



PASTIC

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NEWSLETTER

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SEMINAR ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES: TRENDS, CHALLENGES, AND WAY FORWARD

PASTIC organized a one-day seminar on "Digital Libraries: Trends, Challenges and Way Forward" on August 29, 2024 at PASTIC National Centre, QAU campus, Islamabad. The event aimed to raise awareness among librarians about current trends and challenges in digital libraries and way forward. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General of PASTIC in his opening remarks said that digital libraries have redefined the role of libraries & information professionals. PASTIC has been striving since its establishment for strengthening of Pakistani libraries as well as information professionals through capacity building, and development of Union Catalogue for effective resource sharing of library holdings. Around 60 information professionals across Pakistan attended this seminar.



Group photo of participants with foreign delegation and Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General PASTIC.

Guest of honor, Dr. Muhammad Shahid Soroya (Director General, Pakistan Institute of Education) appreciated PASTIC's efforts in creating awareness about this challenging topic among Pakistani librarians. Dr. Juan Garcia Blesa, Senior Research Associate, and Prof. Eric Steinhauer, Director of the University Library at Fernuniversitat, Hagen, Germany, shared insights on digitalization and digital access to library materials in Germany. Prof. Dr. Munazza Jabeen, Assistant Professor at AIOU (Allama Iqbal Open University), Islamabad, discussed data curation policies in university libraries across Pakistan. Syed Habib Akhter Jaffri, Principal Librarian at PASTIC, highlighted the role of PASTIC in providing access to digital resources in Pakistani libraries. Director General, Prof.

Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh delivered vote of thanks and distributed souvenirs among the resource persons .

ONE-DAY ONLINE WORKSHOP ON "REFERENCE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE (MENDELEY)"

PASTIC Sub Centre Karachi organized a one-day online workshop on "Reference Management Software (Mendeley)" on August 5, 2024. The event was conducted via Zoom in collaboration with the Department of ORIC, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU) Larkana. Over 100 students and faculty members from SMBBMU Larkana and Ghulam Muhammad Mahar Medical College (GMMMC), Sukkur participated in the training.



Group photo of the participants with Vice Chancellor Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University Larkana.

The session commenced with a welcome address from Dr. Mir Hassan Khoso, Director of ORIC at SMBBMU Larkana. Ms. Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director (STI), provided an overview of PASTIC's services and databases designed to aid researchers in their studies.



Glimpses of the online workshop.



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Dr. Maryum Ibrar, Additional Director (STI) at PASTIC National Centre Islamabad, delivered an in-depth presentation on reference management and provided guidelines on using Mendeley software for managing libraries and references. She demonstrated Mendeley's capabilities such as inserting references, generating bibliographies, and facilitating collaboration and highlighted its importance in the research workflow. Researcher can save their time and streamline the research process by learning such softwares.

The workshop concluded with a productive question and answer session. Ms. Afsheen Tariq extended her gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Director ORIC at SMBBMU, DG PASTIC, and all participants for their support in making the workshop successful.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS IN BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Dr. Ghazala Ali Khan, Additional Director, PASTIC organized a workshop on 'Sampling Techniques and Data Analysis Tools in Biological Research' at ABASYN University Peshawar. The session was attended by Dr. Zobia Afsheen, HoD of Biotechnology and Microbiology, along with 21 faculty members of various departments.



Group photo of the participants of the workshop 'Sampling Techniques and Data Analysis Tools in Biological Research' at ABASYN University Peshawar.

EVENT/ WEBINAR /MEETING ATTENDED

a. The Urban Unit' s Economic Development & Infrastructure Development team visited PASTIC National Centre, Islamabad for exploring the potential of different relevant organiza-

tion for their capabilities and facilities with regards to material testing.

In this context a meeting was arranged with PASTIC team comprising of Mr. Saifullah Azim- Principal System Analyst (focal person), Syed Habib Akhter Jafferi-Principal Librarian, Syed Aftab Hussain Shah- Additional Director (STI), Dr. Maryum Ibrar- Additional Director (STI) and Nabi Bukhsh-Web Manager on August 2, 2024 at PASTIC National Centre, Islamabad. Ms. Misha Babur- Program Manager Industrial Development Urban Unit (focal person) along with Nishaa Zeeshan- Project Officer Economic Development and Meesum Ali- Project Officer Economic Development visited PASTIC for the said purpose.

