



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

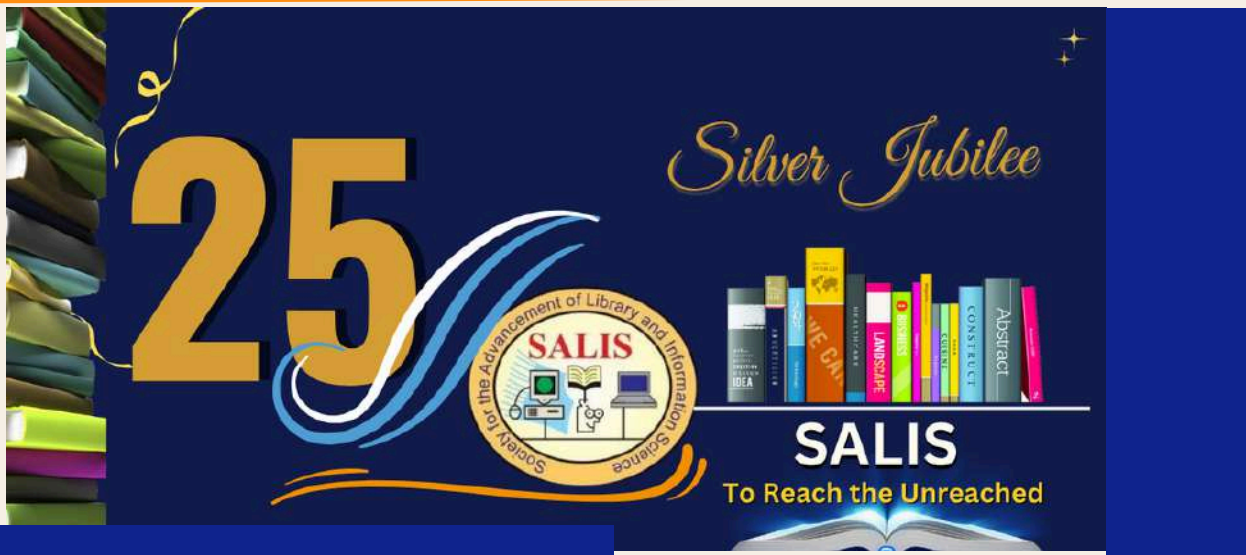
www.salis.in

Tel: 044-22532448

Dr. A. Hariharan
Founder President

Dr. A. M. Venkatachalam
President

Dr. T. Magudeeswaran
General Secretary



Editorial

Librarians in the Age of AI: Redefining Service for a Smarter Future

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed how information is created, accessed, and consumed. In this evolving landscape, librarians are no longer just custodians of books; they are navigators of knowledge ecosystems. To provide effective services in the AI age, librarians must adapt, innovate, and reaffirm their role as trusted information professionals.

At the heart of librarianship lies the commitment to connect users with reliable and relevant information. In an era where AI tools can generate vast amounts of content instantly, the challenge is no longer scarcity but overabundance—and often, misinformation.

Librarians must step forward as critical evaluators, helping users distinguish between credible sources and AI-generated inaccuracies. Information literacy training should now include AI literacy, teaching users how algorithms work, their limitations, and the importance of verification.

Personalized services are another area where librarians can excel. AI enables tailored recommendations, predictive search, and user behavior analysis. Librarians can leverage these tools to better understand user needs and deliver customized resources. However, the human touch remains irreplaceable. Empathy, ethical judgment, and contextual understanding are qualities that AI cannot replicate. By combining technological tools with human insight, librarians can offer a more holistic service experience.

Moreover, librarians must embrace continuous learning. The AI landscape evolves rapidly, and staying updated with new tools, platforms, and trends is essential. Professional development programs, workshops, and collaborations with technology experts can empower librarians to integrate AI effectively into their services. This includes using AI for cataloging, metadata generation, digital archiving, and even virtual reference services.

