COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sapientia
*N*ewsletter

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY CUSAT

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EDITORIAL MEMBERS

Dr. Veerankutty Chelatayakkot

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CONTACT

ABOUT US

The University Library, CUSAT, established in 1974, serves as a central resource hub for the academic community, offering a wide range of services including loan, inter-library loan, literature search, and consultancy. With over 1,34,000 items in its collection, including valuable books, reference materials, theses, and e-resources, the library has been a pioneer in integrating technology. It became fully automated in 2000 and switched to the open-source KOHA platform in 2010. The library offers access to 45 print periodicals, 15,000 online journals, 11 databases, and 1490 e-books, with a global web OPAC facility. It participates in consortia like E-ShodhSindhu and DELNET, providing access to numerous scholarly databases and journals.

We are pleased to launch the Sapientia newsletter as a platform to share important updates, activities, and insights with our readers. It aims to strengthen communication, promote knowledge sharing, and enhance engagement within the community. **As we welcome the New Year, we extend our warm greetings and best wishes for a year filled with success, learning, and new opportunities.**

Achievements

- ✓ **1980: Initiated library automation activities.**

- ✓ **In 1996, the library launched the LIBIS (Library Information System) Project, funded by the MHO Project (Joint Financing Programme for Co-operation in Higher Education) of the Netherlands Organisation for International Co-operation in Higher Education (NUFFIC).**

- ✓ **2000: Became the first university library in Kerala to fully automate operations and launch a WebOPAC.**

- ✓ **2010: Implemented KOHA; created a union catalogue for all CUSAT libraries; signed an MoU with INFLIBNET for Shodhganga uploads.**

- ✓ **2017: Received the INFLIBNET National Award for Online Document Delivery.**

- ✓ **2018: The library won the Best Koha Implementation Award.**

Five Decades of Knowledge and Transformation

Cochin University Library (CUSAT Library) is one of the leading science and technology libraries in the state, equipped with a rich collection of printed and transformative digital library resources and services. The library celebrates its 50th anniversary, marking a milestone of dedicated service. The library collection, which started with 3,500 books, has now grown to approximately 134,000 volumes, providing access to research-intensive e-resources and databases, and establishing it as a premier research library in the state.

The Cochin University Library began its journey in 1974 within the Department of Mathematics building at the Thrikakkara Campus of Cochin University. Library's activities gained momentum under the leadership of Dr. A. B. George, the first University Librarian. Considering the growing demand for a permanent library building, the foundation stone for it was laid immediately, and the construction was completed at a remarkable pace.

The centrally located, four-storey building with an area of 17,000 sq. ft., known for its functional and modular design, was inaugurated on 29th January 1977 by UGC Chairman Prof. Satish Chandra. The new establishment marked the emergence of dynamic nodal hub, providing information resources that supports the teaching, learning and research activities.

The University Library began its library automation activities in the late 1980s using UNESCO's CDS/ISIS software. In 1996, the library further advanced its automation efforts by the launch of LIBIS (Library Information System) Project under the MHO Project fund (Joint Financing Programme for Co-operation in Higher Education) of the Netherlands Organisation for International co-operation in higher education.

The library system has successfully transformed into a fully automated status using the ADLIB Library Management Software in the year 2000, thus becoming the first university library in Kerala to reach this milestone. In the same year, the library launched its official website and web OPAC to enhance the accessibility of information resources to its users. In 2003, under the UGC-INFONET Project, the library advanced its digital services with internet connectivity and access to online scholarly resources.

Inspired by the National Conference on Free Software 2008 held at CUSAT, library shifted its library management operations to open source software Koha in 2010. The same year, a Union Catalogue integrating the holdings of all CUSAT libraries was developed and inaugurated in 2012. For this successful implementation, Library received the Best Koha Implementation Award at the Library Technology Conclave 2018, Goa University.

The Cochin University Library has been a pioneer in several digital library initiatives in the state and in the country. In 2007, Cochin University became the first in the state to launch Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) through a DSIR-funded project. The ETD repository named as, Dyuthi, archives CUSAT theses and CUSAT faculty publications, conference proceedings, newsletters, and other vital documents.

