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ஸ்ரீ லங்கா தேசிய நூலகம்

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA

සමරු කලාපය

ஞாபகார்த்த மலர்

COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME

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Sri Lanka National Library

සමරු කලාපය

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ஸ்ரீலங்கா தேசிய நூலகம்

ஞாபகார்த்த மலர்

பதிப்பாசிரியர்
எம்.எஸ்.யு. அமரசிறி

ஸ்ரீலங்கா தேசிய நூலக சேவைகள் சபை
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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA

COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME

Edited by

M. S. U. Amarasiri

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ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ ජනාධිපති ශ්‍රීමත් රණසිංහ ප්‍රේමදාස මැතිතුමා අතින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විවෘතවීම දීර්ඝ කාලයක් තිස්සේ පැවති ජාතික අවශ්‍යතාවයක් සම්පූර්ණවීමක් වේ. එමෙන්ම එය පුස්තකාල සහ විඥාපන විද්‍යා ඉතිහාසයේ වැදගත් සිදුවීමක් වශයෙන් ද සැලකිය හැකිය. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විවෘතවීම ලංකා ඉතිහාසයේ අද්විතීය අවස්ථාවක් වේ.

අධ්‍යාපනය පිළිබඳ දීර්ඝ සම්ප්‍රදායක් ශ්‍රී ලංකාව සතුව ඇති අතර පුස්තකාල සහ පොත්පත්වලට බෞද්ධයින් ගරු සැලකිලි දක්වනු ලැබීය. ''පොත් වහන්සේ'' යනුවෙන් පොත්පත් හැඳින්වීමෙන් ඒ බව මැනවින් පැහැදිලිවේ. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ඉතිහාසයේ මුල් අවධියේදී පොත්පත් සහ පුස්තකාල පොත් ආරක්ෂා කිරීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් භික්ෂූන් වහන්සේලා සහ විහාරස්ථාන විසින් ඉටු කල කාර්ය භාරය ඉතා වැදගත්වේ.

කෙසේ වුවත්, නූතන පුස්තකාලවල ආරම්භය ඇතිවූයේ පසුගිය ශතවර්ෂයේ අවසාන භාගයේ දීය.

නිදහස ලබාගැනීමත් සමගම ජාතියේ අධ්‍යාපනික සහ සංස්කෘතික සම්ප්‍රදායයන් ආරක්ෂා කිරීම හා දියුණුකිරීම සඳහා විශේෂ උනන්දුවක් ඇති විය. නූතන ලෝකයේ සිදුවන වෙනස්වීම් වලට අනුකූලව විද්‍යාත්මක සහ තාක්ෂණික යුගයට එළඹීමට ජපානය තුල විශාල උනන්දුවක් ඇති වී තිබේ.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ජාතියේ සංස්කෘතික සහ සාහිත්‍යමය සම්ප්‍රදායයන් ආරක්ෂා කරන අතරම ජාතික පුස්තකාල පද්ධතියේ කේන්ද්‍රස්ථානය වශයෙන් සේවය සලසනු ඇත.

පුස්තකාල සහ පුස්තකාල වෘත්තිය දියුණුකිරීම සඳහා ශ්‍රීමත් ජනාධිපති රණසිංහ ප්‍රේමදාස මැතිතුමා දැක්වූ උනන්දුව සම්බන්ධයෙන් එතුමාට ස්තුතිය පුදකිරීමට මා මෙය අවස්ථාවක් කොට ගනිමි. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විවෘත කිරීම ඉක්මන් කරන ලද්දේ දිගු කලක් තිස්සේ පැවත මෙම අවශ්‍යතාවය සම්පූර්ණ කිරීමට එතුමා දැක්වූ විශාල උනන්දුව නිසාය.

මේ සඳහා සහයෝගය දැක්වූ ජාත්‍යන්තර කීර්තියට පත් විද්වතුන්ටත්, සුප්‍රකට පුස්තකාල විද්‍යාඥයන්ටත් අනෙකුත් සියලුම දෙනාටත් මගේ අවංක ස්තුතිය පුද කරමි.

සැම අවස්ථාවකදීම අවශ්‍ය මාර්ගෝපදේශකත්වය ලබාදුන් අධ්‍යාපන සහ උසස් අධ්‍යාපන පිළිබඳ ගරු අමාත්‍ය ලලිත් ඇතුලත්මුදලි ඇමතිතුමාට ද මගේ කෘතඥතාවය පුද කරමි.

අපට ලබාදුන් සහයෝගය සම්බන්ධයෙන් අධ්‍යාපන සේවා ගරු ඇමතිනී සුනේත්‍රා රණසිංහ මැතිතුමියට ද ස්තුතිවන්ත වෙමි.

මෙම කාර්යයේදී මා වෙත දැක්වූ අසීමිත සහයෝගය සහ උපකාරය වෙනුවෙන් මෙම සමරු කලාපයේ සංස්කාරක ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ වැඩ බලන අධ්‍යක්ෂ එම්. එස්. යූ. අමරසිරි මහතාටත්, ඔහුගේ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයටත් විශේෂයෙන් ම කෘතඥ වෙමි. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විවෘත කිරීම සඳහා ඉටුකල යුතුව තිබූ අති විශාල කාර්ය කොටසක් ඔවුහු ඉටු කළහ. ඔවුහු සිය ශ්‍රමය කැප කළේ වර්ධනය වන ජාතියේ බුද්ධිමය හා ආර්ථිකමය අවශ්‍යතාවයන් සම්පූර්ණ කිරීම සඳහාය.

ඊශ්වරී කොරයා
සභාපතිනී.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය,
1990 අප්‍රේල් 27

FOREWORD

The inauguration of the National Library of Sri Lanka by His Excellency Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka fulfils a long felt national need. It is also a landmark in the history of librarianship and information science in this country. This inauguration is also an unique occasion in the history of the nation.

Sri Lanka has a long tradition of learning; libraries and books were respected and venerated as evidenced in books being called "Poth Vahanse". The significant role played by the monks and temples in the preservation of books, mostly on ola leaves, is very evident in the early tradition of Sri Lankan history.

However, it was in the latter part of the last century that libraries in the modern sense came into existence.

With the achievement of freedom the urge to preserve and promote the learned and cultural tradition of the nation gained momentum. Further there has grown the awareness of the nation to move into the scientific and technological age to keep abreast of current trends in the world.

Whilst the National Library will preserve the cultural and literary heritage of the nation it will move into the future and serve as the focal point of the nation's library system.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Ranasinghe Premadasa, the President for his abiding and active interest in libraries and the promotion of the, library profession. The inauguration of the National Library has been expedited due to the keen interest taken by His Excellency in establishing this long felt need.

I would like also to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all the contributors amongst whom are scholars of international repute and distinguished librarians for their ready co-operation.

I would also like to express my grateful thanks to Hon. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Education, and Higher Education and to Hon. Sunethra Ranasinghe, Minister of Education, services for all the support given to us.

A very special word of thanks should go to Mr. M. S. U. Amarasiri, the Editor of this commemorative Volume and the Acting Director of the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board and his staff for their unstinted cooperation and assistance given to me. They have all worked beyond the call of duty to meet the work-load required for the inauguration of the National Library and to meet the growing intellectual and economic demands of the nation.

Ishvari Corea
Chairperson.

Sri Lanka National Library Services Board.
April 1990 27.

සංස්කාරක සටහන්

ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසය පිළිබඳ විවිධ අදහස් පවතී. ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල ආරම්භය දහ හත්වන සහ දහ අටවන සියවස් වල යුරෝපයේ සිදු වූවාය යන්න සැමැන්‍ය පිළිගත් මතය වේ. දැනට යුරෝපයේ ප්‍රධාන ජාතික පුස්තකාල ලෙස සැළකෙන පුස්තකාල ගණනාවක්ම ඒ ඒ රටවල රාජකීය පුස්තකාල් ලෙස මීටත් ඇත කාලයක ආරම්භ වී ඇත. එසේ වුවද යුරෝපයේ දහ හත්වන සහ දහ අටවන සියවස්වල සිදුවූ ජාතික රාජාවල බිහිවීම වර්තමාන ස්වරූපයෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාල වර්ධනය වීමේ ආරම්භය ලෙස සැළකේ.

ජාතියේ අනන්‍යතාවය ආරක්ෂා කරන, ජාතික සංස්කෘතික උරුමය රැක දෙන, ජාතික පුස්තකාල පද්ධතියට නායකත්වය දෙන ක්‍රියාශීලී ආයතන ලෙස ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉදිරියට පැමිණියේ මෑතක සිටය. පසුගිය දශක හතරක පමණ කාලය තුල ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංකල්පයත්, ජාතික පුස්තකාල කටයුතුත්, පොදුවේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලත් පුළුල් ලෙස වර්ධනය විය.

මෑත ඉතිහාසයේ සිදුවීම් කිහිපයක් ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල වර්තමාන වර්ධනයට හේතු විය. 1952 වසරේ **අන්තර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංගම් සංවිධානය** (IFLA) ජාතික පුස්තකාල සහ විශ්ව විද්‍යාල පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳව තම සංවිධානයේ වෙනම අංශයක් ආරම්භ කරන ලදී. මෙය අන්තර් ජාතික වශයෙන් නූතන ජාතික පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරය පිළිබඳ දක්වන ලද ප්‍රථම උනන්දුව ලෙස සැළකේ. 1955 වසර ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ තීරණාත්මක වසරක් ලෙස පුස්තකාල විද්‍යාඥයින් සළකනු ලබයි. 1955 දී 'Library Trend'[1] පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා සහරාවේ එක් කලාපයක් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සඳහා වෙන් කර තිබූ අතර එහි ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ විස්තරාත්මක විමසීමක් කර තිබුණි. මෙය වර්තමාන ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳව කරන ලද ප්‍රථම පර්යේෂණාත්මක විමසුම විය. මෙම විශේෂ කලාපය එළිදැක්වීම හේතුවෙන් පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් අතරත්, පොදුවේ පර්යේෂකයින් අතරත්, වෙනත් උගතුන අතරත් ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ නවතම උනන්දුවක් ඇති විය. 1955 වසර නැවතත් වැදගත් වන්නේ එම වසරේදී ඉන්දියාවේ දිල්ලි නගරයේ පවත්වන ලද **ආසියාවේ මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවාව පිළිබඳ සම්මන්ත්‍රණය**[2] නිසා වේ. මෙම සම්මන්ත්‍රණයේ තේමාව ආසියාවේ පුස්තකාල සේවාව වුව ද, විශේෂයෙන් ආසියාවේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා සංවිධානය කිරීම පිළිබඳව මෙම සමුළුවේ දී විශේෂ අවධානයක් යොමු කරන ලදී. මේ නිසා ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ මෙම සමුළුව වැදගත් සන්ධිස්ථානයක් ලෙස සළකනු ලැබේ. මෙහිදී ලෝකයේ ඒ ඒ ප්‍රදේශවල ඇති භූගෝලීය, සංස්කෘතික හා ආර්ථික විෂමතාවයන්ට අනුකූලව ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා සංවිධානය කිරීමේ වැදගත්කම අවධාරණය කරන ලදී. 1955 වසරේ බ්‍රසල්ස් නුවරදී තවත් **ජාතික පුස්තකාල සහ ප්‍රලේඛණ සේවා සමුළුවක්** පවත්වන ලදී.

යුනෙස්කෝ ජාතික පුස්තකාල කලාපීය සම්මේලන

මින් අනතුරුව එළඹෙන්නේ එක්සත් ජාතීන්ගේ සංවිධානයේ අධ්‍යාපනික, විද්‍යාත්මක හා සංස්කෘතික සංවිධානය වෙවත් යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනය විසින් ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ විශේෂ උනන්දුවක් දක්වා ලෝකය පුරා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සම්මේලන හා රැස්වීම් මෙහෙයවූ අවදියට වේ. මීට ඉහතින් සඳහන් කල සිදුවීම් නිසා ශක්තිමත් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවක වැදගත්කම ගැන, යුනෙස්කෝව හොඳ අවබෝධයක් ඇතිව සිටි බව පෙනේ. විශේෂයෙන්ම තමන්ගේ මූලික වගකීම් වන ඒ ඒ රටවල අධ්‍යාපනික, සංස්කෘතික හා විද්‍යාත්මක කටයුතු සංවර්ධනය කිරීමේදී ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවක සහ ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල දැනි වැදගත්කම යුනෙස්කෝව වටහා ගෙන තිබුණි. ජාතික පුස්තකාල කටයුතු ව්‍යාප්ත කරලීම සඳහා 1958 සිට 1974 දක්වා යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනය කලාපීය මට්ටමින් ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ සමුළු ගණනාවක් පවත්වන ලදී.

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1 — Library Trend, Vol. 4, No.1, July 1955.

2 — UNESCO. Public Libraries for Asia : the Delhi Seminar. Paris : UNESCO, 1956.

යුනෙස්කෝ ජාතික පුස්තකාල කලාපීය සමුළු

වර්ෂය	සමුළුව පැවැත්වූ නගරය	රට	කලාපය
1958	වියනා	ඕස්ට්‍රියාව	යුරෝපය [3]
1964	මැනිලා	පිලිපීනය	ආසියා/ශාන්තිකර [4]
1966	ක්විටෝ	ඉක්වදෝරය	ලතින් ඇමරිකාව [5]
1967	කොළඹ	ශ්‍රී ලංකාව	ආසියාව [6]
1970	කම්පාලා	උගන්ඩාව	අප්‍රිකාව [7]
1974	කයිරෝ	ඊජිප්තුව	අරාබි රටවල් [8]

ලොව පුරා පැවැත්වුණු ජාතික පුස්තකාල විශේෂඥයින්ගේ මෙම රැස්වීම් කරුණු කිහිපයක් නිසා වැදගත් වේ. මුලදී සඳහන් කල අන්දමට 'ජාතික පුස්තකාල' යන තේමාව ජාත්‍යන්තර සම්මේලන ගණනාවක අවධානයට යොමුවීම මෙහිදී වැදගත් වන පළමු සාධකය වේ. එසේම යුනෙස්කෝ සංවිධානය ජාතික පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරයේ මූලිකත්වය ගැනීම ජාතික පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරය පුළුල් ජාත්‍යන්තර ව්‍යාපාරයක් බවට පත් වීමට හේතු විය.

එසේම යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනය විසින් මෙම සම්මන්ත්‍රණ සංවිධානය කල දාකාරයද වැදගත් වේ. මේවා කලාපීය සම්මන්ත්‍රණ වශයෙන් සංවිධානය කල නිසා මෙම ව්‍යාපාරයට ස්ථිර හා ශක්තිමත් අධිතාලමක් වැටුණු බව පැහැදිලිවම පෙනෙනා කරුණකි. ඒ ඒ කලාපයේ ඒ ඒ ප්‍රදේශවල සුවිශේෂ තත්වයන් මෙබඳු සැළසුම් වලදී විශේෂයෙන් සැළකිය යුතු බව යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනය නිවැරදිව වටහාගෙන තිබුණි. ඒ අනුව ආසියාව, අප්‍රිකාව, ලතින් ඇමරිකාව, අරාබි රටවල් වැනි විශේෂ කලාපයන් සඳහා මෙම සමුළු සංවිධානය කිරීම ඵලදායී විය. අද මෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරය ගැන හෝ අන්තර් ජාතික මට්ටමේ පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් පිළිබඳව හෝ විශේෂඥයින් මේ අවදියේ බහුල නොවූ බවද අමතක නොකළ යුතුය. විශේෂයෙන් ඒ ඒ කලාපීය රැස්වීම් වලදී ඒ ඒ කලාපයේ පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන්, අධ්‍යාපනඥයින්, සැලසුම් සකස් කරන්නන් සහ වෙනත් අදාල ක්ෂේත්‍රවල ප්‍රධානීන් මෙම සමුළුවලට සහභාගී කරවා ගන්නා ලදී. මෙහි ප්‍රතිඵලය වූයේ සාමාන්‍ය අදහසක් වශයෙන් ඉදිරියට ආ ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය ක්‍රමානුකූල අන්තර් ජාතික සංකල්පයක් සේ වර්ධනය වීමයි. ඒ ඒ කලාපීය රැස්වීම් වලදී ඒ ඒ කලාප වලට ජාතික පුස්තකාල අදහස් භාදුන්වා දුන්නා සේම එම කලාපවල විශේෂ තත්වයන් අනුව ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංකල්පයද වෙනස්වීමක් දක්නට ලැබුණි. 1958 වියානා සමුළුවේ සිට 1974 කයිරෝ සමුළුව දක්වා කලාපීය ජාතික පුස්තකාල සමුළු වාර්තා පරීක්ෂා කර බැලීමේදී මෙම පරිණාමය පැහැදිලිවම පෙනේ.

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තොරතුරු සේවා පිළිබඳ අන්තර් ජාතික වැඩසටහන්

1970 දශකය වන විට යුනෙස්කෝව පුස්තකාල හා තොරතුරු සේවා සංවිධානය පිළිබඳ පුළුල් අත්දැකීම් සහිත සංවිධානයක් විය. දශක දෙක ක් පමණ පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ කටයුතු කිරීම, ජාතික පුස්තකාල හා වෙනත් තොරතුරු සේවා පිළිබඳ අන්තර් ජාතික හා කලාපීය මට්ටමේ සම්මන්ත්‍රණ සම්මේලන විශාල ගණනාක් සංවිධානය කර තිබීම, විශේෂයෙන් තුන්වන ලෝකයේ රටවල් විශාල ප්‍රමාණයක් සාමාජිකත්වය ලැබීම නිසා තුන්වන ලෝකයේ ගැටළු පිළිබඳ අවබෝධයක් තිබීම වැනි හේතු මත යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනය මේ වන විට පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ වඩාත් පුළුල් පදනමක් සහිත සංවිධානයක්ව පැවතුණි. මෙම අත්දැකීම්වල ප්‍රතිඵලයක් වශයෙන් නූතන අවශ්‍යතාවයන්ට සහ සෑම රටකටම ගැලපෙන සේ පුළුල් පුස්තකාල හා **විඳුපන සේවා වැඩ සටහන් සංවිධානය කිරීමේ** අවශ්‍යතාවය මේ වන විට ඇතිවී තිබුණි.

1974 පැරිස් නගරයේ සංවිධානය කරන ලද **''ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථාගාර සේවා, පුස්තකාල සහ අධ්‍යාපනික ග්‍රන්ථාගාර සැලසුම් කිරීම පිළිබඳ ජාත්‍යන්තර සම්මන්ත්‍රණය''** මෙහි ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස හැඳින්විය හැක. මෙම රැස්වීමේදී අප කවුරුත් NATIS වැඩ සටහන ලෙස හඳුන්වන **''ජාතික විඳුපන සේවා වැඩ සටහන''** බිහි විය. ප්‍රධාන පරමාර්ථ 12 ක් ඇතිව බිහිවුණු මෙම වැඩ සටහන ජාතික මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාල හා තොරතුරු සේවා ව්‍යාප්ත කරලීමට ගන්නා ලද ප්‍රථම සැළසුම් සහගත විද්‍යාත්මක ප්‍රයත්නය විය. මේ සම්මන්ත්‍රණය හඳුන්වා දෙනු ලැබූ තවත් වැඩ සටහනක් වූයේ UNISIST නමින් හැඳින් වෙන **'ලෝක විද්‍යා විඳුපන වැඩ සටහන වේ.'** ඒ මගින් ජාතික මට්ටමින් විද්‍යා හා තාක්ෂණික තොරතුරු සංවිධානය කිරීමෙන්, ප්‍රචාරණය කිරීමෙන් විද්‍යානුකූල ක්‍රමයක් හඳුන්වා දෙන ලදී. මෙම වැඩ සටහන් දෙක බිහිවීම ජාතික මට්ටමේ පුස්තකාල සේවාවල සංවර්ධනයේ වැදගත් සන්ධිස්ථානයක් ලෙස සැළකේ. මෙම වැඩ සටහන්වල විශේෂයෙන් NATIS වැඩ සටහනේ නායකත්වය ඒ ඒ රටවල **ජාතික** පුස්තකාල වලට හිමි විය. ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල වැදගත් කමත්, ඒවා **ශක්තිමත්ව** පැවතීමේ අවශ්‍යතාවයත් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය කේන්ද්‍රකොට ගෙන ජාතික මට්ටමේ විඳුපන සේවාවන් සංවිධානය කිරීමේ වැදගත්කමත් අවධාරණය කිරීම නිසා මෙම වැඩ සටහන් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංකල්පයේ විශාල ලෙස අනුබල දුන ඒවා ලෙස සැළකේ. 1976 වසරේදී යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනයේ GIP හෙවත්, **සාමාන්‍ය විඳුපන සේවා වැඩ සටහන** හඳුන්වා දෙමින් ඉහත දැක්වූ NATIS හා UNISIST වැඩ සටහන් ඒකාබද්ධ කරන ලදී. මෙම සාමාන්‍ය විඳුපන සේවා වැඩ සටහන ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීමේදී ඒ රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාලවලට ප්‍රධානත්වයක් හිමි විය. යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනය, අන්තර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංගම් සංවිධානය සමඟ සහයෝගයෙන් මෙම ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ තවත් අන්තර් ජාතික වැඩ සටහන් ගණනාවක් දියත් කර ඇත. මේ අතර එක් වැඩ සටහනක් වූයේ UBC හෙවත්, **'විශ්ව ග්‍රන්ථ විඳුපන පාලන'** වැඩ සටහනයි. මේ මගින් ඒ ඒ රටවල ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක කටයුතු සැළසුම් කිරීමත්, මෙහෙයවීමත් පිළිබඳව ප්‍රමිතීන් දක්වන ලදී. ඉන් අනතුරුව ඉදිරිපත් වූ UAP හෙවත් විශ්ව ප්‍රකාශන සුලභතාවය වැඩ සටහන මගින් ඒ ඒ රටවල පලවන ප්‍රකාශන පහසුවෙන් ලබා ගත හැකි ක්‍රම පිළිබඳ, ප්‍රමිතීන් හා ක්‍රියා ම ර්ගයන් සකස් කරන ලදී. මේ අන්දමට ප්‍රවෘත්ති සහ විඳුපන විද්‍යා ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ යුනෙස්කෝව ආරම්භ කරන ලද අන්තර් ජාතික වැඩසටහන් ගණන වක්ම ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධනයේ ලා පුලුල් බලපෑමක් ඇති කල බව පෙනේ. එ රටවල පුස්තකාල හා විඳුපන සේවාවන් සංවිධානය කිරීමත්, ඒවාට ප්‍රමිතීන් නියම කිරීමත්, මගින් සාර්ථක ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවක් සඳහා අවශ්‍ය මූලික පදනම සකස් කිරීම මෙම වැඩසටහන් මගින් ඉටු කරන ලදී. මෙම වැඩ සටහන්වල නායකත්වය ජාතික පුස්තකාලවලටම ලබා දී ජාතික මට්ටමින් ජාතික පුස්තකාල වර්ධනය කරලීමත්, වැඩ සටහන්වල විද්‍යානුකූල භාවය නිසා ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කටයුතු පහසුවීමත් යහ දෙයාකාරය කින්ම මෙම වැඩ සටහන්වල වැදගත්කම අගය කල හැක.

ජාතික පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන්ගේ රැස්වීම් :

අන්තර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංගම් සංවිධානයේ අනු අංශයක් ලෙස ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන්/පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් වාර්ෂිකව හමුවී ජාතික පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ විවිධ ගැටළු සාකච්ඡා කිරීම පසුගිය වකවානුවේ නව වර්ධනයක් විය. 1952 වසරේ මෙම සංගමය ජාතික පුස්තකාල කටයුතු පිළිබඳ පළමු වරට උනන්දුවක් දක්වූ බව මුලදී සඳහන් කළෙමි. එම උනන්දුව පුළුල් වශයෙන් පවත්වා ගෙන යාමටත්, සංවර්ධනය කරලීමටත් මෙම සංවිධානය විසින් අඛණ්ඩ ප්‍රයත්නයක් දරණු ලදී. මෙම ප්‍රධාන ජාතික පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන්ගේ රැස්වීමට අමතරව විශේෂයෙන්ආසියා හා ශාන්තිකර කලාපයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල කටයුතු පිළිබඳ විශේෂ සිදුවීමක් 1979 වසරේදී සිදු විය. ආසියා හා සාගර කලාපයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ සුවිශේෂ ගැටළු කලාපීය මට්ටමින් විසඳා ගැනීමේ අවශ්‍යතාවය මේ වන විට අවබෝධ වී තිබුණි. ඒ අනුව ආසියා හා සාගර කලාපීය ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල වෙනම සමුළුවක අවශ්‍යතාවය ඇතිවිය. පළමු **ආසියා හා සාගර කලාපීය ජාතික පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන්ගේ රැස්වීම** 1979 වසරේදී ඕස්ට්‍රේලියාවේ[9] පවත්වන ලදී, එම වර්ෂයේ පටන් සෑම වසර 03 කට වරක්ම රැසවී මෙම කලාපයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳවත්. ඔවුනොවුන් අතර අන්‍යොන්‍ය සහයෝගතාවය පිළිබඳවත් මෙම සමුළුවේදී පුළුල් වශයෙන් සාකච්ඡා කරනු ලැබේ. 1982 ජපානයේ ටෝකියෝ නගරයේත්,[10] 1985 දී ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ කොළඹදීත්[11] 1980 චීන සමුහාණ්ඩුවේ බීජිං නගරයේත් මෙම සමුළු පවත්වා ඇති අතර, ඊලඟ සමුළුව 1992 මැලෙසියාවේ ක්වාලාලාම්පූර් නගරයේ පැවැත්වීමට කටයුතු යොදා ඇත.

ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ 1958 වසරේ පැවැත්වූ මුල්ම සමුළුවත්, ඊට පසුව 60 වන දශකයේ පැවැත්වූ සමුළුත් සමඟ සසඳා බලන විට මෙම කලාපීය සමුළු ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංකල්පයේත්, ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධනයේත් විශේෂ වර්ධනයක් පෙන්නුම් කරයි. මේ වන විට විශේෂයෙන් ආසියා හා සාගර කලාපයේ රටවල් බහුතරයකම ජාතික පුස්තකාල හෝ ජාතික පුස්තකාල අධිකාරි ආයතන පහළවී තිබුණි. මෙම අන්තර් ජාතික සම්මේලන වඩාත් අවධාරණය කර ඇති කරුණු වනුයේ ඒ රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාල් සේවා වඩාත් කාර්යක්ෂමව හා විද්‍යානුකූලව පවත්වා ගෙන යෑමේ අවශ්‍යතාවයත්, ඒ ඒ ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල අන්‍යොන්‍ය සහයෝගය වර්ධනය කිරීමෙන්, ඒ ඒ රටවල ඓතිහාසික, අධ්‍යාපනික, සංස්කෘතික, ආර්ථික හා දේශීය තත්වයන්ට අනුව ඒ ඒ රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාල වර්ධනය කිරීමත් වේ.

ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්

ජාතික පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරයේ පසුබිම හා වර්ධනය ගැන කතා කිරීමේදී මීළඟ අදියර ලෙස සඳහන් කල හැක්කේ 'ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය' වර්ධනය කිරීමට අන්තර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ පුස්තකාල විශේෂඥවරුන් කිහිප දෙනෙකු විසින් ඉටු කරන ලද සේවාවන් වේ. මේ අය ජාතික පුස්තකාලය නවීන ලෝකයට ගැලපෙන ආයතනයක් බවට පත් කිරීමටත්, එහි වර්ධනයටත් ඉතා පුළුල් වශයෙන් හවුල් වූහ. ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කාර්ය භාරය පිළිබඳ විවරණය කල පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් රාශියක් අතරින් වඩාත් තීරණාත්මක මෙහෙයක් කල කිහිප දෙනෙකු පිළිබඳ මෙහිදී සාකච්ඡා කෙරේ.

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9 — International Conference of National Libraries on Resource Sharing in Asia & Oceania, Canberra, 1979; Resolutions', International Library Review, 12 (1980) pp. 43 - 7.

10 — PROCEEDINGS of the second International Conference of Directors of National Libraries on Resource Sharing in Asia & Oceania, November 15 - 19, 1982, — Tokyo : National Diet Library, 1985 — 453 p.

11 — PROCEEDINGS of the 3rd International Conference of Directors of National Libraries on, Resource Sharing in Asia & Oceania — 1985, Colombo.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කාර්ය භාරය පිළිබඳ ප්‍රථම විද්‍යාත්මක විවරණය කල තැනැත්තා ලෙස සැළකෙන්නේ **ආචාර්ය කේ. ඩබ්ලිව්. හම්ප්‍රිස්** මහතාය. හම්ප්‍රිස් 1964 දී අන්තර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංගම් සංවිධානය' වෙනුවෙන් ලෝකයේ ප්‍රධාන ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගණනාවක කටයුතු පිළිබඳ සමීක්ෂණයක් කොට වාර්ත වක් නිකුත් කරන ලදී.[12] බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය ජාතික පුස්තකාලය, ප්‍රංශ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය, ඇමරිකා එක්සත් ජනපද කොන්ග්‍රස් පුස්තකාලය හා සෝවියට් දේශයේ ලෙනින් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය මෙම විමර්ශනයට ලක්වූ ජාතික පුස්තකාල විය. මෙම විමර්ශනයෙන් ලත් අත්දැකීම් තවදුරටත් පුළුල් කොට ඔහු **'ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්'** නමින් 1966 වසරේදී පර්යේෂණාත්මක ලිපියක් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කරන ලදී.[13] එවකට බර්මින්හැම් සරසවියේ පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයා වශයෙන් කටයුතු කරමින් සිටි ඔහුගේ මෙම ලිපිය නූතන ජාතික පුස්තකාල සංකල්පය සම්බන්ධයෙන් පැහැදිලි හා විද්‍යානුකූල විවරණයක් කල පළමු අවස්ථාව ලෙස සැළකේ. 1955 සිට පවත්වහා ලද විවිධ ජාත්‍යන්තර සම්මන්ත්‍රණ හා සම්මේලනත්, මේ පිළිබඳ විවිධ උගතුන් විසින් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කරන ලද ලිපි ලේඛණත්, ඔහු විසින් ලෝකයේ ප්‍රධාන ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව කරන ලද ඇගැයීමත්, මේ වන විට පුස්තකාල හා විඥාපන සේවාවේ ඇතිවූ වර්ධනයක් මෙම විග්‍රහයට පැහැම වූ බවට සැකයක් නැත. හම්ප්‍රිස් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් ප්‍රධාන කොටස් 03 කට බෙදා ඇත.

* ජාතික පුස්තකාල මූලික කාර්යයන්
* ජාතික පුස්තකාල මගින් ඉටු කිරීමට සුදුසු කාර්යයන්
* ජාතික පුස්තකාල මගින් ඉටු කිරීමට අත්‍යවශ්‍යම නොවන නමුත් ඉටු කල හැකි කාර්යයන්; වශයෙනි.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක මූලික කාර්යයන්

* ජාතියේ ප්‍රකාශනවල පුළුල් එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.
* නිත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතුව පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.
* විදේශීය ග්‍රන්ථ එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.
* ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ ණ ම.වලිය ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීම.
* ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.
* සුවීන් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීම.
* ප්‍රදර්ශන පැවැත්වීම.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් ඉටු කිරීමට සුදුසු ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්

* අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවා පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.
* අප්‍රකාශිත අත් පිටපත් තැන්පතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.
* පුස්තකාල ක්‍රමවේද පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණ පැවැත්වීම.

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12 — Humpherys, K. W., The Role of the National Library : A Preliminary Statement', Libri, Vol. 14, No.4

13 — Humphreys, K. W. — National Library Functions — UNESCO Bulletin of Libraries, Vol. 20, No. 4. July — August 1966 — p. 158 — 169.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් විසින් ඉටු කිරීමට අවශ්‍යම නොවන නමුත් ඉටු කල හැකි කාර්යයන්

* අන්තර් පුස්තකාල හුවමාරු සේවා
* අතිරේක පිටපත් බෙදා හැරීම
* අන්ධයින් සඳහා පොත් සැපයීම
* පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා අභ්‍යාස පාඨමාලා පවත්වා ගෙන යාම
* අනිකුත් පුස්තකාල සඳහා ආධාර කිරීම

හම්ප්‍රිස් ගේ විවරණය ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳව මේතාක් ඉදිරිපත් වූ ප්‍රබලම විවරණය ලෙස සැලකේ. එතැන් සිට මේ දක්වා ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කාර්යයන් විග්‍රහ කල බොහෝ දෙනා හම්ප්‍රිස් ඉදිරිපත් කල ව්‍යුහය තුලම සිටිමින් එය දියුණු කිරීම සඳහා ප්‍රයත්න දරූ බව පෙනේ. පසු කාලයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ වඩාත් විද්‍යාත්මක විවරණ ඉදිරිපත් වුවද, හම්ප්‍රිස්ගේ විවරණයේ මූලික රටාවත්, ඔහු ඉදිරිපත් කල ප්‍රධාන අදහසුත් අද දක්වා ශක්තිමත්ව පවතී.

බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ බැහැර දෙන අංශයේ අධිපති **මහාචාර්ය මොරිස් ලයින්** ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව 1980 දී අර්ථ කථනයක් කරන ලදී.[14] ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණ ලිපි රාශියක් පල කර ඇති මොරිස් ලයින් අන්තර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ පුලුල් අත්දැකීම් සහිත පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයෙක් ද වේ ආචාර්ය හම්ප්‍රිස් ගේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්ය ලේඛණය නැවත සකස් කල ඔහු ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් ප්‍රධාන අංශ 03 කට බෙදා දක්වා ඇත.

* මූලික කාර්යයන්
* මූලික කාර්යයන් වෙතින් මතුවන කාර්යයන්
* වෙනත් ඉටු කල හැකි කාර්යයන වශයෙනි

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක මූලික කාර්යයන්

* ජාතියේ තොරතුරු මාධ්‍යවල මධ්‍යම එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම
* පිරුළුසේවා සහ ජායා පිටපත් සේවා සඳහා පුළුල් විදේශීය ග්‍රන්ථ එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.
* අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවා සැලසුම් කිරීම සහ සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම.
* කාලීන සහ පූර්වකාලීන ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීම.
* ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලී මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම
* පුස්තකාලවලින් ඉවත්කරනු ලබන පොත්පත්වල ජාතික කැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.
* ජාතික හා අන්තර් ජාතික හුවමාරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම

14 — Line, M. B. "The role of national libraries : a reassessment" Libri, 30; 1 - 16, 1980.

ජාතික පුස්තකාල, මූලික කාර්යයන් වෙතින් මතුවන කාර්යයන්

* විශාල හෝ විශේෂයෙන් වැදගත් ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල සුවීන් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීම.
* අවශ්‍යතාවය පරිදි ප්‍රදර්ශන පැවැත්වීම
* පුස්තකාල ක්‍රම වේදය පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණ පැවැත්වීම
* ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය හා අවශ්‍යතාවය අනුව වෙනත් පුස්තකාලවල කාර්ය මණ්ඩල පුහුණු කිරීම
* අනෙක් පුස්තකාලවලට තාක්ෂණික සහාය ලබාදීම.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් විසින් ඉටු කල හැකි කාර්යයන්

* එම රටට අදාල නමුත් වෙනත් රටක ප්‍රකාශිත ප්‍රකාශන එක්රැස් කිරීම.
* අන්ධයින් සඳහා පොත්පත් සැපයීම
* ජාතික වැදගත්කමක් හෝ ජාතික සබඳතාවයක් නොමැති වෙනත් අත්පිටපත් **එකතුකිරීම.**

1984 වසරේදී යෙමදි අරාබියේ ජෙඩා නගරයේ අබ්දුල් අසීස් විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ සහාය මහාචාර්ය මොහමඩ් අල්-නහරි ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්ය භාරය පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණයක් කරන ලදී මේ දකවා ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ පළ කරන ලද විශේෂඥ අදහස්, විවිධ අන්තර් ජාතික සම්මේලනවල වාර්තා සහ ජාතික පුස්තකාල 52 ක කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ කරන ලද සමීක්ෂණයක ප්‍රතිඵල අලලා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව ඔහු පුනර් ඇගැයීමක් කරන ලදී [15] ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව සංවර්ධනය වන රටවල පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයෙකු කරන ලද පුළුල්ම ඇගැයීම ආචාර්ය අල්-නහරිගේ ඇගැයීම වේ. අදාල ජාතික පුස්තකාල 52 විසින් දුන් පිළිතුරු වලට අනුව ඔහු ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් ප්‍රධාන කොටස් තුනකට බෙදා දක්වා ඇත

* ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක පළමු ප්‍රමුඛතා කාර්යයන්
* ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක දෙවන ප්‍රමුඛතා කාර්යයන්
* ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක තෙවන ප්‍රමුඛතා කාර්යයන් වශයෙනි

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක පළමු ප්‍රමුඛතා කාර්යයන්

* රටේ නිත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු පුස්තකාලය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම
* රටේ ප්‍රකාශනවල මධ්‍යම එකතුවක් ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම
* රට පිළිබඳ ලියවුණු විදේශ කෘතීන් සහ රටේ කර්තෘන් විසින් විදේශවලදී ලියන ලද කෘතීන් එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම
* ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය
* ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විඥපන මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම

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15 — AL - NAHARI, Abdulaziz Mohamed. The Role of National Libraries in Developing Countries, with Special Reference to Saudi Arabia. London and New York : Mansell, 1984.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක දෙවන ප්‍රමුඛතා කාර්යයන්

* දේශීය අත්පිටපත් එකතු කිරීම, සංරක්ෂණය කිරීම හා සංවිධානය කිරීම
* අනෙකුත් පුස්තකාලවලට සහ ප්‍රලේඛණ හා විඥාපන මධ්‍යස්ථානවලට ජාතික පුස්තකාල සුවිය භාවිතය/ප්‍රවේශවීමට පහසුකම් සැලසීම.
* රටේ පුස්තකාල සේවා සැලසුම් කිරීමේලා සම්බන්ධවීම
* ජාතික හා අන්තර් ජාතික වශයෙන් ප්‍රකාශන හුවමාරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.
* ජාතික ඒකාබද්ධ සුවිය සම්පාදනය
* දේශීය පුස්තකාලවලට නායකත්වය සැපයීම.
* අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවා සැලසුම් කිරීම සහ සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම
* රජය සඳහා තොරතුරු සේවා සැපයීම
* පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා වෘත්තීය ප්‍රහුණු පහසුකම් සැලසීම.
* ජාතියේ වාර සඟරා සහ පුවත්පත් ලිපිවල ට අනුක්‍රමණිකා සේවාවන් සැපයීම

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක තෙවන ප්‍රමුඛතා කාර්යයන්

* තොරතුරු හා විඥාපන සේවා වලට අදාල ජාතික ප්‍රමිතීන් සකස් කිරීම
* අන්තර් ජාතික දත්ත බැංකු වලට සම්බන්ධවීමට අවශ්‍ය පහසුකම් සැලසීම
* විඥාපන සේවා ක්‍රම වේදය සම්බන්ධ පහසුකම් සැලසීම.
* සුවි සේවාවන් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.
* පුස්තකාල තාක්ෂණය පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණ පැවැත්වීම
* අන්ධ සහ වෙනත් අංගවිකල වූවන් සඳහා පුස්තකාල සේවා සැපයීම

ඇවාර්ය අල්-නහරි මේ අන්දමට ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව දීර්ඝ ලැයිස්තුවක් ඉදිරිපත් කර ඇත මෙම කාර්ය ලැයිස්තුව මීට පෙර හඳුනා ගන්නා ලද ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් ගෙන් මෙන්ම නව කාර්යයන් ගණනාවකින් යුක්ත වේ. ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් ගණනාවක් ව්‍යාප්ත කොට දැක්වීමත්, ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල වර්තමාන තත්වය පිළිබඳ සමීක්ෂණයක් කොට තම අදහස් ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමත්, සංවර්ධනය වන රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ වැඩි අවධානයක් යොමු කිරීමත් අල්-නහරිගේ විවරණයේ වැදගත් අංශ සේ දැක්විය හැක. ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ අදහස් ඉදිරිපත් කල විද්‍යාඥයින් ගණනාවක් සිටියද, මෙම ප්‍රධාන විවරණ තුල ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ වර්තමානයේ ප්‍රචලිත මූලික අදහස් අඩංගු වන බැවින් වෙනත් විවරණ සළකා බැලීමට අදහස් නොකෙරේ. මේ අන්දමට ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව විශේෂඥ ශාස්ත්‍රීය මත පැවතුනද, ඒ ඒ රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් ඒ ඒ රටවල සුවිශේෂ තත්වයන් මගින් තීරණය වන බව වටහා ගැනීම මෙහිදී අතිශයින් වැදගත්ය.

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරය

1990 වසරේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විවෘත කිරීම ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ අධ්‍යාපනික හා සංස්කෘතික වර්ධනයේ වැදගත් අවස්ථාවක් වේ. හොඳනුමානවම එය ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ අතිශය වැදගත් අවස්ථාවකි. වෙනත් බොහෝ රටවල් සමඟ සසඳන විට ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටුවීමේ ක්‍රියාවලියේදී අප රට තරමක් පමාවී ඇති බව පෙනේ. විශේෂයෙන්ම අපගේ අසල්වැසි රටවල් ගණනාවක් — ඉන්දියාව, පාකිස්ථානය, බංගලාදේශය, මැලෙසියාව, සිංගප්පූරුව, ඉන්දුනීසියාව, තායිලන්තය — දනට සැළකිය යුතු කාලයක සිට තම රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිහිටුවා ගෙන ඇති බව සිහිපත් කරන විට සාක්ෂරතාව අතින් ආසියාවේ කාලයක් තිස්සේ ප්‍රධාන ස්ථානයක් හිමි කර ගෙන සිටින ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ මේ අංශයේ ප්‍රමාදය පැහැදිලිවම කැපී පෙනේ.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය නිල වශයෙන් පිහිටුවීම මේ වසරේ සිදු වුවද, ජාතික පුස්තකාල කටයුතු සම්බන්ධයෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකාව මේ දක්වා මුළුමනින්ම නිහඬව සිටි බවක් මින් අදහස් නොවේ. **1870 රජයේ ප්‍රාථන පුස්තකාලය** පිහිටුවා දේශීය පොත්පත් එක්රැස් කිරීමට සහ පොත්පත් පිළිබඳව තොරතුරු රැස් කිරීමට රජය දරූ ප්‍රයත්නය නූතන ලංකා ඉතිහාසයේ ජාතික මට්ටමේ පුස්තකාලයක් බිහි කිරීමට දරූ පළමු ප්‍රයත්නය ලෙස සැළකිය හැක. **1877 වසරේ ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව හා කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය** පිහිටුවීම ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ තවත් වැදගත් සන්ධිස්ථානයකි. දේශීය ප්‍රකාශන අවුරුදු 113 ක් තිස්සේ එක්රැස් කරමින් ජාතික කෞතුකාගාරය "නිල නොලත් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය" ලෙස මේ දක්වා ක්‍රියා කර ඇත. **1885 පැනවූ මුද්‍රණකරුවන්ගේ සහ ප්‍රකාශකයින්ගේ ආඥා පනත** ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ තවත් අතිශය වැදගත් අවස්ථාවකි. ලංකාවේ පලවන සියළුම ප්‍රකාශන නම් කරන ලද ආයතන ගණනාවක තැන්පත් කරලීම නීතිමය අවශ්‍යතාවයක් කල මෙම "නීත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු නීතිය" ඕනෑම රටක ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් ගොඩ නැගීමේ ක්‍රියාවලියේ අත්‍යාවශ්‍ය අංගයක් සේ සැළකේ. මේ නිසා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් නොතිබුණද, ජාතික පුස්තකාලීය සඳහා වූ පොත්පත් එකතුන් රැස් කිරීමේ ක්‍රියාවලිය ආරම්භ විය. තුන්වන ලෝකයේ රටවල් බොහොමයක මෙබඳු "නීත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු නීති" පනවනු ලැබුයේ විසිවන සියවසේ මැද හෝ අවසාන භාගයේ බව සලකන විට 19 වන සිය වසේදීම ලංකාව මෙම නීතිමය තත්වය ලබා ගැනීම විශේෂ වැදගත්කමක් උසුලයි.

දහ නමවන සියවසේ සිදුවූ මෙම වැදගත් සිදුවීම් වලට පසු නැවත ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබ කැපී පෙනෙන උනන්දුවක් ලංකාවේ පහලවී ඇත්තේ විසිවන සියවසේ මැද භාගයේදීය. වෙනත් විවිධ කාර්යයන් සඳහා පත් කරනු ලැබූ විශේෂ කමිටු සහ කොමිෂන් සභා ගණනාවක් ලංකාවේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටුවීමේ වැදගත්කම අවධාරණය කර ඇත.

වොක්සි කොමියම (1955)[16] **කන්දයියා වොක්සි කමිටුව (1958)**[17] **බ්‍රෝහියර් කමිටුව (1959)**[18] **විල්මට් ඒ. පෙරේරා කමිටුව (1960)** [19] ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීමෙන්, ජාතික මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් පිහිටුවීමෙන් වැදගත්කට අවධාරණය කල කමිටු විය. එක්සත් රාජධානියේ පැරී කමිටුව (1967) සහ ඩැන්ටන් කමිටුව (1969) මෙන් පුස්තකාල සේවා ගැන හෝ ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටුවීම පිළිබඳව කරුණු යෙදිව මෙම කමිටුවල වගකීම් නොවූ බව මෙහිදී සැඳහැවේ. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීම පිළිබඳ විශේෂ අධ්‍යයනයක් කරලීම සහ ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් සංවිධානය කිරීම පිළිබඳ යොයා බැලීම සඳහා විශේෂ කමිටුවක් මේ දක්වා පත් නොකිරීම මේ ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ ඉතාමත් පැහැදිලිවම කැපී පෙනෙන අඩුපාඩුවකි.

1967 දී කොළඹ පැවැත්වූ යුනෙස්කෝ ජාතික පුස්තකාල විශේෂඥයින්ගේ රැස්වීම හා යුනෙස්කෝ පුස්තකාල උපදේශිකාවක ලෙස ලංකාවේ සේවය කල **එව්ලින් ජේ. එවන්ස් මහත්මියගේ** (1967 – 1970) කටයුතු ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ වැදගත් වේ, 1970 ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පිහිටුවීම මෙම විශේෂඥ රැස්වීමේ හා යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශිකාවගේ කටයුතුවල යාර්ථක ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස හැඳින්විය හැක. **1970 ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා ම ණ්ඩලය** පිහිටුවීම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීමේ ක්‍රියාවලියේ අතිශය වැදගත් අවස්ථාවකි. "ශ්‍රී ලංකා **ජාතික** පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීම හා පවත්වාගෙන යාම" නව මණ්ඩලයේ ප්‍රධාන වගකීමක් හා කාර්යයක්

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19 — Wilmot Perera Salaries and Cadre Committee report — 1960.

ලෙස ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩල පනතේ දක්වා ඇත. 1970 සිට 1990 දක්වා මෙම වගකීම ඉටු කිරීමට ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය දරූ උත්සාහය මේ දක්වා අනාගත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා මහ හෙලි පෙහෙලි කිරීමට දරණ ලද ප්‍රධාන ප්‍රයත්නය ලෙස සැලකේ.

කරදර, කම්කටොලු, පසුබැම් වලින් ගහණ වූ මෙම දශක දෙකක කාල පරිච්ඡේදය දෙස ආපසු හැරී බලන විට මේ සියළු දේ මැද දිදුලමින් පවතින සාර්ථකත්වයන් ගණනාවක්ද දැකිය හැක ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය පල කිරීම, ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවා කටයුතු මූලික මට්ටමින් ඇරඹීම, ජාතික තැන්පතු පුස්තකාල ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම, ජාතියේ ප්‍රකාශන එක්රැස් කිරීමේ කාර්යයන් ඇරඹීම අනෙකුත් පුස්තකාල සඳහා ආධාර සැපයීම, පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යාපන හා පුහුණු කරලීමේ කටයුතු, රටතුල ග්‍රන්ථ ප්‍රකාශනය වර්ධනය කරලීම, පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය හුවමාරු කිරීමේ මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම, අන්තර් ජාතික සබඳතා වර්ධනය, දේශීය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන්ගේ වෘත්තියමය යහපත තකා කටයුතු කිරීම වැනි ජාතික පුස්තකාල කටයුතු ගණනාවක් මේ අවදිය තුලදී ආරම්භ කරන ලදී. ඇතැම් කටයුතු තවමත් මූලික මට්ටමින් පැවතුනද, වැදගත් වනුයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය 1990 අරඹා විට මෙම කටයුතු මුල් පටන්ම ඇරඹීමට ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට අවශ්‍ය නොවීම යි. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල ඉදි කිරීම මේ අවදියේ මෙ ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ ඉටු කරන ලද තවත් විශාල කාර්ය භාරයකි ගොඩනැගිල්ල ඉදි කිරීම සඳහා වසර 12 ක පමණ කාලයක් ගත වුවද, අවසානයේ වර්ග අඩි 1,25,000 ක නව ගොඩනැගිල්ලක් නගර මධ්‍යයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා ලබා ගැනීමට හැකිවීම පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ විශේෂ ජයග්‍රහණයකි. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා අවශ්‍ය කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයෙන් විශාල කොටසක් ලබා ගැනීමට හැකිවීම තවත් ජයග්‍රහණයකි. පසුගිය දස වසර තිස්සේ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය කෙමෙන් වර්ධනය වෙමින් පැවති අතර, විශේෂයෙන් 1989 වසරේ රජය සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කොට ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා අවශ්‍ය තනතුරු විශාල ප්‍රමාණයක් අනුමත කරවා ගැනීමට මණ්ඩලයට හැකි විය. ඒ අනුව ඉහළ මට්ටමේ වෘත්තීය මට්ටමේ තනතුරු 30 ක් පමණ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා දැනට ලැබී තිබේ. ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයට අමතරව වෙනත් අර්ධ වෘත්තීය ලිපිකරු හා පුස්තකාල සහායක ශ්‍රේණි කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයද සැලකිය යුතු ලෙස වර්ධනය වී මුළු කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය 130 කින් පමණ දැනට සමන්විත වී ඇත

අන්තර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ, ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව පුළුල් වශයෙන් සාකච්ඡා කෙරෙන අතර, ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳවද දේශීය වශයෙන් පුළුල් ලෙස සාකච්ඡා වුණි ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විවෘත වීම 1990 සිදු වුවද, ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව සාකච්ඡාව ලංකාවේ ඇරඹුනේ 1958 කන්දයියා කමිටු වාර්තාව සමඟ වේ. එතැන් පටන් මේ දක්වා විවිධ කමිටු හා පුද්ගලයින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයෙන් ඉටු කල යුතු කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව විවිධ අදහස් පල කර ඇත. මේ අදහස් බොහෝ අවස්ථා වලදී සමාන ස්වරූපයක් දරුවද පුළුල් ලෙස වෙහෙස්වන අවස්ථාද හැත්තේ හොවේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් කුමන ස්වරූපයක් ගත යුතුද යන්න අද දේශීය පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ පුළුල් ලෙස සාකච්ඡාවට භාජනය වන කරුණක් වී ඇත . මේ නියා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව පසුගිය දශක තුනහමාරක පමණ කාලය තුල කමිටු සහ පුද්ගලයින් දක්වා ඇති අදහස් අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම වටී. විශේෂයෙන් 1950 දශකයේ අවසාන භාගය තරම් ඈත කාලයක ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් ලෙස ඉදිරිපත් කර ඇති අදහස් කෙතෙකු මවිත කරවන තරම්, නවීනත්වයකින් යුතු බව පෙනේ. මේ සමඟ ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලබන ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ මෙතෙක් පලවී ඇති විවිධ අදහස් හා කාර්යය ලැයිස්තුන් වෙහෙස කරවන තරම් දීර්ඝ ඒවා වේ. එසේ වුවද ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ඉතිහාසයත්, එහි වර්තමානය හා අනාගතය පිළිබඳ පැහැදිලි මහ පෙන්වීමක් මේවායින් දැක්වෙන බැවින් ඒ සියල්ල ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම අත්‍යාවශ්‍ය යයි කල්පනා කළෙමු.

කාන්දයියා කමිටුව — 1958 (යෝජිත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්)

1. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ඉතිහාසය, සංස්කෘතිය හා ජාත්‍යක ජයග්‍රහණ පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු රැගත් ජාතික පුස්තකාල එකතුවක් ගොඩ නැගීම සහ ආරක්ෂා කරලීම.

2. මනුෂ්‍ය වර්ගයා මේනාක් කල් ලබා ගෙන ඇති බුද්ධිය පිළිබිඹු කෙරෙහි මුද්‍රිත මාධ්‍යය. සිතුවම් සහ පටිගත කරන ලද ශබ්ද වැනි සියළුම අංග වලට අයත් තොරතුරු එක්රැස් කිරීම

3. විශ්ව විද්‍යාල වැනි අධ්‍යාපනික ආයතන වලට අමතරව විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍ර පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණ කරන මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම

4. ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවා සැපයීම මගින් මුළු දිවයිනේම පුස්තකාල සේවාව සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම

5. දේශීය ලේඛකයින්ට සහ ප්‍රකාශකයින්ට ඕග පෙන්වීම සහ ආධාර කරලීම.

ලෝනියර් කමිටු වාර්තාව — 1959 (යෝජිත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්)

1. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කරන ලද සියළුම පොත්වල සහ වෙනත් රටවල ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කරන ලද තෝරාගත් පොත්වල මධ්‍යම එකතුවක් සේ කටයුතු කිරීම.

2. සූචිකරණය, ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිකරණය, විවිධ පුස්තකාල කාර්ය ප්‍රමිතිකරණය වැනි කටයුතුවල මධ්‍යගත සේවාවන් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම.

3. පොත් සහ වාර සඟරා ලියා පදිංචි කිරීමේ මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම සහ ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සිකස් කිරීම.

4. මධ්‍යම පොත් හුවමාරු මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

5. අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවාවන් සංවිධානය කිරීම.

6. ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් සංවිධානය කරලීම සඳහා ආධාර කිරීම සහ දිවයින පුරා විසිරී සිටින පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් සඳහා පුහුණුවීමේ පහසුකම් සැලසීම.

හැරල්ඩ් වී. බොනි වාර්තාව — 1960 (යෝජිත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්)[20]

1. ලංකාව පිළිබඳ සියළුම පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය රැස් කිරීම.

2. ජාතික විමර්ශන පුස්තකාලය සහ ප්‍රධාන පර්යේෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.

3. පොත් තෝරීමේ නියමුවක් ලෙස කාලීන ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීම.

4. ලංකාවේ ඇති සියළුම පොත්පත් ලංකාවාසී හැම දෙනාටම ලබා ගත හැකි පරිදි දුන්තර් පුස්තකාල පොත් හුවමාරු සේවා සපයන මධ්‍යගත ආයතනය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

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20 — Bonny, Harold V., Library Services for Ceylon, Dept. of Cultutal Affairs (1960).

ආසියාවේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල යැළසුම් කිරීම පිළිබඳ යුනෙස්කෝ විශේෂ රැස්වීම වාර්තාව: කොළඹ — 1967 (යෝජිත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්)

මෙම වාර්තාවේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් ප්‍රධාන කොටස් දෙක කට බෙදී ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ මූලික පරමාර්ථ සහ ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් වශයෙනි.

(අ) ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ මූලික පරමාර්ථ :

1. ජාතික සංස්කෘතිය ශුරුකිරීම.

2. මුළු ජාතියේම යහපත තකා, ජාතියේ ඇති සියළුම පුස්තකාල සම්පත් ලබාදීම සඳහා අවශ්‍ය කටයුතු සංවිධානය කිරීම,

3. කිසිම රටකට පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය අතින් ස්වයංපෝෂණය වීමට හොඟකි නිසා වෙනත් රටවල පුස්තකාල සමඟ සම්බන්ධතා පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.

(ආ) ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන්

1. ලංකාවට සහ ලාංකික ජනතාවට සම්බන්ධ පුළුල් පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය එකතුවක් සහිත ජාතික පුස්තකාල එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම සහ සංවර්ධනය කිරීම.

2. පුස්තකාල මණ්ඩලය විසින් ජාතියේ යහපත සඳහා සුදුසු යයි තීරණය කරනු ලබන අන්දමට ජාතික විමර්ශන සහ පර්යේෂණ පුස්තකාලය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

3. ලංකා ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය කිරීම සහ අවශ්‍යතාවය අනුව වෙනත් ග්‍රන්ථ විඳුපනී සේවා සැපයීම.

4. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ප්‍රකාශන පිළිබඳ ඒකාබද්ධ සුචිය සකස් කිරීම සහ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ වාර සඟරා පිළිබඳ ඒකාබද්ධ ලැයිස්තුවක් සකස් කිරීම.

5. රට තුල අන්තර් ජාතික වශයෙන් අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේදීම් පිළිබඳ වගකීම් දැරීම.

6. ජාතික සහ ජාත්‍යන්තර වශයෙන් තොරතුරු ප්‍රචාරණය කරනු ලබන මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම සහ පුස්තකාල සහයෝගිතා ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ කටයුතු වලට සහාය වීම.

7. ජාතික ප්‍රලේඛණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

8. සියළුම රජයේ දෙපාර්තමේන්තු පුස්තකාල වලට සහාය වීම සහ සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ මණ්ඩලීය පත්‍රිකා අංක 53 – 1974
(යෝජිත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්)

1. තැන්පත් කිරීම සඳහා ලැබෙන දේශීය සහ විදේශීය ප්‍රකාශනවල තැන්පතු පුස්තකාලය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

2. පොත්, අත්පිටපත් (මුල් පිටපත හෝ පිටපතක්) සහ ලංකාව පිළිබඳ මේ හා සමාන පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය සහ ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට වැදගත්වන විදේශීය පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය එක්රැස් කිරීම.

3. රජයට සහ මහ ජනතාවට ප්‍රමාණවත් පුස්තකාල සම්පත් සැපයෙන බවට සහතික කිරීම සඳහා

(අ) ඒ ඒ අංශවල විශේෂ සේවාවන් හොඳින් සිදුවන බවටත්, සේවාවන් ද්විතීයනය හොවීමටත්, රජයේ ආයතනවල පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය අයත් කර ගැනීමේ කාර්යයන් සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම.

(ආ) වෙනත් පුස්තකාලවලට ලබා ගැනීමට අපහසු විශේෂ දුර්ලභ හෝ මිල අධික පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය ලබා ගැනීම.

4 රජයේ දෙපාර්තමේන්තු සහ රජයේ වෙනත් ආයතනවල පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් සංවිධානය කිරීම සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම සහ රජයට සහ මහජනතාවට විශේෂ සේවාවන් සැපයීම.

5 ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම. මේ යටතේ

(අ) ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය.

(ආ) අවශ්‍ය සහ ප්‍රයෝජනවත් වෙතත් ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලීන් සම්පාදනය.

(ඇ) ලංකාවේ ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාලවල ඇති නවකතා නොවන පොත්වල ඒකාබද්ධ සූචියක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම

(ඈ) ජාතික සහ අන්තර් ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන ව්‍යාපෘතීන්ට දායක වීම.

6 පොත් සහ ප්‍රවෘත්තිපත් සඳහා ජාතික ප්‍රකාශන ලියා පදිංචි කාර්යාලය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

7. ඓතිහාසික වලින් දක්වා ඇති පරිදි ජාතික විමර්ශන පුස්තකාලය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

8. ජාතික සහ අන්තර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සහයෝගිතාවය වර්ධනය කිරීමේ සහ පවත්වාගෙන යාමේ ආයතනය වශයෙන් සේවය කිරීම.

9. පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් පුහුණු කිරීමේ ලා සහාය වීම පුස්තකාල සහ පුස්තකාල සේවාව පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු ප්‍රචාරණය කිරීම සහ අධ්‍යාපනික සංස්කෘතික පරමාර්ථ උදෙසා පොත්පත් අත් පිටපත් සහ වෙනත් පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය ප්‍රදර්ශනය කිරීම.

10. ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ ලේඛණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.

එච්. ඒ. අයි. ගුණතිලක මහතා (යෝජිත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්)

පේරාදෙණිය විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ හිටපු පුස්තකාලයාධිපති එච්. ඒ. අයි. ගුණතිලක මහතා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ පුලුල් විවරණයක් කල එකම දේශීය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයා වේ.

1979 වසරේ[21] 'Libri' සඟරාවට ලිපියක් යවමින් ගුණතිලක මහතා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ විවරණයක් කර ඇත.

1. වෘත්තීයමය ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ නායකත්වය සැපයීම.
2. ජාතියේ ප්‍රකාශනවල ස්ථිර තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.
3. මහජනතාවට සහ රජයට ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සහ විමර්ශන සේවා සැපයීම.

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21 — Goonetilleke, H. A. I. 'The Meaning and purpose of a National Library for Sri Lanka' Libri, 29 (1), 1969.

4. සාමූහික පුස්තකාල කටයුතුවල සම්බන්ධීකරණ ආයතනය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

5. ජාතියේ ප්‍රධාන නිත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු පුස්තකාලය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

6. ජාතික සංස්කෘතිය සහ සංස්කෘතික දායාදයන් ආරක්ෂා කිරීම.

7. ජාතියේ සියළුම පුස්තකාල සම්පත් සියළුම ජනතාවට ලබා ගත හැකි වන පරිදි ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවා වර්ධනය කිරීම.

8. වෙනත් රටවල පුස්තකාල සමඟ සම්බන්ධතා පවත්වා ගැනීම.

9. ලංකාවේ ප්‍රකාශයට පත්වන පොත්, වාර සඟරා, සහ ප්‍රවෘත්ති පත් ලියා පදිංචි කරන ප්‍රධාන ආයතනය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

10. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය පල කිරීම සහ වෙනත් ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවා සැපයීම.

11. ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.

12. පුස්තකාල හුවමාරු සහ සහයෝගිතා කටයුතුවලට සහාය වීම.

13. විද්‍යා තාක්ෂණ 'කෘෂිකාර්මික' යථාජ විද්‍යා සහ මානව විද්‍යා ක්ෂේත්‍රවල ජාතික ප්‍රලේඛණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

14. සියළුම වර්ගවල පුස්තකාල සඳහා සහාය වීම සහ සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම.

15. පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යාපන සහ පුහුණු කටයුතු සංවර්ධනය කිරීම.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය — 1985 [22] (යෝජිත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්)

1. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ප්‍රකාශිත ප්‍රකාශනවල සම්පූර්ණ එකතුවක් අයත් කර ගැනීම සහ නිත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු පුස්තකාලය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.

2. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට සම්බන්ධ අත්පිටපත් සහ වෙනත් පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය සහ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට අවශ්‍ය වන වෙනත් පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය ලබා ගැනීම සහ සංරක්ෂණය කිරීම.

3. ශ්‍රී ලංකාව පිළිබඳ ලියවුණු පොත්පත්ද ඇතුළු භාවතම සහ පුළුල් තෝරාගත් විදේශීය පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාම.

4. ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය කිරීම.

5. ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

6. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාලවල ඇති පුස්තකාල එකතුන් පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු ඇතුළත් ජාතික ඒකාබද්ධ සූචිය සම්පාදනය කිරීම.

7. සුචි දත්තයන් සැපයීම මගින් දේශීය පුස්තකාල වලට ආධාර සැපයීම.

8. විශ්ව ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවාව සහ වෙනත් ඒ හා සමාන වැඩ සටහන්වල ජාතික මධ්‍යස්ථානය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

9. විදේශීය පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවාවන්හි ජාතික මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස් කටයුතු කිරීම සහ ජාතික පිරුළු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.

10. දේශීය විමර්ශන කටයුතුවල ඉහළම විමර්ශන පුස්තකාලය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම සහ යොමුගත සේවාවන් සැපයීම්.

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22 — National Library of Sri Lanka : Colombo SLNLSB, — 1985.

11. දේශීය වශයෙන් පොත් හුවමාරු සේවාවන් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම , විදේශීය පුස්තකාල සහ ආයතන සමඟ පොත් හුවමාරු සේවා පවත්වා ගෙන යාම සහ ඒම සේවාවන් සඳහා අවශ්‍ය පුස්තකාල එකතුන් ලබා ගැනීම සහ පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම.

12. පුස්තකාල සහ ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන ප්‍රමිතීන් වර්ධනය කිරීම.

13. ජාතික සහ අන්තර් ජාතික කමිටු වලදී ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ අවශ්‍යතාවයන් පිළිබඳ නියෝජනයන් කිරීම.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් ලෙස ඉදිරිපත් කර ඇති ඉහත දක්වා ඇති විවිධ අදහස් විමසීමේදී ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ඉටු කල යුතු කාර්යයන් ගණනාවක් පිළිබඳව පොදු එකඟතාවයක් දරණ බව පෙනේ.

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ප්‍රකාශන පිළිබඳ පුළුල් මධ්‍ය එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ මූලික කාර්යය විය යුතු බව සියළුම අංශ පිලිගණ ඇත. මෙය අන්තර් ජාතික වශයෙන්ද ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල පිලිගත් මූලික කාර්යය වේ. මෙම වගකීමෙම තවත් අංශයක් ලෙස ජාතික වැදගත් කමකින් යුත් අත් පිටපත් ලබා ගැනීමේ හා සංරක්ෂණය කරලීමේ වගකීමද වාර්තා ගණනාවක විශේෂයෙන් දක්වා තිබේ. මෙම ජාතියේ ප්‍රකාශන වල පුළුල් එකතුවක් රැස් කිරීම ඊට පසුව දක්වා ඇති විවිධ ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්හි මුල් පැනම බව පෙනේ. මේ අන්දමට පුළුල් ජාතික පුස්තකාල එකතුවක් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට අයත් කර ගත යුතු ආකාරය පිළිබඳවද මෙම වාර්තා ගණනාවක අවධානය යොමු කර ඇත. කන්ෑයියා කමිටුව, බ්‍රෝහියර් කමිටුව, බොනී කමිටුව, පුස්තකාල මණ්ඩලයේ 1974 වාර්තාව අවධාරණය කර ඇත්තේ මේ සඳහා දැනට ලංකාවේ ඇති පැරණි පුස්තකාල ගණනාවක පුස්තකාල එකතුන් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා අයත් කර ගත යුතුය යන්නයි. මෙහිදී ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට අයත් කර ගත යුතු පුස්තකාල එකතුන් ලෙස දක්වා ඇත්තේ ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය, රාජකීය ආසියාතික සංගමයේ ලංකා ශාඛාවේ පුස්තකාලය රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ පුස්තකාලය , හා පුරා විද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ පුස්තකාලය වේ. පැහැදිලිවම මෙය ප්‍රවේශමෙන් අධ්‍යයනය කල යුතු අංශයකි.

ප්‍රධාන ජාතික එකතුවට අමතරව සැළකිය යුතු විදේශ ග්‍රන්ථ එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාමද විශේෂයෙන් 1974 වාර්තාව හා පසුව ඉදිරිපත් කර ඇති වාර්තාවල දක්වා ඇති අවශ්‍යතාවයකි. මෙය නූතනයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන්හි වැදගත් අවශ්‍යතාවයක් වන අතර, වාර්තා ගණනාවකම එය දක්වා තිබීම පැහැදිලිවම පෙනේ. ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සැකසීම හා ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීමද සෑම වාර්තාවකම පාහේ අවධාරණය කර ඇති තවත් කාර්යයක් වේ. මේ අනුව ශ්‍රී ලංකා කාලීන ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය පල කිරීමත්, ශ්‍රී ලංකා පූර්ව කාලීන ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය (1962 – 1885) පල කිරීමත්, ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවාවන් පවත්වා ගෙන සෑමත් අපේක්ෂා කෙරේ.

නීත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු පුස්තකාලය ලෙස ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ වගකීම මෙම වාර්තාවල පැහැදිලිවම දක්වා ඇත. මේ සම්බන්ධ දේශීය ආඥා පනත වන 1885 ප්‍රකාශකයින්ගේ සහ මුද්‍රණ කරුවන්ගේ ආඥා පනත මගින් පොත් සහ වාර සහරා ලියා පදිංචි කිරීමේ මධ්‍යස්ථානය සහ නීත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ කාර්ය භාරය මූලික ලෙස පවරා ඇත්තේ රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවටය. මෙම කාර්යය ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට පවරා ගත යුතු බවට බ්‍රෝහියර් වාර්තාවෙත්, 1974 පුස්තකාල මණ්ඩල වාර්තාවෙත්, එච්. ඒ. අයි. ගුණතිලක මහතාගේ ලිපියේත් පැහැදිලිවම දක්වා ඇත. 1976 සිට පුස්තකාල මේවා මණ්ඩලයට සියළුම ප්‍රකාශනවල එක් තැන්පතු පිටපතක් ලැබීමත්, ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය කිරීමේ කාර්යය රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවෙන් 1976 සිට පවරා ගැනීමත් මඟින් මෙම අවශ්‍යතාවයන් සැලකිය යුතු අන්දමකට ඉටු කර ගෙන ඇත. මෙහෙත් ජාතික පුස්තකාල මෙන් සියළුම පොත්පත් සහ පුවත්පත් ලියා පදිංචි කිරීමේ කාර්යය ද සහිත මූලික නීත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු කාර්යය ද ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට අත් කර ගැනීම පිළිබඳව සළකා බැලිය යුතුව ඇත.

අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවා මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීමේ අවශ්‍යතාවයද බ්‍රෝෂියර් කමිටු වාර්තාවේ පටන් සෑම වාර්තාවකම දක්වා ඇති ප්‍රධාන කාර්යයකි. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ආරම්භ වීමට පෙර ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් ගණනාවක්ම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය අරඹා ඇති අතර, තවමත් අරඹා නොමැති කාර්යයක් වනුයේ අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු කාර්යයයි. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ඇරඹීමට පෙර මෙබඳු සේවාවන් ඇරඹීමට නොහැකිවීම මෙයට ප්‍රධාන හේතුව බව පැහැදිලිවම පෙනේ. අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවාවන් පිළිබඳව දැනට ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කර ඇති ප්‍රමිතීන් සහ ප්‍රකාශන දැනට අධ්‍යයනය කෙරෙමින් පවතින අතර, දිවයිනේ ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාල සමඟ සහයෝගයෙන් අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවාවන් ඇරඹීමට අදහස් කෙරේ.

ප්‍රකාශන හුවමාරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීමේ අවශ්‍යතාවයද බ්‍රෝෂියර් වාර්තාවේ පැහැදිලිවම දක්වා ඇති තවත් කාර්යයකි. මේ කාර්යය දැනටමත් පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය සීමිත ලෙස ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලබයි.

දේශීය පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයට හායකත්වය සැපයීම හා දේශීය පුස්තකාල කටයුතු පිළිබඳ ප්‍රමිතීන් යකස් කිරීම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් බව ගුණතිලක සහ ඊට පසු ඇ ලේඛණවල දක්වා ඇත. පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් සඳහා වෘත්තීය අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු පිළිබඳ ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවේ වගකීමද, බ්‍රෝෂියර් වාර්තාවද, ගුණතිලක සහ ඊට පසුව වාර්තාද දක්වා ඇත. දේශීය ග්‍රන්ථ ප්‍රකාශනයට ආධාර දීම කන්දයියා කමිටු වාර්තාවේ මූලික අවශ්‍යතාවයක් ලෙස දක්වා ඇත. අන්තර් ජාතික ප්‍රමිතීන් හා සැසඳෙන ඉහත සඳහන් කල මූලික ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් හැරුණ විට වෙනත් කාර්යයන් ගණනාවක්ද මෙම වාර්තා මඟින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය මඟින් ඉටු කල යුතු කාර්යයන් ලෙස දක්වා තිබුණි. ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවා අංශයෙන් ඉටු විය යුතු කාර්යයන් රාශියක් හැරුණ හැරුණත් දක්වා තිබීම ද පැහැදිලිවම පෙණෙන කරුණු වේ.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සුවිශේෂ අවශ්‍යතාවයන් අනුව තීරණය විය යුතු වේ. කිසිදු රටක ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් තවත් රටක ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් හා සම්පූර්ණයෙන්ම සමාන හොවන බව විටහා ගත යුතු කරුණකි. ඒ ඒ රටේ අවශ්‍යතා, ඒ ඒ රටවල පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ වර්ධනය, ජාතික සංවර්ධන සැලැස්මවල අවශ්‍යතාවයන් වැනි කරුණු ගණනාවක් ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් තීරණය කිරීමේ ලා බලපායි. පසුගිය විසි වසර තුල ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය ඉටු කර ඇති කාර්යයන්ද, ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් ඉටු කල යුතුවත් ජාතික ආයතනවල එම කාර්ය භාර ජාතික පුස්තකාලය වෙත පවරා ගැනීමේ කටයුතුද කොතරම් ඉක්මණින් හා සාර්ථකව ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය තම කාර්යය ඉටු කරයිද වැනි තත්වයන්ද ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ අනාගත කාර්ය භාරය තීරණය කිරීමට ඉවහල් වනු ඇත

ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල කාර්ය භාරය පිළිබඳ අන්තර් ජාතික වශයෙන් පලවී ඇති අදහස්, ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ දේශීය වශයෙන් පලවී ඇති අදහස්, ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පසුගිය දශක දෙක තුල ඉටු කරන ලද කාර්යයන්, දේශීය පුස්තකාල, විඥාපන සේවා ප්‍රකාශන ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ වර්තමාන තත්වයන් වැනි කරුණු සලකා බලා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ආරම්භයේදී අවධාරණය කල යුතු මූලික කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ හඳුනා ගැනීමක් මෙතකදී මණ්ඩලය කර ඇත.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන්

* ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ප්‍රකාශනවල පුළුල් සහ මධ්‍ය එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම.
* දේශීය පුස්කොල පොත් සහ ජාතික වැදගත්කමක් ඇති අනිකුත් අත් පිටපත් එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම.
* දේශීය අවශ්‍යතාවයන්ට ගැලපෙන පුළුල් විදේශීය පොත් එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම.
* නිත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු එකතුව පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම.
* කාලීන සහ පූර්ව කාලීන ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීම.
* ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථවිඥාන මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.
* ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ජාතික මට්ටමේ ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාලවල සුවීන් සහ අනෙකුත් ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක තොරතුරු ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීම
* දේශීය සහ විදේශීය අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවා සම්බන්ධීකරණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම
* දේශීය සහ විදේශීය ප්‍රකාශන හුවමාරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.
* දේශීය පුස්තකාල සහ විඥාපන සේවා පිළිබඳ ප්‍රමිතීන් සකස් කිරීම.
* ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල සේවාව සැලසුම් කිරීමෙලා සහාය වීම.
* පුස්තකාල හා විඥාපන විද්‍යා ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ පර්යේෂණ.
* අන්ධයින් සහ වෙනත් අංගවිකල වූවන් සඳහා පුස්තකාල සේවා සංවිධානය කිරීම.
* පුස්තකාල හා විඥාපන විද්‍යා වෘත්තීය අධ්‍යාපන සහ පුහුණු කටයුතු.
* දේශීය ග්‍රන්ථ ප්‍රකාශනයට ආධාර දීම.
* ජනතාව අතර කියවීමේ රුචිය වර්ධනය කරලීම.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම, ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ ප්‍රධාන කාර්යයක් ලෙස 1970 අංක 17 දරණ පාර්ලිමේන්තු පනත[23] මගින් දක්වා ඇත. මේම ව්‍යවස්ථාපිත තත්වය යටතේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පවත්වා ගෙන යාමේ ගැටළුවක් ඇති නොවේ. එසේ වුවද ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා වඩාත් ශක්තිමත් හා පැහැදිලි ව්‍යවස්ථා මාලාවක අවශ්‍යතාවය දැනෙමින් පවතී.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විධාන කිරීමේ ඓතිහාසික අවස්ථාවේදී පොදුවේ පුස්තකාල සේවාව පිළිබඳවත්, විශේෂයෙන්ම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳවත්, තොරතුරු රැගත් ප්‍රකාශනයක් පල කිරීම මණ්ඩලයේ අභිප්‍රාය විය. මේ සඳහා ආසියා කාලපීය ජාතික පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන් කිහිප දෙනෙකු ඇතුළු ප්‍රධාන පෙලේ පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් ගණනාවකගෙන් සහ පුස්තකාල සේවාව හා බැඳුණු වෙනත් ක්ෂේත්‍ර කිහිපයක විද්වතුන්ගෙන් ලිපි ලබා ගැනීමට හැකිවීම ගැන යතුටු වෙමි.

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23 — Ceylon National Library Services Board Act No. 17 of 1970 — Ceylon Department of Government Printing, 1970.—10 p.

මෙම ප්‍රකාශනය පළ කිරීමේ ලා අප මෙහෙයවූ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ යහපතිනි ඊශ්වරී කොරෙයා මැතිණියටත්, ප්‍රකාශනය සඳහා ලිපි සැපයූ සියළුම ලේඛකයින්වත්, ප්‍රකාශන කටයුතු සංවිධානය කළ පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිනි අයි. මුණසිංහ මහත්මිය ප්‍රධාන ප්‍රකාශන කමිටුවේ මහත්ම මහත්මීන්වත්, සෝදුපත් කියවීමෙන් උදව් කල ඊ. එම්. ඩී. උපාලි, එම්. ඒ. මිල්ටන්, කේ. කමලාම්බිකායි සහ මහ බැංකුවේ ග්‍රාමීය බැංකු කරුවන් පුහුණු කිරීමේ ආයතනයේ, පද්මා වික්‍රමසිංහ යන මහත්ම මහත්මීන්වත්, අත් පිටපත් යතුරු ලියනය කර දුන් ජී. ඒ. නීතා පුස්පරාණි සහ ජී. එච්. අයිරංගනි මෙනෙවියටත්, පිට යවරය නිම කරදුන් ජාතික තරුණ සේවා සභාවේ ප්‍රචාරක අංශයේ එච්. ඩබ්ලිව්. දයාරත්න මහතාටත්, අලංකාර අයුරින් මුද්‍රණ කටයුතු කළ සර්වෝදය විශ්වලේඛා ආයතනයටත්, තන් අයුරින් උදව් උපකාර කළ සෑම සියළු දෙනාටත් අවසාන වශයෙන් ස්තුතිවන්ත වෙමි.

එම්. එස්. යූ. අමරසිරි
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වැඩ බලන අධ්‍යක්ෂ

1990 අප්‍රේල් 27,
ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය,
නිදහස් මාවත,
කොළඹ 07.

EDITOR'S NOTE

While there are different versions of the origin of National Libraries, it is generally accepted that National Libraries originated during the 17th & 18th centuries in Europe. A number of National Libraries in Europe had their origins in 'Royal Libraries' even before this period. But the origin of National States in Europe is considered as the origin of National Libraries.

In the recent past National Libraries became the nerve centres of the nation wide library network, custodians of the cultural heritage of the country, preservers of the national identity and promotors of the material and intellectual progress of the country. During the last four decades the national library concept and activities have widened considerably.

A number of events in the recent history has influenced the development of national libraries. In 1952 a special section on National & University Libraries was established in International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). This is considered the first initiative at international level to develop national libraries. 1955 is considered a decisive year in the history of national libraries by library & information scientists. An American Library journal titled 'Library Trend[1] devoted one of its issues to the theme of national libraries in this year. This was the first detailed study on the subject and this created an interest in and an awareness of this subject among librarians, researchers and academics. The year 1955 is also important as a seminar on public libraries in Asia was held in New Delhi, India, during this year.[3]. Though the seminar was on public libraries special attention was given to the development of national library services in Asia. Another seminar on National Libraries and Documentation Services was held in 1955 in Brussels.

UNESCO National Library Regional Meetings

The next era of national library development was where the UNESCO conducted regional seminars on national libraries at regional level between 1958 - 1974. The following seminars were conducted by UNESCO at regional levels.

Year	*City*	*Country*	*Region*
1958	Vienna	Austria	Europe[3]
1964	Manila	Philippines	Asia/Pacific[4]
1966	Quito	Equador	Latin America[5]

1 — Library Trend, Vol. 4, No. 1, July 1955.

2 — UNESCO. Public Libraries for Asia : the Delhi Seminar. Paris : UNESCO, 1956.

3 — National Libraries : Their Problems and Prospects. Symposium on National Libraries in Europe, Vienna, 6 - 12 September 1958 (Paris : UNESCO, 1960).

4 — UNESCO Regional Seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area, Manila, 1964.

5 — Meeting of Experts on the Planning of Library Services in Latin America, Quito, 1966, Report. UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries, 20 (November - December 1966).

1967	Colombo	Sri Lanka	Asia[6]
1970	Kampala	Uganda	Africa[7]
1974	Cairo	Egypt	Arab Countries[8]

These regional seminars were important due to many reasons. This was the first time that the National Library became the theme of a series of international seminars. The initiative taken by UNESCO helped in creating a widespread interest in national library development. As a result the national library concept gradually developed into an international concept taking into consideration various regional interests. This development can be seen from the reports of the above seminars held during the 1958 - 1974 period.

International Programmes on Information Services

As a result of the experience gained during the previous two decades regional and international seminars in the field and the understanding of third world affairs, UNESCO initiated a number of programmes at national level to organise library and information services. The first of these was the NATIS Programme which was introduced in 1974, with 12 objectives. UNISIST was the other programme introduced by UNESCO with special emphasis on the field of Science and Technology. The responsibility of implementing these programmes at national level, especially the implementation of the NATIS Programme, fell on the National Libraries of each country. In 1976 these two programmes were combined into a single programme namely the GIP Programme. The responsibility of implementing the GIP fell on the National Library of each country.

Besides these programmes UNESCO launched a number of other programmes in collaboration with IFLA. The UBC is one such programme under which standards were introduced for bibliographic activities. The UAP programme facilitates the, availability of publications. These programmes were mainly centred on the national libraries.

Meetings of National Library Directors

As a part of the annual conference of IFLA Directors of National Libraries meet to exchange their views on various problems experienced by them in their respective countries. Besides this main forum, conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) commenced in 1979. The main objective of the CDNLAO is to study the special problems in their region and develop regional co-operation which is an essential part of today's National Library development. The first CDNLAO meeting

6 — Meeting of Experts on the National Planning of Library Services in Asia, Colombo, Ceylon 11 - 19 December 1967; Final Report (Paris : UNESCO, 1968).

7 — Experts Meeting on National Planning of Documentation and Library Services in Africa, Kampala, Uganda, 7 - 15 December 1970; Final Report (Paris : UNESCO, 1971).

8 — National Planning Documentation and Library Services in Arab Countries; UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries, 28 (July - August 1974).

was held in 1979 in Canberra[9], Australia, the second in Tokyo, Japan (1982)[10] the third in Colombo, Sri Lanka (1985)[11] and the forth in Beijing, The Peoples Republic of China, (1989). The 5th meeting is to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1992.

National Library Functions

In discussing the background and development of the National Library movement, it is important to consider the opinions of experts in this field.

Dr. K. W. Humphreys is considered the first expert to analyse the functions of National Libraries. In 1964 at the request of IFLA he analysed the functions of the four major National Libraries namely the British Museum Library, London, Library of Congress in Washington, Lenin Library in Moscow, and Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.[12] In 1966 he published a paper titled 'The functions of National Libraries .[13]

Humphreys divided National Library Functions into 3 main catagories.

1. Fundamental functions
2. Desirable functions
3. Functions of the National Library which are not necessary functions of the National Library.

Fundamental Functions of a National Library

1. The outstanding and Central collection of a nation's literature
2. Legal Deposit
3. Coverage of foreign literature
4. Publication of the National Bibliography
5. National Bibliographical Information Centre
6. Publication of Catalogues
7. Exhibitions.

Desirable Functions of a National Library

Inter-library lending

Manuscripts

Research on Library technology.

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9 — International Conference of National Libraries on Resource Sharing in Asia & Oceania, Canberra, 1979; Resolution, International Library Review, 12 (1980) pp. 43 - 7.

10 — PROCEEDINGS of the second International Conference of Directors of National Libraries on Resource Sharing in Asia & Oceania, November 15 - 19, 1982, — Tokyo : National Diet Library, 1985 — 453 p.

11 — PROCEEDINGS of the 3rd International Conference of Directors of National Libraries on Resource Sharing in Asia & Oceania — 1985, Colombo.

12 — Humphreys, K. W., The Role of the National Library : A Preliminary Statement, Libri, Vol. 14 No. 4.

13 — Humphreys, K. W. — National Library Functions — UNESCO Bulletin of Libraries, Vol. 20, No. 4. July — August 1966 — p. 158 — 169.

Functions of the National Library Service which are not necessary functions of the National Library

International exchange services

Distribution of duplicates

Books for the blind

Professional Training

Assistance in Library Techniques.

In 1980 Prof. Maurice Line,[14] then the Director of the British Library, Lending Division defined the functions of a National Library in a paper titled. 'The Role of National Libraries : a reassessment'. He too divided the functions into 3 catagories.

Fundamental functions

By-product functions

Other possible functions.

Fundamental Functions

A.1 The Central collection of a nation's information media

A.2 Central loan/photocopy collection of foreign literature

A.3 Planning and co-ordination of inter-library lending

A.4 Publication of the National Bibliography

A.5 National Bibliographic Centre

A.6 National repository

A.7 Exchange centre.

By Product Functions

B.1 Publications of catalogues of large or specially important national libraries

B.2 Exhibitions

B.3 Research on bibliographic techniques

B.4 Professional training

B.5 Expertise in library techniques.

Other Possible Functions

B.6 Collection of information media relating to the country but issued elsewhere

B.7 Books for the blind

B.8 Collections of manuscripts other than those of national relevance and importance.

14 — Line, M. B. "The role of national libraries : a reassessment" Libri, 30; 1 - 16, 1980.

Dr. A. M. Al-Nahari, Associate Professor in the King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia analysed the National Library functions in 1984.[15] He made his analysis based on the replies received from 54 National Libraries for a questionnaire circulated to 72 National Libraries around the world. He divided the National Library Functions into 3 catagories.

1. First priority functions
2. Second priority functions
3. Third priority functions.

First Priority Functions

1. Acting as the legal deposit library
2. Acting as the central collection of a nation's literature
3. Collecting foreign literature about the country by the country's authors living abroad and on a particular subject according to the country's needs
4. Producing the National Bibliography
5. Acting as the National Bibliographic Centre
6. Developing and maintaining bibliographic data bases relevant to the country.

Second Priority Functions

1. Collecting, preserving and organizing the country's manuscripts
2. Providing access to the National Library's catalogues for other libraries and information agencies.
3. Participating in the planning of Library Services in the country
4. Acting as a Centre for exchange of publications nation wide and internationally
5. Producing a national union catalogue
6. Providing leadership to the country's libraries
7. Planning and co-ordinating inter-library lending
8. Providing services to the government
9. Providing professional training
10. Providing indexing services to articles in the countries periodicals and newspapers.

Third Priority Functions

1. Formulating national standards for information handling
2. Providing a focal point for linkage with and access to international data banks
3. Providing assistance in information handling techniques (methodology and standards)
4. Administering a programme for generating catalogues on part of published books or other information services
5. Conducting research on library techniques
6. Providing books for the blind and otherwise handicapped.

15 — AL - NAHARI, Abdulaziz Mohamed. The Role of National Libraries in Developing Countries, with Special Reference to Saudi Arabia. London and New York : Mansell, 1984

NATIONAL LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN SRI LANKA

The opening of the National Library in 1990 can be considered an important event in the development of the educational and cultural activities in the country. Undoubtedly it is an extremely important event in the history of library services in Sri Lanka. Compared to most of our neighhbouring countries namely India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand which have already established National Libraries, the delay in Sri Lanka (which has one of the highest literacy rates in Asia) shows a definite lagging behind in this area.

Although the National Library is to be inaugurated in 1990 it does not mean that upto now Sri Lanka has been totally inactive in this field. The setting up of the Government Oriental Library as far back as 1870 can be considered as the first step in establishing a library at national level. The establishment of the Department of museums and the Museum Library in 1877 is also considered an important landmark in the history of National Library Services. By collecting the local publications during the past 113 years the Museum Library has been functioning as an 'unofficial National Library'. The Printers and Publishers Ordinance of 1885 can also be considered an important event influencing the establishment of a National Library. This Legal Deposit Law which stipulated that all local publications should be deposited in a number of selected institutions is an integral part of the National Library development process. Due to this legislation a National Library collection was built up even in the absence of a National Library. Most Third World countries enacted the Legal Deposit Legislation either during the mid or latter part of the 20th century. Sri Lanka has been fortunate in enacting this law as far back as the late 19th century.

An interest in the National Library was revived thereafter only in the mid 20th century. A number of committees and commissions appointed to look into various other issues during this period have launched upon the importance of having a National Library. These were the Choksy Commision (1955),[16] Kandiah Commission (1958),[17] Brohier Committee (1959) [18] and Wilmot Perera Committee (1960)[19]. Unlike the Parry Committe (1967) and Danton Committee (1969) of the United Kingdom these commissions and committees were not specifically appointed to look into the organisation of a National Library or National Library Service. The absence of a special committee to study the establishment of a National Library in Sri Lanka and the organisation of National Library Services is a marked deficiency in this field.

16 — CHOKSY, N. K. — *Reports of the Commission of Local Government* — Colombo : Ceylon Government Press, 1955 — (Sessional Paper; 33 - 1955).

17 — Kandiah, P. Report of the Commission on Report of the Colombo Municipal Public Library. Colombo : Municipal Press, 1958.

18 — BROHIER, R. L. — Final report of the special committee on antiquities — Ceylon Government Press, 1959 — (Sessional Paper 7 - 1959).

19 — Wilmot Perera Salaries and Carder Committee report — 1960.

The UNESCO Library Experts Meeting held in Colombo in 1967 and the activities of Ms. E. J. Evans, UNESCO Library advisor during 1967 - 1970 are important landmarks in the history of the development of the National Library. The establishment of a National Library Services Board in 1970 [20] is a result of these two events. This is an important event in the National Library establishment process. The National Library Services Board Act states the establishment and maintenance of the Sri Lanka National Library as a main responsibility of the Board. The attempts made by the Board to meet this responsibility during the period 1970 - 1990 can be considered as the first step towards achieving this objective.

A number of achievements were made during those two decades which were marked by a number of problems and drawbacks. Among them are the publishing of the national bibliography, commencement of bibliographical services activities at basic level, acting as a national deposit library, initiating the collection of the country's literature, providing assistance to other libraries in the country, conducting library education and training activities, book development activities, acting as the exchange centre, establishing and maintaining international links.

During this period the construction of the National Library building was completed. Though the construction work spanned over a period of 12 years the final outcome is a building which has the floor area of sf. 125000. Another major achievement during this period was the recruitment of staff for the Library. At present about 30 posts at professional level has been approved for the National Library. No other major library in the country will have such a large professional staff. In addition there are about 130 employed as para professional, clerical and minor staff.

While functions of National Libraries have been discussed in different forums at international level, many discussions have also been held at the national level focussing on the functions of the Sri Lanka National Library. The origin of these discussions was the Kandiah Report of 1958. Since then numerous persons and committees have expressed various viewpoints on the subject. The activities of the Sri Lanka National Library is being widely discussed at present and therefore it is extremely important to study the viewpiotnts expressed by these various persons and committees during the past 3 1/2 decades. It is surprising that certain viewpoints expressed during the late 1950's are still valid in the present context. The list containing viewpoints expressed during the past 3 1/2 decades on the activities of the National Library of Sri Lanka are detailed and exhaustive. Nevertheless, considering the importance of these for the past, present and future of the National Library of Sri Lanka these are discussed below.

KANDIAH REPORT — (Proposed functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka)

1. " — A repository wherein are collected and preserved, in varied forms, treasures of literature and other records concerning the history, culture and achievements of the entire nation ".

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20 — Ceylon National Library Services Board Act No. 17 of 1970 — Ceylon Department of Government Printing, 1970.

2." — It is a store house of the world's best wisdom as preserved in print, in drawing and in recorded sound. Information in regard to the highest and the best achievements of man, whichever part of the world he lived or lives in."

3." — Outside established academic institutions like the University, it will be the centre of research into various fields of knowledge".

4." — It would be the organising centre directing the development of Library Service in the entire country, by providing them with adequate bibliographical services, cataloguing and classifying apparatus and information,"

5." — Guidance to writers and publishers."

BROHIER REPORT — 1959 —
(Proposed functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka)

(a) to serve as a central depository of all books published in Ceylon and a good selection of those published elsewhere;

(b) providing centralised services in matters such as cataloguing, bibliographies, standardisation of methods, etc.;

(c) registration of books and periodicals and the preparation of a National Bibliography

(d) to serve as a Central Book Exchange;

(e) to organise an inter-Library Loan System; and

(f) generally, to assist the development of a National Library Service and to provide training for staff from all over the Island.

HAROLD BONNY REPORT* —
(Proposed functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka)

1. the need to have available in one place all the material about Ceylon;
2. the need for a National Reference Library to be the main centre of research;
3. the need for a Current National Bibiliography, published weekly, as a book selection guide;
4. the need for a focal point and organising agency for inter-library exchange of books, in order that the total book resources of the country may be available to any resident of Ceylon.

UNESCO, COLOMBO SEMINAR REPORT — 1967 —
(Proposed functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka)

The National Library will be a legal deposit library. Its primary purpose will be :

(a) preserving the national culture

(b) developing by all appropriate means, systems and procedures which will make available total library resources of the nation for the benefit of the whole national community;

(c) establishing relations with the libraries of other countries, since no country today can be self-sufficient; and more particularly :

* — Bonny, Harold V., Library Services for Ceylon, Dept. of Cultural Affairs (1960).

(i) to maintain and develop a national collection of library material, including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Ceylon and the Ceylonese people;

(ii) to serve as a national reference and research library upon such conditions as may be determined by the Library Board with a view to promoting the most advantageous use of the library in the national interest;

(iii) to complete the Ceylon National Bibiliography, and provide other bibliographical services as required;

(iv) to compile a Union Catalogue of Ceyloniana and a Union List of Serials;

(v) to be responsible for inter-library loans both within the country and internationally;

(vi) to serve as a centre for the dissemination of information on a national and international basis, and to assist, in general, in the field of library co-operation;

(vii) to serve as the National Documentation Centre;

(viii) to provide co-ordination and assistance to all government departmental libraries.

H. A. I. GOONETILLEKE [21]

(Proposed functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka)

1. To offer leadership in the professional field
2. To serve as a permanent depository of the national output of literature
3. Provide bibliographical and reference services to the public and the Government
4. To serve as a co-ordinating agency for co-operative activities
5. To act as the principal legal deposit library in the country
6. To preserve the national culture and its literary heritage
7. To develop by all appropriate means, systems and procedures which will make available the total library resources of the nation for the benefit of the whole community
8. To establish relations with the libraries of other countries
9. To have the authority for the receipt and registration of books, periodicals and newspapers published in Sri Lanka
10. To compile and publish the Sri Lanka National Bibiliography and provide ancilliary bibliographical services as required to compile Union Lists and Catalogues
11. To serve as the national bibliographic centre for the dissemination of information
12. To assist in general in the fields of library co-operation and exchange
13. To serve as the National Documentation Centre in the field of pure and applied science technology, industrial and agricultural research, social sciences and humanities
14. To provide co-ordination and assistance to all government libraries
15. To promote the development of library education and training, and to elevate the professional standards both in theory and practice.

21 — Goonetilleke, H. A. I. 'The Meaning and purpose of a National Library for Sri Lanka' Libri, 29 (1), 1969.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA SLNLSB PUBLICATION*

(Proposed functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka)

(a) To acquire and conserve a comprehensive national collection of publications produced in Sri Lanka and function as a legal deposit library

(b) To acquire and preserve manuscripts and other library material relating to Sri Lanka and deemed necessary for the purposes of the National Library in Sri Lanka

(c) To hold and keep up to date large and representative collection of foreign literature including books about the country

(d) To produce the National Bibliography of Sri Lanka

(e) To act as the National Bibliographic information Centre

(f) To compile a National Union Catalogue of holdings of libraries of Sri Lanka

(g) To assist the local libraries to acquire, process and make information material available by supplying the catalogue data

(h) To act as the National Centre for the National contribution to Universal Bibliographic Control and related programmes

(i) To act as the National Centre for foreign lending and borrowing and to provide necessary central national lending services

(j) To act as library of last resort for reference information and to provide necessary central referral services

(k) To acquire and maintain the collections necessary to support the services mentioned; to provide arrangements for exchange of materials within Sri Lanka and to enter into and arrange exchange of materials with foreign libraries and agencies

(l) To promote library and bibliographic standards needed to further these programmes

(m) To provide and arrange adequate representation of the national library interests at national and international committees and working groups.

SLNLSB BOARD DOCUMENT* — NO: 53 — 1973

(Proposed functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka)

(a) To serve as a depository for all local and foreign publications received on deposit;

(b) To accumulate and preserve books, manuscripts (whether in original or copy) and similar materials concerning Ceylon; and such foreign library materials as may be useful to the National Library;

(c) To ensure the provision of adequate library resources to government and to the general public, and in this connection :

  (i) co-ordinate the acquisition of library materials in government sponsored institutions etc., in order to ensure adequate coverage in their special spheres of service and to avoid duplication;

  (ii) procure such library materials as are specialiased, rare or expensive, which other libraries might not acquire;

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* National Library of Sri Lanka : SLNLSB, Colombo — 1985.
SLNLSB — BOARD Document No. 53 - 1973.

d) To organise and co-ordinate the library services in Government Departments, government sponsored institutions, etc., and provide specialised services to Government and to the general public;

(e) To serve as the National Bibliographic centre and in this connection :

(i) compile the Ceylon National Bibliography;

(ii) compile other Bibliographies which might be useful or necessary;

(iii) maintain a Union Catalogue of non-fiction books in major libraries in Ceylon

(iv) contribute to national and international bibliographical projects.

(f) To serve as the National Copyright Office for Books and Newspapers &

(g) To serve as a reference library upon such conditions as may be laid down by rules and regulations;

(h) To serve as an agency for promoting and maintaining national and international library co-operation;

(i) To assist in the training of librarians; disseminate information relating to libraries and library services; demonstrate by exhibitions, etc., advances in library technology and organise display of books, manuscripts, and other library materials for educational and cultural purposes;

(j) To serve as the National Documentation Centre.

The above viewpoints show a general consensus of opinion on the activities and functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka. These committees have accepted the maintenance of a central collection of Sri Lankan publications as one of the major functions to be undertaken by the National Library. Also many reports have emphasised the importance of collecting and maintaining a national manuscript collection. These two functions form the basis of most of the other activities and functions to be undertaken by the National Library. These committee reports also give the sources from which material can be acquired to form the nucleus of the National Library. Reports of the Kandiah, Brohier and Harold Bonny Committees emphasise that collections of the National Museum National Archives, Royal Asiatic Society (Sri Lanka Branch) and the Department of Archeology should be brought together to form the nucleus of the National Library. It is imperative that this sugggestion receives careful consideration.

The National Library Services Board report of 1974 and reports thereafter stress the importance of maintaining a foreign literature collection in addition to the main national collection. Another function stressed in most reports is compiling the National Bibliography and acting as the national bibliographical information centre. Accordingly the National Library will maintain publishing of current and retrospective (1962 - 1885) national bibliographies and provide bibliographical information services. The responsibility of the National Library as the Legal Deposit Library has been emphasised by all the committee reports. The Printers and Publishers Ordinance of 1885 entrusted the responsibility of registration of books and periodicals and legal deposit functions to the Department of National Archives. The necessity of transferring this function to the National Library was stressed in the Brohier Report, SLNLSB Report (1974) and

by Mr. H. A. I. Goonetilleke in his article (1969). In 1973 the function of compiling the national bibliography was transferred to the National Library Services Board and in 1976 the SLNLSB became a deposit library. The function of the registration of books and newspapers and the basic legal deposit functions still remain to be acquired by the National Library of Sri Lanka.

Acting as the inter-library lending centre is another function stressed by the committee reports. The standards of inter library lending activities are being studied at present and the SLNLSB expects to begin inter library loans shortly with assistance from the other major libraries of the country.

Functioning as an exchange centre has also been stressed by some of these committees. This function has been started on a limited scale.

H. A. I. Goonetilleke and other subsequent reports have emphasised the need for the National Library to provide leadership and formulate library standards for the local libraries. The education for training of librarians and assisting the local book publishing industry have also been stressed in the reports. At times the same functions have been repeated in various forms in the committee reports.

It is important that the functions of a National Library should reflect the country's requirements in this field. It must therefore be understood that a National Library in one country cannot be moulded on the same lines as the National Library of another country. A number of factors such as a country's requirements, the development pattern of the library movement and the priorities of national plans influence the designing of National Library functions.

Based on the internationally recognised National Library functions, various viewpoints expressed on the Sri Lanka National Library activities, activities of the SLNLSB during the last two decades and the present status of the local library information and publication fields, the main functions of the Sri Lanka National Library have been identified at present. These are detailed below.

Outstanding central collection of Sri Lanka literature
Collection of Ola leaf manuscripts & other important manuscripts
Collection of foreign literature suitable for country's requirements
Legal Deposit collection
Publication of current and retrospective National Bibiliographies
National Bibliographical Information Centre
Publish the catalogues of major libraries in Sri Lanka
Planning and co-ordinating inter-library lending
Centre for exchange for publications
Formulation of Library standards
Planning the country's library services
Research in Library & Information Science field

Library services for blind and other handicapped
Library Education & Training activities
Promotion of Publishing
Promotion of reading habit.

According to the SLNLSB Act No. 17 of 1970 (p 26), maintenance of the Sri Lanka National Library is one of the main responsibilities of the SLNLSB. This provides the necessary legal base for the SLNLSB to maintain the National Library. Nevertheless, there is a need for separate legislation for the National Library of Sri Lanka.

The SLNLSB is publishing this Commemorative Volume containing information on the National Library and on the library services in general on this historic occasion of the inauguration of the National Library of Sri Lanka. The SLNLSB is particularly grateful to all contributors to this commemorative volume, some of whom are leading National Librarians and other professionals in Librarianship and relevant fields.

I take this opportunity to thank sincerely Mrs. Ishvari Corea, Chairperson SLNLSB, for her guidance, all contributing authors for their articles, and members of the publication committee headed by Mrs. I. Munasinghe. I also wish to thank Mr. E. D. M. Upali Mr. M. A. Milton, Miss. K. Kamalambikai, Mrs. Padma Wickremasinghe of the Central Bank (RB & STC) for assisting in reading the proofs, Miss G. A. Neetha Pushparani and & Miss G. H. Irangani for typing the manuscripts, Mr. H.W Dayaratne of the NYSC (Publicity Division) for designing the Cover, the Printers, Sarvodaya Vishvalekha for a job well done & all others who helped in various ways in preparing this Commemorative Volume.

M. S. U. Amarasiri,
Editor.
Director (Actg.)

27th April 1990
National Library of Sri Lanka
Independence Avenue,
Colombo 07,
Sri Lanka.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY AND THE LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

By **Mr. M. J. Perera**

Chairman, Sri Lanka National Library Services Board (1981—82)

A nation's cultural heritage in arts, crafts, in paintings and sculpture, its historical records in the form of inscriptions and its ethnic and anthropological and geological histories depicted in artifacts or skeletons oi bones, its discoveries and inventions in the technical and industrial areas, are protected and exhibited for the present and future generations in various types of national museums in every country. They vary in scope size and volume of content only in relation to the affluence of the country which can, afford to have more museums than the others.

02. There is another kind of cultural heritage belonging to countries which have produced records on writing material, bark, papyrus, clay tablets, rock surfaces, palm or other leaves which are intended to be read by persons who are educated in the letters of a particular language and which are protected and made available (not only exhibited) to readers of the present day and will be available to future generations. Those are the National Libraries which preserve the products of the collective genius of people from the time their thinking began to be recorded. The longer a civilization has existed, the greater would be the volume of recorded material, if the civilization was of a settled people, with not only the spoken word for communication but also an alphabet or other system of symbols or pictographs. For us such a situation has existed from a period going back to a few centuries before the Christian era, but definitely from the 3rd Century B.C. So the material which would naturally get collected in the National Library of Sri Lanka should commence with at least copies of the earliest lithic records of the 1st and 2nd centuries and come down to the printed matter of the last decade of the 20th century and will continue for as long a period as this National Institution lasts.

03. Some of the functions of a National Library are being performed in this country by the Department of National Archives and the National Museum. The National Museum, from its inception in 1877 had a reference library in which an impressive collection of invaluable ola leaf manuscripts had been protected and made available for research. They also took over the books of the Government Oriental Library and also housed the Library of the Royal Asiatic Society for a long period.

04. Somehow, the need for a National Library was not pressed with any urgency or priority in the affairs of government until about 1960. The Cultural Affairs Department was established in 1956 and soon after, a period of greater activity in the area of Book Development commenced than ever before with the setting up of the Regional Centre for Development of Reading Materials in Karachi by UNESCO in 1957. Not only was the Sri Lanka Sahitya Mandalaya established by an Act of Parliament but also there came into being a body called the National Book Trust created by the Department of Cultural Affairs. The improvement of library systems in the Asian Region began to be a matter for serious attention by the Regional Centre as the Library is one of the five component elements of the Book industry. Seminars, conferences, work shops, visits by UNESCO experts in various aspects of book production and visits of Sri Lankan personnel to such events in other countries, made Book Development a subject deserving greater recognition in doing which the UNESCO National Commissions for Sri Lanka played an important part.

05. It was at this time that an event of significance occurred in the sphere of library development. It was decided by the Cultural Affairs Department to establish the above mentioned National Book Trust. Such bodies were being set up in many Asian countries, with the active support and advice from Karachchi. Its membership was to consist of representatives from the five groups — writers, printers, publishers, book sellers and Librarians — but it was a big problem to select such representatives in the absence in Sri Lanka of any recognised associations among them except the printers. Hence, the Department of Cultural Affairs had to summon meetings of these groups to enable them to form Associations and then to nominate representatives to the Book Trust. This was not easy. Publishers, in particular, being competitors in the business, did not want to "associate" with their rivals. But Librarians did not have such a difficulty and their meetings were not only a success for the immediate purpose, but had lasting results in that, those present realised the need for an Association on a permanent basis and formed the Ceylon Librarians Association in August 1960. (Its stability was such that it was incorporated in June 1974)

06. This Association was launched and recognised with enthusiasm by the Department of Cultural Affairs and the authorities in charge of Libraries in the country. The people who took the leadership not only took interest in the affairs of the members, but also in raising the status of the librarian, who upto then, in most places, was only a custodian of books, by training them to be professionals. This was the beginning of Library education in the country. The certificates given by the Association have been recognised by the Government, Local Government and the private sector for professional purposes.

07. Sri Lanka has a long history, indeed a tradition, in maintaining Libraries in every institute of learning which in the past was the Buddhist Temple. Particularly in the Pirivenas, the Potgula, the Sinhala version of "pustakala", was an indispensable part of the institution, for keeping the ola leaf books of scriptures, and the connected commentaries, sub commentaries, exegetical works. glossaries etc., and also manuscripts of all available learned writings, prose and poetry compositions. The "book" was highly respected, and some, even venerated.

08. This tradition has been maintained even in periods of great peril — caused during the South Indian and Western invasions. The destruction of places of worship included the burning of libraries as recorded in our history. But the monks have not only preserved what they could but reorganised the libraries by getting manuscripts copied from areas which did not suffer under the armies of invaders, situated in the interior parts of the country.

09. However, during the periods of foreign occupation and later total domination, education in the old tradition suffered and a new tradition did not establish itself in its place. But even though the native centres of learning became almost extinct, the monks protected the book collections with devotion because they were the custodians of the Dhamma. The Portuguese and the Dutch maintained their own Archives. During the British period, the Department of Archives was established but many manuscripts were removed from the country to enrich the collections in the British Museum and also for private collections all over Europe.

10. During the long centuries of history in Sri Lanka books have been written and copied laboriously on ola leaves and deposited in the collections of the various centres of learning, treated against insect attack, placed between wooden plates, decorated with lacquered designs and often kept dry in silk or other clean wrapping material. Inspite of the ravages of time, plundering, destruction by fire, a great volume of writings have come down to us as a national, cultural legacy for protection. The monks in temples have done their best and the nation's thanks are due to them. But now we have come down the corridors of time to the last decade of the 20th century when, the National Library of Sri Lanka has to take over a special responsibility for their protection as well as for recording, identifying and cataloguing them.

11. The first serious recorded mention of a National Library for Sri Lanka is in the Final Report of the Special Committee on Antiquities S.P. VII of 1959 (R. L. Brohier-Chairman) which recommended that the Museum Library should be constituted into a National Library. This has been supported by the Salaries and Cadres Commission headed by Wilmot Perera — S.P. VI of 1961. It is worth while to note that both R. L. Brohier and Wilmot Perera were very much interested in education. The decade 1960-1970 was very productive in developing the idea further. The Sri Lanka Library Association formed in August 1960, appointed a standing sub - committee on the National Library and had made various recommendations to Government. During this same decade UNESCO, launched its world wide Book Development Programme (remember the year of the Book) and held international meetings at continental level in Tokyo for Asia followed by the Cairo Conference for Africa and the Bogota Conference for Latin America. Regionally, the Karachchi UNESCO Regional Office was activated for the Book Development Project and as a result three experts came to Sri Lanka to advise on various aspects of Library development — H. V. Bonny in 1961, A. J. Wells in 1962 and Ms. E. J. Evans in 1967. However it was at the UNESCO meeting of Experts on the National Planning of Library Services in Asia held in Colombo in December 1967, that a general plan was formulated and presented as appropriate for the development of libraries as a system. While concepts of economic and social planning had been a sig ificant feature in Asian countries since the attainment of their independence "in breaking the shackles of economic stagnation of the preceding period and achieving an accelerated economic growth", the report states, "concepts of economic and social planning have not yet been introduced into the field of libraries. Sporadic attempts have, no doubt, been made but no Asian country has yet endeavoured to build up a national library system which could integrate the resources and services of all types of libraries."

12. This meeting specially emphasised the need for library planning in a country "with a view to making the best possible use of scarce resources to achieve pre-determined goals in the development of a nation's library resources and services." "Planning does not mean centralised control, but rather co-operation and co-ordination of resources and activities so that the whole system can be mobilized for the benefit of any one unit and the people which it serves." (Quotations are from the Final Report of the Meeting of Experts on the National Planning of Library Services in Asia — 26/4/1968 issued by UNESCO - Paris)

13. An item on the Agenda of this meeting was the preparation of a plan for the development of Library Services for Ceylon, and for this the situation in Sri Lanka at that time had been analysed taking into account the existing library facilities. The apex organisation of a system, a National Library, did not exist. Taking the others, Public Libraries, University Libraries, School Libraries, Special Libraries and Temple Libraries into account, the state of the whole structure is summarized as follows;

"In Ceylon, the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Local Government, the Municipal, Urban, Town and Village Councils, the Universities, research institutes, individual government departments and corporations are all interested in the development of Libraries."

"The Universities and Special Libraries are autonomous bodies. There is little co-operation between any of the library services and no union catalogues or lists of serials exist. There is a need for integration of Public and School Library Services and co-operation with the aut nomous bodies. The answer to this is the establishment of an independent statutory corporation which will be responsible for the general promotion of library services throughout the country."

14. Among the steps to be taken to enable the government of Sri Lanka to do all these, was the establishment of the Ceylon National Library Services Board.

15. This report was published in December 1967. The then Government accepted this recommendation and the necessary legislation to establish the National Library Services Board was enacted in 1970. Mr. Harold V. Bonny the first UNESCO Library Adviser was in Sri Lanka in 1960. In his report he has emphasized the urgent need for a National Library in the country. To quote him "My brief was to advise particularly on Public and School Libraries, but in the national plan of library services, I have had to include National, University and Special Libraries.

"An urgent necessity is the Ceylon National Library because,

(I) of the need to have available in one place all the material about Ceylon;

(II) of the need for a National Reference Library to the main centre of research;

(III) of the need for a current National Bibliography, published weekly, as a book selection guide;

(IV) of the need for a focal point and organising agency for inter-library exchange of books, in order that the total book resources of the country may be available to any resident of Ceylon;

(V) there is much National Library material in the country which is either not readily available or is becoming damaged because of bad or inadequate storage facilities."

Mr. Bonny concludes; "There are a number of libraries in Ceylon containing material which should rightly be in a National Library. These are the Museum, the Archaeological Department, the Archives and possibly, the Royal Asiatic Society. Efforts should be made to combine these different libraries to provide the nucleus of the National Library."

16. Ten years after these recommendations were made the National Library Services Board was established, of course, helped by the special thrust given by the UNESCO meeting of 1967. From 1970 to 1990, a twenty year period has elapsed, and the two major activities expected of the Board, the development of library services round the country and the establishment of the National Library, still have a long way to go. Even the situation which existed in 1967 quoted in para 13 above, still remains much the same.

17. In the meantime significant changes have occurred in relation to the whole field of library activities. Even the subject designation of Library Science has changed to Library and Information Science. A further new dimension of great importance has been added to its functions — Library and Information Services (LIS). However, the National Library, even in the present world concept of being a powerful link in the "Communication" network, still "Stands for the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of a nation lying in documentary form."

18. While this concept remains, the responsibilities and activities of a National Library have been extended in the direction of being also responsible for Information Services. The authors of "National Library and Information Services — A hand book for planners" state "Adding a new dimension to the planning of library and information services has been the recent change in the library function itself. From being a store for the provision of books to meet the expressed or assumed needs of users as they arose, libraries have been changing to a more active role" that of Library and Information Services — (LIS). This has been the most recent development taking its due place in the world of communication development. To quote from the same source, "in the complex society of today, with its huge dependence on technology organised for the common good, there is an ever-growing need for improving the dissemination of information, not only in order to apply that technology, but also to produce a greater understanding of the society. All forms of 'democracy' (however one may interpret that term) depend on this understanding for their survival, in relation to their own national development and to the progress of their relations in the other countries. Thus, 'communication' from being a relatively minor social function largely taken for granted, has become 'Communication' — a major social function, now a subject of study in its own right." (C. V. Penna, D. J. Foskett and P. H. Sewell)

19. In view of these developments the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board Act of 1970 needs careful examination to bring it up to today's requirements. This is exactly what Ms. S. R. Korale has done in the paper submitted by her at the 3rd International Conference of Directors of National Libraries of Asia and Oceania (Nov. 1985), published in the Proceedings in 1987 by the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board. She has shown that, in order to overcome the shortcomings in the existing law,

it is necessary to amend the National Library Services Board Act so as to "clearly define the responsibility assigned to the National Library in respect of the National Collection it would house and also its relationship with other collections that have grown over time in the Public Library, the Universities, the National Archives, the National Museum" etc. (Page 121 of the Proceedings)

20. Writing in 1975, Mr. K. D. Somadasa, the then Director/Secretary, National Library Services Board (in his contribution to the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Volume of the Colombo Public Library) has stated that the site work for the National Library building will commence in September 1975 and the building is scheduled for occupation in January 1979. He was optimistic enough that the building will be completed in three years and he must have been justified in his hopes at that time. But even in January 1990, the building has not been officially commissioned. The building is now complete and the painful period during which the Board had no proper home (since 1971) is now over.

21. But events have not been waiting all these years and while the perspectives for the development of library services and the functions of the National Library itself have widened, its educational services also have expended and the whole structure of the Government's administration is undergoing vast changes through the establishment of Provincial Councils necessitating a fresh look at Public Library development on a provincial basis. Even more than all these, the recent upheavals in the whole country particularly the youth unrest indicate the urgent and desperate need to provide an efficient islandwide network of library services. This last need is stressed because the large number of literate youth of the country coming out of the schools and universities needs such services to appease their thirst for knowledge and information and further education. This is a social need of high priority. In the development plans of the country, the place of library development have not had a priority so far but this shortsighted policy should change in the interest of social harmony and balanced development.

22. The country has therefore great hopes that the National Library of Sri Lanka will get down to study the country's needs for the improvement of library and information services, its own quick build up, and try to catch up on lost time, extending to fifteen long years.

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එම්. එස්. යූ. අමරසිරි

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ වර්ධනයේ කැපී පෙනෙන කාල පරිච්ඡේද තුනක් ඇත

1870 — 1885 කාලය

1955 — 1970 කාලය

1970 — 1990 කාලය වශයෙනි

1870 – 1885 කාල පරිච්ඡේදය :

1870 වසර ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ වැදගත් වනුයේ ප්‍රථම වරට ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් කිහිපයක් ඉටු කිරීමේ පර්මාරථය, ඇතිව ජාතික මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාලයක් ඇරඹීම නිසා වේ. ඒ අනුව **1870 වසරේ රජයේ ප්‍රාචීන පුස්තකාලය** ඇරඹීම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ මුල් පියවර ලෙස සැළකිය හැක. දිවයින පුරා විසිරී පැවති පාලි, සංස්කෘත සහ සිංහල පුස්කොල පොත් රැස් කිරීමේ සහ සංවිධානය කිරීමේ අවශ්‍යතාවය මෙම පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීමට මුල් විය. තම යටත් විජිතවල සංස්කෘතිය පිළිබඳ උනන්දුවක් මවි ආණ්ඩුව විසින් දැක්විය යුතු බව මේ අවදියේ යුරෝපයේ පැතිර පැවතුණ මතයක් විය. මේ අවදියේ ලංකාවේ පැතිර ගිය ආගමික සහ භාෂා පුනරුදයද මේ තත්වයට හේතු වූ බව පෙනේ. ප්‍රාචීන පුස්තකාලය සඳහා පොත්පත් සෙයා ගැනීමට රජයේ නියෝජිතයන් ලංකාව පුරා සංචාරය කල බව සඳහන් වේ. පන්සල් ආරම්භවල පැවති පොත්ගුල් වලින් පොත්පත් ලබා ගැනීමේ කාර්යය එතරම් සාර්ථක නොවුවද එම පුස්තකාලවල ඇති පොත්පත් පිළිබඳ අවබෝධයක් ලබා ගැනීමටත් සැළකිය යුතු තරම් පොත්පත් තොගයක් රැස් කර ගැනීමටත් ලංකාව පුරා විසිරී පැවති පොත්ගුල් වල තැන්පත්වූ පොත්පත් පිළිබඳ සැළකිය යුතු මට්ටමේ ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලියක් සකස් කිරීමටත් මේ නිසා හැකිවූ බව පෙනේ.[1] මෙහිදී වැදගත් වනුයේ ලංකාවේ පළවූ සියළුම පොත්පත් එක්රැස්කොට පාඨකයින් සඳහා කියවීමේ පහසුකම් ඇති කරලීම මෙම පුස්තකාලයේ පරමාර්ථය වීමයි. 'ජාතියේ ප්‍රකාශනාවල මධ්‍යම එකතුවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම' යන නූතන ජාතික පුස්තකාලවල ප්‍රධාන පරමාර්ථයට මෙය බෙහෙවින් සමාන වේ. ප්‍රාචීන පුස්තකාලයේ පැවැත්ම අවුරුදු හතක කෙටි කාලයකට සීමා වූවද එම පුස්තකාලය ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය වර්ධනයේ මූලික අවස්ථාව වශයෙන් සැළකිය හැක. මෙම කාලය තුලදී සැළකිය යුතු පාඨකයින් ප්‍රමාණයක් මෙම පුස්තකාලය පරිහරණය කල බව පෙනේ. පසුව 1877 වසරේදී රජයේ ප්‍රාචීන පුස්තකාලය ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලයට ඒකාබද්ධ කරන ලදී.

1877 වසරේ ජාතික කෞතුකාගාරය සහ කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීම කරුණු කිහිපයක් නිසා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ මුල් අවදියේ තවත් වැදගත් පියවරක් වේ. ලංකාවේ පුරා වස්තු සහ කෞතුක වස්තු රැස් කොට සංරක්ෂණය කිරීමේ අභිප්‍රායෙන් ඇරඹුණු ජාතික **කෞතුකාගාරය** එහි එක් අංශයක් වශයෙන් පොත්පත් රැස් කිරීමද, පුස්තකාලයක් පවත්වා ගෙන යාමද ආරම්භ කරන ලදී. මෙහි ආරම්භයක් ලෙස 1870 ආරම්භ කල රජයේ ප්‍රාචීන පුස්තකාලය කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලයට ඒකාබද්ධ කරන ලදී. මින් අනතුරුව ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය දේශීය ප්‍රකාශන එක්රැස් කිරීමේ කාර්යයෙහි අද දක්වා නියැලී සිටී. පසු කාලයේ නීත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු නීතිය යටතේ ලංකාවේ පලවන සෑම ප්‍රකාශනයකින්ම පිටපතකට කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය හිමිකම් ලබා ඇත. මේ අනුව පසුගිය වසර 113 මුළුල්ලේ ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය ජාතියේ ප්‍රකාශන එක්රැස් කිරීම නිසා ලංකාවේ නිල නොලත් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය වශයෙන් කටයුතු කර ඇත.

1885 වසරේ පනවන ලද මුද්‍රණකරුවන්ගේ සහ ප්‍රකාශකයින්ගේ ආඥා පනත[2] මගින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ තවත් තීරණාත්මක වැදගත් අවස්ථාවක් සළකුණු කරයි. මෙම පනත ලංකාවේ අද දක්වා බලපවත්වන **නිත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු නීතිය** වේ. මේ අනුව ලංකාවේ පලවන සෑම ප්‍රකාශනයක්ම රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ පුවත්පත් හා වාරසඟරා අංශයේ ලියා පදිංචි කොට තැන්පතු පුස්තකාල කිහිපයක් සඳහා පිටපත් සැපයීම නීතිමය අවශ්‍යතාවයක් වී ඇත. මෙසේ ප්‍රකාශන සැපයිය යුතු පුස්තකාල වශයෙන් රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාරය, ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය සහ බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය නම්කරන ලදී. පසුව මෙම නීතියේ සංශෝධන මගින් 1951 වසරේදී ලංකා විශ්ව විද්‍යාලීය පුස්තකාලයත්, 1976 වසරේදී ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයත් තැන්පතු පුස්තකාල ලෙස නම් කරන ලදි. විශේෂයෙන්ම තුන්වන ලෝකයේ වෙනත් රටවල් සමග සසඳා බලන විට 1885 තරම් ඈත කාලයක පටන් ලංකාවට නිත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු නීතිය හඳුන්වාදී තිබීම විශේෂ සිද්ධියක් ලෙස සැළකිය හැක. ආසියාවේ හා ලතින් ඇමරිකාවේ බොහෝ රටවල්වල මෙබඳු නීතීන් හඳුන්වාදීම විසිවන සියවසේ මැද භාගය තරම් මෑත කාලයේදී සිදුවූ බව පෙනේ. මේ නිසා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය 1990 වසරේ ආරම්භ වුවද ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට අවශ්‍ය ග්‍රන්ථ එකතුන් 1885 වසරේ සිට ක්‍රමානුකූලව එක්රැස් වෙමින් පැවතුණි.

1955 – 1970 කාල පරිච්ඡේදය :

1955 වසරේ සිට 1970 දක්වා කාල සීමාව තුල ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ආරම්භයට අදාල වැදගත් සිදුවීම් ගණනාවක් සිදුවුණි. 1955 සිට 1960 දක්වා කාලය තුල නිකුත්වුනු කොමිෂන් සභා සහ කමිටු වාර්තා ගණනාවක් මේ අතරින් කැපී පෙනේ. **1955 වසරේ නිකුත්වූ පළාත් පාලන සේවා කොමිෂන් සභා වාර්තාව**[3] මේ අතරින් මුල් වාර්තාව වේ. රාජ නීතිඥ දොක්සි මහතාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් වූ මෙම කොමිසමේ මූලික පරමාර්ථය දිවයිනේ පළාත් පාලන සේවා ප්‍රතිසංවිධානය කිරීම විය. එහිදී පළාත් පාලන ඇයතන වලට අනුබද්ධ මහජන පුස්තකාලවල සංවර්ධනය ගැන සාකච්ඡා කිරීමෙදී ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවක ඇති වැදගත්කම දක්වා ඇත. යහපත් හා ශක්තිමත් මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවයක් සඳහා මහජන පුස්තකාල ජාතික මට්ටමේ පුස්තකාල සේවා සමග සම්බන්ධීකරණය කටයුතු කල යුතු බව වොක්සි වාර්තාවේ අවධාරණය කර ඇත.

කොළඹ මහජන පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ පත් කරන ලද ඒක පුද්ගල කොමිසම විසින් 1958 වසරේ නිකුත් කල තම වාර්තාව[4] මගින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ පුළුල් ඇගැයීමක් කර ඇත. පී. කන්දයියා මහතාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් පත් කරන ලද මෙම කමිටුව විසින් ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලද වාර්තාවේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ දීර්ඝ ලෙස කරුණු විමසා ඇත. මෙම වාර්තාවේ අටවන පරිච්ඡේදයේ කර ඇති විග්‍රහය මෙම විෂය පිළිබඳව කරන ලද ප්‍රථම දේශීය විග්‍රහය ලෙස සැළකිය හැකිය. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ පුළුල් හැඳින්වීමකුත්, ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ පැහැදිලි කිරීමකුත්, ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ගොඩනගා ගැනීමේදී ලබා ගත හැකි විදේශ ආධාර පිළිබඳවත්, කුමන ස්වරූපයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ පිහිටවිය යුතුද යන්න පිළිබඳවත්, ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීමේදී එයට අයත් කර ගත යුතු වෙනත් දේශීය පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය පිළිබඳ විස්තරයකුත් මෙම කොටසේ දක්වා ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ පුළුල් හැඳින්වීමක් කරමින් ''ජාතික පුස්තකාලය මුළු ජාතියේම ඉතිහාසය, සංස්කෘතිය සහ අනෙකුත් දායාදයන් පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු ඇතුළත් විවිධ අන්දමේ වාර්තා එකට එක්රැස් කොට ආරක්ෂා කරන ස්ථානය වේ. දෙවනුව ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ලෝකයේ ඥාන සම්භාරය ඇතුළත් මුද්‍රිත දෑ, සිතුවම් සහ ශ්‍රව්‍ය දෘශ්‍ය මාධ්‍ය එක්රැස් කරන කෝෂාගාරයක් වේ. ලෝකයේ සෑම ප්‍රදේශයකම ජීවත්වන මනුෂ්‍යයන්ගේ උපස් නිර්මාණ සහ ජයග්‍රහණයන් පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයෙන් ලබා ගත හැකි විය යුතුවේ. තෙවනුව විශ්ව විද්‍යාලය වැනි අධ්‍යාපන ආයතනවලට පිටස්තරව විවිධ අංශ පිළිබඳව පර්යේෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් බවට ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පත් විය යුතුය. සිව්වනුව ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලි සේවා සැපයීම මගින් එය රටටම පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් සංවර්ධනය කිරීමේ සහ මහ පෙන්වීමේ ආයතනය විය යුතුය. පස්වනුව මෙය කර්තෘවරුන් සහ ප්‍රකාශකයින්ට මහ පෙන්වන සහ ආධාර කරන ආයතනයක් විය යුතුය. මීට අමතරව ජාතික වශයෙන් ලංකාවේ පලවන සෑම ප්‍රකාශනයකම පිටපතක් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට

ලැබිය යුතු බවත්, මෙම ග්‍රන්ථ හොඳින් සංවිධානය කොට වර්තමානය සහ අනාගතය සඳහා ආරක්ෂා කර තැබිය යුතු බවත්'' දක්වා ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ආරම්භය සඳහා රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාරයේ පොත් එකතුව, කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය, රාජකීය ආසියාතික සංගමයේ ලංකා ශාඛා පුස්තකාලය එක් කර ගත යුතු බව වාර්තාවේ දක්වා ඇත. එසේම ආරාම සහ වෙහෙත් පුස්තකාලවල ඇති පුස්කොල පොත් එකතුන්ද, පසු කාලයක පුරා විද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ ඇති දුර්ලභ පොත්පත් සහ පින්තූරද ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට එක් කර ගත යුතු බව දක්වා ඇත. මීට අමතරව ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය නොඩ නැගීමේදී ආධාර කර ගත හැකි විදේශ ආයතන සහ සංවිධාන පිළිබඳව ද කන්දයියා කමිටු වාර්තාව සාකච්ඡා කර ඇත.

සමස්තයක් වශයෙන් ගෙන බලන විට කන්දයියා කමිටු වාර්තාවේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳව දක්වා ඇති අදහස් කරුණු කිහිපයක් නිසා වැදගත් වේ. පළමුවරට ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳව පුළුල් සාකච්ඡාවක් කරන ලද්දේ මෙම වාර්තාව මගිනි. එසේම ජාතික පුස්තකාල එකතුව සඳහා අත්කර ගත යුතු වෙනත් දේශීය පුස්තකාල එකතූන් පිළිබඳව පළමුවෙන්ම කරුණු ඉදිරිපත් කලේද මෙම වාර්තාව මඟිනි. මෙම වාර්තාව සැකසීමේ දී ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ ඒ අවදියේ වූ නවතම අදහස් පිළිබඳ අවබෝධයක් කමිටුවට තිබූ බව පැහැදිලිවම පෙනෙන කරුණකි. කමිටුවේ යහපති කන්දයියා මහතා වෘත්තියෙන් පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයෙකු වීම මෙහිදී බලපෑ ප්‍රධාන සාධකය ලෙස සැලකිය හැක. එසේම 1955 වසරේ දිල්ලි නගරයේ පැවති 'ආසියාවේ පුස්තකාල සේවාව' පිළිබඳව පැවැත්වූ යුනෙස්කෝ සමුළුවේ බලපෑමද මෙහිදී සඳහන් කල හැක. එවකට ලංකාවේ සේවය කල විදේශීය පුස්තකාල උපදේශක යන්ගේ බලපෑම තවත් සාධකයකි. ලංකා විද්‍යාත්මක හා කාර්මික ආයතන පුස්තකාලයේ පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයා වශයෙන් කටයුතු කල කැනේඩියානු පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයෙකු වන ඩී. ඒ. රෙඩ්මන් මහතා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක වැදගත්කම අවධාරණය කල බවත්, ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය, ඇමෙරිකානු කොන්ග්‍රස් පුස්තකාලය මෙන් පාර්ලිමේන්තු පුස්තකාලයක් වශයෙන් වර්ධනය විය යුතු බව පැවසූ බවත් කමිටු වාර්තාවේ දක්වා ඇත. එසේම ලංකා පරිපාලන සේවයේ නිලධාරියකු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් පිළිබඳ අදහස විශේෂයෙන් අවධාරණය කල බවද වාර්තාවේ දක්වා ඇත. අන්තර් ජාතික වශයෙන් විශේෂයෙන්ම යුරෝපයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ උනන්දුවක්, යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනය මේ පිළිබඳ දක්වූ උනන්දුවත් විශේෂ වශයෙන් බලපාන්නට ඇත.

1959 නිකුත් වූ පුරා වස්තු පිළිබඳ විශේෂ කමිටුවේ අවසාන වාර්තාව් මේ අවදියේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ කරුණු ඉදිරිපත්කල තවත් විශේෂ කමිටු වාර්තාවක් වේ. මෙම කමිටුව පත් කිරීමේ මූලික පරමාර්ථය වූයේ පුරා විද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේත්, ජාතික කෞතුකාගාරයේත්, ජාතික ලේඛණාගාරයේත් සංවිධාන කටයුතු පිළිබඳ යොයා බලා වාර්තා කිරීමටය. මෙම කමිටුවේ යහපතිවරයා වශයෙන් කටයුතු කලේ සුප්‍රසිද්ධ විද්වතෙකු වූ ආර්. එල්. බ්‍රෝහියර් මහතා වේ. වාචික සාක්ෂි, ලිඛිත සාක්ෂි කැඳවීමකට අමතරව මෙම කමිටුවට විදේශ රටවල් ගණනාවක සංචාරය කොට කමිටුවේ විමර්ශනයට අදාලවූ කරුණු පිළිබඳව හැදෑරීමට අවස්ථාවක් ලැබුණි. ඒ අනුව ඊජිප්තුව එක්සත් රාජධානිය, ඕලන්දය වැනි රටවල සංචාරය කොට ඒ ඒ රටවල අදාල කරුණු පිළිබඳව, වර්ධනයන් හැදෑරීමටත් ඒ ඒ ක්ෂේත්‍රවල ප්‍රවීණයින් සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කරලීමත් කරන ලදී. කමිටුවට කරුණු දක්වූ අය අතර ප්‍රධාන පෙලේ උගතුන් සහ පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් සිටි බව පෙනේ. තම වාර්තාවේ හය වන ඡේදය කමිටුව විසින් 'ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සහ ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය' නමින් නම්කර ඇත. කමිටුවේ නිල කාර්යයන් අතර පුස්තකාල සේවාව ගැන සෙවීම ඇතුළත්වී ඇති නමුත් කමිටුව ඉදිරියේ සාක්ෂි දුන් අය අතරින් වැඩි ප්‍රමාණයක් ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය මධ්‍යම ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක ආරම්භය සඳහා ඉන් මත් හොඳ ආරම්භක එකතුවක් බව දක්වා ඇතැයිද කමිටුව ප්‍රකාශ කරයි. මේ අනුව ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් වශයෙන් වෙනම සංවිධානය කල යුතු බවට කමිටුව අවධාරණය කරයි. ''ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවක් ආරම්භ කිරීම්

යදහා ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය, ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විය යුතුවේ. මෙම පුස්තකාලයට රාජකීය ආසියාතික සංගමයේ පුස්තකාලයද ඔවුන්ගේ එකඟත්වය ඇතිව ලබා ගැනීම සුදුසු වේ. ආරම්භයක් වශයෙන් රාජකීය ආසියාතික සංගම් පුස්තකාලයද ජාතික පුස්තකාලය තුල ස්වාධීන එකතුවක් වශයෙන් පවත්වා ගෙන යා හැක. මහජනතාවට අදල පොත් පරිහරණය කල හැකි පහසුකම් ලබාදී එහි පරිපාලනය තවදුරටත් රාජකීය ආසියාතික සංගමයට තබා ගත හැක. මීට අමතරව පුරා විද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ පොත් එකතුවත් ජාතික පුස්තකාල එකතුවට එක් කල යුතු ය'' යි කමිටු වාර්තාවේ සඳහන් වේ.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය පැනම් කර ගත යුතු යයි යන යෝජනාව ජාතික කෞතුකාගාරය සම්බන්ධව පත් කරන ලද කමිටුවක නිර්දේශවීම විශේෂයෙන් වැදගත් වේ. රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ පොත් සහ පුවත්පත් ලියා පදිංචි කිරීමේ අංශය පිළිබඳවද කමිටුව කරුණු ඉදිරිපත් කර ඇත. පොත්පත් සහ පුවත්පත් ලියා පදංචි කිරීමේ අංශය රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවෙන් ඉවත් කොට ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලී අංශයට අනුයුක්ත කල යුතු බවත් මෙම තත්වය ඇති කිරීම සඳහා මුද්‍රණකරුවන්ගේ සහ ප්‍රකාශක යින්ගේ ආඥා පනතෙහි සහ මුද්‍රණ ආඥා පනතෙහි සුදුසු වෙනස්කම් කල යුතු බවත් දන්වා ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක මූලික කාර්යයක් වනුයේ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට අදල ප්‍රකාශන එක්රැස් කිරීම වේ. එමෙන්ම මෙම ප්‍රකාශන එකතුවේ ආධාරයෙන් ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය කිරීමත් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක මූලික වගකීමක් වේ, මේ තත්වය යටතේ රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාර දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට සම්බන්ධව නීත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු එකතුව පවත්වා ගෙන යාම හෝ පොත්පත් හා පුවත්පත් ලියා පදිංචි කිරීමේ කාර්යාලය පවත්වා ගෙන යාම නොගැලපෙන බව කමිටුව දක්වා ඇත.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව විග්‍රහයක්ද කමිටු වාර්තාවේ දැක්වේ. ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳව මේ අවදියේ යුරෝපයේ පැතිර තිබුණ අදහස්වල බලපෑම් මෙම කාර්ය ලැයිස්තුව පරීක්ෂා කිරීමෙන් පෙනේ. එසේම යෝජිත ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල පිළිබඳවද කමිටු වාර්තාවේ කරුණු සාකච්ඡා කර ඇත. ජාතික කෞතුකාගාරයට ආසන්න ප්‍රදේශයක ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවිය යුතු බවත්, එහි අවම වශයෙන් පාඨකයින් 200 ක් සඳහා පහසුකම් සැලසිය යුතු බවත් දක්වා ඇත. ඉදිරි වසර දෙක තුල කෙසේ හෝ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විවෘත කල යුතු බවත් එසේ නොකලහොත් ඉතාමත් අගනා පොත්පත් සහ අත්පිටපත් විශාල ප්‍රමාණයක් ජාතියට සඳහටම නැතිවී යෑම වළක්විය නොහැකි බවත් වාර්තාවේ දක්වා ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලයත්, ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලියත් පිළිබඳව වාර්තාවේ නව වන පරිච්ඡේදයෙන් දක්වා ඇති අදහස් නැවත වරක් අවධාරණය කිරීමක් පහලොස් වන පරිච්ඡේදයෙන් පෙනේ. සම්ස්තයක් වශයෙන් ගෙන බලන විට බ්‍රෝහියර් වාර්තාව, ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳව මුල් අවදියේ පලවූ හොඳම ලාංකික වාර්තාව බව සඳහන් කල හැක.

විල්මට් ඒ. පෙරේරා වැටුප් සහ සේවක සංඛ්‍යා කමිටු වාර්තාව[6] ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් පිළිබඳව කරුණු දැක්වූ තවත් ප්‍රධාන වාර්තාවක් වේ. 1958 – 1961 කාලය තුල ක්‍රියාත්මක වූ මෙම කමිටුව තම වාර්තාව 1961 වසරේ ඉදිරිපත් කොට ඇත. මෙහිදී රජයේ දෙපාර්තමේන්තු පිළිබඳ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමේදී ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක වැදගත්කම අවධාරණය කර ඇත. 1959 වසරේ පිහිටවූ පුරා වස්තු පිළිබඳ විශේෂ කමිටු වාර්තාවේ ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය මුල් කර ගෙන ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටවිය යුතු බව යෝජනා කර ඇති බවත්, මෙබඳු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටවූ පසු දෙපාර්තමේන්තු පුස්තකාල සහ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය අතර සම්බන්ධතාවක් ගොඩ නගා ගත යුතු බවත් අධ්‍යාපන අවස්ථාවල දෙපාර්තමේන්තු පුස්තකාල ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ශාඛා වශයෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය යොදා පවත්වා ගෙන යා හැකි බවත් එසේම විවිධ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවල දැනට විසිරී පවත්නා කුඩා පුස්තකාල ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට එකතු කර ගැනීමට හෝ ඉවත් කරලීමට හැකි බවත් කමිටු වාර්තාවේ දක්වේ. මේ වන විට බ්‍රෝහියර් වාර්තාව නිකුත් වී තිබීමත් එසේම බ්‍රෝහියර් මහතා මෙම කමිටුවේ සාමාජිකයකු වශයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීමත් මෙම යෝජනාවලට ගක්තු වන්නට ඉඩ ඇත.

