



NATIONAL
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NatlibSYMPO 2022 PROCEEDINGS



“ Libraries as Partners of Enhancing
& Sustaining Quality Education ”

5TH

NATIONAL LIBRARY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2022

8th September, 2022

Colombo, Sri Lanka

National Library & Documentation Services Board
Ministry of Education

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MESSAGE FROM THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION

I am pleased to send this felicitation message to the 5th National Library Research Symposium 2022 of the National Library & Documentation Services Board with the theme of “**Libraries as Partners of Enhancing and Sustaining Quality Education**”.



Libraries should play an important role in quality education and the lifelong learning process. Therefore, Education and Library are two inseparable concepts, and libraries are considered a hub of research and the information sector too.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) is highly committed to ensuring equal access to quality education in the country. The MoE has taken initiatives to introduce digital infrastructure in education while producing teachers of ICT and technology who excelled in teaching on digital platforms and providing ICT facilities to schools. e-Thaksalawa is one of the initiatives introduced to enhance e-learning opportunities that was heavily used during online teaching conducted during the spike of COVID-19 in the country. It is evident that the majority of the school children are competent in using ICT devices for receiving quality education which is an important component of the Sustainable Development Goals introduced by the UN for moving towards the 2030 agenda.

I believe that the 5th National Library Research Symposium will provide a national-level opportunity to disseminate modern-day knowledge among academics, researchers, and professionals, and graduate and post-graduate students to share their research experience and also help to collaborate, and strengthen partnerships among professionals.

I would like to extend my warm wishes to the National Library & Documentation Services Board, the organizing committee, and the participants of the event for their strong commitment to sharing new knowledge in this forum.

HON. DR. SUSIL PREMAJAYANTHA

Hon. Minister of Education

National Library & Documentation Services Board

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

I consider it a privilege to send this message to the 5th National Library Research Symposium 2022 on “**Libraries as Partners of Enhancing and Sustaining Quality Education**” organized by the National Library & Documentation Services Board.



The National Library & Documentation Services Board has established and emerged as the apex body and the leader in the field of the Library & Information Science sector in Sri Lanka. There is no argument that libraries have been playing a significant and immeasurable role in quality education and the sustainable development of society at large.

These kinds of conferences are very helpful to improve mutual cooperation among professionals, researchers, and students to share their research experiences in the relevant field that would be beneficial to the country as a whole.

I warmly congratulate the National Library & Documentation Services Board on its Research Symposium on this timely topic and look forward to the outcomes of the discussion. I am confident that this forum would be an enriching and rewarding experience for all paper presenters and participants.

M. N. RANASINGHE

Secretary

Ministry of Education

MESSAGE FROM THE GUEST SPEAKER

It gives me immense pleasure to pen down this message as the Chief Guest of the 5th National Library Research Symposium on the theme “**Libraries as Partners of Enhancing & Sustaining Quality Education**” organized by the National Library.



The National Library is the premier body responsible for the establishment of a knowledge society for the presentation of the intellectual heritage of Sri Lanka through Library Science. All of us can be happy regarding the relevant research carried out by the NLSL since its inception, which is voluminous and of value to every scholar in Sri Lanka or in foreign countries.

On the heels of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Sri Lanka is struggling to recover from the worst economic crisis it has faced in the 21st century. Conducting this 5th National Library Research Symposium in such a backdrop is most welcome. It would direct research in library science to find solutions for us to enable economic development through quality education.

Last but not least, I wish all the very best to all the authors who will be presenting and sharing their new knowledge at the 5th National Library Research Symposium.

SENIOR PROFESSOR SAMPATH AMARATUNGE

Chairman

University Grants Commission (UGC)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, NLDSB

As the Chairman of the National Library & Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), it gives me great pleasure to write this message for the 5th National Library Research Symposium 2022 (NatlibSYMPO 2022). Conducting research in the library and information science fields in Sri Lanka is one of the main responsibilities of the NLDSB. To fulfill this responsibility, the Research Division of the NLDSB implements a number of projects every year. Conducting research and surveys, conducting workshops, and making the relevant authorities aware of the research findings are some of the main activities. This symposium is also an important milestone in the contribution of the NLDSB to the development of research in the Library and information science field and social sciences in Sri Lanka.



I believe that the 5th National Library Research Symposium will provide a national-level opportunity to disseminate modern-day knowledge among academics, researchers and professionals, graduates and postgraduate students to share their research experience and also help to collaborate, to strengthen partnerships among professionals.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our chief guest, guest of honor, keynote speaker, chairpersons of the sessions, paper presenters, and invitees for their highly valuable effort in the success of the occasion. I am thankful to the Director General of the NLDSB, Director (NLDC) and staff of the Research Division and the assistance given by the NLDSB staff for organizing this symposium and their commitment and hard work to make the event successful.

PROFESSOR NANDA DHARMARATHNA

National Library and Documentation Services Board

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, NLDSB

It is with great honour to convey this message to the National Library of Sri Lanka in hosting its 5th National Library Research Symposium. The main theme of the Symposium is “**Libraries as Partners of Enhancing & Sustaining Quality Education**” which will be conducted under various scientific sessions including Education, Information Literacy, Conservation and Preservation. As the UN says education is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and it is identified as a stand-alone goal (Sustainable Development Goal 4) and is also present as a target under other SDGs on health, growth and employment, sustainable consumption and production, and climate change.



The objective of this symposium is to provide an opportunity for library professionals to present their research findings and also to encourage them to conduct further research in the Library and Information Science and Social Sciences.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our Chief Guest, Hon. Dr. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education for gracing the occasion. Also, I would like to extend my gratitude to our Keynote Speaker, Mr. Rohan Prithiviraj Perera, Former Secretary General, Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO and our Guest Speaker, Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka for their participation and valuable speeches.

I also thank the Chairpersons of the three sessions and all presenters of the conference. I am also grateful to Prof. Nanda Dharmarathna, Chairman, NLDSB, Mrs. Padma Bandaranayake, Director, National Library & Documentation Center, Mr. Maithree Jayasundara, Head of the Library Research Division, Mr. Uditha Gunasekara, Research officer, NLDSB and the other members of the organizing committee and the staff of NLDSB for organizing this forum and to make it a huge success.

I wish all the success in this endeavour.

W. SUNIL

Director General

National Library & Documentation Services Board

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Keynote Address by Mr. Rohan Prithviraj Perera, Secretary General, Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO (Retd.), at the 5th National Libraries Research Symposium 2022 held on 08th September, 2022.

Mr Chairman, Members of the National Libraries Board, distinguished guests,

Thank you for providing me with this humbling opportunity to deliver the Keynote on an important subject which is in keeping with the Goal 4 of the globally accepted Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs), "**The provision of Quality Education for all**". This relates also to the main theme of today's symposium, "**Libraries as partners for enhancing and sustaining quality education for all**".



The SDGs have 17 global goals and the Goal 4 which relates to the subject of my keynote today becomes extremely important in that it cuts across all 17 goals and targets to be achieved by 2030 and therefore be deemed a vehicle for addressing all these noble goals that are a "**Shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future**". This is as agreed to by the United Nations General Assembly and designed to succeed the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) which were ended in 2015. To achieve these goals and targets by 2030, are indeed very difficult and challenging, particularly given the disruptions due to pandemics, upheavals, economic and financial crises facing the world today.

