

## **Amalgamation of the National Museum Library to the National Library and Documentation Centre of Sri Lanka**

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One of the major responsibilities of a National Library is building of national collections in specific disciplines. There is no any perfect national collection at present in the National Library and Documentation Centre (NLDC) except the legal deposit collection. Main reason for shortage of national collection is the short history of the NLDC. It was formed in 1990. If the Museum library could be amalgamated to the NLDC, it will be possible to build new national collections and to complete existing collection of the NLDC.

Within this context, the main purpose of this study is to explore the feasibility and the use of amalgamation of the museum library collection to the NLDC.

The National Museum of the country was formed in 1877 with a library attached to it. The major objective of the National Museum Library was to build up a national literary collection for the future generation. Since 1885 the museum library became a deposit library. Therefore currently it has a vast collection of books especially in Humanities and Social Sciences.

The researcher intended to achieve five major objectives namely, to identify the existing national collection of the NLDC, to identify the obstacles faced in the amalgamation of museum library collection to the NLDC, to investigate possible areas of creating of national Collection in the NLDC, to identify necessary infrastructure facilities for amalgamation of museum collection to the NLDC and to introduce a new model for the national library of Sri Lanka instead of existing model.

It was observed that building, development, maintenance and preservation of national heritage collection is one of the principle responsibilities of the NLDC. The researcher finds that due to the short history the NLDC was not in a position adhere to above responsibility. The researcher identifies the value and comprehensiveness of the museum library collection.

**Key words:** National Libraries, National Museum Library, Collections, Legal deposit, Sri Lanka.

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