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## Summary

Throughout the history of libraries, there have been instances where Libraries have been destroyed along with their intellectual properties as a result of catastrophes occurring due to various reasons. To prevent such occurrences library professionals have collaborated with disaster management experts. But the concern of disaster management by Sri Lankan Libraries are still is at an unsatisfactory level.

This study examined the damages that may occur to the physical resources of the Sri Lanka National Library such as its collection, personal and premises as well as the practical work done in this regard. The main aim of the study was the presentation of a disaster management plan which suits the requirements of the National Library. Another aim of this study was to examine the reasons why the managements of this institution were unable to prepare a disaster management plan and to educate the library staff. In order to collect primary data, all sections of the library were examined and selected officers of the department of preservation, establishment and maintenance were interviewed. Data for the plan presented were collected after a study of the plans of library and other institutions of foreign countries. In addition to this, the activities of other institutions connected to disaster management were also studied.

A disaster management plan makes it possible to prevent damage created as a result of disaster, such a plan should include prevention, advanced preparation, reaction and counter-communication, all of which are its main components. In the proposed disaster management plan, all above factors were taken into consideration and in evaluating the long term impact of disasters, disasters specific to Sri Lanka, the geographical environment of the National Library premises, climatic conditions and civil society activities were considered. What the study revealed was that the present activity conducted by the library has not reached a satisfactory level. On a solution to this, a new disaster management plan has been introduced. This plan includes following aspects evaluation of damagers, prevention of damages, plans for emergency contingencies plans for preparations for disasters and counter communication plans. It also includes information on the examining and evaluating the plan. Within plans to respond to emergencies are included advice and methods to adopt immediately before, during and subsequent to main disasters such as tsunamis, Lightning, accidents, floods earthquakes and fires. It is proposed that the higher management of the National Library gives consideration to these proposals.

**Key words: Disaster management plans, Conservation, Hazard, Library Buildings**