In going forward, let us first and foremost examine what entails "**Sustainable Development**" which is today a catch phrase in many social, political, cultural and economic fora's and have become intellectual discourses at national, regional and global levels. Sustainable development is simply defined as "**Addressing the needs of the present generations, whilst at the same time, keeping in mind the needs of the future generations**". If we are to do so, we need to sustain and safeguard the planet and its environment. Whilst the preservation of the natural environment which is a limited, irreplaceable and irredeemable resource and is a prime necessity for the sustainability of the planet, the peace and prosperity of the people for now and for the future is also very important and hinges on addressing the sustainable development goals. The 17 SDGs refer to "no poverty, zero hunger, good health, quality education, gender equity, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure,

reduced inequality, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace, justice and strong institutions and last but not the least, strong partnerships to achieve all these goals. In summary and simply put, it is useful and easy to remember that sustainable development is about addressing issues of Peace, Health, Environment, Economy and Societies and that the Goal 4, "**Quality Education for All**", cuts across and provides the linkages and the means to address all such issues. Let us not forget that peace and sustainable development are intrinsically linked. One cannot be achieved without the other.!

Having reflected on the sustainable development goals let us now focus on the crucial role to transform education in the 21st century, with a view to reaching these noble and important SDGs through the "**enhancing and sustaining of quality education for all with the contributions from the libraries as partners**", which is the main theme of today's symposium.

The most novel and up to date purposes of National Libraries as described in a study recognized by the Standing Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), although not prescriptive, mentions "**National Libraries as cultural assets in themselves that should contribute to the wealth of their communities by creating social capital in addition to being a custodian of national treasures and collections**". One could therefore say that the aspect of the contributing to the creation of social capital is an approach for the libraries to become partners in enhancing and sustaining quality education for all, with a view to the development of the wealth of the communities. This is more so at a time that Sri Lanka is in a situation of the worst economic crisis the nation has encountered and firmly believes that despite the difficult conditions, it has a lot of residual and basic strengths due to its good Human Development Indexes (HDIs) built over years of free education. Therefore, the leverage of human capital through education would be the most effective and sustainable solution to recover from this crisis and the National Libraries could become much valued partners in creating such social capital, by contributing to the Governments programs in transforming education and education systems in the 21st century, by way of reaching out to provide and disseminate information to the students and the communities in the related fields as appropriate and feasible.

The Government of Sri Lanka has committed itself to transform the education sector by way of the following actions;

1. Ensure recovery of learning losses with equity by way of continued learning processes with online and other distance learning modes and through blended learning approaches. Specific attention shall be given to ECCE Centers which have an immense impact on early literacy and numeracy skills of children

which impacts on both intellectual and personal development in the later years. This is one of the best investments in education for the future, particularly given that it is in the early stages of childhood between the ages of 0-6 years that the highest amount of brain development takes place. **National Libraries could help in programs that could cater to the needs of the ECCE centers, including its teachers.**

2. Ensure equal and equitable access to education and inclusive participation through existing subsidiary programs such as free text books, uniforms, subsidized travel facilities through public/private partnerships, investments into health and hygiene infrastructure, mental health programs, student safety and health insurance and decreasing malnutrition among school children.
3. Formulate and or enhance current national education policy and update all existing education laws and regulations to strengthen legal frameworks to address forms of exclusion, disparity and inequality in access to education and learning, participation and in ensuring quality education.
4. Ensure sector wide professionalization of teachers and improvement of their well-being with the firm belief that it is only motivated, empowered and effective teachers who are the key to recovering and transforming education and its systems and in ensuring the delivery of quality learning for better learning outcomes. Improvements to providing them with attractive career paths, existing teacher recruitment and deployment modes and continuous training mechanisms, upgrading teacher training colleges, their training modules focusing on transformative education which comprises inclusive approaches, life skills for the 21st century, global citizenship, peace and sustainable development, health, safety and sexual education and environmental sustainability and promoting meaningful involvement of parents, teachers and community leaders in the process with the wholistic approach of improving content knowledge, pedagogy and teaching capacity focused on learner centered education and in the use of new technologies are most needed in transforming education. **The National Libraries could help cater to the needs of the Teacher Colleges in particular and the teaching fraternities in general.**
5. Enhance and emphasize the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) and in a wholistic and integrated manner to also impart skills such as critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, emotional skills, empathy, knowledge of peace in schools curricula and Skills for Work through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) with a greater understanding of synergies between social development and economic growth for a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable world.

6. Ensure the Digital Transformation of Education as the heart of 21st century education in Sri Lanka with the expectation of making learners prepared to accommodate fast evolving technological skills in a knowledge healthy and safe manner in their professional and personal lives, by way of safe digital platforms and equipment, e learning and management systems and smart classrooms in all schools, in technical and vocational training centers and in universities, whilst establishing digital education centers in remote areas. This transformation in education and learning methods will greatly help in reducing inequalities in education by way of provision of the same educational content and access to all.
7. Map out what the existing talent is capable of and invest in reskilling early to take the sting out of disruption, along with the digital transformation in education and given the fast-emerging changes to the core skills required for jobs in the 21st century. It should also ensure introducing new curricula comprising areas such as Internet of Things (IOT) and Big Data, web development, social media marketing and software engineering for continuous integration, that will lead to areas such as data analytics, data sciences, Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain management, logistics, cloud computing, compliance, together with digital safety and well-being, all of which comprise the 21st century Rising Skills that have fueled the modern 4th Industrial Revolution. These skills maybe nascent now, but, will potentially see wide scale adoptions in the future.
8. Introduce a sector based, results oriented, data driven and efficient funds allocation methodology to finance education and ensure that all sectors from ECCE, primary, secondary, tertiary and TVET education, as also, continuous teacher training and development, including curriculum development get a fair share to enable allocations to improve internal efficiencies even under the present economic crisis. The importance of strengthening the ongoing EMIS and data management systems to facilitate regular monitoring and evaluations for ensuring delivery of quality education for all, shall also be a commitment of the government.
9. Encourage Public/Private partnerships in the areas of TVET, digital education, rising skills education and higher education to contribute to the sustainability of education as a long-term investment for the skilled labor force.
10. Strengthen international partnerships with the UN agencies, including the World Bank, ADB and direct bilateral initiatives to improve infrastructures, technical capacities and quality standards through various forms of assistance such as loans, grants, training and scholarships, policy advise and advocacy as appropriate and needed.

