



PASTIC

Volume 9, Issue 6

June 2026

NEWSLETTER

Webinar on "Integration of Universities OPAC in PAKCAT"

PASTIC National Center, Islamabad organized a webinar on "Integration of universities OPAC in PAKCAT" under the consortium of Library & Information Science (LIS) Professionals was organized on June 11, 2026.

A total 40 participants, librarians, information professionals, and technical staff attended the training session from universities and research institutions across Pakistan. The objective of the training was to familiarize participants with the process of integrating their university Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs) into PakCat, enabling nationwide discovery and sharing of academic resources through a single search interface.

During the session, participants were introduced to the vision and objectives of PakCat, the importance of resource sharing among academic libraries, and the role of international standards such as the Z39.50 protocol in facilitating secure and real-time retrieval of bibliographic records.

The speakers, Mr. Nabi Buksh, Web Manager and Mr. Fahad Ubaid, Assistant Web Manager, highlighted that PakCat serves as "One Window for All Academic Resources" and represents "A Step Forward to Promote a Resource-Sharing Culture in the Country." Participants appreciated the initiative and expressed their commitment to integrating their institutional OPACs into PakCat to contribute to Pakistan's national knowledge infrastructure.

PASTIC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting academic and research libraries by providing technical assistance, capacity-building programs, and innovative information services that promote resource sharing and improve access to scholarly information across the country.

PASTIC IT SECTION Redesigned CSTRDLP Consortium Portal

The IT Section of PASTIC National Centre, Islamabad, under the technical contribution of Mr. Nabi Bux, Web Manager, successfully redesigned and upgraded the CSTRDLP Consortium Portal (<https://consortium.pastic.gov.pk/>). The redesigned portal provides a modern, responsive, and user-friendly interface for the Consortium of Science & Technology and Research & Development Libraries of Pakistan.

The upgraded portal includes an improved home page, clearer navigation, a refreshed members section, enhanced services and databases pages, a modern picture gallery, FAQ section, Koha Cloud information, and updated footer links to PASTIC services and resources. The new design has been developed to improve accessibility, readability, and usability across desktop and mobile devices.

This initiative reflects PASTIC's continued commitment to strengthening digital information services, supporting library cooperation, and facilitating researchers, librarians, and member institutions through improved online access to consortium services.



The redesigned CSTRDLP Consortium Portal developed by PASTIC IT Section under the technical contribution of Mr. Nabi Bux, Web Manager

Webinar on "Google Scholar for Teachers and Students"

PASTIC Sub Center, Lahore was organized a webinar titled "Google Scholar for Teachers and Students" was conducted on June 9, 2026 in online mode, with participation from 35 teachers and students representing different universities. The session began with a keynote address by Mr. Ali Raza Khan, Additional Director of Pakistan Science and Technology Information Center (PASTIC), who introduced PASTIC and highlighted its key services for the promotion of science, technology, and research support in academic institutions. He also emphasized the importance of Google Scholar as an essential tool for enhancing research visibility, academic networking, and access to global scholarly literature.

Mr. Nadeem Sohail conducted an 80-minute detailed



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training session as the resource person. He demonstrated effective use of Google Scholar for searching academic content, creating and optimizing researcher profiles, understanding citation metrics such as h-index, and linking scholarly work for improved visibility. The session was highly interactive, with participants engaging in practical demonstrations and asking relevant questions.



Glimpse of the Webinar

WEBINAR ON “RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND GRANT MANAGEMENT”

The Three-Day International Conference on Earth Sciences Pakistan 2026 (ESP-2026) was organized by the National Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG), University of Peshawar, from June 12 to 14, 2026 at the Baragali Summer Campus, University of Peshawar.

The opening ceremony was graced by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akmal, (Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF)), as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Akram Sheikh (Director General, PASTIC), and Dr. Ghazala Ali Khan, Additional Director (PASTIC-PSF), attended as Guests of Honor.

Prof. Dr. Akram Sheikh (Director General-PASTIC) commended NCEG-UOP for successfully bringing together researchers and experts from nationally and internationally renowned institutions. He also highlighted the services and facilities provided by PASTIC to support researchers across the country.