1960 වසරේ යුනෙස්කෝ පුස්තකාල උපදේශකයකු ලෙස ලංකාවට පැමිණි හැරල්ඩ් වී. බොනි මහතාගේ වාර්තාව මෙහිදී සාකච්ඡාවට භාජනය විය යුතු වැදගත් ලේඛණයක් වේ. විශේෂයෙන්ම මහජන සහ පාසැල් පුස්තකාල ඉළිබඳ අවධානය යොමු කරමින් ලංකාව සඳහා පුස්තකාල ය වර්ධන යැලැස්මක් සකස් කිරීම බොනී මහතාට පැවරුණ කාර්යයක් විය. ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල සේවාව පිළිබඳ සංක්ෂිප්ත ඇගැයීමක් වාර්තාවේ මුල් කොටසේ දක්නට ලැබේ. අනතුරුව වාර්තාවේ සිවුවන පරිච්ඡේදයේ සිට දේශීය පුස්තකාල සේවාව සංවිධානය කල යුතු ආකාරය පිළිබඳව කරුණු දක්වා ඇත. එහිදී ඔහු පළමුවෙන්ම අවධානය යොමු කර ඇත්තේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීම කෙරෙහිය. බොනි මහතාගේ අදහසේ හැටියට ප්‍රධාන හේතූන් පහක් නිසා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය මේ වන විට හදිසි අවශ්‍යතාවක්ව තිබූ බිණි. ලංකාව පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු ඇතුළත් සියළුම පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය එක් තැනක පවත්වා ගෙන යාමේ අවශ්‍යතාව, ප්‍රධාන පර්යේෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් වශයෙන් ජාතික විමර්ශන පුස්තකාලයක ඇති අවශ්‍යතාව, පොත් තෝරා ගැනීමේ නියමුවක් වශයෙන් සතිපතා පලවන කාලීන ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලියක අවශ්‍යතාවය, රට තුල ඇති සියළුම පුස්තකාල සම්පත් යෑම රටවැසියකුටම භාවිතා කල හැකි පරිදි අන්තර් පුස්තකාල හුවමාරු සේවාවක් පවත්වා ගෙන යෑමට මධ්‍යම අධිකාරී ආයතනයක අවශ්‍යතාව සහ ජාතික පුස්තකාල සම්පතවල සංවර්ධනය සඳහා මනා තැන්පතු පහසුකම්වල ඇති අවශ්‍යතාව යන කරුණු දක්වා ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ආරම්භ කිරීම සඳහා පැනම් කර ගත යුතු දේශීය පුස්තකාල එකතූන් ගැන බොනි මහතාගේ අදහස් මීට පෙර ඉදිරිපත් වූ වාර්තාවලට සමාන වේ. ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය, පුරා විද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තු පුස්තකාලය, රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාර පුස්තකාලය සහ රාජකීය ආසියාතික සංගමයේ පුස්තකාලය එකතු කොට ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ආරම්භ කිරීමට උපයෝග දැරිය යුතු බව වැඩිතාව දක්වා ඇත. මෙම යෝජනාවලට අමතරව ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීම සඳහා කෙ යුතු හදිසි පියවර ගණනාවක්ද බොනී මහතා යෝජනා කර ඇත. මේ වන විට නුවරඑළියේ පැවති රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාරය කොළඹට ආයන්න ප්‍රදේශයකට ගෙන ආ යුතු බවත්, ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා ඉඩ පහසුකම් රාජ්‍ය ලේඛණාගාරයෙන් ලබා ගත යුතු බවත් යෝජනා කර ඇත. ජාතික ලේඛණාගාරයේ පුස්තකාල අංශය ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ආරම්භය ලෙස යොදා ගැනීමටත්, ඉන් අනතුරුව ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විසින් එම ලේඛණ උපයෝගී කර ගෙන ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය ඇරඹිය යුතු බවත් දක්වා ඇත. මේ ආකාරයෙන්ම ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලයේ වගකීම් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ලබා ගත යුතු බවත්, ජාතික පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයෙකු පත් කොට සංවිධානාත්මකව කටයුතු ඇරඹිය යුතු බවත් බොනි වාර්තාවේ දක්වා ඇත.

මින් අනතුරුව එළඹෙන්නේ ලංකාවේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල ඉතිහාසයේ තීරණාත්මක අවදියක් ලෙස සැලකෙන 1967–1970 කාල පරිච්ඡේදය වේ. 1967 වසරේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ යුනෙස්කෝ කලාපීය සම්මන්ත්‍රණය ලංකාවේ කොළඹදී පවත්වන ලදී. ජාතික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ කටයුතු, ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීම සඳහා කලාපීය මට්ටමින් ලොව පුරා සම්මන්ත්‍රණ මෙහෙයවූ යුනෙස්කෝව මේ සඳහා ශ්‍රී ලංකාවද තෝරා ගැනීම ඉතා වැදගත් වේ. මෙම සමුළුවට මාස කිහිපයකට පෙර යුනෙස්කෝ පුස්තකාල උපදේශක ඊ. ජේ. එවන්ස් මහත්මිය ලංකාවට පැමිණි අතර, 1970 දක්වා වසර තුනක කාලයක් ඒ මහත්මිය මෙහි ගත කර ඇත. මෙම සම්මන්ත්‍රණය සහ පුස්තකාල උපදේශිකාවගේ පැමිණීම ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පිහිටුවීමේ ප්‍රධාන හේතුව වේ. මෙම යමුළුවෙදී ආසියා කලාපයේ පුස්තකාල කටයුතු ගැන සාකච්ඡා වූ අතර, විශේෂයෙන්ම ලංකාව සඳහා පුස්තකාල සැලැස්මක් සකස් කිරීමටද අවධානය යොමු විය. සමුළු වාර්තාවේ[8] ලංකාව පිළිබඳ විශේෂ පුස්තකාල සැලැස්මක් දක්වා තිබුණි. මෙම සැලැස්ම යටතේ ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයක් පිහිටුවීම අවධාරණය කෙරුණු අතර, යෝජිත පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ වගකීම් පැහැදිලිවම දක්වා තිබුණි. පසු කාලයේ සම්මතවූ ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලපනතේ වගකීම් හා බලතල වලට මෙම යෝජනා මූලික වශයෙන් ඉවහල් වූ බව පෙනේ. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව පුළුල් ඇගැයීමක් මෙම වාර්තාවෙහි දක්වා ඇත. ඉක්මණින් ගත යුතු පියවර වශයෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරයෙකු පත් කිරීම, ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා තාවකාලික ඉඩ පහසුකම් ලබා ගැනීම, ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය කිරීම සහ එහි කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය රාජ්‍ය

ලේඛණාගාරයෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට පවරා ගැනීම, ජාතික ඒකාබද්ධ සූචිය සහ ජාතික වාර සඟරා සූචිය සකස් කිරීම දක්වා ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ප්‍රධාන විමර්ශන පුස්තකාලය වශයෙන් පාඨකයින් සඳහා පවත්වා ගෙන යා යුතු බවත්, ඊට සමාන්තරව පොත් බැහැරදීමේ සේවාවන් සහිතව පුස්තකාල යක්, පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවා අංශයකින් පවත්වා ගෙන යා යුතු බවත් දක්වා ඇත.

කෙටිකාලීන, මධ්‍යකාලීන සහ දීර්ඝකාලීන වශයෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කටයුතු පිළිබඳ යංක්ෂිප්ත සැළසුම් තුනක්ද, මෙහි දක්වා ඇත. කෙටිකාලීන සැලැස්මක් යටතේ ග්‍රන්ථ විඳුපන සේවා මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් ආරම්භ කිරීම, ජාතික ඒකාබද්ධ සූචිය ආරම්භ කිරීම, ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය අඛණ්ඩව පවත්වා ගෙන යාම සහ ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි සඳහා සැළසුම් සකස් කිරීම දක්වා ඇත. මධ්‍යකාලීන සැලැස්ම ලෙස ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල ඉදි කිරීම, වෙනත් පුස්තකාල එකතූන් ලබා ගැනීම සහ වෙනත් මාර්ග වලින් ජාතික පුස්තකාල එකතුව ගොඩනැගීම ඇරඹීම, වාර සඟරා පිළිබඳ ඒකාබද්ධ නාමාවලියක් සැකසීම දක්වා ඇත. දීර්ඝකාලීන සැලැස්ම ලෙස, පර්යේෂකයින් හා ශිෂ්‍යයින් සඳහා පළමු පංතියේ විමර්ශන පුස්තකාලයක් වර්ධනය කිරීම, රටේ පුස්තකාල සේවාව සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම සහ ජාතික සහ අන්තර් ජාතික වශයෙන් අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවා සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම දක්වා ඇත. 1967 සමුළුව ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටුවීම සඳහා තබන ලද පළමු නිශ්චිත පියවර වේ. අන්තර් ජාතික සමුළුවක් ලෙස ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ මෙම සමුළුව පැවැත්වීම නිසා සමුළුවට රටේ ප්‍රධාන දේශපාලන ඥයින්ගේ සහ පරිපාලකයින්ගේ අවධානය තැතින්ම එයට යොමු විය. මේ නිසා සමුළුවේ සම්මත වූ යෝජනා සහ සැළසුම් ජාතික වශයෙන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම පහසු විය. පසු කාලයේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ සැලසුම් සකස් කිරීම මෙම සමුළුවේ යෝජනා වලට අනුව සිදුවූ බව පෙනේ.

එවිලින් එවන්ස් මහත්මිය ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ කල සේවයද මෙහිදී අගය කල යුතු වේ. ඒ මහත්මිය ලංකාවට පැමිණියේ අධ්‍යාපන හා සංස්කෘතික අමාත්‍යාංශයට සම්බන්ධ වී රටේ පාසැල් හා මහජන පුස්තකාල සැලසුම් කිරීම සඳහා උපදෙස් දීමටය. ඊට කලින් ඝානාවේ පුස්තකාල උපදේශකවරියක ලෙස කටයුතු කරමින් ලැබූ අත්දැකීම් එවන්ස් මහත්මිය සතු විය. මේ අවදියේම යුනෙස්කෝ ජාතික පුස්තකාල සම්මන්ත්‍රණය කොළඹදී පැවැත්වීම නිසා එම කටයුතු සංවිධානය කිරීමේ වගකීමද එවන්ස් මහත්මියට පැවරුණ බව පෙනේ. එවන්ස් මහත්මියගේ පැමිණීමත්, පුස්තකාල සමුළුවත් දෛවෝපගත ලෙස එකිනෙකට සම්බන්ධ වූ සිද්ධීන් සේ පෙනේ. මේ එකද සිද්ධියක් හෝ අනෙක් සිදුවීම් නොමැතිව සිදුවූවා නම් එම සිද්ධීන් දෙකේම වැදගත්කම මීට වඩා බෙහෙවින් අඩුවීමට ඉඩ තිබුණි. පාසැල් සහ මහජන පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ විශේෂඥවරියක ලෙස එවන්ස් මහත්මිය ජාතික පුස්තකාල හා ඒවායේ කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ පුළුල් දැනීමක් හෝ අත්දැකීමක් ඇති අයකු නොවූ බව පෙනේ. එසේම ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් ගැන මූලික අවධානය යොමු වූ 1967 සමුළුවට ලංකාව සඳහා පුස්තකාල සැලැස්මක් සකස් කිරීමට හෝ ලංකාවේ තත්වය පිළිබඳ හැදෑරීමට තරම් අධ්‍යවාවක් නොතිබුණි. සමුළුවට මාස ගණනාවකට පෙර ලංකාවට පැමිණි එවන්ස් මහත්මිය ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල, ග්‍රන්ථකරණය, පොත් ප්‍රකාශනය වැනි දේ පිළිබඳවත් සැළකිය යුතු අධ්‍යයනයක් කොට එම තොරතුරු විශේෂඥ සමුළුවට සපයන ලදී.[5] ලංකාව සඳහා පුස්තකාල සැලැස්මක් සකස් කිරීමේදී මෙම තොරතුරු පාදක කර ගැනීමට සමුළුවට හැකිවීම ඉතා වැදගත් වේ. එවන්ස් මහත්මියගේ අනෙක් වැදගත් දායකත්වය වූයේ සමුළුවෙන් පසු දීර්ඝ කාලයක් ලංකාවේ රැඳී සිට සමුළු යෝජනා ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමට අවශ්‍ය කටයුතු කිරීම වේ. ඒ මහත්මිය අවුරුදු තුනක් පමණ දීර්ඝ කාලයක් ලංකාවේ නොසිටියා නම් මෙම යෝජනා සමහර විට ක්‍රියාත්මක නොවීමට ඉඩ තිබුණි.

1970 – 1990 කාල පරිච්ඡේදය :

1970 වසරේ ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩල පනත[10] සම්මත වීම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීමේ වැදගත් සන්ධිස්ථානයකි. මෙම පනතෙහි පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ වගකීම් හා බලතල යටතේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීම හා පවත්වා ගෙන යාම මණ්ඩලයේ වගකීමක් ලෙස දක්වා ඇත. 1970 සිට 1990 දක්වා දශක දෙකක කාලය තුල පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය ඉටු කල **ප්‍රධාන** කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව සංක්ෂිප්තව මෙහිදී සළකා බැලීමට අදහස් කෙරේ. මෙම කාර්යයන් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීමේ ලා ඉතා වැදගත් මෙහෙයක් ඉටු කරන ලදී.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සහ රට තුල ඉටු කරනු ලබන වෙනත් පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන සේවාවන්ගේ අංශ දෙකක් වශයෙන් සැලකීම එතරම් නිවැරදි නොවේ. එසේ වුවත් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පසුගිය දශක දෙක තුල ඉටු කල සේවාවන් පහසුව තකා මෙම අංශ දෙක යටතේ සළකා බැලීමට අදහස් කෙරේ.

1970 වසරේ මණ්ඩලය පිහිටුවීමෙන් පසු මූලික අවධානය යොමු කරන ලද්දේ ජාතික මට්ටමේ පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් සැළසුම් කිරීම හා සංවර්ධනය කිරීම සඳහා වේ. මේ අනුව ඇරඹිම කරන ලද මුල්ම ව්‍යාපෘතියක් වනුයේ **මහනුවර පුස්තකාල නියාමක ව්‍යාපාරය**[11] වේ. මෙම නියාමක ව්‍යාපාරය යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනයේ ආධාර ඇතිව ආරම්භ කරන ලද්දේ ග්‍රාමීය මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාල සේවාව සංවර්ධනය කිරීම පිළිබඳව අත්හදා බැලීමක් වශයෙනි. මෙම අත්හදා බැලීමේ යාර්ථකත්වය මත ආසියාවේ අනිකුත් රටවලද මෙබදු ග්‍රාමීය පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපෘතීන් ව්‍යාප්ත කිරීමට යුනෙස්කෝව අදහස් කරන ලදී. 1972 – 1974 කාලය තුල මහනුවර දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය ක්‍රියාත්මක විය. මේ යටතේ පාසැල් පුස්තකාල විසිදෙකක් සහ මහජන පුස්තකාල විසිහතරක් සංවර්ධනය කරන ලදී. ඒ ඒ මහජන පුස්තකාල සම්බන්ධ කොට අදාල ප්‍රදේශයේ දුර බැහැර ස්ථාන සඳහා පොත් පෙට්ටි සැපයීම, ජංගම පුස්තකාල වැනි ව්‍යාප්ත සේවාවන් ආරම්භ කරන ලදී. මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය අධීක්ෂණය කිරීම සඳහා පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ ප්‍රාදේශීය ශාඛාවක්, සහකාර අධ්‍යක්ෂවරයකු යටතේ මහනුවර ආරම්භ කරන ලදී. ව්‍යාපෘතිය යටතේ පැවති සියළුම පුස්තකාල සඳහා පොත්පත් සැපයීම, පුස්තකාල උපකරණ සැපයීම, පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි සඳහා සැළසුම් සැපයීම, පෙත් පෙට්ටි සේවාවක් මගින් නව ප්‍රකාශන හඳුන්වා දීම, අදාල පුස්තකාලවල පුස්ත කාලයාධිපතීන් සඳහා නිරන්තර පුහුණු පාඨමාලා පැවැත්වීම, පාඨක සමීක්ෂණ පැවැත්වීම, පාඨක අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු, පුස්තකාල සඳහා වෘත්තීය උපදෙස් සැපයීම වැනි අංශ ගණනාවක් මගින් පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතියට හවුල්වුණි. දශක එකහමාරකට පමණ පසු මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය දෙස ඇපයු හැරී බැලීමේදී එය කරුණු කිහිපයක් නිසා වැදගත් වේ. මූලික වශයෙන් මහනුවර නියාමක පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරය අතිශයින් සාර්ථකවූ ව්‍යාපාරය විය. මෑතකදී ලංකාවේ පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳව දුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය කරන ලද සමීක්ෂණයකදී හෙළිවූයේ මහනුවර දිස්ත්‍රිකකය පුස්තකාල සේවා සැපයීම අතින් ලංකාවේ ප්‍රමුඛ තැනක් ගනු ලබන බවයි. මෙයට ප්‍රධාන හේතුව නියාමක ව්‍යාපෘතිය බවට සැකයක් නැත මෙහිදී දීර්ඝ කාලීන වශයෙන් වඩාත් වැදගත් ප්‍රතිඵලය ලෙස සැළකිය හැක්කේ මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය මගින් පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය ලැබූ අත්දැකීම් වේ. මණ්ඩලයේ පළමු විශාල ව්‍යාපෘතිය බැවින් මණ්ඩලයේ නිලධාරීන් විශාල උනන්දුවකින් හා කැපවීමකින් ව්‍යාපෘතියේ අභිවෘද්ධියට කටයුතු කරන ලදී. මේ නිසා මණ්ඩලය ලත් අත්දැකීම් පසු කාලයේ වඩාත් පුළුල් ව්‍යාපෘතීන් ඔහෙයවීමටත්, පුළුල් වශයෙන් මහජන හා පාසැල් පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන සේවා මෙහෙයවීමටත් හැකියාවක් ලැබුණි.

දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරය පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පසුගිය කාලය තුල දියත් කල තවත් පුළුල් වැඩ පිළිවෙලක වේ. **1981 වසරේ ආරම්භ කල මෙම වැඩ පිළිවෙලේ මූලික අභිලාෂය වූයේ පුස්තකාල සේවාව දිස්ත්‍රික් මට්ටමින් සංවිධානය කිරීම**[12] වේ. විශේෂයෙන්ම මහජන පාසැල් පිරිවෙන් වැනි පුස්තකාල හුදෙකලා ආයතන වශයෙන් පැවතීම පුස්තකාල සේවාවේ ප්‍රගතියට ඇති

ප්‍රධාන බාධාව බවට පිළිගෙන තිබුණි. මේ තත්වයට පිළියමක් වශයෙන් සෑම දිස්ත්‍රික්කයකම මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලයක් සංවිධානය කොට එම මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලයට එම දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ අනෙකුත් පුස්තකාල සම්බන්ධ කිරීම මෙම වැඩ පිළිවෙලේ ප්‍රධාන පරමාර්ථය විය. මේ මගින් දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ සියළුම පුස්තකාලවලට මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලය මගින් භාණ්ඩාගාරයක් සැපයීම, පොත් පිරුළු සේවාවන්, පොත් හුවමාරු සේවාවන්, ජංගම පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් වැනි දෑ මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලය කේන්ද්‍රකොට ගෙන සංවිධානය කරලීමත් අපේක්ෂා කරන ලදී. පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය විසින් පළාත් පැලහ, ආමාත්‍යාංශයේ සහාය ඇතිව ඒ ඒ දිස්ත්‍රික්කවල ප්‍රධාන මහජන පුස්තකාල අදුල දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල ලෙස භාවිතා ගන්නා ලදී. මෙම මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල සඳහා විශේෂ පුස්තකාල එකතුවන් සහ වෙනත් ආධාර පුස්තකාල මණ්ඩලය මගින් සැපයුණි. මීට අමතරව දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලයක කාර්යය භාරය පිළිබඳව පැහැදිලි කරලීමට සම්මන්ත්‍රණ සහ පුහුණු පාඨමාලාවන් ගණනාවක් දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් සඳහාද, අදුල දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල සම්බන්ධ පළාත් පාලන ආයතනවල ප්‍රධානීන් සඳහා විශේෂ සම්මන්ත්‍රණද පවත්වන ලදී.

මෙම දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරය ජාතික වශයෙන් පුස්තකාල සේවාව සැළසුම් කිරීමට ගනු ලැබූ ප්‍රථම ප්‍රයත්නය ලෙස සැළකිය හැක. මහනුවර නියාමක ව්‍යාපාරයෙන් ලැබූ අත්දැකීමද, වසර දහයකට අධික කාලයක් පුස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ කටයුතු කිරීමෙන් ලද අත්දැකීමද මෙම දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරයට උපයෝගී ගන්නා ලදී. කරුණු කිහිපයක් දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපාරය සම්පූර්ණයෙන් සාර්ථක වීමට බාධාවූ බව පෙනේ. දිස්ත්‍රික්කයක් වශයෙන් මේ අවදියේ හඳුනාගෙන තිබූ පාලන ඒකක ආයතනික වශයෙන් ශක්තිමත් හොවීම මූලික හේතුව ලෙස සැළකිය හැක. එසේම ප්‍රධාන දිස්ත්‍රික් පුස්තකාල පිහිටා තිබූ මහ නගර සභා, නගර සභා වැනි පළාත් පාලන ආයතන සහ අදුල දිස්ත්‍රික්කය අතර පරිපාලන වශයෙන් පැහැදිලි සබඳතාවයක් නොතිබීමද හැටළුවට තුඩු දුණි. නිදසුනක් ලෙස මහ නගර සභා හෝ නගර සභා ප්‍රදේශයට අයත් දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලයේ සිට දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ වෙනත් කුඩා පුස්තකාලයකට පොත්පත් සැපයීම පරිපාලනමය වශයෙන් හැටළු ඇති කරන්නක් විය. මෙබඳු හේතු ගණනාවක් මෙම ක්‍රමයේ දුර්වලතා ලෙස සැළකිය හැකි නමුදු එයින් ඇතිවූ සාර්ථකත්වයන් ගණනාවක්ද පෙන්විය හැක. මුලදී සඳහන් කල අන්දමට ජාතික මට්ටමේ සැළසුම් සහගත පුස්තකාල සේවාවක් පිළිබඳ අදහස් මුල් වරට ඉදිරිපත් වූයේ දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල ක්‍රමය මගිනි. පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් තම පුස්තකාලයට සීමා නොවී ප්‍රාදේශීය මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් ගැන ප්‍රථම වරට අවධානය යොමු කරන ලදී. බොහෝ මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල අදුල දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ කුඩා පුස්තකාලවලට පොත්පත් සැපයීම කුඩා පුස්තකාලවල පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් පුහුණු කරවීට, ඔවුන්ට අවශ්‍ය වෘත්තීය උපදෙස් සැපයීම වැනි අංශ යටතේ පුළුල් සේවාවන් කරන ලදී.

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ **මහජන පුස්තකාල සඳහා ව්‍යවස්ථාවන්සම්පාදනය කිරීම** ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය ජාතික වශයෙන් පුස්තකාල සේවය සැළසුම් කිරීමේ ලා ඉටු කරන ලද තවත් පුළුල් ව්‍යාපෘතිය වේ. දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල සේවාවේ පැවති දුබලතා ගණනාවක් ඉවත්කරලීම මහජන පුස්තකාල ව්‍යවස්ථා සම්පාදන ව්‍යාපෘතියේ පරමාර්ථය විය. **1986 වසරේ මේ සඳහා විශේෂ කමිටුවක් පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පත් කරන ලද අතර**[13] එම කමිටුවේ වාර්තාව 1987 වසරේ නිකුත් කරන ලදී. මෙම කමිටු වාර්තාවේ ප්‍රධාන යෝජනාවන් මෙසේය.

1. මාජන පුස්තකාල සේවාව පළාත් පාලන සේවාවේ අත්‍යාවශ්‍ය සේවාවක් ලෙස සැලකීම.
2. මහජන පුස්තකාලවල අභිවෘද්ධිය සඳහා කටයුතු කිරීමට පළාත් පාලන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව සම්බන්ධ කොට මහජන පුස්තකාල ඒකකයක් පිහිටුවීම.
3. සෑම වර්ගයකම පළාත් පාලන ආයතනයට සම්බන්ධ කොට මහජන පුස්තකාල කමිටු පිහිටුවීම.
4. මහජන පුස්තකාල සඳහා ස්ථීර ලෙස වාර්ෂික මූල්‍ය සම්පාදනය.
5. මහජන පුස්තකාල සඳහා වැයවන ප්‍රාග්ධන වැයවලින් 50% ක් මධ්‍යම ආණ්ඩුව මඟින් දැරීම.
6. මහජන පුස්තකාල සඳහා ප්‍රමිතීන් හඳුන්වාදීම.

මෙම ප්‍රධාන යෝජනා වලට අමතරව මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවාවේ වර්ධනය සඳහා තවත් යෝජනා ගණනාවක් මෙම කමිටු නිර්දේශ වලට ඇතුළත් විය. මේ දක්වා මහජන පුස්තකාල, සේවාවේ පැවති ප්‍රධාන දුබලතා ගණනාවකට පිළියම් මෙම යෝජනාවල ඇතුළත් විය. මෙම යෝජනා පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය විසින් අනුමත කොට මධ්‍යම රජයට ඉදිරිපත් කරන අවදිය වන විට මුඵ මහත් පාලන ක්ෂේත්‍රයේම විශාල විපර්යාසයක් ඇති වෙමින් තිබුණි. ප්‍රාදේශීය වශයෙන් බලතල විමධ්‍යගත කිරීම, හා පළාත් සභා ක්‍රමය හඳුන්වාදීමේ මූලික කටයුතු අරඹා තිබීම මෙහිදී කැපී පෙනුන විශේෂ ලක්ෂණ විය. මේ අන්දමට නව පුස්තකාල ව්‍යවස්ථා සේන්ද්‍රගත කොට තිබූ පළාත් පාලන අමාත්‍යාංශය, පළාත් පාලන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව සහ පළාත පාලන අධිකාරී ඇයතන ගණනාවක් අහෝසි කොට පළාත් සභා ක්‍රමය හඳුන්වාදීම ආරම්භ කර තිබුණි. මේ අන්දමට විශාල අපේක්ෂාව මැද කාලයක් තිස්සේ සැලසුම් කොට සකස් කරන ලද මහජන පුස්තකාල ව්‍යවස්ථා වැර්තාව අවාසනා වකට මෙන් කලඵළි දුටුවේ වැරදි අවස්ථාවක බව පෙනුණි. බලාපොරොත්තු විය යුතු ලෙස මෙබඳු පරිවර්තන කාලයකදී මෙම යෝජනා සම්බන්ධයෙන් පියවර ගැනීමට මධ්‍යම රජයට අවස්ථාවක් නොතිබුණි. පළාත් පාලන කටයුතු සම්බන්ධව ප්‍රධාන බලතල පළාත් සභා නම් නව ආයතන යටතේ විමධ්‍යගත කරන ලදී. මේ නිසා මහජන පුස්තකාල සහ ඒ හා සම්බන්ධ කටයුතු සියල්ලම ඒ ඒ පළාත් සභාවේ කාර්යයන් බවට පත් විය.

1989 වසරේ මණ්ඩලය දියත් කල **පළාත් සභා පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන ව්‍යාපාරය** ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේව. වක් සැළසුම් කිරීමේ නවතම පියවර ලෙස හැඳින්විය හැක. මුලදී සඳහන් කල අන්දමට පළාත් සභා ක්‍රමය යටතේ දිවයිනේ පරිපාලන රටාව සම්පූර්ණ වෙනසකට භාජනය වී තිබුණි. මේ නව තත්වය යටතේ පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන කටයුතු පිළිබඳව නව දෘෂ්ටි කෝණයකින් බැලීමේ අවශ්‍යතාවය ඇතිවිය. **පළාත් සභා පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන සැලැස්ම**[14] පිළියෙල කරන ලද්දේ මෙම නව තත්වයන්ට මුහුණ දීමේ ප්‍රයත්නයක් වශයෙනි. මෙම පළාත් සභා පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන සැලැස්ම යටතේ සෑම පළාතක්ම එක් පරිපාලන ඒකකයක් වශයෙන් සලකා ගන්නා ලදී. ඒ අනුව පහත සඳහන් මූලික ලක්ෂණ වලින් මෙම සැලැස්ම සමන්විත විය.

1 සෑම පළාත් සභාවක්ම සම්බන්ධ කොට පුස්තකාල කටයුතු පිළිබඳ මධ්‍යම අධිකාරියක් පිහිටුවීම. (මෙය ප්‍රාදේශීය පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය හෝ වෙනත් නමකින් හැඳින්විය හැක)

2. සෑම පළාත් සභා බල ප්‍රදේශයකම ප්‍රධාන ප්‍රාදේශීය පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටුවීම. මෙම මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලය ජාතික මට්ටමෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ඉටු කරන කටයුතු ප්‍රාදේශීය මට්ටමින් ඉටු කල යුතුය.

3. සෑම පළාතකම දිස්ත්‍රික්ක කිහිපයකින් සමන්විත වන අතර, මෙම සෑම දිස්ත්‍රික්කයකම දිස්ත්‍රික් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලයක් පිහිටුවීම. මෙම දිස්ත්‍රික මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලය අදාල දිසත්‍රික්කයේ ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාලය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම.

4. පළාත් සභාව මගින් අදාල පළාතේ පුස්තකාල සඳහා පැහැදිලි පුස්තකාල ව්‍යවස්ථා මාලාවක් පැනවීම. මෙහිදී පුස්තකාල සඳහා වාර්ෂික මුදල් ප්‍රතිපාදන, පුස්තකාල ප්‍රතිති, පුස්තකාල නීතිරීති, අනතුරු පුස්තකාල පිරිළු සේවා පිළිබඳ කටයුතු, පුස්තකාලාධිපති තීන්ගේ වෘත්තීය සුදුසුකම්, පුස්තකාල ශ්‍රේණි ගැසීම ආදී සියල්ලම ඇතුළත් වේ.

5. පහළ මට්ටමේ ඇති පුස්තකාල දිස්ත්‍රික් පුස්තකාලවලටත්, දිස්ත්‍රික් පුස්තකාල ප්‍රාදේශීය මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලයටත් සම්බන්ධවීම.

6. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පළාත් සභා පුස්තකාල අධිකාරිය සහ ප්‍රාදේශීය මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාලය වෙත පළාතේ පුස්තකාල කටයුතු පිළිබඳව උපදෙස් දෙන ප්‍රධාන ආයතනය වීම.

මෙම සැලැස්ම යටතේ පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පළාත් සභා පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන නියාමක ව්‍යාපෘතියක් 1989 වසරේ අග භාගයේදී උඹව පළාතේ ආරම්භ කරන ලදී. මේ පිළිබඳව උඹව පළාත් සභාව සමග යාකච්ඡා වාර ගණනාවක් පවත්වා ඇති අතර, දැනට මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීම සඳහා පළාත් සභාවේ ගරු අධ්‍යාපන ඇමතිතුමාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් කමිටුවක්ද පත් කර තිබේ. උඹව පළාතේ නියාමක ව්‍යාපාරයේ සාර්ථකත්වය අනුව අනිකුත් පළාත් සභා ප්‍රදේශ වලටද මෙම පුස්තකාල සැලැස්ම හඳුන්වාදීමට මණ්ඩලය බලාපොරොත්තු වේ.

ජාතික මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාල සේවා සංවර්ධනය කිරීමේ අරමුණින් පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පසුගිය වසර ගණනාව තුල විශේෂයෙන්ම මහජන, පාසැල්, පිරිවෙන් සහ කාර්මික පුස්තකාල, වර්ධනයට විශාල වශයෙන් ආධාර දී තිබේ. සාමාන්‍යයෙන් වාර්ෂිකව රුපියල් දශ ලක්ෂ තුනක පමණ පොත් මෙම් පුස්තකාල සඳහා නොමිලේ සැපයීම හෝ සඳහා මිලකට අලෙවි කිරීම මණ්ඩලය මගින් කරනු ලැබේ. ඊට අමතරව වාර්ෂිකව රුපියල් දශ ලක්ෂ 1.5 ක පමණ පුස්තකාල ලී බඩු, උපකරණ තෝරා ගත් පුස්තකාල අතර බෙදා හරිනු ලැබේ. 1984 වසරේ අධ්‍යාපන සේවා අමාත්‍යාංශය සමග සහයෝගයෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය ආරම්භ කල **ස්වේච්ඡා පාසැල් පුස්තකාල ඉදිකිරීමේ ව්‍යාපෘතිය** මෙහිදී විශේෂයෙන් වැදගත් වේ. මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය යටතේ පාසැල් පුස්තකාල ඉදිකිරීම අදාල පාසැලේ ගුරු දෙගුරු සමිතිය, ආදී ශිෂ්‍ය සමිතිය, හෝ වෙනත් ස්වේච්ඡා සංවිධානයක් මගින් ඉටු කරනු ලැබේ. මේ සඳහා රු. 10,000 ක මූලික මූල්‍ය ආධාරයක් අධ්‍යාපන සේවා අමාත්‍යාංශයෙන් සැපයෙන අතර, අදාල පාසැල් පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලි සැලසුම් අමාත්‍යාංශය මගින් සපයන ලදී. කුඩා, මධ්‍යම සහ විශාල වශයෙන් ප්‍රධාන පරිමාණ තුනකට පාසැල් පුස්තකාල සැලසුම් සපයන ලද අතර, ඒ ඒ පාසැල්වල හැකියාව අනුව අදාල පුස්තකාල ප්‍රමාණයන් තෝරා ගන්නා ලදී. පුස්තකාලයේ ගොඩනැගිලි වැඩ අවසන්වූ පසු පුස්තකාලය සඳහා වූ ලිඛිත සැපයීමේ සහ පොත්පත් සැපයීමේ වගකීම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය දරණ ලදී. මෙය ඉතාමත් සාර්ථක ව්‍යාපෘතියක්වූ අතර, මේ යටතේ හාව පාසැල් පුස්තකාල විශාල ප්‍රමාණයක් දිවයින පුරා පිහිටුවන ලදී.

පාසැල් පුස්තකාල සඳහා ප්‍රමිතීන් සකස් කිරීම ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය මෙම ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ ඉටු කල තවත් ප්‍රධාන කාර්යයකි. දිවයින පුරා පාසැල් 120 ක් ස්ථාපිත කිරීමට 1989 වසරේ අධ්‍යාපන අමාත්‍යාංශය පියවර ගන්නා ලදී. මෙම පාසැල්වල පුස්තකාල සඳහා මණ්ඩලය මගින් සකස් කරන ලද ප්‍රමිතීන් අමාත්‍යාංශය පිළිගන්නා ලදී. සෑම පාසැල් ශිෂ්‍යයෙකු සඳහාම වාර්ෂිකව පුස්තකාලය සඳහා ස්ථිර මුදලක් වෙන් කරලීම පාසැලේ ශිෂ්‍ය ප්‍රමාණය අනුව පාසැල් පුස්තකාලයේ ඉඩ ප්‍රමාණය නිර්ණය වීම, පළමු ශ්‍රේණියේ පාසැල් සඳහා පළමු ශ්‍රේණියේ පූර්ණකාලීන පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් පත් කිරීම වැනි අංග රාශියක් මේ යටතේ ප්‍රමිතීන් වශයෙන් දක්වා ඇත.

පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන්ගේ **වෘත්තීය අධ්‍යාපන** කටයුතු පිළිබඳ පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය මූල පටන්ම උනන්දුවක් දක්වන ලදී. මේ අනුව පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන්ගේ වෘත්තීය දැනුම වර්ධනය කිරීම සඳහා පාඨමාලා, වැඩමුළු, සම්මන්ත්‍රණ, සේවස්ථ පුහුණු පාඨමාලා පැවැත්වීම පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය පසුගිය දශක දෙක තුල නිරතුරුවම ඉටු කරන ලදී. සාමාන්‍යයෙන් වාර්ෂිකව පාසැල්, මහජන සහ පිරිවෙන් පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් සඳහා පාඨමාලා 12 සිට 15 දක්වා ප්‍රමාණයක් මණ්ඩලය විසින් සංවිධානය කරන ලදී. ඇතැම් පාඨමාලා අඟුනුවරත්, බොහෝ පාඨමාලාවන් ප්‍රාදේශීය වශයෙන්ද පැවැත්වේ. දුරස්ථ ප්‍රදේශවල සේවය කරනු ලබන පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා පුහුණුවක් නොමැති පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් පුහුණු කිරීම සඳහා පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා තැපැල් මාර්ගික පාඨමාලාවක් මණ්ඩලය විසින් පවත්වනු ලැබේ. මේ යටතේ දුරස්ථ ප්‍රදේශවල සේවය කල පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් විශාල ප්‍රමාණයක් පුහුණුකොට වෘත්තීයමය සහතිකපත් ප්‍රදානය කොට ඇත. වෘත්තීය අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු නිසා සිටුවීම සඳහා පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය වරින්වර විදේශීය පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා විශේෂඥවරුන්ගේ සහායද ලබා ගෙන ඇත. **1984 වසරේ පැමිණි පුස්තකාල උපදේශිකා ඇන් අරවින් මහත්මිය මණ්ඩලයේ ඉල්ලීම මත දිවයිනේ පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු පිළිබඳව සම්පූර්ණ අගැයීමක් කර**

වාර්තාවක්[15] නිකුත් කරන ලදී. මෙම වාර්තාව මණ්ඩලය විසින් මුද්‍රණය කොට සියළු පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා අධ්‍යාපන ආයතන වෙත සහ වෘත්තීය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් වෙත බෙදා හැර ඇත. මීට අමතරව පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා ගුරුවරුන් පුහුණු කිරීම සඳහා මණ්ඩලය විසින් වරින් වර සම්මන්ත්‍රණ සහ පාඨමාලාද පවත්වනු ලැබේ.

කැළණිය විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ උපාධි මට්ටමින් සහ පශ්චාත් උපාධි මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා පාඨමාලා ආරම්භ කිරීමේලා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය මූලිකත්වය ගෙන කටයුතු කර ඇත. 1963 – 65 කාලයේ පේරාදෙණිය ශ්‍රී ලංකා විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ පැවති පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා පශ්චාත් උපාධි පාඨමාලාව සහ 1976 – 70 කාලයේ පේරාදෙණිය සහ දකුණු ඇමරිකා විශ්ව විද්‍යාලවල පැවති පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා ඩිප්ලෝමා පාඨමාලා මගින් දේශීය පුස්තකාල ක්ෂෙත්‍රයේ, වෘත්තීය තනතුරු වලට අවශ්‍ය පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන් ගණනාවක් පුහුණු කරන ලදී. එක් දහස් නවසිය හැත්තෑව දශකයේ ආරම්භය වන විට මෙම පාඨමාලාවන් අභාවයට ගොස් තිබූ අතර, පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා ක්ෂෙත්‍රයේ උසස් දේශීය වෘත්තීය පාඨමාලාවල අවශ්‍යතාවය තදන් දැනෙමින් පැවතුණි. එසේම මේ අවදියේ කලා හා සමාජ විද්‍යා උපාධිධාරීන් විශාල ප්‍රමාණයක රැකියා හිඟයෙන් පෙළීම නිසා රැකියා ඉලක්ක කර ගත් පාඨමාලා විශ්ව විද්‍යාලවලට හඳුන්වා දීමට රජය සහ විශ්ව විද්‍යාල බලධාරීන් විශේෂ උනන්දුවක් දරණු ලදී. මෙම දැනුම්දීම යටතේ පුස්තකාල විද්‍යාව උපාධි මට්ටමින් සහ පශ්චාත් උපාධි මට්ටමින් විශ්ව විද්‍යාලවල ඉගැන්විය යුතු බවට ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය රජයට යෝජනා කරන ලදී. මෙම යෝජනාවට මුලදී එතරම් හොඳ ප්‍රතිචාරයක් නොලැබුණි. මේ අත්දැමට පුහුණුවක ලබන පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා උපාධිධාරීන්ට රට තුල රැකියා අවස්ථා ඇති බව සනාථ කිරීමට විවිධාකාර සංඛ්‍යා ලේඛණ හා වාර්තා ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමට පුස්තකාල සෙවා මණ්ඩලයට සිදු විය. පුස්තකාල විද්‍යාව රැකියා අවස්ථා ඇති විශ්ව විද්‍යාලවලට ඔබින විෂයයක් බව බලධාරීන්ට ඒත්තු ගැන්වීමට පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයට හැකිවීමේ ප්‍රතිඵලයක් වශයෙන් 1972 වසරේදී මේ පිළිබඳව සොයා බැලීමට ශ්‍රී ලංකා විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ උප කුලපතිවරයා විසින් විශේෂ කමිටුවක පත් කරන ලදී. පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ අධ්‍යක්ෂවරයාද එවකට පැවති විශ්ව විද්‍යාලවල පුස්තකාලයාධිපති වරුද මෙම කමිටුවේ සාමාජිකයන් වූහ. මෙම කමිටුවේ නිර්දේශ අනුව 1974 වසරේ කැළණිය විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා අධ්‍යාපන අංශයක් ජනිටුවා උපාධි හා පශ්චාත් උපාධි මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාල විද්‍යාව ඉගැන්වීම ආරම්භ කරන ලදී.

පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන්ගේ වෘත්තීයමය දියුණුව සඳහා මණ්ඩලය විවිධ පියවරයන් ගෙන ඇත. මහජන පාසැල් සහ රජයේ දෙපාර්තමේන්තු පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් සඳහා නව වැටුප් ක්‍රම ලබා දීමත් ඔවුන්ගේ වෘත්තීයමය තත්වය තහවුරු කර ලීමත් මෑතකදී ගනු ලැබූ පියවරයන් විශේෂයෙන්ම සඳහන් කල යුතුය. මහජන පාසැල් සහ රජයේ දෙපාර්තමේන්තු පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් මුළු පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන්ගේ සංඛ්‍යාවෙන් 80% ක් පමණ වේ. මේ තාක් මේ අය ලිපිකාර වෘත්තීන් හා සමානව සැලකුණු අතර ඔවුන්ගේ වැටුප් උසස්වීම් සහ අනෙකුත් වරප්‍රසාද ලිපිකාර ශ්‍රේණි හා සමාන විය. මේ පිළිබඳව පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය 1988 වසරේ වැටුප් හා සේවක සංඛ්‍යා කමිටුව වෙත කරුණු ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමේ ප්‍රතිඵල යක් වශයෙන් මෙම තත්වය වෙනස් කරන ලදී. මේ අනුව මෙම පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් දැනට අධ්‍යාපන ශ්‍රේණිවල නිලධාරීන් හා සමාන තත්වයේලා වෘත්තීයමය වශයෙන් සලකනු ලබන අතර ඒ අනුව වැටුප් ගෙවීමද සිදුවේ.

ප්‍රකාශන ආධාර ව්‍යාපෘතිය පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ තවත් සාර්ථක ව්‍යාපෘතියකි. 1983 වසරේ ආරම්භ කල මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය මගින් රට තුල ග්‍රන්ථ ප්‍රකාශනයට මණ්ඩලය විශාල ලෙස සම්බන්ධ වී ඇත. ලේඛකයින් වෙතින් අත්පටපත් ලබා ගෙන උසස් තත්වයේ අත් පිටපත් තෝරා ඒවා ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීම සඳහා මණ්ඩලය මගින් මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය යටතේ මුදල් ආධාර සපයනු ලැබේ මේ ව්‍යාපෘතිය මගින් වාර්ෂිකව උසස් පොත් 100 කට අධික ප්‍රමාණයක් පල කරනු ලබන අතර මේ සඳහා මණ්ඩලය සපයන ආධාරය වාර්ෂිකව රුපියල් ලක්ෂ 25 ක් පමණ වේ. මේ දක්වා හය සියයකට ආසන්න ප්‍රමාණයක් පොත් පල කරන ලද අතර ලේඛකයින්ට සහ ප්‍රකාශකයින්ට රුපියල් දශ ලක්ෂ 15 ක පමණ මුදලක් ආධාර වශයෙන් ලබා දී ඇත.

කර්තෘ ප්‍රකාශන ආධාර ක්‍රමය යටතේ ඒ ඒ වර්ෂය තුල රට තුල ප්‍රකාශයට පත්වන ප්‍රකාශන වලින් පිටපත් සංඛ්‍යාවක් මිලට ගැනීමෙන් පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය ලෙඛකයින්ට ආධාර කරනු ලැබේ.

සම්භාව්‍ය දේශීය සාහිත්‍ය කෘති සංස්කරණය කිරීම මෙම ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ මණ්ඩලයේ තවත් ව්‍යාපෘතියකි. පැරණි උසස් ග්‍රන්ථ මේ ව්‍යාපෘතිය යටතේ උගතුන් ලවා සංස්කරණය ව්‍යාපෘතියකි. පැරණි උසස් ග්‍රන්ථ මේ ව්‍යාපෘතිය යටතේ උගතුන් ලවා සංස්කරණය කොට පල කරවනු ලැබේ. දැනට පන්සිය පනස් ජාතකය, පූජාවලිය, මහාවංශය මේ අන්දමට මණ්ඩලය මගින් සංස්කරණය කර ඇති කෘතීන් වෙති.

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ අන්තර් ජාතික ප්‍රමිති ග්‍රන්ථ අංක ISBN නියෝජිත ආයතනය ලෙස පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය ඉටු කරන කාර්යයද මෙහිදී සඳහන් කල යුතුවේ. රට තුල ඉතාමත් සීඝ්‍රයෙන් ජනප්‍රිය වූ ISBN අංක ක්‍රමය ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට සාර්ථකව හඳුන්වාදීම පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ ජයග්‍රහණයකි. දැනට දේශීය ප්‍රකාශන වලින් 80% කට අධික ප්‍රමාණයක් අංක භාවිතා කරනු ලැබේ. අදාල අංකය සමග ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක තොරතුරු සහ ප්‍රමිතීන්ද ප්‍රකාශකයින් වෙත සැපයෙන බැවින් දේශීය පොත්පත්වල සැලසුම් සහ ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක තොරතුරු උසස් මට්ටමක පවත්වා ගෙන යාමට පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය සමතවී තිබේ. එසේම ISBN අංකය සටහන්වූ සෑම පොතකින්ම පිටපතක් මණ්ඩලයේ තැන්පත් කෙරෙන බැවින් රට තුල වඩාත් සාර්ථක ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක තොරතුරු පාලනයක් කරලීමට මණ්ඩලයට හැකිවී තිබේ.

මේ දක්වා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය විසින් ඉටු කර ඇති පුස්තකාල සේවා සැලසුම් කරලීමේ හා වර්ධනය කරලීමේ කාර්යයන් සාකච්ඡා කරන ලදි. පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය මගින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවීමේලා හා ජාතික පුස්තකාල කාර්යයන් ආරම්භ කිරීමේලා ගනු ලැබූ පියවරයන් සංක්ෂිප්තව මෙතැන් සිට සාකච්ඡා කෙරේ.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල තැනවීම මේ අවදියේ පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය විසින් ඉටු කරන ලද ප්‍රධාන කාර්යයක් වේ. 1973 වසරේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා අවශ්‍ය ගොඩනැගිලි සැලසුම් කරන ලදී. මුල් සැලසුම අනුව ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා කුඩා දෙමහල් ගොඩනැගිල්ලක් සැලසුම් කර තිබුණි. එම සැලසුම එතරම් සාර්ථක නොවූ නිසා මෙහිදී මණ්ඩලය යුනෙස්කෝ ආයතනයෙන් ආධාර ඉල්ලා සිටීමේ ප්‍රතිඵලයක් වශයෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල සැලසුම් කරලීම සඳහා උපදේශකවරයෙකුගේ සේවය ලබා දෙන ලදී. 1974 වර්ෂයේ යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශකවරයෙකු ලෙස ලංකාවට පැමිණි ගෘහනිර්මාණ ශිල්පී මහාචාර්ය මයිකල් බ්‍රෝන් වර්තමාන ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සැලසුම් කරන ලදී. මෙම කාර්යය සඳහා 1974 වසරේ සිට 1982 දක්වා වරින් වර ලංකාවට පැමිණි **මහාචාර්ය බ්‍රෝන් මෙයට අදාලව වාර්තාවන් පහක්**[16] ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලදී. මෙම වාර්තාවල ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ මූලික සැලැස්මේ සිට එහි ලීබඩු දක්වා විවිධ අංක ඇතුළත්ව ඇත. මෙම ගොඩනැගිලි සැලසුම් කිරීමේදී එවකට ගොඩනැගිලි දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ ප්‍රධාන ගෘහ නිර්මාණ ශිල්පී වශයෙන් සේවය කල පානි තෙන්නකෝන් මහතා ප්‍රධාන දේශීය ගෘහනිර්මාණ ශිල්පීන්ද යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශකවරයාට සහාය වී ඇත.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සැලසුම් කිරීමට පෙර දේශීය ගෘහනිර්මාණ ශිල්පය පිළිබඳ හදැරීමට මහාචාර්ය මයිකල් බ්‍රෝන් දිවයින පුරා සංචාරය කරන ලදි. එහිදී ඔහුට හමුවූ පාදෙණියේ පුරාණ රජමහා විහාරයේ වහලයේ සැලැස්ම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ වහල නිර්මාණය කරලීමට විශාල ලෙස බලපා ඇත. බිම සිට අතු පතර විහිද යන ගසක් මෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල සැලසුම් කර ඇති නිසා බිම්මහලට වඩා පළමු මහලත්, පළමු මහලට වඩා දෙවන මහලත් පුළුල් ලෙස නිර්මාණය කර ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල සඳහා සම්පූර්ණ වැය ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජය විසින් දරණ ලද අතර, ගොඩනැගිලි කටයුතු නිම කිරීමට වසර 12 ක පමණ කාලයක් ගත විය. රුපියල්

දස ලක්ෂ 50 ක පමණ වියදමකින් තැනුණු ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ බිම් මහල ඇතුළුව ප්‍රධාන මහල් පහක් ඇත. පුස්තකාලයේ මුළු බිම් ප්‍රමාණය චර්ග අඩි එක් ලක්ෂ විසි පන් දහසකි. පාඨකයන් 320 දෙනෙකුට පහසුකම් ඇති ප්‍රධාන කියවීම් කාමර 03 ක් මහල් තුනෙහි පිහිටා ඇත. මීට අමතරව විශේෂ කියවීම් කාමර ගණනාවක්ද ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලයෙහි පොත්පත් හා වෙනත් පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය පුස්තකාලය මධ්‍යයෙහි ඇති වායු සමීකරණය කරන ලද විශේෂ ප්‍රදේශයක තැන්පත් කර ඇත. ආරම්භයේ පොත් පත් ලක්ෂයක් තැන්පත් කරලීමට පහසුකම් ඇති අතර, පසුව එය පොත් දස ලක්ෂය දක්වා ව්‍යාප්ත කරලීමට ඉඩ පහසුකම් ඇත. ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාලයට සම්බන්ධ ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ උතුරු කොටසේ ඇති මහල් තුනකින් සමන්විත විශේෂ අංශය මණ්ඩලයේ පරිපාලන කටයුතු වලටි සහ වෙනත් විශේෂ කටයුතු වලට යොදා ගනු ලැබේ. දැනට මෙයින් මහල් දෙකක වෙනත් බාහිර ආයතන සඳහා පහසුකම් සලසා ඇත. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිලලේ ඇති විශේෂ අංශ අතර ආසන 120 ක් සහිත වායු සමීකරණය කල ශ්‍රවණාගාරයත්, ආසන 70 ක් සහිත වායු සමීකරණය කල සම්මන්ත්‍රණ ශාලාවත්, එක් කාමරයක ඇසන 20 ක් සහිත දේශන ශාලා දෙකත් විශේෂයෙන් සඳහන් කල හැක.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා ප්‍රකාශන ලබා ගැනීමේ කාර්යය 1976 වසරේදී පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය තැන්පතු පුස්තකාලයක් වීම සමගම ඇරඹුණි. පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය සඳහා ස්ථාවර ඉඩ පහසුකම් නොමැතිවීමත්, වරින්වර කාර්යාලය මාරුකිරීමට සිදුවීම නිසාත් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා පුළුල් ලෙස ප්‍රකාශන රැස්කිරීම් ආරම්භ කරන ලද්දේ 1985 වසරේ පටන්වේ. දැනට ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල එකතුව පහත සඳහන් පුස්තකාල එකතුන්ගෙන් සමන්විත වේ.

ප්‍රධාන විමර්ශන ග්‍රන්ථ එකතුව
පුවත්පත් එකතුව
වාර සහරා එකතුව
ප්‍රධාන ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රකාශන එකතුව
නිත්‍යානුකූල තැන්පතු එකතුව
විදේශීය ග්‍රන්ථ එකතුව
සිකියම් එකතුව
යුනෙස්කෝ ප්‍රකාශන එකතුව
පුස්තකාල හා විඥාපන විද්‍යා එකතුව
දුර්ලභ හා විශේෂ එකතුන්
ජන සාහිත්‍ය එකතුව

මෙම එකතුන් වර්ධනය කරලීම හා ව්‍යාප්ත කරලීම ඉදිරි දශකය තුල ජාතික පුස්තකාලය මුහුණ දෙන ප්‍රධාන අභියෝගය වේ.

ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය කරලීම 1973 වසරේ අග භාගයේ ජාතික ලේඛණාරක්ෂක දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවෙන් ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය දැක පවරා ගන්නා ලදී. එතැන් සිට මේ දක්වා කාලීන ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය නොකඩවා මණ්ඩලය මගින් ප්‍රකාශනය කරනු ලැබේ. ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය ප්‍රමාදවී ප්‍රකාශනය වීම, තැන්පතු ක්‍රමය යටතේ ලැබෙන ප්‍රකාශන පමණක් මේ සඳහා යොදා ගෙන ඇති බැවින් කාලීන ප්‍රකාශන මුළුමනින්ම ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය මගින් ආවරණය නොවීම, බෙදා හැරීම සීමිතව සිදුවීම, නව තාක්ෂණය යොදා නොගැනීම නිසා දැනට ඇති අවාසි මේ අංශයේ දැක්නට ලැබෙන ප්‍රධාන දුර්වලතාවයන් වේ. පූර්වකාලීන ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පාදනය කිරීම ආරම්භ නොකිරීම මේ අංශයේ පැවති තවත් ප්‍රධාන දුර්වලතාවයක් විය. 1962 – 1885 අවදිය ආවරණය කෙරෙන පූර්වකාලීන ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සැකසීම 1990 වසරේ ආරම්භ කරන ලදී. ඉදිරි වසර කිහිපය තුල පූර්වකාලීන ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය සම්පූර්ණ කිරීමට මණ්ඩලය සැලසුම් කර ඇත.

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සමාජ විද්‍යා ප්‍රලේඛණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කරමින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය **දේශීය ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීම** අරඹා ඇත. දැනට විඥාපන හා තාක්ෂණ, කෘෂිකර්ම වැනි විවිධ විෂය ක්ෂේත්‍ර යටතේ ඇති පුස්තකාල ජාල පවත්වා ගෙන යාමට හැකි සෑම ආකාරයක්ම අදුල ආයතනවලට සැපයීමට පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය බලාපොරොත්තු වේ. මෙම පවත්නා පුස්තකාල ජාල ශක්තිමත් කිරීමත්, ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවා අරඹා නොමැති විෂය ක්ෂේත්‍රවල නව පුස්තකාල ජාල ඇරඹීමට අනුබල දීමත්, සමාජ විද්‍යා ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ ග්‍රන්ථ විඥාපන සේවා උසස් අනුදමින් පවත්වා ගෙන යාමත්, අනෙකුත් විෂය ක්ෂේත්‍රවල කටයුතු සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීමත් මේ ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ඉටු කිරීමට අදහස් කරපු ප්‍රධාන කාර්යයන් වේ. ප්‍රධාන දේශීය පුස්තකාල 10 ක් සමග සහයෝගයෙන් ඒකාබද්ධ සුචිය සම්පාදනය කරලීමේ කාර්යය පුස්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලය අරඹා ඇත. ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාල ගණනාවක ඇති සම්පත පිළිබඳ විවිධ තොරතුරු විවිධ ද්විතීය මූලාශ්‍ර මඟින් රැස්කර ගනිමින් පවතී. ඒ ආශ්‍රයෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය යොමු ගත කිරීමේ මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් සේ කටයුතු කිරීමටද බලාපොරොත්තු වේ.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා **විදේශීය ප්‍රකාශන එක්රැස් කිරීම** මැතකදී සිට වඩාත් පුළුල්කර ඇත. විශේෂයෙන්ම වෙනත් ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාලවලට ලබා ගැනීමට අපහසු, නමුත් අත්‍යාවශ්‍ය විදේශීය ප්‍රකාශන ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සඳහා ලබා ගැනීම මේ අංශයේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ප්‍රධාන ප්‍රතිපත්තිය වී ඇත.

ප්‍රකාශන හුවමාරු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ලෝකයේ ප්‍රධාන ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගණනාවක් සමග දැනටමත් හුවමාරු සේවා පවත්වා ගෙන යනු ලැබේ. මෙම කාර්යයන් වඩාත් පුළුල් කිරීමට සැලසුම් කර ඇත.

ජාතික මට්ටමින් පුස්තකාල සේවා සැලසුම් කිරීම හා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ලෙස ප්‍රධාන අංශ දෙකකට බෙදා සාකච්ඡා කරලීම මෙම විෂයයේදී එතරම් විද්‍යාත්මක නොවන බව මුලදී සඳහන් කළෙමි. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය හා ජාතික පුස්තකාල පද්ධතිය අතර ඉතාමත් සමීප සබඳතාවයක් තිබිය යුතු යැයි මම විශ්වාස කරමි. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පර්යේෂණ පුස්තකාලයක් ලෙස ඉහළ මට්ටමේ සීමිත පාඨක පිරිසකට පමණක් සේවය කරන අති විශේෂ පුස්තකාලයක් ලෙස සැළකීම ජාතික පුස්තකාලයක මූලික අර්ථයන් හා නොගැලපේ. කුමන පුස්තකාලයක සේවය කලත් අපගේ මූලික අභිලාෂය විය යුත්තේ ජාතියේ යහපත තකා, ජාතික සංවර්ධනය උදෙසා ජනතා වට, ආයතනවලට අවශ්‍ය තොරතුරු හා දැනුම සැපයීම වේ. ජාතික පුස්තකාලය දිවයිනේ උසස්ම පුස්තකාලය ලෙස කටයුතු කරන අතරම, මහජන පාසැල්, විශේෂ, පිරිවෙන් විශ්ව විද්‍යාල වැනි විවිධ පුස්තකාල ඔස්සේ එම පුස්තකාල ශක්තිමත් කරමින් ඒ ඒ පාඨක ජනතාව වෙත ලභාවීමට ප්‍රයත්න දැරිය යුතුවේ.

අපේ පැරණි සභාත්වයේ පදනම වූ වැව සහ ඒ වටා ඇති වාරිමාර්ග රටාව ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවාවට යම්සේ සමාන වන බව පෙනේ. වැව් ක්‍රමයේ ප්‍රධාන අරමුණ මුළු ප්‍රදේශයේම කුඹුරු සඳහා ජලය සැපයීම වේ. මේ සඳහා ප්‍රධාන වැවට අමතරව කුඩා වැව් පද්ධතියක්ද ඇල මාර්ග පද්ධතියක්ද පැවතුනි. ප්‍රධාන වැව මඟින් කුඹුරුවලට සෘජුවම ජලය සැපයීමක්, අනෙකුත් කුඩා වැව්වලට ජලය සපයා එම වැව් මඟින් කුඹුරුවලට ජලය සැපයීමත් යන දෙයාකාරයටම කටයුතු කරන ලදී. ජාතික පුස්තකාලයද සෘජුවම ඉටු කරන පාඨක සේවා මෙන්ම වෙනත් විවිධ පුස්තකාල ඔස්සේ පාඨකයින් වෙත සේවා සැපයීමද එකසේ වැදගත් වේ. **මුළු ශ්‍රී ලංකාවම සංශ්‍රීක කිරීමට අවශ්‍ය දැනුම නමැති ජලය සැපයීම ජාතික පුස්තකාල පද්ධතියේ මූලික මෙන්ම ඒකායන අරමුණ යුතු වේ.**

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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA
AN INTRODUCTION

By

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One can find three important periods in the development of the National Library of Sri Lanka; namely the 1870 to 1885 period, 1955 to 1970 period and 1970 to 1990 period.

1870 – 1885 Period

The year 1870 is important in the history of the National Library due to the setting up of a library at national level. This was known as the Government Oriental Library. The main purpose of this library was to collect and organise the Pali, Sanskrit and Sinhala manuscripts which were scattered through out the country.[1] This objective is similar to one of the main objectives of modern National Libraries; that is the "maintenance of a Central Collection of the nation's publications". This library lasted for only seven years but is considered the nucleus of the present National Library of Sri Lanka. In 1877 the Government Oriental Library was amalgamated with the National Museum Library.

Another important event in the history of the National Library is the establishment of the *National Museum library in* 1877. In 1885 the Museum Library became a "Deposit Library". During the past 113 years the Museum Library has been performing as Sri Lanka's de facto National Library.

The Printers and Publishers Ordinance of 1885[2] was another milestone in the development of the National Library of Sri Lanka. This Ordinance is the present Legal Deposit Law. According to this law all Sri Lankan publications should be registered in the National Archives and copies deposited in the National Archives, National Museum Library and the British Museum Library. This law was amended in 1951 to include the University of Ceylon Library and in 1976 to include the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board as Deposit Libraries. The introduction of the Legal Deposit Law to Sri Lanka as far back as 1885 is considered a special event in the development of National Library Services in Sri Lanka. Though the National Library of Sri Lanka will be inaugurated only in 1990, National Library Collections have been accumulating since 1885.

1955 – 1970 Period

A number of events important to the National Library of Sri Lanka took place during this period. Important among these are a number of commission reports published during the 1955 - 1960 period. The first of these is "*the Local Government Commission Report*"[3] published in 1955. The main objective of this commission was to reorganise the Local Government Services in Sri Lanka. As a part of its exercise the commission discussed the organisation of public libraries in the country and recommended that the Public Library Service should be linked with the National Library and the National Library Services.

The report of the commission on the Colombo Public Library in 1958[4] stressed the importance of setting up a National Library for the country. Mr. P. Kandiah a Librarian of repute was it's Commissioner. Chapter eight of the Commission report carries an analysis consisting of the functions to be undertaken by the National Library of Sri Lanka, possible sources of foreign aid for the library and the collections to be brought together to form the National Library. The report states that the collections of the Department of National Archives, Museum Library, Royal Asiatic Society (Sri Lanka Branch) Library and the Library of the Department of Archeology are necessary to form the nucleus of the National Library of Sri Lanka.

The *report of the Special Committee on Antiquities in* 1959[5] also stressed the need for setting up a National Library in the country. The purpose of setting up this committee was to investigate the activities of the Department of Archeology, Department of National Museums and the Department of Archives. The Chairmanship of the commission was held by Mr. R. L. Brohier. The Commission was provided with opportunities of travelling abroad to study new developments in this field, and studied the British Museum Library and the office of the British National Bibliography, among others. According to the commission report most of those who made representations felt that the Museum Library should form the nucleus of the Library. This suggestion was specially significant as it was made by a Commission appointed to look into the activities of the National Museum. The Commission also stressed the need for amalgamating the Books and Newspaper, Registration Division of the National Archives with the Bibliography Division of the proposed National Library. In order to implement these the commission suggested revising the Printers and Publishers Ordinance of 1885. The report also discussed in detail the National Library building and proposed setting up the National Library in close proximity to the National Museum and with facilities for 200 readers.

The Salary and Cadre Review Committee Report of 1961[6] also stressed the importance of setting up a National Library in Sri Lanka. This report recommended establishing a link between the National Library and Government Department Libraries. It suggested that department libraries could function as branch libraries of the proposed National, Library.

Mr. Harold Bonny, the UNESCO Library Advicer who visited the country in 1960. also stressed the importance of having a National Library.[7] Like his predecessors he also suggested the amalgamation of the National Museum Library, National Archives Library, Royal Asiatic Society Library and the Department of Archeology Library to form the National Library. In addition he also suggested the shifting of the National Archives from Nuwara-Eliya to Colombo and accommodating the National Library in this same building. The Book Collection of the National Archives was to be used as the nucelus of the National Library and these publications to be used in compiling the National Bibliography.

The period 1967 - 1970 is the most decisive period in the history of the National Library. *In the* 1967 *UNESCO Library Expert Meeting* [8] was held in Colombo Sri Lanka. A few months prior to this meeting *Miss E. J. Evans, UNESCO Library Adviser* came to Sri Lanka for a period of three years. She was responsible in preparing the necessary

ground work for the meeting.[9] A part of the report of the expert meeting was devoted to formulating a Library Plan for Sri Lanka. This plan suggests the creation of a National Library Services Board (NLSB) for Sri Lanka and spells out its' activities. The functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka, were also mentioned.

The plan given in this report comprises three parts; short term, medium term and long term. Activities under the short term were commencing a National Bibliography Services Centre with National Union Catalogue, maintaining the National Bibliography and planning the National Library building. The medium term plan included the construction of the National Library building, setting up the National Library Collection and compiling the Union List of Periodicals. The long term plan consisted of developing a first class Research Library for students and researchers, co-ordination of the Library Services in the country and Inter Library Loans both at national and international level.

During the three years of her stay in Sri Lanka Miss E. J. Evans was instrumental in implementing a number of these suggestions, especially the setting up of the National Library Services Board in 1970.

1970 – 1990 Period

The enactment of the *Ceylon National Library Services Board Act No.* 10 of 1970 [10] is an important landmark in the development of National Library Services in the country. According to the act the establishment and maintenance of the National Library of Sri Lanka is a responsiblity of the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board.

After the setting up of the National Library Board in 1970 priority was given to planning the National Library Services in the country. Accordingly a Pilot Project was carried out in the Kandy District during the 1972 - 1974 period. This project referred to as the *Kandy District Rural Library Development Project* was started with the assistance of UNESCO as an experiement of developing Libraries in rural areas.[11] Based on the success of this proect UNESCO planned to carry out similar Rural Library Development Projects in other Asian Countries. 22 school and 24 public Libraries were extensively developed by the SLNLSB under this.

The SLNLSB opened a branch in Kandy headed by an Assistant Director to supervise the project. These libraries were provided with books, furniture and equipment, plans for new buildings, book boxes on loan and training programmes for the librarians. The Board also carried out user surveys and user education activities. A recent survey carried out by the SLNLSB at district level on development of libraries showed that the Kandy district had the best library services in the country. This is attributed to the success of the above mentioned Pilot Project. The experience gained by the SLNLSB from the project, has helped it to carry out similar projects on a larger scale.

The *District Central Library Project of* 1981 is another major library development project carried out by the SLNLSB. This project was designed to develop library services on a district basis.[12] Under this, Central District Libraries were developed as Centres

of District Library Networks. According to the plan, all small libraries in each district were to be linked up with the Central District Library. This project was carried out in collaboration with the Department of Local Government. The SLNLSB identified District Libraries and provided assistance in the form of conducting training programmes for librarians at district level, special seminars for heads of the various Local Government authorities and providing books to Central Libraries as loan collections for small libraries. This is considered the first attempt to organise library services at national level. Among the factors which limited the success of the District Library Project was the fact that, district as an administrative unit was not very strong at that time and most of the District Central Libraries belonged to municipal councils, or town councils, which had no links with the rest of the district. This created administrative problems which affected both the Central Libraries and the Satellite Libraries which had to depend on them.

Formulation of public library legislation is another important project undertaken by the SLNLSB. A special committee was appointed for this task by the SLNLSB in 1986 and the report was submitted in 1987.[13] The main proposals of the report are as follows :

01. Public Library service to be considered a compulsory service in the local government administration. Hitherto this has been a permissive function.

02. To set up a separate public library unit in the Department of Local Government for the development of public library services.

03. To establish public library committees attached to all local government institutions.

04. Compulsory annual financial allocation for public libraries.

05. 50% of capital expenditure on public libraries to be borne by the central government.

06. Introduction of standards for public libraries.

In addition to the above, the report contained a number of other proposals to improve the country's public library service. These proposals were designed to rectify long standing deficiencies in Sri Lnaka's public library service. This report was accepted by the SLNLSB and forwarded to the Government. By this time the restructuring of the administrative system of the country was in motion and as a result the Ministry and, Department of Local Government and most of the local government authorities were abolished. The new system of Provincial Council Administration was set up during this period and the Central Government was not in a position to implement this report.

Provincial Council Library Development Project (1989) is the most recent library development project undertaken by the SLNLSB. The Provincial Council system, completely changed the administrative set up in the country. This necessitated viewing library development activities from a completely new angle. The Provincial Library

Development Project was launched by the SLNLSB to meet the requirements of this new situation.[14] Following are the main features of the project.

01. Creating a Central Library Authority attached to each Provircial Council. This could be termed the Provincial Library Development Board.

02. Setting up a Provincial Central Library in each province. This library should perform the duties at provincial level which the National Library is expected to perform at National Level.

03. Each province consists of a number of districts. Each of these districts should have a Central District Library.

04. Enactment of library legislation at provincial level is the responsibility of the Provincial Council Annual financial allocation for libraries, library standards, inter-library lending activities, professional qualifications of librarians and grading of libraries are to be determined by this library legislation.

05. Libraries at the lower level should be linked with district libraries and district libraries linked to the Provincial Central Library to form a network.

06. SLNLSB should be the professional advisory body to the Provincial Library Authorities and to the Provincial Central Libraries.

In order to implement the above, a Pilot Project was started in the Uva Province at the end of 1989. It is hoped that this will be extended to all the other provinces subsequently.

