



PASTIC

Volume 9, Issue 5

May 2026

NEWSLETTER

“Beyond ChatGPT: Mastering Google NotebookLM for Research, Lesson Planning and Studying”

The PASTIC Sub-Centre, Lahore, in collaboration with the Professional Skills Development Academy (PSDA), conducted an online training master class titled “Beyond ChatGPT: Mastering Google NotebookLM to Revolutionize Research, Lesson Planning, and Studying” on May 20, 2026, via Google Meet. The webinar focused on enhancing the cataloging and automation skills of library professionals through the integrated use of Zotero, MarcEdit, and Koha for metadata harvesting, processing, and bulk cataloging.

Mr. Ali Raza Khan, Additional Director, Sub-Centre Lahore, highlighted PASTIC's services and its role in promoting scientific information dissemination in Pakistan. Participants were oriented to Google's NotebookLM and its diverse applications across research, pedagogy, and academic learning.

Mr. Nadeem Sohail, Library Automation Expert, TMC and Director PSDA, was the resource person for the master class. The session was attended by 45 participants from across Pakistan, including university, college, and school faculty members, researchers, MPhil/PhD scholars, undergraduate students, and library professionals.



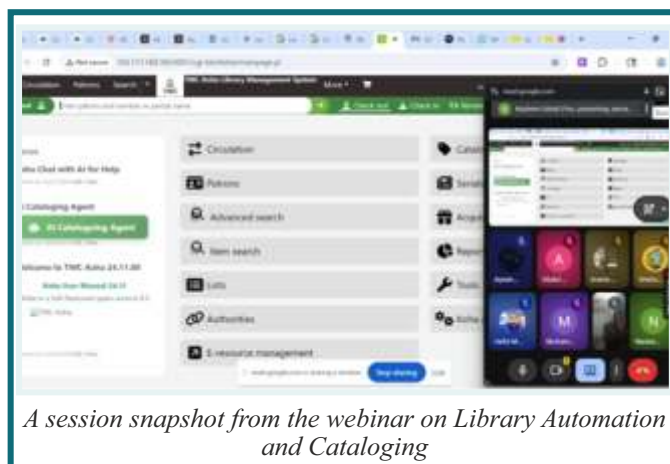
Participants engaged during the webinar on Google's NotebookLM

Webinar on “Library Automation and Cataloging Using Zotero, MarcEdit and Koha”

The Sub-Centre, Lahore, in collaboration with the Professional Skills Development Academy (PSDA), conducted an online training webinar on

“Library Automation and Cataloging Using Zotero, MarcEdit and Koha” on May 25, 2026, via Google Meet.

The webinar was attended by 38 participants from various academic and library institutions across Pakistan. E-certificates were issued to the participants.



A session snapshot from the webinar on Library Automation and Cataloging

Webinar on “Research Methodology and Scientific Writing”

PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi organized a webinar on “Research Methodology & Scientific Writing” on May 21, 2026 via Zoom at PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi. The session attracted more than 125 participants, including researchers, academicians, professionals, and students from various universities and research institutions across Pakistan. The objective of the webinar was to improve scientific writing skills, promote ethical research practices, and build capacity for producing high-quality academic publications.

Ms. Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director, PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi, highlighted the importance of research methodology and PASTIC's role in providing scientific information resources and capacity-building opportunities.

Prof. Viqar Hussain, Convener SEGMITE & Chief Editor IJEEG & Ex-Chairman Department of Geology, University of Karachi, delivered an insightful and engaging lecture on key aspects of research methodology and scientific writing as a resource person. He elaborated on various tools used in research methodology and provided detailed guidelines for effective scientific writing, emphasizing best practices for structuring and publishing high-quality research papers.