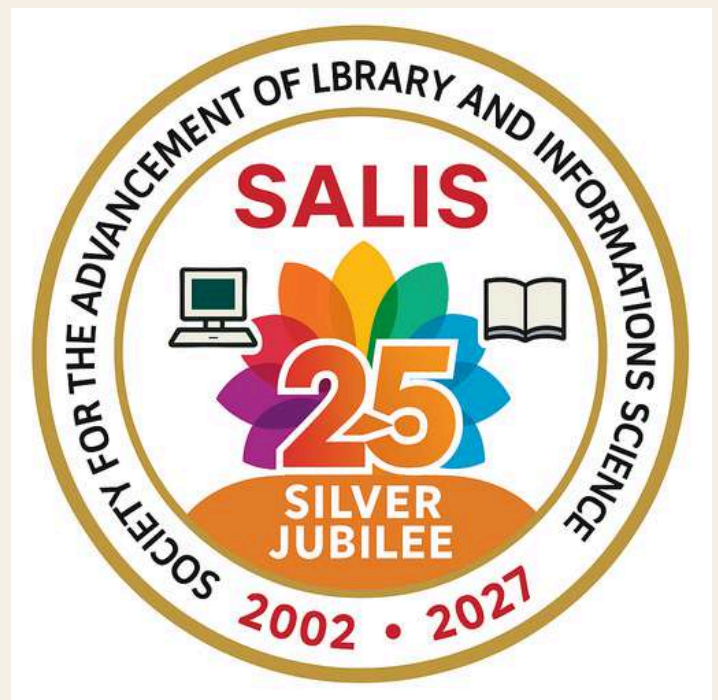
Ethics and privacy are critical concerns in the AI age. Librarians have long been advocates for user privacy and intellectual freedom. As AI systems often rely on data collection and surveillance, librarians must ensure that user data is protected and that AI tools are used responsibly. Transparent policies, informed consent, and ethical guidelines should guide the adoption of AI in libraries.

Another important dimension is inclusivity. AI has the potential to bridge gaps but can also reinforce biases if not carefully managed. Librarians should ensure that AI-powered services are accessible to diverse populations, including those with disabilities or limited digital skills. Providing training sessions, multilingual resources, and assistive technologies can help create an inclusive information environment.

Collaboration is also key. Librarians should work with educators, technologists, and policymakers to shape the future of information services. Libraries can serve as community hubs where people learn about AI, experiment with new tools, and engage in meaningful discussions about technology and society.

Finally, the role of libraries as physical and digital spaces must be reimagined. While AI enhances virtual access, libraries remain vital community centers for learning, creativity, and collaboration. Makerspaces, digital labs, and AI learning corners can transform libraries into innovation hubs.

In conclusion, the AI age presents both challenges and opportunities for librarians. By embracing technology, upholding ethical values, and focusing on user-centered services, librarians can remain indispensable in the digital era. Their role as guides, educators, and guardians of knowledge is more important than ever, ensuring that information serves humanity in meaningful and responsible ways.



International Conference on Knowledge Access to Knowledge Equity: Libraries' Contribution to a Sustainable Nation (Viksit Bharat)

Organized by

Ananda Rangapillai Library
Pondicherry University



In Collaboration with

**Society for the Advancement of
Library & Information Science, Chennai**



October 29–31, 2026

About the Conference

Ananda Rangapillai Library proposes to organize an International Conference titled:

“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 of Pondicherry University.

This prestigious conference aims to bring together academicians, **librarians**, **researchers** and professionals to deliberate on the evolving role of libraries in promoting equitable access to knowledge and contributing towards the vision of a sustainable and developed nation under Viksit Bharat.

Who Can Participate?

- Librarians
- Faculty Members
- Researchers & Scholars
- Information Professionals
- Students of Library & Information Science

Key Highlights

- ▶ Expert Talks
- ▶ Research Paper Presentations
- ▶ Panel Discussions
- ▶ Networking Opportunities
- ▶ Emerging Trends in Library & Information Science