National Library & Documentation Services Board

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I have spelled out the commitments made by the Ministry of Education, Government of Sri Lanka in Transforming Education to enhance and sustain the quality of education for all, which relates to the Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It shall be most appropriate if the National Libraries who are expected to contribute to the wealth of the communities by creating social capital, could be proactively involved in reaching out to all its relevant stakeholders such as the ministries, institutions, schools, universities, communities, civil society organizations and the UN system, to not only build up the collections, but also, to proactively share information whether historic or current on the subjects that involve the governments initiatives to transform education, as also, the SDGs, as deemed appropriate. Some of the important areas of information should involve information on ECCE, Life Skills,(TVET, Critical thinking, transferability and flexibility) Soft Skills (emotional skills, empathy, patience etc..), Rising Skills, education involving STEAM subjects and Teacher Education and Development, Sustainable Development Goals,(knowledge of peace, health, environment, economy and society), synergies between social development and economic growth for a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable world. Provision of information on issues of good governance, accountability and prevention of corruption can greatly assist in economic growth, since corruption creates a huge dent in economic development and contributes to increasing poverty. This proactive role of the National Libraries in sharing information on these mentioned subjects should become dynamic, making use of modern technologies, whilst also maintaining and updating the collections for physical access and blended learning.

It shall be most apt to conclude by saying that "the gaps between the developed, developing and the under developed nations, lies with the lack of provision and of access to information to all its communities ". The National Libraries have these important roles to play in building knowledge societies, but, the efforts can be meaningful and effective, only if the approaches for delivering them are dynamic, proactive and full of commitment. There are also, huge gaps in policies and their implementations in Sri Lanka. Providing information and knowledge on catalyzing the implementation of policies should also be an important task of the National Libraries. Engaging stakeholders are very demanding and challenging and have to be repetitive and relentless in order to achieve the end objectives.!!

I wish you good luck in the challenging tasks ahead!

ROHAN PRITHIVIRAJ PERERA

Former Secretary General

Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

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Socio-Demographic Factors that Affect the Academic Performance of the Students

N. M. A. Jayasinghe¹, S. D. Chaturani², Nelum Kanthilatha³

ABSTRACT

The close relationship between human capital and economic growth is undeniable. Human capital is affected directly and indirectly by education. It plays an important role in both accumulating human capital and increasing economic growth. In that case, all countries focus on promoting education in order to increase their human capital. School education lays the foundation for the development of human capital which is necessary for the country to develop. Therefore, this study is an attempt to determine demographic factors that affect the Students' Academic Performance (SAP). Data were collected through questionnaires and interviews. The sample included 200 students in grades 10 and 11 in four schools at the Rathnapura Education Zone. Purposive sampling was employed based on the class positions they had obtained in end of the year school examination in 2019 prior to the COVID - 19. Collected data were subjected to chi-square testing, and factors were identified that significantly affect to the SAP. The impact of these factors on the SAP was measured using a logistic model. Present study identified the socio-demographic factors: the level of mother's education, mother's employability, father's income, total household income, time spent for self-studies, and number of children engaged in studies have a significant positive relationship with the increase in the SAP. In contrast, factors like gender and the level of father's education have not affected significantly the SAP. The time spends for self-studies are also important for the enhancement of academic performance. The optimum time for self-studies, as calculated, should be around 3 hours per day. The students who had good academic performance have used public libraries in addition to the school libraries to enhance their knowledge and to do self-studies. These observations indicated that the mother plays an important role in enhancing the SAP as well as the time allocated for self-studies. The study recommends that the government should pay attention to this important and widely known fact in policy making.

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Policies should be amended allowing more time to working mothers to spend more time with their children who are sitting for the main examinations. Steps can possibly be taken to ensure flexible working hours for such mothers so that they can spend time with school-going children to enhance their academic performance.

Keywords: Academic performance, Employment of mother, Income, Self-studies

A Framework for Mixing Information Management Strategies with Blended Learning for Improved Student Satisfaction

B. A. Nadeera Dilhani Dharmarathne ¹

ABSTRACT

The present Sri Lankan higher education system has taken a massive step towards enhancing teaching and learning by adopting technology. An information management strategy is an organization's plan to acquire, manage, use, and deliver information through products and services to internal and external customers. However, blended learning is a new approach to teaching and learning created by combining traditional classroom learning with an online learning platform. In recent years, blended learning has become an increasingly popular form of e-learning. It is particularly suitable for transitioning from completely traditional forms of learning to online learning. This paper aims to identify information management strategies with blended learning for improved student satisfaction. Randomly selected 300 students from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities, Commerce, and Science of the three Universities in the Western Province, namely the Universities of Kelaniya, Colombo, and Sri Jayewardenepura. Questionnaires and interviews (Zoom, Telephone, and Live Chat) are used to collect data and data analysis was done through SPSS software. The results of this study show that student satisfaction with the use of information management strategies in blended learning is higher than in traditional learning methods. Blended learning affects student performance and satisfaction. Although student satisfaction with blended learning varies between universities and faculties, overall student satisfaction with blended learning is very high. This study concludes that use of information management strategies in blended learning increases student satisfaction. Blended learning contributes to students' satisfaction which eventually leads to students' improved performance.

Keywords: Blended Learning, Framework, Information Management Strategies, Student Satisfaction