With the objective of developing libraries at national level the SLNLSB has in the past few years given assistance especially to public, school, pirivena and technical institution libraries in the country. The scheme enables the SLNLSB to provide books to the value of approximately rupees three million either free of charge or at concessionary rates and furniture to the value of Rs. 1.5 million to deserving libraries throughout the country annually. The SLNLSB also provides books and furniture to libraries built under the Voluntary School Library Building Project jointly carried out by the SLNLSB and the Ministry of Education. Under this project a large number of school libraries have been established throughout the country during the past few years.

Formulation of standards for grade one school libraries is another scheme carried out by the SLNLSB. This was introduced in 1989. Standards in respect of financial allocation to school libraries (calculated on the basis of Rupees per student) library space (based on the numb r of students) and the appointment of grade one school librarians were introduced by the SLNLSB.

Providing continuing professional education and training facilities to librarians has always been a task carried out by the SLNLSB. Accordingly the SLNLSB is involved in organising various types of training courses, workshops, seminars, in-service training programmes, etc., for the benefit of librarians. A correspondence course is available for librarians serving in remote areas. In order to upgrade Library Science Professional Education activities, services of foreign experts are sought periodically. For example in 1984 the services of Mrs. Ann Irving attached to the Loughborough University, United Kingdom was obtained for evaluation of the existing Library Education Courses in Sri Lanka with the assistance of the British Council. Her report [15] containing recommendations for better organisation of these courses was published and distributed among the educational institutions and library professionals in the country by the SLNLSB.

The SLNLSB took the initiative to establish the Graduate and Post Graduate level Library Science Courses at the University of Kelaniya in 1974. (Then the Vidyalankara Campus of University of Sri Lanka). Prior to this a Post Graduate Library Science Course was conducted by the University of Ceylon Peradeniya (1963-1965). Also Dehiwela and Palali Junior Universities conducted Diploma Courses in Library Science during the 1967-1970 period. Since no Library Science Courses were available at the beginning of the 1970's at higher level, the need to conduct a course at university level was explained by the SLNLSB to the Government. As a result the vice chancellor of the University of Sri Lanka appointed a committee to ascertain the feasibility of conducting a university level course. This committee consisted of Director, SLNLSB and Librarians of the campuses of the University of Sri Lanka. The committee report resulted in setting up a Department of Library Science at the Kelaniya University in 1974.

In 1989 the SLNLSB was instrumental in upgrading the status of Public and, Department Librarians by persuading the Government to recognise them as professionals. Hitherto these categories of librarians were treated on par with clerical grades. Presently they have been equated with the educational services and their salaries and professional status have been uplifted.

The Book Development Project is another important project of the SLNLSB. Under this project assistance is provided for publishing 100 manuscripts selected by the SLNLSB annually. The financial allocation is Rs. 2.5 million per year. From 1983 to date nearly 600 new books have been published under this scheme.

Under the Author Publisher Assistance Scheme the SLNLSB assists authors, publishers by purchasing printed books upto a maximum of Rs. 5,000/- per book.

Editing of Old Sinhala Classics is another important project of the SLNLSB. Under this Project the Pansiya Panas Jathakaya, Poojavaliya and the Mahavamsa have been edited.

The SLNLSB is the local agent for the International Standard Book Numbering System (ISBN). The ISBN was introduced to the local scene by the SLNLSB a few years ago and is presently a great success. Over 80% of the locally published books use ISBN at present.

Construction of the National Library building was one of the main achievements of the SLNLSB. The SLNLSB sought the assistance of UNESCO to draw up a plan for the National Library building. As a result in 1974 Professor Michael Brawne of the University of Bath, United Kingdom visited Sri Lanka under the auspices of UNESCO. During the period 1974-1982 he visited Sri Lanka on several occasions and produced five reports[16] related to the various aspects of the National Library building. In his deliberations he was provided with assistance and advice from Mr. Pani Tennekoon, then the Chief Architect, Buildings Department. Prior to drawing up the plans Professor Michael Brawne travelled extensively in Sri Lanka to study Sri Lankan architecture which resulted in the National Library building being influenced by local architecture to a very great extent. For example the roof of the National Library is somewhat similar to the roof at the Padeniya Buddhist Temple. Building work commenced in 1976 and took about 12 years to be completed at a cost of Rs. 50 million. This cost has been borne by the Government of Sri Lanka. The floor area is 125,000 square feet and consists of five floors. The National Library provides facilities for 350 readers. There are three main reading rooms plus a number of special reading rooms. The present capacity is 500,000 volumes which can be extended up to one million. Other special features are an auditorium with a seating capacity of 120, seminar room with 70 seats and two small lecture rooms with 20 seats each.

Collection of library material for the National Library commenced in 1976 when the SLNLSB became a deposit library. Due to the lack of space and constant shifting of the office, collection of library material effectively commenced from mid 1980's. The present National Library Collection consists of the following sub-collections.

* Main Reference Collection
* Newspaper Collection
* Periodical Collection
* Sri Lanka Collection
* Legal Deposit Collection
* Foreign Literature Collection
* Map Collection
* UNESCO Collection
* Rare books and special Collections
* Folk Literature Collection
* Library & Information Science Collection.

Compilation of the National Bibliography was taken over by the SLNLSB from the Department of National Archives at the end of 1973 and to-date the National Bibliography has been published continuously. Main drawbacks at present are the delay in publishing, inadequate coverage of publications (as only those received under the deposit law are included in the bibliography) and limited circulation. Also the Retrospective National Bibliography for the period 1962-1885 has not been compiled. The Retrospective National Bibliography Project was started by the SLNLSB in 1990. It hopes to complete compilation of the retrospective bibliography in the next couple of years.

Presently the SLNLSB acts as the Social Science Documentation Centre of the country. In addition it assists other networks in fields of science, technology, agriculture etc. The aim of the National Library is to strengthen the existing library networks in other fields wherever possible and co-ordinate all library network activities and act as the National Bibliographical Information Centre. Compilation of the Union Catalogue was started in 1986 with the co-operation of 10 major libraries in the country. In addition information on resources of the major libraries is being collected at present for the National Library to act as the referral centre.

Presently the SLNLSB exchanges library material with a number of national and major libraries in the world. These will be expanded and strengthened with the opening of the National Library.

A National Library should not be limited to being a research library serving a very select clientele. The main objective of a National Library should be to provide library and bibliographical services needed by the public and institutions which will eventually lead to development of the country as a whole. While acting as the foremost library in the country, it should endeavour to reach the public through the existing public, special, school, temple and research libraries.

The functioning of the National Library of Sri Lanka can be compared to our ancient irrigation system which was centred on the main tank. This system provided two possible ways of irrigating the fields. One was to provide water to the fields directly from the main tank and the other was to supply water to a network of minor tanks from the main tank to be distributed to the fields. Similarly, the National Library can also serve readers directly as well as through other existing libraries.

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LEGAL BACKGROUND OF THE SRI LANKA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

Evelyn J. A. Evans, C.B.E., F.L.A.

Library legislation varies considerably in different countries. It may make provision of public libraries permissive or compulsory, it may make them the responsibility of the state, regional or local government or a combination of two of them, it may allow libraries to be subsidised by direct or indirect taxes, by local rates or by subscription. Earliest legislation in connection with public libraries was probably in the early nineteenth century one of the most quoted acts of government support being the proclamation of the 20th March 1818, by Lord Charles Somerset, Governor of the Cape in South Africa at the time. Somerset directed that the proceeds of a guaging charge of one Rdr. on each cask of wine passing through the Cape Town market should be used to create a fund for the formation of a public library. But it was from the middle of the nineteenth century that the most progress was made, despite varying amounts of opposition in certain countries against what was thought to be unnecessary pandering to the needs of the working classes. Some of the earliest legislation allowed only for the provision of buildings — no books, no staff, and even in what are recognised today as developed states, improved legislation is still being passed.

Libraries have now become recognised as an essential part of education, and the need for legislation to ensure that where they are established they should be properly supported has become a recognised fact internationally. The UNESCO *Public Library Manifesto* states that "As a democratic institution, operated by the people, for the people. the public library should be established and maintained *under clear authority of law*.....",

In 1953 the Public Libraries Section of the **International Federation of Library Associations** prepared a working paper on the Development of Public Library Services. The following sections dealt with legislation:

D.1. Since the public library should be provided by the whole community for the free use of all, it follows that public library provision should be the responsibility of government, as are education, public health services, street lighting, and the like, and that it should be financed from public funds (i.e. local or state taxation)

D.2. This being so it is proper that it should be governed by the appropriate, authority, and administered by a committee appointed by and directly responsible to that authority. As will be noted later, this should be a local government authority. Nevertheless it should not be possible for a local authority to deny its citizens the services of an adequate public library service, the provision of which, by all appropriate authorities, should be obligatory.

D.3. Alternatives to government and administration by a local authority appointed committee are :

(a) Government by societies, associations, and other non-governmental bodies (e.g. with a commitee appointed or elected by members of a library-supporting society), although all or part of the funds may be provided from public funds.

(b) Government by a board the members of which are in whole or part appointed by that board (i.e. a 'self-perpetuating board).

E.3. In territories where local government is not yet properly established local administration of library services may be impracticable under present conditions. In such cases it may be necessary to establish national or regional library authorities on the boards of which, however, there should be representatives of the towns and country districts to be served.

G.1. We believe, too, that the local public library service should receive appropriate aid and encouragement from the state.

G.4. State aid is best administered by a State Library Department charged with general and specific responsibilities for the promotion of public library services throughout the country.

H.1. We have referred to the need for state aid in promoting the provision of public library services by appropriate local authorities. It is also necessary, however, to give these authorities *proper legal powers and impose on them legal responsibilities.*

H.2. Therefore each state should adopt library laws which will include the following provisions, among others :

(a) Appropriate local authorities must be empowered to expend public funds for public library purposes.

(b) The amount of local expenditure should not be limited; local authorities should be able to expend as much as they are willing and able.

(c) The public library purposes for which funds may be expended should be so defined as not to restrict development. Thus it should be legal to spend public money not only on books, staff, and maintenance but also on periodicals, maps, plans, pictures, gramophone records, films, and all other suitable forms of printed and other record, on the purchase or renting of land, and the erection or renting, equipping, and adaptation of premises, the provision of travelling libraries and bookmobiles, extension activities, etc.

(d) Local authorities should be empowered to enter into arrangements with other authorities for joint schemes for providing the whole or any part of the service, and to contribute to the cost of schemes for co-operation and mutual assistance.

(e) Each local authority should appoint a library committee directly responsible to the local council. The librarian should have the right to attend all meetings of the committee (except on occasions when his own position and conditions of service are under discussion).

(f) Each local authority should have power to appoint staff who shall be employed in accordance with the conditions and regulations applicable with suitable variations to other local government officers.

(g) The use of all services provided must be available to all inhabitants free of any charge whatsoever.

H.3. As soon as practicable, all appropriate local authorities should be legally obliged to maintain adequate public library services.

This working paper was submitted to the *International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres* held at Brussels in September 1955. The document was adopted unanimously as a statement of policy, with the recommendations that it be sent to all library associations and governments with the request that it be given serious attention.

The form of government will, to a large extent, determine what type of legislation is necessary for the library services of a particular country. Under a democratic form of government, where there is a central government with various subordinate territorial organs and a further sub-division into local authority areas, the necessary legislation will almost certainly differ from the 'unit-state' form of government, the reason being that legislative powers are exercised at different levels in different types of government. France has a highly centralised library legislation basis, as also have Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The United States, on the other hand, is an example of a country with a highly decentralised basis.

Although no general type of legislation can cover the many local conditions, some principles should, however, be regarded as a common goal :

(a) Library legislation must be both simple and general, allowing for future development.

(b) It must be kept above accidents of political change.

(c) The law should be compulsory and not permissive, but the application of compulsion must be closely related to the financial resources of the district.

(d) The financial scheme should be drawn up in a flexible manner to permit a certain amount of local variation.

(e) The law should prescribe that public libraries should be free and accessible to all categories of people.

MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE NATIONAL PLANNING OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN ASIA

In December 1967 UNESCO held a meeting of experts on the national planning of library services in Asia, in Colombo. *A Library Plan for Ceylon* had been prepared for discussion at the meeting, with the hopes that the plan would eventually be put into effect.

THE EXISTING LIBRARY FACILITIES

(a) National Library

The rewas no National Library in Ceylon. The National Archives had a collection of books and also acted as Registrar of Books and Newspapers. The Ceylon National Bibliography was also prepared at the National Archives. Collections of Ceyloniana were held at the Museum. which received books under copyright, and at the universities and the Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch.

(b) Public Libraries

There were 12 municipal councils, 36 urban councils, 76 town councils and 510 village committees. All of these were independent statutory corporations. A *permissive* function of local authorities was the provision of libraries. In order to encourage local authorities to provide these services, the Ministry of Local Government assisted them by giving grants of up to 50% of the capital cost of equipment and books in towns, other than municipalities, where these services were started and carried on by the local authorities. The quality of libraries varied considerably, the coverage being very uneven. Many of them were of poor standard, book grants were inadequate, and except in the larger systems, staff were generally unqualified.

(c) University Libraries.

The universities were autonomous bodies with the National Council for Higher Education co-ordinating their functions and controlling their finances. The libraries had qualified staff and their book funds were adequate. They were generally in a much better position than the public libraries.

(d) School Libraries.

School libraries throughout the country varied. A number of well-established schools had reasonable collections of books, but in the main the standard was low, if at all existent.

(e) Special Libraries.

There was an increasing number of special libraries, most of which were well equipped and administered. A co-ordinating body did not exist. Each library functioned independently and there was no union list of serials. There was no central documentation.

LIBRARIANS AND STAFF TRAINING.

Ceylon may have lacked effective library services, but there was tremendous enthusiasm in the country, both amongst qualified librarians and the authorities concerned with libraries for better development of those services. The Ceylon Library Association had done pioneer work in staff training. It conducted courses and awarded qualifications which were recognised by the government.

LEGISLATION.

There was no effective library legislation in Ceylon. Legislation existed for legal deposit and registration of books and periodicals, but not for copyright.

PROPOSALS OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

The Meeting agreed that there was need for integration of public and school libraries and co-operation with the autonomous bodies. The possible answer to this was the establishment of an independent statutory corporation which would be responsible for the general promotion of library services throughout the country. Its main responsibilities would relate to the :

(a) organization, development and planning of the library services in general;

(b) organization and development of the Ceylon National Library;

(c) Promotion and development of public libraries;

(d) promotion and development of school library services;

(e) co-ordination and collaboration in the development of universities, special and government departmental libraries;

(f) advising the government on establishing minimum academic and professional qualifications for library personnel, and ensuring that they enjoy the status and emoluments commensurate with their qualifications and responsibilities;

(g) promotion of the development of library education.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIBRARY PLAN

In May 1968, the Director-General of UNESCO forwarded a copy of the final report of the Expert Meeting to the Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs, drawing the attention of the Minister to the **Library Plan for Ceylon** and stating that UNESCO assistance for the project had been foreseen for a period of five years. He hoped that the development of the project would become an example and a positive demonstration of the effective use of the basic principles of planning in the library field evolved at the expert meeting.

The steps proposed to the Government of Ceylon for the implementation the plan were :

(a) appointment of an ad hoc Library Advisory Committee to the government to advise on the establishment of National Library Services;

(b) adoption of an Act to establish the Ceylon National Library Services Board; and

(c) allocation of funds for the use of the Library Board.

Once the Board was established, its first steps would be :

(a) appointment of professional staff;

(b) preparation of plans and draft estimates;

(c) development of a pilot project in one district;

(d) establishment of demonstration libraries.

Further projects would include intensive staff training and encouragement of local writers and local book production.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT

(a) Library Advisory Committee.

In April 1968, even before receiving the Final Report from the Director-General of UNESCO, the Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs set up an ad hoc Library Advisory Committee, the purpose of the Committee being to advise the government through the Minister of Education, on the steps which should be taken to implement the recommendations which the meeting of Experts had drawn up in connection with the **Library Plan for Ceylon.** The following bodies were represented on the committee :

i. the Ministry of Education;

ii. the Ministry of Local Government;

iii. the Department of National Planning;

iv. the General Treasury;

v. the National Council of Higher Education;

vi. Ceylon Library Association;

vii. UNESCO.

The Library Advisory Committee, following the recommendations made at the Experts' Meeting, devoted most of its time in drafting legislation for the establishment of a Ceylon National Library Services Board. The Committee's final draft was delivered to the Minister, together with draft estimates for the first year, in February 1969.

(b) Legislation.

The Cabinet approved the proposals for setting up a Library Board in October 1969. The first reading of the Bill took place in November 1969 and the second and third readings in February 1970. The Senate passed the Bill in March 1970. The Bill was supported both by the Government and by the Opposition. The **Ceylon National Library Services Board** Act is No. 17 of 1970 on the statute book. The parliamentary election held up the appointment of members of the Board — the nominations being completed eventually on 15 June 1970.

(c) Finance.

The Cabinet approved the spending of a sum not exceeding three lakhs of rupees (Rs. 300,000/–) to set up the Library Board in the current financial year. The allocation would be made from monies remaining in the Capital and Recurrent expenditure votes of the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs. Subsequently the Board would prepare its estimates, and funds would be provided as a direct grant.

The first meeting of the Ceylon Library Board was held on 20th June, 1970.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA

By

Prof. Michael Brawne

UNESCO Consultant Architect for National Library of Sri Lanka.

National Libraries are at the same time national monuments and great warehouses of information. The information has however also to be made available to a wide public and they therefore need to be accessible, easy to use and provide the appropriate environment in which the public is able to consult a variety of sources.

Unlike the theatre or the cinema the information is not transmitted at a particular time to a group but has to be available when required by individuals. It is therefore the book, the journal, the tape or the record and an individual which make the essential unit of library space.

All these aspects have immediate and significant architectural implications. Not all of them are at first sight compatible with each other. On the one hand there is a suggestion of importance, perhaps even of grandeur on the other of friendliness and openness; similarly there is a need for large areas of book storage, closed and undifferentiated, while there is equally a demand for individual spaces or groups of such volume of the building into recognisable areas in which a small number of people can find a place and feel at home.

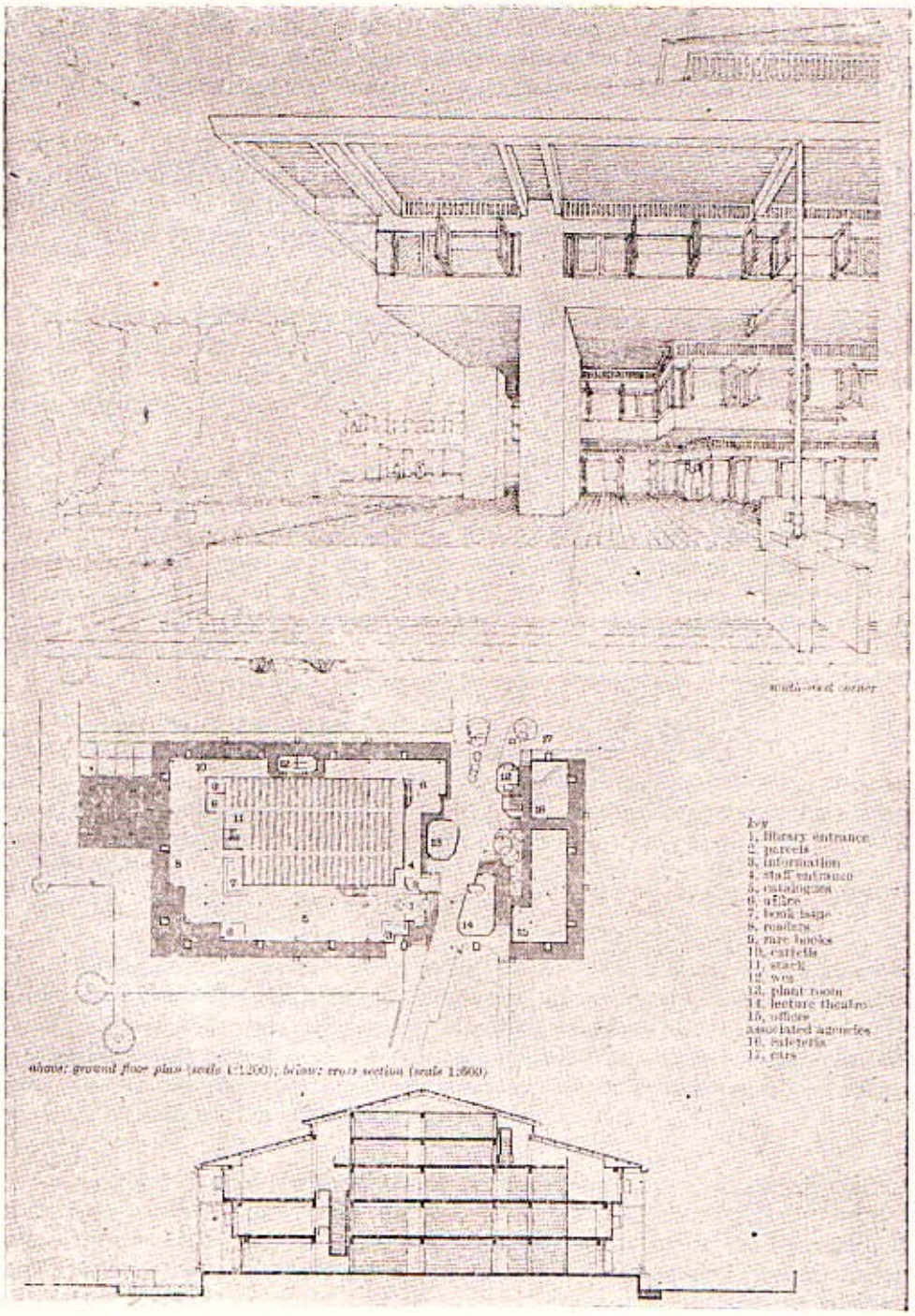
In Colombo the problem is compounded by a climate unkind to books and one in which readers need shade and breeze to be comfortable. The essence of the National Library is thus one great roof under which there are floors shaded and sheltered by large overhangs. The outermost edge of the building is a large gutter projecting a long way beyond the uppermost floor. Each lower floor steps in so that it is protected by the one immediately above. The section of the building reveals its organisation and the way it deals with the control of the environment.

At the heart of the section in the middle of the building is an enclosed core which is air-conditioned and which is the warehouse part of the library containing the stacks. This location also means that this volume is entirely shielded from the sun and the load on the air-conditioning system is as a result minimised. It moreover leaves the perimeter of the building free for readers who enjoy natural daylight, views and air-movement. Each function is thus in the place best suited to it.

This subdivision of the total volume of the library into a central enclosed zone and an open perimeter also means that the reading areas are never a large impersonal space. The perimeter zone is, what is more, further subdivided by large rectangular hollow concrete columns on the face of the building which create recognisable bays on the inside and which, on the outside, provide a rhythmic subdivision of the long elevation. Within this rhythm, however, no two bays facing Independence Avenue are the same.

It is this kind of variety under a big roof and with recognisable weighty supports which, it is felt, is also in some way an echo of the traditional architecture of Sri Lanka, not a copy of some particular past building. All these notions were present in the very early stages of the design and are perhaps most clearly visible in a perspective of the south-west corner of the National Library which was first published at the beginning of 1976.

Since that time it has been important to preserve throughout the building process and the difficulties of the last decade those first assumptions which had been evolved with members of the Library Services Board and their staff so that the building which is now being opened should serve the people of its country for many years to come.



north-west corner

Key
1. library entrance
2. parcels
3. information
4. staff entrance
5. catalogues
6. office
7. book lifts
8. readers
9. rare books
10. carrells
11. stack
12. WCs
13. plant room
14. lecture theatre
15. offices associated agencies
16. cafeteria
17. cars

above: ground floor plan (scale 1:1200); below: cross section (scale 1:600)

UNESCO AND LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

By

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UNESCO's purpose, as set forth in the Constitution, is to "contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture." Its acronym "E" stands for Education; "S" for science and "C" for Culture. Because of the growing importance of communication nowadays, we consider that "C" stands not only for culture but also for communication. Apart from these, sectoral distinctions, a certain number of inter-disciplinary fields and transverse subjects are also falling within UNESCO's competence. Library and information are typical examples where a transverse approach is required together with the specific discipline constituting the proper library and information science independent from other scientific disciplines.

Historically, UNESCO's contribution to the world-wide library development was implemented until 1976 by DBA (Documentation. Libraries and Archives Development, a Division attached to the Culture and Communication Sector), and by PGI (Division of the General Information Programme) since the amalgamation in 1977 of DBA and UNISIST, a Division to promote scientific information within the Science Sector. Since the creation of the Office of Information Programmes and Services (IPS) in 1988, the, assistance to library development has been realized by two Divisions under the aegis of this Office, i.e., IPS/PGI for Regular Programme activities, and IPS/OPS for Extra-budgetary and Participation Programme projects.

The General Information Programme of UNESCO is, therefore, the conceptual framework of UNESCO's activities in the field of library, archives and information for which an Inter-Governmental Council is organized once every two years representing the highest consultative organ of this programme.

General Information Programme

Most Member States, and developing countries in particular, are facing the need to achieve an integrated development of their information infrastructures (scientific and technical information services, libraries and archives). Many have already designed policies to that effect and have established, or are in the process of establishing, a co-ordinating machinery for this purpose. This trend is the result of the convergence of three factors : a common methodology for the establishment and management of all information services and products; a common professional core of disciplines and techniques and a commonly felt urgency to make optimum use of national information resources. This growing awareness of the crucial importance of information in the development process is leading to a significant increase in national activities in the information field.

Informatics and other technologies applied to the information area, generally referred to as "information technologies", are altering past modes of handling and transfer of information. This in itself justifies a common approach for libraries, archives and other information services. Information technologies are also speeding up the establishment of analogous curricula for the training of librarians, documentalists, archivists and records managers, as boundaries between these professions become less pronounced. Furthermore, the recent rapid developments in micro-informatics are providing developing countries with the possibility of establishing efficient information systems and services at relatively low cost.

Finally the proprietary value of information is becoming widely recognized, and many developing countries have started to consider ways of marketing their information products and services.

The General Information Programme (PGI) was established in 1976 to provide a focus for UNESCO's activities in the field of scientific and technological information documentation, libraries and archives. The Programme has five main themes relating to the promotion or development of (1) information policy and plans; (2) methods, norms and standards for information handling; (3) information infrastructure; (4) specialized information systems and (5) education and training of information specialists) and users. Priority among these themes is given to activities relating to the development of information infrastructures, and the training of information personnel and users. In respect of each theme special attention is paid to (1) the need of information users and potential users, (2) developing user-oriented information systems, (3) the needs of the least developed countries, (4) the importance of improving and encouraging the flow of and access to information, creativity and innovation and the production and use of local information, (5) the application of information technology and (6) the need to evaluate the activities undertaken.

The work of PGI is financed from a variety of sources including the Regular, Programme, the Participation Programme, Funds-in-Trust agreements and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). PGI fulfills its role by promoting, sponsoring and supporting activities such as meetings, consultations and conferences; training courses and seminars; pilot projects and consultancy missions; study tours, fellowships and, equipment purchases; research studies and publications.

UNESCO and library development

In terms of Library development in the world, UNESCO's contribution has been realized through various forms of assistance. One of the remarkable events in PGI's history was the organization of the International Congress on National Bibliographies in 1977 during which several recommendations were adopted which have had a major impact on the production of national bibliographies. The Congress defined the objectives, functions and basis of "an international framework for the national bibliographic agency" and gave unprecedented impetus to the development of international standards to facilitate the exchange of manual or computerized bibliographic records between nations.

As a direct outcome of this Congress the *Guidelines for the National Bibiliographic Agency and the National Bibliograhpy*, (PGI/79/WS/18), were published by IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), the International Office for UBC (Universal Bibliographic Control) and were extensively diffused throughout the world library communities and are frequently used by the national bibliographic agencies.

UBC is, nevertheless, a means to an end, and the ultimate goal of library policies and programmes is Universal Availability of Publications (UAP), which is also one of the core programmes of IFLA promoted in colaboration with UNESCO.

The International Congress on UAP was organized in 1982 in collaboration with IFLA. The Congress identified constraints to the access to publications and encouraged national and international action by formulating the broad bases of a UAP programme covering problems of access, production and supply, acquisition, repositories and interluding.

Apart from the Guidelines from the National Bibliographic Agency and the National Bibliography, two recent studies should be particularly taken into account in the field of the development of national libraries — i.e., *Guidelines for National Libraries*, (PGI/87/WS/17), and *National Library and Information Needs: Alternative means of fulfilment, with special reference to the role of national libraries*, (PGI-89/WS/9). While the former, after having thoroughly reviewed existing practices in national libraries, throughout the world, makes various suggestions as to the actions that should be taken by or for national libraries, the latter approaches the question as to what national libraries should do and how they should do it from the angle of need rather than of existing practices. These two volumes are complementary and should, therefore, be used together as a comprehensive set of guidelines for national libraries.

Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania met in Australia (1979), Japan (1982), Sri Lanka (1985) and China (1988) with financial assistance from UNESCO.

UNESCO's assistance for the library development is, of course, not restricted to national libraries. As regards public libraries, academic (university) libraries and school libraries, a certain number of guidelines, field researches and studies have been published by UNESCO and extensively used throughout the world.

In 1978 a pilot project on the extension of university library services to outside users was launched in Malaysia, and a seminar on the role of university libraries in the information systems of developing countries was organized in Dakar. In the area of school libraries a study was published on instructional materials on library use for school children, and guidelines for organizing school library media centres were issued in 1978. A handbook on library services to schools and children appeared in 1979. A pilot project to promote the development of school libraries in the South Pacific region, started in 1980, stressed sensitizing school librarians and teachers to the importance of information use in education as well as training in the organization of libraries by the production of teaching materials. Actual training begun in 1983 using classroom and distance teaching.

techniques supported by satellite channels. Financial assistance was given for a seminar in Spain on children's libraries within the framework of the International Youth Year. Training courses were organized on the organization of primary school libraries in Malawi (1986) and Kenya (1987).

Pilot projects for the establishment of public library networks were conducted in Benin and the Seychelles. In Benin rural libraries proved to contribute to lifelong education and post-literacy programmes. An evaluation mission to the Seychelles (1980) confirmed that library resources and services for young people in remote areas increased substantially. An African regional seminar on library services for the blind was organized in 1980 in co-operation with IFLA. In 1982 a meeting on the development of public library services in Latin America and the Caribbean identified the major obstacles and suggested remedial action. A manual on developing public library systems and services was published in 1983.

UNESCO programme under the current biennium

During its present biennium 1990-1991 the General Information Programme of UNESCO is putting special emphasis on (1) the improvement of 'library management and promotion of 'library services in Member States, and (2) on the establishment and reinforcement of a cooperative mechanism for libraries facilitating the flow of scientific literature. UNESCO's support for library management and promotion of library services will be realized through the application of management principles; supply of tested indicators of the performance of library services; provision of an experimental cultural extension service in public libraries; establishment of a model rural community information system and a model community information service database; training of librarians in the preservation of library collections and the planning of disaster control procedures for library buildings and collections. For this purpose the following actions are foreseen under the present biennium :

(1) Technical and financial support for strengthening the management capacities of national libraries and public library systems.

(2) Assistance for the organization of regional training seminars on the preservation of manuscripts and other library materials, as well as responding to and recovery of damages occurred during natural disasters.

(3) Support to the Library of Alexandria within the context of the World Decade for Cultural Development, etc.....

The promotion of a cooperative mechanism for libraries focusses on :

The computerization of the exchange of information between university between university libraries; establishment of document delivery systems and promotion of the creation of a database on book donation programmes; encouragement of the adoption of standards for bibliographic control and training in their application; formulation of objectives and methodologies for training in the use of university libraries and information services; reinforcement of the UNESCO Associated Libraries Network, etc....

Library of Alexandria

To restore an ancient "temple of learning", of which all physical trace has disappeared, is indeed a very ambitious task. The idea is to revive Alexandria as a beacon on knowledge, a place for research , cultural understanding, co-operation and development of the mind. The purpose is not to construct a building in the image of what the great library of old might have been, the goal of the new library is to create a public research institution that will become famous throughout the region for the quality of its services and the wealth of its resources.

Resources will include up to four million volumes, science and calligraphy museums, a planetarium, a music library, a centre for the preservation of books and manuscripts, an international school for information studies, and state-of-the-art communications technology.

The accent of the new centre will initially be on the humanities, for which no adequate library yet exists in the region, and once that gap is filled attention will be paid to science and medicine. The main fields covered by its collections will focus on Hellenistic antiquity and the Middle East, the marriage of the Greek and Egyptian civilizations, the birth of Coptic Christianity and the influence of Islam with particular emphasis on the history of science in antiquity. Here, technology will play an important part, not only by providing access to this information, but by helping to preserve ancient documents on these subjects. Another of the library's goals in this area is to set up a centre of bibliographical data on all the documents and publications available in the region.

A major training programme is due to get underway during 1990 to provide professional staff for the centre. UNESCO is providing equipment and expert personnel to teach staff how to prepare a catalogue for the library in both Arabic and English. Efforts are also underway to find a donor to fund the international school of information services which will be incorporated into the library complex. If such a donor can be found the organizers would like to get the school functioning, using temporary premises. The centre, which will be the only one of its kind in the Middle East, will be open to students preparing an advanced diploma or specialized doctorate.

Construction of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is due to start at the end of 1990, and opening day is planned for June 1995 with 200,000 new volumes and a collection of 1,500 periodicals.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AT NATIONAL LIBRARY LEVEL

By

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Introduction

While there is a substantial literature on performance assessment in individual libraries, very little has been written on performance assessment at the National Library level. The reasons for this are fairly obvious. Few librarians or others have the need, time or inclination to look at library performance as a national problem, although, national library plans have received much more attention in recent years, as has the role of the national library itself within the national plan.

This paper deals with the assessment of performance of functions that have to be achieved nationally, as compared with locally. They may or may not require a national plan or be performed by a National Library. In a federal country, some functions may be carried out at state or provincial rather than at national level. They are all necessary functions and they affect in one way or another nearly all libraries. There are various ways of achieving them, and the identification of criteria of performance and an analysis of how alternative systems are likely to perform on them can help to determine which institution or institutions should carry them out and how. Also, national library systems are very exposed to comment and criticism, but these are often too narrowly focussed and rarely supported by good empirical evidence. Improved assessment should help both performers and critics.

The aims of assessment are twofold : to aid the choice between alternative systems, and to monitor the performance of operational systems. The second is more commonly attempted for the obvious reason that a system may be already chosen and very difficult or impossible to change for another. Paradoxically, it may be rather easier to change an existing national system than to change a local library system. In many countries there is no national plan, so that a careful and correct choice is not only possible but vital. Selection of a plan should involve the assessment both of existing systems in other countries and of possible alternatives, including the likely performance of operational foreign systems in the particular national situation and of hypothetical systems designed *ab initio*.

Assessment of performance can be either quantitative or qualitative, either subjective or objective. Although most qualitative measures are subjective and most quantitative are objective, it is perfectly possible to have subjective quantitative measures (for example, standards of collection size) and objective qualitative measures (for example, levels of catalogue records as determined by empirical user studies). The aim must always be to reach as high a level of objectivity as possible. Arbitrary standards, which are unfortunately very common are little but targets, set as much higher than the present performance as the individual institution or association thinks it can get away with. Standards based on subjective experience may be quite valid, but can often be put on a much firmer basis by practical studies of user behaviour in different conditions, even if some experimentation is necessary to set these up. The selection of criteria of performance, which is crucial to any assessment, is of its very nature somewhat subjective, although there would probably be a wide consensus on most criteria.

It is possible to assess performance without considering costs, but totally unrealistic. A common way of estimating a budget is to calculate the amount of money required to attain a certain level of performance. However well argued the estimate, eventually there is a limited budget, whether it is imposed on a particular library or applied to a system. It is therefore necessary to consider what can be done within the money available, and this means that the system has to be optimized, whether between functions or within them. For this and other reasons, assessment needs to be made on the performance of the system as a whole as well as of its parts, since some parts may have been deliberately sacrificed to others. Costs may be looked at as totals, but it is more useful to break them down as service costs (the costs of giving certain services) and unit costs (which require the identification and measurement of appropriate units). Market criteria are appropriate for some functions but not others.

Even if only one library — the National Library—is concerned, the variety of its functions and the scale of its operations make assessment difficult. Where more than one library is involved — perhaps many — the difficulties are compounded. The importance of assessment is however such that they should be regarded as challenges rather than obstacles.

This paper considers National Library functions under five main headings. These are:

Collection of the nation's publications
Bibliographic control of the nation's publications
Bibliographic access to the world's literature
Retention for future availability
Document provision and supply.

Under each function objectives are put forward and criteria and measures of assessment suggested. Measures that are applicable to all libraries and information services, such as productivity and quality control, are looked at only when there is a special point in doing so. Detailed examination of particular measures and how they may be applied is not possible in a paper, and discussion is therefore directed mainly to general considerations — some of them undoubtedly obvious, others perhaps less so. In the process of discussion some commonly accepted objectives are challenged and others are suggested as having higher priority than they are usually accorded.[1]

Collection of the nation's publications

A generally accepted national objective is a comprehensive collection of the nation's publications. To this end, many countries have legislation to ensure that all new publications are deposited, usually with the National Library, although sometimes the collecting responsiblity is distributed among several libraries. In very few countries is legal deposit anywhere near fully effective, and there are good reasons for this apart from the unwillingness of publishers.

'Publications' are defined as all recorded information issued for public access. They thus include all printed material : books, journals, official publications, newspapers, music, report literature and ephemera. They also include other forms of publication : sound recordings (discs, cassettes, etc.) and video recordings (films, videocassettes, videodiscs, etc.). The first difficulty lies in determining whether certain items are 'published' or not.

1. COLLECTION OF NATION'S PUBLICATIONS

FUNCTIONS :

Permanent Archive of Nation's Publications

FORMS OF PUBLICATION :

Printed Matter :

Books
Journals
Official Publications
Newspapers
Music
Report Literature
Ephemera

Non - Printed Matter :

Sound Recordings
Video Recordings

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO COUNTRY?

Location :

National Library or Libraries

Criteria :

Comprehensiveness of Collection (Exhaustive, Comprehensive, or Extensive)?
Timeliness of Acquisition
Timeliness of Cataloguing
Conservation
Availability for use —

Conditions for use
Speed of Service

ABILITY TO SUPPLY COPIES TO REMOTE USERS

The world of grey literature is extensive as well as nebulous, and it is often hard to say whether a particular scientific or technical report is in the public domain or not. These problems are intensified with sound and video recordings, many of which may be produced within an institution of higher education for local use; they may be made vailable to other institutions on request but they are not actually intended for wide distribution.

A further problem which will greatly increase with electronic publishing, is that of establishing the definitive form of a publication; editions of a book are usually fairly easily distinguished but more or less continuous revision is possible with electronically stored media. All are possible versions to be collected, and if not how is selection to be made?

Perhaps the biggest problem of all arises from the sheer volume of publication. In many countries the number of books and journals issued by regular publishers is enormous. To these may be added official publications, which may well outnumber all other publications, and locally produced material — local magazines, local government publications, local newspapers, and a whole mass of material loosely grouped as ephemera.

The problems do not end here, because many publications are extremely hard to identify, and once identified hard to obtain. Even if total comprehensiveness is set as an objective, it is impossible to tell whether or how far it is being attained; the collection cannot be checked against a comprehensive national bibliography, because this cannot easily be compiled except on the basis of a comprehensive national collection.

In fact, the simplest and most obvious objective proves on examination to be neither simple nor obvious. The purpose of collecting a nation's publications is twofold : to collect and preserve the nation's heritage — literary, historical, social, etc; and to keep a permanent record of the nation's products in the form of recorded knowledge. Neither of these purposes requires total comprehensiveness. A more reasonable objective would be the collection of all nationally published material issued by commercial and other publishers and producers, including the government itself; and a sampling of other publications. These other publications would include local and ephemeral publications, which are often more important for social and political history than more formally published material. A genuine effort should therefore be made to acquire a substantial and representative collection of them. Since this is almost impossible for a single National Library to achieve, collecting at least must be done locally: the local library may also be the best place to house the material and make it available, provided that its collection, storage and availability are accepted as national responsibilities and coordinated nationally,

Similar considerations may apply to specialized forms of material such as sound recordings and video recordings, which may be the responsiblity of national archives of recorded sound, national film archives, and so on. Otherwise, a single National Library is the obvious location for the definitive collection of the nation's publications.

It may be an objective to collect not only all national publications but all foreign publications relating to the country, In a country such as the USA or the United Kingdom this is so clearly impossible that it is not usually attempted, but small or developing, countries may aim at it. In any case, similar considerations apply as to the collecting of national publications, with the additional point that the difficulties are much more formidable still.

It is doubtful whether many National Libraries pursue comprehensiveness in collecting beyond a certain level, even for straightforward books and journals, and it may be proper that they do not. However, unfortunately very few countries have a serious collecting policy for forms of publication other than printed material, or of local and ephemeral printed matter.

I have dealt at some length with comprehensiveness of collecting because of the importance of this issue. There are however other criteria for assessing performance of this function.

One of these is timeliness of acquisition and processing. This applies also to local libraries, but there are features that make it especially significant for libraries with a national collecting responsibility. If publications are not acquired quickly it may be impossible to acquire them at all, the entry of records into the national bibliography may also depend on timely acquisition, and there is no reason why readers should be deprived of access to very recent publications. Three months after publication would seem a reasonable aim. This is a good example of a subjective quantitative criterion which attempts to reconcile reality with desirability, though the subjective element can be reduced by real-life studies of user behaviour and requests. What is important is not the actual time target but that some target is set and used as a measure of performance.

Another and more important requirement is conservation. It is useless to collect the nation's publications unless they are available for future use. Since nearly all paper has built-in decay, and most other forms of published material are not only perishable but often easily damaged in the short term, the responsibility of conservation is a huge one, in some National Libraries absorbing a high proportion of the total budget. Conservation requires good storage conditions (unfortunately the ideal temperature for books is far from ideal for readers), and also facilities to repair damage and prolong the life of publications. Conservation is an area in which it is extremely difficult to lay down hard and fast measures of performance. Obviously a book that becomes unusable within 20 years of acquisition is well below any reasonable standard of conservation. Equally obviously the long term success of a conservation policy cannot be judged for several generations. However, enough is known about the factors that lead to damage and decay and the measures necessary to minimize the effects of these factors to make it possible to lay down certain minimum requirements (temperature, humidity, purity of atmosphere, etc.) for ensuring reasonably long life for most items.

A further important criterion is availability for use. The national collection is a valuable resource, and it should be utilized if this can be achieved without diminishing the resource. Use may appear to be irreconcilable with conservation, and a balance between the two must be sought. The two requirements may both be achieved by the acquisition of two copies, one of which is kept unused, or, particularly in the case of rare or fragile items. by microfilming and use of only the microfilm for consultation purposes.

Availability for use includes also conditions for consultation; reader space; opening hours; accessibility to any *bona fide* user; and speed of service in the case of closed collections. These criteria also apply to local libraries, but deserve mention because they are not always used in National Libraries, not obviously at least; and they can also be harder to fulfil. For opening hours and speed of service, standards can be laid down. Like nearly all standards, these have a strong subjective element about them, but minimum standards for opening hours will surely include at least two evenings a week (so that people who are employed during the day can use the collection) and continuous opening periods of not less than two hours. A speed of supply of no more than 30 minutes from a closed collection would be another reasonable standard. A library that is constantly overcrowded or that has to turn away readers either has inadequate reading space or is too generous in accepting readers who might possibly find most of the material they want

in neighbouring libraries that are also open to the public and that are not overcrowded. Reading space is an example of a measure that must be largely empirical: assuming that consultation conditions are satisfactory, hours of opening reasonable, and speed of service good, seating can and should be related to demand on the library.

Gross unit costs (for example, per book used, or per reader visit) are interesting to calculate but of limited value since so many other factors have to be taken into account, and deliberate encouragement of more use, however unnecessary, could be inimical to other objectives such as conservation and adequate space for genuine users. They may however be useful in looking at such processes as accessioning and retrieval from the stacks for readers, Similar considerations apply to service costs. With both unit and service costs, the value of the data increases with time as it becomes possible to compare one year with another. If comparison is made with other libraries, care must be taken to ensure that they are comparable — either major research libraries, preferably also enjoying legal deposits, or other National Libraries.

Before finishing with this function, one more objective may be stated : the capacity to supply copies of the nation's publications, whether as originals or in reproductions, to remote users, both within the country and to other countries. This is an international responsibility; it is one of the cardinal principles of Universal Availability of Publications[2] that each country must be able to supply its own publications to other countries, as the only sound way of ensuring that all publications are available universally. This can be done by acquiring an extra copy for loan, or by making reproductions that can be lent, or by reproducing (for retention) copies on request. An empirical measure of performance here is the proportion of items requested that can be supplied in this way. This is a *minimum* performance measure, since, as in so many aspects of library performance, poor provision will generate little demand; indeed, a National Library has only to declare its total inability to supply items to ensure that it receives no demand at all. Conversely, libraries that give a very good service may attract a very large volume of demand and so achieve a worse relative performance. These matters are considered in more detail under the fifth function below.

As with nearly all functions, an optimal balance must be sought between objectives, as excessive priority given to one objective could damage others.

Bibliographic control of the nation's publications

The desirability of a national bibiliography is taken so much for granted that the functions it is intended to perform may remain unstated, like the objectives of a national collection. One main function is the creation of awareness of what has been published as a guide to libraries for their own selection purposes and to individuals for identifying items (both current and retrospective) of interest to them. Another main function is to allow checking of references against a definitive record in order to establish whether items have actually been published, for subsequent consultation of a local catalogue or for requesting on interlibrary loan. A further function—a more recent one — is to provide definitive records that other libraries (including foreign libraries) can use for their own acquisitions and collections, though it has never been conclusively demonstrated that the extraction of records from national data-bases is more economic or satisfactory than the local construction of minimal entries that may nevertheless be quite adequate.

As the definitive collection of the nation's publications is an international as well as national responsibility so, is bibiliographic, control of them. Likewise, comprehensiveness (though not total exhaustivity) is a major objective of the collection of the nation's publications, so comprehensiveness is a major desideratum of a national bibliography. It could be argued that exhaustivity is a more valid objective for a natural bibliography than for a national collection, since only when an item is recorded can the decision be made whether to collect it or not. However, bibliographic control depends on prior collection and it would be more reasonable to state that the national bibliography should contain those items that are collected as a national responsibility, whether they are collected and stored centrally or locally. As with the national collection, it is impossible to measure how comprehensive a national bibliography is, since the total population against which it is to be measured is unknown. In fact, national bibliographies are usually less comprehensive than national collections, largely for economic and operational reasons : it is easier to gather vast quantities of material into a library and store them than it is to record all the items. In practice, priorities may have to be set for inclusion.

2. BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL OF NATION'S PUBLICATIONS

FUNCTIONS :

Awareness of Published Material as Guide to Libraries and Individuals
Checking of References against Definitive Records
Production of Definitive Records for use by other Libraries

LOCATION :

National Library or Libraries

CRITERIA :

Comprehensiveness of File (Exhaustive, Comprehensive, or Extensive?)
Adequacy of Records —
- **Descriptive**
- **Subject Access**

Accessibility of Records —
- **Publications**
- **On-Line**

Range of Access Points
Timeliness
Extraction of Records
Service or Market Economics?

All national bibliographies contain books; some include new journals, but articles within journals are hardly ever indexed : few include official publications or report literature; and almost none includes non-book media. Music, if covered, usually appears

in a separate bibliography. Local publications and ephemera are very rarely covered, although local or regional enterprise may result in partial coverage of some parts of the country. The more 'difficult' the category of material, the harder it is to assess coverage, but the first and more obvious criterion of coverage is what categories are even attempted for inclusion.

The second major objective is that the permanent and definitive bibliographic records should be adequate. The question of what is 'adequate' has never been finally decided, and perhaps never will be. AACR 2 and MARC records are based more on tradition and the desire to record almost all data about the item that can possibly be recorded than on the needs of users. In this particular case, somewhat arbitrary and perfectionist standards are in competition with empirical standards. That it is possible to set satisfactory and empirical standards has been demonstrated by recent research[3] — standards that are moreover a good deal less elaborate and expensive, though not necessarily less rigorous, than the conventional ones.

In fact, 'quality' and comprehensiveness have usually been sought in bibliographic description, but not in subject access, which is essential if the objective of enabling relevant items to be identified is to be realised. It is striking to contrast the detailed indexing of most journal articles included in international databases such as *Chemical Abstracts* with the rudimentary classification and indexing of books, a great many of which are given only one or two subject access points although the range of subjects with which they deal may be very large.[4] Standards for subject access to books have never been set. This is much too large a topic to be discussed here, but it is worth commenting that far fuller, though somewhat crude, subject access than at present could probably be achieved quite cheaply and simply by converting contents pages to machine-readable form and indexing by the keywords in them. One obvious snag is that such methods are limited by language. (Another more fundamental disadvantage with indexing, and also with classification, is that the use of language and the structure of knowledge change; moreover, the interest of certain publications may shift over time — for example, a minor nineteenth century novel may now be of value mainly as an illustration of social attitudes at a given period. Ideally, re-indexing of publications is needed every few years. The computer might aid this process a little by converting obsolescent terms into modern equivalents).

Given a limited sum of money, whether this is obtained from sales (which are limited by the market) or from a national or other subsidy, a balance has to be sought between comprehensiveness and record content. Certainly if perfectionist records are to be constructed for every item included the amount of material included must surely suffer. Conversely, the inclusion of a mass of material that is inadequately or inaccurately recorded may be largely a waste of time and money.

Not only must publications be recorded, but the records must be made accessible. This can be done in several ways. which are not mutually exclusive. The traditional means is by publication of the national bibliography. In this case timeliness of issue after publication of items recorded is important for selection and current awareness. This means both rapid cataloguing (which in turn means, as noted above, rapid acquisition of items after publication in order to catalogue them), and frequent issues. Standards for

timeliness can be set in terms of the maximum delay acceptable : as with national acquisition of indigenous publications these must reconcile reality with desirability. A published bibliography must also be widely available, partly as a matter of principle, partly in order to achieve a sizeable market and produce sufficient income to make the national bibliography largely or wholly self-supporting. The volume of sales and the distribution of copies are important and valid measures of performance. Ease of use, presentation and layout frequency of cumulations, etc. can be tested by user studies, preferably using experimental alternatives for real-life assessment. Ideally full cumulations are desirable, as is also a fully retrospective bibliography, to avoid the necessity of searching in several different volumes.

One criterion of performance for the national bibliography is the range of access points to the bibliographic records. Author, title and subject which are basic, are usually the only access points in printed bibliographies, if only for reasons of size and cost. With the aid of the computer these limitations are largely removed, and there is no real reason why access should not be available by keywords in the title, place of publication, publisher or date — or indeed other elements in the record.

Access to records by computer, whether on-line or off-line, should also improve timeliness because publication delays are avoided. Speed of access depends partly on the record structure and access protocols, partly on the nature and reliability of the computer system, which in itself needs to be assessed against standards of performance (down time, response time, etc.) Access should of course be worldwide.

A national cataloguing service requires timeliness, and also the facility for extracting easily and quickly records, and the *kind* of records, wanted for local catalogues. Market criteria can and should also be applied. If a national cataloguing service cannot recover all its direct operating costs from consumers — if in effect they judge that it is cheaper to construct their own records or obtain them from other sources — this may suggest that it is not economic in total national terms, and if this is so it casts doubt on the viability and desirability of the service.

The various desirable features of a national bibliography can be better provided when it is available both in printed and in machine-readable form. Each form has its particular advantages, and by optimal use of these it should be possible to provide a high quality service without great cost. For example, if on-line access is widely available the printed version may reasonably provide only one or two access points and perhaps also be more selective in the material it includes, leaving the rest to the machine-readable version. The two forms should be assessed together in their performance, not separately.

Bibliographic access to the world's literature

It is obviously necessary for individuals and libraries in each country to have access to bibliographic records not only of its own publications but of all publications. Whether the records exist in the first place is largely beyond the control of the country : one of the reasons why national bibliographies are needed is to fulfil responsiblities to other countries, and without good national bibliographies, for each country Universal

Bibliographic Controls[5] cannot be approached. In fact, countries with highly developed library systems and extensive acquisitions from other countries can make an important contribution to UBC by recording the foreign publications acquired and making the records available, and some national libraries do this. It is not a long-term substitute for indigenous national bibliographic control in the countries responsible for publishing the books in question, but some of these may not produce adequate records of their own for some years to come.

However, while the *production* of bibliographic records for foreign publications, valuable though it is, is not an essential objective of a National Library system, *access* to such records is. The main functions served by access are the same as for national records : identification of items of interest, checking of references for accuracy, and extraction of records for local cataloguing.

Access to different forms of publication is affected by the different forms of bibliographic control used. Records of books are normally contained in national bibliographies, which may or may not be also in machine-readable form. Records of journal articles are rarely compiled nationally, but are provided in international data bases such as *Biological Abstracts* and *Chemical Abstracts :* coverage is far from perfect in any subject field, but it is much better in science and technology than in the social sciences and humanities. In addition to being printed, many but not all of these databases are held on the computer and accessible on-line or off-line.

Records of printed music and report literature, where they exist, are usually compiled nationally. Report literature in a few countries (eg the USA, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany) is controlled nationally; it may also appear in so many of the international science and technology databases. Official publications are controlled nationally or at state level or not at all. For non-book materials there is little or no control, national or international.

Each country has therefore the task of providing as full access as possible to records available in a variety of ways from a variety of sources. This cannot be left entirely to individual libraries, which may make reasonable provision for their local needs but none of which could possibly afford to acquire all printed bibliographies or provide access to all computerized databases. There must be some national system for ensuring that all or the great majority of national bibliographies and printed secondary services are available, if only at the end of a telephone or by mail, and that no user is barred from access to the databases because his own library does not provide it. Widely dispersed access to printed tools would be inefficient and inconvenient, and the national (as opposed to local) collection of bibliographies should be concentrated on as few institutions as possible. These could be the same ones as held the national collections, which may be held in the national library or distributed among several libraries; or they could be specialized information centres. There may be advantages, economically and to users, in combining access to records for some kind of material (eg for books) with access to the national file. Most access to computer-held databases would be provided locally, usually through commercial database spinners, which may be located anywhere. Nationally, there should be a backstop or backstops — an institution or institutions that can search databases not accessible locally: and in developing countries some national subsidy may be provided.

3. BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACCESS TO WORLD'S LITERATURE

FUNCTIONS :

Identification of Relevant Items
Checking of References
Extraction of Records for Local Cataloguing

LOCATION :

Locally with National Backup

CRITERIA :

Range of Records Accessible
Universality of Access
Range of Access Points
Ease of Access
Speed of Access
Timeliness
Market Economics?

The important issue so far as assessment is concerned is how well alternative means of provision perform according to the various criteria. These are : the range of records to which access is provided ; universality of access; range of access points per record; ease of access; speed of access; and timeliness (how quickly available after publication of the original item), and of course cost. Clearly, the more widely distributed the responsibility for access, the harder it is to ensure that it is carried out and to coordinate it. Particular problems are the avoidance of unnecessary overlap and gaps, and control over funding — for the institutions involved can hardly be expected to make the required provision from their own funds. Coordination itself may be the responsibility of the National Library or a national information planning body.

Retention for future availability

Although it seems clear that publications in a country once acquired should be retained in at least one copy for future availability, and that unless this happens availability may actually decline, this is probably the least recognized of my five National Library functions, in principle as well as practice. It should be distinguished from the conservation of the nation's publications, which is included in the first function as being part of the archival responsibility. Other publications too should be conserved, but a prior need, is to ensure that they are retained. Quite apart from the considerations that any publication however, obscure or emphemeral in intention, may happen to be needed in the future and that it is usually more economical as well as faster to supply it from within the country than from abroad, there is no guarantee that all national imprints will be retained by their countries of publication, and retention may therefore aid worldwide availability.

There are various ways of ensuring retention of at least one copy of publications[6]; a single national repository to which publications no longer wanted by local libraries can be sent : separate national respositories) for different forms of publication or different subjects, perhaps linked with national archival collections (function 1) if these are distributed regional repositories; and the distribution of retention responsibilities among several or many libraries (eg. specializing universities). A repository role may be linked with duplicate exchange — the distribution of items surplus to national requirements among other libraries, within the country and abroad. The choice between different alternatives should depend on the organisation of national archival collections and of document access and supply, but also on the likely performance of the alternatives.

The most obvious criterion of performance is the proportion of publications acquired in the country that is retained. It is however virtually impossible to ascertain this unless there is a total national record of all publications acquired, and even the most ambitious

4. RETENTION FOR FUTURE AVAILABILITY

FUNCTIONS :

Retention in Country of At Least one Copy of Publications Acquired

LOCATION :

Various Alternatives (National Repository or Repositories. Regional Repositories, Distribution among Several Libraries)

CRITERIA :

Proportion of Publications Retained
Availability of Deposited Material
Reservation in Usable Form
Optimal use of Money and other Resources

union catalogue has never achieved complete coverage of every library, and it would be absurd to attempt such coverage on grounds of economics as well as practicality. If however cooperative provision and supply are the basis of national document supply, and assuming that provision and supply are the the responsibility of a limited number of libraries, especially academic and larger public libraries, it may be feasible to go some way by using a union catalogue of these libraries as a basis. With a distributed supply system, particularly if it is based on cooperative acquisition, it may be possible to label copies of many publications as 'national retention copies' soon after they are acquired. In this case, it is still necessary to ascertain at intervals that the publications in question have been retained, not necessarily in the libraries that originally acquired them. Under this criterion may be included a sub-criterion : the ease of use of the system by depositing libraries.

A further criterion of a retention system is that the publications retained are readily available, whether for consultation or remotely by loan or photocopy. This means that they must be locatable and easily supplied; decentralized systems based on many libraries, some of which have local stores at some distance from the main buildings, clearly perform less well on this criterion than a single national repository linked to a national document supply system.

Although the retention function is distinct from the national archival function, the continued existence of retained items in usable form is a necessary accompaniment of their retention, and this means that conservation measures may need to be applied to some of the items. The capacity to achieve preservation in a usable form is therefore another criterion. So of course is their actual preservation, but this can only be measured in the long term.

For any retention system to be used by libraries that withdraw publications from their stock, it must command confidence: the confidence that the items will be retained unless other copies are already earmarked for retention, the confidence that they will be looked after, and the confidence that they can be supplied if wanted subsequently. Confidence should rest on actual performance, which can be measured by the criteria already considered, but confidence itself can be measured.

In this and the following function costs are especially important. The first two functions have to be carried out within given budgets, and the problem is to determine how best they can be carried out within those budgets. The costs of the third function fall largely on individual libraries and users, and there is usually less choice as to the national system. The retention function, however, can be carried out in a variety of ways as we have seen; the costs of each alternative are partly visible and partly hidden, and involve many libraries, since even with a centralized repository all depositing libraries and user libraries incur costs; depositing libraries also make some savings in space and hence capital expenditure. Costs are therefore harder to determine than with the first three functions, but it is more important to determine them because they affect so many institutions.

Document provision and supply

The function of document provision and supply is, from the users' point of view, the most important of all National Library functions. Vital though the collection and bibliographic control of the nation's publications are as national responsibilities, in themselves they make little direct impact on the ordinary user. Bibiliographic access to the world's literature is certainly very important for users, but usually only as a means to an end — the end of using the actual publications. Retention may be a prerequisite for future availability (or current availability of past publications), but is of little use unless supply is linked to it. Access to publications should be the main ultimate objective of a nations's library system.

In fact, supply is more important than mere access, which may involve users in travelling to consult publications : they should be available where and when they are wanted. The term 'document supply' is used deliberately in preference to 'interlibrary lending', partly because many interlibrary transactions involve photocopies rather than loans, partly because documents can be supplied from other sources than libraries; this will increasingly be the case as electronic publishing develops. For this latter reason, 'document provision' is preferred to 'acquisition'.

5. DOCUMENT PROVISION AND SUPPLY

FUNCTION :

Optimal Availability of World's Publications to Users

LOCATION :

Various Alternatives (National Supply Centre, Concentration on Selected Libraries Decentralized Cooperation)

CRITERIA :

Satisfaction Rate
Volume of Demand
Speed of Supply
Equal Service to Different Sectors
Ease of use
Ability to Monitor Performance
Minimal Cost to Provide Service at a Stated Level

Document provision and supply must start with the local library, which would optimize its own acquisitions and holdings. Since no library can satisfy all its users' needs, some provision must be made to supply documents from elsewhere [7 8]. This can be done in various ways : for example, from a centralized source of documents, from selected libraries specializing in major subject areas, by means of union catalogues giving access to the holdings of many libraries, or by mixed systems containing features of different methods. Document supply can rest on the basis of what libraries happen to have acquired, without any attempt to achieve extended coverage of publications. National coverage by libraries can be extended by cooperation between libraries, by special funding of selected libraries, or by the establishment of a dedicated central facility. Beyond a given level (of satisfaction and speed of supply) dependence may be placed on foreign sources. Coverage can also be extended by commercial suppliers, who may operate nationally or transcend national boundaries (as is possible with electronic text transmission). It is clear that provision and supply cannot be considered apart ,although in few countries are they planned together — if indeed they are planned at all, for it is astonishing that so many countries have devoted so much attention to bibliographic control and so little to document provision and supply. In fact, most developed as well as developing countries have yet to make a choice between alternative systems of document provision and supply, so the use of appropriate criteria is especially important.

The need to supply national imprints, both within and beyond the country, was mentioned under the first function, and is repeated here mainly for the sake of completeness. The loanable (o rcopiable) copy need not be available from the same institution or institutions that collect and hold archival copies, and indeed it is best to link the supply of most national imprints with the supply of other publications, since to the user it is of little concern where the item was published : he simply wants it supplied.

It is not the purpose of this paper to consider the relative merits of alternative systems, but to discuss the criteria by which selection can be made between systems[9] by which operational systems can be monitored for performance.

The first and most obvious criterion of performance is the proportion of requests that can be satisfied. Performance on this criterion measures both provision — what material has been acquired — and availability; the two do not by any means necessarily go hand in hand. Satisfaction level is however not a sufficient criterion, for demand is very much a function of the provision and supply system. A poor system will deter demand, which may be restricted to items thought certain to be supplied. Conversely a very good system will uncover latent demand, including some for obscure items, and thus achieve a much lower 'success rate' than the poor system. The proportion of *needs* that can be satisfied is a much more valid criterion, but needs are extremely difficult to determine, and it is probably better to use two criteria in harness : demand per head of literate population, and proportion of demand satisfied. The former cannot be set absolutely, since it is affected by the number and quality of local libraries, but the ratios are in fact quite similar for countries of different kinds with library systems at similar stages of development, and the highest ratios can be used as objectives. Setting a national satisfaction level set has a subjective element about it, but it is reasonable to say that a level below 70% is unlikely to be either desirable or economic, while a level above 90% is possible only in very highly developed systems. The law of diminishing returns operates here as elsewhere.

One minor problem is that not all demands represent needs, whether because the request is frivolous or, more commonly, because the requester does not have sufficient advance information about the document requested. The problem is minor because nothing can be done about it at the national level, and very little at the local library where such requests are made.

The second main criterion is speed of supply. This is an obvious measure, which is fortunately fairly easy to use, although the total elapsed time between requesting and receipt must be broken down into time spent in the requesting library, by the supplier, and in transmission, of both requests and documents.

Within the total volume of demand there may be large differences in the demand : user ratio between different categories of user — academic, industrial, etc — or between different subjects or forms of material. There may likewise be large differences in satisfaction level and speed of supply. An apparently good overall performance may conceal serious inequalities, not all of them necessarily avoidable, but deserving attention nevertheless. For example, it is possible for a developing country to achieve a high appraent level of perfomance by concentrating on scientific and technical journals, on which the bulk of demand falls, while the academic historian say, is getting a very raw deal.

A secondary criterion of performance is ease of use of the supply system. It has been shown several times, and is indeed a matter of common experience, that people will use a system that is simple and accessible in preference to one that requires more effort to use even though they know the latter is much more likely to meet their needs. A 'difficult' system is not only less satisfactory to the user but may seriously constrain demand, indeed if demand is known or thought to be constrained the system's ease of use as well as its performance on more objective measures should be looked at as a possible cause. Ease of use can be assessed both by examination — real difficulties should be obvious once they are looked for — and by user surveys; in both cases better results can be expected if comparison can be made between two or more operational systems or supply in the country in question.

Another secondary criterion in selecting a document provision and supply system is essential to its continuing performance. This is its ability to assess its performance. Document provision and supply systems must be responsive to shifts in demand as well as to day to day demand, and thus means that demand both in general and in particular must be continually monitored.

As with retention systems, but to an even greater extent, costs are of great importance in document provision and supply systems, since they affect not only the systems themselves but almost every library in the country. The costs of *not* having an adequate system may be hidden but very high, always assuming that the demands placed on it are genuine ones and that if they are unmet, or not met in time, some penalty is paid in the users' time, personal or social wellbeing, work performance, or even contribution to the economy. Because of the importance of the volume of demand as a measure, unit costs per request should be determined; and these in turn should be analysed according to successful and failed requests, requests from different users, requests for different forms of material, and so on. It may well prove that different provision and supply systems are appropriate for different kinds of material[10], since (to take two extremes) while the unit costs of supplying core science journals from a central source may be relatively very low, it may be far cheaper to supply non-book materials by decentralized means. Unit costs are in fact a very useful measure for deciding what should be acquired for a central supply source. It is important that any such costing takes into account total national costs, not simply those of supplying libraries or borrowing libraries, though such libraries may also wish to consider and cost alternative operating procedures. The balance for users between acquisition and obtaining a loan or photocopy is certainly an important factor in pricing a national system, in its use and in its unit costs. However, the economics of document provision and supplying are complex, and simple market criteria should not be used in isolation.

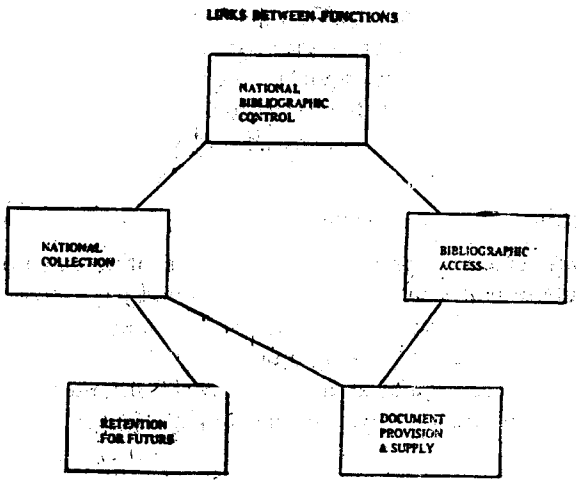
National library performance as a whole

It is clear from the preceding discussion that some of the functions are not necessarily closely related, while others can and probably should be. Not only must national bibliographic control depend on comprehensive collection of the nation's publications, but it would be foolish to separate bibliographic access to the world's literature from that of the nation's literature, or to plan a retention system without thought to its subsequent supply. Further, bibliographic access to the world's literature can aid selection for document provision.

The law of diminishing return applies not only to document provision and supply but to all functions. One hundred per cent performance, tempting though it may be to aim at and desirable though it may seem in national activities that support the rest of the country's libraries, is simply unattainable, a fact that those libraries often seem reluctant to recognize; and ill-considered attempts to maximize performance of one function, or on one criterion, are likely to be detrimental to other functions and criteria. National library functions should therefore be planned and assessed as a whole, if there is not to be a waste of resources and if each function is to perform optimally.

This does not mean that one organization should perform all of the functions, although this may exceptionally prove the best solution for a particular country. National libraries are commonly responsible for collecting the nation's publications and exercising bibliographic control of them. Less commonly they may have a major or minor role to play in the other functions, whether as planner or coordinator or executor. They may, for example, maintain a national union catalogue giving access to the documents in the nation's libraries and thus aid document supply. They may go further and aid document provision by planning and managing a national acquisition programme — or further still and serve as the country's main source of documents wanted by local libraries.

In many countries the budgets for the National Library and for National Library functions carried out elsewhere may be separate — indeed, they may come under separate ministries. In such cases optimal planning is somewhat unrealistic, though the relationships between the functions still need to be taken into account when each one is planned and assessed. Ideally, not only the relationships but the *balance* should be considered : given a certain budget, how can this be allocated between functions so as to achieve the best total results? A country that scored very high on performance in collecting its own publications but very low in providing and supplying documents needed by local libraries would be very unbalanced — and *vice versa*. Viewed in this light, the National Library systems of most countries would have to be considered as quite seriously unbalanced, their performance of retention and document provision and supply usually falling well behind that of the other functions.



It should also be borne in mind that the relative difficulty of performing different functions varies among countries. A very small country should have little difficulty in carrying out the first two functions because it produces few publications, but may find the last very difficult and costly, especially if it is also a poor country, although as a poor country its ability to supply documents may be of crucial importance to its future development. Conversely, a publishing country will find the first two functions impossible to perform beyond a certain level, but may have so many books in its libraries that good document supply should in principle be relatively simple to achieve. It then has to choose which functions need most attention — or indeed whether they all need equal attention.

This suggests that, in an ideal situation, criteria should be set for each function, with levels of performance on each criterion, all functions being considered together as a whole. The planned balance will inevitably be rather subjective, but it will at least have been the product of conscious planning. Although such a careful plan will rarely be possible in reality, nevertheless each country could with profit stand back and look at its National Library functions in this way — as indeed some of them have done in recent years, particularly developing countries with all to plan for. Such an assessment could yield surprising and salutary results.

Concluding observations

If it is accepted that national performance can and should be assessed, one obvious question is who is to do the assessing. If only one institution is involved in a particular function, assessment is clearly the responsibility of the institution, though it also has a responsibility to make known the results to those concerned, particularly in the case of service functions. Often there will be several, perhaps many, institutions involved, and certainly overall assessment of all functions together raises great difficulties. Where there is a national planning body it can be responsible for assessment. Alternatives are library associations, or research units, though in both cases access will be needed to detailed information concerning the various institutions that are active in carrying out national functions.

It will have been noted that the service element in the functions outlined above varies. Some functions, like the collection of the nation's publications and their bibliographic control, are *prior* functions, and their service elements are subsidiary. The supply of bibliographic records to other libraries is a direct service function, like bibliographic access and document provision and supply. Retention for future availability is an indirect service function. The stronger the service element, the more important economic factors are, and the greater the ease of performance assessment. Perhaps the most difficult criterion of all to establish and to use is that of comprehensiveness as applied to the national collection and the national bibliography.

