



PASTIC

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NEWSLETTER

August 2026

SUMMER RESEARCH Week 2026

PASTIC National Centre, Islamabad successfully organized Summer Research Week 2026 from 17–21 August 2026, bringing together 40 participants from Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Karachi, Faisalabad, Peshawar, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The five-day programme was designed to strengthen practical research skills and provide hands-on exposure to key stages of the academic research cycle, including research methodology, data collection, statistical and qualitative analysis, reference management, scientific writing, programming, and research ethics.

The first two days of the program were led by Dr. Muhammad Usman, Database Administrator PASTIC who took the stage for an intensive and highly practical series of sessions on Data Analysis using SPSS. A dedicated session on Zotero for reference management and scholarly organization was conducted by Dr. Maryam Ibrar, Additional Director, PASTIC. The qualitative research component was led by Ms. Rabia Zafar, Bahria University, who introduced participants to thematic analysis using the Braun and Clarke framework and practical use of MAXQDA for coding, organizing, visualizing, and reporting qualitative data.

The final day featured a session on LaTeX for scientific writing and document preparation by Dr. Muhammad Usman, followed by an introduction to Python programming by Mr. Nabi Bux. A dedicated session on Research Ethics was conducted by Dr. Saira Kazmi.



Group photo of Summer Research Week 2026

Addressing the concluding ceremony, Prof. Dr. M. Akram Shaikh, Director General, PASTIC, emphasized the growing importance of scientific knowledge, digital research tools, data analysis,

programming, and modern technologies in contemporary research. He highlighted PASTIC's research and information services and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting researchers and the wider scientific community. He also appreciated the resource persons, organizing team, participants, and all those who contributed to the successful conduct of Summer Research Week 2026.

AN ONLINE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON PASTIC KOHA Cloud: LIBRARY AUTOMATION PACKAGE

The National Science Reference Library successfully organized a three-day National Online Training Workshop on "PASTIC KOHA Cloud: Library Automation Package" from August 18-20, 2026. The workshop was arranged to promote the digital transformation of libraries nationwide and strengthen the capacity of library professionals in the use of modern library management systems.

A total of 63 librarians from academic, research, and special libraries across Pakistan participated in the training program and enhanced their technical expertise in cloud-based library automation technologies.



Glimpse of the Online Training Workshop on KOHA

WEBINAR ON ACADEMIC WRITING EXCELLENCE: UNDERSTANDING AND USING APA GUIDELINES

PASTIC, Regional Office Lahore, in collaboration with the Center for Academic Integrity (CAI), The University of Lahore (UOL), organized a webinar on "Academic Writing Excellence: Understanding and Using APA Guidelines" on August 27, 2026. Prof. Dr. Zaheer Ahmad, Head, Department of Information Management and Director, Center for Academic Integrity, The University of Lahore, served as the resource person.



PASTIC

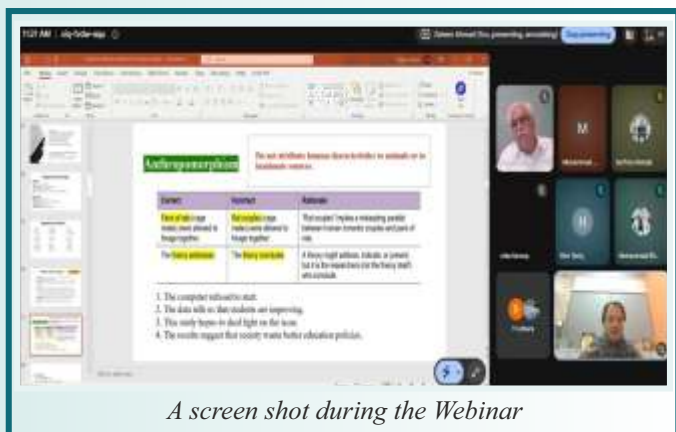
Volume 9, Issue 8

NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Mr. Ali Raza Khan, Additional Director, Regional Office Lahore underscored PASTIC's role in facilitating the research community through its specialized information resources, technical expertise, and research support services.