Contact

Dr. M. Vijayakumar

University Librarian

Pondicherry University

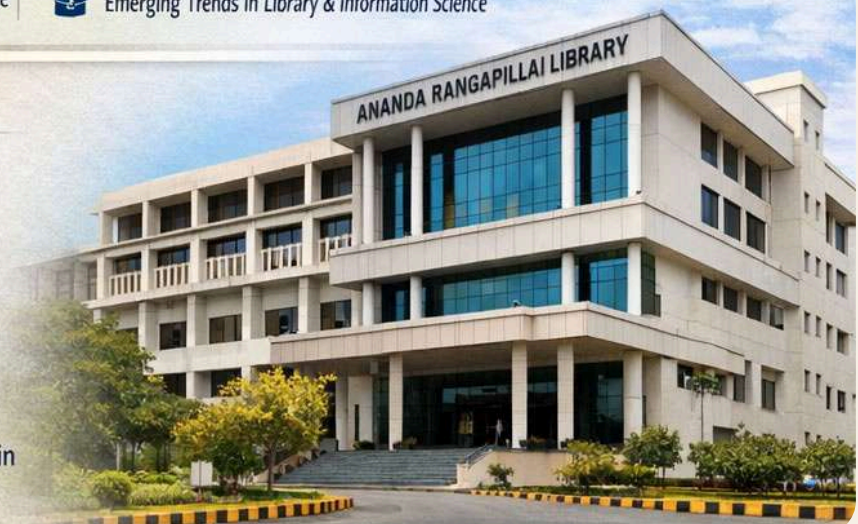
Puducherry

+91 94307 02887

librarian@pondiuni.ac.in

www.pondiuni.edu.in | www.salis.in

Pondicherry University, Puducherry



ALAI: International Women's Day Celebration 2026

The programme ALAI (Tamil: அலை, meaning wave) symbolizes momentum, and the dynamic circulation of ideas. Alai was organised as part of the 70th Anniversary Celebrations of the Institut Français de Pondichéry (IFP) and the Silver Jubilee (25 Years) of the Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), in commemoration of International Women's Day 2026. Conceived as a five-day series of academic and community-oriented engagements, ALAI aimed to foster reading, dialogue, and collective reflection on women's voices, knowledge, and social participation. The initiative brought together students, researchers, faculty members, and members of the public, creating a vibrant space for intellectual exchange both within and beyond the campus.

The programme commenced with the Readathon, a six-day online reading initiative designed to encourage participants to reclaim sustained reading time within demanding academic and professional schedules. Through the dedicated online platform, participants engaged in intentional reading and reflective participation, contributing to a renewed culture of reading and critical engagement.

Parallel to the Readathon, a Book Display curated by the Social Sciences Department was organised at the Reading Hall of the Institut Français de Pondichéry. The display featured a curated selection of books focusing on Women and Gender Studies, encouraging visitors throughout the week to explore literature related to women's histories, experiences, and intellectual contributions.

The programme also included participatory activities held on Day 1 (2 March 2026, Monday, 2:00–4:00 PM) at Parampara Hall, IFP. These activities included an Essay Writing Competition titled "The Woman Who Inspired Me the Most." Participants were invited to write reflective essays on women who have significantly influenced their personal or social lives, highlighting their values, achievements, and contributions. Additionally, a Bookmark Designing Competition was organised, encouraging creative expression around themes of women's empowerment, resilience, and leadership. A total of 25 bookmark entries and 4 essay submissions were received from participants.



A significant highlight of the programme was the Book Talk held on Day 2 (3 March 2026, Tuesday, 5:00–6:30 PM) at Nehru Hall, IFP. The session featured a discussion on the book *A Woman of No Consequence: Memory, Letters and Resistance in Madras* by Kalpana Karunakaran. The talk provided valuable insights into the intersections of memory, archival documentation, and women's resistance in historical narratives, generating thoughtful discussion among attendees.

On Day 3 (4 March 2026, Wednesday, 2:00–3:00 PM), a Documentary Screening was organised at the Reading Hall of IFP. The documentary *Period. End of Sentence.* Directed by Rayka Zehtabchi was screened, highlighting themes of menstrual health, dignity, and women's entrepreneurship. The screening prompted reflection on gendered experiences and the role of social awareness in addressing menstrual health issues.

The programme extended its outreach to the community through a Community Outreach Session held on Day 4 (5 March 2026, Thursday, 10:00–11:00 AM) in collaboration with Société Progressiste Govt. Aided High School, Puducherry. The session involved a storytelling programme for students of Grades 4 and 5, aimed at nurturing reading habits and fostering early awareness of women's contributions and experiences. The session was facilitated by Asha Helen, Archaeologist and Research Assistant at the Institut Français de Pondichéry.



The programme culminated on Day 5 (6 March 2026, Friday, 10:00–11:00 AM) with a Panel Discussion titled “Voices of Women.” The discussion brought together distinguished speakers from diverse professional fields, including literature, healthcare, education, research, STEM, and social work. The panel featured Dr. Amirthavalli (Assistant Professor & Novelist Author of *Senkeni* (Award Winner)), Dr. Vanaja Vaithyanathan (Founder, Medical Director, Jothi Eye Care Center), Salai Selvam (Children's & Women's Rights Activist, Writer & Educational Advocate), Dr. Geetha V (Professor & Head, Information Technology, PTU),

Dr. Lakshmi Krishnakumar Nambuthodiyil (Doctoral Researcher, IFP), and Dr. Sakthi Rekha (POSH Advisor & Former Librarian, Co-Founder, Voice of People). The panel discussion featured speakers with diverse life experiences. This diversity made the session particularly engaging, as it encouraged not only learning but also the unlearning of certain preconceived ideas. The conversation highlighted the varied realities of women's experiences. The discussion underscored the importance of dialogue and shared experiences in gradually broadening perspectives and fostering greater understanding.