Mr. Saifullah Azim gave briefing on different PASTIC digital resources pertaining to material testing. Live demonstration on following PASTIC information resources were given; Database of R&D Equipment for searching already installed material testing equipment in different S&T organizations of Pakistan; Database of Directory of Scientists, R&D project and Pakistan Science Abstracts for finding relevant experts, projects and articles.



Mr. Saifullah Azim giving briefing to Urban Unit team over PASTIC services with reference to material testing.

b. PASTIC project proposal "Enhancement of Pakistan Science Abstracts for effective service delivery using Artificial Intelligence" has been submitted to the PSF Competitive Research Programme (CRP) under its Seventh Call on AI, Materials and Nanotechnology for financial assistance. Research Proposal was recommended by the Technical Committee in 36th meeting of CRP. PASTIC will execute this project with collabora-



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tion of AITeC, National Centre for Physics (NCP) and the Computer Science Department (QAU). Therefore a meeting was held on August 02, 2024 (Friday) at Committee Room, PASTIC to review the current operational procedure of data processing for Pakistan Science Abstracts (procedure & problems) for finding out possible AI solutions.



Group photo of the participants.

Meeting was convened by Dr. M. Akram Shaikh, DG PASTIC (PI) and attended by senior officials of PASTIC including Co PI's along with their teams. PASTIC team included: Saifullah Azim- PSA (IT), Syed Habib Akhter Jaffer-PL, Dr. Syed Aftab Hussain Shah-Additional Director (STI), Dr. Maryum Ibrar- Additional Director (STI), Nabi Buksh- Web Manager, Dr. Syed Khursheed Hasnain, Director AITeC along with Awais Akhter- AM (Tech), Zain Tariq- AM (Tech) and Muhammad Saleh-AM (Tech). QAU team included Dr. Rabeeh Ayaz Abbasi, HoD Computer Science Department, QAU along with Fatima Ejaz- M.phil student, Abbas Ahmed- M.phil student, Muhammad Ahsan Aziz- M.phil student.

Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh described role of PASTIC information services towards the promotion of research and development activities in the country. He also informed the participants about the need of this project. Dr. Maryum Ibrar presented current operational procedure for carrying out abstracting and indexing of Journals along with the problems faced by the team. Deliberations

were made about the issues and challenges of the current system e.g, low extraction accuracy of the metadata extractor, manual subject classification, citation linking etc. Cutting edge AI solutions were also discussed for integration into the system. After this, team visited the publication section where they were demonstrated about the whole data processing operation from selection of journals till verification. They also visited Library, Press and IT section.

c. Dr. Ghazala Ali Khan, Additional Director, PASTIC attended a two days National Seminar on “Intellectual Property and Protection Pakistan's Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge” organized by ORIC-The University of Agriculture Peshawar and IPO Pakistan, held on August 29-30, 2024 at The University of Agriculture Peshawar.

d. Mr. Syed Shabib Zaidi, Science Assistant at PSCK, attended “2nd International Food & Agriculture Exhibition Food AG 2024” organized by TDAP on August 9, 2024, at Expo Centre Karachi. The event, under the theme "Growing a Sustainable Future," sought to unite both international and local communities to foster collaboration and promote a shared vision for sustainability within the Food and Agriculture sectors.

e. Mr. Kashif Farooqui, Data Control Assistant at PSCK, visited “21st Pharma Asia International Exhibition & Conferences” on August 22, 2024, at the Expo Centre Karachi.

f. Ms. Afsheen Tariq, Assistant Director (STI) at PSCK, attended “25th ITCN ASIA 2024”, Pakistan's largest IT and Telecom Exhibition & Conferences held by Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., the event featured a wide range of IT products.

g. Dr. Ghazala Ali Khan, Additional Director, PASTIC attended 47th BOG meeting (online) at NCE in Physical Chemistry, University of Peshawar on August 19, 2024.



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