Development of Webliography for promoting religious studies

J A Amaraweera[1]

For the peaceful co-existence of human being on this globe, peace in the inner self as well as extra-corpus world must be inculcated. From the very primordial stages of human culture when the four nature "Gods": Agni (Fire), Varuna (Water), Megha (Air) and Patavi (Earth) were venerated and very concept of Religion had evolved. Number of founders and holy preachers of various religions introduced their doctrines for the salvation or vimukti of human beings. Almost all of the Religions originated in the Asian Continent. Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism were founded in India, while Christianity, Judaism and Islam originated in Jerusalem. China became the founder country of Confucism. Apart from the preaching of founders, the indigenous content of religions spreaded through word of mouth tends to nourish most of the basic religious concepts.

In this study, evolution of electronic and digital content in religious preaching and practices are evaluated. Further, the effect of traditional content and the non-traditional digital content on religious thinking and studies will be appraised.

Basics of bibliographic developments and transformation of such context towards the creation of Webliographies are briefly discussed. Some of the prevalent definitions of Webliography are also discussed with a view to bring a clear picture on the topic. Various types of Webliographies are mentioned with some concrete examples. Historical developments of current Webliographies are discussed. Techniques of Webliographic development are critically elucidated with an emphasis to religious studies. Types of media used for religious studies are discussed and the impact of multimedia and various electronic; analog and digital media for the promotion of such studies are evaluated. Both the advantages and disadvantages of using Religious Webliographies for study various major religions are appraised. Efficacy of religious Webliographies as a basic tool of reference for studying religious concepts, philosophy, rituals and practices is measured with a view to promote it among laymen, clergy and academics.

At last, building up Webliography of Religious Webliographies are aimed at for utilize as an easy tool of secondary reference on the subject.

Key words: Webliography, Digital content, Buddhism, Hinduism, Bibliographic control

[1] Buddhist & Pali University of Sri Lanka