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ඩී. එල්. ජගත් වන්දුලාල්¹

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ඉගෙනුම් ඉගැන්වීම් ක්‍රියාවලියේදී තොරතුරු ගවේෂණයට සුවිශේෂ ස්ථානයක් හිමි වේ. අද්‍යයනයේ මානව දැනුමට එකතු වන තොරතුරු විශාල ප්‍රමාණයක් ඇත. මෙහිදී නිවැරදි තොරතුරු ගවේෂණය කරමින් සිසුන් වෙත තොරතුරු සම්ප්‍රේෂනය කිරීමේ කාර්යයේ දී වත්මනෙහි ගුරුවරයාට ප්‍රමුඛ භූමිකාවක් හිමි ව ඇත. එය ළඟා කර ගැනීමට අද්‍යයනය පාසල් පද්ධතියේ නවීන තාක්ෂණික උපක්‍රම භාවිත කිරීම හා ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම අභියෝගයක් බවට පත් ව තිබේ. එබැවින් ගුරුවරුන්ගේ තොරතුරු ගවේෂණ වර්යාවන් සිසුන්ගේ කුසලතා සංවර්ධනයට බෙහෙවින් අදාළ වේ. ඒ අනුව මෙම පර්යේෂණය ඉගෙනුම් ඉගැන්වීම්හි නියැලෙන නර්තන ගුරුවරුන්ගේ තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා හඳුනා ගැනීම, තොරතුරු අවශ්‍යතා ආශ්‍රිත ගුරුවරුන්ගේ වර්යා සහ මූලාශ්‍ර හඳුනා ගැනීම, ගවේෂණය කළ තොරතුරු වෘත්තීය සංවර්ධනයට කොතෙක් දුරට යොදා ගන්නේදැයි විමසා බැලීම, තොරතුරු ගවේෂණයේදී ගුරුවරුන් මුහුණදෙන ගැටලු හා බාධක හඳුනා ගෙන එම බාධක ජය ගැනීමට යෝජනා ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම පර්යේෂණයේ අරමුණු විය. විස්තරාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ප්‍රවේශය යටතේ නියැදි සමීක්ෂණ ක්‍රමය ඔස්සේ මෙම අධ්‍යයනය සිදුකරන ලදී. එහිදී සහේතුක නියැදි ක්‍රමය යටතේ ගුරුවරුන් 200ක්, ගුරු උපදේශකවරුන් හතරක් හා පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් 20කින් සමන්විත නියැදියකින් ප්‍රශ්නාවලි, නිරීක්ෂණ හා සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ඇසුරින් දත්ත සම්පාදනය කර ගන්නා ලදී. විස්තරාත්මක සංඛ්‍යාන ක්‍රම වන වගු, ප්‍රස්තාර හා ප්‍රතිශත ද යොදා ගත් අතර, තේමා මතු කරමින් විශ්ලේෂණය, කේතකරණය හා සාරාංශකරණය, ගුණාත්මක දත්ත විශ්ලේෂණයට භාවිත කරන ලදී. පර්යේෂණ අනාවරණ අනුව නර්තන ගුරුවරුන් වැඩි වශයෙන්ම තොරතුරු ගවේෂණය කරන ලද්දේ ඉගැන්වීම් කටයුතු සඳහා ය. එමෙන්ම තොරතුරු අඩංගු මූලාශ්‍ර ගවේෂණයේදී තොරතුරු මූලාශ්‍ර භාවිතය පහළ මට්ටමක පැවතුණි. පුස්තකාල පහසුකම් 96%ක්ම ලබා ගෙන ඇත්තේ පාසල් පුස්තකාලවලිනි. එහෙත් ඒවායින් සැපයෙන මූලාශ්‍රගත දත්ත ප්‍රමාණවත් නොවූ බව ද මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේදී හඳුනා ගත හැකි විය. එම නිසා පාසල් පුස්තකාල හැකි ඉක්මනින් ප්‍රවර්ධනය කිරීමේ අවශ්‍යතාව මෙමඟින් අනාවරණය විය. ඒ අනුව සමස්තයක් ලෙස බලන කල සන්නිවේදනය හා තොරතුරු තාක්ෂණය භාවිතය ඉතා අවම මට්ටමක පවතින අතර, එබැවින් තොරතුරු සන්නිවේදන මෙවලම් භාවිතය සඳහා පාසල් පුස්තකාල හා නර්තන ගුරුවරුන් පෙළඹවිය යුතු බවත්, පුස්තකාලයන්හි පවතින අංශ වඩාත් විධිමත්ව පවත්වා ගනිමින් බහු මාධ්‍ය ඒකක පිහිටුවා, නර්තන ගුරුවරුන්ට ඒවා භාවිතය පිළිබඳව පුහුණු කරවීමට වැඩසටහන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ යුතු බවට යෝජනා කෙරේ.

ප්‍රමුඛ පද: නර්තන විෂය, නර්තන ගුරුවරයා, තොරතුරු, ගවේෂණ වර්යා

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**A Case Study on Selected Home Libraries in Promoting Reading
Culture: Based on Kalutara, Rathnapura,
Colombo, Kurunegala and Hambantota Districts**

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ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka has a long history of home libraries or domestic libraries. However, it has gained more attention in the recent past. In the 1980s, the Association for Domestic Librarians was initiated in Sri Lanka. The objectives of the study were to describe the nature of the collections, evaluate the methods used to organize the collection, discuss the services provided by the home library to the community and examine the problems faced by the persons who maintain home libraries. Eighteen (18) libraries were examined covering districts such as Kalutara, Rathnapura, Colombo, Kurunegala and Hambantota. Most of the libraries (16) consist of fiction collections. In addition, certain libraries were intended to develop special collections which are related with the occupation of the person who maintained the library. The majority of the libraries (16) used their own classification system to organize the collection. The quantity of the collection varies from 500 to 5000 and the majority consist of 500-1000 books. A few libraries (02) used the first summary of Dewey Decimal Classification to organize the collection. Most of home librarians prefer to locate their collection in a separate room and use closed cupboards rather than open racks. Some libraries (10) allow reference work only and others provide lending service only (04) and 04 libraries provide both reference and lending services. Conservation of books and limited space was the main problems those libraries face. Because of the space problem, libraries were unable to update its collection. People who are conducting these libraries engaged with this work only for self-satisfaction. However, they have gained more social recognition than before due to this service. It is also clear that the home libraries are hidden entities that have enough capacity to contribute to the development of a strong reading culture in Sri Lanka. These libraries need certain consultation from library science experts to develop them in a more effective way. Further, the advisory assistance of national level institutions is essential for improving the quality of home libraries and absorbs their services to enhance the reading culture.

Keywords: Home libraries, Reading promotion, Reading culture

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**Assessing the Knowledge and Awareness of the Staff Members
in the Public Libraries under the Colombo Municipal Council
(CMC) in the Rights and Needs of the Persons with Disabilities
in Search of Information**

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ABSTRACT

As per the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) guidelines, the Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Sri Lankan Constitution (1972), the Gazette extraordinary, and the United Nations (UN) convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007), it has recommended implementing essential requirements for persons with disabilities in practice, since they have been facing many challenges in different level, within society. Along with that, the right of obtaining information for education and other needs is a crucial requirement to that needs to be addressed with high priority. “Public Libraries” play a crucial role in society as a place of providing information to the general public irrespective of their age, gender, and disabilities. Public libraries should set up “Standards, Policies, and Principles” that could be followed when providing library services and apart from that, they should adhere to the locally accepted acts, policies, and practices to protect the rights of this special category. Especially, to develop the library services and provide facilities to persons with disabilities, the library staff needs to have proper knowledge and understanding of international organizations which work on the rights of persons with disabilities, international conventions, local acts and legal provisions for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. Therefore, the objective of this study is to measure the different requirements and the interest in the information needs among the disabled users, and relevant subject knowledge among the staff, and to study the percentage of the services which are implemented at the libraries under the recommended format. This study was conducted in the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC)

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area since a considerable number of people with disabilities have been recorded in this area by the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka. All eleven (11) branch libraries were considered for the study's sample, and a mixed method was used during the study. The library staff of the respective libraries was also interviewed through a moderated questionnaire. It was found that 85% have not addressed the basic needs such as accessibility to the premises. About 60% of the staff does not have a basic knowledge of providing facilities for persons with disabilities. The majority of the library staff does not have a proper understanding of the international organizations and the role of these organizations in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, and 64% of the library staff are aware and have a moderate level of understanding of the relevant legal provisions in Sri Lanka. However, it is recommended that libraries under CMC should adopt special services for users with disabilities, such as constructing special access, enhancing Braille and audiobook collections, and initiating special projects targeting users with disabilities. Finally, it should be mentioned that the overall understanding of the rights and needs of disabled users among library staff needs to be addressed with high priority.