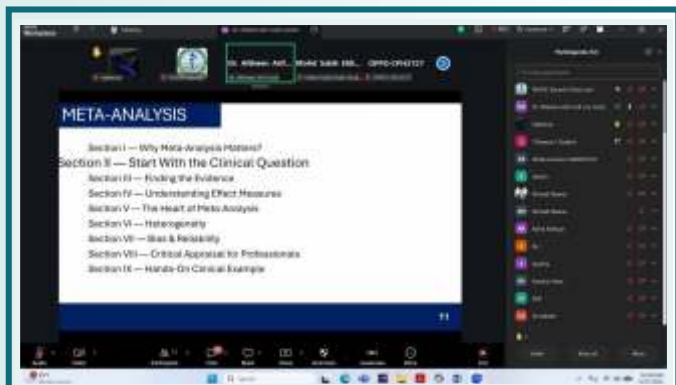
The webinar concluded with the recognition that continuous learning and adherence to ethical writing and referencing practices are essential for promoting research excellence and strengthening academic integrity.



A screen shot during the Webinar

WEBINAR ON “META-ANALYSIS IN RESEARCH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE”

PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi organized a webinar on “Meta Analysis in Research: A Practical Guide” on August 27, 2026. The online session witnessed the active participation of more than 80 students, researchers, faculty members, scientists, and professionals from universities and research institutions across Pakistan and abroad.



A screenshot during the presentation by Dr. Afsheen Arif

The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Afsheen Arif, Assistant Professor, Karachi Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (KIBGE), University of Karachi. She discussed the fundamental concepts and importance of meta-analysis, research question formulation, systematic approaches to literature analysis, data extraction, effect-size selection, data synthesis, and practical tools and techniques for conducting effective meta-analysis.

The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Afsheen Tariq, who expressed her sincere gratitude to the resource person for sharing her valuable knowledge and expertise. She reaffirmed PASTIC's commitment to organizing quality capacity-building programs aimed at promoting research excellence, innovation, and scientific advancement in Pakistan.

Workshop ON “DIGITAL TOOLS & AI IN TEACHING AND TRAINING”

PASTIC Regional Office, Quetta in collaboration with BUIITEMS, organized a one-day training workshop on “Digital Tools & AI in Teaching and Training” on August 27, 2026

More than 70 participants from across Balochistan, including teachers, professors, researchers, faculty members and senior officers, participated in the workshop. Prof. Dr. Hummayun Shahwani, Deputy Dean, Faculty of ICT, BUIITEMS, highlighted the importance of AI and digital technologies in modern education, while Dr. Saeed Ahmed Magsi, Resource Person, conducted a practical session on digital tools and AI for teaching and training.



Workshop on “Digital Tools & AI in Teaching and Training”, at BUIITEMS



PASTIC

Volume 9, Issue 8

NEWSLETTER

August 2026

The participants appreciated the initiative and expressed their hope for more such capacity-building programs in AI, digital technology, research and modern teaching methods in Balochistan.

ONE-DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP ON “SIGNIFICANCE OF SPSS IN DATA ANALYSIS”

PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi, in collaboration with IQRA University, organized a one-day training workshop on “Significance of SPSS in Data Analysis” on August 28, 2026 at PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi. The workshop aimed to enhance the practical data analysis skills of students, researchers, academicians, faculty members, scientists, and professionals. More than 60 participants attended virtually, while 10 participants attended physically, representing universities and research institutions across Karachi.



Group photo of participants of Training Workshop on SPSS

The training session was delivered by Syed Ghazanfar Ali, Senior Lecturer, who provided participants with practical guidance on the use of SPSS for research data analysis. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Afsheen Tariq, who expressed her sincere gratitude to Syed Ghazanfar Ali for sharing his valuable expertise and practical knowledge with the participants. At the end of the workshop, a shield was presented to the resource person, and certificates were distributed to the physically attending participants.