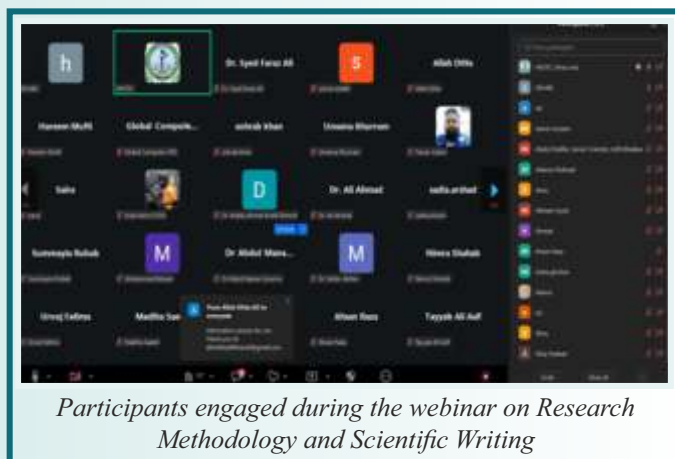


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Participants engaged during the webinar on Research Methodology and Scientific Writing



Screenshot of the Webinar on "Learn Smart Reference Management with Mendeley"

Participants actively engaged in the question and answer segment and appreciated PASTIC Sub-Centre Karachi for organizing informative, and capacity-building webinar that supported their academic and research development.

Webinar on "Learn Smart Reference Management with Mendeley"

A Webinar on "Learn Smart Reference Management with Mendeley" jointly organized by PASTIC Faisalabad/PSF and ORIC of the Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan on May 14, 2026. A total of 27 participants from the university and surrounding organizations attended the event. Main objective was to enhance the literature-searching and reference- management skills of researchers by providing practical guidance on using Mendeley to organize, annotate, cite, and manage scholarly literature efficiently.

Muhammad Hasnain, Additional Director (STI) at Faisalabad Sub Centre, highlighted PASTIC's role in scientific knowledge dissemination, research support, and digital resource access.

Dr. Maryam Ibrar, Additional Director (STI), Publications, PASTIC, delivered a keynote presentation on overview of literature searching and reference management. She also highlighted key features of Mendeley, including organizing research literature, storing and annotating references, generating citations and bibliographies, and streamlining the scholarly writing process. The webinar fostered active participation from faculty members, researchers, and students, was followed by a question answer session.

Webinar on "Research Funding Opportunities and Grant Management"

PASTIC/PSF Faisalabad organized a webinar on "Research Funding Opportunities and Grant Management" on May 22, 2026. Mr. Muhammad Hasnain, Additional Director (STI), highlighted PASTIC's role in research support, scientific knowledge dissemination, and access to digital resources.

Dr. Hammad Majeed, Dean and representative of ORIC, University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore, delivered a comprehensive presentation on research funding opportunities, proposal development and effective grant management.

A total of 62 participants, including senior faculty members from 24 Pakistani universities and one university from Malaysia, attended the webinar. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, and participants appreciated PASTIC's support for the research community.



Screenshot of the Webinar on Research Funding Opportunities and Grant Management



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EVENT/ WEBINAR /MEETING ATTENDED

A. Syed Habib Akhter Jafferi, Principal Librarian and Dr. Maryum Ibrar, Additional Director (STI) attended 5-Days course on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization in Libraries from 4-8 May, 2026 at National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD)

B. Dr. Syed Aftab Hussain Shah, Additional Director (STI), attended Zoom webinar on "Industrial Competitiveness in Pakistan" conducted by PIDE on May 06, 2026 at 02:00 PM PKT.

C. Ms. Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director (STI) at Sub-Centre Karachi, participated in "Pakistan's First Agentic AI Webinar" held on May 16, 2026 via Zoom. The webinar was organized by TECH7 Academy and focused on the emerging concept of Agentic Artificial Intelligence, highlighting its evolving role in automation, decision-making systems, and next-generation digital transformation.

D. Ms. Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director (STI), Sub-Centre Karachi, attended the "World Water Day Seminar 2026:

Water and Gender" on May 20, 2026, organized by SEGMITE, PSF and PCRWR, focusing on water challenges and gender perspectives in water resource management.

E. Mr. Abdul Khaliq Sial, Officer Incharge, PASTIC Sub-Centre Quetta, held a productive meeting with Mr. Syed Allah Dad Shah, Head of T&D Section, BUIITEMS, Quetta, on May 14, 2026, to discuss PSF and PASTIC programs and future collaboration for monthly training and research-oriented activities across Balochistan.



PASTIC Sub-Centre Quetta meeting with BUIITEMS officials



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