Keywords: Persons with disabilities, Public libraries, Standards, Policies, Acts, Conventions

Radiation Processing Technology as a Tool for Preservation of Paper Based Library Material

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ABSTRACT

Over centuries, paper in the forms of books, magazines, newspapers, etc. served as the medium for storage and transfer of knowledge in society. Papermaking process utilizes raw materials originating from plants that are composed of cellulose, hemi-cellulose and lignin. Millions of paper-based materials present in the libraries, archives, and collections, deteriorate with time due to numerous processes. Out of these, acid hydrolysis is the major contributor through de-polymerization of cellulose and hemi-cellulose, while attacks of biological agents including fungi, bacteria, insects, etc. contribute to paper deterioration significantly. The presence of heat, light, and moisture accelerates the aforementioned deterioration processes, resulting the paper being fragile and brittle. In the field of paper conservation, radiation processing technology is applied to achieve two goals. First, to arrest active biological attacks by irradiation. The technique serves as an alternative to ethylene oxide fumigation and is advantageous especially in the case of large collections exposed to natural disasters like floods. Although the radiation causes a negative impact on cellulose polymers, the effect is not significant at the radiation doses applied for the biocidal treatment of paper. Second, to preserve paper by graft co-polymerization, a technique developed by the British Library in the 1980s. Feasibility of mass scale treatment with the high penetration power of gamma radiation, compatibility with bound volumes, and absence of toxic residues on treated materials are the pros of the technique, while the irreversibility

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is considered a con. The latter technique was experimented in the Sri Lankan context, with the objectives of restoration of physical properties depleted by the deterioration and preservation of paper materials against future attacks. Polymer formulations containing mixtures of alkyd resin (with variable concentration from 5% to 40%) in monomers styrene and methyl methacrylate, were applied on the naturally aged paper (from printed books and 3 to 6 decades old) and irradiated by gamma radiation to achieve graft co-polymerization. Irradiation is conducted by panoramic, wet storage, Co-60 multi-purpose irradiation facility to a gamma radiation dose of 15 kGy at a dose rate between 0.33 to 0.53 kGy/hr. The success of the treatment was determined by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and the percentage weight increases (for different polymer formulations) is illustrated below. Physical properties were evaluated as an evidence of restoration of depleted properties, while Thermo Gravimetric Analysis (TGA), water absorption, and chemical resistance testing were conducted to determine the preventive conservation aspects. Based on the laboratory scale experimental results and observations, the gamma radiation assisted graft co-polymerization technique is recommended for preservation of the paper-based library materials.

Keywords : Radiation, Paper conservation, Graft co-polymerization

Student Perceptions on Library Website as a Gateway to the Resources

Upeksha Kodithuwakku¹

ABSTRACT

The Library of the University of Moratuwa, annually conducts a library orientation programme for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Engineering for six weeks. After the pandemic and shortage of supplying fuels for transportation and daily chores of the country, most programmes have been shifted from physical to online. The online library orientation programme for the year 2022 was organized to bridge the relationship between the library and the students whose academic studies were restricted to online mode. The second week of the library orientation programme was designed to introduce the library website to 13 different groups of students for three days. With the objective of finding student perceptions of the newly introduced library website, a structured online questionnaire was distributed among the participants. The demographic background and the students' view of the academic library website, their knowledge of using information technology, and the role of the librarian in providing scholarly sources were identified through the questionnaire. Amidst the technological barriers and power interruptions, 147 responses were recorded. The data was entered and analyzed by using SPSS software. From Likert scale questions, the usefulness of library website, intention to use university library website, computer self-efficacy and role of librarian were analyzed. The students comprised 73% males and 27% females which the majority mentioned that search engines (47%) as the most preferred information source and information-seeking behavior were designed for browsing online and reading printed versions (68%). The study aimed to examine website evaluation's five criteria named authority, accuracy, objectivity, currency, and coverage. The findings revealed that the university library website provides useful information (89%) and the students expect to use the library website in the future (65%).

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The pilot study will recommend the library authorities upgrade website features such as support for online and physical usage of the collection, the creation of library's online image. The continuation of the study with the same sample will identify the fulfillment of user-friendliness and effective user-centered services.

Keywords: Academic library websites, Information gateways,
Information -seeking behavior, Library orientations,
Librarians role, User perceptions

A Novel Ultra-Violet Light Trap Method for Sustainable Book Collection Free of Insect Pests

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ABSTRACT

The high humidity and temperature in libraries in Sri Lanka inherit their own set of conservation problems against the durability of stored paper materials in libraries. A survey conducted by the National Library and Documentation Services Board in 2012 revealed that insect pest infestation was one of the major conservation issues in public libraries in Sri Lanka. The climatic conditions combined with poor maintenance of library buildings, poor attention of administrators, library staff, and library users, and lack of funds for maintenance of the library environment make the condition even worse in many cases. The damage caused by insect pests is irreversible, permanent, and extremely impossible to restore. This contradicts the sustainable development goals of the library sector in the country. Ultra-Violet (U.V.) light trap was designed and tested to eradicate the insect pests in the library ecosystem. It comprises two Ultra-Violet lamp tubes (each 10W), fixed into two lamp tube brackets, and a timer. An iron net is fixed to protect the U.V. lights. A power line is connected at the power input end of the Ultra-Violet (U.V.) lamp tube. A paper board (1 mm) consisting of an adhesive layer is attached at the base of the trap to collect insects. This Ultra-Violet light trap has the advantages of short operation time remotely; operating at non working hours, i.e., at night, does not involve environmental concerns due to the facilitation by the timer. A book collection infested with insect pests was selected (7 m x 5 m) by operating a sticky blunder trap survey (3traps/m-2) for two weeks. The Ultra-Violet (U.V.) trap was then placed in that area for another two weeks. The timer was adjusted to operate 10 hours per day in night from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. Insect catches were counted.

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Again, a sticky blunder trap survey was conducted as above. Again, the Ultra-Violet (U.V.) trap was placed in the area. After that, the sticky blunder trap survey was conducted as above for the third time. An initial sticky blunder trap survey confirmed that the collection consists of 69 insect populations viz., including 61 insect pests and 8 non-pests. After introducing the light trap, the insects population decreased by 36 and 3 during one and a half months. The initial insect pests' density of 1.74m^{-2} was changed to 0.08m^{-2} after the treatment. Hence, this method can be recommended for the control of insect pests in small collections. The light trap attracted a large number of non-pests (43.7% and 40.7%), some of which are harmless, acting as predators or mold feeders, which may disrupt the library's ecosystem.

Keywords : Library pest control, U.V. light trap, Pest survey, Library pest management

Use of Electronic Databases by Undergraduate Students : a Study Based on Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya

Thushari Upeksha Gamage¹

ABSTRACT

Universities can be mentioned as an institution dedicated to the development of learning and research activities necessary for the progress of a country as well as the intellectual development of the people living in a country. Electronic databases can be mentioned as a type of information source that can be easily acquired without hindrance for the students studying in an information-rich environment to carry out their learning and research work at a very high level. Although the university system of Sri Lanka has a large number of databases with high value and content, it is a matter of concern whether the students use them for their studies. The main objective of the research is to identify the use of electronic databases (Emerald, EBSCO, SAGE, Jstor, and Oxford) in the university libraries by the students for their studies. 250 final-year students in the Faculty of Social Sciences were selected as the study sample and 242 students have responded to it successfully. The quantitative research method was used for the study and primary data was collected under the questionnaire technique. The study revealed that the use of electronic databases in the university libraries for the academic activities of the students was at a high level, but the students do not have a full understanding of how the databases can be used for their academic activities. Therefore, it is recommended to design short term training courses related to the use of databases through the computer unit of the library and arrange computers with high-speed internet facilities so that the readers can easily access the electronic databases in the lending section & students' hostels. Also arranging to conduct short-term training courses related to information literacy through the computer unit of the library and set up programs to provide required articles to students through e-mail and make arrangements to store those articles that they are available through the library website for use at any time whenever they are needed.

