



Country Report
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019]

Name of Country : SRI LANKA
Name of Library : National Library & Documentation Services Board (National Library of Sri Lanka)
Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director Contact Person : Mr. Walimunige Sunil
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	165,000,000.00 (SLR) -
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	149 73 76
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection	Newspapers Published from 1976 Journals/ Magazines – 15,000 Audio Visuals – 5,000 Books - 1,000,000

	ii. Digital collection preserved	Old gazettes 235,000 pages (Published from 1888 to 1976)
d	Visitorship (Annual)	
	i. Physical visits to reading rooms	20108
	ii. Digital visits to websites	6380
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	86

2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

The renovation of the existing building of the National Library is in progress. Under this project the existing building is renovated to suit the modern requirements. In addition, a new extension building will also be constructed. Some changes of the collection management will also be made in conjunction with the building renovation. Modern and attractive library environment is expected to be created in the National Library through this renovation.

The inauguration of the National Digital Library (NDL) can be mentioned as a major development of the National Library of Sri Lanka. The National Digital Library which is functioning under the National Library can be considered as the main digital library and the development of the collection is in progress. In addition, number of digital library projects in national level is in progress. In the digitization project of the National Library has achieved a tremendous progress during the recent years.

Online access has been provided to some digital resources which were digitized in recent years. These resources include national library publications including Sri Lanka National Bibliography, Sri Lanka Periodical Article Index, Rare book collection and a large collection of old gazettes published in Sri Lanka. Open access facilities are expected to be provided to some parts of the collection under the new collection arrangement implemented with the building renovation.

A survey on reading habit of school children in Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka was carried out recently. These provinces were effected by conflict situation during the last three decades. Presently peace has been restored in these areas.

The National Library implements number of services for the development of library services in the country. These services include providing library resources, training of librarians, grading of libraries, providing advisory services etc.

3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

The National Library works in close relations with National Archives Department of Sri Lanka. The Legal Deposit Law of Sri Lanka is implemented by the Department of National Archives. According to the Legal Deposit Law, five copies of each publication published in

the country should be deposited in the National Archives and the National Library receives one copy.

The Museum Library of Sri Lanka is one of the largest libraries in the country. The National Library has involved to automate the museum library using with *Koha* software. In addition the National Library has given support to build up a separate library at the newly built up an Ancient Technology Museum Library at *Polonnaruwa* in last year. This library is a fully automated library and the collection comprises with the subjects on ancient technology in the country.

Public library sector is one of the major library services in Sri Lanka. There are about 1080 public libraries in the country. All libraries are governed by the public authorities. The National Library has the following advisory competencies regarding public libraries such as Grading of libraries, Library Development plans, Training and Education, Library standards and norms. The National Library has implemented a special project on Rural Public Library Development programme. In 2019, two public libraries were developed for donating Library furniture, Computers and Library books. The main objective of this programme is to promote the library services in the rural areas of the country.

The National Library of Sri Lanka and the Information Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka jointly organize a programme on **Digital Libraries for Knowledge Enhancement**. Under this project seven public libraries of the country were developed using modern computer equipment and facilities. The readers can be gained digital library experience from those libraries.

4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

The National Library of Sri Lanka is as the main government body in the library and information field in Sri Lanka maintain relations with International Organizations in the library and information field. National Library of Sri Lanka is a member of the International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) from 1984.

IFLA Preservation and Conservation (IFLA – PAC) Centre for Asia Pacific Region was established in the National Library in 2015 under the patronage of IFLA. The centre is carried out many workshops and seminars in national and international level on the subject of conservation and preservation of library materials.

The National Library of Sri Lanka combines to several UNESCO projects such as Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) project and Memory of the World (MoW) programme.. National Library is the focal point of these projects in Sri Lanka.

The National Library acts as the national agency of International Standard Book Numbering (ISBN), International Standard Serial Numbering (ISSN) and International Standard Music

Numbering (ISMN) system. The agency is provided standard numbers for Sri Lankan book publishers

The National Library also maintains book exchange programme with several other national libraries in the world. In addition, the national library maintains special book corners related to China and Iran. The books were given from the embassies of these countries.

The National Library of Sri Lanka is a member of the CDNLAO and its 3rd meeting was held in Sri Lanka in 1985