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Acknowledgements



PDW-LIS 2024

Professional Development Workshop on Library & Information Services

The exposure trip overseas aims to provide participants from the Maldives with a comprehensive understanding of the latest trends and innovations in library and information science (LIS) in other countries. The guided tours supplemented with workshop sessions offer participants an opportunity to explore state-of-the-art libraries and institutes that have embraced digital technologies, innovative services, and interactive learning spaces.

Specific Objectives

- Explore advanced library and information services concepts and emerging trends in the field.
- Understand the role of libraries in the digital age and their impact on knowledge dissemination.
- Discover innovative technologies and services implemented in modern information services.
- Gain insights into library management practices, including collection development and user engagement strategies.
- Foster networking opportunities with LIS professionals, researchers, and fellow participants.

PD Workshop Series

The professional development workshop was introduced as a supplementary annual learning event with the initiation of the final-year students of the first cohort of Bachelor of Arts (Library and Information Management) [BALIM] of the Maldives National University. BALIM course was approved by the Maldives Qualifications Authority in 2021 and the first batch of students graduated in May 2024. The first workshop was conducted in Singapore, in 2023, titled 'BALIM/MLA Professional Development Workshop for Librarians (PDWL)'. The Professional Development Workshop 2024 was hosted in Indonesia.

1. Some of the 2023 PDWL participants outside the Singapore Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Library
2. Checking out Robby the Library Robot at Temasek Polytechnic Library
3. Workshop Session on Reference Services at NTU, Singapore
4. Information Session at Singapore University of Technology & Design
5. A read-aloud story time experience at Tanglin School's Primary Library
6. Participants and special invitees at the PDWL Closing Ceremony at the Maldives National University

CLICKS FROM THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR LIBRARIANS HELD IN SINGAPORE, 2023

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PDW-LIS 2024

WORKSHOP SESSION 3

Learning Outcomes & Implementation Planning- Future of the Maldives

Workshop Session 2: Lead facilitator, Dr. Gina de Alwis Jayasuriya

A snippet of the Workshop Report PDW-LIS 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/PDWLIS2024>

Part 2. Discussion, Recommendations and Plan of Action

The assignment for participants to create presentations focusing on one of the three broad themes worked very well. All the pre-recorded video submissions were screened during the workshop session and **offered insights into ongoing or planned projects**. The discussions show that the colleagues **face similar challenges, though on different scales**. The session facilitated great conversations to plan the way forward and participants shared they were impressed with the work done by some of their colleagues. One project which particularly stood out was Project 'Saruna', the Maldives National University Library Digital Repository. **The follow-up discussion was steered towards common challenges and potential projects that could be implemented in the short-term (1-2 years) to medium-term (3-5 years) for immediate benefits and impact.**

Common Challenges & Potential Projects in the Short to Medium Term

- **Utilisation of library spaces.** Two participants shared their proposed/approved plans for renovating libraries and the discussion revolved around adapting available spaces to meet seasonal user needs; storage of little-used library materials, etc.
- **Collection management.** Strategies for managing the collection more effectively viz a viz currency of the collection, space constraints, etc.
- **Identifying information needs of users.** The discussion revolved around the need to reach out to users in their comfort zones and the provision of targeted information services.
- **The potential of opening an Education Centre library in an atoll to the community.** Establish feasibility and timeline to start the project.
- **Importance of networking for libraries.** Explored the importance for the Maldives LIS community to establish formalised networking groups, for example, for the largest of the LIS community, the school librarians to engage more effectively with stakeholders and funders, and the development of guidelines.
- **Developing a set of Guidelines for School libraries.** The focus was on who should initiate and lead the project during the preliminary stages.

“The Surabaya PDW-LIS 2024 exceeded my expectations. The energetic group of participants demonstrated their passion for learning throughout the journey which was meticulously planned and led by the dedicated Coordinator. This augurs well for the future of LIS in the Maldives. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of a great experience.”
(Gina de Alwis Jayasuriya)

At the end of the session, **the participants completed Worksheet 1**, reflecting on the PDW-LIS 2024 experience and key takeaways for implementing the individual projects.

Individual Professional Development Journey

Following a short presentation, participants **completed Worksheet 2, Individual Professional Development Journey**, which enabled them to focus on their career pathway. It was an opportunity for the participants to reflect on their professional and behavioural (soft) skill sets and steps to take to expand the skills portfolio based on their individual career plans.

