



International Knowledge Conference 2021: Virtual event  
**Sustainable development goals: the roles of knowledge institutions  
and the public service**

**The library's role in supporting SDGs in a SMART world:  
The reality in the Republic of Maldives**

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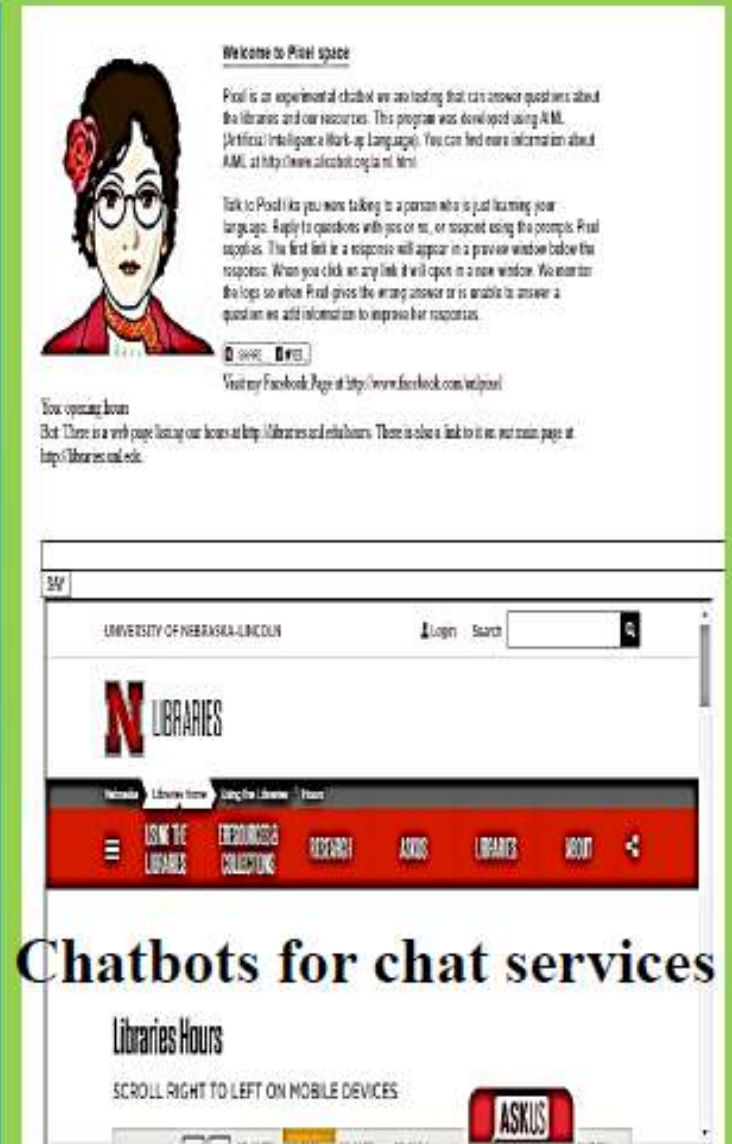
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# Objectives of the presentation

To assess the level of readiness of the Maldivian LIS profession

- (1) to contribute to the government's efforts towards capacity building of the Maldivian community to effectively navigate the digital landscape; and,
- (2) to serve as partners to support local development needs and improve government's efforts to achieve the UN2030 Agenda for SDGs.

# Robots in the Library



# Digital literacy for the community -- Sarawak & Singapore

**Program PANDei: Literasi Digital untuk Komuniti**

**PANDei**  
People Accessible Network for Digital Empowerment & Inclusion

About Outcomes Instructors



Modul PANDei ini melengkapkan komuniti setempat dengan kemahiran digital asas supaya mereka tahu menggunakan alat-alat mudah alih untuk saling berhubung dengan orang lain dengan lebih baik dan mudah.

National Library Board Singapore

SEARCH & DISCOVER VISIT WHAT'S ON GET INVOLVED WHO WE ARE

## Seniors Go Digital programme

Home > What's On > Programmes > Programmes for Seniors

Programmes

Programmes for Children

Programmes for Teens

Programmes for Adults

**Programmes for Seniors**



# UN 2030 Agenda

## Vision: "A world with universal literacy"



**LIBRARIES CAN DRIVE PROGRESS  
ACROSS THE ENTIRE UN 2030 AGENDA**

**IFLA**  
The trusted global voice of the library and information profession ([www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org))  
The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users.