The week-long ALAI Women's Day programme concluded on a vibrant and engaging note. While public discourse on Women's Day often foregrounds narratives of extraordinary female achievement, the series of events created space for reflection on the more nuanced and lived experiences of womanhood.

Overall, ALAI provided a dynamic platform for reading, reflection, dialogue, and community engagement. By integrating literary, creative, and academic activities, the initiative underscored the importance of intellectual exchange and collective participation in nurturing a thoughtful and inclusive scholarly community, while fostering greater sensitivity to women's experiences and contributions.*

Blood Donation Camp

As part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of SALIS, Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), Puducherry Chapter organized a Blood Donation Camp in collaboration with Tagore Government Arts and Science College, French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), NCC, NSS, Red Ribbon Club on 19/03/2026 at Sri Aurobindo Library of Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Puducherry as part of its ongoing commitment to community engagement and social responsibility. Conducted with the support of JIPMER (Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research), the initiative aimed to support local healthcare systems by augmenting safe blood reserves while simultaneously promoting awareness about voluntary blood donation among students, researchers, staff, and the general public. The camp was widely publicized through institutional communication channels and local outreach, ensuring inclusive participation from both the academic community and residents in and around Puducherry. A qualified medical team oversaw the entire process, including pre-donation screening, blood collection, and post-donation care, adhering strictly to established medical and safety protocols.



The camp witnessed encouraging participation, with a total of over 100 individuals registering for donation, out of which 67 successfully donated blood, while the rest were deferred based on medical criteria. Notably, over half of the participants were first-time donors, reflecting the success of awareness efforts, and a significant number of donors were from outside the institution, highlighting effective community outreach. The initiative contributed meaningfully to strengthening local blood bank reserves and reinforced the importance of regular voluntary blood donation. The event was supported by dedicated volunteers who facilitated smooth coordination, donor assistance, and post-donation care, ensuring a safe and efficient experience for all participants.



Overall, the Blood Donation Camp was successfully conducted and served as an impactful platform for fostering civic responsibility and institutional outreach. The positive response underscores the potential for organizing similar initiatives on a regular basis. We have to thank to the Students and other volunteers, Dr. P.C. Deepak, Librarian and his Team from Tagore Arts and Science College, JIPMER Team and SALIS Team (Dr. M. Leeladharan, Mr. M. Kanagasabai, Mrs. V. Annapoorani, Dr. Nayana Nair & Dr. G. Saravanan).*



SALIS YEAR PLANNER 2026 RELEASING FUNCTION

The SALIS Tirunelveli Chapter organized the SALIS Annual Year Planner Release Function on 9th January 2026 at the premises of St. Xavier's College of Education.

Dr. K. Mutharasan, Librarian, Pope's College, Sawyerpuram, and Chairman of the SALIS Tirunelveli Chapter, welcomed the gathering.

Dr. R. R. Saravanakumar, Librarian, Sadakathullah Appa College and Vice Chairman of the SALIS Tirunelveli Chapter; Mr. S. Pirama Nayagam, Retired Librarian, District Central Library, Tenkasi District, and Joint Secretary of the SALIS Tirunelveli Chapter; and Dr. S. Kopperundevi, University Deputy Librarian, Veterinary College and Research Institute (TANUVAS), delivered their felicitation addresses.



Dr. A. Muthukrishnan, Retired Inspector of Libraries, Department of Public Libraries, and Advisor of the SALIS Tirunelveli Chapter, presided over the function and delivered the presidential address.

Dr. S. Mahadevan, Dean and Head, Department of Tamil, Sadakathullah Appa College, was the Chief Guest. He released the Planner 2026 and delivered the keynote address. In his speech, he highly appreciated the vital role of librarians in both academic and public libraries.

Dr. P. Balasubramanian, University Librarian and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, was the Special Invitee and received the first copy of the Planner 2026.

Dr. T. Raja, Librarian of St. Xavier's College of Education and Vice President of SALIS, shared important announcements regarding the upcoming Silver Jubilee celebrations and presented the financial status of the chapter.

Dr. R. Muthamilarasi, Librarian, Sri KGS College and Secretary of the SALIS Tirunelveli Chapter, proposed the vote of thanks.