Dyuthi emerged as a functional model for many ETDs in the country, and many major initiatives started developing ETDs using its framework. In 2010, CUSAT partnered with INFLIBNET to upload doctoral theses to Shodhganga, the national thesis repository of Indian Universities and launched the YUJ-CUSAT faculty information system.

In 2012 with funding from KSCSTE, library developed the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to map the traditional knowledge of fishermen community in the state.

The ETD Lab facility, established in 2014 with UGC-INFLIBNET support, provides research tools and training for research scholars. The library also plays active role in national initiatives like e-ShodhSindhu, Kerala Academic Library Network (KALNET), Developing Library Network (DELNET), IndCat-Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities, One Nation One Subscription (ONOS), and National Digital Library (NDL).

In recognition of its pioneering contributions to digital initiatives and resource sharing, the library received the INFLIBNET National Award in 2017 and the DELNET Certificate of appreciation in 2024 for being an active data contributor and fostering the best practices in data sharing and accessibility.

In 2018, the University Library expanded its facilities with a new 8000 sq. ft. block inaugurated by the then Education Minister Sri. C. Raveendranath, featuring modern spaces such as a student reading lounge, Video Conferencing Room, e-resources section, garden library, and an Audio-Visual Resource Centre to support learning and research. In 2025, library introduced the INFLIBNET Research Corner to easily explore INFLIBNET platforms- ShodhChakra, IRINS, ShodhGanga, ShodhShuddhi etc.

This initiative promotes greater awareness among scholars and students about the INFLIBNET's scholarly resources and services. Recently, the library set up the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Arena to provide students and faculty with seamless access to BIS standards, publications, and related knowledge resources.

The Cochin University Library stands out as a dynamic learning hub, organizing major national and international conferences like CALIBER, NACLIN, IASLIC and the Library Technology Conclave, along with an annual International Book Exhibition that promotes reading and academic engagement. The Library also hosts exhibitions of rare collections, conducts ICT training for library professionals, and offers regular orientation and research-oriented workshops for students and faculty. As the Cochin University Library celebrates five decades of dedicated service, it continues to serve as a beacon of knowledge, advancing in harmony with the academic and research advancements of the University while contributing significantly to learning, knowledge creation and societal development.

> *Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life."*
>
> *Sidney Sheldon*

Dr. JINU SUDHAKARAN
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN SR. SCALE.
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CUSAT

Half a Century of Knowledge: The University Library Turns 50

The University library at Cochin University of Science and Technology was established in 1974, marking a significant milestone in the institution's journey. Over the years, the library has developed a rich and well-balanced collection covering all areas of knowledge and kept pace with technological advancements, ensuring that users stay updated with the latest developments in their fields.

The library has been a vital part of the university community, providing a hub for knowledge connection, self-directed learning, research and creativity. The Golden Jubilee celebration is an opportunity for the library to reflect on its achievements and look forward to the future.

University Library, CUSAT organized a series of events and activities to commemorate its Golden Jubilee. The inaugural event on December 20, 2024, marked the beginning of the celebrations. The event was inaugurated by Honorable Vice Chancellor of CUSAT,

Dr. Junaid Bushiri. CUSAT Registrar Dr. Arun A. U. gave the presidential address.

The program's main guest was renowned author Sri. T. D. Ramakrishnan. Speaking at the event were Dr. Veerankutty C., University Librarian, Dr. Sivaprasad, Honorable Vice Chancellor of KTU, Dr. P. K. Baby, Director of Student Welfare and Syndicate Member, Dr. M. D. Baby, former University Librarian and Dr. Shibu Ray S., Deputy Librarian.

Cultural activities were held, and retired staff members participated in a festive cake-cutting ceremony. As an affectionate gesture of gratitude, retired librarians were honored with mementos, followed by a grand love feast and photo session. From January 20 to 24, 2025, the University Library held a book exhibition with around 1500 books. A unique tribute to literary genius M. T. Vasudevan Nair, featuring a selection of his works, was the highlight of the event. CUSAT Registrar Dr. Arun A. U. inaugurated the programme. The M. T. Vasudevan Nair memorial lecture was delivered by writer Sri. N. E. Sudheer, who was the invited speaker.