Keywords: University, University Education, University Library, Electronic databases

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Library Initiative to Increase the Awareness and Access to Electronic Resources among the Academics of the University of Jaffna

U. Latha¹

ABSTRACT

The transformation of the conventional academic teaching platform, mobility restrictions, and less access to printed resources changed the orientation and perspectives of the academics and intellectuals belonging to Sri Lankan Universities. The University of Jaffna is also not an exception to this rule. Nevertheless, it could be seen that the electronic resources available through the Jaffna library are not effectively utilized, and the visibility is also not substantial. The interlibrary borrowing provision is marginally employed and the research repositories are still not completed in general. Hence the prime objective of this research is to assess the factors influencing the awareness and utilization of electronic resources by academics, available through the library. A structured questionnaire was administered to 89 randomly selected academics belonging to the faculties of Management and Commerce, Science, and Agriculture to elicit the relevant information. Data were collected relevant to academics' perception, awareness level, and usage level of electronic resources. The dependent variable was dichotomous and thus categorized into two groups based on the ordering response options while making no assumptions of having interval distances between options. Concerning the categorical regression output, it could be seen those three independent variables, such as expected years of future academic tenure, the stream academics belong to, and the level of awareness about electronic resources, are positively correlated at 1%, 1%, and 5% significant levels respectively with the dependent variable. In conclusion, it can be said that the usage rate is better for science stream academics with a longer future academic tenure and a higher degree of awareness of open access resources. In essence, an effort has to be made to increase the understanding and visibility of electronic library resources in all avenues.

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Library as a partner that could enhance the usage level of electronic resources and ultimately foster digital literacy among the Jaffna University academics.

Keywords: Categorical regression model, Digital literacy, Electronic resources, University of Jaffna

Developing National Union Catalogue using VuFind and Koha Rest API: A Technical Solution for Sri Lankan Libraries

M. N. Ravikumar¹

ABSTRACT

The rapid progress of library automation activities began in Sri Lankan libraries after 1987 with the introduction of CDS/ISIS. After exploring various types of Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS), Sri Lankan academic libraries realized the value of utilizing open-source software for library automation. Presently, almost all academic libraries in Sri Lanka are utilizing the Koha open source ILMS for library automation, and academic libraries' OPACs are accessible over the Internet. In the recent past, two major projects were implemented with the goal of automating the public libraries in Sri Lanka. One of the projects was carried out with the technological assistance of the Open University of Sri Lanka where around 63 public libraries were automated island-wide. Another project was led by the Information Communication Technology Agency (ICTA), Sri Lanka in collaboration with the National Library of Sri Lanka where 26 libraries were automated including the National Library. Koha was chosen as the ILMS for these projects, and OPACs of many public libraries are now accessible via the Internet. Also, there are individual professionals involved in implementing Koha ILMS in libraries all over the country. At this juncture, as the objective of this account, developing an online National Union Catalogue for Sri Lankan libraries by integrating all OPACs of public libraries, academic libraries, and other institutional libraries is vital, as it will save users' time in searching for and retrieving their required items without having to visit several OPACs. The union catalogue collects bibliographic records from numerous libraries that have been integrated into a single database to allow end users to search a variety of library catalogues through a single interface. Additionally, it will display the status of the availability of books to users, and users can visit the nearest library to consult the required books.

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In order to enable this function, it is proposed to exploit another open-source software, which is VuFind. It is a discovery tool that creates a single searchable index using bibliographic data harvested from OPACs and other digital repositories through OAI-PMH. It also provides library clients with an enhanced experience and modern OPAC functionalities. To connect the Koha ILMS with VuFind, there are two methods commonly used as Koha driver and KohaILSDI driver in VuFind. However, these techniques fall short of expectations and are not very secure. As a result, this paper discusses a technological solution for integrating multiple Koha instances using the ‘Koha Rest API’ features and the ‘MultiBackend’ driver of VuFind. Koha Rest API provides OAuth2 protocol-based access to Koha database using Koha-rest-plugin for integrating multiple Koha instances with VuFind where the libraries in the Union Catalogue simply need to share their client id and secret key with VuFind. This method is more secure than other methods because it does not require any additional MySQL or Maria database configuration, even if Koha instances are on different servers. It also eliminates the need to share Koha database credentials with others. Therefore, it is envisaged to network the entire country’s library databases together to serve the users with maximum satisfaction.

Keywords: VuFind, Koha, Koha Rest API, MultiBackend driver, OAI-PMH, Union Catalogue

Citation Analysis of Masters in Information Technology Theses Available in Library, University of Moratuwa

T. M. Seneviratne¹, R. C. Kodikara²

ABSTRACT

Library records indicate postgraduates reading for MSc. in Information Technology use less printed information resources. The Library, University of Moratuwa has subscribed to reputed databases in such subject specialties. Though downloads from these databases are significantly increasing, their real usage has not been evaluated. By analyzing citations of theses and dissertations of MSc. in the field of Information Technology, usage of information resources can be identified. Out of 250 master's theses of the Faculty of Information Technology, submitted during the 15-year period from 2006-2020, 152 theses were used as the sample. Stratified random sampling was used to select a sample of 152 theses according to the year of submission. Three thousand five hundred seventeen citations were found in 152 MSc. in Information Technology theses with 23 average citations per thesis. More than 50% of the citations were within the period from the year 1996 to 2020. The majority of citations are from Websites (38.24%). Journals (23.20%), books (16.12%), and conference proceedings (12.88%) dominate thereafter. The majority of the information sources cited are available electronically (70.4%). When authorship patterns are considered, it was found that 781 citations are by individual authors; 1313 publications by corporate authors and 1416 publications by multiple authors. Though affiliation could not be identified in 40.3% of citations, others belong to 50 countries and the United States of America (14.3%) is in the highest position. A majority (23) of the studies have been carried out in the sub-field of Information Systems and 'Software Engineering' by Ian Sommerville ranked first (12.5%) among 184 authors and co-authors of books. International Journal of Computer Applications received 5.63% of citations.

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Five out of 10 highly ranked journals are available in subscribed databases of the Library, University of Moratuwa. Out of 141 listed conferences, 49.64% of the conference proceedings are available in IEEE Explore Digital Library; 32.6% are available in ACM Digital Library; 2.1% are available in both databases. It can be concluded that the current Library collection is mostly utilized to satisfy research needs by both physical and electronic modes of access to these resources physically as well as electronically.

