

A Critical Review on the Organization of Knowledge Contained in the Palm Leaf Manuscripts in Sri Lanka: a Study based on Librarian's Perspectives

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Abstract

Organization of knowledge has a long history. Bibliographers were the early organizers of knowledge. From ordinary books to modern day e books are also belong to various types of knowledge organization tools and techniques. These tools and techniques can be named as the knowledge containers too. While authors claim the very content of such knowledge organization tools and techniques, the librarians, documentarists are the expert who compile information guides like bibliographies, catalogs, indexes, and directories etc. which are categorized as secondary to tertiary sources. The objectives of the paper is to make a critical review the organization of knowledge contained in the Palm Leaf Manuscripts in Sri Lanka in the bibliographers or librarian's perspectives.

Keywords: *Organization of knowledge, Information organization, Bibliographic control, Indigenous knowledge, Palm leaf manuscripts*

Introduction

The organization of knowledge can be described by three different types like ordinary, creative and guiding knowledge organization. Early cave writing belongs to ordinary while creative belongs to modern artwork or books etc. and the guiding knowledge organization belongs bibliographies or indexes etc. The history of the book by which communicates the human knowledge, goes to the period of the beginning stage of chirography. The chirography was introduced about 5000 years ago in the very past. Books publishing was earlier started with the invention of printing. Before printed books the book contained hand writing items which were called manuscripts from early stages. At that time hand writings were the most powerful media or tool of sharing needed information and knowledge. According to the Dictionary of Sinhala, chirography is the Art of Writing. It means the chirography is an art of writing documents and books which is done according to a specified pattern or tradition.

Objectives

The objectives of the paper is to make a critical review the organization of knowledge contained in the Palm Leaf Manuscripts in Sri Lanka in the bibliographers or librarian's perspectives. The other objectives are to identify what is the meaning by organization of knowledge, to examine the role of librarians in organization of knowledge, to explore different