



National Library Resources & Services



National Library and Documentation Centre
No. 14, Independence Avenue
Colombo 07

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND



The Sri Lanka National Library Services Board (SLNLSB) was established in 1970 with the prime objective of setting up the National Library of Sri Lanka. The National Library of Sri Lanka was inaugurated in 1990. Under the new amendment Act No. 51 of 1998, the SLNLSB was renamed as the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) and in this act, the responsibilities and the role of the NLDSB have been highlighted. The National Library and Documentation Centre (NLDC) or the National Library of Sri Lanka (as commonly known) is functioning under the NLDSB.

National Library of Sri Lanka serves as the leader in providing information to the nation. It is the apex library in the library sector in the country. Being the main reference library in the country, it serves researchers, writers, publishers, academics, university students and the general public. The NLDC has been providing a wide array of services to researchers, library professionals and the general public.

It has 5 floors with floor area of 11, 250 sq m. There are three reading rooms with a total seating capacity of 320, air conditioned auditorium with 120 seats and conference room with 60 seats.

In addition to the collections, the National Library also maintains the National Union Catalogue which contains information on the holdings of selected Sri Lankan libraries.



THE LEADER IN PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE NATION

Mission

- To plan and co-ordinate library services at national level.
- To develop a Sri Lankan Information Resource Excellence Centre at the National Library and co-ordinate and assist other major Sri Lankan collection in the country.
- To assist and encourage the establishment of Information Resource Excellence Centres in specific fields and inter-link them through a national information network.
- To facilitate access to national and international databases.
- To provide learning opportunities to every Sri Lankan and thereby assist the advancement of Sri Lanka.
- To assist Sri Lanka to become a culturally enriched and intellectually advanced nation.

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure that documentary resources of national significance relating to Sri Lanka are collected, preserved and made accessible.
- To make available the National Collection (Sri Lanka Collection) for the use of all sections of the community in meeting the nation's information needs.
- To make available all other publications published in, or relating to Sri Lanka or foreign publications that cater the local user needs.
- To receive all Sri Lankan publications under the Legal deposit Law.
- To preserve the national and cultural heritage of Sri Lanka.
- To disseminate information in a very user-friendly manner.
- To promote and enhance resource sharing and co-operation among libraries and library professionals.
- To enhance learning and knowledge creation.



MEMBERSHIP



Any Sri Lankan could be a member without any recommendations or guarantee. Foreigners who visit Sri Lanka are also eligible to obtain membership. In addition to personal membership, institutional membership is also available.

Membership Categories

Temporary

One day membership	Rs.	20.00
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Permanent

Three month membership	Rs.	100.00
Annual membership	Rs.	350.00
Life membership	Rs.	1000.00
Institutional membership	Rs.	2500.00

Service Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 8.30am to 4.15 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8.30 am to 6.15 pm

(Closed on Sunday and other public holidays)



COLLECTIONS



National Library Collection

The National Library has a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Sri Lanka and many other information sources in the form of print, audio-visual and electronic media. The National Library maintains a good collection which highly reflect its objectives and bridges the gap of information needs of the nation. The National Library collection consists of over 500,000 books.

Sri Lanka Collection

The National Library of Sri Lanka is a deposit library and receives copies of Sri Lankan publications under the Printers and Publishers



Ordinance. Other methods of acquisition of library materials include purchasing, exchange of publications, gifts and donations. Other than general reference materials, the National Library acquires books published in Sri Lanka, books published on Sri Lanka in foreign countries. This collection is supplemented by the following Special Collections acquired by the National Library of Sri Lanka.

- Martin Wickramasinghe Collection
- Prof. Tikiri Abeysinghe Collection
- Dr. P. B. Sannasgala Collection
- Prof. D. E. Hettiarachchi Collection
- Dr. M. H. Peter Silva Collection
- Dr. E. M. Wijerama Collection
- Theja Gunawardhana Collection

Library and Information Science Collection



National Library of Sri Lanka holds the largest and most comprehensive Library and Information Science Collection in the country. It consists of a large collection of books including reference books and reputed local and foreign periodicals in the field.

Government Publication Collection

Gazettes, acts, bills, ordinance, hanzards, sessional papers, administration reports, Sri Lanka Law Reports, New Law Reports, Commission Reports, Blue books, Circulars and many other government publications are available.



Basic Reference Collection

- Contains Encyclopaedias, Directories, Indexes, Bibliographies, Glossaries, Gazetters and other reference works on a wide range of subjects.
- Microforms, CD ROMs including Science Citation Index, LISA plus, Current Contents.

