

# **The Impact of Green Information Literacy of Library Staff to Establish Green Library Movements in the Library, Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA)**

**W. W. S. Thrishala Warnasooriya**

*Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka  
warnasooriyathrishala@gmail.com*

## **ABSTRACT**

With the existence of green library concept, the field of library science could change its scenario into a different angel. Being a multi -faceted approach, this concept deals also with the green information literacy. Green information literacy is not only gathering literature related to green concept but also enhancing a self – awareness on the concept among the staff and users. As a new trend in Sri Lankan perspective, green concept functions in few libraries. As the heart of the governing institution, SLIDA library is rich with green practices. As a result, SLIDA was rewarded with the green award in 2018. The information literacy and the awareness on green concept is needed for such an achievement. Therefore, the sole objective of this study was to identify the impact of green information literacy of library staff to establish green concept in the library. 5 main fields namely, library building, collection, information systems, practices and programs or services were investigated when interviewing the library staff to measure their green information literacy covering 23 green indicators. The data were collected through the answers given in the interview. Accordingly, green information literacy was evaluated with simple calculation. The collected data revealed that the library staff has a great concern on the concept and what they should do in the library to achieve the green goal of the institution. The library adheres to many green practices among which following a green policy has become the most prominent factor which enhance their green enthusiasm and literacy of them. Accordingly, the level of green information literacy among the staff was in a satisfactory level as they follow the green policy while practicing green theories in the library environment and the institutional premises. Hence, all these depict that the green information literacy directly affect the green movements in the library.

**Keywords:** Green information literacy, Green concept, Green award

# **The impact of Green Information Literacy of library staff to establish green library movements in the library, Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA)**

W. W. S. Thrishala Warnasooriya  
Department of Library and Information Science,  
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.  
[warnasooriyathrishala@gmail.com](mailto:warnasooriyathrishala@gmail.com)

## **Introduction**

Environmental problems and its impact on the earth and the day to day life of the human has become a key discussion at present in the world (Shash, Kumar, & Shah, 2015). Therefore, a timely necessity of finding solutions to overcome the environmental issues has come across with the emergence of environmental changes and challenges (Kurbanoğlu & Boustany, 2014). The concepts dealing with environmental issues and challenges has become a major discussion since early 1990 (Kurbanoğlu & Boustany, 2014). But it gained more popular after the United Nations introduced their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 (Bank, 2016). With the acceptance of SDGs to be achieved in Sri Lanka, the environmental issues were taken as a key discussion.

Although green library concept has not become a popular topic in Sri Lankan context, some of libraries have facilitated their library services with green features (warnasooriya, 2019). Going green is neither convenient nor inconvenient (Barnes, 2012). The basic necessity for going green is to build up a clear green vision and mission in the governing organization. Even though some organizations have a pre-determined green vision and mission, practicing green concept is rather difficult if the staff of the organization do not have the green information literacy.

With the existence of green library concept, the field of library science could change its Scenario into a different angel (Fourie, 2012). Being a multi -faceted approach, this concept deals also with the green information literacy (Malode, 2014). Green information literacy is not only gathering literature related to green concept but also enhancing a self – awareness on the concept among the staff and users (Jones & Wong, 2016).

As a new trend in Sri Lankan perspective, green concept functions in few libraries. As the heart of the governing institution, SLIDA library is rich with green practices. As a result, SLIDA

was rewarded with the green award in 2018. The information literacy and the awareness on green concept is needed for such an achievement.

### **Research Problem**

According to a previous research conducted in 13 selected libraries (Warnasooriya, 2018), only 14 green indicators out of 23 were functioning. Percentagewise it is 60.8% and most of the practices were not effectively functioning. But SLIDA library was highlighted among those libraries in which green movements were effectively and efficiently implemented and managed. Hence one of the reason responsible for such achievement was that the mother institution has given a priority for practicing green concept in the institutional premises including the library. The most important factor affected the effective green implementation was the green information literacy among the entire staff of the institution.

