examined the transformation of LIS education in the context of AI, highlighting the shift from digital fluency towards data and human-centred AI literacies while emphasizing the continuing centrality of information literacy. It explored the need for LIS education to move beyond tool-specific AI skills towards competencies in augmentation, transparency, ethical oversight, and critical engagement with AI systems. The discussion also highlighted the importance of lifelong-learning opportunities, including micro-credentials, intensive institutes, and fellowships, for both students and practicing professionals. The event was attended by 50 participants and provided an opportunity for discussion on preparing information professionals who can not only use AI tools but also critically evaluate and responsibly govern them.

Note: This webinar was organized as part of the ongoing project “AI-Driven LIS: Transforming Library and Information Science Education in South Asia through AI Integration in Pedagogy, Curriculum, and Assessment,” supported by the ASIS&T Chapter Development Fund 2025–2027.

Congratulations to Our Outstanding Members!



Jannatul Islam Muna
Junior Assistant Librarian
BRAC University, Dhaka,
Bangladesh



Satyam Kumar
Library Professional Trainee
Nalanda Library, Indian Institute
of Technology (IIT) Ropar,
Punjab, India

The ASIS&T South Asia Chapter Chapter is delighted to congratulate Satyam Kumar (India) and Jannatul Islam Muna (Bangladesh) for being selected as recipients of the 2026 ASIS&T New Leaders Award.

This prestigious recognition celebrates emerging leaders who have demonstrated exceptional commitment, leadership, and service to the ASIS&T community. Their dedication to advancing the field of information science and actively contributing to the Association truly reflects the spirit of this award.

We are incredibly proud to have both awardees representing the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter on the global stage. Your achievements inspire our community, and we wish you continued success in your professional and leadership journeys.

Please join us in congratulating Satyam Kumar and Jannatul Islam Muna on this well-deserved honor!

Recognition of Excellence

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE



Dilhani Munasinghe
Senior Assistant Librarian

Institute of Medicine (PGIM), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

The ASIS&T South Asia Chapter proudly congratulates Dilhani Munasinghe, a valued member of the Chapter, on receiving the 2026 ASIS&T James M. Matarazzo Rising Star Award, presented by the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T).

The award recognizes her outstanding potential in leadership and contributions to the information science profession. Her active engagement with ASIS&T includes receiving Second Place in the SIG-III International Paper Contest (2024), serving as a Jury Member for the SIG-III International Paper Contest (2025–2026), joining the ASIS&T Publication Committee (2026–2027), and reviewing submissions for the ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2026.

This recognition reflects her dedication to research, professional service, and scholarly communication in Library and Information Science. The South Asia Chapter extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dilhani on this distinguished achievement and wishes her continued success and growth in her academic and professional journey.



Md. Atikuzzaman
Assistant Professor

Noakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh

The ASIS&T South Asia Chapter is delighted to congratulate Md. Atikuzzaman, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Information Sciences, Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU), Bangladesh, and Chair of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter, on receiving the Deans Award for Teachers from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NSTU, in recognition of his outstanding research achievements in 2025.

He was honoured in four award categories:

- Best Researcher Award
- Research Contributing Award
- Highest Publishing Scholar Award
- Most Productive Researcher Award

The awards were presented during the NSTU Day celebration on 22 June 2026 by the Minister of Education of Bangladesh and the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh.

The ASIS&T South Asia Chapter extends its heartfelt congratulations to Md. Atikuzzaman on this remarkable achievement and wishes him continued success in advancing research, scholarship, and the library and information science profession both nationally and internationally.

AI-Driven LIS: Transforming Library and Information Science Education in South Asia through AI Integration in Pedagogy, Curriculum, and Assessment

ASIS&T South Asia Chapter
Project Period: May 2025–2027



The project, launched on 21 May 2025, has completed its first year with steady progress in regional collaboration, curriculum review, research preparation, capacity building, and professional outreach across South Asia.