The Top Reader Award 2024 was given to Ms. Sanitha P. M., Staff, Administration, CUSAT, in recognition of her remarkable dedication to reading.

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, the University Library, CUSAT, hosted an All Kerala Quiz competition on January 24, 2025, at the PS&RT auditorium. Among the 72 contestants, Mr. Muhammad Niyas, a student at the International School of Photonics, CUSAT, won the first prize of Rs. 4000/-. Ms. Ansamol M. B. and Mr. Abdullah Shaheem P. M. of Graduate School, M. G. University, Kottayam won the second prize of Rs. 2000/-, while Mr. Akhil Thomas Panicker and Mr. M. S. Suryan Sivadas of the Department of Physics, CUSAT took away the third prize of Rs.1000/-

On February 4, 2025, University Library in collaboration with Clarivate Analytics presented a training session on "Web of Science: Enhance your research leveraging." The program's resource person was Dr. Jaswanth Jenny P, Solution Consultant at Clarivate Analytics.

Finding co-authors, accessing collaborations, identifying appropriate funding agencies based on research area, citation reports, h-index of authors and institutions, analysis of search results, research output and impact on overall h-index, and other topics are all covered in detail during the session.

On February 13, 2025, a session on "Strategies of financial freedom" was held. The resource person of the workshop was Mr. Giby George, the founder and CEO of Trinity Finvest. The programme covered a wide range of subjects, including financial independence, debt freedom, savings and investments, and passive income.

The "Book Nook" is a specially curated corner dedicated to showcasing a thematic display of books. This quiet space is designed to inspire readers to explore new titles, authors, and genres. Each display is carefully crafted to highlight a specific theme to enhance the pleasure of reading.

Book Nook was officially inaugurated on 20th March, 2025 by University Librarian Dr. Veerankutty C.

On April 2, 2025, an exclusive webinar was held on "Enhancing research excellence with ONOS," with specific reference to Sage journals. The webinar's resource person was Mr. Manoj Gupta, Training & Analytics Manager at Sage.

The workshop focused on fundamental and advanced search strategies, examining mini-websites, setting up journal notifications, article citation alerts, and stored searches, as well as the Sage subscription journal collection on the ONOS platform.

The University Library, CUSAT, and Kerala Library Association, Ernakulam region, jointly organized a National Workshop on "Advanced Statistical Analysis using SPSS" on June 28, 2025.

The training focused on analytical thinking, correct test selection based on data types and objectives, and accurate interpretation of SPSS outputs. The participants in this advanced level training were able to gain a practical understanding of non-parametric statistical tests utilizing SPSS and multivariate data analysis methodologies. The training programmes resource person was Dr. Prasanth Kumar M. of the Thrive Education & Research Foundation..

Ms. SONU CHANDRA K.
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CUSAT

Book Review: A Brief History of Time

The book 'A Brief History of Time' is a record of wonder that the human mind has unraveled about the universe. Strangely enough, 'time', as Hawking explains, has neither a beginning nor an end and might even be traversable – back and forth.

Starting there he slowly but surely pulls us into the idea of how we tend to perceive time like an imaginative figment of an unknown reality or as a construct we have invented to understand what we perceive as reality.
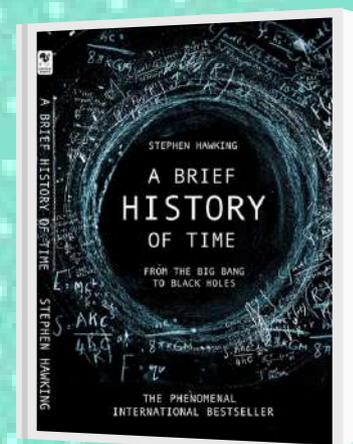
The book explores our perception of time while highlighting our limitations in the observable universe as well.

While explaining how concepts like the uncertainty principle and the microwave background radiation limit us to the smallest and largest realm of the observable universe, Hawking goes a step further, stating that the universe defies even the human rationale at what is known as the singularity or the point where the laws of physics as we know them cease to apply.

