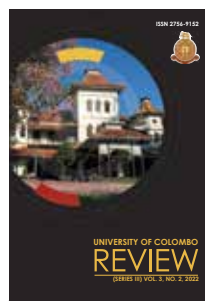


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## Guest Editorial

Following the relaunch of the *University of Colombo Review (UCR)* as a new series (Series III) the *UCR* has steadily progressed to enhance the research potential and dissemination of knowledge of researchers and academics not just within the University of Colombo but within the country as a whole. Being a journal that cuts across, and integrates all disciplines the *UCR* has been successful in providing the reader rich knowledge in a nutshell that is easy to access. This 5th issue of the *UCR* takes a new turn in that it is not theme based unlike the preceding issues and was open to all disciplinary fields. This move was taken in-order to open up the *UCR* to a wider variety of articles which we feel would be palatable to the tastes of many of our readers.

Dinithi Karunanayake, Dushyanthi Mendis, Lihini Nilaweera, Minoli Wijetunga & Sandani Yapa Abeywardena in their article on “Pedagogical and research potential of a digital humanities laboratory: Language corpora as open educational resources (OER)” describe the process of building a corpus of newspaper articles by the Digital Humanities lab of the Department of English, University of Colombo. The article goes on to discuss the research potential of the Sri Lanka English News Paper Corpus as well as its future developments.

Taking us from the humanities and the arts to an interdisciplinary perspective combining law and literature, Binendri Perera in her article “Of men and the ruling ring: Destructive resilience of Sri Lanka's executive presidency” takes us through a fascinating voyage through the fantasy novel *The Lord of the Rings* wherein she guides the reader to an understanding of the powers vested

upon the executive president though the 1978 constitution. She thus intermingles both law and literature to provide the reader with insights on the pitfalls the country faces due to the powers of executive presidency.

N. D. Nishamani Bhagya Rathnayake in their article on “Development of self-reporting assessment tool to assess Personal Innovativeness” presents the concept of “Personal Innovativeness” and discusses the development of a self-assessment tool to assess personal innovation.

In an era where more and more women contribute to the work force of the country and gender equity is highlighted, Lakmini Jayasekara in her article on the “Importance of studying the dominant perspective on women workers in male-dominated workplaces: Revisiting Kanter’s theory” looks at men’s perception of women in male dominant workplaces through the lens of Kanter’s theory.

Adding to this interdisciplinary mix is Shashi Madhushanka and Kelum Manamendra-Arachchi’s article titled “Morphometry and habitat selection of Mountain Hourglass Treefrog [*Taruga eques* (Günther, 1858)] (*Amphibia, Rhacophoridae*) in the Horton Plains National Park, Sri Lanka” which gives the reader an informative insight to this endemic and endangered amphibian species through their study carried out at five different locations. The article is complemented by colorful illustrations which provide the reader with vivid visuals one would only be lucky to visualize in real life.

Parami J. Ranasinghe in her article “An exploration of the dissemination of knowledge through the Dark Academia aesthetic” presents a qualitative approach to describe how “Dark Academia” posted on various social media platforms contributes to knowledge dissemination, and research opportunities. In an era where digitalization is more closely related to man than anything else this article guides the reader on how this new trend could, in fact, be advantages to the academic community.

K. A. D. I. Udayangi & G. A. T. R. Perera in their article “A review of the literature on factors affecting organizational engagement of Millennials: Social identity and psychological entitlement perspectives” describes the literature on the organisational engagement of Millennials which is crucial for the success of organisations today. Through their review the authors suggest areas for future research.

Taking us into the world of hard science, Uvin Eksith Senadheera and Jasintha Jayasanka in their article “A conceptual electrophoresis-mediated protein identification method by frictional coefficient during motion under electrical and magnetic interference” suggest a modified method of mass spectrometry to identify proteins with increased validity and reliability.

M. K. S. Thilakarathna, R. I. S. Karunathilaka, G. A. Gunawardana and R. G. P. T. Jayasooriya in their review article on the “Use of molecular biology techniques for animal identification and traceability” provide an overview of current molecular biological techniques and their applications in animal identification and traceability in-order to improve productivity of animal husbandry.

Finally, the book review by E. A. Gamini Fonseka of Sinhala translations by Sasanka Perera and Indu Gamage of the poetry of the 13th Century Persian poet Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī makes the argument that the translations are a timely contribution to Sinhala language and culture. The importance of this cannot be over-emphasized especially for a younger generations at a time when the country, culture and heritage are downplayed even by its very own.

The ten articles included in this issue are, therefore, diverse not only in their fields but in their themes as well. However, through this diversity, the *UCR* I feel has promoted integration towards a common goal of national development.

All these articles in the end enrich the reader as to how we as a nation could improve. Through the arts, languages, law, social sciences, hard sciences, animal sciences and literature, academics need to integrate their knowledge towards this one goal. At a time when the country is facing an economic crisis and many, if not most, are looking for greener pastures elsewhere, it is our integral duty to work towards integration and development in-order to restore the viability and dignity Sri Lanka truly deserves.

**Dushyanthi Jayawardene**

Guest Editor

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