On circumstances of those, the evaluation of the green information literacy among the library staff and measuring its impact to move towards green in the library were concerned in this study to emphasis the importance of green information literacy among library professionals.

### **Research Objective**

According to the research problem discussed above, the objective of this study was to identify the impact of green information literacy of library staff to establish green concept in this library.

### **Methodology**

#### *Population and sample*

SLIDA library was purposively selected to conduct the research. Therefore, entire library staff was considered as the population of the study. As the staff of the library was only 4 including two trainees, the entire population was selected as the sample.

#### *Data collection*

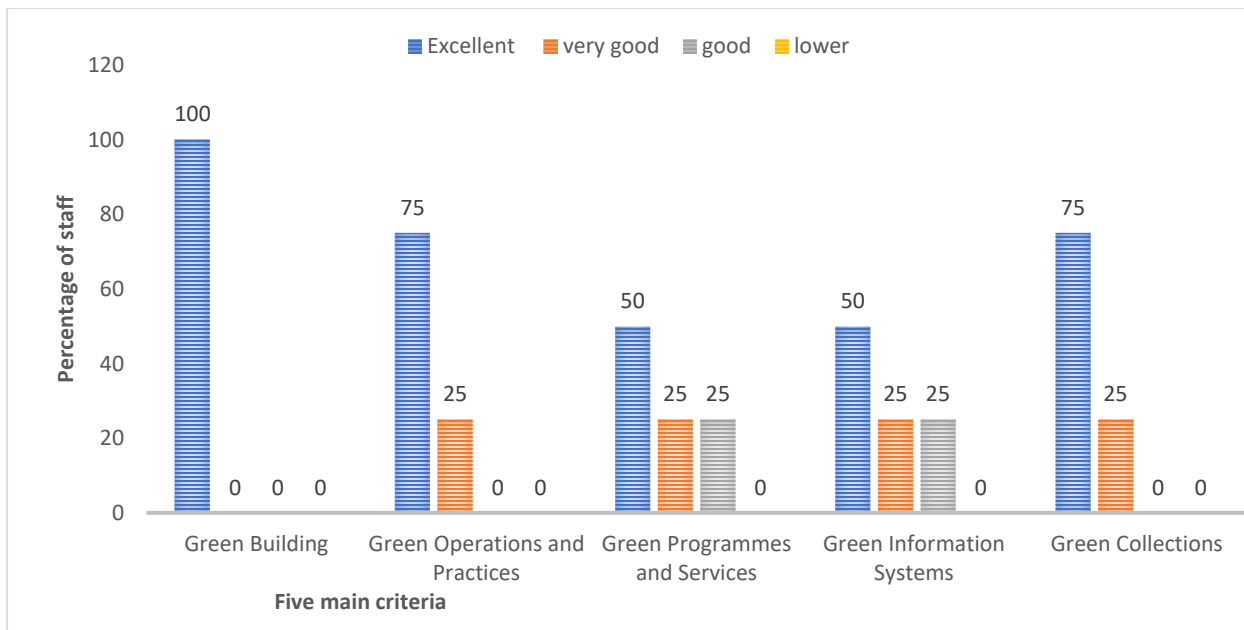
The entire library and the institution premises were chosen to conduct the Survey. Five main fields namely, library building, library collection, library information systems, library practices or operations and also library programs or services were investigated when interviewing

the library staff to measure their green information literacy covering 23 green indicators. Accordingly, green information literacy was evaluated based on simple calculation.

## Results and Discussion

The collected data revealed that the library staff has a great concern on green concept and how they should contribute to achieve the green goal of the institution. As the institutional interfere to promote the contribution of staff to go green was high, green information literacy has been enhanced.