Key Progress: May 2025–April 2026

- Project coordination: Five online team meetings were conducted to coordinate activities and review progress across India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.
- Curriculum review: LIS syllabi from India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka were collected and examined to identify the current level of AI integration and gaps in pedagogy and curriculum.
- AI expert mapping: A curated list of AI experts in Information Science was developed to support future consultation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.
- Regional survey: A comprehensive questionnaire was developed to gather the perspectives of LIS students, educators, and professionals on AI integration in LIS education. Validation and subsequent data collection are planned.
- Knowledge dissemination: Project activities and objectives were shared through the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter Newsletter and social media platforms.
- Capacity building: Project members are participating in the IDEA workshop to strengthen their understanding, collaboration, and project outcomes.

Next Phase

The project will move towards deeper regional engagement and curriculum development, including workshops at universities, a South Asia-wide survey, a prompt-making competition addressing real-world LIS challenges, collaboration with ASIS&T SIG-AI, and further webinars. The team also plans to present initial project findings at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Thailand. Ultimately, the project aims to develop an AI-integrated LIS module/syllabus framework that can be adapted by LIS programmes across South Asia and potentially other regions.

Overall, the first year has established the project's foundation through regional curriculum mapping, stakeholder engagement, research preparation, expert networking, and knowledge-sharing activities, setting the stage for the development and testing of AI-integrated approaches to LIS education.

Membership Initiatives

Strengthening Global LIS Connections: ASIS&T South Asia Chapter Engages with the Maldives LIS Community



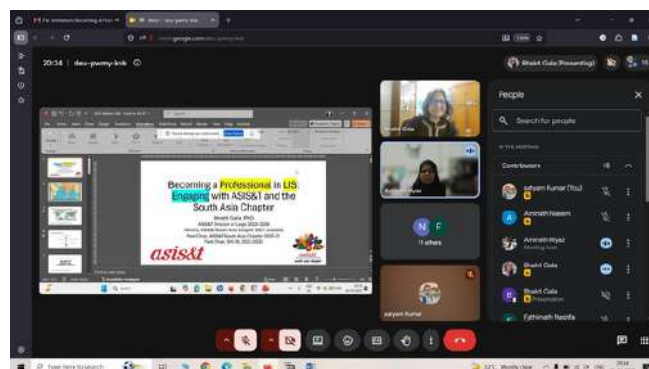
The ASIS&T South Asia Chapter recently organised an engaging session for Library and Information Science (LIS) students, professionals, and academicians from the Maldives. The session featured Dr Bhakti Gala, chapter advisor, ASIS&T Director at Large, and Assistant Professor at the Central University of Gujarat, India, who shared her inspiring professional journey and highlighted how active engagement with the global LIS community has opened numerous opportunities for growth, recognition, and collaboration. Drawing from her own experiences, she discussed the importance of professional networking, participation in international associations, and continuous learning in shaping a successful LIS career.

Dr Gala also introduced participants to the wide range of opportunities available through ASIS&T, including professional roles, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), leadership pathways, awards, publications, conferences, and networking opportunities. She emphasised that professional engagement helps individuals build their identities as they explore diverse career avenues within the information profession.

Mr Satyam Kumar, Membership Officer of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter and alumnus of the Central University of Gujarat, shared his personal journey within ASIS&T. He highlighted how involvement in chapter activities and various SIGs helped him expand his professional network, host and participate in webinars, contribute to newsletters, receive recognition, and gain valuable exposure through ASIS&T conferences and initiatives.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion where participants raised questions and shared their perspectives. Dr Gala addressed their concerns and encouraged greater participation from the Maldives LIS community in ASIS&T activities. The Chapter warmly welcomed all participants and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting their professional growth and development.

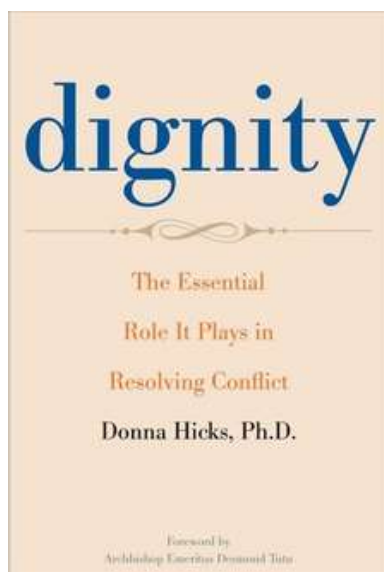
We extend our best wishes to all participants and look forward to fostering stronger collaborations with the Maldives LIS community in the future.