National library functions have hitherto been tended to be looked at, if at all, on a rather general level as desirable objectives not amendable to assessment or measurement. What is not thought as assessable in any systematic way is not usually assessed, and what is not assessed often remains at a low level of performance because no-one knows, or can show, that it is performing poorly. The issues discussed in this paper are therefore of more than theoretical interest, and some consensus as to performance criteria and measures could do much to further the National Library development that is of such importance in many countries for the whole library system.

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The views expressed in this paper are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent those of the British Library.

ESTABLISHMENT OF IFLA PAC REGIONAL CENTER FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA

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1. IFLA Core Programme on Preservation

In 1984 the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) reviewed its main activities and consequently launched six core programmes including UBC (Universal Bibliographic Control) and UAP (Universal Availability of Publications). The Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation known as PAC is one of these programmes.

The primary objective of PAC is to encourage and promote preservation efforts made by the world's libraries facing the common danger of deterioration of library materials. Incidentally the main cause of the deterioration, as it has been discovered, is acid paper on which most publications are printed. As a means to achieve this objective IFLA, is working to build a worldwide network through which information and expertise in preservation and conservation can be coordinated and shared. The initial step in establishing such an international information system has been to set up an international center and identify National Libraries in key locations that can serve as regional focal points in the network.

The PAC core program was officially launched in April 1986 in Vienna at the. Conference on Preservation of Library Materials. The US Library of Congress has assumed the role of an international focal point, while the Deutsche Bücherei, Leipzig, GDR and the Bibliothéque Nationale's Conservation Center in Sablé, France have become regional centers respectively. Leipzig represents Eastern Europe and the German speaking countries except West Germany and Australia, while Sable represents Western Europe, Africa to the North of the equator, and the Middle East. Later, the National Library of Venezuela has also become a regional center to cover the Central and South America

The international focal point develops general policies for PAC encourages cooperative research in preservation, maintains communication among and between the network's focal points and the relevant sections of IFLA, works to develop educational opportunities and materials, and produces publications that pertain to international preservation issues.

The general tasks of the regional centers, on the other hand, include : promotion of preservation activities and exchange of preservation information in the region; representation of the preservation needs and interests of the region to the international focal point; and assistance with PAC core programme activities and projects in the region. They are also expected to further the program by providing translations of papers, texts, and brochures, preparing articles for *International Preservation News* issued by the PAC international focal point, maintaining for loan copies of audiovisual programs on

preservation, and managing local arrangements for any conferences in their region, organized through the international focal point. According to their own interests and strengths, the regional centers also play a role in various aspects of preservation and conservation education. The PAC core programme, though not long since its inception, has been developing steadily supported by the increasing awareness of the importance of preserving library materials.

2. NDL's role for the national preservation programme

The role that the national library should play in the preservation of library materials is great and perhaps greater than that of any other institutions. It is because many of National Libraries are functioning as depository libraries for national literature, and maintain a comprehensive collection of domestic publications as the nations' cultural property. The work of preservation and conservation not only demands a high level of technical know-how but also the positive involvement of archives, museums, and other relating institutions. This is why there should be a national cooperative programme encompassing all such institutions, most preferably with the National Library taking the lead.

In recognition of the role as a National Library, the National Diet Library (NDL) has strengthened its organizational approach to the problem, establishing the Preservation Planning Office in June 1986. This Office (with a full-time director and 13 staff members in concurrent positions) is chiefly responsible for developing and coordinating preservation policies for library materials and for making research on technology of preservation and conservation.

With this office as the core unit, NDL is going to assume national responsibility by organizing an annual symposium and occasional workshops on preservation and conservation, lending educational video tapes and slides on the subject, and responding to reference queries. These activities are to be started from January 1990.

3. Establishment of PAC Regional Center for Asia and Oceania

It was in August 1986 when the IFLA Conference was held in Tokyo that Merrily Smith, Director of the new PAC core programme, unofficially asked the NDL to become a regional center for Asia. In the following year at the IFLA Conference in Brighton, UK, I discussed this matter with Warren Horton, Director-General of the National, Library of Australia (NLA) who told me that his Library was also willing to become a regional center for Asia and Oceania. It is important to note that during this talk, both of us shared the view that there would be nothing like conflict or competition between the two centers if they coexist in the same region.

As to whether the NDL should accept the role of a regional center for Asia, I talked in full with my colleagues, and our consensus was that if other National Libraries in the region support this idea, the NDL should become a center for the region.

Further on this matter, I talked with Merrily Smith and Warren Horton in August of the same year when we joined in the IFLA Conference held in Sydney. The basic points we discussed and agreed on were as follows :

(1) In view of the fact that the region of Asia and Oceania is vast in area and diverse in language and culture, it would raise no problem if the region has more than one regional center.

(2) Assuming there be two regional centers each in Japan and Australia, both should be independent from each other but maintain the efforts of coordination and cooperation in the performance of their respective roles.

(3) In establishing the centers, both libraries should fully respect views and opinions from other National Libraries in the region.

Based on this general agreement, both Libraries discussed some details through correspondence, and finally in February 1989 the proposed IFLA PAC *Regional Center Project* was prepared. This circular was sent to 40 National Libraries and institutions in Asia and Oceania under the joint names of Warren Horton and Kiyohide Ibusuki requesting them to give views and comments particularly on the following points :

(1) The idea of establishing a PAC regional center each at the NLA and the NDL.

(2) The question of which particular parts of the region should be covered by the respective centers.

(3) Any other comments regarding the PAC core programme.

The enquiry was answered by 17 National Libraries and I thank all the respondents for their cordial attention, and I wish to take this occasion to remind those who have not yet answered the enquiry.

The information so far gathered makes it clear that most libraries hold keen interest in the problems of preservation of library materials and strongly support the idea of, establishing a regional center for Asia and Oceania. It also shows that there are different views regarding geographical representation by the two centers and that some libraries even want to see the tropical zone have a center of its own in view of its peculiar climatic conditions.

In keeping these opinions and some other factors in mind, Mr. Horton and I agreed in principle that for some time to come the NLA covers Asia as well as Oceania, while the NDL covers Asia. The decision thus reached was made known by the respective heads to the Director of the International Focal Point, who officially designed both Libraries as the PAC regional centers. The Director also reported on it at the IFLA Conference and the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) both held in Paris in August this year.

4. NDL's planning of PAC regional center in Asia

According to the responses to the enquiry mentioned above, what the national libraries in the region expect the regional centers to perform in particular are to provide guidance and advice, organize workshops and seminars, train professional conservators, provide conservation treatment to rare and old materials in danger of deterioration, and promote scientific research in this field.

Taking these expressed wishes into consideration, the regional center at the NDL plans to undertake such activities as :

1. Provision of information and materials.
   (a) Distribution of *International Preservation News* issued by the international focal point.
   (b) Dissemination of preservation information available from papers, texts, and articles.
   (c) Lending service of audiovisual materials on preservation and conservation.

2. Provision of reference, referral and advisory services (including the information retrieval from the Conservation Information Network and other related databases).

3. Maintenance of close contacts with the libraries in the region.

4. Organization of seminars, workshops and training programmes on preservation and conservation.

5. Maintenance of cooperative relations with the international focal point.

These are the main items we plan to undertake for the present. You will be kept informed of any notable developments that takes place regarding this plan.

5. CDNLAO and preservation of library materials

CDNL, which meets in conjunction with IFLA meetings, has been discussing issues of preservation as the main item of its agenda since 1980, giving great impact on development of IFLA's preservation activities. The success of the Vienna Conference and the creation of the PAC Core Programme owes much to the enthusiasm and initiative of the CDNL.

Our Conference, CDNLAO, which is the Asia and Oceania version of CDNL has met four times since 1979. At each of the previous meetings some aspects of preservation and conservation were discussed as a topic of the agenda, but producing no tangible result.

Now that the international environment to support preservation activities has been improving for these years, it seems quite opportune for the National Libraries in the region to work together for the common concern of protecting library materials.

We are now in Beijing discussing the problems of preservation and conservation. I am sure our talk will be producing something constructive that may form the basis for further dialogues.

The NDL, is going to serve as the regional center for Asia. We will try our best. In order to carry out the plan, however, it is necessary for us to have your support and cooperation; in particular, we must have your distinct needs and interests. I should be happy, therefore, if you could let me have them as the conference goes on. Such information would certainly facilitate the development of the regional center's activities.

Paper presented at the
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THE SINGAPORE NATIONAL LIBRARY: EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

By

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Abstract : Reviews the Singapore National Library's exchange and library cooperation programme with some proposals to widen the scope.

Introduction

In fulfilment of the National Library Act (Cap. 197 ed. 1988), the National Library participates in cooperative and exchange activities with libraries in Singapore and around the world. Below are highlights of major activities.

Singapore Integrated Library Automation Service (SILAS)

2. The National Library is the Central Agency for the Singapore Integrated Library Automation Service (SILAS) which provides a national bibliographic source, a shared library network, a cooperative online shared cataloguing facility and a national union catalogue for the libraries of Singapore.

3. Presently the network has 20 participating and 10 dial up members. Besides the National Library, the other participating members are libraries of the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological Institute, Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Institute of Education, the Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, the Regional Language Centre, the Attorney-General's Chambers, the Supreme Court, the Subordinate Courts and Parliament. The database contains over 5 million bibliographic records of which more than 693,000 titles are held in Singapore libraries. These include books, serials, AV and other materials (see Appendix). More than 22,350 records of the *Singapore National Bibliography* (SNB) as well as records from the Dutch national database PICA and the Australian Bibliographic Information on Southeast Asia (BISA) database are contained in the SILAS database, making it a rich source of information on Singapore and Southeast Asia. The *Australian National Bibliography* and the *New Zealand National Library*, received on an exchange basis, also form part of the SILAS database. Royan[1] and Lai[2] have published detailed accounts of the workings of SILAS.

International Serials Data System (ISDS)

4. The National Library serves as the ISDS National Centre for Singapore. Its activities are as follows :

(a) Assigning ISSNs to new serial publications received under the Printers' and Publishers' Act and informing the publishers accordingly

(b) Responding to requests from local publishers, foreign institutions and the International Centre for the assignment of ISSNs.

(c) Sending all registration on worksheets in the ISDS standard format for maintenance in the international database.

(d) Validating assignment of ISSN by foreign institutions.

(e) Maintaining a national file of ISSN records with key title index and publishers' addresses.

(f) Promoting and regulating the use of ISSN through liaison with publishers.

The national file comprises some 1,880 ISSN records of unique Singapore titles.

ASEAN Libraries Network

5. The National Library is a member of the ASEAN National Libraries Network, a regional net work including the National Libraries of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. The network was established following a meeting of Directors of ASEAN National Libraries in Manila in July 1989, in response to a need to facilitate resource sharing and access to publications available within the region. The objectives of the network are :

(a) to develop an interlibrary network among libraries within the region with each National Library as the focal point

(b) to provide access to all library materials except classified items emanating from any ASEAN country, at reasonable cost and within reasonable time.

(c) to ensure that each country's output of library materials is promptly recorded in its own national bibliography; issued in accordance with international standards and in a format that is accepted among other libraries in the region.

(d) to create in each member country a register of translations of publications from local language into languages of broader distribution and usages.

(e) to initiate action to reduce barriers to the free flow of library materials.

Members of the Network are expected to make available for exchange national bibliographies in computerised or printed format and explore the possibility of exchanging government publications. They are also expected to make available for loan materials of a non-confidential nature.

Cooperative Cataloguing of Southeast Asian Materials Project

6. The need to speed up the cataloguing of Southeast Asian materials among libraries in Singapore resulted in the Cooperative Cataloguing of Southeast Asian Materials Project in December 1988. Participating members are the National Library and libraries of the National University of Singapore, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, the Institute of Education and the SEAMEO Regional Language Centre. All participants are members

of SILAS and have access to a central database. Under a mutual understanding and arrangement each participant is allocated specific areas of cataloguing coverage in accordance with its collection strength and/or subject specialisation so that priorities are established and coverage defined. For smooth implementation of the project, members agree to adhere to specific guidelines and conditions.

Cooperation in Collection Development

7. In May 1988 the National Library initiated a meeting with major libraries in Singapore to review the Southeast Asian collection development policies in appropriate libraries, to ascertain whether there was any unnecessary duplications and to identify important gaps. The areas covered at this meeting were confined to the social sciences and the humanities. Librarians from the following libraries attended the meeting: National University of Singapore, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Institute of, Education, Ministry of Education, Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore, SEAMEO Regional Language Centre, Trinity Theological College.

8. The concern of the meeting was not on basic materials in libraries but fringe materials which were difficult to acquire or access. There was a need to study the collections which would focus on Singapore materials published and printed locally and other materials on Singapore published overseas. In order to review the strengths and weaknesses of the collections on Singapore and Southeast Asia in all libraries, it was agreed to adopt the Conspectus method using the RLG Conspectus and the NLDC - SEA Consortium Table Codes. Currently selection policies of participating libraries are being distributed as a first step towards implementation of the review.

National Indexing System

9. A recent survey conducted by SILAS established the need for a national indexing system to avoid duplication of work done by libraries in Singapore. A proposal has been made for SILAS with its existing infrastructure to undertake the project in which all libraries can participate, thereby extending the coverage of materials indexed from core journals only to fringe journals, or journals of marginal interest as well. A committee has been appointed to undertake a feasibility study.

Computerisation of Chinese Bibliographic Records in SILAS

10. Currently the SILAS database of over 5 million records contains only bibliographic records in the roman script. Since July 1989, the National Library and the Institute of Computing Technology, Academia Sinica have held several preliminary discussions on the input and output of Chinese characters in the SILAS system. Initial testings showed that the Lian Xiang ( ) system developed by the Institute could be used on SILAS. However, further developmental effort is still required before the ideal stage of processing Chinese and Roman script data concurrently in SILAS can be achieved.

Interlibrary Loans and Exchanges

11. In fulfilment of the National Library Act Section 5(k) and (1), the National Library serves as the organising agency for the national and international lending of library material and the organising agency for the national and international exchange of materials

12. The interlibrary loan function has been enhanced at national and international level with library holdings information available from SILAS. The data can be further exploited when the number of SILAS participants increase.

13. The National Library has 309 exchange of library material agreements in 56, countries. The National Libraries in Asia and Oceania participating in the exchange on a title by title basis include : Australia, Burma, People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Staff Training and Exchanges

14. The National Library provides in-house training for librarians under the ASEAN Training Award and Colombo Plan Training schemes and in response to specific requests. Individualised training programmes are planned, including visits to other libraries appropriate to the trainees' needs.

15. In September 1989 the National Library hosted a seminar on library computerisation, in conjunction with the ASEAN Exchange of Librarians Project. At this meeting, six delegates from ASEAN member countries participated in the seminar, and spent 10 days on a study tour of Singapore libraries.

Extension of Activities

16. The National Library's present exchange and library cooperation activities can be further extended. Some potential areas include data and staff exchanges as well as staff training. To maximise such activities with National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (NLAO) it is desirable to establish an informal link for information sharing and support in library and information technology skills. NLAO, including the Singapore National Library, can serve as nodes in the link and provide the mechanism for :

(a) the dissemination of information on specialised collections through national and subject bibliographies, indexes, union catalogues and other sources;

(b) access to and acquisition of national imprints, government and other official publications and non-trade materials;

(c) the identification of specialists who can provide training and technical support in the preservation and conservation of materials, library automation including the computerisation of non-roman scripts and applications of new information technology, planning of library buildings, administration of libraries with multi-lingual collections and serving multi-ethnic groups;

(d) staff exchanges to enrich the work experience of librarians and to share their skills.

17. The languages of many NLAO are in non-roman scripts. Availability of up-to-date information on the development of computerisation in these languages in the NLAO at national level would in some cases avoid duplication of effort.

18. Shared information on the authority control of Asian names and subject headings as approved by national committees would also help standardise bibliographic entries, ensure uniformity and facilitate information retrieval.

19. There are similarities in environmental conditions in some NLAO where heat, humidity and pests present problems in conservation and preservation. Expertise shared at a workshop would go a long way to overcome these problems and prevent loss of precious and irreplaceable materials.

20. The proposed linkage is essentially informal, given the existence of the CDNLAO. A member of CDNLAO could link with the other members or enter into bilateral arrangements depending on its interests and needs. As the CDNLAO is held every three years, it is essential that a strong linkage be sustained between meetings, for the benefit of all.

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4th International Conference of Directors of National Libraries of Asia and Oceania, Beijing, China, 5—9 Dec. 89,

Statistical Information on SILAS Database as at 22 Oct. 89

National Agency Coverage

LC Books	1968	to	25 Sep. 89
LC Serials	1973	to	6 Sep. 89
LC Films	1972	to	6 Sep. 89
LC Music	1984	to	4 Oct. 89
LC Maps	1986	to	4 Oct. 89
UKMARC	1980	to	26 Aug. 89
SNB (Roman Script)	1982	to	date
MALMARC	up till	to	25 Feb. 87
BISA	up till	to	11 Feb. 87
PICA	up till	to	20 Feb. 87
NZEN	Sep. 82	to	26 Sep. 89
ANB	Sep. 88	to	May 89

Records in SILAS Database

Bibliographic records	5,087,712
Authority records	5,954,986

Holdings Statistics Types of Materials

The number of holdings on SILAS is 980,012 representing 693,352 unique titles as follows :

Books	624,313
Serials	28,847
Films	24,159
Music	15,554
Map	6
Computer Files	462
AMC	11

ජාතික පුස්තකාලය හා ජාතික සංවර්ධනය

මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ හිටපු අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල්
ආචාර්ය ඩී. ඊ. කේ. විජයසූරිය

හැඳින්වීම

මේ පත්‍රිකාවේ දී මූලික වශයෙන් ම සලකා බැලෙන්නේ මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ සංවර්ධනය පිළිබඳවයි. වර්ෂ 1974 දී පිනැන්ග්නහි පවත්වන ලද මැලේසියානු හා සිංගප්පූරු ජාතික හා අධ්‍යාපනික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ සම්මන්ත්‍රණයේ දී කතුවරයා විසින් පත්‍රිකාවක් ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලදී. එතැන් පටන් මේ දක්ෂා මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ හටගත් සංවර්ධනයන් වාර්තා ගතකරන මේ ලිපිය ගත වූ වසර කීපය මුලුල්ලේ මේ ලිපිය අළලා ඔහු විසින් ප්‍රකාශයට පමුණුවන ලද පත්‍රිකාවල ඇතුළත් කරුණු අලුත් කිරීමක් ද සිදු කරයි.

රට තුළ පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන සේවා සංවර්ධනයත්, තදනන්තරව සමස්ත ජාතික සංවර්ධනයත් විෂයෙහි ආසන්න හෝ විභව්‍ය බලපෑමක් ඇති කළ හැකි සංවර්ධනයන් ඇසුරින් මෙහිදී මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ප්‍රධාන සංවර්ධනයන් සලකා බැලේ. පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන අංශයේ සංවර්ධනයන ක්‍රියාවට නැංවීමේදී ඒවා පුළුල් ජාතික අවශ්‍යතාවන් හා සම්බන්ධ කොට ගත යුතු වේ. ඒ රජයේ අනුමැතිය හා සහාය ලබා ගැනීම සඳහා ය.

මැලේසියානු පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන ක්ෂේත්‍රයෙහි ලා වැදගත් සංවර්ධනයන් ගණනාවක් සිදු වී තිබේ. ඒවා විශේෂයෙන් ම දියුණුවන රටවල පුළුල් සැලකිල්ලට ගෝචර විය හැකි ය. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විවෘත කිරීම නිමිත්තෙන් පළ කරනු ලබන අනුස්මරණ කලාපයට මේ ලිපිය ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලබන්නේ මේ හේතුව නිසා ය. අනුස්මරණ කලාපයට ලිපියක් ඉදිරිපත් කරනු වස් ඇරියුම් කරනු ලැබීම සැබවින් ම ගෞරවයකි. වර්ෂ 1985 වර්ෂයේ නොවැම්බර් 18—23 යන දිනවල කොළඹ පැවැති ආසියානු හා ඔසිනියානු රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන්ගේ තුන්වැනි අන්තර් ජාතික සම්මන්ත්‍රණයේ දී ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලැබූ පත්‍රිකාව කෙරෙහි ද මෙහි දී අවධානය යොමු කරනු ලැබේ. එම පත්‍රිකාව Sekitar ද[2] සම්මන්ත්‍රණ පත්‍රිකා එකතුවෙහි[3] ලා ද පළ වී තිබේ.

අමාත්‍යාංශ අධිකාරය

ගත වූ විසි වසර තුළ මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලය කලින් කලට විවිධ අමාත්‍යාංශවල අධිකාරය යටතේ පැවැතිණි. මෙය සමහර විට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය සංවර්ධනය වූ පරිසරය පෙන්නුම් කරන්නක් විය හැකි යි. තාක්ෂණය, පර්යේෂණ හා පළාත් පාලන අමාත්‍යාංශ, පළාත් පාලන හා නිවාස අමාත්‍යාංශය, පළාත් පාලන හා පරිසර අමාත්‍යාංශය, පළාත් පාලන හා පෙඩරල් ප්‍රදේශ, අමාත්‍යාංශය, නිවාස හා පළාත් පාලන අමාත්‍යාංශය, සංස්කෘතික තරුණ හා ක්‍රීඩා අමාත්‍යාංශය, වඩාත් මෑතක දී සංස්කෘතික හා සංචාරක අමාත්‍යාංශය ආදිය මේ අමාත්‍යාංශවලට ඇතුළත් වේ. මේ කාලය තුළ අමාත්‍යාංශ නාමය විටින් විට වෙනස් වුවත් පළාත් පාලන අමාත්‍යාංශය හැමවිට ම ජාතික පුස්තකාල අමාත්‍යාංශ අධිකාරයේ කොටසක් විය. මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය සංස්කෘතික, තරුණ හා ක්‍රීඩා අමාත්‍යාංශය යටතට පත් වූයේ 1982 දී ය.

නව ඇමතිවරුන්, නියෝජ්‍ය ඇමතිවරුන්, පාර්ලිමේන්තු ලේකම්වරුන්' මහ ලේකම්වරුන් හා වෙනත් අමාත්‍යාංශ නිලධාරීන්ට ගැළපෙන පරිදි සකස්වන්නට නිරතුරුවම සිදුවුවත් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය සංස්කෘතික අමාත්‍යාංශය යටතට පත්වීම තර්කාන්විත වූවක බව පෙනේ. මේ නිසා බොහෝ දෑ සාක්ෂාත් කර ගත හැකි වී තිබේ. මෙහි දී පෙනවා දිය යුතු කරුණක් නම් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය සංස්කෘතික හා සංචාරක අමාත්‍යාංශය යටතට පත්වීම යනු එය සමාජ අංශයෙන් ආර්ථික අංශයට ගමන් කොට ඇති බවට සලකුණක් සේ පෙනී යා හැකි බවයි. මෙය වැදගත් ද, සමස්ත සැපයුම් දියුණු කිරීමට හේතුවේ ද යන්න පැවසීම දුෂ්කර ය. ආර්ථික අංශයට

සම්බන්ධ ආයතන, සාමාන්‍යයෙන් ජාතික ආදයමට දායක විය යුතුයැයි, වෙනත් වචනවලින් කිව හොත් ආදයම් උත්පාදක විය යුතු යැයි අපේක්ෂා කෙරේ. එහෙත් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය ඊට ආදයම් ඉපයීමේ කිසියම් හැකියාවක් ඇතත් දැනට බොහෝ සම්පත් අපේක්ෂා කරන ආයතනයකි.

අමාත්‍යාංශත්, නිතර නිතරම ඇමතිවරුනුත් වෙනස් වුවත් එය ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ අඛණ්ඩතාව බිඳ වැටීමට හේතුවක් වූයේ නැත. බොහෝ අමාත්‍යාංශ 'නිවාස', 'පළාත් පාලන' ජාතික සංස්කෘතිය', 'ක්‍රීඩා', 'සංචාරක ව්‍යාපාරය' ආදී කඩිනට ප්‍රශ්නවල ඛර කරට ගෙන ඒ ගැන මුලු අවධානයම පාහේ යොමු කොට සිටි නමුත් පොදුවේ ගෙන බලන කල්හි මේ වෙනස්කම් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ හෝ මැලේසියානු රාජ්‍ය තුළ පිහිටි මහජන පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධනයෙහි ලා හෝ හානිකර අයුරින් බලපා නැත.

එක් එක් අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ අධිකාරය යටතට පත්වන විෂය හෝ දෙපාර්තමේන්තු මොනවාද යන්න අමාත්‍යාංශ කාර්යය පනතේ (1969 අංක 02 දරණ පනත) හා පෙඩරල් රජයේ ඇමතිවරු ආඥා පනතේ (P.U.) (A) 186) දක්වේ. මින් දෙවැන්න 1979 පටන් වාර ගණනාවක් සංශෝධනය කොට තිබේ. වර්ෂ 1986 දී P.U. (A) 462 මගින් සංස්කෘතික, තරුණ හා ක්‍රීඩා ඇමතිවරයාගේ වගකීම් අතරට 'පුස්තකාල කටයුතු' පිළිබඳ විෂයත්, 1972 හි ජාතික පුස්තකාල පනතත්, 1966 හි ග්‍රන්ථ, සංරක්ෂණ පනතේ අයත් කොට ඇත. 1987 හි P.U. (A) 317 මගින් සංස්කෘතික හා සංචාරක ඇමතිවරයාගේ (දැනට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය පවත්න්නේ මේ අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ අධිකාරය යටතේ ය) වගකීම් අතරට 'පුස්තකාල කටයුතු' පිළිබඳ විෂයත්, 1972 හි ජාතික පුස්තකාල පනතත්, 1986 පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය තැන්පතු පනතත් අයත් කොට තිබේ.

1972 හි ජාතික පුස්තකාල පනත හා 1987 හි ජාතික පුස්තකාල (සංශෝධන) පනත මගින් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට ජාතික වගකීමක් පවරා ඇති හෙයින්, අඩු තරමින් පනත විසින් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට නියමිත කරන ලද කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ සන්දර්භය තුළවත් ඇමතිවරයාට පුස්තකාල සම්බන්ධව සමස්ත වගකීමක් ඇතැයි සැලකීම තර්කානුකූලය. කෙසේ වෙතත් මෙහි දී සැලකිල්ලට ගත යුතු කරුණක් නම් 'අධ්‍යාපන' විෂය පිළිබඳව වගකීම දරණ අධ්‍යාපන ඇමතිවරයා විශ්ව විද්‍යාල, විද්‍යායතන, පාසල් හා ඒවායේ පිහිටි පුස්තකාල ගැන ද වගකියන බවය. මහජන පුස්තකාලවල සංවර්ධනය හා උන්නතිය විෂයෙහි ලා මැ.ජ . පුස්තකාලයට වගකීමක් පැවරී ඇතත් මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් 'රාජ්‍ය කටයුත්තක්' වන හෙයින් පෙඩරල් ඇමතිවරයාගේ සෘජු වගකීම් යටතට නොවැටෙන බවද කිව යුතු ය.

මේ තත්වයන් යටතේ, රට තුළ පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධන කටයුතු හා ඒවාට අදළ ප්‍රශ්න පිළිබඳව කටයුතු කිරීමේ දී ඉඩාන් සංවේදීව හා සුක්ෂ්මව ස්වකීය කාර්යයන් ඉටු කරන්නට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට සිදුවේ.

ඓතිහාසික පර්යාලෝකය

මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ සමාරම්භය 1966 හි ජාතික රාජ්‍ය ලේඛනාගාරයෙහි පිහිටුවන ලද ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා ඒකකය දක්වා ඇතට දිවෙයි. වර්ෂ 1971 දී රාජ්‍ය ලේඛනාගාර හා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ පෙඩරල් දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ ආයතනික අංගය ක් ලෙස මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය විධිමත්ව පිහිටුවන ලදී.

1972 හි මැයි මාසයේ දී ජාතික පුස්තකාල පනත සම්මත කරන ලද අතර ඉන් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ අරමුණු හා කාර්යයන් ස්ථාපිත කරනු ලැබිණි. 1977 ජනවාරියේ දී මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය ජාතික රාජ්‍ය ලේඛනාගාරයෙන් වෙන් කොට මුළුමනින්ම වෙනත් පෙඩරල් දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවක් බවට පත් කරන ලදී. මේ සංවර්ධනය මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය පිහිටුවන ලද කාලයේම අපේක්ෂා කරන ලද්දක් වන අතර 1974 හි පවත්වන ලද මැලේසියානු හා සිංගප්පූරු ජාතික හා අධ්‍යාපනික පුස්තකාල පිළිබඳ සම්මන්ත්‍රණයේදී ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලද කාර්ය පත්‍රිකාවකින් කතුවරයා එය වඩාත් වෙගවත් කොට තිබේ.

"iv වැනි අදියර 1976— මේ කාලපරිච්ඡේදය ආරම්භයේ දී පවින් ම මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය ජාතික පුස්තකාලයෙන් මුලුමනින්ම වෙන් වී කෙළින්ම අමාත්‍යාංශය යටතේ පිහිටි ස්වාධීන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවක් බවට පත් විය යුතුයි. එමගින් පළමු හා දෙවැනි මැලේසියානු සැලසුම් කාලපරිච්ඡේදයක අතර වූ දස වස තුළ දරු අනෙකකු හාරයේ භිඳීමේ තත්වයෙන් මිදිය යුතුය.[5]"

දස වසරකට පසු, එනම් 1987 ජනවාරි මාසයේ දී ජාතික පුස්තකාල (සංශෝධන) පනත සම්මත කැරුණු අතර එමගින් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ අරමුණු හා කාර්යයන් මුළුමනින්ම සංශෝධනය කරන ලදී. 21 වැනි සියවසට ළඟාවන කල්හි තමනට ම ඒ සඳහා සුදුසුම් දිය හැකි පරිදි ප්‍රමාණවත් පුළුල් නීතිමය සැලැස්මක් දැන් ඊට ඇත. මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය වචනයේ පරිසමාප්ත අර්ථයෙන් ම මුල සිට පටන් ගැනුණකි. පළමු වසර හයේ දී එනම් 1966—1971 අතර කාලයේ දී එහි සුළු එකතුව මුළුමනින්ම සෑදුම් ලද්දේ 1966 හි ග්‍රන්ථ සංරක්ෂණ පනත යටතේ අයත් කර ගත් පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍යවලිනි. මේ පනත 1986 හි පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය තැන්පතු පනතින් නිෂ්ප්‍රභා කැරිණි. පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය මිලදී ගැනීම සඳහා මුදල් වෙන් කැරුණේ 1972 පටන් ය. එහෙත් වසර ගණනාවක් ගතවන තුරුත් වෙන් කරන ලද්දේ අල්ප මුදල් ප්‍රමාණයකි. මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය කලින් පැවැති පුස්තකාල ඒකාබද්ධ කිරීමෙන් හෝ කලින් ගොඩනංවා තිබූ එකත උරුම කර ගැනීමෙන් හෝ බිහිවූවක් නොවේ. මේ අතින්, ගෙන බලන විට එය බොහෝ ආසියානි (ASEAN) රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාලවලට හාත්පසින්ම වෙනස් ය. එම පුස්තකාලවලින් වැඩි හරියක් වර්ධනය වූයේ විසි වැනි සියවසේ මුල් භාගය තරම් ඈත කලක පටන් ඇරඹුණු පුස්තකාල හා පුස්තකාල එකතු ඇසුරිනි. සිංගප්පූරුව, තායිලන්තය, හා පිලිපීනය මෙහි ලා විශේෂයෙන් සඳහන් කළ යුතුය. ඉන්දුනීසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විධිමත්ව පිහිටුවන ලද්දේ වර්ෂ 1980 දී වුව ද එය ආයතන සතරක් ඒකාබද්ධ කිරීමේ ප්‍රතිඵලයකි. මින් එකක්, එනම් ජාතික කෞතුකාගාර පුස්තකාලය 18 වැනි සියවසේදී බිහි වූවකි. මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ වත්මන් එකතුව 600,000 කි. (මින් 570,000 ක පමණ ග්‍රන්ථය). වාර්ෂික වර්ධන වේගය කලාප 40,000 ක් පමණ වේ.

සංවිධානාත්මක ව්‍යුහය

මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ වර්ධනය හා සංවර්ධනය පිළිබිඹු කරන්නා වූ එහි සංවිධානාත්මක, ව්‍යුහයේ වෙනස්කම් යට දැක්වෙන සංවිධානාත්මක සටහන් වලින් මැනැවින් නිරූපිතය. ව්‍යුහයේ වැදගත් වෙනස්කම් විදහාපානු වස් 1974, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1985 හා 1987 යන වර්ෂවල සංවිධානාත්මක සටහන් දක්වා ඇත. අධිකාරීත්වය පිළිබඳ සීමා. අධීක්ෂණ කාර්යක්ෂමතාව, වැඩ සටහන් හා කාර්ය සාධන අගයන්ය ලේඛනය, නව උසස්වීම් තනතුරු ඇති කිරීම මත මේ වෙනස්කම් කැඩිනම් වී තිබේ.

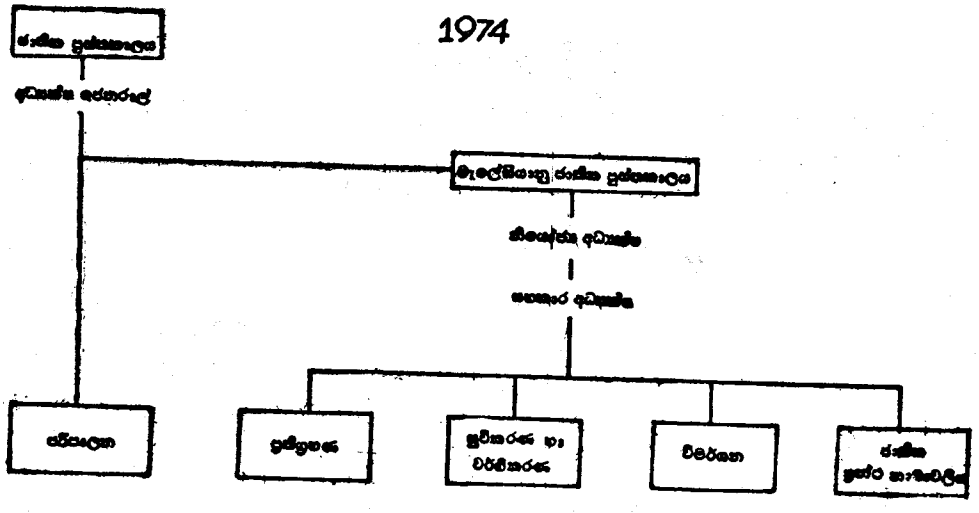
1987 සටහනින් දක්වෙන පරිදි වත්මන් සංවිධාන ව්‍යුහය 1985 පැවති ව්‍යුහයට වඩා ඉහළ තත්ත්වයක පවතීද යන්න ඉදිරියේ දී තීරණය කළ යුත්තකි. සමහර අංශ කොටස්වල කැඩීම නිසා නව උසස්වීම් තනතුරු ඇති කිරීම අත්‍යාවශ්‍ය විය. කෙසේ වෙතත් අංශ දෙළසම කෙළින් ම අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන් දෙදෙනෙකුගේ පාලනය යටතේ තැබීම එතරම් ප්‍රඥාගෝචර නොවන බවක් පෙනේ. මන්ද යත්, සියලුම ක්‍රියාකාරී අංශවලින් අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල් හා නියෝජ්‍ය අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල් වෙත්කොට තබන්නට එය හේතුවන බැවිනි. එහෙත් මේ නිසා ප්‍රතිපත්ති පිළිබඳ පුළුල් කරුණු කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු කරන්නට අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල්ට හා නියෝජ්‍ය අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල්ට නිදහස ලැබෙනු දැකැයි කියනු ලැබේ. කෙසේ වෙතත් මෙය එතරම් ප්‍රබල තර්කයක් නොවේ. ව්‍යුහයේ ඇතැම් වෙනස්කම් කිරීම අත්‍යාවශ්‍ය විය හැකිය.

ව්‍යවස්ථාමය විධිවිධාන

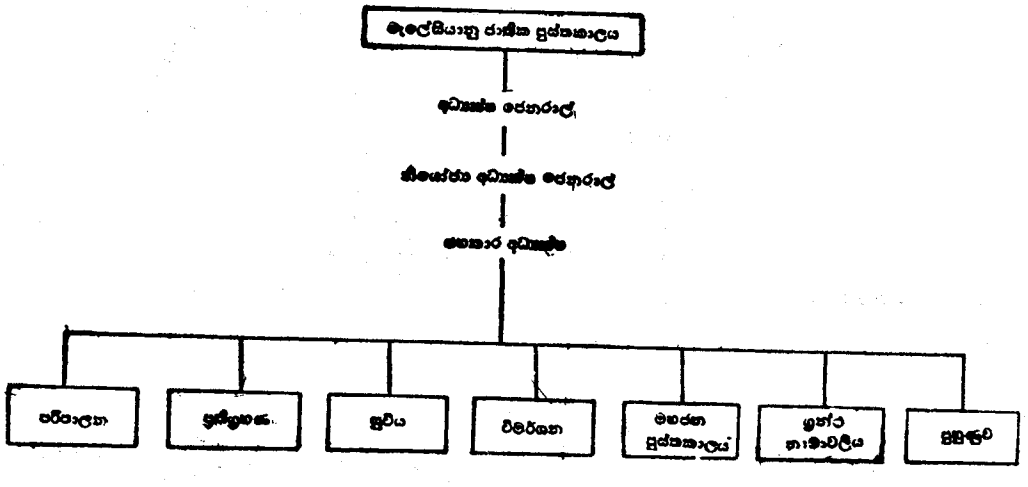
1987 හි ජනවාරියේදී පාර්ලිමේන්තුව විසින් ජාතික පුස්තකාල (සංශෝධන) පනත අංක 6678 යම්මත කරන ලදී. එතෙක් ප්‍රධාන පනත ලෙස බලපැවැත්වූ 1972 ජාතික පුස්තකාල පනත යටතේ දක්වුණු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ අරමුණු හා කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳ කොටස් මෙහිලා සංශෝධනය කැරිණි.

සංවිධාන සටහන්

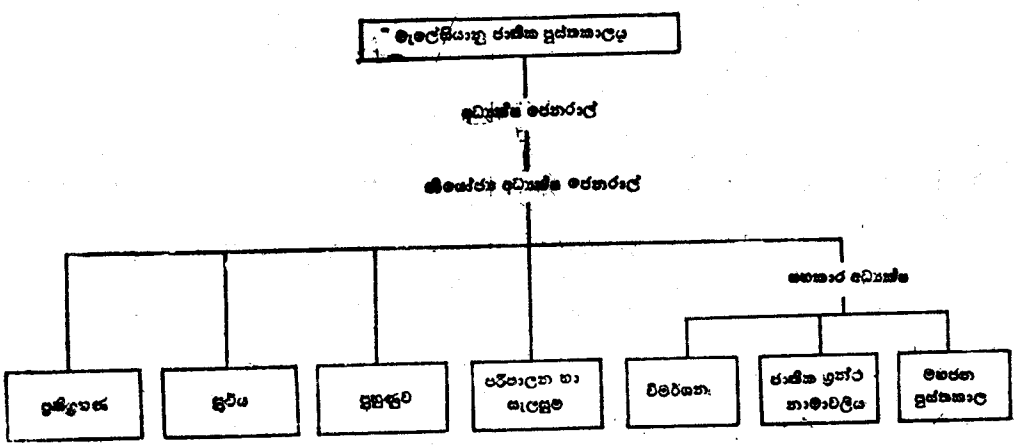
1974



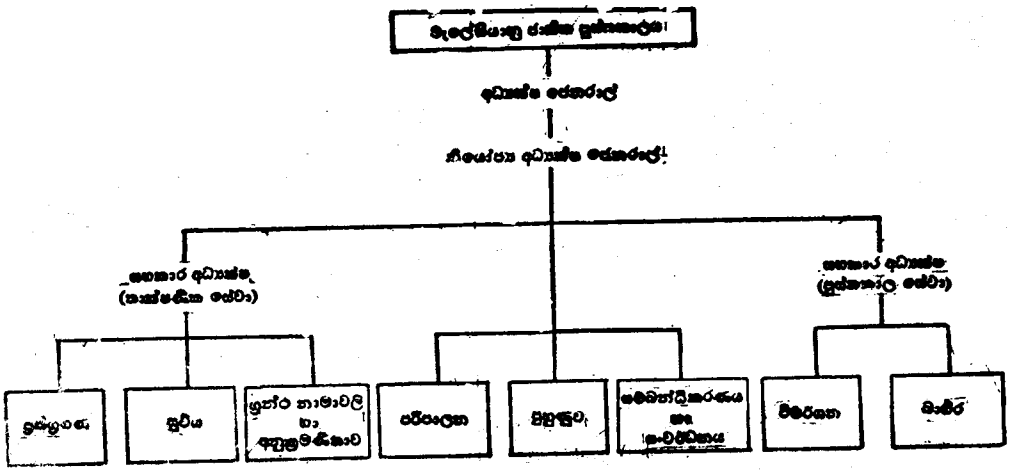
1977



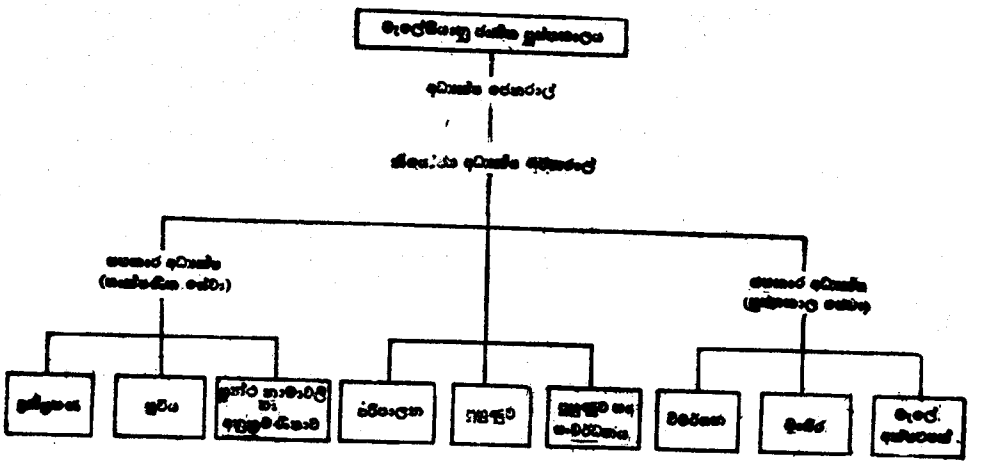
1978


මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලය
අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල්
නියෝජ්‍ය අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල්
සහකාර අධ්‍යක්ෂ
පුස්තකාල
සුවිය
පුහුණුව
පරිපාලන හා සැලසුම
විමර්ශන
ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය
මහජන පුස්තකාල

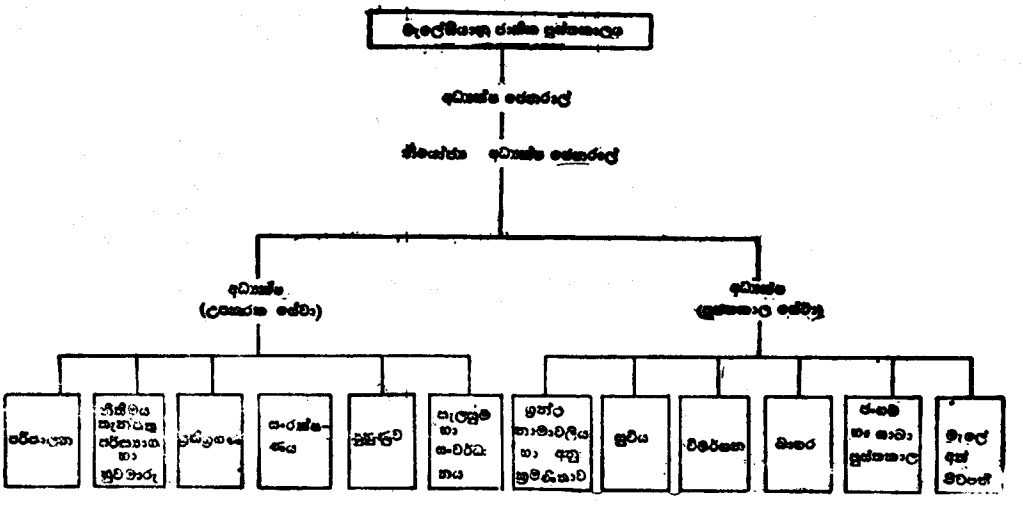
1981


මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලය
අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල්
නියෝජ්‍ය අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල්
සහකාර අධ්‍යක්ෂ (තාක්ෂණික සේවා)
සහකාර අධ්‍යක්ෂ (පුස්තකාල සේවා)
පුස්තකාල
සුවිය
ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලි හා අනුක්‍රමණිකාව
පරිපාලන
පුහුණුව
සම්බන්ධීකරණය හා සංවර්ධනය
විමර්ශන
බාහිර

1985



1987



ජාතික පුස්තකාල (සංශෝධන) පනත යටතේ ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ අරමුණු මෙසේ දක්වා තිබේ.

(1) වත්මන් හා ඉතු පරපුරෙහි ප්‍රයෝජනය සඳහා පුස්තකාල සම්පත් පිළිබඳ ජාතික එකතුවක් ඇති කිරීම.

(2) දේශයෙහි මෙන්ම විදේශයන්හිදී ද ලබා ගත හැකි පුස්තකාල සම්පත් දේත රටෙහි හැම දෙනටම පහසුවෙන් පිවිසීමට ඉඩ සැලැස්වීම සහ

(3) පුස්තකාලවලට ඇළ කරුණු සම්බන්ධයෙන් නායකත්වය සැපයීම.

මෙම අරමුණු පාදක කොට ගෙන, අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජෙනරාල්ගේ කාර්යයන් වශයෙන් සිලෝසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්යයන් පනත්හි නියම කොට තිබේ. ඒවා සම්පූර්ණයෙන්ම පහත දක්වේ.

(1) පුස්තකාලවලට අදාළ සියලුම කරුණු හා පුස්තකාලවලට සම්බන්ධ සියලුම වෙනත් කරුණු පිළිබඳව ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තියෙහි ලා ඇමතිවරයාට උපදෙස් දීමට.

(2) පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධනය හා ජාතික සැලැස්මෙහි ලා උපදෙස් දීම හා සහායවීම.

(3) ජාතියේ බුද්ධිමය, සාහිත්‍යික හා සංස්කෘතික උරුමය පිළිබිඹු කරන පුස්තකාල සම්පත් පිළිබඳ පුළුල් ජාතික එකතුවක් මෙන්ම මිනිස් වර්ගයාගේ සමුච්චිත දැනුම හා නුවණ පිළිබිඹු කරන නියෝජනීය ජාතික එකතුවක් ගොඩනැංවීම හා නඩත්තු කිරීම.

(4) පුස්තකාලය තුළ

(1) ලබාගත් පුස්තකාල සම්පත් ගබඩා කිරීම හා සංරක්ෂණය සඳහා ජාතික තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් ගොඩනැංවීම.

(2) ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක ජාල පද්ධතිය, ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක දත්ත පදනම නඩත්තු කිරීමට හා ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක හා ප්‍රලේඛන සේවා සැපයීමට ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ, විද්‍යාත්මක මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් පිහිටුවීම.

(3) මැලේ අත් පිටපත් ප්‍රතිඉන්ධනය ප්‍රලේඛන කරණය හා භාවිතය සඳහා 'මැලේ අත් පිටපත් ජාතික මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් ගොඩ නැංවීම.

(5) විමර්ශන, විඥාපන, නිර්දේශක, ප්‍රතිරූපණ හා බැහැරදීමේ පහසුකම් සැපයීම.

(6) (1) ජාතික තොරතුරු පද්ධතියේ ජාතික කේන්ද්‍රස්ථානය ලෙස

(2) ජාතික හා විශ්ව ප්‍රකාශන සුලභවනාව වර්ධනය කරනු සඳහා පුස්තකාල සම්පත් හුවමාරුව හා බැහැරදීම පිණිස ජාතික මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් ලෙස ක්‍රියා කිරීම සඳහා පුස්තකාලය තුළ පහසුකම් සැපයීම.

(7) ජාතියේ පුස්තකාල සම්පත් භාවිතය හා සංවර්ධනය සම්බන්ධීකරණය හා උන්නතිය සැලැස්වීම.

(8) ජාතික සැපයුම් ප්‍රමිතිවලට අනුකූලව දේශ ව්‍යාප්ත මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවාවක් ගොඩනැංවීම පහසුකරවීම හා එහි උන්නතිය සැලැස්වීම.

(9) ජාතික සැපයුම් ප්‍රමිතිවලට අනුව විශේෂ පුස්තකාල ජාල පද්ධතියක් ගොඩනැංවීම හා උන්නතිය සැලැස්වීම.

(10) පුස්තකාල අතර සම්පත් බෙදා හදා ගැනීමත් ජාතික හා ජාත්‍යන්තර සහයෝගිතාවන් පහසු කරවීම හා උන්නතිය සැලැස්වීම.

(11) පුස්තකාලවලට අදළ කරුණු පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණ සඳහා පහසුකම් සැලැස්වීම හා එබඳු පර්යේෂණ කටයුතු හාර ගැනීම.

(12) පුස්තකාල කරුණු පිළිබඳව වෘත්තීය ඥානය වැඩි දියුණු කරනු වස් පුහුණුව සපයාදීම.

(13) කීයැවීමේ පුරුද්ද වගාකරවීම් සඳහා පහසුකම් සැලැස්වීම හා එහි දියුණුවට කටයුතු කිරීම.

(14) මැලේසියානු භාෂාවෙහි සංවර්ධනය හා භාවිතය නංවනු සඳහාත් වැඩි දියුණු කරනු සඳහාත් අදළ ආයතන සමග සහයෝගයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

(15) පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධනය උදෙසා ජාතික හා අන්තර් ජාතික මට්ටමින් වෘත්තීයමය හා වෙනත් ආයතන සමග සහයෝගයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

(16) පුස්තකාලයේ කොටසක් බවට පත්වන්නා වූ පුස්තකාල සම්පත් බැහැරදීම, විකිණීම හෝ වෙනත් අයුරකින් අහිමත සේ කටයුතු කිරීම.

(17) 3 වැනි කොටසේ ලා දක්වන ලද අරමුණු සාක්ෂාත් කර ගනු සඳහා අවශ්‍ය යැයි හැඟෙන අන් කටයුතු කිරීම.

මෙසේ කාර්ය භාරය අතින් ගෙන බලන විට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට පැවැරී ඇත්තේ ඉතා පෘථුල ජාතික වගකීමක් බව පැහැදිලි ය. ප්‍රමුඛතාවය දිය යුතු අංශ හා ඉලක්ක සපුරා ගැනීමට අවශ්‍ය සම්පත් කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු කරමින් මෙම කාර්‍යයන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමේ සැලැස්මක් දැන් පිළියෙළ කොට ඇත.

වර්ෂ 1986 හි දෙසැම්බර් මාසයේ දී 1966 හි ග්‍රන්ථ සංරක්ෂණ පනත වෙනුවට පාර්ලිමේන්තුව විසින් 1986 හි අංක 331 දරණ පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය තැන්පතු පනත සම්මත කරන ලදී. මෙම නව පනත විසින් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය එකම නීතිමය තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස නම් කරනු ලැබ ඇත. පැරණි පනත අනුව පිහිටුවන ලද අනෙකුත් තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථාන අතරෙහි වරප්‍රසාද ද මෙයින් අත්හිටුවා ඇත. නව පනත යටතේ මුද්‍රිත ද්‍රව්‍යවල පිටපත් 5 ක් ද පළමු වරට ප්‍රකාශයට පත් වූ පොත් හා වෙනත් ද්‍රව්‍යවල එනම් ඉටිපට, චිත්‍රපට ආදියේ පිටපත් 2 ක් ද ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ තැන්පතුව සඳහා එවිය යුතුය. මින් දෙවැන්න සඳහා ප්‍රකාශකයන්ට මුල් ඉල්ලා සිටිය හැක්කය. එසේම පනතේ විධි විධාන අනුව මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය මැලේසියාවේ සයින්ස් විශ්ව විද්‍යාලය හා සභා මධ්‍යම පුස්තකාලය යන ආයතන දෙක සමඟ ගිවිසුම් ඇති කොට ගෙන ඇත. මේ අනුව මෙම ආයතන මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ විසරිත තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථාන ලෙස කටයුතු කරනු ඇත. ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට ලැබෙන පිටපත් 5 න් 2 ක් මෙම දුරස්ථ ආයතනවල තැන්පත් කරනු ලැබේ. මෙසේ කරනු ලබන්නේ පෙඩරල් අගනුවර, ප්‍රදේශයේ පිහිටි ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට කිසියම් ආපදාවක් පැමිණියහොත් ඊට පූර්වාරක්ෂක පියවරක් වශයෙනි. දැනට චත්මන් විසරිත තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථානවල ගබඩා කිරීමේ ඉඩකඩ සීමා සහිත හෙයින් පුවත්පත්, මාසික ප්‍රකාශන ආදී ඇතැම් ප්‍රකාශන ස්වරූප සඳහා පමණක් වෙනත් විසරිත තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථාන නම් කිරීමට ඉඩ තිබේ. මෙසේ නම් කළ හැකි විසරිත තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථානවල සංඛ්‍යාව පිළිබඳව සීමාවන් පනත විසින් පනවා නොමැත.

පනතේ දක්නට ලැබෙන තවත් වැදගත් අංශයක් නම් තැන්පත් කරන ලද පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය සංරක්ෂණයට හා භාවිතයටත්, ප්‍රමිත ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක වාර්තා නිර්මාණයටත්, පාතික ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය ප්‍රකාශනයටත් ඉන් පළමු වරට ඉඩ සලස්වා තිබීමයි. කෙසේ වෙතත් නෛතික විධිවිධාන පමණක් මෙහි ලා නො සැහේ. එනිසා පනත කාර්‍යයක්ෂම ආකාරයෙන් ක්‍රියාවට නැංවීම සඳහා නීතිමය තැන්පතු ඒකකය අධි ශ්‍රේණියේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ නිලධාරියකුගේ ප්‍රධානත්වය යටතේ පවත්නා සම්පූර්ණ අංශයක තත්ත්වයට උසස් කොට තිබේ. පරිත්‍යාග හා හුවමාරු ඒකකයද මේ නව අංශයට අන්තර් ග්‍රහණය කර ගන්නා ලද අතර මේ නිසා ප්‍රතිග්‍රහණ අංශය මෙන්ම මිලදී ගන්නා අංශයක් බවට පත් වී ඇත. කෙසේ වෙතත් නව අංශයට පුළුල කාර්‍ය මණ්ඩලයක සහාය වී ශේෂයෙන්ම ක්ෂේත්‍ර නිලධාරීන්ගේ සහාය අවශ්‍ය වනු ඇත. මෙය කළ නොහැකි වන්නේ නම් රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය වෙනුවෙන් එම රාජ්‍යය තුළ ප්‍රකාශයට පත්වන ද්‍රව්‍ය රැස කරන නීතිමය තැන්පතු මධ්‍යස්ථාන බවට පත් කළ යුතු වේ. මේ සඳහා දෙපක්ෂය විසින්ම ගිවිස ගත් කොන්ද්සෙ ඇති කර ගත යුතුයි.

ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තිය

ජාතික විඥාපන පද්ධති (NATIS) පිළිබඳ සංකල්පය පළමු වරට ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලද්දේ යුනෙස්කෝව විසින් වර්ෂ 1974 දීය. මේ සම්බන්ධ අරමුණු ගණනාවක් සලකා බැලීමට හා ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමට සාමාජික රටවලට ඇරියුම් කැරිණි. ඉන් එක් අරමුණක් වූයේ ජාතික විඥාපන සැලැස්මක් ඇති කිරීමට මහජෙන්වීමක් ලෙස ප්‍රජාවගේ සියලු කොටස්වල අවශ්‍යතාවන් පිළිබිඹු කරන ජාතික විඥාපන ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් සකස්කිරීමයි. තදනන්තරව යුනෙස්කෝවේ හටගත් ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණයන් නිසා ජාතික විඥාපන පද්ධති (NATIS) වැඩ සටහන අභාවයට ගියත් ඉන් ජනිත වූ ඇතැම් අදහස් සාමාජික රටවල් විසින් ක්‍රියාත්මක වශයෙන් ඉදිරියට ගෙන යන ලදී.

කතුවරයා විසින් වර්ෂ 1981 හි මැයි 25—29 අතර කුවාලාලුම්පූර්හි පවත්වන ලද ගිනිකොනදිග ආසියානු රටවල පුස්තකාලයාධිපතීන්ගේ පස්වැනි සමුළුවේදී ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලද පත්‍රිකාවකින්ද යුනෙස්කොව විසින් දක්වන ලද පරිදි ජාතික විඥාපන ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් සැකසීමේ හැකියාව පිළිබඳවද ප්‍රශ්න කරනු ලැබිණි.

මේ දක්වා නියත වශයෙන්ම ජාතික විඥාපන ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් සකස් කරන්නට සමත් වී සිටින්නේ රටවල් කීපයක් පමණක් බව පෙනේ. ජාතික විඥාපන ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් පිළිබඳ මිථ්‍යාව අප විසින් ගැර දැමිය යුතු කාලය සමහර විට දැන් එළඹ තිබේ. මේ සංකල්පය ප්‍රතිපත්තිමය වශයෙන් ගෙන බලන විට අර්ථවත් පරිදි සකස් කිරීමට තරම් පුළුල් වැඩි ය. ඕනෑම කාලයක දියුණුවන රටවල දක්නට ලැබෙන දේශපාලන යථාර්ථයන්ට අවශ්‍ය වන්නේ තොරතුරු වෙත සීමිත පරිදි ළඟා වීම පමණි. එක්සත් ජාතීන්ගේ ආයතන විසින් වටහා ගෙන සිටින විශ්ව ව්‍යාපී සංකල්පය නොවේ. ජාතික ඒකීය භාවය, ස්ථාවරභාවය ආරක්ෂාව ආදී මූලික සැලකිල්ල යොමු කළ යුතු කරුණු මේ රටවලට තිබේ. තොරතුරු වෙත පූර්ණාකාරයෙන් පිවිසීමට ඉඩහැරීමෙන් මේ අවශ්‍යතාවන් හැම විටම මැනැවින් සපුරා ගත හැකි නොවේ. එහෙයින් විශේෂයෙන් ම දියුණුවන රටවලදී වඩා යෝග්‍ය වන්නේ අප විසින් යුනෙස්කෝව විසින් දක්වන පරිදි ජාතික විඥාපන ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් ගැන නොව පුස්තකාල සඳහා ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් ගැන සැලකිලිමත් වීමයි. තොරතුරු වෙත පිවිසීමේ නිදහස නිදහසේ තොරතුරු ගලා යන්නට ඉඩ හැරීම සැබවින් ම ප්‍රශංසනීය අදහස් ය. ඒවා අපට කිසියම් මඟ පෙන්වීමක් කළ යුතු වුවත් පළමුවත්, අවසන්වත්, හැමවිටමත් ඉදිරිපත් විය යුතු ජාතික අභිලාෂයන්ට හරස් නොවිය යුතුය.[8]

පුස්තකාල හා විඥාපන සේවා සඳහා ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්ති සැකසීම විශේෂයෙන්ම අවධාරණය කිරීම මගින් සමාජයේ සියලුම කොටස්වලට තොරතුරු වෙත පිවිසීමේ හැකියාව වැඩි දියුණු කිරීම ගැන ඉහළම ප්‍රමුඛතාවක් දිය යුතු යැයි යථෝක්ත සමුළුව විසින් නිර්දේශ කරනු ලැබුයේ නමුදු

සාමාජික රටවල් මෙහි ලා කිසිදු තීරසාර ක්‍රියා මාර්ගයක් ගත් බවක් නොපෙනේ. යෝජිත ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තිය සඳහා අවශ්‍ය වන ප්‍රධාන යෙදවීම් හඳුනා ගැනීම සඳහා සමීක්ෂණයක් කිරීමටත්, තදනන්තරව එනම් 1984 හි ඔක්තෝබරයේ දී මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය හා මැලේසියාවේ උතුරා සරසවිය සමඟ පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන සේවා පිළිබඳ ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්ති ගැන සම්මන්ත්‍රණයක් සංවිධානය කිරීමටත් යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශක ජෝන් ශ්‍රේ මහතාගේ සේවාව ලබා ගැනීමෙන් මෙහි ලා මූල් පියවරක් තැබීම සම්බන්ධව මැලේසියාවේ පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන සේවා පිළිබඳ මාරා පාසලද ප්‍රශංසාවට හිමි විය යුතු ය.

සම්මන්ත්‍රණය සංවිධානය කරන ලද්දේ හුදෙක් ලබා ගත හැකි ප්‍රතිපත්ති යෙදවීම් ලබාගැනීමේ අරමුණින් වන නිසා එහිදී කිසිදු යෝජනාවක් සම්මත කර නොගන්නා ලදී. මේ සම්බන්ධයෙන් ජෝන් ශ්‍රේගේ වාර්තාව ද අනෙකුත් සම්මන්ත්‍රණ පත්‍රිකා ද ප්‍රයෝජනවත් විය. අනතුරුව සංස්කෘතික, තරුණ හා ක්‍රීඩා අමාත්‍යාංශයේ අනුමැතිය යටතේ පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන සේවා පිළිබඳ ජාතික, ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් සැකසීමට කාර්‍ය්‍ය සාධක බලකායක් පිහිටුවනු ලැබිණි. එහි සභාපති වූයේ ලිපි කතු වරයා ය. කාර්‍ය්‍ය සාධක බලකාය වසර දෙකකින් සිය කාර්‍ය්‍යය නිම කළ අතර පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන සේවා සඳහා වන යෝජිත ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තිය රජයේ සැලකිල්ල සඳහා ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලදී. 1989 හි ජූනි මාසයේ දී පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන සේවා සඳහා වන ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තිය රජය විසින් අනුමත කැරිණි.

පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන සේවා සඳහා වන ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තිය පැහැදිලි සංක්ෂිප්ත ලේඛනයකි. එහි අරමුණු වන්නේ පුස්තකාල හා විඥපන සම්පත් යැපයීම හා ඒවායේ ක්‍රමික දියුණුවත්, සමස්ත ජාතික සංවර්ධනයෙහි ලා කාර්‍ය්‍යක්ෂම අයුරින් දායකවීම සඳහා අවශ්‍ය පහසුකම් මෙන්ම සේවාවන් රාශියක් සැපයීමක් ය. යෝජිත ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තිය පැහැදිලි වශයෙන් ම විවිධ අංශ හා විවිධාභිලාෂී මට්ටම්වලට කාර්‍ය්‍යක්ෂම පිටුබලයක් සපයන අතර සම්පත් බෙදහැර ගැනීම, සංරක්ෂණය හා ප්‍රතිග්‍රහණයටද, යෝග්‍ය සේවා සැපයීමට ද, තොරතුරු පිළිබඳ ජාතික මූලයන්ගෙන් වැඩ ගැනීමට ද, අවශ්‍ය මිනිස් බල සහාය සැපයීමට ද ඉඩ සලසයි. මුදල් සැපයීම ගැන කෙළින් ම සඳහන් නො වුවද ප්‍රතිපත්තිය ක්‍රියාවට නැංවීමේ දී විශාල වශයෙන් මුදල් අවශ්‍ය වනු ඇත.

පරිගණකකරණය හා ජාලසේවා

මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය මහත් සැලකිල්ලෙන් පරිගණක කරණය දෙසට ගමන් කොට ඇති අතර, පරියන්ත්‍රණ සඳහා විශාල වශයෙන් මුදල් වැය කිරීමෙන් දැලක් සිටී. ඒ වෙනුවට විශේෂයෙන් නවසිය අසූ ගණන්වලදී සූක්ෂ්ම පරිගණකවල සිටි කුඩා පරිගණක පද්ධති දක්ෂ ක්‍රමයෙන් පෘතිවීන් ස්වයංක්‍රිය පද්ධති පිළිබඳව කාර්‍ය්‍ය මණ්ඩල හැකියාව දැඩි දියුණු කිරීමට පියවර ගෙන තිබේ. පොදු පරිගණක දැනුම ද වැඩි දියුණු කරන ලද අතර, කාර්‍ය්‍ය මණ්ඩලයේ සැහෙන පිරිසකට කෙටි පාඨමාලාවලටත්, දේශන හා ප්‍රදර්ශනවලටත් සහභාගිවීමට අවසථා ද සලසා දෙන ලදී.

මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය පරිගණකස්ථ පද්ධතිවලට සම්බන්ධ වූයේ වර්ෂ 1978 දී සහාග සුචිකරණ ක්‍රමයක් සඳහා වූ නියමු ව්‍යාපෘතියක් සමඟ ය. මේ ව්‍යාපෘතිය යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශක වාරිකාවක් යටතේ වර්ෂ 1977 හි මැලේසියාවට පැමිණි ස්ටීවන් ඩබ්ලිව්. මැසිල්ගේ සාමූහික පිරිසැකසුම සඳහා යන්ත්‍රපාඨනි සුචිකරණයට (MARCTAPES) යොදා ගැනීමේ හැකියාව පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනයෙන් පසුව ඇරඹුණකි. අධික් යුනෙස්කෝව විසින් මූලාකරණය කරන ලද මේ නියමු ව්‍යාපෘතියට සියලුම විශ්ව විද්‍යාල පුස්තකාල හා මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය සහභාගි විය. සම්බන්ධීකරණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය වූයේ මැලේසියාවේ සයින්ස් සරසවියේ ඒ වන විටත් විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ තිබූ පරිගණක පහසුකම්වල වාසිය ලබාගැනීමට මෙහි දී තීරණය කැරිණි. මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය හෝ වෙනත් සහභාගී ආයතන කෙලින්ම සයින්ස් සරසවියේ පරිගණක පද්ධතියට සම්බන්ධ නොවූ අතර ඔවුන් කෙළේ හුදෙක් දත්ත ආදාන පත්‍රිකා (data input sheets) ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම පමණි.

1979 දී ක්‍රියාත්මක පද්ධතියක් බවට පත් වූ මැලේසියානු යන්ත්‍ර පාඨ්‍ය සුචි ක්‍රමය (MALMARC) එවක් පටන් සයින්ස් සරසවියෙහි දී ක්‍රියාවට නැගේ. එය 1990 දී මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට පැවරේ. මැලේසියානු යන්ත්‍ර පාඨ්‍ය සුචි දත්ත බැංකුවෙහි දැනට වාර්තා 360,000 ක් පමණ වේ. සාමාජික ආයතන හයක් ඊට දායක වී සිටින අතර, එහි වාර්ෂික වර්ධන වේගය වාර්තා 70,000 ක් පමණ වේ.

මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය සිය ප්‍රථම සූක්ෂම පරිගණකය මිලදී ගත්තේ 1982 දී ය. එය TRS-80 වර්ගයේ එකකි. පුවත්පත් අනුක්‍රමණිකාකරණය සඳහා පරිගණක වෙළෙඳ ආයතනය විසින් සකසන ලද වැඩ සටහනක් ඊට ඇතුළත් විය. මෙම TRS 80 මගින් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය විසින් ත්‍රෛමාසිකව මැලේසියානු පුවත්පත් අනුක්‍රමණිකාව පළ කරනු ලැබේ. දැනට සවිකර ඇති මහා පරිමාණ පරිගණක යෙන් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ කටයුතු සම්පූර්ණයෙන් ම ක්‍රියාත්මක වූ විභාග මේ කාර්යය ඊට පැවරුණු ඇත.

1984 දී මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය කුඩා පරිගණක යන්ත්‍ර පරිහරණයට එළඹුණ ද, මෙහිදී ද පරියන්ත්‍රණ සඳහා විශාල මුදලක් වැය කිරීමෙන් වැලකුණි. මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට පරිත්‍යාග වශයෙන් ලැබුණු එච්. ඊ. ටර්මිනල (ආන්තික) Hewlett Packard Sales (M) Sdn Bhd හි පිහිටි එච්. ඊ. 3000 පරිගණකයකට සම්බන්ධ කරන ලදී. මෝඩෙම් උපකරණ හා රැහැන් සම්බන්ධතා සඳහා ගෙවීම් කරන්නට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට සිදු වූවත් එච්.ඊ. පරිගණකයේ ප්‍රවේශ කාලය පස් අවුරුදු ආධාර වැඩ සටහනක් යටතේ නොමිලයේ ලබා දෙන ලදී. ජාත්‍යන්තර සංවර්ධන පර්යේෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානයෙන් (IDRC) මිනිසිස් (MINISIS) නැමැති යෝග්‍ය උපයන්ත්‍රණයක් (Softwar) ලබා ගත් අතර මේ පද්ධතිය අර්ධ වාර්ෂිකව පළකරනු ලබන මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ මැලේසියානු වාර සහරා අනුක්‍රමණිකාව තිහකිරීම සඳහා යොදා ගනු ලැබිණි.

මිනිසිස් උපයන්ත්‍රණය එච්.ඊ. 3000 පරිගණක සඳහා යොදා ගනු ලැබීම බොහෝ දුරට 1983 නොවැම්බර් 14 සිට දෙසැම්බර් 15 තෙක් මයිකල් ෂර්වුඩ්ගේ මෙහෙයවීම මත මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ කටයුතු වල නිරත වූ යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශක දූත මණ්ඩලයේ ක්‍රියාකාරිත්වයේ ප්‍රත්‍යඵලයකි. ෂර්වුඩ් වාර්තාව එනම් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ස්වයංක්‍රීය කරණය (පැරිස්, යුනෙස්කෝ, 1984) (Automation of the National Library) 1984 දී නිල වශයෙන් ලබා ගත හැකිවිණි. ෂර්වුඩ් විසින් විමසිය යුතු කරුණු වූයේ:

(අ) රටෙහි පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධනය පිළිබඳ සමස්ත සැකැල්ල තුළ, ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ විවිධාකාර කටයුතු ක්‍රියාවලදී හා සේවාවන් අධ්‍යයනය කොට පරිගණකකරණයට යෝග්‍ය දැ තීරණය කිරීම.