This singularity is as a matter of fact 'time' tending towards infinity. Here, as Arthur Eddington put it, the book leaves us to our own imagination 'to unravel, marvel, and peer into the intriguing manifestations of the universe as black holes, the Big Bang and the boundless unknown'.

For all as it is out there Hawking with this book has tried to converge all that he could to make it a brief history of 'time' for whatever 'time' is.

As he looks far back into the universe we are spellbound to see that in our quest for understanding, the universe nevertheless stops to make the questions about it go away, but only reinforces them more.

> "The ultimate triumph of human reason would be to answer the question of why everything exists, as for then we would know the mind of God"
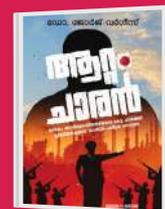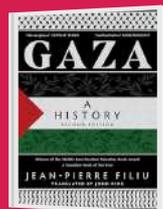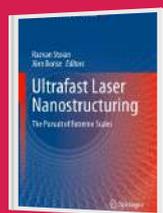
Mr. Goutham N.
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DEPT.OF.CHEMISTRY CUSAT

DID YOU KNOW?

You're often looking for information essential for your research. Many valuable insights are stored in databases offered by major providers. One such resource is ScienceDirect, managed by Elsevier, a leading source for scientific, technical, and medical research. It includes journals across various fields, including Physical Sciences, Engineering, Health Sciences, and more.

New Arrivals

MORE DETAILS

Awards & Recognitions 2025

Dr. Shibu Ray S., Deputy Librarian, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), has been conferred with the prestigious "KLA Best Librarian Award 2025" by the Kerala Library Association (KLA).

Dr. Archana S. N., Assistant Librarian, School of Management Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), has been elected as a member of the Library Advisory Committee.

Mr. Suman Barath P., Professional Assistant at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), has been awarded a Ph.D. by the Central University of Tamil Nadu.

Library Overview

Our Collections

- 1,15,780$^+$ - Books

- 29,069 - Patents

- 2,398 - Theses

- 40$^+$ - Magazines

- 10 - Newspapers

- 20,000$^+$ - e-resources

ONOS & E-RESOURCES

- CMIE-Prowess
- Elsevier ScienceDirect Journals
- Emerald Publishing Journals
- IEEE Journals
- Oxford University Press
- Project Muse
- Sage Publishing Journals
- Springer Nature Journals
- Taylor and Francis
- Web of Science
- Wiley Journals
- For more details visit:
  http://library.cusat.ac.in.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Visit http://library.cusat.ac.in
- Navigate to:
  Research Support >Plag Check.

- For more details and credentials, please mail to ul@cusat.ac.in

OPAC

- Visit https://opac.cusat.ac.in or search or search "CUSAT OPAC" on Google.
- Renewal
- Book Hold
- Login with your Membership ID as username & Password

REMOTE ACCESS

- Visit http://library.cusat.ac.in
- Navigate to Remote Access.(Register using CUSAT e-mail ID.)
- Send a mail to ul@cusat.ac.in

MEMBERSHIP

- CUSAT Community (Students, Staffs)
- Institutional Membership
- Graduate Membership
- Retired employees of CUSAT
- Temporary Membership (Public)
- For more details http://library.cusat.ac.in/index.php/portfolio/about-us-3

LIBRARY TIMINGS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Week Days : 9 AM to 8 PM

Second Saturdays & Sundays : 10 AM to 4 PM

STUDENTS LOUNGE

Week Days : 9 AM to 11 PM

Second Saturdays & Sundays : 10 AM to 11 PM

TRANSACTION TIMINGS

Week Days : 9 AM to 7 PM

Second Saturdays & Sundays : 10 AM to 3 PM

Snapshots

Onam Vibes-2025

Research Corner-INFLIBNET-28/1/2025

Snapshot from Book Exhibition-20/01/2025

All Kerala Quiz Competition-24/01/2025

Planting Hope-31/5/2025

BIS Corner

Rhythms of Tradition

Each Book a Journey: Step into MT's World

Students Lounge