SECOND FOLLOW-UP MEETING HELD BETWEEN PASTIC AND UET LAHORE

The second follow-up meeting between PASTIC and the Center for Language Engineering (CLE), University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, was held on August 25, 2026 to review progress on the proposed collaboration aimed

at strengthening and enhancing PASTIC's journal indexing and research information services.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the requirements for improving the Pakistan Science Abstracts (PSA) journal indexing platform, including possibilities for incorporating advanced digital and automated solutions to improve the efficiency, quality, and timeliness of journal indexing. Progress regarding coordination with journal publishers and other collaborative activities was also reviewed.



Second Follow-up Meeting between PASTIC and CLE-UET Lahore

The meeting further explored the development of a joint research proposal under the upcoming HEC-NRPU call, focusing on innovative and technology-based enhancement of PASTIC's indexing system. Both organizations agreed to further deliberate on the technical requirements, potential international research collaboration, and respective roles for development of the proposal. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of PASTIC and CLE-UET Lahore to continue working together towards strengthening national scientific information and research support services.

PASTIC S&T SERVICES AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

ONLINE ORIENTATION SESSION ON “PASTIC – A Hub for Scientific and Technological Information”

An online orientation Session on PASTIC Services was organized in collaboration with ORIC, University of Swat, for its faculty members and M.Phil./Ph.D. scholars to enhance awareness and utilization of PASTIC's digital information resources. The session highlighted key PASTIC databases, including Pakistan Science Abstract (PSA), National Digital Archive of Scientific Journals of



PASTIC

Volume 9, Issue 8

August 2026

NEWSLETTER

Pakistan (NJA), and National Scientists Directory (NSD), along with other scientific information and research support services.



The session was delivered by Dr. Ghazala Ali Khan and Mr. Saif Ullah Azeem from PASTIC, along with Mr. Nabi Buksh, and coordinated by Dr. Ghulam Nabi, Manager ORIC - University of Swat on August 4, 2026. The activity strengthened collaboration between PASTIC and ORIC-

University of Swat, and promoted greater utilization of PASTIC resources among the academic and research community.

EVENT/ WEBINAR /MEETING ATTENDED:

- Ms. Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director (STI), PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi, attended the webinar titled “International Roundtable and Technical Dialogue on Unlocking Agricultural Carbon Markets: Climate-Smart Solutions for a Resilient Future” on August 24, 2026 organized by COMSTECH, Islamabad, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.
- Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director (STI), PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi, attended the webinar title: STEM for Space Exploration for Global Youth Leaders” held on August 30, 2026 organized by SDGs Academy Islamabad. During the webinar, PASTIC's scientific and technological information services were promoted among the participants, with emphasis on PASTIC's role in supporting research, innovation, and access to scientific information.



Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre

PASTIC National Centre, Quaid-i-Azam University Campus, Islamabad,

Tel: 051-9248103, 051-9248109, Fax: 9248113

URL: www.pastic.gov.pk ; Email: dg@pastic.gov.pk

Karachi Sub-Center

A-43, block No. 3, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi
karachipastic@gmail.com
Tel: 021-99334174/021-34994173

Peshawar Sub-Center

Pakistan Forest Institute, University Campus, Peshawar
pasticpsh@yahoo.com
Tel: 091-9216880

Faisalabad Sub-Center

Faisalabad Science Centre, Jail Road
pasticf@yahoo.com
Tel: 041-9200608-9

Lahore Sub-Center

PCSIR Lab. Complex, Ferozepur Road, Lahore
pasticlhr@gmail.com
Tel: 042-99230732

Quetta Sub-Center

Art Campus, University of Balochistan, Quetta.
pastic.qta@gmail.com
Tel: 03337823390

Muzaffarabad Sub-Center

AJK University, New Campus, Challabandi, Muzaffarabad
pastic.2011@gmail.com
Tel: 05822 960414