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UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA



RCSS
Research Centre for Social sciences
University of Kelaniya

1ST INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON PALM LEAF MANUSCRIPTS

IRCPM - 2026

“Use and Role of Palm Leaf Manuscripts in the Conservation and
Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge”

20th March 2026



About the Conference

The Palm Leaf Manuscript Study and Research Library of the University of Kelaniya is a premier academic and heritage-focused institution dedicated to the study, preservation, conservation, and scholarly utilization of palm leaf manuscripts, which constitute one of the most significant documentary heritages of Sri Lanka and South Asia.

Sri Lanka possesses a rich and continuous tradition of palm leaf manuscripts spanning over many centuries, covering diverse fields such as Buddhism, philosophy, medicine (Ayurveda), astrology, history, law, linguistics, literature, art, and indigenous knowledge systems. Recognizing the urgent need to safeguard this fragile yet invaluable heritage, the Palm Leaf Manuscript Study and Research Library was established as a specialized unit to serve as a national and international hub for research, training, and collaboration in palm leaf manuscript studies.

The Centre functions as an interdisciplinary platform bringing together scholars, librarians, archivists, conservators, historians, linguists, and digital humanities experts. Its activities include manuscript documentation, cataloguing, conservation and preservation practices, digitization initiatives, academic research, capacity building programs, workshops, and international conferences. Through these efforts, the Centre contributes significantly to both heritage preservation and knowledge creation.

Aligned with the academic mission of the University of Kelaniya, the Palm Leaf Manuscript Study and Research Library also plays a vital role in teaching and postgraduate research, supporting students and researchers engaged in manuscript-based studies. Furthermore, the Centre actively promotes national and international collaboration, ensuring that Sri Lanka's palm leaf manuscript heritage is preserved, studied, and made accessible to future generations while remaining relevant to contemporary scholarship.

Aim of the Conference

The primary objective of the International Conference on Palm Leaf Manuscripts is to establish a global academic forum dedicated to the exploration, discussion, and promotion of the utilization, significance, conservation, and preservation of palm leaf manuscripts. These manuscripts serve as invaluable repositories of indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage, and intellectual traditions. The conference will place particular emphasis on interdisciplinary research and foster international collaboration in



Objective of the Conference

1. To highlight the scholarly, cultural, and historical significance of palm leaf manuscripts in preserving indigenous knowledge systems across Asia and other regions.
2. To encourage interdisciplinary research involving library and information science, archaeology, history, linguistics, conservation science, digital humanities, and cultural studies related to palm leaf manuscripts.
3. To share best practices and innovative techniques for the conservation, preservation, digitization, and sustainable management of palm leaf manuscripts.
4. To examine the role of palm leaf manuscripts in contemporary knowledge systems, education, and research, and their relevance to modern society.
5. To provide a forum for researchers, librarians, archivists, conservators, and policymakers to exchange experiences, research findings, and professional expertise.
6. To promote international and regional collaboration among universities, research institutions, libraries, archives, museums, and cultural heritage organizations.
7. To raise awareness among stakeholders and the public about the urgent need to safeguard palm leaf manuscripts from physical, environmental, and technological threats.
8. To formulate recommendations and strategies for policy development, funding, and institutional support for palm leaf manuscript research and preservation initiatives.



Why We Organize an International Conference on Palm Leaf Manuscripts

The International Conference on Palm Leaf Manuscripts is organized to recognize, safeguard, and revitalize palm leaf manuscripts as vital sources of indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage, while creating a global platform for scholarly dialogue and collaboration.

Conference Sub Themes

-  Art, Craftsmanship, and Aesthetics of Palm Leaf Manuscripts
-  Challenges in the Conservation and Preservation of Palm Leaf Manuscripts
-  Community Engagement in the Preservation of Manuscript Heritage
-  Digitization of Palm Leaf Manuscripts
-  The Historical and Cultural Significance of Palm Leaf Manuscripts writing
-  Indigenous Knowledge Systems Organization
-  Role of Academic and Research Institutions in Preserving Indigenous Knowledge through Palm Leaf Manuscripts
-  Conservation and Preservation of Historical Documents
-  Contribution of Palm Leaf Manuscripts to Research
-  Multidisciplinary Approaches (Social Sciences and Humanities)

Note: The submissions are not restricted to the above-mentioned themes. The papers related to the library will be acceptable.