Greetings from
**Society for the Advancement of Library and
Information Science (SALIS), Chennai**



SILVER JUBILEE (25 YEARS) CELEBRATION SALIS

We are delighted to invite you to join us in celebrating the Silver Jubilee, marking a significant milestone in our journey of promoting excellence

Your continuous support, active participation, and valuable contributions have played a vital role in the growth and success of our association over the past 25 years.

This special occasion is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements, strengthen professional networks, and envision the future of the LIS community.

We cordially invite all members to grace the Silver Jubilee Celebration with their presence and make this memorable event a grand success.



EVENT DETAILS

Date: 16.05.2026 (Saturday)
Time: 10:00am to 04:00pm



VENUE

Visveswaraya Hall,
K.S. Rangasamy College of
Technology,
Tiruchengode, Namakkal Dist



REGISTRATION

<https://forms.gle/1ZkNiBus1tyYVgY29>

Registration Form

NOTE

- No Registration Fee
- Memento & Certificate will be provided to the Participants
- Last Date for Registration: 20.04.2026 (Monday)

Let us celebrate 25 years of knowledge sharing, collaboration, and professional excellence together. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation.

With Warm Regards,
Founder President President General Secretary
SALIS

Decolonising Our Shelves

Anna Poorani Viswanathan
Librarian, Institut Français de Pondichéry
(IFP), Pondichéry.

Librarians are often seen as neutral keepers of books, but in reality, every choice we make—what to include, what to leave out, and how to organise materials—shapes the way knowledge is understood. Because of this, it is important for librarians to keep questioning their own perspectives and to understand the lived experiences of different communities.

Our perspectives are influenced by our education, language, and social background. If we do not challenge these, we may unintentionally build collections that favour only certain voices—often those already well represented in mainstream publishing. For example, a library focusing on Indian history might have many books written in English by well-known scholars but very few works in regional languages or materials that reflect local community experiences. This creates a gap in how knowledge is represented.

Empathy helps librarians address this issue. By paying attention to lived experiences, librarians begin to see the value of materials that may not always be considered “academic,” such as oral histories, field reports, or small community publications. These sources provide insights into everyday life, culture, and social realities that are often missing from formal research.

This approach directly affects how collections are built. A librarian who is open to different perspectives may actively look for books in multiple languages, include works by underrepresented authors, or collect materials produced by local communities. For instance, instead of only collecting published books on tribal communities, the library might also include interviews, reports by local organisations, or documents created by the communities themselves.

In the end, building a collection is not just about gathering information—it is about representing knowledge in a fair and balanced way. When librarians challenge their assumptions and listen to diverse experiences, they create collections that are richer, more inclusive, and more useful for everyone.*



India's PhD Boom vs China's Innovation Boom: A Simple Perspective

In today's knowledge-driven world, education and research play a major role in a country's development. The article highlights an important comparison between India and China—two fast-growing nations—with a focus on higher education and innovation. While India is experiencing a rapid increase in PhD graduates, China is making strong progress in innovation and research impact.

India has significantly expanded its higher education system over the past two decades. Universities are producing a large number of PhD holders across various fields. This growth shows the country's commitment to education and academic development. However, the main concern is that many of these research works do not always lead to real-world applications. Often, research remains theoretical, with limited connection to industry needs. As a result, the impact on technology, economy, and society is not as strong as expected.

On the other hand, China has focused on linking research with industry and national goals. Its universities, industries, and government work closely together. Research in China is often practical and result-oriented, leading to innovations, patents, and new technologies. This strong collaboration ensures that ideas are converted into useful products and services. China also invests heavily in research and development, providing advanced infrastructure and funding support.

Another difference lies in research culture. In India, the focus is sometimes on completing degrees rather than producing quality research.

Issues like lack of proper guidance, limited funding, and weak industry connections affect outcomes. In contrast, China encourages accountability, innovation, and measurable results. Researchers are motivated to create impactful work that contributes to national growth.

India has great potential with its talented researchers and large academic base. To improve, it needs to focus more on quality rather than quantity. Strengthening industry collaboration, improving funding, and encouraging innovation-driven research can help bridge the gap.

In conclusion, while India is producing more PhDs, China is leading in innovation. The real success lies not just in earning degrees but in making those degrees meaningful through impactful research and practical contributions to society.

Source: The Kashmir Horizon, Editorial Article titled "India's PhD Boom, China's Innovation Boom" by R.K. Uppal, March 19, 2026.

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