Figure 1 Overall Green Information Literacy of the staff

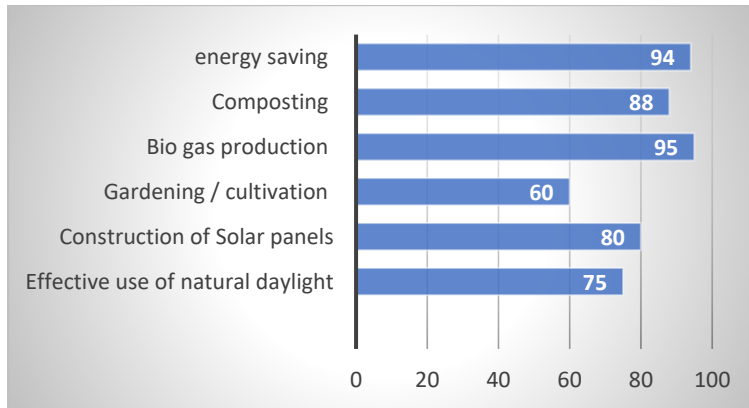


Source: Research, 2018

According to the above table none of them was notified in the category of 'lower in overall green information literacy' in any surveyed field. It is a clear sign which depicts their proficiency in green concept. 75% of them have reached to the excellent level in three research areas.

The following charts shows the level of green information literacy separately in research framework consisted of 5 areas.

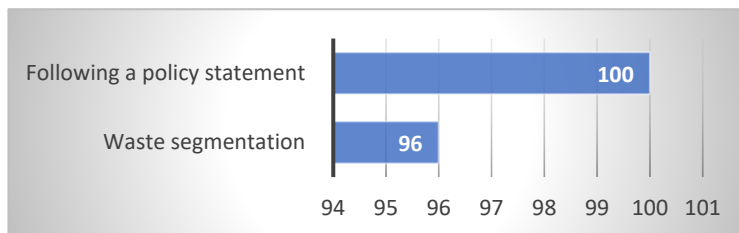
Figure 2 Rate of marks received for the questions related to green building



Source: Research, 2018

This was the prominent areas in which the green information literacy rate of the staff was highest. The staff revealed that the renovation of the library building is expected in a recent time to get the maximum benefit of daylight and ventilation. All the factors examined in the above chart were practiced by the library. In addition to the green practices, the composting has become an extra income for the institution.

Figure 3 Rate of marks received for the questions related to green operations and practices



Source: Research, 2018

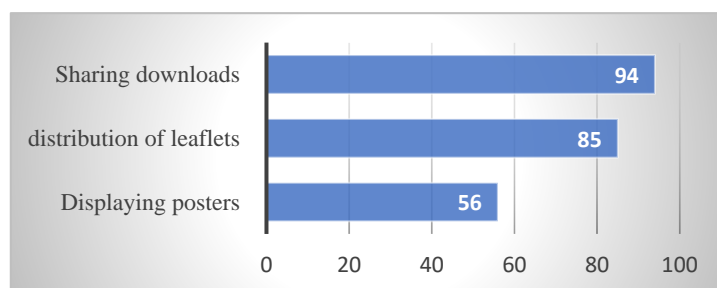
The library adheres to many green practices among which following a green policy has become the most prominent factor which enhances their green enthusiasm and literacy. The policy statement was a guideline statement available in the library collection for the easy reference of any user or staff.

Having a separate resource center for collecting waste and recycling is a conspicuous trend in the institution and it depicts the strength of their green plan. Although waste segmentation is a common green practice in urban areas, they have been successful in earning extra income by reselling disposable plastic items. According to the statistics revealed in the interview, the monthly

income of reselling disposable plastic items in the month of November, 2018 was more than 500 rupees.

E-waste segmentation was regularly done by the library. All broken computer hardware was supposed to be collected in a separate room and finally sent to the e-waste collecting resource center.