Keywords : Citation Analysis, Information Technology-Theses, Postgraduates, Research, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

A Study about the Usage of E-Repositories by University Students: with Special Reference to University of Kelaniya, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and University of Colombo

M. D. S. M. Sanjeevani¹

ABSTRACT

At present, the E-repositories have become an integral part of the university library. As researchers, university students can get immense support from this. However, it is a problem to what extent university students use this service. Accordingly, the main purpose of this research is to study the usage of e-repositories by university students. The survey method has been used as the research method. The population of the research is university students. Among the population, 300 students were selected as a sample representing all the faculties of the above universities. 100 students were from each university. Data collection was done through questionnaires and data analysis was done using MS Excel software. According to this research, it could be identified that only 46% of students were using e-repositories for their academic work and 21% of students were not even aware of e-repositories and their services. The main reasons for that a lack of awareness about e-repositories and their services, a lack of knowledge about how to access e-repositories and reach the information they need and the interface and functions of e-repositories were not user-friendly manners. Therefore, university students should be kept informed about the e-repositories, the importance of e-repositories, and the services provided by the university libraries. The library authorities should take action to provide guidelines and conduct workshops on how to access and reach the necessary information. Also attention should be paid to the necessary technical innovations and updated editions to make the e-repositories interface more user-friendly and to make their functions more convenient.

Keywords: E-repositories, E-repository services, University libraries, University students, Sri Lanka

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එච්. ඩබ්. කුසලා සජ්චනී පුෂ්පකාන්ති¹

සාරාංශය

මානව සමාජය දැනුවත් කිරීම උදෙසා සඟරා මාධ්‍ය මගින් ඉටු කෙරෙන මෙහෙවර සුවිශේෂ වූවකි. වර්ෂ 2012 සැප්තැම්බර්, සාහිත්‍ය මාසයට සමගාමීව ආරම්භ වන ප්‍රලේඛා සඟරාව ලාංකේය සඟරා ඉතිහාසයේ ශාස්ත්‍රීය දැනුම සමාජගත කිරීම උදෙසා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විසින් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කරනු ලැබුවකි. ඒ අනුව ප්‍රලේඛා සඟරාව මගින් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කෙරෙන ලිපිවල ප්‍රකාශන ස්වරූපය අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම හා එහි අන්තර්ගතය විමර්ශනය කිරීම මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ අරමුණු විය. මේ සඳහා ග්‍රන්ථමිතික අධ්‍යයන ක්‍රමවේදය භාවිත කර ඇත. 2017 සිට 2021 දක්වා වසර පහක කාලය තුළ ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කරන ලද සඟරා දාහතර මෙම අධ්‍යයනය සඳහා යොදා ගන්නා ලදී. මෙම කාල සීමාව තුළ ප්‍රලේඛා සඟරාවේ පළ වී ඇති සමස්ත ලිපි ප්‍රමාණය එකසිය අසූවකි. සඟරාවේ පළවූ ලිපිවල අන්තර්ගතය අනුව දේශීය සාහිත්‍යය සහ විදේශීය සාහිත්‍යය ලෙස, ලිපි පිළිබඳ විශ්ලේෂණය කළ අතර ඉන් ලිපි විසි හතක් විදේශීය සාහිත්‍යය පිළිබඳව එනම් පරිවර්තන, විදෙස් ලේඛක ලේඛකාවන් පිළිබඳව සහ විදෙස් පද්‍ය පිළිබඳ ලිපි පළ වී ඇත. දේශීය සාහිත්‍යය පිළිබඳ අන්තර්ගත ලිපි එකසිය පනස් තුනක් පළ වී ඇත. දේශීය සාහිත්‍යයේ ලේඛක ලේඛකාවන් පිළිබඳ, පද්‍ය සාහිත්‍යය, කෙටි කතා, දේශපාලන, ආගමික, පරිවර්තන, ජනශ්‍රැති, ළමා සාහිත්‍යය මෙන්ම සන්නිවේදනය, ලේඛන කලාව සහ සංස්කෘතිය ආදී ක්‍ෂේත්‍ර ඔස්සේ පළවූ ලිපි මෙහි අන්තර්ගත විය. එහිදී සාහිත්‍යය පිළිබඳ වැඩි අවධානයක් යොමු කර ඇති අතර එක් එක් සාහිත්‍ය ක්‍ෂේත්‍ර පිළිබඳ විශේෂ අවධානයක් යොමුකරමින් ඇතැම් කලාප ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කර ඇති බව නිරීක්ෂණය විය. සෑම කලාපයකම කෙටිකතාවක්, කවි පංතියක් සහ ග්‍රන්ථ පිළිබඳ විස්තර අන්තර්ගත වේ. එසේම පළවූ ඇතැම් ලිපිවල විමර්ශන මූලාශ්‍ර යොදා ගැනීමේ ඒකමිතියක් නොමැති බව නිරීක්ෂණය විය. මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ යෝජනා අතර විදෙස් සාහිත්‍ය කෙරෙහි තව තවත් අවධානය යොමුකිරීමටත්, සඟරා කලාපයට අදාළ ප්‍රධාන තේමාව සංස්කාරක සටහන අන්තර්ගත පිටුවෙහි සඳහන් කිරීම සුදුසු බවත් පෙන්වා දිය හැකිය. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳව අවම වශයෙන් එක් ලිපියක් හෝ සෑම කලාපයකම පළ කිරීම උචිත වන අතර කවරයෙහි ඉදිරිපස පිටුවේ

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ඇතුළත් විනය හෝ ඡායාරූපය පිළිබඳ විස්තරයක් හෝ අදහසක් සඟරාවට ඇතුළත් කරන්නේනම් සුදුසුය (“කවරයේ කතාව” ලෙස නම් කර). නව ප්‍රකාශන හඳුන්වාදීමේ දී එක් ග්‍රන්ථයක් පිළිබඳව හෝ විෂය ප්‍රවීණයෙකු විසින් ලියනු ලබන කෙටි විචාරයක් ඇතුළත් කිරීම, ඉංග්‍රීසි සාහිත්‍ය සහ දමිළ සාහිත්‍ය කෙරෙහි තව තවත් අවධානය යොමු කිරීම, එක් කලාපයක දමිළ හෝ ඉංග්‍රීසි සාහිත්‍යය පිළිබඳ ලිපියක් (එම භාෂාවෙන් හෝ) පළකිරීම යෝජනා ලෙස ඉදිරිපත් කළ හැකිය.

ප්‍රමුඛ පද: ප්‍රලේඛා, සාහිත්‍ය සඟරා, ලිපි, දේශීය සාහිත්‍යය, විදේශීය සාහිත්‍ය

Bibliometric Study on Articles Published in “Praleka” Magazine

H. W. Kusala Sajeewani¹

ABSTRACT

The magazines play an integral role in educating society. “Praleka” was a magazine published by the National Library of Sri Lanka and its first copy was published in September 2012 commemorating National Literacy Month. Through this study, the objective is to analyze the content and nature of the articles in Praleka magazines. In order to do that bibliometric study was conducted as the research methodology. Thus, the fourteen magazines published from 2017 to 2021 had been taken as the research instruments for the present study. During this period, a total of one hundred and eighty articles had been published in Praleka magazines. Of those, twenty-seven articles were concerned with foreign literature including translations, articles about foreign authors, and articles on poetry written by foreign authors. In addition, one hundred fifty-three articles on local literature had been published in the magazines including short stories, poetry and articles about political and religious concerns, articles about authors, children’s stories, and folklore. Nevertheless, matters such as mass communication, journalism and culture had been addressed through these articles. Especially, the focus of the Praleka magazines had been on literature and some issues of the magazine had been printed addressing specific aspects of literature. Almost all the issues included a short story, a poem, and a description of books. However, most of the articles had not added the sources used to write the articles. For the future implications of the study, it can be mentioned that more attention can be paid to including foreign literature and the theme of the issue of the magazine to be included in the editorial. Moreover, at least one article on the National Library can be published in the magazines whilst explaining the cover of the magazine in the magazine itself named the “cover story”.