Theses and Dissertation Collection



A collection of theses of PhD. and M. phil. degrees compiled by Sri Lankans are kept for reference.

Electronic Collection

- DEPEC - Devolution of Power and Ethnic Conflict - online
- Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encarta
- Martin Wickramasinghe Collection - Online
- National Union Catalogue - Online
- Newspaper Article Index - Online
- Online Databases : Current Contents, Delnet, Library and Information Science Abstract (LISA)



- Online Public Access Catalogue available at www.natlib.lk
- Photographic Index
- Postgraduate Theses Index - Online
- Science Citation Index (provides access to current and retrospective bibliographic information, author abstracts and cited references found in world's leading journals)
- Audio-video cassettes, CDs, DVDs and gramophone discs of Sri Lankan songs, documentaries, plays and teledramas.



Periodical Collection

Over 800 titles of Sri Lankan and foreign periodicals are available. This is undoubtedly a very good source for researchers to get current information. The Sri Lanka Periodical Article Index is a useful guide for searching periodical articles.

Newspaper Collection

Over 300 newspaper titles in Sinhala, Tamil and English are available. This is a comprehensive local newspaper collection from 1976 to date. Newspaper Article Index - online could be used in retrieving required articles.

Rare Books Collection

Contains books whose irreplaceability or uniqueness makes them rare and books of aesthetic value.



Martin Wickramasinghe Collection



This collection was donated by Martin Wickramasinghe Trusts. This collection consists of his personal collection of books, draft manuscripts of his writing, personal effects such as his desk, typewriter, pen, wristwatch, armchair and a number of cultural artifacts collected by him.

Ola Leaf Collection



A valuable and rare collection covering areas such as Buddhism, Literature and Ayurvedic medicine etc.

Folklore collection

Consists of a large number of material and items including the manuscripts received from late Mr. Peter Wijesinghe.

Map Collection

This collection consists of over 1000 maps relating to Sri Lanka including Divisional Secretariat wise, District wise and Provincial wise maps produced by the Survey Department of Sri Lanka.



SERVICES

Being the main reference library in Sri Lanka, National Library strives to serve people in all parts of the country.

User Education Service

- Making the readers aware and skillful in obtaining information from the library.

Inquiry Service

- Readers can make inquiries by visiting or through letters, telephone calls, fax messages and e-mails.
- The information desk located at the ground floor deals with the preliminary queries of prospective users.

Reference Service

- Providing reference service through National Library collection for intellectuals, researchers, academics as well as the general public.

Information Service

- **Current Awareness Services (CAS)**

This is a service for researchers to keep them informed of the new materials available with us relevant to their specific field of interests as like accession list, content pages service etc.



- **Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)**

The specific information needs of the researchers involved in various fields are identified and the necessary information is provided through compilation of directories, indices, content pages service, quick reference services and a number of other information dissemination activities.

- **Information Repackaging Service**

Collection of information packages prepared on various topics using the information taken from sources such as books, journals and newspapers that is useful for assignments and project works.

- **Indexing and Abstracting Service**

With the objective of making information searching more convenient, indexing and abstracting services are maintained.

- **Internet Service**

Internet service is provided to readers at a concessionary rate.

Reprographic Service

- Reprographic services such as photocopies, copies of electronic sources, scanning are available.

Referral Service

- Readers are referred to other institutions where the required information is available.



Inter-Library Loan Service

- Facilities are available to obtain required library materials from the National Library through Inter-Library Loan Service.

Bibliographic Service

- Publishing the Sri Lanka National Bibliography and compiling a number of other bibliographies at national level.

Documentation Services

- National Union Catalogue, Sri Lanka News Paper Artical Index, Directory of Government Publications, Index of Postgraduate Thesis, Conference Index are the main documentation services available.

Reading Rooms Facilities

- Reading rooms located at the ground, first and second floors of the National Library provide seating capacity for 320 readers.

Friends of the National Library

- Anybody who wish to extend his/ her support and provide expertise for upgrading the National Library Services may join the "Friends of the National Library". As a member of it you will be kept in touch with National Library activities and functions and be invited for such events.



OUR PUBLICATIONS



- Directory of Government Publications
- Directory of Libraries in Sri Lanka
- Directory of Social Science Libraries, Information Centres & Databases in Sri Lanka
- Library News
- NATNET LANKA - Newsletter
- Sri Lanka Conference Index
- Sri Lanka ISBN Directory
- Sri Lanka National Bibliography
- Sri Lanka National Bibliography (Retrospective)
- Sri Lanka Newspaper Article Index
- Sri Lanka Periodical Article Index