(ආ) මතු දක්වුණු කරුණු ක්‍රියාවට නැංවීමේ දී භාවිතා කළ හැකි විවිධ විකල්ප පරියන්ත්‍රණ උපයන්ත්‍රණ පද්ධති හා පිරිවැය ද සමග ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට නිර්දේශ කිරීම මේ විකල්පවලට පහත සඳහන් දැ ඇතුළත් විය යුතුයි.

(1) රාජ්‍ය අංශය විසින් පිහිටුවනු ලබන පිටස්තර මහාපරිමාණ කුඩා පරිගණක භාවිතා කිරීම.

(2) ජාතික පුස්තකාලය තුළම පරිගණක යන්ත්‍ර ස්ථාපනය කිරීම.

(ඇ) පරියන්ත්‍රණ උපයන්ත්‍රණ සංකීර්ණතාවන් කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු කරමින්, මැලේසියානු යන්ත්‍ර පාඨ්‍ය සුචි පද්ධතිය පිළිබඳ සම්බන්ධීකරණ මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ කාර්ය භාරය ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට පවරා ගැනීමට උවමනා තාක්ෂණික අවශ්‍යතාවන් පරීක්ෂාකර බැලීම.

1985 හි නොවැම්බරයේ කොළඹ දී පැවැත්වුණු ආසියානු හා ඔසීනියානු රටවල ජාතික පුස්තකාල අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන්ගේ තුන්වැනි ජාත්‍යන්තර සම්මන්ත්‍රණයේ දී මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ස්වයංක්‍රියකරණය පිළිබඳව තවදුරටත් යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශක සහාය ලබා ගැනීමේ හැකියාව ගැන කතුවරයා විසින් ඒහි පැමිණ සිටි යුනෙස්කෝ පොදු විඥපන වැඩ සටහනේ නියෝජිත යා සමග සාකච්ඡා කරන ලදී. මෙහි ප්‍රතිඵලය වූයේ නැවතත් 1986 හි නොවැම්බර් 22 සිට දෙසැ 13 දක්වා වූ කාලය සඳහා යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශක සේවාවක් මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට ලැබීමයි.

ඕස්ට්‍රේලියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ කෙරී ලේබ් එහි ප්‍රධානියා ය. කෙබඹේ වාර්තාව එනම්, **මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලය ගෘහස්ථ පරිගණක පහසුකම් පිළිබඳ සැලසුම්කරණය** (National Library of Malaysian: Planning for in-house Computer facilities)) වර්ෂ 1987 දී ප්‍රකාශයට පත් විය. දැන මෙහෙයේ ප්‍රධාන අ ටුණ වූයේ අත්‍යවශ්‍ය දෛනික කටයුතු ලට සහායවීම සඳහා ගෘහස්ථ පරිගණක පහසුකම් ස්ථාපිත කිරීම ගැන මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට උපදෙස් සැපයීමයි. මේ මූලික අදහස් සහිතව උපදේශකයාගේ පරීක්ෂාවට ලක් වූ කාරුණු වූයේ.

(අ) දැනටත්, මත භූදුරු අනාගතයටත් ගැලපෙන පරියන්ත්‍රණ ස්වරූපයන් සැලකිල්ලට ගනිමින් ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ පරිගණක වෙශ්‍යතා තක්සේරු කිරීම.

(ආ) ජාතික පුස්තකාලය තුළ අදියරෙන් අදියරට පරිගණක පහසුකම් ඇති කිරීම හා අදළ යන්ත්‍ර තේරීම පහසුකරනු සඳහා යන්ත්‍ර පිළිබඳ සම්පූර්ණ නිර්ණායක හා ටෙන්ඩර ලේඛන පිළියෙල කිරීම.

(ඇ) ඉදිරි පස් වසර තුළදී අවශ්‍ය වන වෘත්තීයමය තාක්ෂණික හා උපකාරක සේවීන් සැලකිල්ලට ගනිමින් සවිස්තරාත්මක කාර්ය මණ්ඩල අවශ්‍යතා පිළියෙළ කිරීම.

(ඈ) පුහුණු කටයුතු පිළිබඳව උපදෙස් දීම.

වෙබ් වාර්තාව මෙහි සඳහන් (අ) (ඇ), (ඇ) ගැන කරුණු දක්වතත්, (ආ) පිළිබඳව කරුණු නොදක්වයි. ඒ වෙනුවට නිර්දේශ සාරාංශයේ දී මෙසේ සඳහන් කරයි.

> "ගෘහස්ත පුස්තකාල කළමනාකරණ පද්ධතියක් සැපයුම සඳහා ටෙන්ඩර කැඳවීමේ දී උපකාර වනු සඳහා නියමිත නිර්ණායකයක් හැකි ඉක්මනින් ජාතික පුස්තකාලය විසින් සකස්කළ යුතුය."

අනාතුරුව මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය විසින් සවිස්තරාත්මක නිර්ණායක පිළියෙළ කරනු සඳහා ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ කාර්ය මණ්ඩල සාමාජිකයන්ගෙන් සැදුම් ලත් තාක්ෂණික කමිටුවක් පත් කරන ලදී.

1987 ඔක්තෝබරයේ දී Specification for Turnkey integrated Library Computer sys tems (Kuala Lumpur, Perpustakaan, Negara Malaysia, 1987) සම්පූර්ණ කොට, මිල ගණන් කැඳවීම සඳහා නිකුත් කරන ලදී. අනතුරුව ටෙන්ඩර අගැයුම, ටෙන්ඩර පැවරුම, පද්ධතිය ස්ථාපනය කිරීම, පරීක්ෂාව හා කාර්යය මණ්ඩල පුහුණුව ආදිය වහ වහා සිදු කැරිණි. ගෘහස්ථ පරිගණක පද්ධතිය අඩු තරමින් නියමිත මොඩියුල වශයෙන් වත් 1989 වර්ෂය අවසාන වන විට ක්‍රියාත්මක විය යුතුය.

1987 ඔක්තෝබර් ජාතික පුස්තකාල (සංශෝධන) පනතින් ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක ජාල පද්ධතියක් පිහිටුවීමට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට ඉඩ දී ඇතත් එය ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම දෙවැනි අදියර තෙක් කල් දමනු ලැබිණි. කෙසේ වෙතත් මීට සුදුසුම් වීමක් වශයෙන් Specification for Turnkey Integrated Library Computer Systcm හි ඉහා පැහැදිලිව දක්වෙන කරුණක් නම් පද්ධතිය නිශ්චිත ව්‍යාපෘතිවලට ඉඩ සලසන එමෙන්ම මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ අනාගත ජාල සේවා අවශ්‍යතාවන්ට සරිලන එකක් විය යුතු බවයි නිර්ණායක විසින් දක්වනු ලබන තවත් කරුණක් නම් පද්ධතිය (OSI) Open System Interconnection) රටාවට උපකාරවීත් වීමට සමත් විය යුතු බවයි. ඕඑස්අයි හි සංවර්ධනයන් ජාත්‍යන්තර මට්ටමින් දිරිගන්වන සුළු ඒවා වුවත් එය යථාර්ථයක් බවට පත්වීමට තව වසරක් දෙකක් යනු ඇතැයි කියනු ලැබේ. කෙසේ වෙතත් යෝග්‍ය විදුලි සංදේශන අධිවයුහයක් රහිතව ඕඑස්අයි රටාවෙන් එතරම් ප්‍රයෝජනයක් නොලැබෙනු ඇත. මෙහි ලා මැලේසියාවේ විශාල දියුණුවක් ඇති වී තිබේ. පුස්තකාල ජාල සේවා ඇති කිරීමට හැකියාවන් බෙහෙවින් වර්ධනය වී ඇති අතර මේ තත්වය කලින් පත්‍රිකාවක[9] දී ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලැබූ තත්වයට වඩා හාත්පසින්ම වෙනස් ය. එම පත්‍රිකාව මොන්ට්‍රියල්හි පැවැත්වුණු 48 වැනි ඉෆ්ලා (IFLA) මහ සමුළුවේ දී ඉදිරිපත් කැරුණකි. එය පසුව මැලේසියාවේ Majalah Perpustakaan ආයතනය විසින් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කැරිණි.ගෘහස්ථ පරිගණක

කටයුතුවල මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය විසින් ඉතා නිවැරදි ලෙස ඉහළ ප්‍රමුඛතාවක් දී තිබෙ. ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක ජාල සේවාව හා ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක දත්ත පදනම 1990 දී වත් යථාර්ථයක් බවට පත්කර ගැනීමට නම් ඒ සඳහා දැන්ම ම ක්‍රියාත්මක පියවර ගත යුතු ය. කෙසේ වෙතත් මේ කාර්යය අභිශය සංකීර්ණ එකක් වන අතර ඒ සඳහා අවශ්‍ය පසුතලය හා පළපුරුද්ද සහිත පුද්ගලයකු යෙදවීම අවශ්‍ය ය. සාමාන්‍යයෙන් මසකට අඩු කලකට සීමාවන යුනෙස්කෝ උපදේශක මෙහෙවරක සහාය මෙහි ලා නොසැහේ. මෙහි ලා හුදු උපදේශක වාර්තාවක් පමණක් ප්‍රමාණවත් නොවේ. මේ කාර්යය සඳහා ප්‍රමාණාත් මූල්‍ය ප්‍රතිපාදන ඇති කළ යුතු ය.

ප්‍රලේඛණ බෙදහැරීම

1987 හි ජාතික පුස්තකාල (සංශෝධන) පනතින්,

(1) ජාතික විඳුපත පද්ධතියේ ජාතික කේන්ද්‍රස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීමටත්,

(2) ජාතික හා විශ්ව ප්‍රකාශන සුලභතාවය වැඩි දියුණු කරනු වස් පුස්තකාල සම්පත් හුවමාරුවේ හා බෙදාහැරීමේ ජාතික මධ්‍යස්ථානය ලෙස කටයුතු කිරීමටත් මැලේසියානු ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට ඉඩ දී තිබේ.

ජාතික ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක ජාල සේවා ඉලෙක්ට්‍රොනික තැපෑල, ටෙලි අනුරූපිටපත් හා වෙනත් පහසුකම් හි වර්ධනයත් සමග මින් පළමුවැන්න සැහෙන තරම් දුරට ක්‍රියාවට නැංවෙනු ඇත. දෙවැන්න බොහෝ දුරට ප්‍රලේඛන බෙදා හැරීම ඇසුරින් ක්‍රියාවට නැංවීමට අපේක්ෂා කෙරේ. අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු සේවා ක්‍රමය මීට පදනම් වේ. අවිධිමත් සහයෝගිතා පදනමක් මත වුව පිරුළු සේවාව බොහෝ කලක් රට තුළ ක්‍රියාත්මක වූවකි.

ජාතියේ පුස්තකාල සතු මුද්‍රිත හා වෙනත් ද්‍රව්‍ය පිළිබඳ සාමූහික සම්පත් නොසලකා හැරිය නොහැකි නමුත් දැනට රටෙහි පවත්නා අන්තර් පුස්තකාල පිරුළු ක්‍රමය බොහෝ ගැටළුවලින් ගැවසී තිබෙන්නකි. පැහැදිලි වශයෙන්ම රටෙහි ප්‍රලේඛන බෙදා හැරීමේ ක්‍රියාදමය වැඩි දියුණු කළ යුතු වේ. යුනෙස්කෝව විසින් 1986 දී කරන ලද[10] අධ්‍යයනයකින් මැලේසියාවේ මේ පිළිබඳ තත්ත්වය, තක්සේරු කොට තිබෙ. මෙය තදනන්තර ප්‍රකාශයට[11] පත් කරනු ලැබිණ. අධ්‍යයනයේ නිර්දේශ පදනම් කොට ගෙන මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය විසින් 1987 ජූලි මාසයේ දී ජාතික ප්‍රකාශන සුලභතාව පිළිබඳ ජාතික සම්මන්ත්‍රණයක් සංවිධානය කරනු ලැබිණි. මෙම සම්මන්ත්‍රණයෙ ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස දේශය සඳහා ප්‍රකාශන බෙදහැරීමේ ක්‍රමයක් දැන් සකසා ඇති අතර අදළ අධිකාරීන් විසින් අනුමත ද කොට තිබෙ. නව ක්‍රමයේ දී මූලික වන්නේ "කරුණු වටහා ගැනීම පිබළිද ලියැවිල්ලකි".

පිරුළු වැඩ පිළිවෙළට සහභාගිවන රට තුළ පිහිටි ආයතන 107 ක් සමග මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය මේ ලියැවිල්ලට අත්සන් තබා ඇත. නෝරා ගත් ආයතන විසින් නිල වශයෙන් මෙම ලියැවිල්ලට අත්සන් තබන ලද්දේ 1988 ජූනි පුස්තකාල මාසයේ දී ඇමැතිවරයා අබියස ය. ඒ ඒ ආයතන මෙම ලියැවිල්ලට අත්සන් තබන ලද්දේ මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය සමග පමණක් වුවද ඒ ඒ ආයතන ඔවුනොවුන් හා සමග එය අත්සන් කළත්, එහි ක්‍රියාත්මකතාවට හානියක් නොපැමිණේ. මෙබඳු ලියැවිල්ලක් සැලසුම් කරන ලද්දේ මූලික වශයෙන් ම ප්‍රකාශන බෙදහැරීමේ ක්‍රමය ආයතනගත කිරීමටත්, එම ක්‍රමය පුද්ගලයන් හා ඔවුන්ගේ අනෝන්‍ය සබඳතා මත රඳා සිටීම හැකිතාක් දුරට අඩුකිරීමටත් ය. මුදල් ගෙවා ලබා ගත හැකි කුපන ක්‍රමයක් ද අනුමත කොට ඇත. හැකි හැම අවස්ථාවක ම ප්‍රකාශන පිරුළු වශයෙන් ලබා ගැනීම හෝ ඒවායේ සූක්ෂ්ම ප්‍රතියා පට හෝ ඡායාපිටපත් ලබා ගැනීම හෝ පහසු කරනු වස් නියමිත ඉල්ලුම් පත්‍රයක් ද සකස්කොට තිබෙ. කෙසේ වෙතත් මෙබඳු ලියැවිල්ලකින් සියලුම ප්‍රශ්න නො විසඳේ. පද්ධතියේ යහපත ක්‍රියාකාරිත්වය සඳහා සහභාගිවන ආයතන අතර නිරන්තර සංවාදයක් තිබිය යුතු අතර, එය සමීපස්ථව පාලනය කළ යුතු ද වේ. සංවාද සැසි මාලාවක් පළමුවැන්න දැනටමත් පටත්වා ඇත.

ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල

ජාතික පුස්තකාල ගොඩනැගිල්ල සැලසුම් කිරීම ආරම්භයේ 1971 දී කුවාලාලුම්පූර්හි ජාතික කෞතුකාගාරයට යාබදව අක්කර 6 ක භූමි භාගයක් මීලට ගත් තැන් පටන් ය. එකල පැවැති අදහස වූයේ ජාතික කෞතුකාගාරය, ජාතික පුස්තකාලය හා ජාතික ලේඛනාගාරය යන ආයතනවලින් සමන්විත විශේෂිත සංස්කෘතික භූමිභාගයක් බිහිකිරීම ය. කෙසේ වෙතත් මේ සැලසුම් කිසිසේත් ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ නොහැකි විණි. කුවාලාලුම්පූර් නගරයේ ප්‍රධාන සැලැස්මක් යටතේ මහා මාර්ග ඉදි කිරීම සඳහා ජාතික ලේඛනාගාරයට හා ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට වෙන්කොට තිබූ ඉඩම් පවරා ගැනීම මීට හේතු විය.

කලින් රජයට පවරා ගනු ලැබූ ඉඩම වෙනුවට නගරයෙන් වෙනත් බිම් කඩක් ලබා දුන්නේ 1978 දී ය. මෙය ප්‍රධාන වාණිජ දිස්ත්‍රික්ක සීමාවේ නගර මධ්‍යයේ මැනවින් පිහිටි අක්කර 5 ක බිමකි. 1979 දී අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම් සම්බන්ධීකරණ ඒකකය (Implementations Coordination Unit) මඟින් ජාතික පුස්තකාල ව්‍යාපෘතිය භාරගැනීම සඳහා ගෘහනිර්මාණ ශිල්පීන්, තක්සේරු මිනින්දෝරුවන්, සිවිල්, වයුහාත්මක, යාන්ත්‍රික හා විදුලි ඉංජිනේරුවන් ආදීන්ගෙන් සමන්විත පුද්ගලික උපදේශක කණ්ඩායමක් පත්කරන ලදී. මෙය ඉතා වැදගත් ඉදිරි පියවරක්. මීට පෙර ජාතික පුස්තකාලය පිළිබඳ සියලුම සැලසුම් හාංගෙන කටයුතු කෙළේ ප්‍රසිද්ධ වැඩ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවයි. ජා. පුස්තකාලය ගොඩනැගිල්ල සඳහා අනුමත කරන ලද සමස්ත ඉදිකැරැම් ඉඩ වර්ග අඩි 238,000 කි. (වර්ග මීටර් 22,037) කි. ගෘහ නිර්මාණාත්මක සැලකිල්ල කතුවරයා විසින් ම පිළියෙළ කරනු ලැබුවත් එම සැකිල්ල ඉදිකැරැම් පක්ෂයෙන් අර්ථ නිරූපණය කොට සකස් කරන ලද්දේ ගෘහනිර්මාණ ශිල්පීන් විසිනි.

ජාතික පුස්තකාලය යනු පාසලේ පුස්තකාල අධිෂ්ඨානයේ මිදුන් මල්කඩ සේ ගැනෙන ජාතික ආයතනයකි. එහෙයින් එය පෙනුමෙන් තේරාන්විත මුළුමනින්ම කාර්යක්ෂමක එසේම ජාතියේ සාම්ප්‍රදායික සංස්කෘතික අංග ලක්ෂණ පිළිබිඹු කරන්නක් ලෙස සැලසුම් කළ යුතු විය. මේ නිසා ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ බාහිර ප්‍රකාශනමුඛය (External facade) මැලේසියාවේ සාම්ප්‍රදායික ශිල්ප පළඳනාව පිළිබිඹු කරන අයුරු සැලසුම් කරන ලදී. 'තෙන්ග්ගොලෙ ක්' නම් වූ මේ ශිල්ප පළඳනාවට මලක්කා සුල්තාන් රාජ්‍යය හා පොර්තුගීසියාවු අධිරාජ්‍යය දක්වා ඇතට දිවෙන ඉතිහාසයක් තිබේ. හිස් වැස්මක් මෙන්ම සමාජ තත්වයේ සංකේතයක් ලෙස ද සැලකෙන මෙම 'තෙන්ග්ගොලෙ ක්' ශිල්ප පළඳනාව ජාතියේ බුද්ධිමය, සාහිත්යික හා සංස්කෘතික උරුමය පිළිබිඹු කරන පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය මෙන්ම මිනිස් දැනුම හා නුවණ ද රාශිගත කරන්නා වූ ජාතික පුස්තකාලය නියෝජනය කිරීමට ඉතා යෝග්‍ය සලකුණක් සේ කල්පනා කරනු ලැබිණි.

'තෙන්ග්ගොලොක්' ශිල්ප පළඳනාවෙන් ලබා ගත් සැලසුම් සංකල්පය භූමිදර්ශිත මිදුලක් හා පොකුණක් අඩු වශයෙන් විටකොට එහා ළඟ පිහිටන සේ ගොඩ නංවන ලද එඩදු හිස් පළඳනා තුනකින් සංකේතාත්මක ව නිරූපණය වේ. මේ ගොඩනැගිලි ඒකක තුනේ බෙදූ මට්ටම් Split-level) සැලැස්මත්, එකිනෙක මිදුනේ ඉදි කරන ලද විවිධ මට්ටම්වල් හා ප්‍රමාණයෙන් යුත් හිස් පළඳනා තුනක් ශාස්කෘතික අනන්‍යතාව පිළිබඳ හැඟීමක් ජනිතකරවන අතර ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ ප්‍රධාන අරමුණු තුන මෙන්ම දේශයේ ප්‍රධාන ජන වර්ග තුන ද සංකේතකාත් මකව නිරූපණය කරයි.

නානා වර්ණ වීදුරු ගල් ඇල්ලීමෙන් තනන ලද සාම්ප්‍රදායික ''සොන්ග්කෙත්'' ලකුණින් අලංකෘත. නැමී සුවිසල් පියැසි නිසා එක් එක් ''තෙන්ග් කොලොක්'' පළඳනාව අඳුන් ලිලාවෙන් ඉස්මතු වී පෙනේ. ඒවා පිරමීඩාකාර කද ස්ඵටිකවලින් තවදුරටත් මිදුන් කොට ඇත. රාත්‍රී කාලයේ දී, ආලෝකමත් කැරෙන මේ එද ස්ඵටික නිසා ජීවගුණයෙන් පිරි මොළයක බැබළීමට හා ස්පන්දනාත්මක ප්‍රකාශනය සංකේතාත්මකව නිරූපණය වේ.

ගොඩනැගිලි සැලැස්ම අතිශය නම්‍යය. එහෙයින් අවශ්‍යතාවන් හා භාවිතයේ වෙනස්ම අනුව ඉඩකඩ ප්‍රයෝජනයට ගැනීමේ ලා බාධා හට නො ගනී. මේ සඳහා ව්‍යුහාත්මක වශයෙන් ඉක සලසා ඇත්තේ යට දක්වෙන කරුණුවලිනි.

(1) පොළෝ මට්ටමෙන් උඩ පිහිටි හැම මහලකම එක වර්ග අඩියක් රාත්තල් 150 ක ඒකීය බරක් දරා සිටීම.

(2) ගොඩනැගිල්ල පුරාම අඩි 28 ක ප්‍රමිත මොඩියුලයක් අනුගමනය කිරීම.

ගොඩනැගිල්ල සම්පූර්ණයෙන්ම වායු සමනය කොට ඇත. මෙය නම්‍යතාව පිලබඳ සංකල්පය තවදුරටත් වැඩි දියුණු කිරීමකි. සංවෘත රාක්ක සහිත ප්‍රදේශ, මැලේ අත් පිටපත් එකතුව, සික්යම් එකතුව, පරිගණක හා ශ්‍රව්‍ය-දෘශ්‍ය පහසුකම් සහිත ප්‍රදේශය ආදී විශේෂිත ස්ථාන විසි හතර පැය, මුළුල්ලේ ම වායු සමීකරණය කොට තැබේ. මෙහෙයුම් හා පාලනය සඳහා මධ්‍යම පද්ධතියකින් ද, දුම් හා තාපය හඳුනාගන්නා උපකරණවලින්ද ගොඩනැගිල්ල සමන්විත ය. ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ මහල් 7 කි. විදුලි සෝපාන 5 කි. ඉන් 2 ක් කාර්‍ය මණ්ඩලයේ ප්‍රයෝජනයට හා පුස්තකාල ද්‍රව්‍ය එහා මෙහා ගෙන යාමට ය. 2 ක් මහජනතාවට ය. එකක් ප්‍රධාන ශ්‍රවණාගාරයට පැමිණෙන ආබාධිත උපයෝජකයන්ගේ ප්‍රයෝජනය සඳහා ය. ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ ස්ථිර වශයෙන් කාණ්ඩ දශ ලක්ෂයක් තැන්පත්කළ හැකි ය. කාර්‍ය මණ්ඩල ධාරිතාව 400 කි. පාඨකයන් 1000 කට ආසන පහසුකම් ඇත. මීට අතිරේකව ප්‍රධාන ශ්‍රවණාගාරයේ පුද්ගලයන් 400 කට ද, ළමා රහසේ 100 කට ද ආසන පහසුකම් තිබේ. සම්පූර්ණ ධාරිතාව යටතේ සියලුම පහසුකම් ප්‍රයෝජන යට ගත් කල්හි ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ පුද්ගලයන් 1500 කට ඉඩ සැලැසෙනු ඇත. සේවාවන්ට හා පහසුකම්වලට බාධා හට නොගන්නා පරිදි ගොඩනැගිල්ල තවදුරටත් ව්‍යාප්ත කිරීමට ද සැලසුම් කර ඇත. මුලින් කල්පනා කරන ලද්දේ බැහැරදීමේ පහසුකමත්, ළමා පුස්තකාලයත් පෙඩරල් ප්‍රදේශවලට විමධ්‍යගත කිරීමෙන් මෙකී ව්‍යාප්ති කටයුතු සිදුකිරීමට ය. එහෙත් පසුව ගොඩනැගිල්ල එම ස්ථානයේ ම ව්‍යාප්ත කිරීමට තීරණය කැරිණි. පසුසෙස කොටසේ ඉදිකරනු ලබන ගොඩනැගිල්ලෙන් ප්‍රධාන ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ එක මට්ටමකින් හෝ මට්ටම් කීපයකින් ඉදි කැරෙන ආවරණය යුත කොරිඩෝ මගින් සම්බන්ධ කිරීම මේ සැලැස්මය. මෙය මේ ශතවර්ෂය අවසන් වීමට පෙර නිමවනු ඇත. මෙසේ කළ යුතුව ඇත්තේ දැනට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ ඇති සම්පත් නව ගොඩනැගිල්ලෙන් 60% ක පමණ ඉඩ කඩ ලබා ගනු ඇති හෙයිනි. මේ ගොඩනැගිල්ල නිම කිරීමෙන් පසු එකතුව තවත් වේගයෙන් වර්ධනය වනු ඇත. 1990 වේ මැද භාගයේ දී සම්පූර්ණ කිරීමේ ඉලක්කය සහිතව දැන් නව ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ වැඩ ආරම්භ වී ඇත. මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ ගොඩනැගිල්ල බොහෝ කලක් තිස්සේ මූලික වශයෙන් වැදගත් කරුණක් සේ සැලකුණු අතර එය එහි කාර්‍යයන් විධාන කාර්‍යයක්ෂමව ඉටු කිරීමේ ලා සහාය වනු ඇත.

මහජන පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධනය

මෙහි ලා බොහෝ ජයග්‍රහණයන් අත්කොට ගෙන තිබේ. මැලේසියාවේ හැම රාජ්‍යයක්ම පාහේ මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවාවන් සපයයි. අර්ධද්වීපක මැලේසියාවේ දී මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවා සැපයෙන්නේ රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල සංස්ථාවන් මගිනි. මේ සංස්ථාවන් 1969—1982 කාලය අතර රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල සංස්ථා ආඥාපනත්වල විධිවිධාන පරිදි පිහිටුවනු ලැබූ ඒවා ය. සබාහි මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවා සපයනු ලබන්නේ ප්‍රාදේශීය ආණ්ඩුවේ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවක් ලෙස කටයුතු කරන සබා රාජ්‍ය පුස්තකාලය විසිනි. සරවක්හි නම් ප්‍රාදේශීය ආණ්ඩුවෙන් හා පළාත් පාලන ආයතනවලින් මේ සේවා සැපයේ. මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලය තුළ රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවාව සංවර්ධනය කිරීම හා නහාසිටුවීම පිළිබඳ වගකීම ලිපි කතුවරයා විසින් භාරගන්නා ලදී. 70 දශකය මුළුල්ලේ ඔහු මේ කටයුතුවල නියැලුණු අතර එහි ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස මහජන පුස්තකාල ව්‍යවස්ථාව සම්මත කර ගත හැකි විය. එසේ ම 1979 වන විට ජොහෝර්[12] රාජ්‍යයේ හැර අනෙකුත් සියලු ම රාජ්‍යවල රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල සංස්ථා ද පිහිටුවනු හැකි විය. අසූ ගණන්වල දී මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ

සැලසුම් හා සංවර්ධන ශාඛාව විසින්, රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල සංස්ථාවන්හි නියෝජිතයන් ලෙස ස්වකීය ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ නිලධාරීන් පත් කිරීමෙන් රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවාව නඟාසිටුවීමට යළිදු පියවර ගන්නා ලදී. රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල පද්ධතිය මුහුකුරා ගිය තත්ත්වයට පත් වූ විට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයේ කාර්‍යභාරය තවදුරටත් වෙනස් විය හැකි ය. මෑතක දී පෙඩරල් ව්‍යවස්ථාවේ අන්තර්ගත ව්‍යවස්ථාදායක ලැයිස්තු (Legislative lists) සම්බන්ධව කරන ලද වෙනස්කම් මඟින් "පුස්තකාල" විෂය "රාජ්‍ය ලැයිස්තුව" (State list) යටතට පත්කරන ලදී. මෙය රාජ්‍ය මහජන පුස්තකාල පද්ධතිය වඩාත ස්වාධීන තත්ත්වයකට පත්කිරීමක්. 1987 හි ජාතික පුස්තකාල (සංශෝධන) පනත, ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් වරයාගේ කාර්‍යභාරයන් අතරට පහත දැක්වෙන කාර්‍යය ද නම්කොට දක්වයි.

"ජාතික සැපයුම් ප්‍රතිපත්තිවලට අනුකූලව දේශ ව්‍යාප්ත මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවාවක් ගොඩනැංවීම පහසුකරවීම හා එහි උන්නතිය සැලැස්වීම."

පනතෙහි සඳහන් මෙකී විධිවිධාන සැලකිල්ලට ගනිමින්, ඉහත දක්වූ නව සංවර්ධනයන් පිළිබඳව බුද්ධිමත්ව කළයුතු ක්‍රියාමාර්ග මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට සිදුවනු ඇත.

කෙසේ වෙතත් සහයෝගීතාව හා කාර්‍යභාරයන් පිළිබඳ අන්‍යොන්‍ය අගැයුම් තුළින් තාමත් කළයුතු දැ බොහෝ ය. ලබා ගත හැකි දැ ද බොහෝ ය.

අනාගතය

අනාගත අවශ්‍යතාවන්ට අනුව මැ.ජා පුස්තකාලය වෙනස් විය යුතු ය. සකස්විය යුතු ය. දැනට ඉටු කරනු ලබන ඇතැම් කාර්යයන් වෙනුවට වෙනත් කාර්‍යයන් ගැන අවධානය යොමු කරන්නට ඊට සිදුවිය හැක් ය. පෙඩරල් ප්‍රදේශයේ මහජන පුස්තකාල සේවා සැපයීම නගර ශාලාවට (City Hall) පැවරීම වඩාත් කාලීන බව මෙහි ලා දක්වීමට පිළිවන. මෙ මඟින් නීතිමය තැන්පතුව, සංරක්ෂණය, ග්‍රන්ථලේඛන බෙදහැරීම, ග්‍රන්ථ විද්‍යාත්මක හා පර්‍යේෂණ කාර්‍ය ආදිය කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු කරන්නට මැ.ජා. පුස්තකාලයට ඉඩ ලැබේ. මේ සියල්ලටම වඩා වැදගත් වන්නේ මැ.ජා පුස්තකාලයේ අනාගත නායකත්වයේ හැකියාවයි. දෘෂ්ටියක් තිබිය යුතුය. එසේම කෘත්‍යසාධක භාවයක් ද, අවශ්‍ය ය.

අනුවාදය: කැලණිය විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයෙ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ සහකාර පුස්තකාලයාධිපති
පියදස රණසිංහ විසිනි.

හරස් යොවු

(1) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. The National Library of Malaysia : problems and prospects. *in* National and Academic Libraries in Malaysia and Singapore; proceedings of a PPM and LAS Conference. Edited by Lim Huck Tee and Rashida Begum. Penang, PPM and LAS, 1975. 01 -21

(2) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. National Libraries : their role and functions with special reference to Malaysia. Sekitar Bil. 8, Dec. 1985. p 1 - 7.

(3) Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania. Edited by N. Amerasinghe. Colombo, Sri Lanka National Library Services Board, 1987. p 66 - 76.

(4) Over the period 1982 - 1987, there have been six different individuals who have served as Ministers, of Culture.

(5) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. The National Library of Malaysia Op. cit. p. 4.

(6) The Act came into force on 15 April, 1987 by notification in the Federal Government Gazette, Gazette, Jld. 31 No. 7, 2 April 87 (P.U. (B) 183).

(7) The Act came into force on 15 April, 1987 by notification in the Federal Government Gazette Jld. 31 No. 7, 2 April 87 (P.U. (B) 184).

(8) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. Access to information : considerations towards national policy for libraries *in* Access to information ; proceedings of the Fifth Congress of Southeast Asian Librarilans. Edited by D. E. K. Wijasuriya, Yip Seong Chun and Syed Salim Agha, Kuala Lumpur, COINSAL V, 1982. p. 29 - 30.

(9) D. E. K. Wijasuriya and Adeline Leong. A preliminary approach to library networking in Malaysia. Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia. Vol. 10: 1 - 16, 1982.

(10) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. Analytical report on document delivery in the Asia-Pacific region. (UNESCO 1986).

(11) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. National availability of publications : the Malaysian experience. *Sekitar* Bil. 9, 1986 p. 19 - 34.

(12) The Johore Public Library Corporation Enactment was passed in 1982, 4 years after the draft enactment was first submitted by NLM.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALAYSIA

By

Dr. D. E. K. Wijasuriya

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Introduction

This paper is concerned largely with the development of the National Library of Malaysia. (NLM) It places on record major developments at NLM since the writer's earlier paper presented at the Conference of National and Academic Libraries in Malaysia and Singapore held in Penang in 1974 and updates recent papers by the writer published over the last few years on the subject.

Major developments at NLM are seen largely in the context of developments likely to have an immediate or potential impact on the development of library and information services within the country and consequently on overall national development. In effecting developments within the library and information sector, there is a need to relate to broader national considerations in order to obtain Government endorsement and support.

There have been a number of significant developments in the library and information field in Malaysia that may be of wider interest especially within the developing countries. It is for this reason that this paper has been submitted for publication in the Commemorative volume in conjunction with the opening of the Sri Lanka National Library. It is indeed a signal honour to be invited to contribute to the Commemorative Publication.

Attention is also drawn to the paper by the writer presented at the Third International Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania, Colombo 18 - 23 November 1985 which was subsequently published in Sekitar as well as in the proceedings of the conference.

Ministerial Portfolio

Over the last 20 years, NLM has been placed at various times under a number of different Ministerial portfolios which is possibly reflective of the environment in which NLM was developed. These Ministries included the Ministry of Technology, Research and Local Government, the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, the Ministry of Local Government and Environment, the Ministry of Local Government and the Federal Territory, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and more recently, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Although the name of the Ministry has changed over the years, Local Government has always been part of the Ministerial portfolio. It was only in 1982 that NLM was placed under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

(1) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. The National Library of Malaysia : problems and prospects. *in* National and Academic Libraries in Malaysia and Singapore; proceedings of a PPM and LAS Conference. Edited by Lim Huck Tee and Rashida Begum. Penang, PPM and LAS, 1975. p. 1 - 21

The placement of NLM under the Ministry of Culture seems to have been a logical one and much has been achieved as a result, despite the constant need to adjust to new Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Secretary Generals and other Ministry officials. It must be pointed out at this juncture that NLM's placement under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism may appear to indicate that NLM has moved from the social to the economic sector. Whether this is significant and whether this will improve overall provisions, it is difficult to say. Agencies in the economic sector are normally expected to contribute to the national coffers, in other words, to be income-generating. NLM on the other hand is likely to be more resource-demanding at the present time although it does have some potential for revenue earning.

While the frequent changes of Ministry under which NLM has been emplaced and the even more frequent changes of Minister[4] has resulted in some loss of continuity, they have, on the whole, not adversely affected the development of NLM or public libraries within the States of Malaysia although most of the Ministries have been burdened by pressing issues which have taken up much of their attention — for example 'housing', 'local government', 'national culture', 'sports' or 'tourism'.

Ministerial portfolios which comprise the Subjects or Departments falling under the purview of a particular Minister are provided for under the *Ministerial Functions Act* (Act 2 of 1969) and the *Ministers of the Federal Government* Order (P.U. (A) 186), the latter having been revised on numerous occasions — in fact nearly a dozen times since 1979. In P.U. (A) 462 of 1986, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport was charged with the responsibility, among others, for the subject 'library matters', '*National Library Act*, 1972 and *Preservation of Books Act*, 1966. In P.U. (A) 317 of 1987, the Minister of Culture and Tourism (under whose portfolio NLM is currently emplaced) was charged with the responsibility, among others, for 'library matters', '*National Library Act* 1972' and '*Deposit of Library Material Act*, 1986.'

Since the *National Library Act*, 1972 and the *National Library (Amendment) Act*, 1987 have vested the National Library with a national remit, it would be logical to assume that the Minister has overall responsibility for libraries at least in the context of the functions of NLM as specified in the Act. In doing so however, it is necessary to bear in mind that the Minister of Education has a portfolio responsibility for the subject 'Education' which covers educational institutions such as Universities, Colleges and Schools and the facilities within them such as Libraries. It is also necessary to bear in mind that Public Library services are a 'State matter' and therefore do not fall under the direct purview of Federal Minister although NLM does have a responsibility under the provisions of the Act to promote and facilitate their development.

(2) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. National Libraries : their role and functions with special reference to Malaysia. Sekitar Bil. 8, Dec. 1985. p 1 - 7.

(3) Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania. Edited by N. Amerasinghe. Colombo, Sri Lanka National Library Services Board, 1987. p 66 - 76.

(4) Over the period 1982 - 1987, there have been six different individuals who have served as Ministers of Culture.

Consequent upon all this, NLM in exercising its functions has to tread delicately and has to act with sensitivity in dealing with issues or in promoting the development of libraries within the country.

Historical perspective

NLM traces its origin to the National Library Services Unit which was established within the National Archives in 1966. In 1971 NLM was formally established as an institutional component of the Federal Department of Archives and National Library.

In May 1972, the *National Library Act* was passed, in which was set out the objectives and functions of NLM.

In January, 1977 NLM was separated from the National Archives and established as an entirely separate Federal Department. This development was envisaged at the time NLM was established and was given further impetus by the writer in a working paper presented at the Conference on National and Academic Libraries in Malaysia and Singapore in 1974.

> Phase IV 1976 — The National Library of Malaysia from the beginning of this period should be completely separated from the National Archives and accorded its own independent departmental status directly under the Ministry, ending thereby a ten-year period of tutelage spanning the First and Second Malaysia Plan Periods.[5]

Ten years later, in January 1987 the *National Library (Amendment) Act* was passed in which the objectives and functions of NLM were completely revised. NLM has now been given a legislative framework broad enough to equip itself as it approaches the 21st Century. NLM was developed from scratch in every sense of the word. In its first six years, that is from 1966-1971, its modest collections consisted entirely of library material received under provisions of the *Preservation of Books Act*, 1966 now superceded by the *Deposit of Library Material Act*, 1986. Allocations for the purchase of library materials only began after 1972 and for many years provisions were very modest. NLM was not based on the amalgamation of previously established libraries nor did it inherit any collections previously built up. In this sense, it contrasted greatly with the national libraries of many of the ASEAN countries, most of whom developed from the libraries and library collections that can be traced back to the early years of the Twentieth Century. This is particularly true of Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. Even the National Library of Indonesia, although only formally established in 1980, was the result of a merger of four institutions, one of which, namely the Central Museum Library can be traced back to the Eighteenth Century. NLM collections today stand at just over 600,000 (inclusive of nearly 570,000 monographs) with a growth rate of about 40,000 volumes per year.

(5) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. The National Library of Malaysia Op. cit. p. 4.

Organizational structure

Changes in the organizational structure of NLM, reflective of its growth and development are best illustrated by the following organization charts. Organization charts for the year 1974, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1985 and 1987 have been shown in order to illustrate significant changes in the structure. These changes have been precipitated by a number of considerations including lines of authority, effectiveness of supervision, programme and performance budgeting as well as the upgrading and creation of new promotional posts.

Whether the current organization structure as reflected by the 987 chart is any superior to the structure in 1985 remains to be seen. The creation of new promotional posts necessitated the splitting of some divisions. However the placement of all twelve divisions directly under the control of two directors seems to be somewhat ill advised as it tends to isolate the Director General and Deputy Director General from all operational aspects. Although this it is argued will free the Director General and Deputy Director General to concentrate on broader matters of policy, the argument wears a little thin. Some review of the structure may be necessary.

Legislative provisions

In January 1987, the *National Library* (*Amendment*) *Act*, 1987[6] (Act 667) was passed by Parliament. The Act amended, among others, the sections on the objectives and functions of the National Library as provided for under the *National Library Act*, 1972, which continued to remain in force as the principal Act.

The objectives of NLM under the *National Library* (Amendment) *Act* were simply stated as follows :

(i) to make available for the use of present and future generations a national collection of library resources;

(ii) to facilitate nation-wide access to library resources available within the country and abroad; and

(iii) to provide leadership on matters pertaining to libraries.

Based on these objectives, the functions of NLM were drawn up and were specified in the Act as the functions of the Director General. These are listed in full below :

(i) to advise the Minister on national policy on all matters pertaining to libraries and all other matters relating to libraries;

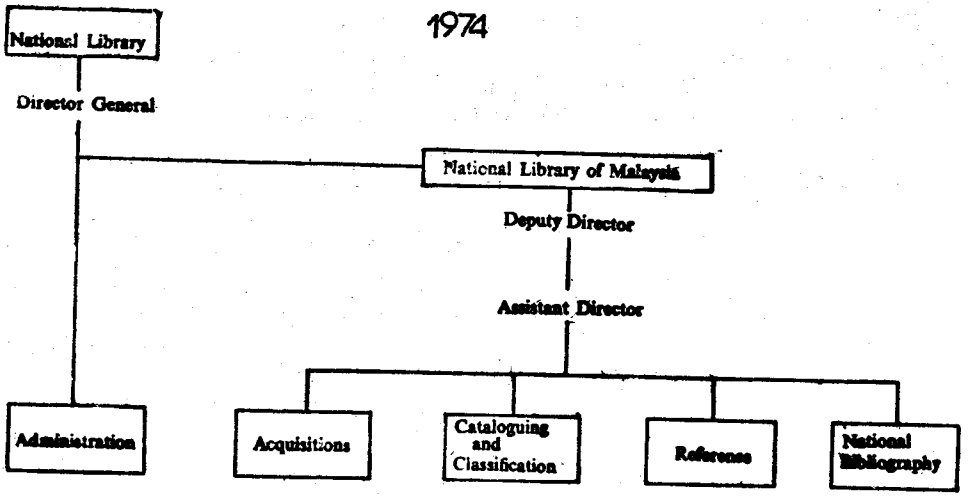
(ii) to advise and assist in the national planning and development of libraries;

(iii) to acquire and maintain a comprehensive national collection of library resources reflecting the intellectual, literary and cultural heritage of the nation as well as a representative national collection reflecting the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of mankind;

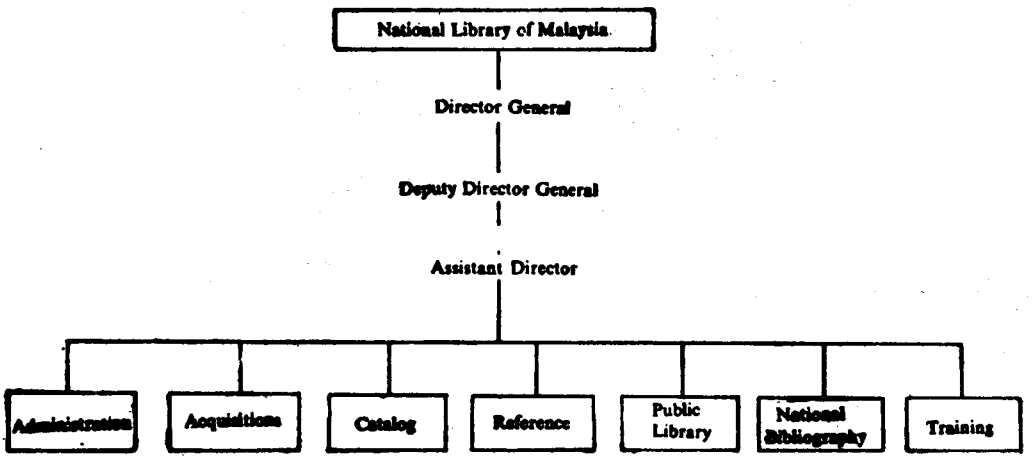
(6) The Act came into force on 15 April, 1987 by notification in the Federal Government Gazette, Jld. 31 No. 7, 2 April 87 (P.U. (B) 183).

ORGANIZATION CHARTS

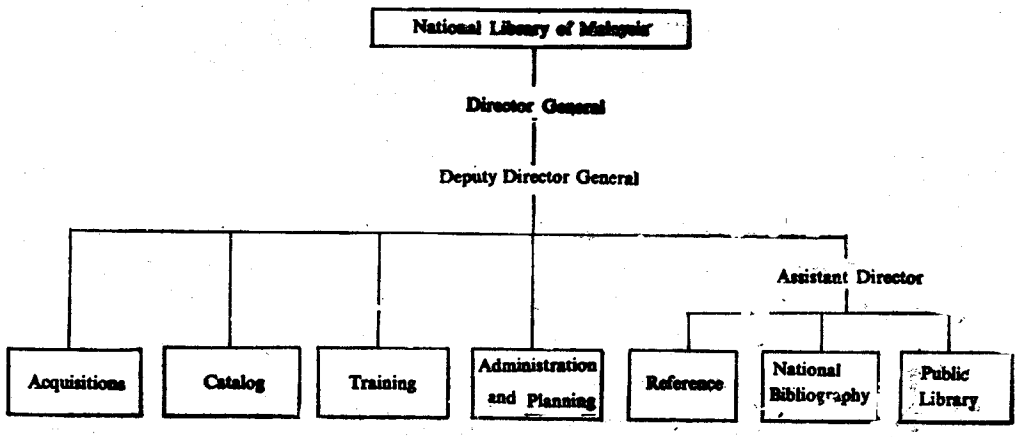
1974



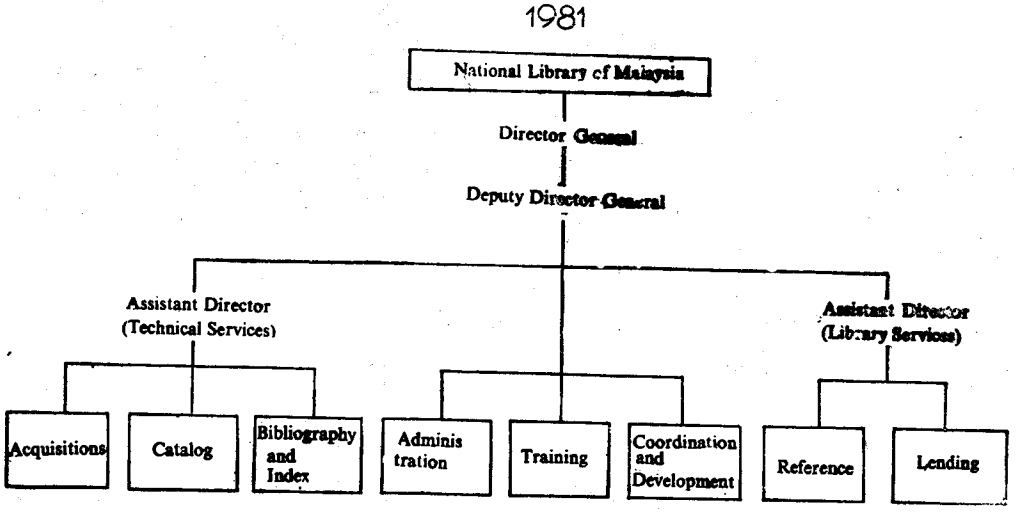
1977



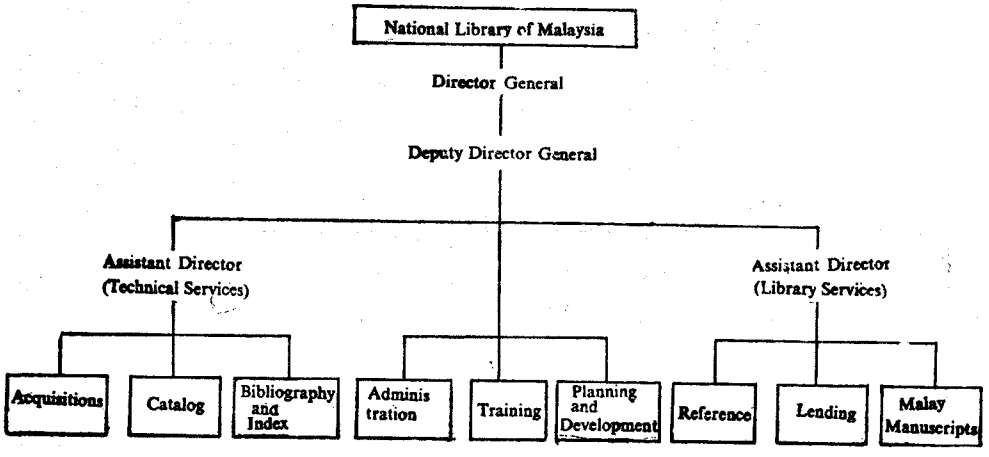
1978


National Library of Malaysia
Director General
Deputy Director General
Assistant Director
Acquisitions
Catalog
Training
Administration and Planning
Reference
National Bibliography
Public Library

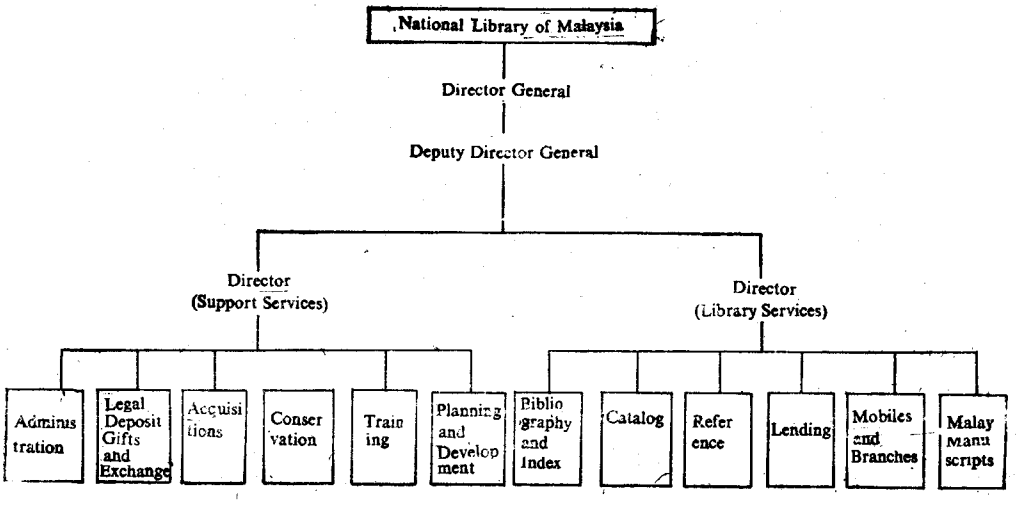
1981


National Library of Malaysia
Director General
Deputy Director General
Assistant Director (Technical Services)
Assistant Director (Library Services)
Acquisitions
Catalog
Bibliography and Index
Adminis tration
Training
Coordination and Development
Reference
Lending

1985


National Library of Malaysia
Director General
Deputy Director General
Assistant Director (Technical Services)
Assistant Director (Library Services)
Acquisitions
Catalog
Bibliography and Index
Adminis tration
Training
Planning and Development
Reference
Lending
Malay Manuscripts

1987


National Library of Malaysia
Director General
Deputy Director General
Director (Support Services)
Director (Library Services)
Adminis tration
Legal Deposit Gifts and Exchange
Acquisi tions
Conser vation
Train ing
Planning and Develop ment
Biblio graphy and Index
Catalog
Refer ence
Lending
Mobiles and Branches
Malay Manu scripts

(iv) to establish within the Library —

(i) the National Depository for the storage and conservation of library resources received;

(ii) the National Bibliographic Centre for the maintenance of the national bibliographic network, the national bibliographic data base and the provision of national bibliographic and documentation services;

(iii) the National Centre for Malay manuscripts for the acquisition, documentation and use of Malay manuscripts;

(v) to provide reference, information, referral, reprographic and lending services;

(vi) to provide facilities within the Library to enable it to function as —

(i) the national focal point for the national information system;

(ii) the national centre for the lending and exchange of library resources in order to promote the national and universal availability of publications;

(vii) to promote and co-ordinate the development and use of the library resources of the nation;

(viii) to promote and facilitate the establishment of a nation-wide system of public libraries in keeping with national standards of provision;

(ix) to promote the establishment of a network of special libraries in keeping with national standards of provision;

(x) to promote and facilitate national and international co-operation and resource sharing among libraries;

(xi) to undertake and facilitate research on matters concerning libraries;

(xii) to provide training in order to upgrade professionalism in library matters;

(xiii) to promote and facilitate the inculcation of the reading habit;

(xiv) to co-operate with the relevant agencies in order to promote and upgrade the use and development of Bahasa Malaysia;

(xv) to co-operate with professional and other bodies at national and international level for the development of libraries;

(xvi) to lend, sell or otherwise dispose of library resources forming part of the library;

(xvii) to do such other things as may be deemed necessary to give effect to the objectives referred to in section 3.

Clearly, in terms of functions, NLM has been assigned a wide ranging, if onerous national remit. An implementation plan is being drawn up with emphasis on priority areas and the resources required to realize plan targets.

In December, 1986 the *Deposit of Library Material Act*, 1986[7] (Act 331) was also passed by Parliament which repealed the *Preservation of Books Act*, 1966. The new Act designated NLM as the sole Legal Depository for the country and terminated deposit privileges to 8 other Demand Depositories established under the provisions of the earlier Act. The new Act also provided for the deposit of 5 copies of printed library material as well as the deposit for the very first time, of 2 copies on non-printed library material, ie. tape, film etc., although publishers could request compensation for the latter. NLM also has, by provisions in the Act, formed Agreements with 2 institutions, namely University Sains Malaysia and the Sabah Central Library to act as Distributed Depositories of NLM in order to ensure that 2 of the 5 copies of library materials deposited will be deposited at centers distant from NLM as a precaution should any calamity befall NLM in the Federal Capital Territory. Since the present storage capacity for legal deposit materials in the Distributed Depositories is limited, there is a possibility that other Distributed Depositories may be designated for the deposit of certain forms of materials only, such as newspapers or serials. The Act places no limitations on the number of Distributed Depositories that may be so designated.

Another important feature of the Act is that it provided for the very first time for the conservation and use of library material deposited, for the creation of the standard bibliographic record and for the publication of the national bibliography. Legislative provisions alone however are insufficient and in order to provide for the effective implementation of the Act, the Legal Deposit Unit was upgraded into a full Division headed by a Senior Officer on Superscale Grade. The Gifts and Exchange Units were also absorbed into the New Division thereby leaving the Acquisitions Division as a strictly purchasing Division. Greater staffing support for the new Division however will be necessary, particularly field officers. Should this not be possible, State Public Libraries may have to be designated to collect legal deposit material published within the State on behalf of NLM, subject to such conditions as may be mutually agreed between both parties.

National Policy

The concept of National Information Systems (NATIS) was first propounded by UNESCO in 1974 and member countries were invited to consider and implement a number of objectives, one of which called for the formulation of national information policy which reflected the needs of all sectors of the community in order to guide the establishment of a national information plan. Although subsequent reorganization in UNESCO led to the demise of the NATIS programme, some of the ideas it generated continued to be actively considered by member countries.

(7) The Act came into force on 15 April, 1987 by notification in the Federal Government Gazette, Jld. 31 No. 7, 2 April 87 (P.U. (B) 184).

In a paper by the writer presented at the Fifth Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians, Kuala Lumpur, 25-29 May, 1981, (CONSAL V) the feasibility of formulating national information policy as postulated by UNESCO was called into question.

> .... up to the present time, few countries appear to have specifically formulated a national information policy. Perhaps it is time we laid to rest the myth of a national information policy. The concept is far too wide for any meaningful formulation in policy terms. The political realities in developing countries at any given time require only a qualified access to information and not the universal concept as often understood by UN bodies. There are primary considerations of national unity, stability, security that are not always best served by permitting complete access to information. Hence in the developing countries especially, it is best to concern ourselves with the national policy for libraries, rather than with national information policy as understood by UNESCO. Freedom of access to information, the free flow of information are laudable precepts indeed and while they provide us with some guidance, they should not be allowed to compromise national interests, which must come first, last and always.[8]

Although CONSOL V recommended that member countries give higher priority to improving access to information to all sectors of the community by placing special emphasis on formulating national policies for library and information services, no concrete action appeared to have been taken in member countries on this matter. In Malaysia, the MARA School of Library and Information Services must be credited for taking the initiative in obtaining the services of UNESCO consultant John Gray, to carry out a survey to identify major inputs for the proposed national policy and subsequently organizing a Seminar on National Policy on Library and Information Services in October, 1984 jointly with NLM and UUM (Universiti Utara Malaysia).

The Seminar passed no resolutions as it was organized purely for the purpose of obtaining possible policy inputs. The Report by John Gray as well as the papers presented at the Seminar were useful in this respect. A Task Force to formulate the National Policy for Library and Information Services was subsequently set up with the approval of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport with the writer as Chairman. The Task Force completed its task in two years and submitted the proposed National Policy for Library and Information Services for the consideration of the Government. In June 1989 the National Policy for Library and Information Services was approved by the Government.

The National Policy for Library and Information Services is a tersely worded document which aims at the provision and progressive improvement of library and information resources, facilities as well as a range of services in order to contribute effectively towards overall national development. Specifically, the proposed National

(8) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. Access to information : considerations towards national policy for libraries *in* Access to information ; proceedings of the Fifth Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians. Edited by D. E. K. Wijasuriya, Yip Seong Chun and Syed Salim Agha, Kuala Lumpur, CONSAL V, 1982. p. 29 - 30.

Policy provides for effective support for various sectoral and interest levels; for the acquisition, conservation and sharing of resources; for the provision of appropriate services; for the exploitation of national sources of information and for the provision of the required manpower support. Although financial provisions are not directly alluded to, the implementation of the policy will have major financial implications.

Computerization and Networking

NLM has moved into computerization cautiously and has avoided heavy capitalization on hardware. Instead steps were taken, particularly in the eighties to upgrade staff capability in automated systems gradually stepping up from micro to mini-computer systems .General computer literacy was also promoted and a considerable number of staff were given the opportunity of attending short term courses as well as talks and demonstrations.

NLM involvement in computerized systems began in 1978 with a Pilot Project for a shared cataloguing system, following on the *Study on the feasibility of using MARC tapes for cooperative processing* undertaken by Stephen W. Massil under a UNESCO consultancy mission to Malaysia in 1977. Under the Pilot Project partially funded by UNESCO, all the university libraries and NLM participated in the project with University Sains Malaysia (USM) as the coordinating center. This decision was made in order to take advantage of the computer facilities already available at the University. NLM and other participating institutions had no direct exposure to the computer system at USM and only submitted data input sheets. The MALMARC (*Malaysian Machine Readable Catalogue*) System which became an operational system by 1979 has since been functioning at USM but will be taken over by NLM by 1990. The MALMARC database now includes over 360,000 records from 6 participating institutions with an annual growth rate of about 70,000 records.

It was only in 1982 that NLM purchased its first microcomputer, a TRS - 80 with a customized programme by the vendor for the indexing of newspapers. The *Malaysian Newspaper Index* published by NLM every quarter is produced on the TRS - 80 although this will be phased out as soon as NLM becomes fully operational on its own main-frame computer which has now been installed.

In 1984 NLM moved into minicomputers as well, but still avoiding any heavy capitalization in hardware. H.P. terminals donated to NLM were hooked on to a HP 3000 computer located at Hewlett Packard Sales (M) Sdn Bhd. While NLM paid for modems and line linkages, computer access time at HP was provided free of charge under a 5 years assistance programme. Appropriate software namely MINISIS was obtained free from IDRC (International Development Research Center) and the System was used to produce NLM's *Malaysian Periodicals Index* which is published every six months.

The use of MINISIS on HP 3000 computers was partly the result of a UNESCO consultant Mission to NLM undertaken by Michael Sherwood from 14 November to 13 December, 1983. The Sherwood Report — *Automation of the National Library* (Paris

UNESCO, 1984) was officially made available early in 1984. Sherwood's terms of reference were to :

(a) Study, within the total framework of library development in the country, the various activities processes and services of the National Library and define those that merit computerization.

(b) Recommend the various options to the National Library in effecting the above, specifying hardware and software systems and costs, these options to include :

(i) the use of host main-frame/Minicomputers installed in the public sector;
(ii) its installation within the National Library itself.

(c) Examine the technological requirements for the National Library to take over the role of coordinating centre for the MALMARC System with reference to hardware/software implications.

In November, 1985 at the Third International Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania, held in Colombo Sri Lanka, the writer discussed with the UNESCO PGI, (General Information Programme) representative at the Conference the possibility of a further follow up UNESCO consultancy mission on the automation of NLM. This resulted in a consultancy mission to NLM from 22 November to 13 December, 1986 undertaken by Kerry Webb from the National Library of Australia. Kerry Webb's Report — *National Library of Malaysia : Planning for in-house computer facilities* was made available in 1987. The main objective of the mission was to advise NLM on the setting up of its in-house computer facilities to support essential house-keeping operations. With this in view the consultant's terms of reference were :

(a) to assess the computing needs of the National Library at the present time and in the foreseeable future in relation to hardware configuration.

(b) to prepare detailed specifications and tender documents in order to facilitate the selection and phased installation of computer facilities within the National Library.

(c) to prepare detailed staffing requirements in respect of professional, technical and support personnel over the next five years.

(d) to advise on training provisions.

While the Webb report did address itself to (a), (c) and (d) of the terms of reference above, it failed to touch upon (b). Instead in the summary of recommendations it is stated that

The National Library should as soon as possible draw up a specification to assist in calling tenders for the supply of an in-house library management system.

NLM subsequently set up a Technical Committee of Senior staff to prepare detailed specifications. In November, 1987 the *Specification for Turnkey Integrated Library Computer System* (Kuala Lumpur, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, 1987) was completed, and released under tender. Tender evaluation, tender award, system installation, testing and staff training soon followed. The in-house computer should be operational, at least in specific modules by the end of 1989.

While provision has been made in the National Library (Amendment) Act 1987 for NLM to establish the national bibliographic network its implementation has been deferred to phase two. However in preparation for this, the *Specification for Turnkey Integrated Library Computer System* states very clearly that the system must be capable of modular expansion and have the capacity to meet future networking requirements of NLM. The specifications also require that the System be able to support OSI (open system interconnection) architecture. While OSI developments at the international level have been most encouraging, it has been predicted that OSI will only become a reality within one or two years. OSI however without appropriate telecommunications infrastructure support would be of little use. In Malaysia vast improvements have been made in this respect. The networking possibilities for libraries have improved and contrast greatly from the position depicted in a paper[9] presented at the 48th IFLA General Conference in Montreal and subsequently published in the Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia. While NLM has very rightly given a higher priority to its in-house computing, it will have to take effective measures from now if the national bibliographic network and the national bibliographic database are to become a reality by 1990. This task however is an extremely complex one and an individual with the necessary background and experience may have to be commissioned to undertake the task. It is unlikely that a UNESCO consultancy mission, normally confined to periods of less than a month, will be adequate for the task. Much more than just a consultancy report will be required. Adequate budgetary provision will have to be made for this purpose.

Document delivery

Provision has been made in the National Library (Amendment) Act, 1987 for NLM to functions as :

(i) the national focal point for the national information system

(ii) the national center for the lending and exchange of library resources in order to promote the national and universal availability of publications.

Provision for the former will be partly effected with the development of the national bibliographic network, the provision for electronic mail, telefacsimile and other facilities, some of which such as telefax will be provided during the course of the year. Provision for the latter is largely envisaged in terms of document delivery and is based on the system of inter-library lending long practised within the country on an informal basis of cooperation.

(9) D. E. K. Wijasuriya and Qdeline Leong. A preliminary approach to library networking in Malaysia. Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia. Vol. 10: 1 - 16, 1982.

The inter-library lending system within the country however is beset with many problems although the collective resources of printed and other material in the nation's libraries are not inconsiderable. Clearly the mechanisms for document delivery within the country need to be upgraded. In a study[10] undertaken for UNESCO in 1986, the situation within Malaysia was also assessed and subsequently published.[11] Based on some of the recommendations made in the study, NLM organized a national seminar on the National Availability of Publications (NAP) in July, 1987. As a result of the Seminar, a Publications Delivery System for the country has now been formalised and approved by the relevant authorities. Central to the new system is a Memorandum of Understanding which has been signed by NLM with over 107 institutions within the country wishing to participate in the system. Formal signing of the Memorandum by selected institutions was effected during Library Month in June 1988 in the presence of the Minister. Although individual institutions only sign the Memorandum with NLM, it has the effect as if the signed the Memorandum with one another as well. The introduction of the Memorandum of Understanding is designed primarily to institutionalise the publications delivery system and to minimise its dependence on individuals and their relationships with one another. A coupon system for payment has also been approved and a standard request form has been designed to facilitate the loan of publications wherever possible or their supply in micro or photocopy. The Memorandum of Understanding however will not solve all problems. The system will have to be closely monitored and a regular dialogue instituted between participating institutions in order to make the system work for all. The first of a series of dialogue sessions has already taken place.

National Library Building

Planning for the National Library building began as early as 1971 with the purchase of a 6 acre site adjacent to the National Museum in Kuala Lumpur. The idea then was to create a cultural enclave comprising of the National Museum, the National Library and the National Archives. These plans however never came to fruition as the sites reserved for the National Archives and the National Library were taken over for a road interchange under the Kuala Lumpur master plan.

It was only in 1978 that an alternative site in the city was assigned to the National Library to replace the earlier site which had been taken over. The new site covering an area of 5 acres was well located in the city center on the fringe of the central business district. In 1979 a team of private consultants comprising of architects, quantity surveyors civil, structural, mechanical and electrical engineers were appointed by the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department to undertake the National Library project. This was a very significant development considering that prior to this, all planning for the National Library building had been undertaken by the Public Works Department. The total built-up area approved for the National Library building was 238,000 sq. ft. (22,037 sq. meters). Although the architectural brief was prepared by

(10) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. Analytical report on document delivery in the Asia-Pacific region. (UNESCO 1986).

(11) D. E. K. Wijasuriya. National availability of publications : the Malaysian experience. *Sekitar* Bil. 9, 1986 p. 19 - 34.

he writer, the interpretation of the brief in design terms was largely conceived by the architects.

Since the National Library is a national institution placed at the apex of the nation's infrastructure of libraries, the building was designed to be imposing as well as totally functional and which reflected at the same time traditional cultural characteristics of the nation. The building was accordingly designed to reflect particularly in its external facade the traditional head-dress of the Malays, namely the 'tengkolok' which dates back to the Malacca Sultanate and the Johore-Riau Empire. The 'tengkolok' as both a covering for the head and a symbol of social status was felt to be an apt representation in cultural terms of the National Library, which contained library material reflecting the intellectual, literary and cultural heritage of the nation as well as the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of mankind.

The design inspiration derived from the 'tengkolok' is symbolically represented in 3 such head gears clustered together to partially enclose a landscaped courtyard and pool. The split-level arrangement of the three blocks, each capped with a 'tengkolok' of varying size and level, creates a sense of progressive cultural identity and is further symbolic of the three major objectives of the National Library as well as the three main races of the country. Each 'tengkolok' is boldly characterized by sweeping roofs adorned with traditional 'songket' motifs executed in mozaic and is further capped with a pyramidal glass crystal which will be illuminated at night to symbolically represent a glowing, pulsating expression — a throbbing brain.

The building plans provided for maximum flexibility in the utilization of space in order to facilitate changing use and needs. This has been accommodated in structural terms through the provision of :

(i) uniform load-bearing of 150 lb. p.s.f. on all floors above ground level

(ii) a standard module of 28 ft. through the building.

The building is also fully airconditioned — further enhancing the concept of flexibility — with provisions for 24 hours air-conditioning in special areas such as the closed-stacks, the Malay Manuscripts collection the maps collection and the computer and audio-visual facility. The building is also equipped with smoke and heat detectors and a central system for monitoring and control. The building has seven floor levels and is serviced by five lifts — 2 service lifts for staff use and for the movement of library materials; 2 lifts for the use of the public and 1 lift servicing the main auditorium which is also meant for the use of physically handicapped users. The building has a capacity of about 1 million volumes in static and compactus stacking; a staff capacity of 400 and seating for 1000 readers. In addition, the main auditorium has a seating capacity for 400 persons while the children's theatre has a further seating capacity of 100. At full capacity, with all facilities fully utilized, the building would accommodate over 1500 persons.

Further expansion has been planned in such a way as to minimise the disruption of facilities and services. Initially, expansion is envisaged with the decentralization of the lending facility including the children's library to branch libraries within the Federal

Territory. Notwithstanding this however, expansion of the building on the same site has been envisaged with provision for an adjacent tower block at the rear to be connected to the main building through enclosed passageways at one or more levels. Construction of he tower block may have to be effected well before the end of the century. This is because the existing resources on NLM at the present time alone will take up nearly 60% of the space provided for in the new building. With the completion of the building, the collections are likely to grow at an even more accelerated pace. Construction of the new building has now commenced with completion targetted for mid-1990. A physical focus for NLM in terms of its own building has long been considered crucial and will give NLM that added credibility in carrying out its functions more effectively.

Public Library Development

Much has been achieved. All States in Malaysia provide public library services. In Peninsular Malaysia, public library services are provided by States Public Library Corporations which were established over the period 1969-1982 under the provisions of State Public Library Corporation Enactments as recommended in the Blueprint. In Sabah, public library services are provided by the Sabah State Library which functions as a Department of the State Government whereas in Sarawak they are provided by the State Government as well as Local Government authorities.