Guidelines for Extended Abstracts

Medium: English | Sinhala

Font: Times New Roman

Font Size: 12

Line Space: 1.5pt

Abstract: 250

Extended Abstract : Page 04

Word Count: 1200-5000

Key Words: Maximum 05

Documentary Video Submission Guidelines

Medium: English | Sinhala

Time Range: 10 - 15 minutes

Quality: HD/4K clarity

Imaging Media: Professional cameras or cell phone cameras

File Format: MP4

Resolution: Minimum 1080p (Full HD)

File Size: Maximum 2GB

Synopsis: 250-word documentary synopsis required

Important Dates

Call for Abstract & Documentry: 29th December 2025

Submission Deadline: 15th February 2026

Notification of Acceptance: 25th February 2026

Camera Ready Copy Submission: 05th March 2026

Registration Deadline: 10st March 2026

Final Presentation Submission: 15th March 2026



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Conference Fee

National

Conference fee for presenters	-	3500 LKR
Conference fee for Undergraduates	-	2000 LKR

International

Conference fee for presenters	-	40 USD
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Mode of Payment

Account Number: 055-1-001-8-0017238

SWIFT Code: PSBKLKLX

Account Holder Name: University of Kelaniya

Bank Address: Dalugama, Kelaniya,

Account Type: Current Account

Sri Lanka

Bank: Peoples' bank

Country- Sri Lanka

Branch: Kelaniya

Postal Code- 11600

Branch Code: 055

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Conference Management and Advisory Board



Chief Guest
Cardre Chair and Senior Professor
Nilanthi de Silva
Vice-Chancellor
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



Conference Chair
Professor M.M. Gunatilake
Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Kelaniya
Sri Lanka.



Guest of Honor
Dr. Patrick McNamara
Executive Director at United States-
Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission



Convener
Cardre Chair and Senior Professor
M.K. Weerasinghe
Director
Palm Leaf Manuscript Study and
Research Library



Conference Secretary
Dr. K R N Harshani
Senior Lecturer

Advisory Panel(National)

Cadre Chair Senior Professor Ven. Nabirittankadawara Gnanaratana Thero - Department of Pāli and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Professor Rev. Induragare Dhammaratana Thero - Department of Sanskrit Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Rev.L.Piyarathana Thero - Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Cadre Chair Senior Professor Prishantha Gunawardhana - Department of Archeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Cadre Chair Senior Professor K.Karunathilaka - Department of Sociology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Cadre Chair Senior Lal Mervin Dharmasiri - Department of Geography, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Cadre Chair Senior Professor Patrick Ratnayake - Department of Drama, Cinema and Television, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Prof. Malinga Amarasinghe - Department of Archeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Prof. J.M. Sudharmawathie - Department of History, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Dr. D.K. Manatunga - Head, Department of History, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

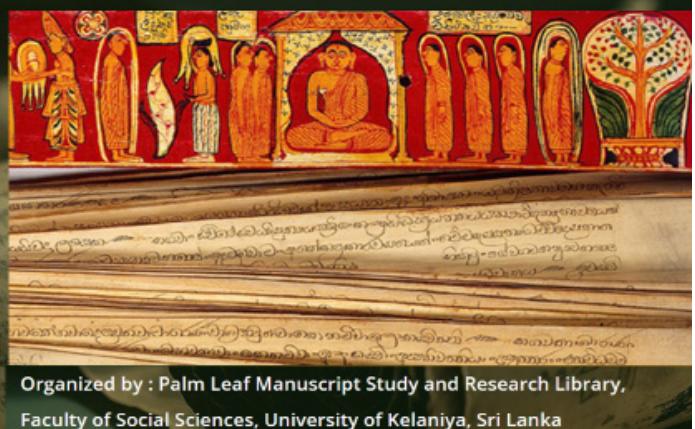
Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya - Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Mrs. Umanga Rammungoda - Head, Department of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

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Advisory Panel (International)

Professor Egbert de smet - University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Professor Eric W. Steinhauer - University of Hagen, Germany

Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao - Head of the Central Library, MANIT, Bhopal, India.

Dr. Mrs. Lara Szyszak - Senior Reference Librarian, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, United States.

Dr. H. Sudharshan - Director, MIDF, New Delhi, India.

Professor R. Balasubramanian - Department of Library and Information Science, Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. Namali Suraweera - Academic Developer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

All Correspondance Must be Address to

Conference Secreatary

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The Palm Leaf Manuscript Study and Research Library

Faculty of Social Sciences University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

E mail: ircpm2026@kln.ac.lk

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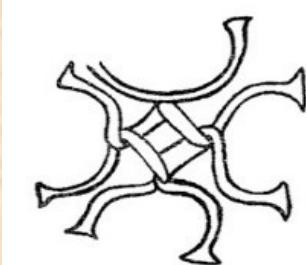
Oraganized by

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Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Kelaniya
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In Collaboration With

Research Centre for Social sciences (RCSS),
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And
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