READING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR ADVISORS

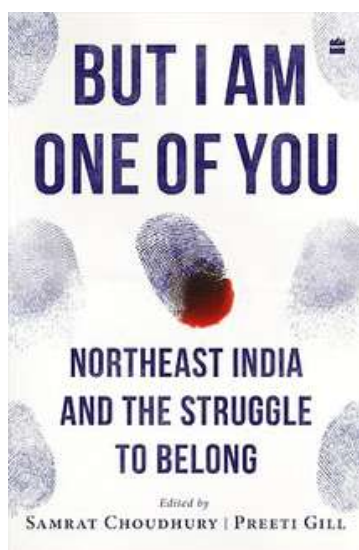
'DIGNITY' BY DONNA HICKS



This book was recommended to me by Professor Abebe Rorissa. It talks about keeping human dignity central in all our conversations, and its essential role in resolving conflict. It should be a good book for aspiring leaders.

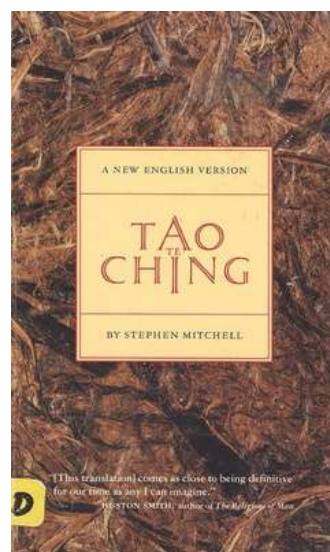
BUT I AM ONE OF YOU'

'But I am one of you' edited by Samrat Choudhury and Preeti Gill: It brings together a variety of voices by different communities in Northeast India on the idea of who belongs and who does not, and the human struggle for belonging.



NARESH AGARWAL, PhD
CHAPTER ADVISOR
2018-PRESENT

TAO TE CHING' BY LAOZI



'Tao Te Ching' by Laozi (Stephen Mitchell's version): In a world where everyone is aspiring for productivity, this book talks about how "non-doing" can solve a lot of things. It's a great little book to calm your mind.

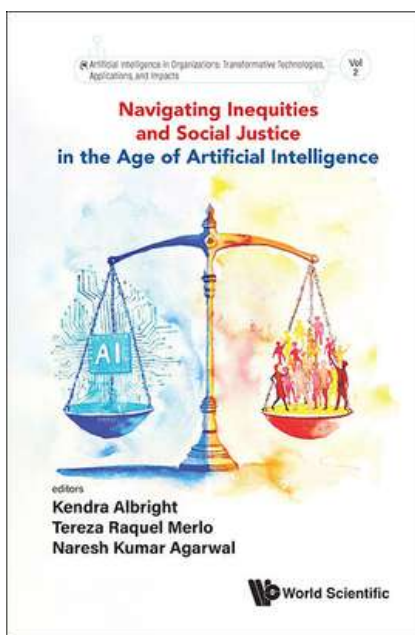


READING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR ADVISORS



MD. ANWARUL ISLAM, PhD
CHAPTER ADVISOR
2021-PRESENT

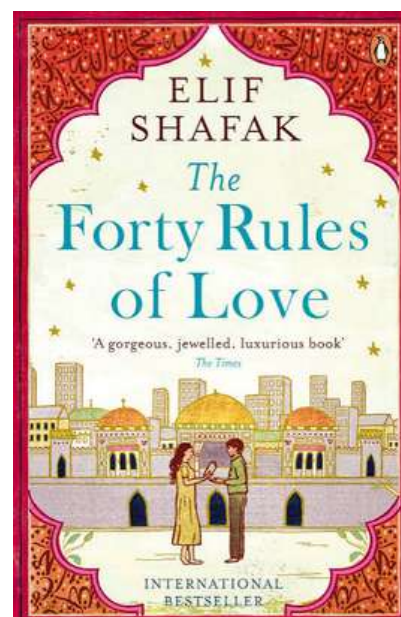
NAVIGATING INEQUITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE'



Considering the challenges and opportunities of the present time, I would recommend our members read 'Navigating Inequities and Social Justice in the Age of Artificial Intelligence' by Kendra Albright, Tereza Raquel Merlo & Naresh Kumar Agarwal.