Within NLM, the promotion and development of state public library services undertaken by the writer throughout the seventies saw fruition in the passing of public library legislation and the setting up of State Public Library Corporations in all States except Johore[12] by 1979. In the eighties, promotional work for state public library development was undertaken by NLM's Division for Planning and Development with senior officers designated to represent NLM on State Public Library Corporations. As State Public Library Systems grow into maturity, NLM's role may further change. Recent changes to the Legislative Lists in the Federal Constitution which have placed the subject "Libraries" in the "State List" underscore even further the independence of State Public Library systems. NLM will have to rationalize this new development in relation to provisions in the *National Library (Amendment) Act*, 1987 which specifies the following among the functions of the Director General :

> to promote and facilitate the establishment of a nation-wide system of public libraries in keeping with national standards of provision.

Notwithstanding all this, there is still much to be done and much can be achieved through cooperation and a mutual appreciation of roles.

The Future

NLM must change and adapt to the demands of the future. It may have to divest itself of some of its existing functions and concentrate on others. In this respect it may be timely to relegate the provision of public library services within the Federal Territory to City Hall. This will enable NLM to concentrate on its legal deposit, preservation, document delivery, bibliographic and research functions. Crucial to all this will be the calibre of leadership at NLM in the years ahead. There must be vision but there must also be pragmatism.

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(12) The Johore Public Library Corporation Enactment was passed in 1982, 4 years after the draft enactment was first submitted by NLM.

EFFORTS IN IMPROVING THE COOPERATION AMONG NATIONAL LIBRARIES: THE INDONESIAN EXPERIENCE

By

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Introduction

Long before the National Library was established in 1980, the library of the Batavia Society for Arts and Sciences in the 19th century have begun to send its publications to university libraries in Europe, in particular. Some existing National Libraries in the world had also an exchange program of publications with Indonesia's oldest library.

The exchange materials were scientific journals comprising research issues done by the Dutch in Indonesia. This program ceased during the second World War, and was not continued until the establishment of the National Library.

The present situation in Indonesia (3)

The national information infrastructure in Indonesia as defined by UNESCO, has existed since the country's Independence in 1945. It comprises all types of libraries, documentation centers and archives. These components are spread out all over the country, even though the state of development of the libraries varies.

In general, university libraries are far ahead in their development than school libraries, which are still behind in its collection and management. They have a special project regarding manpower development, which is supported by the World Bank. They form a close cooperation among state university libraries, and will also cover the big private university libraries.

The National Archives of Indonesia has been established about a century ago by the Dutch Colonial Government, and after Independence has been reorganized by law. It has some branches in the region. The management as well as the manpower development seems to move along quite well. As far as documentation centers are concerned, they have been growing as fungus since 1975 on different disciplines, like science and technology, family planning, law, agriculture, etc. Some of them have their own information networking in the region.

The National Library, which is quite young in its establishment, has the most unique prewar collection on Indonesia dating several centuries ago. Its first years of administration was a period of consolidation to fuse the different management and system together used earlier by the components which since 1980 have integrated to form this new institution. We are now concentrating on the standard of the basic elements in library techniques to unify the system in order to make the transfer of information more manageable.

Recently, it became an autonomous institution based on the Presidential decree issued on March 1989, where The Center for Library Development was incorporated into the National Library structure. This means that more freedom in its policy - making will be given than was before.

Indonesia is divided into 27 provinces, and in each province exists a provincial library which functions as the coordinator for all types of libraries and also as a public library. In the new organisational structure, those provincial libraries are branches of the National Library. These provincial libraries operate mobile libraries in their respective regions.

In Indonesia, the provision of information is the concern not only of libraries, documentation centers and archives, but also of other agencies as well. The one managed by the Government, c.q. the Department of Information, is called the "Pusat Informasi Nasional" (National Information Center) which was set up several years ago. Its objective is to provide the community with all kinds of information which is not based on literature. However, it appears that the community now relies more on professional resources, such as libraries, documentation centers and archives.

The Resource Sharing Program

One of the main objectives of the National Library is to serve both the local and international needs with information. In order to carry out this plan successfully, beginning late last year all the collections which were dispersed earlier in different locations have been moved to the new premises. In addition, the manuscript collection which once belonged to the National Museum have also been merged into the National Library collection.

Although the Legal Deposit Act has not been passed yet, the Indonesian Publishers Association has made an agreement with the National Library which requires its members to send their products to the library. The new facilities for services to users include, for example reference, comfortable reading rooms, advisory services — and technical operations which directly support them — the distribution of the National Library publications (the Indonesian National Bibliography, subject catalogs, indexes, abstracts and subject bibliographies) within the country and abroad are the essential functions within the framework of a suitable organizational structure.

Serving the local community with foreign publications, donations of reading, materials from abroad keep coming through the embassies or direct from the countries.

It is felt in developing countries that promotion of library services depends also on the support of the government.

In the new structure of the National Library, there exists centers for :

1. promoting library, bibliographic and communication standards needed to be implemented nationally
2. manpower development (to conduct technical courses & training) open to all types of libraries
3. information and reference services
4. preservation and conservation services.

Several kinds of cooperation with local as well as international institutions have been organized, i.e. seminars/workshops on library matters (ISBN, automation, networking, etc.) with Indonesian agencies. These kind of activities have also been held in cooperation with foreign institutions. For example, with the Dutch delegation on their way to 1988 IFLA conference in Sydney, we arranged a two-day discussion on exchange of information in Jakarta.

Just recently, topics on preservation issues were observed and discussed with, consultants from five National Libraries: the Library of Congress, the British Library, the National Library of Australia, the Dutch Royal Library, and the National Diet Library. Regular cooperation with most National Libraries is the exchange program of publications and sharing of information.

An example of close cooperation among National Libraries in the Southeast Asian countries is supported by the ASEAN Secretariat under the guidelines of the Committee on Cultural Information (COCI). This scheme comprises, among others, manpower development in the form of training and research. The implementation of the policy on UNESCO's concept on NATIS still faces problems although, the main component parts of NATIS still exists in Indonesia. Sharing of information among those components and with foreign agencies continues without delay, but this sort of individual practice cannot guarantee the proper information networking in the country.

The National Library of Indonesia is making every effort to continue step by step its role according to the UNESCO concept on NATIS.

It would be more effective in sharing of information if there is a National Coordinating Body consisting of members representing components of the infrastructure.

The NATIS concept 4

The concept of NATIS (National Information System) was introduced in the documents of the UNESCO, "Intergovernmental conference on the planning of national documentation, library and archives infrastructures".

The conference, held in Paris in 1974, was approved as a policy statement by Directors of National Libraries meeting in Lousanne in 1976. It suggested that :

> "the elements that should constitute NATIS are all services involved in provision of information.....
>
> The precise form and character of national information system (NATIS), composed of a member of subsystems, will vary in different countries, but coordination of elements must be its goal." (5)

The main working document for NATIS conference is described as follows: (6)

> "To maintain the satisfactory selection, treatment and availability of information in each country, there must be a minimum of adequate organization in the three areas of libraries, documentation centers and archives".

Another UNESCO document, the NATIS Guideline by Bjorn Tell on the design and planning of national information systems, states that :

"Essential infrastructure components are a national library system, a national system of archives and records administration and a system of general and/or specialized documentation services"..

The UNESCO Conference also recommended that

".....a national system or infrastructure should be supported by the prerequisites of appropriate legislation, financing, qualified manpower, and use of modern information technology and provided with appropriate national coordination of the various components of the system". (8)

This recommendation meant that there should be a national overall policy for information and documentation, which is identical with the national information system. The elements constitute the infrastructure requirements for the development of the national information system and the national capabilities for providing service to the users.

Conclusions : Current challenges to National Libraries.

As stated by Paul Berry at the National Library Conference in Jamaica, 1972, a.o.

"National libraries will certainly continue to play a significant cultural and educational role in the societies in which they exist. Can National Libraries really meet the information needs and to changes new technologies? In some instances the changes may be forced upon them from outside if they do not change themselves. In some instances they will be by-passed as other institutions are established to satisfy current needs. The National Libraries will be the initiators of changes and will anticipate both needs and solutions".

The concepts of NATIS and of an international information system have been outlined as follows :

— To provide leadership within the library component of NATIS

— To participate actively in the planning and overall development of the national information system

— To participate in the development and improvement of the international system, and to provide effective representation of the nation's libraries and their users at the international level.

Ten years have passed since the first Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania was held in Australia. It is felt that personal contact among the members is an advantage to improve the cooperation and promote common interest.

The CDNL - AO Newsletter is a good means of communication and information on the activities of its members. There should be an approved method in order to overcome or cope with the challenges faced by most developing countries : staff training to handle new technologies, exchange of experiences among senior staff, etc. The UNESCO or any other international body involved in library and documentation projects (IFLA, FID) might support this regional program as long as it is designed for the development of information sharing. This 4th CDNL - AO should outline the priorities in its program to meet common interest, for instance, information or document exchange, automation and MARC projects, and ongoing NATIS planning.

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ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA IN UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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1. Introduction

A long felt need of the country is fulfilled by the establishment of the National Library of Sri Lanka. This is an event that many, particularly the library professionals, impatiently look forward to. Absence of a leading library which plans, coordinates and organizes library activities at the national level, in an era when information technology is revolutionizing the library world, is reflected in all library development programmes. Necessity of an authority in selection, adoption and utilization of information technology is evident from many library and information systems developed recently.

This paper examines the role of a National Library in an environment highly, influenced by infor mation technology, overviews the use of information technology by libraries in Sri Lanka and suggests activities that the National Library of Sri Lanka should venture in the future.

2. Functions of the National Library

The National Library of a country plays a key role in the development of library activities. Due to practical and economic reasons, a National Library tends to select a few functions out of a wide range of activities, depending on the services of the other libraries and strength of its own resources.

A National Library established by upgrading an existing special or public library, would continue its original services while performing the National Library functions. When there are already established organizations executing National Library functions at the time of setting up of the National Library, consensus should be reached to avoid duplication, either by allowing those organizations to continue such functions or by taking over the functions by the National Library. As National Libraries had emerged at different stages of library development and had selected various national and special functions, it is not possible to define a model for a National Library.

Irrespective of the library and information services performed, the National Library is expected to coordinate activities of all types of libraries in the country. In the developing world, emphasis is given to resource sharing, with the view to avoiding uneconomic, duplication of efforts and resources,

National Library in a developing country would perform one or many of the, functions given below :

(a) National Repository

Basic function of a National Library is to collect and preserve literary output of the country. A national repository is organized for easy retrieval of documents and is available for reference only. Often the legal deposit

law boosts the National Repository. Non-book material such as maps, photographs, posters, slides, films, audio/video cassettes, are also included in the Repository.

(b) National Bibliographic Centre

National Library is responsible for bibliographic control and services of the country. It documents the output and controls the distribution of knowledge material generated in the country. Compilation of the National Bibliography is one of the key functions of a National Library. This becomes an easy task if the National Library maintains a national respository. Otherwise, the library has to collect information from other sources to compile the national bibliography. Documents are given identification numbers for tracing their history of creation and for location. In addition to compilation of the national bibliography, the National Library is expected to issue bibliographical tools such as directories, indexes and specialized bibliographies.

(c) National Information Centre

In addition to functioning as a bibliographic centre which provides information on locally generated documents, the National Libraries in some countries serve also as bilbliographic information centres with respect to foreign documents. The National Library is often approached by organizations and individuals who seek information from foreign countries. This function is undertaken by the National Library when the country has no national information centres. In the field of science & technology, agriculture and medicine, many countries, have specialized information centres. In such countries, the National Library performs a referral function by directing the requests to the appropriate information centre.

(d) Cataloguing Centre

Catalogues are created and maintained by libraries to help users utilize library resources. Often, the extent to which the library resources are exploited, depends on the efficiency of the catalogue. National Library assists other libraries in compilation and maintenance of catalogues in two ways :

(i) Centralized cataloguing : where catalogue entries are prepared centrally by the National Library and distributed among other libraries.

(ii) Cooperate cataloguing : where an Union Catalogue is compiled by merging catalogue entries prepared by other libraries.

By both methods the National Library promotes production of compatible and high quality catalogues.

(e) National Library Development Policy Making Body

Need of a development policy for libraries is a well recognized fact. Lack of a policy has caused duplication, wastage, and uneven distribution of resources. All types of libraries contribute to formal or informal education and hence development of libraries should be linked to the education system of a country. A national policy on library development will ensure among others, establishment of proper infrastructures and development and utilization of resources, etc.

(f) Standardization of Library Practices

Libraries have realized that it is impossible to satisfy the information needs of their clientele without external help. A library never restricts its accessibility to its own resources. Exchange and transfer of documents and information have become an essential function of libraries. This could be done effectively if all libraries use the same standards for bibliographic products. practices and transmission The National Library should serve as a bibliographic standardizing authority either by formulating standards or by coordinatlng standardization work.

(g) Library Service Bureau

Resources and skills available at the National Library could be used to provide technical and professional services to the other libraries. A wide range of services could be organized by a National Library. These services, would include :

(i) Training and education of library personnel

(ii) Provision of reprographic services such as printing, photocopying duplicating, microfilming

(iii) Translation services

(iv) AV services

(v) Data and Word Processing services

(vi) Preservation and conservation services

(vii) Library stationary supply services.

(h) Coordinating Centre for Libraries

National Library coordinates the efforts and resources of libraries in the country to gain optimum use. It organizes cooperative programmes at the national level such as :

(i) cooperative acquisition of books, periodicals etc.

(ii) inter-library and international loans of books, and other documents

(iii) serving as a clearing house

(iv) centre for document exchange.

3. Influence of Information Technology in Library Development

Introduction of information technnology has created drastic changes in library systems. It has changed the functions of libraries, by making some functions redundant while introducing new functions. However, the products, practices and techniques in collection, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information have to be selected carefully to gain the benefits of the information technology. If the capability, compatibility and suitability is not properly evaluated before adoption of a product, practice or technique, it will bring more frustration and dissatisfaction to the library users.

New information technologies have enhanced the capability of a library system, in accessing remote data and document collections, in transferring data and images through telecommunication channels, and in obtaining paper, microform and video outputs.

Although information technology was not originally developed to help library systems, libraries and information centres have now become its biggest beneficiaries. Efficiency and effectiveness of a library system now directly relates to its ability to utilize information technology.

A library system would not be able to gain optimum benefits of a new information product, practice or technique if the resources are not planned to accommodate it. The National Library, which controls, promotes and monitors development of library resources is expected to play an important role in adopting information technology. In this respect, the National Library holds responsibility in the following activities.

(a) formulation of a national policy for library automation: A policy is needed to guide organizations in acquisition and development of resources, training of library personnel, compilation of software, procurement of hardware, establishment of networks.

(b) standardization of practices and products used in bibliographic data processing: bibliographic formats, transliteration schemes, sorting order, construction of thesauri, identification codes.

(c) training of library personnel: designing courses, workshops and seminars to train library personnel in utilization of information technology, curriculum design, preparation of teaching aids, training of trainers.

(d) laboratory of computer practices: facilities should be provided to library personnel to gain hands-on experience in information searching. A laboratory with hardware, software, manuals and instructors would help the library personnel understand computer practices.

(e) compilation of software: systems analysis and development to execute library functions, structuring datafiles, modification of software packages, preparation of manuals for computer applications, back-up file storage.

(f) consultation : provision of consultation services, for selection of hardwar Isoflware development of computer systems, designing of databases, training of personnel, creation of local area networks.

(g) creation of databases : compilation of datafiles by inputting data, provision of computer outputs in COM, print, magnetic and optical media.

(h) On-line services : maintaining an online bureau linked to online vendors. information searches and provision of SDI services.

National Library is the most suitable body to perform above mentioned computer related activities. However in many countries these services are undertaken by different organizations. National Library is not privileged in many countries to give leadership in library automation. This has lead to certain implications.

Generally libraries receive low priority in computerization work. Since the emphasis is given to R & D institutions and universities, libraries and information centres attached to such institutions gained access to computer facilities. Hence, special and university libraries were the first to use computer facilities. These libraries often do not view computerization work in the national perspective. As a result of this, a country would finally have several independently developed and incompatible computerized information systems.

With respect to bibliographic data processing, science and technology have received priority. Due to explosion of scientific information, it is impossible, without the help of a computer, to store, search and retrieve scientific information. This had led to extensive use of computer and telecommunication capabilities by scientific and technical institutions. It is observed that the National Scientific & Technical Information Centre of a country takes a leading role in planning, organization and operation of computerized information systems and services. In many countries, the role that the National Library should play with respect to library automation, is undertaken by the National Scientific and Technical Information Centre.

4. Use of Information Technology by Libraries in Sri Lanka

The first computer system in Sri Lanka was installed in 1964. This system was mainly used to process civil engineering data. Since computers were expensive and needed skilled personnel to operate. only a few institutions could justify acquisition of a computer system. The growth of the number of installations was very slow during the period 1964 - 77. By 1976 there were only 8 computer installations, mainly in the public sector organizations. During 1978 - 81 period the number of computer installations increased to 100.

However, after establishing the first computer system in Sri Lanka, bibliographic data processing took nearly 20 years to begin. In 1983, the Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority (NARESA), procured a mini computer system for the Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Centre (SLSTIC). SLSTIC had two main objectives in its computerization activities. Firstly, it intended to improve capabilities of SLSTIC and thereby expand its activities. Secondly, it was aimed at promotion of exploitation of the modern information technologies by libraries in Sri Lanka.

A survey conducted by SLSTIC in 1984, revealed that out of 68 libraries (mainly scientific libraries and university libraries), only 4 libraries had commenced bibliographic data processing, while 23 libraries had plans for automation within the following 3 years.

The activities which would influence and encourage computerization of other libraries were selected by SLSTIC. Compilation of an Union Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Books (UNICAST) was the first computerization project launched by SLSTIC. UNICAST project required the participating libraries to prepare input sheets for the computer system. This was the first experience that many librarians gained in bibliographic data processing. As envisaged, this activity helped librarians to realize. the difference between manual and computerized systems.

For the UNICAST project, it was necessary to formulate standards for data transfer and exchange. Having recognized the importance of this work in planning of library automation at the National level, Sri Lanka National Library Services Board summoned a meeting of professional librarians, in January 1983, to discuss the problems and issues related to computerization. This was the first attempt made at the National level to tackle the problems envisaged in library automation.

Four main factors influenced computerization of libraries in Sri Lanka. Firstly, availability of powerful and less expensive micro-computers made computerization a feasible activity. Libraries and information systems supported by foreign and international funding found that they could procure micro computers without much bargaining. Secondly, availability of micro version of CDS/ISIS Software form UNESCO boosted computerization work. UNESCO took the timely decision to compile a micro version of their powerful CDS/ISIS Software and to make copies of the software available, free of charge to libraries in the developing countries. UNESCO established national and regional distributing agencies for the speedy and systematic distribution of the package. SLSTIC being designated the national distributing agency in Sri Lanka, helped 60 libraries to obtain the package during 1987 - 1989 period. The third factor is the influence of SLSTIC, which pioneered library automation. SLSTIC assumed the role of the national authority in the absence of a National Library, in bibliographic data processing. Distribution and promotion of micro CDS/ISIS library software, organization of forums to discuss computerization problems, formulation of bibliographic formats for data storage and transfer, provision of consultation services, conducting training workshops for library personnel, are the main services offered by SLSTIC. The fourth factor is the effort of the Sri Lanka Library Association. The Association organized three types of programmes to promote library automation : (a) Training course on "computers in libraries" to provide basic knowledge in hardware, software, computer languages, systems analysis and practical programming; (b) Seminars to literate professionals in information technology as part of the Association's continuous education programme; (c) introduction of information technology as a subject in the curriculum of the professional course in library and information science.

Major bibliographic information system and services operated by libraries and information centres in Sri Lanka, apart from those of SLSTIC, are outlined below :

(a) MARGA Institute :

Marga Institute functions as the Coordinating Centre of the Development Information Network in Sri Lanka (DEVINSA) which is an international information network. DEVINSA database comprises development literature together with abstracts, sent by the National Focal Point. Other databases developed by MARGA are DEVLIT (Socio-economic development literature on Sri Lanka), MARDOC (Marga Research Documents) and CHILD (Citations with abstracts on literature pertaining to the Sri Lanka child).

(b) National Institute of Education (NIE)

Information Division of NIE has organized several bibliographical databases related to education.

(c) Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research (CISIR)

A mini-computer based bibliographic information system has been installed at CISIR. A local Area Network will be set up at CISIR to help the research workers search databases created by the library, from their laboratories. Being the National Focal Point of APINMAP (Asia and Pacific Information Network of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants), CISIR builds up a local database on the subject concerned to be sent to the Regional Centre in the Philippines.

(d) Sri Lanka Standards Institute (SLSI)

SLSI has installed a local area network entitled SLSILINE to provide online information on standards. Two databases are available in SLSILINE, (a) Sri Lanka Standards database and, (b) library catalogue. An Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) has been organized at SLSI to facilitate speedy retrieval of information.

(e) Coconut Research Institute (CRI)

CRI operates the Coconut Information Service (COCONIS) to provide information related to Coconut plantation and processing. The International Coconut Information Centre set up by CRI builds up several bibliographic and non bibliographic databases for COCONIS.

(f) Sri Lanka Business Development Centre (SLBDC)

SLBDC is the first organization in Sri Lanka which ventured into online searching by establishing links with online hosts. SLBDC has facilities to tap online systems such as Dialog, ESA, SDC, etc.

(g) Arthur C. Clark Centre for Modern Technology (ACC)

ACC has established a communication network for transmitting electronic messages between organizations. It intends to create a special network linking libraries which could be used to transmit data and messages.

4. Utilization of Information Technology at the National Library of Sri Lanka

The National Library of Sri Lanka is expected to play a key role in utilization of information technology. It is unthinkable of a new information system or service which does not use information technology. Since the National Library Services Board which is responsible for setting up of the National Library of Sri Lanka has no adequate resources to undertake the above task it is necessary for the National Library to acquire appropriate resources. NLSL could upgrade its capabilities in utilization of information technology by creating a suitable infra-structure. This would include (a) a national information technology committee, and (b) an information technology division.

Appointment of a committee for utilization of information technology which may be named "*National Information Technology Committee* (*NITCOM*)" would provide NLSL the mechanisms to obtain services of experts from external organizations. NITCOM should have representatives from the Sri Lanka Library Association, Dept. of Telecommunication, Computer and Information Technology Council and Arthur C. Clark Centre for Modern Technology. Functions of the Committee should include :

(i) Designing a national plan for utilization of information technology for the development of libraries in Sri Lanka.

(ii) Formulation of policy guidelines for adoptation of information technology by libraries in Sri Lanka. Lack of a policy would lead organizations to acquire inappropriate information technologies.

(iii) Drawing up of standards for bibliographic data handling. Lack of standards would hindre exchange and transfer of bibliographic products through electronic media.

(iv) Designing training courses to prepare library personnel for the exploitation of modern information techniques. Existing formal library education programmes are inadequate to produce manpower required for handling modern information systems.

NLSL should set up a separate Division to deal with information technology. Such a Division should have proper manpower, equipment and facilities to serve other, divisions of NLSL as well as external organizations. The Division should have personnel conversant with data processing, data communication and systems development. It needs a wide range of equipment including computers, desk-top publishing systems facsimile machines, CDROM drives, communication equipment etc.

Information Technology Division should operate on the advice and guidance of NITCOM. With the help of IT Division NLSL could perform its functions more efficiently and effectively. IT Division should play a leading role in organization and re-organization of the following actvities.

(a) Sri Lanka National Bibliography (SLNB)

IT Division will help NLSL to offer more services based on SLNB. Organization of SLNB as a bibliographic database would increase it's accessibility. SLNB online service will help a remote user to link his computer to NLSL for searching local publications available in the National Repository. SLNB - in - diskette service would provide the subscribers with bibliographic data on new additions to the Repository.

(b) Sri Lanka National Union Catalogue (SLNUC)

One of the major projects expected from NLSL is compilation of the Sri Lanka National Union Catalogue which records bibliographic information on books available in various libraries in Sri Lanka. Methodology adopted by SLSTIC in compilation of the Union Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Books (UNICAST) could be used by NLSL for SLNUC. Participating libraries could store their data in pre-structured data files and send the diskettes containing their data to NLSL for the compilation of SLNUC. When a bibliographic network is established by NLSL the participating libraries would be able to transfer data digitally.

(c) Cataloguing Service

A service should be organized by IT Division for the benefit of libraries which seek assistance in cataloguing. This service would save time of the library personnel engaged in cataloguing of foreign books. NLSL could acquire foreign library catalogues in CD-ROM for the cataloguing service. When a library requests the catalogue entry of a foreign book, NLSL could consult the relevant CD - ROM database to locate the original catalogue entry for copying. The entry could be given in a card or could be down loaded to a diskette.

(c) Information Bureau

IT Division should organize an information bureau equipped with online link and CD - ROM drives. In countries like Sri Lanka where voice lines are used for online links, online searching becomes too expensive for an organization with limited demand for searching. NLSL could organize an online bureau as a national service to provide online access to important databases.

A CD - ROM Centre with databases on different subjects would supplement the online service.

(e) Faxline

IT Division could organize a communication Network using facsimile, machines. Fax machines installed at major libraries could be connected centrally with NLSL. This network could be used for transferring documents (photocopies, contents pages etc.) and messages (inter-library loans, circulars).

5. Conclusion

Establishment of NLSL is a landmark in the long history of librarianship in Sri Lanka. Library and Information Systems in many developing countries have progressed rapidly during the past few decades largely due to the efforts of their National Llibraries to use appropriate information technologies. It is realized that unlike in other technologies, in information technology, a country need not progress step by step passing various stages of development. Instead the country could leap-frog to the future. This is the strategy that NLSL should adopt in maneouvring the libraries of Sri Lanka.

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INFORMATION FOR SMALL INDUSTRIES IN SRI LANKA AN OVERVIEW

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Sri Lanka which was faced with a severe foreign exchange problem and a growing unemployment situation has attempted to diversify its economy with an export led growth strategy. The small scale industrial sector, although not large at present finds, sustenance for a relatively large part of the workforce and has a significant contribution to make in the context of the present public policies and programmes. This is all the more so because of the liberalization of trade and the presence of a growing number of small enterpreneurs who have returned to the country after employment abroad, mainly in the Middle East, with erlatively large amounts of investible resources available to them.

The paper provides a brief overview of small scale industries development and their status in the economic of Sri Lanka with a breakdown of the types of information needs. The prevalent information situation in the context of these needs, including the institutional infrastructure, financing and credit, identification of viable projects, entrepreneur development, market intelligence and the statistical data situation are discussed.

Recommendations and suggestions for improving the prevailing institutional, infrastructure and collection and dissemination of information including information categories, the desired language and the role of international agencies in providing assistance for establishing a better information network within the country are considered.

ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

1. Sri Lanka's industrial development in a modern context can be traced back to the mid 19th Century. It was then a tree crop export oriented development, which since independence has been characterised by an import substitution industrial growth, with the large scale capital intensive industries being mainly in the public sector. The economy was beset with foreign exchange and balance of payments problems, and the difficulties of diversifying a plantation type import-export economy resulted in economic stagnation all-round. The rapid growth of the population which commenced after the mid 1940's led in this situation to a massive unemployment problem which reached critical levels of over 1 million being unemployed by the mid 1970's . The 1970's saw the growth of industrial exports and the passing of the tree crop industries to the public sector with the nationalisation of plantations in excess of 50 acres in 1972-75. The next major change was in 1977, when far reaching economic reforms were introduced with the adoption of a liberalised economic policy. The removal of quotas and restrictions for the import of capital goods and raw materials, revitalized this sector, and brought in competitive market forces, opening out new areas of investment to the private sector leaning away from capital intensive public investment which had often been import intensive too.

INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE

2. The manufacturing sector in Sri Lanka is still relatively small contributing about 15% of GDP and employing 12% of the labour force. Public sector corporations play a dominant role where about 66% of value added in the industrial sector is estimated to originate.

3. Private Industry consists of an organised (registered) subsector comprising some 9,000 firms and an unregistered subsector of some 20,000 small and cottage industries. It is estimated that about 2/3 of the total manufacturing employment is in the unregistered, subsector. The 4 majors subsector are textiles and garments, foods processing, light engineering, and chemicals and rubber products which account for 81% of all industries in terms of their contribution to value added.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY / OBJECTIVES

4. The policy directed towards this sector was substantially reformulated in 1977, with a liberalised market oriented development strategy and a greater role being assigned to private sector participation in industrialisation. The strategy for industrial development since 1978 emphasises the (i) development of exports both inside and outside the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) (ii) the promotion of small and medium scale industries, including agro based industry, particularly in rural areas where employment is most severe (iii) expansion of industries meeting local mass consumption needs emphasising the improvement of product quality and (iv) the development of industries based on indigenous raw material.

SMALL / MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRY CHARACTERISTICS / ROLE

5. As briefly described earlier the large majority of industrial production units are small scale enterprises under any definition and are entities found in all fields of industry, including agriculture, fisheries, mining, manufacturing and commerce. The government presently defines Small and Medium Scale Industries (SMI) as enterprises with less than Rs. 1 million (US $ 43,500) in plant and equipment, and land and building, valued at original costs. Th Ministry of Industry and Scientific Affairs (MISA) is proposing to change this definition to Rs. 1 million excluding investment in land and buildings. Based on this new definition the SMI sector would include some 90% of registered private firms and all unregistered firms, accounting for about 3/4 of industrial employment in Sri Lanka and contributing to about 2/3 of the total industrial value added. In the 1978-1982 period the Local Investment Advisory Committee (LIAC) approved nearly 3,000 industrial investments averaging Rs. 600,000 (US $ 26,000) per unit.

6. In Sri Lanka SMIs, warrant special attention due to their potential to help in increasing exports, and meeting the local demand in several subsectors and in generating employment. SMIs can be competitive and effective producers in many subsectors and to reach their full potential SMIs need specialized institutional support, credit and financing mechanisms and effective industrial information.

7. The principal SMI subsectors are light engineering, textiles and garments, rubber, chemical products, food processing and wood and paper products. There is a very high concentration of registered SMIs in and around the Colombo district, with secondary, concentration in Kalutara, Kandy, Matara, Jaffna, Galle, Kurunegala districts. Unregistered small and cottage industries are more widely dispersed among small towns and villages, with Colombo having only about 30% of the total. Regional industrial dispersal is one of the government's primary objectives and for this to be effective infrastructural facilities and greater access to institutional finance, technical, marketing and informatory services should be prerequisites.

8. In the SMI subsector further development and expansion opportunities are abundant and are based on export potential or increased domestic demand. It is this information that must reach the SMI entrepreneur. They must be made aware of the available potential, and also of the need for high speciality items, and quality in the item produced. The production of high quality and speciality items are a must for expansion of opportunities. The areas identified as having an export potential are rubber goods, building materials, wood products and agro industries.

9. There is also now potential for SMIs to enter into subcontracting agreements, specially in garments, light engineering products, plastics and leather goods. These, opportunities could arise both in and out of the FTZ. For effective implementation and success the industrialists maut be informed of tendering and subcontracting opportunities and requirements, and be provided with technical services to help them to improve productivity, quality and delivery reliability.

10. To improve investment and export incentives for foreign and local industrialists major revision of industrial policy have been effected since 1977. The original tariff structure was one of import quotas and licences. Since 1977 there was a low duty on essential consumer goods, most raw materials, spares and machinery, with higher duties for non essentials and luxury items. At present it is advocated that a system which will reduce the current wide variation in effective protection rates be introduced.

INSTITUTIONAL TECHNICAL / MARKETING SERVICES

11. The state has provided many agencies in an attempt to provide the SMI entrepreneur with the necessary institutional help to launch and develop this subsector. The setting up of institutional infrastructure for industrial development has been a specific objective of the administration since the achievement of a degree of self government in 1931, when the development and protection of cottage industries first came into focus.

12. MISA is the principal agency which formulates policies and strategies for this subsector. The Industrial Development Board (IDB) an agency of MISA is the primary SMI development institution responsible for promoting and assisting all SMI subsectors except fisheries, textiles and cottage industries. It has 9 regional and 20 district offices The IDB was established under the Industrial Development Act No. 36 of 1969. Its objectives as described in the Act include the encouragement, promotion and fostering of industrial research, improving the technical processes and methods, provision of marketing, managerial, technical and legal services, advice and extension services.

13. The Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research (CISIR) is the main multi-disciplinary research institute in the country. It's research activities include the use of locally available raw material in industry, development and improvement of existing technologies, testing of raw materials, and finished products for conformity to recognised standards, and consultancy services.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

20. The present situation in Sri Lanka is that the developed entrepreneur class is small and the majority have little or no experience of management techniques, accounting, practices or technical know how. It is therefore necessary that entrepreneurs be provided with identified projects suitable for development and given assistance in appraising projects already selected by them. In addition institutional help should be provided by way of feasibility reports. The State has realised the importance of identifying projects and also of creating product development centres. This work has geen assigned to the IDB and EDB, with MISA and LIACS providing overall guidance.

21. To identify projects suitable for development both the industrialist and the institutional bodies established to help them will have to make use of both published and administrative sources viz. (i) Customs statistics (ii) Licences granted for import of both finished goods and parts. (iii) Export demand opportunities and possibilities for overseas buyers. (iv) Trade information bulletines, joint venture partnerships, technological innovations etc. put out by foreign embassies and (v) Sri Lankan patent information. The IDB and the EDB prepared a number of feasibility studies for certain specified items. eg.—Rubber products, White Coir Yarn, Gems and Jewellery, Handlooms, Wood Products but this activity has to be followed up by active promotion, identification of partners and technical services which should be communicated to the entrepreneur in the periphery in an acceptable easy to comprehend language.

ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT

22. For entrepreneur development to be successful, mere lending to eligible credit worthy borrowers is inadequate, it is necessary to identify potential entrepreneurs and motivate and spur their entrepreneurship. The techniques that are adopted have to be refined and sharpened to achieve more effective results, this is specially so, when today the migrant returnee is a readily identifiable entrepreneur who needs much institutional help, to develop his potential. This would mean the growth of more small scale industries, therefore lending institutions and technical and marketing services set up by the state should be geared to help and develop this class of industrialist.

23. The mere establishment of infrastructural facilities will not, it has been found result in industrial development, concentration of effort on this class of entrepreneur has an even more far reaching effect as it has an impact on the social and economic development of backward areas and in accelerating industrial development through human resource development. In Sri Lanka, the Bank of Ceylon and the Department of Labour have been conducting seminars to create an awareness among this new entrepreneur class. Apart from this they would need practical help in identification of right projects and location, financing, marketing, and other information, which support should exist till the industry finds its feet.

24. The expense incurred in administering loans and the risk attached to such lending, have highlighted the need for very much more extension services by way of assistance in production, raw material, marketing, and management capacity. These industries are more vulnerable to environmental hazards, and mortality amongst young small units

14. The National Engineering Research & Development Centre of Sri Lanka (NERDC) provides for the institutional mechanism needed for the development of indigenous technology, designs and manufactures and tests prototype machinery and pilot plants as demanded by end users.

15. The Export Development Board (EDB) was established in 1979 and is responsible to the Export Development Council of Ministers on formulation of export development policies and programs, undertakes research and development of export products and markets, and acts as the central agency co-ordinating activities of key public and private sector organisations engaged in exports.

16. The Ministry of Textiles Industries (MTI) with the Department of Textile Industries (DTI) formulates policy and implements programmes for the development of textiles, garments and handloom industries and is also responsible for the development of manpower resources for this subsector.

17. The Department of Small Industries (DSI) is responsible for cottage industry development servicing craftsman, promoting local sales and exports, and training craftsman through apprenticeship and other programmes. The Sri Lanka National Design Centre established by Act. No. 35 of 1982 is the latest attempt made by the state to help small industrialists. It undertakes designing, market development both domestic and foreign, introduces new and efficient methods of production, advises on production processes and in the utilisation of raw material, and carries out tests on materials used.

18. Training programmes for industrial expansion are concentrated in two main, agencies, NIBM which provides production and financial management courses and NAB which arranges supervised paid trade apprenticeship for private industry.

FINANCING SMIs

19. Several measures have been adopted by the government to facilitate growth in industrial and export credit (i) The DFCC established in 1956 provides credit and refinance assistance for both industrial and agricultural production, and these activities are supported by international agencies and the Central Bank of Ceylon. (ii) The NDB established in 1979, provides direct lending and SMI refinance with World Bank assistance. The bank has established a Rs. 1,000 million credit fund to further SMI lending facilities. (iii) The Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation was established in 1980. This body facilitates pre and post shipment credit. (iv) The Central Bank has a refinance scheme at subsidized interest for term loans to enterprises which export at least 20% of their output value. and (v) Since 1978 foreign banks have been given approvals to open banking facilities in the country, and they are able to provide term finance. (vi) The two state banks, the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank have established extensive branch networks and they have established separate SMI units. Two local private banks too, have now adopted policies to expand their term lending particularly for SMIs.

tend to be high. The most promising way in which small industries could grow would be as an ancilliary to a large industry and for this sub-contracting would have to become a part of industrial growth in the country.

MARKET INFORMATION

25. In Sri Lanka it is expected that the state would supply all basic industrial information, which is due to a lack of adequately developed industrial firms with administrative capacity to conduct such research, and also due to a lack of foresight and understanding of the importance of data and information in industrial development. The collection and disclosure of basic industrial information it is found does not take place at a satisfactory level. The present company law provides for the disclosure of information, but the information contained in the financial statements are not analysed to provide basic company and industrial profiles. It is necessary that action be taken to analyse the corporate business sector, so that the SMIs and those connected with them could have an adequate picture of their competitors.

26. The adoption of liberalised trade policies and an export led growth strategy makes it necessary to consider and review the kinds of information, the industrialist producing wage goods and the exporter would require to make the correct decisions. To gather this data the research should result in not only providing information on target markets but also provide meaningful data on the right areas for concentration. Together with this there should be information on buyers wants and preferences, market distribution structure, prices and competitive products. Detailed market study is costly but at least a certain amount of basic research must be done to choose the best markets where the industrialist should concentrate and also to identify proper market segments and what kind of sales promotion should be conducted.

27. In Sri Lanka Trade Associations which have now become more active could play a useful role in providing access to statistical information, indicating market demand, market supply, stock levels, wholesale and retail domestic prices, import prices, domestic costs, etc. by undertaking co-operative market research without relying solely on the state.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

28. Industrial statistical information is not systematised. MISA does have a uniy to collect industrial statistics, but it has not been able to collect comprehensive statistical data and information regularly, nor make it readily available to the users as a whole. Although a survey of registered industries is undertaken through a mail inquiry the coverage in the survey has been incomplete due to the absence of upto date frames and also due to substantial non response and partial reporting of information. There is hardly any statistical information on the small scale and unorganised sector.

29. A further weakness is that the available data is not sufficiently disaggregated to the level of individual products being manufactured, to be of direct relevance to the user. Even the statistical data collected by the customs is aggregated, so a detailed analysis of information by individual product is difficult. A systematic industrial data development

programme should be initiated which will without doubt prevents project with little viability or industries which already have unutilised capacities being proliferated. For correct decisions to be made with regard to establishing a small and medium scale industry, analysed statistical information is vital.

30. Interagency co-operation and co-ordination is needed to develop the industrial statistical data collection in the country which is now dispersed among a number of governmental agencies. The present situation warrants the exploration of possibilities for funding and technical assistance from international agencies to develop the data base on industrial statistics.

OBSERVATIONS

31. The foregoing account is indicative of the type of information required by this class of entrepreneurs and their information requirements can be broadly grouped under (i) management — bringing in the whole gamut of already described facilities and services ranging from incentives fiscal and monetary, training, marketing, labour regulations, standards and patents, statistics, consultancies, imports, exports, tenders and subcontracts (ii) technical and technological which would include location, plans and designs, erection of buildings, machinery and equipment, process technologies, research and tests (iii) production, under this group would come information on resources and raw material, feasibility studies, quality control maintenance and pricing. The amount of data and quality required would vary from industry to industry.

32. The capacity or lack of this information adversely affects SMI development, by inducing low output, idle capacities, poor quality, stock piling, absenteeism, high turnover and high cost of production and distribution. The ultimate result is the emergence of sick units, which require rehabilitation by financing institutions but they are most often given up as lost.

33. At present the availability of industrial information is inadequate. The little that is available is also scattered and the gap between the producer and the user is very wide. The information emanating to the SMI sector through private sources is very limited. It is the state that provides the bulk of the information needs. The major state institutional sources and their services were briefly described.

34. This identified information should be strategically located within access of users and could be fed to them in many ways. For instance through another industry, through publications such as periodicals, abstracts, information bulletines, bibliographies, through direct communication via telephone and media and liaison or extension services either private or state sponsored. The state has established a number of information sources for the industrialist like the Industrial Information Service (ISS) of the IDB, the Trade and Shipping Information Services (TIS) of the Ministry of Trade, and the library services of research and administration units and facilities already described in paragraphs 11-18. But they all suffer from the deficiency of a lack of basic information input from the generating institutions, further there is very little co-ordination between R and D institutions and these information services. For effectiveness in communication the

information should also be in a convenient and readily digestible form. The present deficiencies in the information services have resulted in the users of industrial information being compelled to move from one institution to another in search of the information they require.

35. The SMIs lack of knowledge of these sources, their inability to identify the appropriate sources or to reach them, the costs of travel and communication, the concentration service facilities in the metropolis, the ability to survive because of the scale of industry and the perceived or suspected socio-cultural barriers that exist between communicators and users etc. have all contributed to lower the level of utilisation of available services. In order to better utilize the current and proposed data sources it is imperative that these issues be recognized, (the lack of space prevents a wider discussion) and remedial measures be introduced to minimise their impact.

36. The government has accorded a high priority in its development plans and programmes to the SMI subsector because of its potential in producing wage goods increasing imports and in generating new employment. For the realization of these objectives apart from looking at the economic incentives and infrastructure, an evaluation of the information and data services is opportune. The importance of information as an input for the growth and development of the SMI Sector has been recognized for some time. It is this very recognition which has led to the establishment of a number of public sector institutions and organizations during the last two decades. The establishment and location of specialized services within different individual establishments have also created a need for close co-ordination of the information, collection, processing, servicing activities entrusted to them. The foregoing brief description and analysis suggests that the scope and content of data and informatory services in the public sector should be reviewed, there is no doubt that their effectiveness can be considerably improved. A comprehensive evaluation of the current situation is timely, as it is a prerequisite for strengthening this service facility and for establishing an interlinked industrial information network which will make a significant contribution in developing this vital economic ubsector.

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இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலகம்

எஸ்.எம். கமால்தீன் பி.ஏ., பி.எட்., நூலக டிப்ளோமா
முன்னோநாள் உதவிப் பணிப்பாளர் (நூலக சேவைகள்)
இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலக சேவைகள் சபை

பொதுவாகக் கூறுமிடத்து ஒரு நாட்டின் தேசிய நூலகமென்பது, அந்நாட்டின் அனைத்து அறிவுப் பதிவேடுகளையும் ஒருங்கு திரட்டி, அந்நாட்டு மக்களுக்கும், அவர்தம் சந்ததியினருக்கும் பயன்படும் வகையில் பாதுகாக்கும் ஒரு நிறுவனமாகும்.

"ஒரு தேசிய நூலகத்தின் முக்கியத்துவம் என்னவெனில், அந்நூலகம் எவ்வித சந்தேகத்திற்குமிடமின்றி நாட்டிலுள்ள ஏனைய நூலகங்களுக்கெல்லாம் தலையாய நூலகமாகத் திகழ்வதுதான். இந்த உயர்நிலைக்கான காரணம், அந்நூலகத்தின் அறிவேடுகளின் பரப்பும், பன்முக உள்ளடக்கமுமேயாகும். மேலும் அவ்வறிவேடுகள் வெவ்வேறு வகைப்பட்டனவாயிருத்தலோடு, நூலகத்தில் பலதரப்பட்ட விசேஷப் பகுதிகளிலும் காணப்படும்."

தேசிய நூலகங்களை அமைத்து நூலக இயக்கத்தை முன்னேற்றுவது நவீன அரசுகளின் இன்றியமையாத கடமையாகும். இதற்கான செலவினம் மத்திய அரசின் பொது நிதியத்திலிருந்து பெறப்படுவதாயிருக்கும். ஒரு நாட்டின் நூலகத்துறைக்காகச் செலவிடப்படும் நிதியம் அந்நாட்டின் சமூக, கலாசார, பொருளாதார சுபீட்சத்திற்கான மூலதனமாக கருதப்படவேண்டியதாகும். மற்றும், நூலகப்பரிமாரிப்புக் கடப்பாட்டை உறுதிப்படுத்தும் வகையில் பெரும்பாலான அரசுகள் நூலகச் சட்டங்களை இயற்றிக் கொண்டுள்ளன.

பெரும்பாலான வளர்முகநாடுகள் சுதந்திரமடைந்த பின் தமது பின் தங்கிய நிலையிலிருந்து விடுபட்டுச் சமூக, கலாசார, பொருளாதார முன்னேற்றங்காண முற்பட்டுள்ளன. இவ்வகையிலான முயற்சிகளுக்கு நூலக ஆவண சேவைகளின் முக்கியத்துவம் நாம் கூறுமலே விளங்கும். எனினும் ஒரு நாட்டின் அபிவிருத்திக்கான திட்டங்களை உருவாக்கி, அவற்றைப் பயன்மிக்க வகையில் நிறைவேற்றுவதற்கு நூலக சேவைகளின் இன்றியமையாத் தன்மை இன்னமும் போதுமான அளவு வளர்முக நாடுகளால் உணரப்படவில்லையென்பது மறுக்க முடியாத உண்மையாகும். எனவேதான், துரிதமான அபிவிருத்தியில் நாட்டங்கொண்டுள்ள எமது நாட்டில் அனைத்துத் துறைகளிலும் வளர்ச்சிக்கான சாதனமான நூலக சேவைகளில் கூடுதலான கவனஞ் செலுத்தப்படவேண்டியது அத்தியாவசியமாகின்றது. இந்த முயற்சியில் தான் எமது தேசிய நூலகம் தலைமை தாங்கி வழிகாட்டக் கூடியதாயிருக்கும்.

இலங்கையில் நூலக சேவைகளின் வளர்ச்சிக்கும் பரவலுக்கும் ஏதுவானதோர் அடித்தளம் ஏற்கனவே இருந்து வருவதை இங்கு நாம் குறிப்பிடவேண்டும். பெருமைப்படத்தக்கதோர் அறிவுப் பாரம்பரியம் இந்நாட்டிற்குண்டு. எமது பௌத்த மடாலயங்களிலும், கோயில்களிலும், மத்ரஸாக்களிலும் அறிவேடுகள் மிகுந்த கவனத்தோடு பாதுகாக்கப்பட்டும், பயிலப்பட்டும் வந்துள்ளன. இருந்த போதிலும் கடந்த நூற்றாண்டில்தான் ஆங்கிலேயரின் ஆட்சியின் கீழ் நவீன முறையிலான நூலக சேவையின் வளர்ச்சி அரும்பலாயிற்று.

இந்நாட்டில் ஒரு நூற்றாண்டிற்கு மேற்பட்ட காலப்பிரிவில் மேல்நாட்டு முறையிலான கல்வித் திட்டமும், பொது நிர்வாக அமைப்பும் நடைமுறையிலிருந்து வந்ததன் காரணமாகவும், அண்மைக்காலத்தில் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்ட இலவசக் கல்வியின் பெறுபேறுகவும் மக்களிடையே அறிவார்வம் பெருகியுள்ளதோடு, நூலக ஆவண வளங்களை நாட்டின் அபிவிருத்திக்குப் பயன்படுத்திக் கொள்வதற்கான முனைப்பும் ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது.

தேசிய நூலக சேவையென்பது நவீன காலத்தில் உருவாகிய தொன்றென்பது இத்துறையில் நிபுணத்துவம் வாய்ந்த அருண்டேல் எஸ்டெயில் என்பாருடைய கூற்றுகும். அவர் 1934ம் ஆண்டில் தேசிய நூலகம் பற்றிக் குறிப்பிடும்போது அதுவொரு நவயுகத்துச் சாதனமாகுமென்று கூறியுள்ளார். ''தேசிய நூலகம் பற்றிய கொள்கை கடந்த ஒரு நூற்றாண்டு காலமாகவும், அதனைச் சரியாகக் கணிப்பதாயின் அதற்கு மேலாகவும் விரிவடைந்து வருவதொன்றுகும்.'' இக் கொள்கை காலப்போக்கில் அறிவேடுகளின் பெருக்கத்தையொட்டியும், தன்மையினையொட்டியும் மாற்றமடைவதற்கு இடமுண்டு.

தேசிய நூலகங்கள் பலவகைப்பட்ட அடிப்படைகளில் தோன்றியுள்ளன. ஒரு சில தேசிய நூலகங்கள் தற்போது அவை இயங்கிவரும் அடிப்படையிலேயே தோற்றின. மற்றும் சில தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் பெருமளவில் சேகரித்த நூல் தொகைகளினடியாகத் தோன்றியுள்ளன. இவ்வகையில் உலகின் பிரதான தேசிய நூலகங்களுள் ஒன்றுகிய 'பிரிட்டிஷ் மியூசியம்' ஸர் ஹான்ஸ் ஸ்லோன்ஸ் என்பாருடைய பெறுமதி வாய்ந்த நூற் தொகையை அதன் ஆரம்பகாலத்தில் பெற்றது. ஐக்கிய அமெரிக்காவின் தேசிய நூலகம் அந்நாட்டுப் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கான நூலகத்தின் அடியாகத் தோன்றியுள்ளது. அவை எவ்வகையில் தோற்றினுலும் ''தேசிய நூலகங்கள் அவற்றின் ஆரம்பத்திலிருந்தோ அல்லது பிற்பட்ட காலங்களிலோ ஒவ்வொரு நாட்டு மக்களினதும் அறிவாற்றலின் வெளிப்பாடுகளடங்கிய பதிவேடுகளின் இயல்பான பாதுகாப்பகங்களாகும்''.

தேசிய அறிவேடுகளைச் சேகரித்துப் பாதுகாப்பதோடு தேசிய நூலகங்கள் தம் நாட்டு மக்களின் வாழ்வையும், சுபீட்சத்தையும் வளப்படுத்தக்கூடிய ஏனைய நாட்டவரின் பல்துறைப்பட்ட அறிவாக்கங்களையும் சேகரித்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டிய கடப்பாடுடையனவாகவுள்ளன. எனினும், பிறநாட்டு அறிவேடுகளைச் சேகரிப்பதென்பது எந்தளவு சாத்தியமாகுமென்பது கேள்விக்குரியதொன்றுகும். இது பற்றி 1958ம் ஆண்டில் வியன்னுவில் நடைபெற்ற ஐரோப்பிய தேசிய நூலகங்கள் பற்றிய கருத்தரங்கில் பின்வரும் ஆலோசனை தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

''ஒரு நாட்டினுடு நேரடியான தொடர்பற்ற வெளியீடுகளைப் பொறுத்த மட்டில் சாத்தியமான ஒரே வழி நூலகங்களின் நூலீட்டலை தேசிய மட்டத்தில் ஒருமுகப் படுத்தலேயாகும். தேசிய நூலகங்களும் இம் முறையையே விரும்புகின்றன.''

நடைமுறையில் அவசியமான இந்த ஒருமுகப்பாட்டின் மூலம் பாவனையாளர்கள் பயனடைவதோடு தேசிய நூலகங்களின் நூற்றொகையும் வளம்பெறும். மேலும் ஏனைய நூலகங்களின் வளர்ச்சியையும் ஊக்குவிப்பதாகும். இருந்தபோதிலும் ஒரு தேசிய நூலகம் தனது நாட்டிற்குத் தேவையான பிறநாட்டு அறிவேடுகளைச் சேகரிக்க வேண்டிய பொறுப்பினை ஏற்கவேண்டுமென்ற கருத்து வற்புறுத்திக் கூறப்பட்டது. இந்த வகையிலும் கூட தேசிய நூலகங்களுக்கிடையிலான ஒத்துழைப்பு மிகவும் பெறுமதி வாய்ந்ததென்று கூறப்பட்டது. தேசிய நூலகத்தின் சர்வதேச மட்டத்திலான நூல் பரிமாற்றத்தையே இக்கூற்று வலியுறுத்துகின்றது.

எமது நாட்டில் தேசிய நூலகம் பற்றிய சிந்தனை இந்நூற்றாண்டின் பிற்பகுதியிலேயே வலுவடைந்துள்ளது.

கொழும்பு மாநகர சபை நகராதிபதியின் 1951ம் ஆண்டிற்கான நிர்வாக அறிக்கையில், கொழும்பு பொது நூலகத்தின் பிரதம நூலகர் டி.எஸ்.ஜி. அபயவிக்ரம் நாட்டின் அபிவிருத்திக்குத் தேசிய நூலகத்தின் அவசியத்தையும் அந்நூலகம் ஆற்றக் கூடிய பணிகளையும் விளக்கியுள்ளார்.

இலங்கையில் உள்ளூராட்சி மன்றங்களின் மீதான விசாரணைக் குழு (1955) தனது அறிக்கையில் பின்வருமாறு கூறியுள்ளது.

"நாம் எய்த விழையும் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கான வழி ஒரு தேசிய நூலக சேவையின் தோற்றமும் வளர்ச்சியுமாகும். இதன் சாராம்சம் என்னவெனில் எந்தவொரு சிறிய உள்ளூராட்சி மன்றத்தில் வதியும் வாசகராயினும் தான் படிக்க விரும்பும் ஒரு நூல் தமது உள்ளூர் நூலகத்தில் கிடைக்காவிடின் அந்நூலைக் கூட்டுறவு முறையின் மூலம் தேசிய நூலகத்திலிருந்து பெற்றுக் கொள்ளக்கூடியதாயிருக்கவேண்டும். இங்கிலாந்தில் இந்த முறை தற்போது நடைமுறையிலிருந்து வருகிறது".

இதனைத் தொடர்ந்து 1958ம் ஆண்டில், கொழும்பு பொது நூலகத்தின் மீதான திரு. பி. கந்தையா அவர்களின் அறிக்கையில் ஒரு தேசிய நூலகத்தின் அவசியத்தைப் பின்வருமாறு அவர் வற்புறுத்தியுள்ளார்.

"ஒரு தேசிய நூலகத்தை அமைப்பது எமது கலாசார அபிவிருத்தியில் முதன்மையான இடத்தைப் பெறவேண்டியதொரு விஷயமாகும். துரதிர்ஷ்டவசமாக இவ்விஷயத்தில் கவனஞ் செலுத்தப்படாமல் மிகுந்த காலம் கடந்து விட்டது. இத்தகையதொரு நூலகத்தைக் கட்டிச் சேவையினை ஆரம்பிப்பது மேலும் காலம் தாழ்த்தாது மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டியது அவசியமென்பது எனது உறுதியான கருத்தாகும்."

மேலும் திரு. கந்தையா அவர்கள் இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலகத்திற்கான மூல நூல்தொகைகளாக அரசாங்க சுவடிச்சாலை, அரும்பொருட்சாலை நூலகம், 'ரோயல் ஏஷ்யடிக் சொஸைடி' (இலங்கைக் கிளை) ஆகியவற்றின் அறிவேடுகளை ஒருங்கு திரட்டிச் சேகரிக்கலாம் என்றும் அபிப்பிராயம் கூறியுள்ளார்.

இலங்கைத் தொல்பொருட்கள் பற்றிய விசாரணைக் குழு (1959) தனது அறிக்கையில் தேசிய நூலகத்தினைப் பற்றியும் குறிப்பிட்டு அதற்கான மூல நூற் தொகையாகக் கொள்வதற்கு கொழும்பு, அரும்பொருட்சாலையின் நூலகத்திலுள்ள நூல்கள் மிகச்சிறந்தவையென்று கூறியுள்ளது.

இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலக சேவைகளின் முன்னைநாள் பணிப்பாளர் திரு. கே.டி. சோமதாஸ அவர்கள் அரசாங்க கீழத்தேய நூலகம் (1870) இலங்கையின் முதலாவது தேசிய நூலகமாகக் கருதப்படக்கூடியதென்று கூறியுள்ளார். இந்நூலகம் 1877ம் ஆண்டில் கொழும்பு அரும்பொருட்சாலை ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட போது அதன் நூலகத்தோடு இணைக்கப்பட்டது. "1885ம் ஆண்டில் அச்சிடுவோர், வெளியீட்டாளர் சட்டத்தின்கீழ் (இலக்கம். 1-1885) கொழும்பு அரும்பொருட்சாலை நூலகம் இலங்கையின் வெளியீடுகளுக்கான வைப்பு நூலகங்களுள் ஒன்றாகியது. அதன் பிறகு கொழும்பு அரும்பொருட்சாலையின் நூலகப் பகுதி ஒரு தேசிய நூலகத்தின் சில தன்மைகளைப் பெறலாயிற்று."

மேலே நாம் கூறியற்றிலிருந்து எமது தேசிய நூலகம் பற்றிய முன்னேடியான கருத்துக்களும் அந்நூலகம் எத்தன்மையானதாயிருக்க வேண்டுமென்ற ஆலோசனைகளும் காலத்துக்குக் காலம் இந்நாட்டின் அறிவார்ந்த மக்களின் எண்ணத்தில் இடம் பெற்று வந்துள்ளதை நாம் அவதானிக்கக் கூடியதாயிருக்கிறது.

இக்கருத்துக்களின் திரட்சியாகவும் பெறுபேறாகவும் உருவாகிய இலங்கையின் முதலாவது முக்கிய நூலகச் சட்டமே இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலக சேவைகள் சபைச் சட்டமாகும். இச்சட்டம் பாராளுமன்றத்தில் 1970ம் ஆண்டு மார்ச்சு மாதம் 24ம் திகதி 17ம் இலக்கச் சட்டமாக நிறைவேறியது. இச்சட்டத்தின் ஆக்கத்திற்கு உடனடியாக வழிகோலியது. 1969ம் ஆண்டில் இலங்கை அரசாங்கத்தின் உதவியுடன் யுனெஸ்கோ தாபனம் நடத்திய நூலக நிபுணர்களின் மாநாடாகும். இம்மாநாட்டில் ஆசிய நாடுகளில் தேசிய நூலகங்களை அமைப்பதன் மூலம் ஆசிய நாடுகளின் நூலக சேவைகளை அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்கான ஆலோசனைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டன.

இவ்வாறுக, இயற்றப்பட்ட நூலகச் சட்டத்தின் மீது 1970 ஆண்டு ஜூன் மாதம் இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலக சேவைகள் சபை நிறுவப்பட்டது. இந் நிகழ்ச்சி இலங்கையின் நூலக இயக்க வளர்ச்சியில் அதி முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்ததொரு திருப்பமாகும்.

எமது தேசிய நூலகத்தின் தன்மையினையும், பணிகளையும் பற்றிக் கூறுமுன் ஒரு தேசிய நூலகத்தின் பொதுவான பணிகள் பற்றி ஆசியாவிலும் பசுபிக் பிராந்தியத்திலும் தேசிய நூலகங்களின் அபிவிருத்தி பற்றிய கருத்தரங்கொன்றில் (மணிலா, பிலிப்பீன்ஸ், 1964) பின்வருமாறு கூறப்பட்டுள்ளதை இங்கு கவனிப்போம்.

"முதன்முதலில் ஒரு தனிப்பட்ட தேசிய நூலகத்தின் பணிகள் பெரும்பாலும் சமூக, கலாசார, பொருளாதார புவியியல் நிலைகளைப் பொறுத்ததாகவேயிருக்கும். இருந்த போதிலும் குறிப்பிட்ட சில பணிகளை மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டியது அந்நூலகத்தின் இன்றியமையாத பொறுப்பாயிருக்கும். பொதுப்படக் கூறுவதாயின் அவை பின்வருவனவாகும்:

— நாட்டிலுள்ள அனைத்து நூலகங்களுக்கும் தலைமைத்துவம் வகித்தல்.

— நாட்டின் அனைத்து வெளியீடுகளுக்கும் ஒரு நிரந்தர வைப்பகமாகப் பணிபுரிதல்.

— வேறு வகையான அறிவேடுகளையும் சேகரித்தல்.

— நூற்பட்டியற் சேவைகளை வழங்குதல்.

— நூலகக் கூட்டுறவு நடவடிக்கைகளை ஒருமுகப்படுத்தும் மத்திய நிலையமாகச் செயற்படுதல்.

— அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தேவையான சேவைகளை வழங்குதல்.

இனி, இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலகச் சேவைகள் சபையினது சேவைகளை அதற்கான சட்டத்தில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளவாறு காண்போம். இதில், இச்சபைக்கு நாட்டிலுள்ள பொது, பாடசாலை, பல்கலைக்கழக, அரசாங்க, விசேஷ நூலகத்துறைகளுக்கு உதவியளித்து முன்னேற்றுவதற்கான அதிகாரம் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளதை அவதானிக்கலாம். இது காறும் அரசாங்க, நூலக, ஆவண சேவைகள் ஒருமுகப்படுத்தப்படாமலும், பல வகைகளிலும் விரயத்தை ஏற்படுத்துவனவாகவுமே இருந்து வந்துள்ளன. எனவே தேசிய நூலக அமைப்பின் மூலம் எமது பொருளாதார நிலைக்கேற்றவாறும், மற்றும் எமது அவசர நூலகத் தேவைகள், வளங்களின் நிலை, நிதிநிலை ஆகியவற்றுக்கேற்றவாறும் நூலக சேவைகளை நாம் அபிவிருத்தி செய்ய முடியும். இதனையொட்டியே இச்சட்டத்தின் 14ம் பிரிவில் எமது தேசிய நூலகத்தை ஏற்படுத்துவது சபையின் தலையாய ஒரு பணியாகக் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது. தேசிய நூலக சேவைகள் சபையின் அதிகாரங்கள் சட்டத்தில் பின்வருமாறு தரப்பட்டுள்ளது.

1. பொதுவாக நூலக சேவைகளின் அமைப்பிற்கும் அபிவிருத்திக்குமாகத் திட்டமிட்டு உதவுதல்.
2. தேசிய நூலகத்தை நிறுவிப் பராமரித்தல்.
3. பொது நூலக சேவைகளை ஊக்குவித்து அபிவிருத்திக்கான ஆலோசனைகளும் உதவியும் வழங்கல்.
4. பாடசாலை நூலகங்களை ஊக்குவித்து அபிவிருத்திக்கான ஆலோசனைகளும் உதவியும் வழங்குதல்.
5. அறிவேடுகளின் வெளியீட்டிற்கும், கட்புல செவிப்புல சாதனங்களின் உற்பத்திக்குமான ஆலோசனைகளும் உதவிகளும் வழங்குதல்.
6. பல்கலைக்கழக நூலகங்கள், கனிஷ்ட பல்கலைக்கழக நூலகங்கள், தொழில் நுட்ப கல்லூரிகளின் நூலகங்கள், ஆசிரியர் கல்லூரிகளின் நூலகங்கள், அரசாங்க அலுவலகங்களின் நூலகங்கள், மற்றும் ஏனைய விசேஷ நூலகங்கள் ஆகியவற்றை ஒருமுகப்படுத்துவதற்கான ஆலோசனைகளும் உதவியும் வழங்கல்.
7. நூலக சேவையில் கடமைபுரிவோரின் கல்வித்தராதரம், தொழில் வழித் தராதரம் ஆகியவற்றை நிர்ணயிப்பதில் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஆலோசனைகளும் உதவியும் வழங்குதல்.

8. நூலகவியற் கல்வியையும், பயிற்சியையும் அபிவிருத்தி செய்தல்.
9. பொதுவாக நூலக சேவைகளின் அபிவிருத்திக்குத் தேவையான ஏனைய நடவடிக்கைகளை மேற்கொள்ளுதல்.

நூலக சேவைகள் சபையின் மேற்கூறிய பணிகளுள் தேசிய நூலகத்தை நிறுவிப் பராமரிப்பதுதான் முதன்மையானதெனினும் அதன் பணிகளாகக் கூறப்பட்ட ஏனைய துறைகளிலான பணிகள் தேசிய நூலக சேவையினோடு நெருங்கிய தொடர்புடையனவென்பதினாலேயே சட்டத்தில் காணும் அனைத்துப் பணிகளையும் இங்கெடுத்துக் கூறினோம். மேலும் இத்துறைகளிலான வளர்ச்சியினையொட்டியே தேசிய நூலகத்தின் வளமும் வளர்ச்சியும் உறுதியான வகையில் ஏற்பட முடியும்.

எமது தேசிய நூலகத்தின் பணிகள் எவ்வாறு அமைய வேண்டுமென்பது பற்றிப் பேராதனைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்து முன்னைநாள் பிரதம நூலகரும், இந்நாட்டின் தலை சிறந்த நூலகருமாகிய திரு. இயன் குணத்திலக்க அவர்கள் கூறியுள்ளவற்றைச் சற்று விரிவாக இங்கு வழங்க விரும்புகிறேன்.

"நூலக சேவைகள் என்ற கட்டுக் கோப்புக்குள் அமைவதாகத் தேசிய நூலகம் ஆற்றவேண்டிய பணிகளாவன:

— கல்வித்துறையிலும் ஆராய்ச்சித் துறையிலும் பயன்படக்கூடியனவாகிய இலங்கையின் வரலாறு நாகரீகம் ஆகியன பற்றிய தேசிய அறிவேறுகளோடு, வெளிநாடுகளில் எழுதப்பட்ட அல்லது வெளியிடப்பட்ட அத்தகைய நூல்களையும், கையெழுத்துப் பிரதிகளையும் பிற சாதனங்களையும் மற்றும் வேறு நூல்களையும் கையெழுத்துப் பிரதிகளையும், நூலகச் சாதனங்களையும் சேகரித்துப் பாதுகாத்து ஒழுங்குபடுத்தி உபயோகத்திற்கு உதவுவது.

— சட்டவாக்கம், நிறைவேற்றதிகாரம், நீதிபரிபாலனம் ஆகியவற்றுக்குப் பொறுப்பான அரசாங்கப் பிரிவுகளுக்கும், மற்றும் பொதுக் கூட்டுறவுத் தாபனங்களுக்கும், நிறுவனங்களுக்கும், ஏனைய அமைப்புக்களுக்கும் தேசிய உசாத்துணை நூலகமாகப் பணியாற்றுவது. இச்சேவையின் பிரதான நோக்கம் இறுதிநிலையில் நாடி வருவோருக்குப் பூரணத்துவம் வாய்ந்தோர் உசாத்துணை நூலகமாக இயங்குவதாகும்.

— நாட்டிலுள்ள ஏனைய நூலகங்களுக்கும், தரவுத் திட்டங்களுக்கும் உதவும் முகமாகத் திறமையானதொரு மத்திய நூல் இரவல் வழங்கும் நூலகமாகவும் பிரதியாக்க சேவையாகவும் இயங்குதல்."

— இச்சேவைகள் தவிர, இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலகம் ஆற்ற வேண்டிய மற்றும் பலபணிகளையும் திரு குணத்திலக்க விளக்கியுள்ளார். அவற்றுள் நடைமுறையிலுள்ள அறிவேடுகளுக்கான பொருள் வழிகாட்டிகளையும், சுட்டிகளையும், நூல் விவரணப் பட்டியலுக்கான தரநிர்ணயக்களையும் வழங்குதலும், இலங்கையில் தற்போது உயர்நிலை நூலகங்களால் பெறப்படும் வெளிநாட்டு நூல்கள், பருவ வெளியீடுகள், பத்திரிகைகள் ஆகியன கிடைக்கக் கூடிய நூலகங்கள் பற்றிய விபரங்களை வழங்குதலும் அடங்கும்.

இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலகத்தின் மற்றுமொரு முக்கியமான பணி எமது நாட்டின் பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்திக்கு அத்தியாவசியமானதாகும். இந்நாட்டின் விவசாயம், ஆலைத்தொழில், தொழில்நுட்பம் ஆகிய துறைகளில் இயங்கிவரும் விசேஷ நூலகங்களின் ஆவணங்களை ஒருமுகப்படுத்தி அவற்றுக்கான உதவிகளை வழங்குவதும் நாட்டின் அபிவிருத்திக்கான சிறப்புப் பணியாகும்.

நூல் பட்டியலாக்கத்துறையில் தேசிய நூலகத்தின் பணி பல தரப் பட்டதாகுமெனினும் பிரதானமான சில பட்டியல்களை மட்டும் இங்கு குறிப்பிடுவோம். இவற்றுள் அதி முக்கியமானதாகக் கருதப்படக்கூடியன இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூற்பட்டியலும், இலங்கைப் பருவ வெளியீடுகளின் சுட்டியும், புதின ஏடுகளின் சுட்டியும் நெறிகாட்டியுமாகும். இவை தவிர இலங்கை நூலகங்களில் சேகரிக்கப்படும் பிற நாட்டுப் பருவ வெளியீடுகள், புதின ஏடுகள், பட்டப்பின்படிப்பில் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படும் ஆய்வுக் கட்டுரைகள், ஓலைப் பதிவேடுகள் ஆகியவற்றுக்கெல்லாம் பட்டியல் தயாரித்து வழங்குவதும் தேசிய நூலகத்தின் பணிகளாகும்.

இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலக சேவைகள் சபை 1970ம் ஆண்டில் நிறுவப்பட்டது முதல் சபையின் தேசிய நூலகப் பணிகளுட் சில படிப்படியாக மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. காலப்போக்கில் இப்பணிகள் விரிவடைந்து எமது தேசிய நூலகம் முழுமைத்துவம் அடையுமெனலாம்.

இனி, நூலக சபையின் தேசிய நூலகப்பிரிவு இது காறும் மேற்கொண்டுள்ள பணிகளைக் கோடிட்டுக் காட்டுவது நூலகத்தின் தற்போதைய நிலையையும் விரிவாக்கம் பெறவேண்டிய துறைகளைப் பற்றியும் நாம் உணர உதவியாயிருக்கும்.

தேசிய நூலகப் பிரிவினுல் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டுவரும் தற்போதைய பணிகளுள் முக்கியமானவை சில பின்வருமாறு:

— தேசிய நூலகத்திற்கான பிரதான நூற்சேகரிப்பு:

— சட்ட வைப்புக்கான வெளியீடுகளின் சேகரிப்பு.