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Furthermore, when new publications are introduced in the magazine, a review of at least one publication can be added by a subject expert. In addition, attention should be paid to English and Tamil literature as well, where at least one article on each can be published in either of the aforementioned languages.

Keywords: Praleka, Literary Magazines, Articles, Local Literature, Foreign Literature

The Study on the Usage of Resources and Services of the DELNET Available at the National Library of Sri Lanka

Nimmi Deshapriya¹

ABSTRACT

The main purposes of library databases are to provide reliable information resources for users and fulfill the information desires of readers by means of easy access. The Developing Library Network (DELNET), composed of several information databases, is one of the major resource sharing library networks developed by India. This network presently uses more than 7,500 libraries in India and libraries in seven other countries. The main objective of DELNET is to promote resource sharing by collecting, storing, and disseminating information among the member libraries. The National Library of Sri Lanka has been using DELNET since 2016, and has been providing its services for the National Library's readers with the aim of enhancing the electronic resources service of the National Library. The main objective of this study was to investigate the awareness and usage of the resources and services of the DELNET by National Library readers. The readers of the national library were used as the population of the study. The number of readers who visited the National Library (undergraduate and graduate) for research purposes from 2016 to 2021 was used as a sample (400) of the study. The data collection was carried out through a structured questionnaire and 292 responses were received. The majority of the respondents were graduate researchers 66.5% (194) and the rest were undergraduate researchers 33.5% (98). Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS 24 – 2016) software was used for data analysis. According to the facts revealed, 36% (104) of readers were aware of the DELNET and 64% (188) of readers were not aware of the DELNET. The DELNET has been used for research by the vast majority of readers (80%) who were aware of it.

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Others were used for learning (11%) and teaching (9%). The theses and dissertations database (76%) was the most frequently used information resource. The union list of journals was used by 14% and the union catalogue of books was used by 10%. The highest number of readers used DELNET in 2016 and the lowest number of readers used DELNET in 2020. It was revealed that services like inter library loan and document delivery services were never used by readers. The majority of readers who used the National Library for research were unaware of the DELNET. The main reason was the lack of awareness of DELNET among readers. It is recommended to organize awareness-raising sessions and social media campaigns to increase reader awareness of DELNET. Providing high-speed Wi-Fi and internet facilities, and preparation of guidance manuals for readers on searching and retrieving information from the electronic databases were also recommended to enhance the electronic database information services available at the National Library of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: DELNET, Usage of electronic databases, National Library of Sri Lanka

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the National Library & Documentation Services Board

All the best with this important

Symposium



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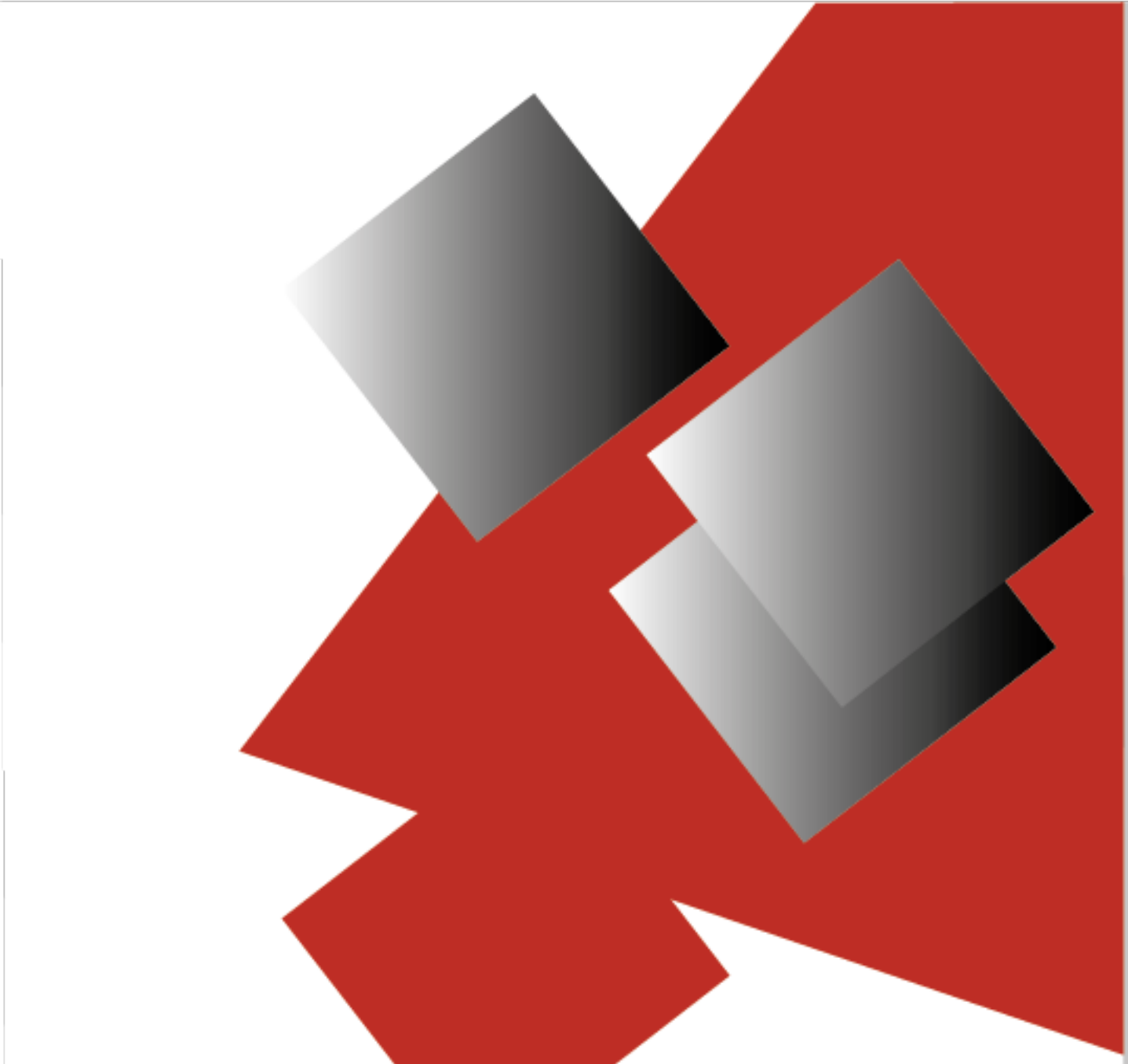
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