THE FORTY RULES OF LOVE

a thought-provoking novel that explores themes of love, humanity, spirituality, and personal transformation.



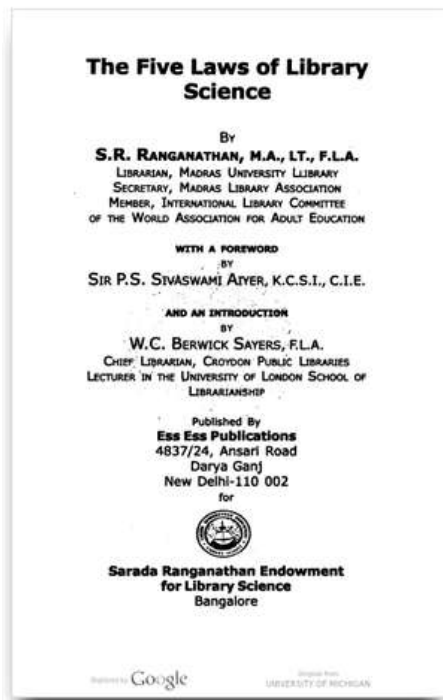


READING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR ADVISORS

THE FIVE LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE BY S R RANGANATHAN



BHAKTI GALA, PhD
CHAPTER ADVISOR
2022-PRESENT

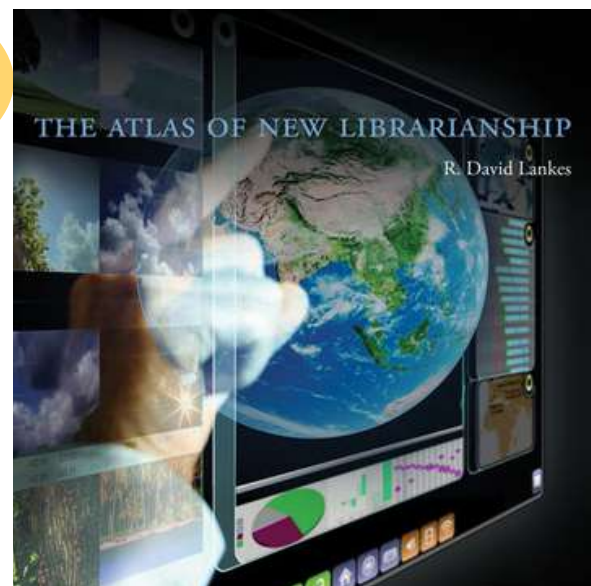


The Five Laws of Library Science by S R Ranganathan, published in 1931 by the Madras Library Association with a foreword by W. C. Berwick Sayers. As one of the key texts for understanding the philosophy of librarianship, it remains remarkably relevant in the age of digital libraries, AI, and user-centred services.

The full text is available online through the Internet Archive and Hathi Trust.

THE ATLAS ON NEW LIBRARIANSHIP

In the book, *The Atlas on New Librarianship*, by David R. Lankes, published in 2011 by ACRL and MIT Press, Lankes reimagines librarians as facilitators, stating that “The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.



Overview of Activities

South Asia Chapter Activities Timeline 2025-26 Period



Membership Initiatives



A regional professional community becomes stronger when emerging LIS communities, students, early-career professionals, and members from countries that have been less connected are given opportunities to participate. Inclusive membership broadens perspectives, strengthens regional networks, and ensures that ASIS&T reflects the diverse experiences and needs of the South Asian LIS community.