The conference was financially supported by the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). As part of its contribution, PASTIC published the Conference Proceedings, facilitating the wider dissemination of the research presented during the event.



Dignitaries on International Conference on Earth Sciences Pakistan 2026 (ESP-2026).



Group photo of The International Conference on Earth Sciences Pakistan 2026 (ESP-2026)

AWARENESS SESSION ON PASTIC SERVICES

A significant orientation session was organized by PASTIC Sub-Centre, Faisalabad in collaboration with three universities—UOG, UOS, and UCOG—on June 18, 2026. A total of 22 participants from the universities and neighboring organizations attended the session. Dr. Maryam Ibrar, Additional Director (Publications), PASTIC, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the PSA Online Database, National Journal Archive (NJA), PASTIC services. The session received active participation from faculty members, researchers, and students, who engaged in productive discussions throughout the event. It concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which Dr. Maryam Ibrar addressed participants' queries and emphasized the importance of utilizing PASTIC's digital resources to support quality research and academic excellence.



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Screenshot of the Orientation Session

WEBINAR ON "ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LIBRARIES AND HEC PLAGIARISM POLICY"

PASTIC Sub Centre Karachi organized an online webinar via Zoom titled "Artificial Intelligence in Libraries and HEC Plagiarism Policy" on June 24, 2026. The webinar received an overwhelming response, with more than 130 participants from various universities, research institutions, libraries, and organizations across Pakistan.



Glimpse of the Webinar

The webinar commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Afsheen Tariq, A.D (STI), PSCK who welcomed the keynote speaker and participants and briefed the audience about PASTIC services, including STI dissemination, research support, scientific databases, awareness programs, and collaborations with universities, libraries, R&D organizations, and industry. She also highlighted the importance of the webinar in promoting awareness about Artificial Intelligence in libraries and the HEC Plagiarism Policy to strengthen academic integrity and research quality.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Liaquat Ali Rahoo, IT Officer at MUET Library & Online Information Center, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology Jamshoro, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the emerging role of Artificial Intelligence in modern library systems and its impact on research support services, academic resources, and information management.

EVENT / WEBINAR / VISIT / MEETING ATTENDED

A. Ms. Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director (STI), PASTIC Sub Centre Karachi, held a meeting with Dr. Shamim Akhtar on June 1st, 2026 at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Karachi. During the meeting, she briefed the Chairperson about the services and activities of PASTIC and discussed potential avenues for future collaboration in scientific and academic initiatives.

B. Ms. Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director (STI), PSCK, along with her team, conducted the written test for students participating in the "Asian Science Camp (ASC-2026)" from the Sindh Region on June 7, 2026 at PASTIC Sub Centre Karachi (PSCK). The test was organized by the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and facilitated by PSCK to support the selection process of talented science students for participation in the prestigious international science camp.

C. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akmal, Chairman of the Pakistan Science Foundation, visited the PASTIC Sub Centre Karachi on June 19, 2026. During the visit, the Chairman met with all employees of PSCK and reviewed the overall performance, ongoing activities, and services of the Centre. Various operational matters and institutional issues were discussed.



Group photo of Chairman PSF with employees PSCK



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D. Mr. Muhammad Rashad, Secretary/Member Finance, Pakistan Science Foundation, paid a surprise visit to the Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre Regional Sub-Centre Quetta, Balochistan, on June 10, 2026, accompanied by Mr. Irfan Ahmed, Project Manager. During the visit, Regional Incharge Mr. Abdul Khalique Sial briefed the visiting officials on the activities, achievements, and overall performance of the Quetta Sub-Centre. The attendance record of the staff was checked. He emphasized that PASTIC is playing a vital role in promoting scientific awareness and research culture throughout the province.

Mr. Abdul Khalique Sial also presented the performance report of the Quetta Sub-Centre, outlining its achievements, ongoing initiatives, future plans, and operational challenges. He highlighted the Sub-Centre's contributions towards promoting scientific information services and

capacity-building activities in the region. He also requested support for addressing the issues faced by the Sub-Centre to further enhance its effectiveness and ensure the successful implementation of future programs.



Mr. Muhammad Rashad, Secretary/Member Finance, PSF, visited PASTIC Sub Center, Quetta



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