### LIBRARY MAP OF THE WORLD

[HOME](#) [SDG STORIES](#) [COUNTRIES](#) [CONTRIBUTORS](#) [ABOUT](#) English

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS & LIBRARIES**  
The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) spanning economic, environmental and social development. SDG stories demonstrate how libraries and access to information contribute to improved outcomes across all SDGs. Select a country to see relevant stories.  
[SUBMIT YOUR STORY](#)

**SDG STORIES**

Search

29 Countries  
 47 Stories

Select a country to view stories.

**LEGEND**  
■ Countries with SDG Stories  
■ Selected Country  
■ No Data Available

# Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

- **Learning activities**

- To fill-in knowledge gaps
- To enhance professional development and career pathways.

- **Formal learning activities**

eg: Conferences, Short courses, Workshops, Professional talks,  
Seminars, Webinars.



# A Study of Library & Information Studies (LIS) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Activities in Selected Asian Countries

# Continuing professional development (CPD) in the Republic of Maldives



- This was the first CPD study in the country.
- The objective of this pilot study was to understand Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals' perceptions, motivations, assessments, and preferences for participation in CPD programs.



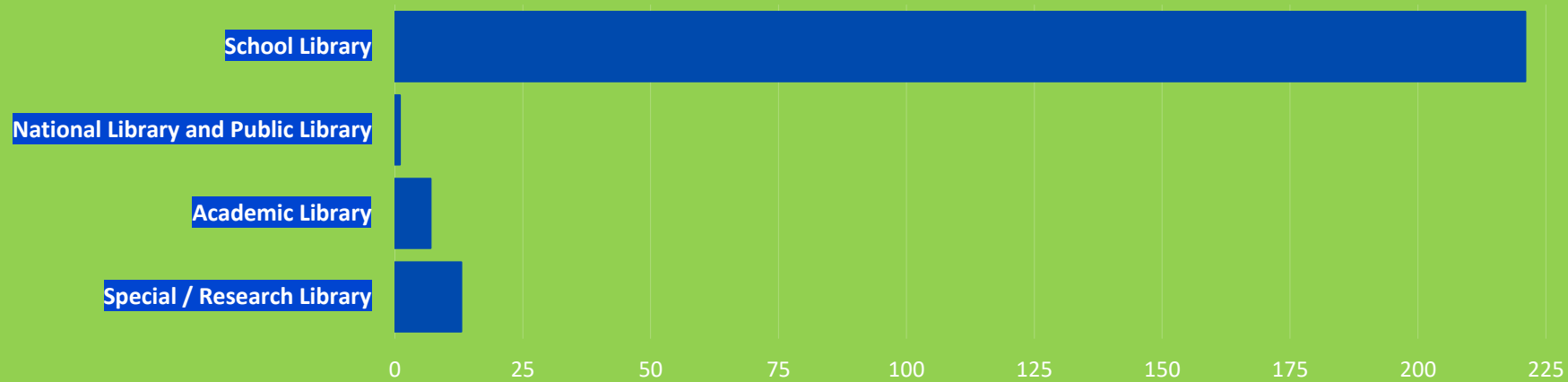
# REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES



- Maldives is a geographically dispersed archipelago of 26 atolls and 188 inhabited islands in the Indian Ocean with less than 400,000 people
- The country has one of the strongest ICT infrastructures in South Asia
- The first university in the country was established in 2011

# MALDIVES LIS SECTOR

- A total of 294 libraries (*Riyaz et al., 2012*):



- The Maldives Library Association (MLA) was established in 1987.

# Status of LIS job market

- Majority employed in the Maldives libraries are officers of the Maldives Civil Service
- Approximately 293 active library positions; and 93 vacant (July/August 2020).
- Currently **only four** professionals hold a university LIS qualification.
- Extremely challenging to recruit qualified librarians.
- Absence of a job classification framework for the LIS profession.

# LIS education and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

## LIS Education

- Advanced Certificate (ACLIS) (2010)
- Diploma in LIS (DLIS) (2012); and a
- Bachelor degree program in LIS (scheduled for launch in 2021).
- Full-time LIS faculty appointed in 2018.

## CPD Programs

- The two principal LIS CPD training providers are NLM and MLA.
- Librarians/ civil service employees are entitled to follow CSTI courses.

# Data Collection (Nov 2019 to June 2020)



49

Online  
Questionnaire  
Respondents



7

Semi-  
structured  
online  
interviews

# KEY FINDINGS

1. Many LIS professionals have yet to comprehend the importance of personal responsibility of continuing learning.

2. Only 30% respondents participated in CPD programs.

4. Access to a very limited number of LIS related CPD programs.

3. School library professionals are the most affected by the minimal access to CPD.



# Key Findings (contd)

- Only two principal LIS training providers operating in the Maldives.
- The CPD programs by the National Library of Maldives (NLM) targeted at new entrants.
- Appropriate training programs lacking for LIS professionals at supervisory and middle management levels.
- Top barriers to pursuing CPD programs:
  - lack of suitable training programs,
  - shortage of knowledgeable resource persons,
  - inability to pay for training from personal resources, and
  - lack of opportunities for career advancement.

# Reasons for the slow development pace of the LIS profession

- LIS academic programs were launched just a decade ago.
- The absence of a strong national library association.
- Although NLM and MLA are focused on similar missions there is limited collaboration between them.
- Uncertain career paths due to the absence of a job classification framework for LIS professionals.
- The low salary structure.
- A lack of recognition of the critical role of libraries as 21<sup>st</sup> century learning centres.



# Realising UN2030 Agenda & SDGs in the Maldives



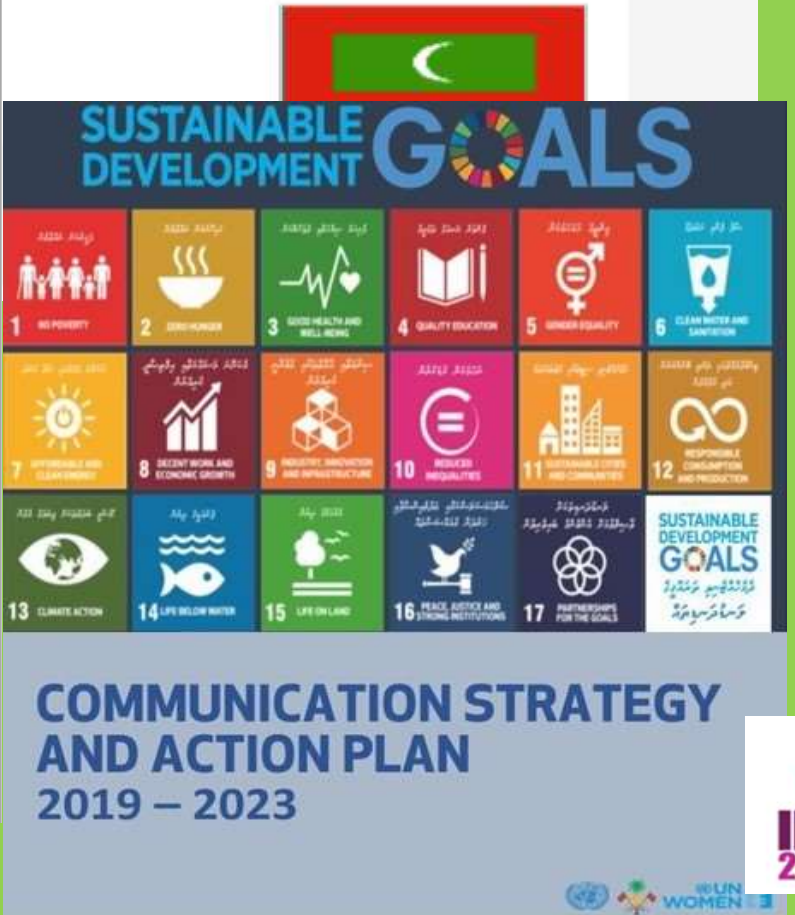
Voluntary National Review for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017

Republic of Maldives

Prepared by: Sustainable Development Goals Division, Ministry of Environment and Energy

**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**MALDIVES WAS PART OF THE 2017 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

1 NO POVERTY  
2 ZERO HUNGER  
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  
4 QUALITY EDUCATION  
5 GENDER EQUALITY  
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION  
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY  
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
10 REDUCE INEQUALITIES  
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES  
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION  
13 CLIMATE ACTION  
14 LIFE BELOW WATER  
15 LIFE ON LAND  
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS  
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2019 – 2023**

**IKC 2021**

# Conclusion

The slow development pace of the Maldivian LIS sector inhibits the profession from

- (1) Contributing to the government's efforts towards capacity building of the Maldivian community to effectively navigate the digital landscape; and,
- (2) Being considered as partners capable of supporting local development needs and improving government's efforts to achieve the UN2030 Agenda for SDGs.

The current state of the LIS sector in the Maldives is not unique to the country and may well resonate with other countries with similar scenarios.

# REFERENCES

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THANK YOU