The ASIS&T South Asia Chapter has strengthened membership through direct outreach, social media engagement, orientation sessions, and regional activities. More than 150 prospective members were contacted personally, while membership promotions were shared through social media. The chapter’s LinkedIn page has grown to 330 followers. Initiatives such as the Salam Namaste Ayuban gathering and small-group orientation sessions helped new members connect with chapter leaders and explore ASIS&T resources and opportunities. The chapter also renewed engagement with the Maldives LIS community, introducing professionals and students to ASIS&T membership, networking, leadership, awards, and professional development opportunities.

A small-group orientation introduced new members to ASIS&T resources, Chapters, SIGs, publications, and participation opportunities. The Salaam Namaste Ayubowan gathering created a welcoming space for members and new participants to connect, share experiences, and engage with chapter leadership. The chapter also reconnected with the Maldives LIS community, encouraging professionals and students to explore ASIS&T membership, networking, leadership, awards, and professional development opportunities.

These activities emphasize that membership is not simply about joining ASIS&T—it is about participating, connecting, learning, contributing, and growing within a global professional community.

KEEPING MEMBERS CONNECTED

Membership communication has expanded across LinkedIn, email, WhatsApp, Facebook, and direct communication with chapter officers.

Enquiries regarding membership, renewals, and ASIS&T opportunities have increased.

Promotion of chapter webinars and programmes across multiple platforms has further helped introduce ASIS&T to potential members.

- LinkedIn
- Email
- WhatsApp
- Facebook
- Direct Contact

2025-26 OFFICERS

ASIS&T SOUTH ASIA CHAPTER



Md. Atikuzzaman

Chair
Bangladesh



Sakeena Alikhan

Chair-Elect
Sri Lanka



Jannatul Islam Muna
Secretary
Bangladesh



Qazi Imran Ahmad
Treasurer
Pakistan



Syamili C.
Newsletter Officer
India



Sameer Sahu
Webmaster
India



Satyam Kumar
Membership Officer
India



Sourav Debnath
Past Chair
India

CHAPTER ADVISORS



Naresh Agarwal
Chapter Advisor
USA



Md. Anwarul Islam
Chapter Advisor
Bangladesh



Bhakti Gala
Chapter Advisor
India

Overview of Activities

Call for Contributions – November 2026 Newsletter

The ASIS&T South Asia Chapter invites contributions for the November 2026 Newsletter, showcasing the achievements, ideas, innovations, and experiences of the LIS community across South Asia. Contributions of 200–400 words are welcome under categories including Research Spotlight, Best Practices, Student Corner, Early Career Researcher Corner, Conference Watch, Awards & Achievements, Library Story, Technology in Practice, Opinion/Thought Piece, and Member Contributions.

Your contributions help strengthen our professional community by sharing knowledge, celebrating achievements, and inspiring collaboration across the region.

Submit your contribution: [Contribution Submission Form](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at drsyamili@uoc.ac.in.

We look forward to receiving your valuable contributions and making this edition a vibrant reflection of the South Asian LIS community.

A Note from the Newsletter Team

We are pleased to bring you Vol. 5, Issue 2 of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter Newsletter. This issue reflects the vibrant activities, achievements, and collective efforts of our chapter community across South Asia.

We hope this edition offers a glimpse into our shared journey and inspires continued connection, collaboration, and participation. We warmly welcome your ideas, stories, achievements, and contributions for future issues.

Happy reading, and thank you for being part of our journey!

– ASIS&T South Asia Chapter Newsletter Team

Newsletter Team



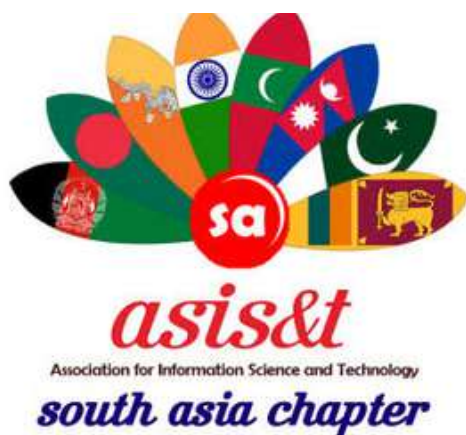
Syamili C



Satyam Kumar



Jannatul Islam Muna



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

**AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA
NEPAL, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA**