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Collect and Engage
National Libraries and
Their Collections

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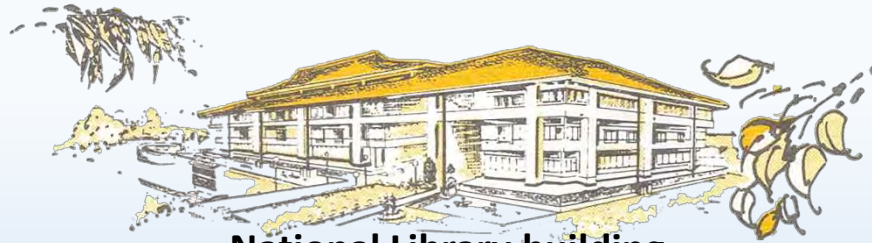
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Preserving and Making Collections Accessible

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An overview of the National Library of Sri Lanka

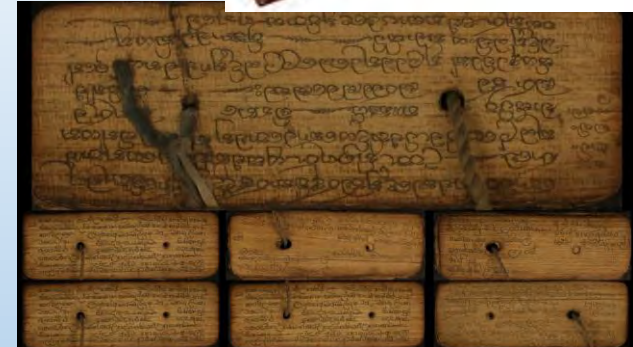


National Library building

- The Ceylon National Library Services Board started in 1970
- The National Library of Sri Lanka started in 1990
- Mainly research & reference library
- The library has 05 floors with 11500sqm
- Seating capacity for 320 readers
- Current library material stock of approximately over 01 million
- Under the legal deposit law of the country, a copy of each local publication should be deposited to the National Library

Types of Collections

- Sri Lanka Collection – Reference purposes
 - Rare collection
 - Legal Deposit collection
 - **Palm leaf collection**
 - Thesis collection
 - Reference sources
 - Government publications
 - **Audio-visual collection**
 - Digital collection
 - Map collection
 - ICH collection
 - Newspaper collection
 - Periodical collection
 - Special collection (Private collections)
 - China and Iran book collection



Nature of the Collections

- National Library collection is strictly for reference purposes
- National Libraries and Museums often maintain rare collections that they protect by limiting public access



Accessibility to Information

- Sri Lanka's Right to Information (RTI) Act (Act No. 12 of 2016) comes into effect by bringing with it a promise of open government, citizens' active participation in governance, and accountability to the people of the country.
- It ensures every citizen's right to have access to information.
- Information -Should be given access 24 hrs x 7 days
- Should not have geographical barriers
- Enhance remote access via digital libraries



N L S L

National Digital Library & Repository

National Library and Documentation Services Board, Sri Lanka

NDL Home

Welcome

Information communication technology has revolutionized the concept of library. Each and every library is slowly digitized. Taking into consideration the modern world trend in library and information field, National Library and documentation Services Board has taken steps to initiate a National Digital Library. The objective of the National Digital Library is to collect and maintain digital resources in the country and provide digital information to the reader community. The National Digital Library was inaugurated by Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education on 25 May 2016 in conjunction with the 26th anniversary of the National library of Sri Lanka.



Terms and Conditions in Use of Contents of the National Digital Library

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Context

[Create Community](#)

Why preservation?

- To ensure information accessible by anyone who needs them now and in the future
- Different conservation and preservation measures are applied
 - Book binding
 - Leaf casting for brittle materials
 - Fumigation –both thymol fumigation and phosphene fumigation
 - Digitalization as the last resort of preservation



Why digital preservation is important?

- Digital Preservation and document archiving is the process of ensuring that digital information and documents are accessible and usable in the future. This includes protecting against data loss, format obsolescence, and other risks.
- Minimize threats by man made disasters, insect attacks etc
- Ensure accessibility



Why digital preservation is important? (contd..)

- Digitization makes the invisible to be visible. Several users can access the same material the same time without hindrance. It also removes the problem of distance, as users do not have to travel to libraries that possess the hard copies of library materials before they can access and use such materials.

National Library's experience and opportunities leveraged

- Commenced the National Digital Library (NDL) in 2016
- Project to digitize government collections – Gazette collection from 1888 including acts, bills etc.
- Rare books are also digitized
- Project funded by National Science Foundation
- During the COVID-19 when travel restrictions were imposed people enjoyed the access to NDL and saves people's money time even now as there is no need to visit the NL physically.

Challenges

- Financial restrictions - lack of resources
eg: Sophisticated scanners etc
- Skilled staff
- Unreliable internet access and poor infrastructure facilities
- Copyright related issues that prevent making full-text resources available
- use of standards and information exchange related protocols, content written in local language or other than English may also place a challenge
- Limited Annual Budget allocation for renovation of NLDSB Building

Thank you