(1885ம் ஆண்டு இயற்றப்பட்ட அச்சிடுவோர் வெளியீட்டாளர் சட்டத்தின் 1976 ஆண்டுத் திருத்தத்திற்கேற்ப நாட்டில் வெளியிடப்படும் ஒவ்வொரு அறிவேட்டினதும் பிரதியொன்று தேசிய நூலகத்தின் வைப்பிலிடப்பட வேண்டும்)

— இலங்கையின் நாடோடி இலக்கியச் சேகரிப்பு.

இத்திட்டத்தின் கீழ் பல்வேறு கிராமியக் கவிதைகளின் கையெழுத்துப் பிரதிகள், நாடோடிக் கலாசாரம் பற்றிய அச்சிட்ட சாதனங்கள், ஏட்டுச் சுவடிகள், பதிவு நாடாக்கள், ஒலித்தட்டுக்கள், நுண்பொருட்கள், நிழற்படங்கள் ஆகியவற்றின் சேகரிப்பு அடங்கும்.

— யுனெஸ்கோ வெளியீடுகளின் சேகரிப்பு.

தேசிய நூலகத்தின் யுனெஸ்கோ பகுதி இந்நாட்டின் தலையாய சர்வதேச நிறுவனங்களினதும் நூல் வைப்பகமாகத் திகழ்கிறது. இங்கு யுனெஸ்கோ வெளியீடுகளும் பிற சர்வதேசத் தாபனங்களின் வெளியீடுகளும் சேகரிக்கப்படுகின்றன.

— மற்றும் அரசாங்க வெளியீடுகள், நூலகவியல் சார்ந்த வெளியீடுகள், புதின ஏடுகள் ஆகியனவும் தற்போது சேகரிக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூற்பட்டியலானது 1974ம் ஆண்டிலிருந்து தேசியச் சுவடிகள் திணைக்களத்தினுல் நூலக சேவைகள் சபையின் பொறுப்பில் விடப்பட்டது. தற்போது இப்பட்டியல் காலாண்டு வெளியீடாக மும்மொழிகளிலும் இச் சபையினுல் வெளியிடப்படுகின்றது. இது சட்ட வைப்பு நூற்சேர்க்கையின் அடியாகத் தயாரிக்கப்படுகின்றது. இது தவிர காலத்தால் முற்பட்ட (1885-1962) நூற்பட்டியலொன்றையும் தேசிய நூலக சபை தொகுத்து வருகின்றது. மற்றும் இலங்கைப் பருவ வெளியீடுகளின் சுட்டிகளையும், மத்திய நூற்பட்டியலையும் தயாரிக்கும் வேலையையும் மேற்கொண்டுள்ளது. 1962ம் ஆண்டிலிருந்து 1973ம் ஆண்டு வரையிலான நூற்பட்டியல் தேசிய சுவடிச் சாலையினுல் வெளியிடப்பட்டது.

தற்போது தேசிய நூலகம் ஆற்றிவரும் பணிகள் பெரும்பாலும் ஆரம்ப நிலையிலேயே இருந்து வருகின்றன. அடுத்து வரும் ஆண்டுகளில் இந் நூலகப் பணிகள் சிறப்பாக விரிவடையுமென்று நாம் எதிர் பார்க்கலாம்.

இதுவரை நாம் சுருக்கமாக எடுத்துக் கூறிய பல்வேறு அறிவுத் துறைகள் சார்ந்த பணிகளோடு தேசிய நூலகத்தின் சேவை நூலகவியல் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட வேறு துறைகளிலும் தனது கவனத்தைச் செலுத்த வேண்டியது அவசியமாகின்றது.

இவ்வகையில் இலங்கையிலுள்ள நூலகங்களினுல் அநுசரிக்கப்படும் செய்முறைகளைப் பற்றிய தகவல்களைத் திரட்டி மதிப்பீடு செய்வதும், தொழில் வழியிலான அபிவிருத்திக்கேற்ற தர நிர்ணயஞ் செய்வதும், நூலகத் துறையில் பிற நாடுகளில்

ஏற்படும் மாற்றங்களையும், முன்னேற்றங்களையும் அவதானித்து அவற்றின் வழி காலத்துக்குக் காலம் எமது நூலக சேவைகளில் சீர் திருத்தங்கள ஏற்படுத்துவதும், மற்றும் நூலகவியல் சார்ந்த வெளியீடுகள ஊக்குவிப்பதும், நூலகவியற் கல்வியை முன்னேற்றுவதும் தேசிய நூலகத்தின் பொறுப்புக்களாய் அமையும்.

இதுகாறும் நாம் கூறியவற்றிலிருந்து எமது தேசிய நூலகத்தின் பாரிய பொறுப்புக்கள நாம் உணர முடியும். இப் பொறுப்புக்களைப் பற்றி நாம் சிந்திக்கும்போது இந் நூலகத்தின் சேவையினால் பயன் பெறவுள்ள மக்களைப்பற்றியும் சில முக்கியமான விஷயங்கள மனதிற் கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

ஒன்றுக்கு மேற்பட்ட சமயம் மொழி, கலாசாரம் ஆகியவற்றைக் கொண்ட எமது நாட்டில், இந்த வேற்றுமைகளுள் ஒற்றுமை காண வேண்டியது எம்மனைவரது முன்னேற்றத்திற்கும் நாட்டின் சுபீட்சத்திற்கும் இன்றியமையாததாகும். இந்த இலட்சியத்தை அடைவதில் எமது தேசிய நூலகத்திற்கு முக்கியமானதொரு பங்குண்டென்பதை இங்கு நாம் வலியுறுத்திக் கூற வேண்டியுள்ளது. தேசிய நூலகமானது எமது அனைத்து மக்களினது பாரம்பரியத்தையும் சமய, கலாசார, மொழி வளங்களையும் அளாவி நிற்கும் ஒரு பொதுக் களஞ்சியமாகத் திகழ வேண்டும். எமது மக்களின் கூட்டு மொத்தமான அபிலாஷைகளைப்பிரதிபலிக்கும் வகையிலும் அது தனது கோட்பாடுகள அமைத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும்.

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TRADITIONAL PATTERNS OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

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The terms "third world", "underdeveloped", "developing", "less developed" "L.D.Cs" all refer to about 130 countries which span a wide geographical area. Comprising approximately 50% of the world's land surface, their inhabitants represent 51% of the world's population. Forty of these countries are the poorest in the world and well over 60% of the inhabitants subsist in chronic poverty.

Third World countries share a common historical pattern of colonial domination, weak agricultural based economies, large non-white populations, low levels of technological applications, high illiteracy rates, poor transportation and communication facilities, large and fast growing populations and many other characteristics.

In spite of these similarities however, they exhibit a variety of cultural patterns and political structures, spanning as they do such a wide geographical area, and their levels of economic and industrial development are also different.

Indeed, this paper should more precisely be called Traditional Patterns of Library and Information Services and their relevance to Commonwealth Developing Countries. My involvement with the Commonwealth Library Association since 1983 as its Vice-President and now as its President since November 1986, has made me more aware of the Library and Information Services available in these countries and has led me to question the nature of these services.

Specifically, I have questioned whether Libraries in Third World countries were effectively meeting the information needs of their societies and in trying to find an answer I was pleased to note that similar questions were being raised by others from developed as well as developing countries.

THIRD WORLD LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION

The topic was raised at the 1987 IFLA Conference. K. M. Aithnard, the Director General of New African Editions of Lome in Togo, at the Opening Plenary Session of the IFLA Conference held in Brighton in 1987 selected as his theme "Is the Library a source of Information in the Developing Countries?"[1]. He confessed to a feeling of bewilderment whenever he saw "library" and "developing" country in the same sentence and reflected on the fact that "people think it is essential to set up structures and infrastructures, deriving from a centuries-old tradition, in other countries where the context is quite different."[2] He commented that "things are always presented as if all the changes necessary in the materially poor countries should not only be modelled on the well off countries but should also repeat a supposedly linear process, having the same objectives."[3] He asked whether "in view of Third World realities and the cost of setting up structures for development, if the establishment of increasing numbers of libraries in their current form is still to be encouraged."[4]

In attempting to find answers to these questions of relevance, appropriateness or effectiveness which have been raised, we need to reflect briefly on the historical influences which have shaped the model of library and information services of the western developed as well as that of third world countries. We also need to recognise the modern developments which are, even now, influencing change in this model.

ORIGIN AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MODEL

Briefly, one can say that the model was shaped by civilizations based on literate rather than oral traditions, on large urban populations involved in industrial activity, with an economic system of production based on wages. Educational opportunities were widespread, and transportation and communication facilities and links adequate. In addition extensive technological applications existed and these are still increasing rapidly.

The characteristics of the model of library and information systems developed are well known. These include the national library at the apex of the system, with its main function of preserving large collections of printed and other material and public libraries which serve a diverse clientele ranging from industrial and commercial interest groups in large urban areas to the individual in rural communities seeking to satisfy his recreational or informational needs. The model also incorporates library systems which cover a wide geographical area serving rural and urban populations either through static or mobile units. It includes academic and research libraries with vast resources serving the educational and research needs of their clientele, special libraries in governmental, commercial and industrial organizations and school libraries which provide support for the educational system.

Developments in technology are even now influencing the model to the extent that technological applications have reshaped library techniques, practices and relationships, influencing the development of computerised libraries with public access catalogues, on-line access to remote databases and networking of libraries. Such technological, applications have led some to speculate that the traditional library will soon disappear.

THE MODEL TRANSFERRED

The infrastructure of third world countries having been shaped by the fortmer, colonial masters, it naturally reflects the patterns, practices, organizations and instituions of the colonial heritage. The library and information service is one example of a system developed for "first world" countries and transferred to third world countries. However, one wonders whether the realities of the conditions of the third world countries make the model suitable or effective for these countries.

THE PATTERN OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The library and information service developed in third world countries reflects that of developed countries. National, public, academic, special and school libraries exist at various levels of development. In some countries all of these are well developed, in others, they are not. For instance, in Jamaica there is a national library, an extensive public library network, academic, special and school libraries. In other countries such as Kenya there is no separate institution performing the traditional national library

functions. Instead, the public library attempts to perform the functions of the national library and the public library at the same time and while there are academic and special libraries the school library service is rudimentary or non-existent.

For the purpose of this paper my examination of the model will concentrate attention on library and information services for the general public. Academic, research, special and school libraries will not be examined because the characteristics and information needs of these special groups of clients are very similar whether they are located in developed or developing countries. This is not to say that the models of these categories which have been transferred from the developed countries are perfectly adequate to meet the needs of clients in developing countries. However, they do provide a better fit because of the similarities in the characteristics of their host organizations and clients. At the same time, however, I must hasten to point out that developing societies reflect the continuum of human development and will therefore naturally comprise pockets of population with reading and information needs similar to that of the wider population in developed countries.

OBJECTIVES OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

This is commonly described thus in developed countries :

"To satisfy the educational, information and recreation needs of the population."

Is this objective appropriate or relevant for third world countries and assuming that they are, are libraries in third world countries effectively fulfilling these objectives?

THE EDUCATIONAL FUNCTION

The material stored in these libraries is primarily in printed form and written in the language of the former colonial power. Educational opportunities are limited, being accessible to a relatively small group. Thus, the rate of illiteracy is high ranging from 30% to 90% in some countries. How, then, can these libraries based on the culture on the written word, fulfill the educational needs of a largely oral society where the functionally literate are in the minority?

THE INFORMATION FUNCTION

Efforts to satisfy information needs are no more effective. We have already seen that the dissemination of information is based on printed materials written in the language of the former metropolitan power. This renders these materials useless to as much as 90% of the population in some countries, where they understand only the local language which does not exist in a written form. This situation is made worse by the fact that much of the information contained in these published sources is written by experts in a language which is far from simple and easy to read and also by the fact that there is a natural preference both in developed and developing societies to seek information using the informal face to face method.

The fact is that the public library in developed countries exists to serve the reading and information needs of a literate population. In these developed societies other systems such as Community Advice Bureaux and other agencies which complement the library services have evolved to satisfy community information needs. However, these are, lacking in the developing societies and the library, patterned as it is on the model which has evolved in the western developed world, fails to satisfy these particular information needs of the non-reading section of the population which very often comprises the majority in developing countries.

The transferred model not only reflects the mission statement and objectives of the library in western countries but also influences every aspect of operation and practice. These include the training of information professionals, the nature of the service or even the considerations which influence the design of library buildings.

TRAINING OF INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

As a result of the paucity of training institutions in developing countries many librarians in these countries received their professional education in metropolitan societies and therefore reflect the influence of such training. Even in those countries which have been fortunate to have established their own training institutions, this has been done more often that not with assistance from developed countries and the same concept of transfer of existing methodology has applied.

Initially personnel from these metropolitian countries are used to create the training programmes which, as can be expected, will naturally reflect the practice in their own countries. The skills which are emphasised therefore, are those relating primarily to the organization and retrieval of published information. There is little to prepare the third world librarian for being really effective in his own society. Skills relating to the communication of information, identifying and accessing non-traditional sources of information, reprocessing and repackaging of information, the production, use and storage of audio-visual materials in information delivery, determining the real information needs of the community as well as the effective development and promotion of the library service to non-literate members of the community are neglected.

It is true that some library schools have been attempting to tailor the curriculum to suit perceived needs. For instance, at the Department of Library Studies of the University of the West Indies, it is recognised that the graduates, unlike their counterparts in the developed world, move directly into responsible managerial positions and are therefore prepared to operate in these positions immediately, rather than operating at lower level and gradually moving up the ladder as is the practice in developed countries. However the revolutionary orientation in the curriculum which is needed if there is to be a reorientation of library services in developing countries is not evident to any significant extent in many third world library schools.

THE NATURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Public library systems in developing countries provide an interesting study of the transferred model. The rural-urban pattern is very evident. Usually the urban areas are fairly well served by a central library and some attempt is made at providing some kind of rural service. These may be large or small static branches but in some countries mobile library service is introduced to serve the rural areas. However, this soon becomes inoperable due to high maintenance costal caused by poor roads and the high cost of petrol and spare parts which must be obtained from abroad using scarce foreign exchange.

The collection in these libraries consist largely of books and periodicals which have been published abroad. Primarily they serve the recreational needs of an educated minority or as supplementary texts for students. Difficult economic conditions quite often result in devalued currencies and reduced budget allocations which make acquisition of new material very rare. Consequently the educated minority group of library users are soon lost as the collection becomes stale and deteriorates and there is nothing new to interest them.

Because there is no genuine effort to identify and satisfy the real information needs of the community in order to provide services which assist individuals and groups with daily probelm-solving information relating to their homes, their jobs and their rights as citizens, the public library service in third world countries soon becomes a "school and educational Institutions support system". Studies done in Jamaica[5] and in Latin America and the Caribbean[6] confirm this and my personal but very limited observation in 4 African Countries also support this view.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS IN LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Difficult as it may be to believe, there are many examples in the tropical third world countries of library buildings which were designed for temperate countries. These "white elephants" are neither comfortable nor functional in their tropical location. This obvious example of an inappropriate model can be explained in many ways. What is difficult to explain however, are the considerations which have shaped "purpose designed" third world library buildings, many of which do not seem to take into account the reality of the situation.

In travelling in East and West Africa, I was surprised to see the large number of library users who occupied every available space in the libraries. Even floor space was taken at times. On investigation it turned out that in some cases, books are not available for home reading while in others the domestic situation with the large extended family, lack of privacy and poor lighting, did not provide the most suitable space for study or recreational reading. Therefore, library space was at a premium. Many of the users were consulting their own books rather than the library's collection, indicating that there is a pressing need for some accommodation where library users can find a quiet, hospitable place.

This has led me to speculate that the ideal design for public libraries in third world countries would be one in which the emphasis is on generous provision of seating accommodation more in the region of ten seats to every one provided in a library of comparable size in developed countries. This type of design consideration would certainly be more appropriate for the needs of the population and could in addition serve other functions within the community and in the library's outreach programme.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

So far I have examined the suitability of the model as it relates to what could be described as extrinsic characteristics. An examination of the model as it relates to the intrinsic characteristics might also be useful in evaluating its suitability. By intrinsic I refer to the practice and processes carried out within the library as well as the specific services offered. For the purpose of this paper, I will examine collections development policies and practice as well as the nature of the reference service offered.

COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICE

Collection development practice in developing countries is primarily concerned with selecting, acquiring, processing, organizing and storing published information which originates in developed countries. Indeed, the actual practice which is followed in both types of countries differes very little. The Book Selection Committee, visits to bookshops, use of jobbers and approval plans are all part of the practice. Even the selection tools are the same and librarians in developing countries have been known to complain that they are at a disadvantage when selecting material because they lack access to approval plans and other opportunities for pre-inspection of material as is available to their colleagues in the developed countries.

This suggests that there is very little emphasis placed on collecting locally produced material. It is true that the local publishing industry is not well developed in many third world countries and therefore the material is limited. However, it is for this very reason that the collections development policy should emphasize the acquisition of local material. This policy should be reflected in the distribution of the acquisitions budget between local and foreign publications. The collection of grey literature, government documents, free informational materials produced by government agencies and private sector organizations should be of primary concern in the collections development policy and practice of developing countries because it is precisely these materials which will enable libraries to effectively meet the information needs of their communities.

H. K. Raseroka[7] suggests that such basic questions as the following need to be asked :

"Is information contained in locally produced material useful and needed by local communities?"

"How accessible is such information to the population at large, to local researchers and policy makers?"

"Is all information produced by the developed world and contained in acquired foreign materials relevant to the needs of the majority in developing countries?"

"How well utilized are the existing collections made up principally of well produced materials from abroad.?"

"What is the real cost of acquisition and storage of these foreign materials?"

For those wishing to explore this further, the paper by Raseroka cited above deals adequately with the nature of collection development policy and practice, indicating future directions for librarians in third world countries and suggesting that they need to demonstrate resourcefulness and flexibility in this area of activity.

Collection development policy and practice seems to have been transferred with very little modification and like other examples of the model appears to be inappropriate for developing countries.

QUICK REFERENCE SERVICE

This is based largely on the standard reference works published in the developed countries. Encyclopaedias, dictionaries, directories and annuals supplemented by local clippings files make up the collection which provides support for this service. The service is used by a relatively small group consisting of students, government workers and researchers.

Generally speaking, the traditional library model does not do a good job of supplying appropriate information which is defined as "problem-oriented, self-contained, directly applicable, scaled for local use, able to reach the disadvantaged and communicable through traditional channels."[8]

An interesting phenomena in Jamaica which perhaps exists in other developing countries is the use of the public media in the search for information. The Jamaican newspaper's "Fact Finder" and "Something Bugging You" columns, popular radio, call-in programmes as well as "Letter to the Editor" are indicative either of the failure of the traditional library service to supply this type of information or its failure to publicize its expertise in this area.

Elaine Kempson[9] clearly outlines the role and function of Community Information Services while at the same time indicating how and why the traditional public library service has failed to satisfy this need.

Other writers from developing countries including Olabimpe Aboyade of Nigeria,[10] C. R. Namponya of Malawi[11] and Siraz Durrani of Kenya[12] have been examining the role of libraries in information provision in developing countries and they seem to agree that the "Community Information Service" model which provides information for solving the problems of everyday life and filling the daily information needs of ordinary people should be the basis of the reference service offered by libraries in third world countries.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For the purpose of this paper, the term information technology will be used to cover computer applications, developments in telecommunications and electronic technology as well as audio-visual materials and techniques. I have already indicated that the application of information technology in libraries of the developed countries has significantly affected the physical form, techniques and services, to the extent that a new model is emerging.

Will this new model be imported by third world countries? If it is imported how effective will it be? D. M. Davies[13] identifies the problems associated with the introduction of this new technology in third world countries and alludes to the failures which occurred in the early efforts to transfer the model as it evolved in the developed countries.

Without going into details, Hedwig Anuar[14] has indicated that the computer has been successfully applied to information work in South East Asia while L. Salisbury[15] urges librarians in Trinidad and Tobago not to "let this new technology pass us by to the detriment of our users and nation."

It seems to me that it is unlikely that the model can be transferred to third world countries without significant modifications as was the case in other areas of library and information science. The main reasons will be related to the cost and to the deficiencies inherent in the infrastructure of developing countries.

Computers are expensive and even though the cost has been decreasing, the initial outlay and the operating costs are still prohibitive for most developing countries. This is due to their relatively weak currencies against that of the hard currency areas from which the equipment must be acquired. In addition, unreliable electricity supplies, lack of trained manpower for operating and maintaining the equipment, the high cost of software and supplies all combine to retard the pace of computer applications to information work in developing countries.

This has led to the belief by many that the nature of this new technology will only widen the gap which exists between rich and poor countries. This need not be so however. Third World libraries must of necessity approach this area cautiously because of the huge expense but this is likely to be a good thing, as it can only force librarians to act more creatively and to ensure effective and appropriate use of technology. Therefore, instead of merely seeking to establish on-line access to the bibliographic utilities and data bases in the developed countries, third world libraries should be attempting to establish their own data bases of indigenous materials which will more effectively satisfy the information needs of the majority of their population. They should also seek to develop non-traditional data banks such as the knowledge index or integrated data bases of factual, bibliographic and numeric data relevant to the needs of their own societies. The advent of powerful microcomputers and optical disk technology can also be used to great advantage in the delivery of information.

Audio-visual materials have great relevance to these countries as well, particularly in view of the oral nature of these societies. This medium has great potential for storing and disseminating material for the majority of the population. However the potential for meeting the needs of oral societies must be exploited more fully.

Developments in telecommunications can also be used to great advantage in bringing expertise together and in the delivery of information. Library Networking and the distance teaching programme for library workers in the South Pacific provides an excellent example of how this technology can be adapted for use by libraries.[16]

The contributions of international funding agencies have been significant in assisting LDCs to benefit from information technology. Their activities include the establishment of specialized data bases with provision for inputs from developed as well as developing countries. The development of the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS), the Development Sciences Information System, (DEVSIS) and other such data bases operate primarily to help LDCs as these are very selective in the inclusion of literature so that the information contained is of relevance primarily to LDCs.

These agencies have also contributed in other important ways. For example, without UNESCO's ISIS software package and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) IDRC's MINISIS package, many developing countries would indeed have been left behind. Information Technology application models in developed societies will influence activities in developing countries but are unlikely to be transferred whole-sale resulting in inappropriate practices.

Satisfying the information needs of third world countries presents interesting, challenges. On the one hand, information professionals must provide a service as sophisticated as that of the developed countries to meet the needs of the relatively smal educated sector of their population. They are aware of developments in metropolitan countries and demand similar standards of service. An equally sophisticated level of service is required to sustain the country's efforts at modernizing the society which is usually based on industrialization programmes. At the same time, however, appropriate, information services must be provided for the large unsophisticated, rural and illiterate population.

Davies points out that "the problems associated with the introduction of information technology are not applicable to developing countries only."[17] He indicates that rural areas of North America and Europe, economically depressed areas, the socially deprived and ethnic minorities present the same problems for librarians in developed countries. This suggests that information professionals from first world and third world countries could usefully collaborate in research activities to identify the most effective use of information technology to meet the needs of this type of community.

Examination of the literature of librarianship will indicate a growing interest in this question of relevance of aspects of first world library practice in various fields. This is not to be interpreted as indicative of rejection of the tried and tested practices which have been developed but rather of a growing maturity within third world librarians who are critically examining the service they have inherited and are prepared to take steps to ensure that the service provided is appropriate to the needs of their communities. This augurs well for information delivery in third world countries for the future,

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THE PRESERVATION CHALLENGE OF THE 1990's

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The year 1990 has dawned and after another decade, would usher the twenty first century. To meet the challenge of the twenty first century, the professionals in various specialities are discussing the ways and means of meeting and tackling the problems which are facing them now and they would face ten years hence.

This inevitable situation is also common to the professionals in the fields of Archives, Libraries and Museums. In these three fields, the challenge which faces these professions, is the preservation of materials in their custody. This could be commonly called as "The Preservation Challenge".

The challenge of preserving the library and archival material is changing rapidly due to the creation of new forms of documentation as a result of advanced technology in the fields of storage and retrieval of information.

Libraries have long been recognised as institutions responsible for preserving the information, largely documented on paper called "Books". A professional in the fields of library management could ask himself whether the material documented on paper preserved in most of the libraries or similar institutions in Sri Lanka, is cared and preserved in the way it should be, under the standards of professionalism? How many libraries in Sri Lanka are centrally air conditioned for twenty four hours to maintain a required standard temperature and humidity in order to prolong the life of the paper materials deposited in them. It has become a problem to many libraries in this country either to obtain equipment to air condition the library in their charge or to maintain a temperature of 65° - 68°P (20° - 22°C) and a relative humidity of 50%. Without the basic facilities to preserve the more familiar library material made of paper, the preservation challenge becomes a formidable task for many librarians in Sri Lanka to face the challenge of preserving the new format of records created as a result of conversion to retrieve, information speedily, and simplify storage and salvage information from originals such as photocopying, microfilming, computer data bases, video cassettes, cine films and optical disc recording. The above mentioned new type of library material were a necessity due to a response to a multitude of information needs. This offers new tools for the preservation task, with their own particular care and treatment requirements.

The results of these new material are witnessed in some libraries in Sri Lanka where reading rooms and stack areas are deposited with, discs, cassettes, diskettes, computer tapes, slides, microfilms, cine films, photographs and the like. The deterioration of paper and its causes are fully understood by most of the trained librarians in the country. However, one may question that how many of them could handle the fading of ink in paper, falling apart of book bindings, crumbling of paper, acidity, fungi and other similar problems in books. In the new materials such as photographs the images disappear, sound recordings crackle and screech and tapes give back gibberish on the terminal screen. Accordingly, the penultimate decade of the 20th century would pose many problems in the preservation of new library and archival material, and if no proper planning is carried out, their contents will disappear, a total loss of valuable information for those who will face the 21st century.

The preservation challenge of the 1990's is more than a call to action. It offers concrete tools for responding to the physical need of our old as well as new collections and a conceptional framework in which a consistent policy of preserving the intellectual heritage could be carried out to the 21st century without a breakdown, so that there is hope for preserving our heritage for the future generation.

In overcoming the challenge of preserving the new library and archival material one important factor has to be kept in mind by the planners of this difficult exercise. That, preservation can be no longer dismissed as a luxury programme. It is very central to all the libraries, archives and museums in this country. The professionals in the field of library, archives and museums should think that these professions have a long way to go in solving the preservation problms of the new library and archival material created in many formats at present, to be preserved for the 21st century. Responsibility to society, present and to come, compels the professionals in these fields to carefully study the problems and plan for the next ten years.

The Sri Lanka National Library Services Board with the collaboration of the National Archives and Museums could launch a programme to meet the challenge of preserving the new documentary materials which find their way into the libraries, archives and museums in this country.

The pooling of resources to operate a National Research Centre for the preservation of new materials such as cine films, microfilms, video tapes, cassettes and computer tapes discs etc. is a Sine qua non, This centre could guide the research and the practical aspects of problems faced with the conservation and repair of new type of documentary material as mentioned above. Modern equipment and expertise to handle the problem of conservation and repair of new material is essential to operate the proposed research centre.

The training of Librarians, Archivists and Museologists in the task of preservation and repair of new material is another aspect to be considered in facing the preservation challenge of the 1990's. A close look at the professionals to be taken whether theoretical and practical training is imparted for them to meet the new challenge, The training of top professionals as well as technicians and restorers is also very essential in this context. The technician will be the category who will face the preservation challenge face to face. How may technicians have we trained in the art of preservation and repair of cine films, microfilms, video, cassettes, computer discs etc.? How many professionals and sub-professionals have we trained to face a disaster such as flood and fire in a library or archives?

Although we hope that paper will be a popular and a strong media for the documentation of information in the 21st century, we must not forget that the new material discussed above will by pass the paper records and gain an importance in the daily performance of the work of our people. Hence, a methodical planning is essential to face the tremendous task of preserving the new material which will be deposited in the library and archives.

Sri Lanka Library Services Board could play a leading role in this area. The proper guidance and planning of a preservation programme in the libraries and similar institutions in Sri Lanka could be one of the top priority action plans of the Library Services Board, If we fail to understand the vital importance of the preservation challenge of the 1990's all our efforts in modernising the techniques of bibliographic control, and other retrieval tools of the Librarians, Archivists and Museologists will be nullified with the disappearance of the valuable original and other documentary evidence in new media, where intellectual heritage of this country will be recorded during the last decade of the 20th century.

A STORY OF A UNION CATALOGUE : A CANADIAN EXPERIENCE *

By

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Prologue

Potential sources of information is enormous. Some are obvious, like the apparent tip of an iceberg, others are invisible, as the submerged nine-tenths of the iceberg; they must be sought out and identified. How can one avoid relevant experience accumulating and remaining buried? The answer is to be found in the organization of information. Information and its utilization are essential for progress. Historically, each library was responsible for its own technical services and dissemination of information. The growth of published material and immense increase of research activities made a tremendous demand on indexing. abstracting and storing of information. Hence traditional library services have been forced to seek automation and co-operation as survival aids. Like automation in the 1960s, and early 1970s co-operation is much talked about today, and the talk is full of hope and expectation. Not only is co-operation good in itself, it will help us inform our operations and services and, most attractive of all, help us cope with many of our major problems, The story of the Canadian Union Catalogue is a story of co-operation through experimentation. It is a story which should be seriously considered for the future of Sri Lanka Union Catalogue.

Definition

For any kind of rational inquiry certain basic questions must be asked. In our present context the relevant queries will be

What is a union catalogue?

A Union Catalogue (UC) has been defined as.

> an inventory common to several libraries and containing all or some of their publications listed in one or more orders of arrangement.

As to the query why a UC exists

(a) It is primarily to locate publications and determine their existence in libraries

(b) to gain access to these publications through inter-library sharing of resources

(c) to avoid unnecessary duplication of material among libraries

(d) to obtain bibliographic information which can be of assistance to other libraries, in cataloguing and in preparation of bibliographies.

* This article is based on the author's work experience with the National Library of Canada up to 1985.

In simple words, rational for a UC is the concept of sharing of library material and of information about them. Hence a UC is a link which ties libraries together, now generally referred to as a "library network".

The Idea

In Canada, library networking was perceived even before the birth of Canadian Union Catalogue (CUC) by Charles H. Gould, the librarian of McGill University and the President of the American Library Association. In 1909 addressing members of ALA Gould claimed

> The problems will now confront us are different from the earlier ones. They no longer have to do with libraries as *final* terms in a series, but as *first* terms in a new series of longer proportions. The twentieth century has the task of evoking method and order *among* rather *within* libraries."

Gould thus foresaw it as natural that there should develop a network of libraries sparring the continent and even the globe. The 'purpose of such a network would be to equalize the opportunity for access to information.

The history of CUC reflects the history and the development of the Canadian National Library (NLC) movement. The Dominion of Canada came into existence in 1867. The importance of having a national library was voiced in 1883 by Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, who remarked that Canada should have

> "a National Library containing every book worthy of being kept on the shelves of a library."

Unfortunately, it was an idea whose time had not yet come. Hence it took another 70 years before NLC was founded. By 1876 the library of Parliament was opened. Dr. Dolores Donnelly, in her historical study on the NLC says.

> "..... by creating the illusion that the (Library of Parliament) was fulfiling the role of National Library as well as the legislative function may have postponed the real issue."

The Beginnings

A turning point came in 1946, when the Canadian Library Association (CLA) was finally formed. The Association gave wide publicity to the need for a National Library and focused strong pressure on the federal government. In 1950 Canadian Bibliographic Centre was established. The main goals were to start

(a) a national union catalogue (a card catalogue of the holdings of the major Canadian libraries)

(b) and a national bibliography, which would list books currentiy published in Canada and books published abroad dealing with Canada and written by Canadians.

The "Canadian Catalogue of Books" previously published by the Toronto Public library was continued and in 1951 was renamed Canadiana. By the time the NLC was created in 1953, Canadiana was well established, the holdings of some 50 Canadian libraries were recorded in the UC, and a book location service, based on the holdings listed in the UC, was being provided. Since 1950, for 16 years, until September 1966, NLC engaged in the filming of the card catalogues of libraries in Canada, principally those holding collections of considerable size, quality and uniqueness. The microfilmed records were reproduced in card format for filing. The participating libraries were requested to submit location reports for books as they were catalogued, and these records were either inter-filed, or the location information was combined on an edited record.

Because of the rapid inflation of the UC, no library catalogues were microfilmed after the mid 1960s. The accession rate of Canadian libraries increased during the years of what has been termed the "information explosion", the CUC was flooded with location reports, and the catalogue drawers became divided into many sections, ranging from a completely edited section to an unrevised filing section. During 1973/74 the number of reports received daily was nearing 7,000. The total number of records received during 1973/74 exceeded 1,600,000. Not only it was difficult to keep track of filing and editing records but even the retrieval of information from the catalogue became more of a problem and time consuming task. By 1974/75 requests for locations totalled over 155,000. 74 - 80% of all requests were met.

Other Union Catalogue Projects

Apart from National Library of Canada's UC, there are other UC's in Canada. Nova Scotia established a UC in 1950. Beginning with the Regional Library System and two other libraries, its membership by 1976, included 45 college, university, special, government and public libraries. Libraries in Nova Scotia are encouraged as a first step to seek locations within these Union Catalogues. Unlocated requests are directed by the Provincial Library to CUC. At the Saskachewan provincial Library a similar catalogue was started in 1958 and by 1976 represented the holdings of 37 libraries of all types except university libraries. There are several Union Catalogues in card form representing the holdings of public libraries. Such catalogues are maintained for the regional library systems in Manitoba, New Brunswick and for several regions in Ontario : Lake Ontario Regional Library System, Metro Toronto Libraries, Niagera Regional Library System and 5 public libraries in the Sudbury area.

In 1974 Ontario University Libraries Co-operative System ((OULCS) decided to create a UC of monographs of university library holdings to provide catalogue cards for the academic libraries. By 1975, universities outside the province of Ontario beeame interested as participating libraries.

University of Toronto Library Automation Systems (UTLAS) is the seond largest library support system with reference to the number of users, after the famous North American OCLC, RLIN & WLN utilities in networking. UTLAS has its own cataloguing system called CATSS.

At present Ontario University Libraries Co-operative System operates Union Catalogues for serials and maps too. Computer based union catalogues such as these, provides cards, book lists and book labels for the participating libraries.

At this point it must be asked, if there is already a Canadian UC, why the need for other provincial, regional and special union catalogues? There are two reasons for provincial/regional union catalogues :

(a) CUC, though large as it is, does not list exhaustively the holdings of all libraries in the country. Given the size of the country and the difficulties, delays in transporting library materials between points, there is a natural wish on the part of libraries to obtain what they need from the closest possible location.

(b) No amount of expansion of the CUC, whether involving the use of a computer, system or not, could contend with the total requirement of Canadian libraries for locations. At the same time it was clear that provinces and regions had taken and were taking initiatives which would lead to the filling of local requirements for both cataloguing and location services.

Hence it was obvious that what was needed was closer co-ordination among the various union catalogues and cataloguing support services. A unification of this activity within one framework which would make the most effective use of human and material resources. Hence the CUC Task Group in 1976 recommended that NLC create and co-ordinate a CUC system, consisting of a national bibliographic centre and a number of provincial/regional bibliographic centres.

The Expansion

In 1967, Robert B. Downs in his 'Resources of Canadian Academic and Research Libraries' and in 1969 John B. Macdonald in 'The role of the Federal Government in Support of Research in Canadian Universities' recommended that CUC must be converted to machine-readable forms. Meanwhile two Task Group reports paved the way to speed up the decision for automation of CUC :

(a) The Canadian Task Group on Cataloguing Standards established standards for the creation of bibliographic records

(b) The MARC Task Group established the way for the exchange of bibliographic records in machine-readable form.

The third Task Group recommended that current accessions to the UC be entered into an automated, on line system and that the existing card catalogue be closed off, edited and eventually be published in microform. With the initiation of CUC network, the 1976 Task Group recommended the development of standard systems for producing union lists of serials. Hence NLC formed satellite union catalogues of periodicals, newspapers, official publications and Canadian music in addition to the main UC — the union catalogue of books. By 1968 NLC published,

1. Union List of Periodicals in the Social Sciences and Humanities currently received by Canadian Libraries
2. Union List of Polish Serials in Canadian Libraries
3. Union List of Canadian Newspapers held by Canadian Libraries — 1977
4. Canadiana since January 1951
5. Union List of Serials in Education and Sociology held by Canadian libraries— 1975.

As 1976 Task Group proposed

> "as soon as practicable current accessions to the CUC of books be entered into a new on-line automated system."

Automation

NLC began a detailed series of studies and evaluations of several systems, which had the potential to satisfy NLC automation requirements. The integrated library management system called DOBIS (Dortmunder Bibliothek System) was from University of Dortmunder, West-Germany. In 1976, DOBIS became the primary tool in the provision of the national location service, for NLC and Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI).

NLC manual union catalogues were closed in April 1st 1980 and on-line entry of new acquisitions into DOBIS began. By November 1979, 21 computer terminals were installed in UC of Books division to begin the automation process.

In 1977 NLC invited the Canadian libraries which were reporting to the manual CNU to start reporting accessions in MARC format. With DOBIS assistance these steps were followed concerning library records :

(i) First, holdings report is searched in DOBIS

(ii) if a source record (LC/MARC, CAN/MARC) or a record created by another DOBIS user is found in the DOBIS database, the library symbol for the reporting library is simply added to the existing record.

(iii) if no cataloguing record exists in the database, Union Catalogue Staff then create a record according to simplified MARC rules requiring only a limited number of data elements, and adds the reporting library's symbol.

A 1978 study of holdings reports survey indicated that 89.1 % of all holdings reports would match an LC/MARC or CAN/MARC record already in the DOBIS database. A further 4% would match a record previously input by the UC staff. Therefore less than 7% of all holdings reports to UC would require original input. DOBIS enabled

(i) the library records to be kept up to date

(ii) due to the flexibility of the system, records are accessible through multiple assess points such as author, title, corporate body, key words and series.

By 1982 the DOBIS Union Catalogues contained more than 900,000 location entries for the holdings of the 100 libraries which regularly report their accessions.

More than 130,000 new records were created and added to the database. Even at that time manual catalogues remained an important source of information. Nearly 13 million records, representing approximately 4 1/2 million titles from 348 libraries have been accumulated on cards for the UC of books. DOBIS hold all post 1971 Canadian monographs. For the non-Canadian monographs, DOBIS contains record from 1978.

Automation became the realistic answer to the gigantic proportions of the manual CUC's.

Records

DOBIS database now grows at a rate of about 500,000 records a year. Bulk of the records are source records from 1982 onwards.

— 1.6 million LC records from 1968
— MARC records directed by system users from 1973 to date
— Records created by system users in other systems.

It is an objective of the federal government network system, to create one common bibliographic record to which individual library holdings can be attached. When duplicate records are detected, the system attempt to Amalgamate the records in order to retain valuable complementary data. DOBIS offers.

Microfiche catalogues
Printed Serial Lists
Printed Accession Lists
Machine Readable Records.

Nova Scotia and Saskatchuwan Provincial Library union catalogues were given access to CUC's through DATAPAC, creating the groundwork for a National Network System. Both libraries have become part of the decentralized union catalogues.

Canadian Union Catalogue of Books (CANUCBO)

A catalogue which records the monographs held by Canadian libraries. The manual catalogue established in 1950, consists of 13,000,000 locations for 5.5 million titles, reported by 350 libraries. This catalogue which closed in 1980 (no new accessions are added) is still consulted on a regular basis. All accessions received since April 1980 are entered in DOBIS. The monograph records include :

CAN/MARC
LC/MARC
Records of NLC
Records of Nova Scotia Provincial Library
Records of 17 other Federal Libraries.

In 1984/85, 75 libraries reported 225, 483 accessions in card format and 126,384 MARC records, to the UC of books. To date, the holdings of 204 libraries are represented in the database. Automated database provides multiple access by author, title, keyword and control numbers; the manual catalogue provides access by main entry only. 80% of all requests are located in CU of books.

Records submitted in card format are first searched in the database. If the record is found, the library symbol is added, if a record doesn't exist, a new record is created and library symbol added. Reports concerning withdrawals, discards and lost materials too are processed in a similar manner. The UC Division is responsible for assigning library symbols and publishing "Symbols of Canadian libraries". This list is updated and published every second year. Library symbols are composed of one or two letters to identify the province and one or more letters to identify the city and the institution, e.g. ONONL for Ontario, Ottawa, National Library.

Canadian Union Catalogue of Serials (CANUCS)

This is a catalogue consisting an automated database of the serial holdings of Canadian libraries and a manual catalogue which contains close to 500,000 cards listing, in alphabetical order by title of the serial holdings of Canadian libraries. Current serial reports received from 75 Canadian libraries are input directly to the database, DOBIS. Previously received reports for any title already in the manual catalogue are pulled out when the same title is reported. The manual catalogue is thus gradually being converted to machine readable form. Serial reports are added directly by

NLC Staff

Other DOBIS participating libraries.

Products

CUCS's main products are

1. Union List of Serials in the Social Science and Humanities held by Canadian libraries (ULSSSHCL) — microfiche format.
2. Union List of Scientific Serials in Canadian Libraries by Canadian Institute of Scientific Technical Information (CISTI).

The base ULSSSHCL file in DOBIS, was published in 1980, and since then being updated with semi-annual supplements. The file contains approximately 47,000 records and has an average growth rate of 5,000 new titles annually. ULSSSHCH is available on CAN/OLE since 1983 and is called CANUCS. This too is updated semi-annual basis.

Established in 1957, CANUCS provides locations for 80% of the requests. Number of access points are :

Title
Variant Title
Issuing Body
ISSN

Canadian libraries report their serial accessions, withdrawals and revisions by :

Cards
Report slips
Print outs
Printed lists
Microfiche
Machine Readable form

These are input into the DOBIS database. Emphasis is on non-scientific publications. Serials include

Periodicals
Meetings, Conferences etc.,
Monographic series
Official publications with distinctive titles
Regularly revised monographs
Law reports
Serially published loose-leaf services.

CONSER

CONSER or conversion of serials project began in June 1973 as a result of the *Ad Hoc* Discussion on serial databases — between U.S.A. and Canada. The members were mainly concerned about the confusion and duplication effort evident in the creation of machine-readable serial databases. Now it has become a co-operative effort by the North American Library community to build a machine readable database of quality serials cataloguing information. The information may be used for :

Ordering
Cataloguing
Check-in
ILL
Union Catalogues.

Selected number of participants do the decentralized input of records. The records are reviewed and authenticated by NLC AND LC. Participants could contribute and upgrade records using OCLC on-line system, on the basis of CONSER bibliographic standards/conventions. The overall goal is to continue to enlarge and improve a core database of bibliographic information about serial titles available for use at the international, national, regional and local levels.

CONSER records are loaded into DOBIS which is now used to prepare CANUCS and serial lists for CISTI etc. CONSER microfiche too is available. CONSER has made multiplicity of means of access to bibliographic records. Now NLC provides

— DOBIS database
— MARC records
— CONSER Microfiche records under

1. Author/title/series
2. ISSN
3. Canadian Control No.
4. OCLC Control No.
5. LC Card No.

CONSER Project has made :

— High quality Canadian serial records to be distributed worldwide for dissemination of information

— Availability of authenticated serial records for Canadian libraries and bibliographic control of serials

— Experience in International Cooperative Bibliographic Projects.

During 1982/83 NLC developed the means to load machine-readable accession records onto DOBIS. These are called MARCA (Machine-Readable Accessions) and Carleton University has won a contract to be responsible for this project. By Jan. 1985, 339,460 periodical titles were available from all around the world.

Location Searching

Beginning June 1st 1981, NLC Location Division introduced three tier system of searching for ILL services. The system was introduced to

— respond more effectively to the large volume of requests

— respond better to the various needs of users.

Requests were supposed to indicate which level of searching preferred. Requests are made by telephone, telex and mail.

Level I- Basic Search

Only standard location tools will be searched. These tools will include

CANUC'S (Mannual)

DOBIS

REFCATSS (Reference Cataloguing Support Systems - Uni. of Toronto)

For level I searching, only the bibliographic information supplied by the requesting library will be used. No verification will be done except to recheck or transmission errors. A 24 hours time limit is anticipated for this level of service. After 12 months in operation the following results seen. An average of 75% of the total requests volume (8500 per month) came under level 1.20% of the requests arrived without any level of identification. However Level I searching had achieved 79% success rate.

Level 2– Verification Search

A basic verification and a location search will be conducted only Canadian location tools will be used. 5 days is the estimated turn around time. 2000 requests per month and 20% of the total requests came under Level 2. 1.70% of the requests were successfully met.

Level 3– In– depth Search

An extensive verification and location search will be done. Subject bibliographies. on-line databases, issuing agencies of Canadian and non-Canadian sources will be used, For non-Canadian locations,

OCLC on-line system
LC National Union Catalogue
Other library catalogues and Union lists are used.

A status report is issued after 30 days. Approximately 600 requests per month are received and 5% of the total volume is not met by NLC due to numerous reasons. However 75% success rate was noted and unsuccessful requests are forwarded to LC.

Jan. 1985 Statistics

Requests for Monographs	66%
Requests for Serials	27%
Requests for Official Publications	6%

Since 1983 electronic mail and on-line ordering became popular methods of requests. For example,

1. ENVOY 100 — comprises 25% of all requests by electronic mail
   ONTYME — through CAN/OLE for 60% of all requests.

Document Delivery

If requested documents are identified from NLC collection, they are

Retrieved
Photocopied
Packaged for shipment

Document delivery services used by NLC are :

1. Library Delivery Service (LDS) for federal government libraries in Ottawa/Hull
2. Inter-University Transit system (IUTS) for Ontario universities
3. PEBUQUILL for Quebec universities
4. Priority Post-mail service for Nova Scotia, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchwan & Manitoba,

Other CANUC Projects

Two databases were operational :

1. Canadian Union Catalogue of library materials for the Handicapped (CANUC - H) - material available for ILL
2. Registry of Canadian Works in Progress (CANWIP)

They list materials designed for handicapped readers, such as works in braille, large prints. CANUC : H is larger and more comprehensive including

— records for special media materials which are currently held by major producers

— libraries which have major collections for the print-handicapped (who are unable to use conventional print materials).

Products of these data bases are

1. COM edition of CANUC : H By Feb. 1985, the first microfiche has produced 11,500 records for braille, large print, talking books reported by 16 Canadian libraries. 3,000 titles came from CANWIP.
2. Directory of Inter-lending and Duplication Policies for Special Format Materials.

In mid-seventies, the Task Group of the CANUC recommended the development of a Canadian library network. This network should be

decentralized

volutary

make use of existing strengths.

NLC network plan is divided into 3 major areas :

1. Bibliographic communications Network (with highest priority)
2. Resource Network
3. Canadian Studies and Conversation Network.

Open Systems Interconnection (OSI), developed by International Organization for Standardization (IOS) has assisted to evaluate and facilitate different types of hardware and software for the network projects.

NLC has taken 3 major initiatives for the objective of a decentralized information network :

1. Appointing 2 sub-committees for policy development
2. Creating a Task Group on computer communications protocols for bibliographic data interchange for defining various computer/communications standards.
3. A pilot project to conduct tests on new telecommunications technology for bibliographic data exchange.

Future Trends of CANUC

1. DOBIS, a shared bibliographic system with federal and other libraries which report to CANUC.
2. Increased reports in machine-readable form
3. on-line access into the major CANUC lists at NLC and CISTI
4. No provincial infrastructure apart from Nova Scotia and British Columbia.
5. Developing UTLAS as a large utility.
6. Multi-library databases similar to OCLC, RLIN and WLN.

Epilogue

The possibility for all to share the information capital is but a matter of good will and organization. Good will to share information is not enough; there must be a concerted effort to organize knowledge and make it available. An experience has its maximal impact when its results are published, abstracted, indexed, and made available to potential users. We need a "global memory", that will contribute to the solution of tomorrow's development problems, the experience that has been accumulated yesterday and that is being acquired today. I am optimistic that the Sri Lanka Union Catalogue will contribute to this ideal.

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RESOURCE SHARING: A NON - TRADITIONAL APPROACH

By

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Cooperation is one of the good words in our society. Historical evidence suggests that cooperation between libraries was felt necessary, even in the distant past. It is on record that the famous Alexandrian Librarian had loaned books to the Pergamon Library in the 2nd century B.C.

Library activity is not a new phenomenon in Sri Lanka, libraries having existed since time immemorial. These early libraries were repositories for collections of manuscripts of religious texts. It is stated in the Mahavamsa that during the reign of King Vattagamini Abhaya (1st century B.C.) Tripitaka texts and their commentaries were committed to writing by the Sangha at Aluvihare. The Aluvihare Library can be regarded as the first manuscript library in Sri Lanka. The fame of these libraries radiated to foreign countries and as a result, scholars such as Buddhadatta, Buddhaghosa and Fa - Hsien visited the Island to obtain copies of books required for their research. Since these times the library movement has weathered the vicissitudes of social and political changes in the country.

In the early 70's the universities and a handful of institutions had libraries with adequate facilities. However, this situation has undergone change gradually by now, with the recognition of the library as a major force in the shaping of society.

A large number of new library units have sprung up in most institutions, be they state-owned, corporation-owned or entirely belonging to the private sector.

With the recognition of the necessity for a good library service, the inevitable challenge a librarian faces is the acquisition of suitable material, which has become complex due to several reasons :

1. Steadily increasing volume of literary output
2. Ever increasing prices of books and periodicals
3. Complexity and unpredictability of reading material by the reading public.

1. Steadily increasing volume of literary output

Librarians all over the world have witnessed a vast increase of published media in recent times. The acquisition of books and periodicals required by library patrons has become extremely difficult due to a very large number of publications available for selection.

2. Ever increasing prices of books and periodicals

Inflationary trends we see in our daily life have had their disastrous effects on the prices of books and periodicals too. This is evident from the increase of price in some foreign periodicals monitored by the British Library Association. A summary of a recent report published in the Library Association Record[1] is given in the table 1.

Table 1 : Increase of periodical prices — 1970–1989

Subject	*No. of titles sampled*	*% increase on* 1988 *UK £*	*% increase* 1970 - 1989 *UK £*	*% increase* 1970 - 1989 *SL Rs.*
Science / Technology				
Physics	57	8.61	1775.70	7102.80
Botany	25	5.43	1623.99	6495.96
Astronomy, Astrophysics	13	10.28	1541.84	6167.36
Biophysics, Biochemistry, Microbiology	26	3.58	1498.75	5995.00
Mathematics	51	5.17	1343.90	5375.60
Medicine				
Surgery, Anatomy, Physiology	20	10.50	1638.96	6555.84
Neurology, Psychiatry	25	3.10	1274.06	5096.24
Pathology & Clinical Medicine	52	5.79	1141.90	4567.60
Humanities / Social Sciences				
Architecture & Town Planning	34	7.77	1382.74	5530.96
Philosophy	27	4.13	1167.66	4670.64
Psychology	32	17.10	1153.50	4614.00
Total all subjects				
Science & Technology	962	7.46	1286.22	5544.88
Medicine	203	7.43	1163.09	4652.36
Humanities & Social Sciences	842	7.27	957.66	3830.64

The increase of price of periodicals against the Sri Lanka Rupee was calculated by multiplying the percentage figure in column 3 by the devaluation factor of the Sri Lanka Rupee during the same period ie.

in 1970 1 UK£ — SL Rs. 15/
in 1989 1 UK£ — SL Rs. 60/
Devaluation factor — 60/15 = 4)

However, it is our sad experience that library budgets have not been increased to accommodate this position.

3. Complexity and unpredictability of reading material by the reading public

It is also our experience that the present day library clientele is a much diversified group with an insatiable demand for reading materials of different types and varieties.

The combined effect of these three factors has made the librarian's job a thankless one. This is specially visible in the provision of Abstracting & Indexing (A&I) journals. Prices of some of the heavily used A&I journals are so high that any library subscribing to a few of these will be subject to very heavy financial constraints in order to continue purchasing these same journals. Some of the noteworthy journals falling into this category are listed in table 2.

Table 2 : Present prices of selected A/I journals

Chemical abstracts	Rs. 350,000/Year
Physics abstracts	Rs. 83,000/Year
Mathematical reviews	Rs. 182,000/Year

The necessity for these publications cannot be belittled on the grounds of heavy expenditure. Therefore, the librarians in Sri Lanka are constantly under pressure of acquiring their requirements within the limits of budgetary provision. In the light of these factors it is evident that the shifting from the concept of self sufficiency towards more desirable cooperative resource sharing concepts is the only answer to this problem. In this exercise not only are the traditional concepts of cooperative activity such as inter-library lending and cooperative acquisition of publications to be treated as possible answers, but the use of information technology and other hitherto unused means of resource sharing have to be taken into account for the sustenance of the library service. It is the aim of this review to show the gravity of the situation and to discuss some of the potential 'non-traditional' avenues open to Sri Lankan librarians in this respect.

Some of the cooperative projects viable in this respect are :

1. "Bicycling around" of selected publications
2. Inter-library transport facility
3. Sharing of machine readable bibliographic information
4. Application of telefacsimile technology
5. Exchange of computer software
6. Application of CD - ROM technology.

These applications can be put into test with the participation of libraries which can meet the financial and other infrastructural requirements necessary in operation. Following is a list of some of the prospective participants in the pilot stage.

(a) University libraries
(b) Sri Lanka National Library Services Board (National Library)
(c) Natural Resources, Energy and Scientific Authority of Sri Lanka (NARESA)
(d) Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research (CISIR) Library
(e) National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA) Library.

1. Bicycling around of selected publications

One way of saving library resources is the elimination of duplication of material within the library set-up in the island, These savings are specially significant in case of abstracting and indexing journals, such as the titles listed in Table 2. Participating libraries can mutually agree upon the allocation of specific titles among them.

The most important issue to be resolved in this system is the provision of an easy and efficient access mechanism. One such mechanism is the "Bicycling around"[2] of designated publications. Physical movement of film reels from one cinema to another is described as the bicycling around of material. In this method materials received at different libraries can be made available in the other libraries on a roster basis. Therefore, participating libraries can announce in advance the days when these materials are made available in their respective libraries.

This mechanism may have the drawback of not being able to predict the arrival pattern of different journals. However its significant feature is the availability of most of the A&I journals under one roof, at least on the basis of rationalization.

The value of this service can be further enhanced by adding expensive reference material such as citation indexes to this travelling collection. Subsequently, the mode of transport can be upgraded to a fully pledged mobile library unit.

2. Inter-library transport facility

Joint provision of inter-library transport is another non-traditional approach worthy of serious attention. The only limiting factor in the operation of this type of service is the geographical proximity of participating libraries required for an efficient and effective service. Inter-library transport service will help particpating libraries to regularise inter-library lending activity and to make it a viable alternative to acquisition of less used material.

Identifying the frequently-used materials from less used materials is important in balancing collection development policy against external dependence. However, it is a fact that all the library materials available in a library are not used to the same degree. The Director-General of the British Library Lending Division (BLLD), Maurice Line, has reported that of the 48,500 journals received at BLLD in 1976 - 77, two thirds are rarely used, 1,500 journals account for 50% of the satisfied demand, 5,500 journals for 80% and 9,00 for 90%.[3]

Recent studies have confirmed this concept further. In a study of the Science and Technology Library of Northwestern University in the USA, it was found that 75% of the collection accounted for just 1% of the use and 99% of the use was confined to 40% of the collection.[3] These observations reveal that a high proportion of the stock of academic and research libraries is little used. Therefore, one of the most important tasks in modern librarianship is the proper identification of library material falling into 'high-use' category, and to seek other measures to obtain 'low-use' materials.

3. Sharing of machine-readable bibliographic information

In the early days, sharing of bibliographic information was carried out by means of printed media—typed catalogue cards or listings etc.—In this operation, the compilation of union catalogues and other collective bibliographic data files was a tedious task due to lack of resources such as manpower and stationery. These constraints have certainly dampened the Sri Lankan librarian's enthusiasm in the active participation in cooperative projects. The arrival of micro-computer systems in the mid 80's changed this situation. Until then, computer application in library work was merely a concept for almost all the librarians in Sri Lanka. With more recent developments in computer technology the cost of powerful micro-computer systems came within the reach of many institutions. One of the pioneering institutions in library computer applications in Sri Lanka is the National Resources, Energy and Scientific Authority of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka National Library Services Board, The National Institute of Education, the CISIR Library and the NARA Library have computer systems and plans are afoot in the University Grants Commission to supply each university library with a micro-computer system. Therefore, we may anticipate that all major libraries mentioned at the beginning will have access to computer facilities in the near future.

Hardware provision is only one facet in the application of computer technology. In order to operate a successful computer system there are several other requirements to be fulfilled. These are :

3 — 1. Availability of trained manpower

3 — 2. Availability of software

3 — 3. Compatibility of systems.

3 — 1. Availability of trained manpower

Provision of adequately trained manpower in each participating library is a prerequisite. In each library these personnel can assume the responsibility for automation development. In the short-term perspective, this can be achieved through the training of suitable library employees with a flare for computer operations. The University Grants Commission and Universities, CINTEC, NARESA and the National Institute of Education are some of the institutions which can take an active part in the development and conducting of training programmes for librarians. These institutions can organise programs for system analysts, programmers and data entry operators.

3 — 2. Availability of software

Software development is the other vital component necessary for computer utilisation. In the short term, the CDS/ISIS software package developed by UNESCO and distributed by NARESA can be used for the construction of bibliographic data bases. This is presently used by several libraries in Sri Lanka. Some of these are the National Institute of Education, Regional Development Division of the Ministry of Plan Implementation and Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology.

3 — 3. Compatibility of systems

In order to facilitate inter-library sharing of computer data compatibility of systems is required. This applies in several areas :

3 - 3 - 1. Compatibility of hardware — Micro computer systems can be broadly divided into two major categories.

(a) IBM PC/XT/AT or its compatibles

(b) Other machines, mainly the 'Apple' family.

Although a clear superiority of one computer group is difficult to identify, the present trend in Sri Lankan libraries appeared to be towards the IBM family and its compatibles.

3 - 3 - 2. Compatibility of software — The continual use of a given software package for a given application is necessary for successful sharing of data files. If all libraries are making use of the CDS/ISIS package then the problem of compatibility does not arise.

3 - 3 - 3. Compatibility of formats and parameters is also required to make this task an easy one. A good example for this is the use of common bibliographic format devised by NARESA in the data bases created with CDS/ISIS package.

The easiest medium for data record and exchange is floppy diskette. Bibiliographic data stored in this medium can be easily exchanged and merged in the creation of union catalogues and union listings of periodical holdings.

4. Application of telefacsimile technology

Telefacsimile equipment allows the transmission of documents over the telephone lines, enabling the user at the receiving end to obtain a copy of the original.[4] Unlike telex machines which can transmit only alpha-numeric characters, telefascimile — or 'Fax' as it is popularly known — can transmit and receive any image in the form of text, graphic representations or photos.

A fax machine scans a page of text and graphics as a grid of tiny squares. It assesses whether each grid point is dark or light. If darker, machine sends a strong signal and if lighter, it sends a correspondingly weak signal. These signals are transmitted through a telephone line. The receiving fax machine can be accessed by dialling the telephone number assigned to that machine and at the receiving end it re-translates or 'de-modulates' the incoming signals to make a copy of the original image scanned by the transmitting machine.

Hardware requirements

In order to operate a telefacsimile service a fax machine and a telephone connection is necessary. A range of commercial brands are available in Sri Lanka and price of these machines are in the range of Rs. 50000/— to Rs. 200,000/—. There are three standards set by an international body known as Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraphy (CCITT). These three standards for fax machines are CCITT group 1 to 3. In a modern group 3 machine the transmission time taken to send a single page (A4 size) document through the telephone line is less than a minute.

Fax machines only accepts single sheets of text at the transmitting point. Therefore the labourious work of photocopying and proofing requested articles is still necessary, even if the photocopies are discarded after transmission.

In fax transmission, text is usually received in clear legible impressions. However, nonalphabetical elements which require a higher clarity or resolution can provide legibility problems, specially if they are printed in small type. This problem will be acute in case of symbols used in science articles. Graphic illustrations, drawings and photographs are also received with less clarity.

Some fax machines can accept originals upto A3 size, usually transmitted in the reduced form. This will also affect clarity of impressions. Where there are disturbances in telephone lines the reception is sometimes beyond legibility. Some machines can use higher resolution settings to improve clarity in such occurrences. In higher resolution settings, the grid pattern will consist of more points or squares, and hence will take longer transmission times. Some advanced machines can decide the correct resolution setting automatically, depending on the telephone line conditions.

Telefacsimile machines are easier to operate with and require little training at the beginning. Fax machines can be simply connected to power and hooked upto the telephone line. Once installed, a fax user can contact any other fax machine installed in Sri Lanka through a normal telephone connection. If the fax machine is connected through an international direct dialling telephone connection, he can send fax messages to fax machines in other countries.

One of the key factors affecting the popular use of fax machines is its running cost. This includes the maintenance cost of the machine, cost of telephone connections and photocopying charges in some instances.

5. Exchange of computer software

Exchange of computer software is another new area which deserves attention. Computer users in Sri Lanka tend to under-utilise the opportunities a computer offers in many areas of application. This is due to the lack of mental attitude which is receptive to new ideas and due to lack of software applicable for specific tasks. However, one can identify a surprising number of routine, administrative and clerical functions which could have been easily and efficiently executed by a computer. For most of these functions elaborately developed specific software is not required. Instead general purpose software packages such as dBASE III+, Lotus 123 can be used. For example, in order to prepare borrower listings in alphabetical or numerical order of names or numbers, a general purpose package dBASE III+ can be easily used.

University librarians have the advantage of accessibility to computer scientists within their clientele. Further, most of the universities have computer centers with powerful micro computer systems and a variety of software in their possession. Also the idea of establishing 'Local Area Networks' (LAN's) considered and therefore, the coordination between the libraries and computer centers would be easy. The development and testing of software can be done in this environment with the participation of other libraries.

6. Application of CD-ROM technology

Optical disk storage is among the most recent computer technologies to enter the library community. Although there are a variety of formats developed by commercial manufacturers, the widely used variety is the Compact Disc-Read Only Memory (CD - ROM) disks. These disks can contain text, illustrations, photo quality images, sound, video frames, computer software and any combination of these. The most striking feature is not its ability to hold in its storage a multitude of media, but its enormous storage capacity and fast access time. A CD - ROM disk may contain upto 200,000 pages of text with a search time of less than a minute. Therefore, it can hold complete data bases in a single disk.

Information scientists regard the invention of CD - ROM as the beginning of a new era, since the invention of printing. Presently, there are a vast number of data bases and information services published in CD - ROM format also. Some of these are Medline Agricola, Agrindex, Biotechnology abstracts, Ulrich periodicals directory, and Dissertation abstracts.

In order to operate a CD - ROM facility CD - ROM drive, interface, and a micro computer system are the required elements. A designated library can establish this service and other libraries can maintain referral service.

Cooperative concepts offer a viable alternative to permanent acquisition, which is severely constrained by several factors. On the other hand, inspite of potential benefits it yields, librarians will be subject to a lot of difficulties and constraints in the acceptance and operation of these methods. However, it is worthy of mentioning that the degree of importance and necessity of these methods are on the increase with the passage of time. Therefore the scientific exploration of traditional and non-traditional techniques to harness the benefits of cooperative concepts would be a timely requirement.

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COPYRIGHT AND ITS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

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Copyright is a concept which may said to go back to Roman times at the very nearest. It was the invention of the printing press which was perhaps the first example of new technology which made multiple copying of authors work possible which gave rise to the need for a legal system to protect and reward the author as well as those deriving title from him such as the publishers.

Since then, further development of printing techniques and of new technology means of dissemination of works, the possibility of production of multiple copies of literary and artistic work at relatively low cost has increased. On the other hand demand for copies of such work also has increased. This has led to the necessity for protecting the author, his assignees and the publisher against unauthorised reproduction. The first written statute on copyright, ie. the Statute of Anne was enacted in 1709 in United Kingdom.

The copyright has two discerning characteristics. Firstly, it is a form of proprety and thus can be sold, bequeathed by a will, leased or can be death in any of the ways in which other forms of property are subjected to business dealings. Secondly, copyright in a work is not a single indivisible piece of property. (e.g. table, trouser etc.) Thus copyright in a work is a bundle of rights.

The system of copyright is basically centered on granting an author exclusive control when it is reduced to a saleable form and secondly allowing the author to attach conditions including that of payment to the use of his work and that of others. Basic philosophy behind this is that a payment has to be made for authorised use and protection for the creator against unauthorised use.

Legal protection of artistic works, under copyright law does not entail a monopoly right. It prevents only unauthorized use of the forms of expression of ideas, taken from the work of another person. This does not consequently prevent another person from using the same ideas for creating independently a work which is similar to the one existing previously. Therefore, the duration of protection can be much longer than in the case of the protection of ideas, without damage to the public interest. Furthermore, the law can be (and, in most countries, is) purely declaratory. The law can simply declare that the author of an original work has the right to prevent other persons from copying or otherwise using his work. Under such a law, a public register of works protected by copyright is not necessary.

Effective copyright protection and ensuring payment to the authors, is a necessary incentive for creation of works and for encouraging local talent to devote its energies to furthering national intellectual creativity, and is in fact one of the fundamental means for the support of national authors. Without copyright protection, authors will have

no incentive to create. Those who assist in the dissemination of works (publishers, producers of cinematographic works, etc.) could not acquire the exclusive if needed for their activities in agreement with the author, a condition precedent to any investment in the process of making the work accessible to the public.

The development of modern media for the reproduction of works has brought forth new forms of expression which have considerably widened the field of literacy and artistic production in the context of sound and vision, and provided authors with countless new means of conveying to the public their literary, philosophical or scientific message.

In some developing countries, radio, television and the cinema compete seriously with books for the attention of the public. Nonetheless, reading still remains the basis of every efficient teaching method and books are an essential means of information, education and culture, Books as well as films and sound tracks are part of a country's national production and represent something that can be used in trade exchanges. Once it has been created by the author. the work takes shape and becomes part of the outside world through the medium of the necessary materials, paper for the book, canvas for the painting, marble for the sculpture etc. However, the materials are only the medium for expressing the work. The work itself is the reflection of the author's personality, the message he wants to convey to his contemporaries or pass on to posterity. Thus it is very important to draw a distinction between the work itself, i.e. the intellectual creation, which can be protected under copyright law, and the object embodying the work, for instance a book or a record, which can be subject to the legislative provisions on ownership etc. under civil law.

The subject-matter of protection under copyright law that is to say, the works included every production in the literary, scientific and artistic domain, whatever may be the mode or form of its expression.

For a work to enjoy copyright protection, however it must be an original creation. The ideas in the work do not need to be new but the form, be it literary or artistic, in which they are expressed must be the result of an individual creative effort by the author. And, finally, protection is independent of the quality or the value attaching to the work. It will be protected whether it be considered, according to taste, a good or a bad literary or artistic work. Also the purpose for which it is intended is irrelevant, because the use to which a work may be put has nothing to do with its protection.

Why Copyright Protection?

In any society be it great or small, industrialized ot developing, there are always some who possess, more than others, the natural gift of intellectual creation. These are the novelists, the poets, the dramatists, the composers, the painters, the architects, the sculpturos, etc.

In most countries of the world, whatever their stage of development, it is accepted that the authors of such creative works must be protected, and should, as a matter of natural justice, be allowed to benefit from the fruits of their labour.

Protection of authors will encourage them to create further works and thus enrich the country's store of literature, drama, music etc. This aspect of copyright law as a stimulus for intellectual creativity is of fundamental importance. Creativity is the very basic for the social, economic and cultural development of nations.

In addition, the investment that is sometimes necessary for the creation of works (in the case of film-making, book-printing or architectural works, for instance) or for their exploitation (book publishing or record manufacturing for instance) will be more easily obtained if effective protection exists and such protection in some cases indispensable for encouraging such investments.

Furthermore, if copyright exists in a work, its author may be encouraged to make it public and disseminate it widely, because he knows that he will not lose control of the work only because it is made known to others. Such a wide dissemination of works is generally of great benefit for the society as a whole.

An author's work is the personal expression of his thoughts. He should consequently be the one who should have the right respect for it or, in other words, be the first to decide whether, when and how his work may be reproduced or performed in public and the right to object to any distortion or mutilation of the work when it is used.

Also, the works of a country's authors enable its manners, customs and cultural heritage to be made better known. Any country wishing to stimulate and inspire its own authors in their creativity, must necessarily provide for effective copyright protection

Economic Importance of Copyright Law

In addition to the cultural and social arguments in favour of copyright protection, it is essential to note that copyright protection also has an important economic aspect, The economic importance of copyright varies of course depending on the stage of development and on a number of special national factors. A few examples could, however be mentioned concerning the economic impact of copyright, based on studies carried out in certain countries.

In Sweden, which is an industrialized country a study on the economic impact of copyright activities based on figures available for 1978 showed that, in that year, 6.6% of the Gross National Product (GNP) in that country consisted of material to which copyright applied. 4.4% of the contribution to the GNP came from the private sector and 2.2% came from the public sector.

Similar studies have been made in 1985 in the United States and in the United Kingdom. These studies refer to the value of the output of the "Copyright industries," a concept which is narrower than the concept "copyright activities" on which the Swedish study is based. Nevertheless these studies also show surprisingly high figures for the copyright share of the national economy. In the United States Study this share was 4.6% of the GNP and in the United Kingdom Study 2.6% of the Gross Domestic Product (basically the GNP minus the value earned abroad).

In a recent survey (1987) conducted in Australia, it was revealed that 5% of GNP was derived from the works of Intellectual Property and 2.8% of that was contributed by the Publishing Industry.

Very few studies has been done in developing countries in this aspect. In this region the Indian Copyright Industry is a significant contributor to its economy. In this context films, records and book exports have generated a substantial foreign exchange earnings to the Indian economy. Upto now no studies in this field has been done in Sri Lanka. The situation may vary from country to country and from region to region. The economic importance of copyright protection in a country grows, for instance, with the level of industrialization. Furthermore, the importance of copyright grows in the world today with the increasing importance of information processing and of certain high-technology areas, such as the satellite and cable techniques and the use of computers where copyright aspects come in many forms.

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