*Figure 4 Rate of marks received for the questions related to green collection*



Source: Research, 2018

The factors in figure 4 shows the broad point of view of the staff on applying green vision to the users' mind by minimizing the number of same downloads by different users. Making applications, pass papers and other relevant documents available in the computer of the library is a way to share the downloads by minimizing the CO<sub>2</sub> generated when downloading or google searching.

95% and 90% were the literacy rate of the staff regarding green programmes / services and green information systems respectively. Locating server machines has become another concern in the library.

### **Impact of green information literacy for green movements**

As it was discussed above, the green information literacy of library staff was in a satisfactory level. As a result of that the library has move towards green. In addition to those green implementations, the institution has awarded with green award in 2018 and this is the only private university library which follows a green policy and apply the green features practically.

Accordingly, the following green implementations could be identified as the impact of green information literacy.

- Effective use of natural daylight
- Construction of Solar panels and use for energy gaining purposes

- Gardening / cultivation the plants such as sweet potato, chili, capsicum etc. in the institutional premises.
- Bio gas production and use for cafeteria purposes
- Energy saving by switching off lights during day time, keeping every other Air Condition (AC) machines switched off and using stairs instead of elevator
- Continuous and regular composting by collecting leaves fallen down around the institutional premises daily.
- Waste segmentation in a resource center
- Following a policy statement practically
- Displaying posters and distribution of leaflets
- Sharing downloads to minimize CO<sub>2</sub> generation
- Workshops for the enhancement of staff
- Server location in a far away place in the way that the generated CO<sub>2</sub> does not meet the humans and other living beings

Source: Research, 2018

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Accordingly, the level of green information literacy among the staff was in a satisfactory level as they follow the green policy while practicing green theories in the library environment and the institutional premises. Hence, all these depict that the green information literacy directly affects the green movements in the library.

For further enhancement of the green implementations in library, the library can form a green strategic plan and action plan. The library can play the main role in green events and programmes while promoting the library among many more communities. Application of the green module (Warnasooriya, 2018) in the library will be a unique feature in green movements. If the library could continue their green implementations further, SLIDA library can be nominated as a LEED certified library in near future.

### **References**

Bank, C. (2016). Sustainable Development Goals. *News Survey*, 37(02), 18-19.

- Barnes, L. L. (2012, May). Green buildings as sustainability education tools. *Library Hi Tech*, 30(3), 397-407. doi: 10.1108/07378831211266546
- Fourie, I. (2012, June). A call for libraries to go green: An information behaviour perspective to draw interest from twenty-first century librarians. *Library Hi Tech*, 30(3), 428-435. doi:10.1108/07378831211266573
- Jones, L., & Wong, W. (2016, July 16). More than just a green building: Developing green strategies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library. *Library Management*, 37(6-7), 373-384. doi:DOI 10.1108/LM-05-2016-0041
- Kurbanoglu, S., & Boustany, J. (2014). From Green Libraries to Green Information Literacy. *CCIS* (pp. 47-58). Switzerland: Springer. doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-14136-7\_6
- Malode, A. V. (2014, Oct-Dec). Green Library: An overview. *Research journey*, 1(4), 13-17. Retrieved June 23, 2018, from [www.researchjourney.net](http://www.researchjourney.net)
- Shash, L., Kumar, S., & Shah, M. (2015, Sep). GREEN LIBRARIES IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS: NEED OF THE HOUR. *International journal of research - Granthalaya*, 3(9), 1-5. Retrieved July 27, 2018, from [Http://www.granthaalayah.com](http://www.granthaalayah.com)
- warnasooriya, T. (2019). A study on green moments in selected libraries in Western Province, Sri Lanka. *Proceeding of National Conference on Library and Information Science* (pp. 17-35). Colombo: Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Library Association.
- Warnasooriya, W. (2018). *A study on the contribution of green library concept to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Sri Lanka: with special reference to the libraries in State and Private Universities in Western Province*. B. A. Thesis, University of Kelaniya, Department of Library and Information Science.