

**LIBRARY NETWORK FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
OF SRI LANKA: A MODEL**

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Abstract

The study seeks the possibility, necessity and feasibility of establishing an information network among the University libraries in Sri Lanka. It is aimed at proposing a model for effective utilization of LIS resources in University libraries, situated in different parts of the country, by introducing a model of library network for the University Libraries of Sri Lanka.

The descriptive research method is used for this study and interviews were conducted at the necessary stages. These are being described in the Chapter I. There have been several limitations and delimitations were gathered while carrying out the study, such as inability of gathering required information, and Lack of authentic data on the present library situation of the country are among the main obstacles. The study is confined to university libraries which are in an initial stage of automation and those are having very less infrastructure facilities were included in the study. Due to prevailing ethnic conflict, university libraries in Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka also has not been selected for the study since they are out of bound.

In the proposed model, seven university libraries selected as participants at different stages. Libraries have been selected on the basis of IT infrastructure of the respective library and status of the library automation activities. Model was proposed to use the LEARN as the backbone of the network in three phases. The observations are carried out to study the LMS packages used in the university libraries as the first step of library networking.

It is found that the efforts so far have been made informally on a limited scale to improve inter-library loans, photocopying facilities and compilation of union catalogues of periodicals in a few selected subjects except in two three instances. It is revealed that the failure of library and information networking and resource sharing programme in Sri Lanka is due to a lack of proper initiative, confidence and willingness of the library professional to cooperate with each other. The lack of national IT policy and a development plan for LIS also has a debilitating effect.