

**29<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania**  
**1-2 November 2023, Wednesday & Thursday**  
**Doha, Qatar**

**Country Report**  
**[Period Coverage: 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022]**

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**Name of Country** : Sri Lanka  
**Name of Library** : National Library of Sri Lanka  
**Name of Director-General** : Mr. W. Sunil  
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**01. Facts and Figures**

<b>Sn</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Figures</b>
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	141 million 13 million
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	129 25 104
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	1.3 million books and others 47517 titles
d	Visitor ship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	2880 membership 7730 viewers
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	08

**02. Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services**

- i. Presently all 05 floors of the National Library and Documentation Services Board building is under refurbishment with all modern amenities.

ii. There are 24 collections in the library. Such as,

**Main Collection;** The main collection contains tertiary sources as General Books and Subject Encyclopedias, Dictionaries of Sinhala, Tamil and English Language, Other languages, Bilingual Dictionaries

**Newspaper Collection;** The National Library receives all the newspapers published in the country since 1976 to the present day.

**Periodical Collection;** the collection contains Sinhala, Tamil and English languages Periodicals.

**Sri Lanka Government Publication Collection;** This collection include publications such as Bills, Acts, Ordinances, Parliamentary Debates (Hanzards), Sessional Papers, Parliamentary Series, Gazettes, Sri Lanka Law Reports.

**Theses and Dissertation Collection;** Building of a theses and dissertation collection was commenced from to the present day.

**Ola Leaf Manuscript Collection;** The National Library has fairly good collection of ola – leaf manuscript and its development continuously.

**Maps Collection;** Special emphasis is given on building up a complete collection of maps relevant to Sri Lanka.

**Collection for Readers with Special Needs;** In order to build up a national collection of Braille literature for reader with special needs in the country, the National Library commenced acquiring Braille and large print books in June 1990. In addition the National Library has made an arrangement to collect audio books for the readers with Special Needs.

**Drama Manuscript Collection;** The National Library commenced building up a collection of Drama Manuscript in 1995.

**Intangible Cultural Heritage Collection;** Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is promoted by UNESCO as a counterpart of the World Heritage which focuses mainly on the aspects of culture.

**Information Repacking Collection;** Information gathered from different sources such as books, periodical articles, newspaper articles, Internet etc.;

**Audio Visuals and Micro form Collection;** Audio visual materials and microform can be used by readers to obtain required information.

**Digital Collection;** There are 68,122 Information item digital collection such as books, Journals, Newspapers, Newspaper articles, Government Publications, Research Papers and Audio etc.

**Special Collection;** Martin Wickramasinghe Collection. A collection of the most veteran author of Sri Lanka.

- iii. National Library use a library management software packages called KOHA to give access to the Library Collection.
- iv. Currently there are several services that the National Library offer it's uses they are such as Reference Services, Internet & CD-ROM Services, Inquiry Services, Referral Services, Documentation Services, Inter – Library Loan Services, Database Searching Services, Scan Services, Current Awareness Services, Selective Dissemination of Information Services, Information Repackaging Services.

### **03. Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in the Country**

- i. The National Library of Sri Lanka is the only governmental body in the field of Library & Information Science which has legal power of advising the government regarding issues in the sector. According to the National Library and Documentation Services Board Act (NLDSB 1998) one of the functions of the National Library of Sri Lanka is “to promote, advise and assist in, the establishment, development and maintenance of library and documentation networks’, including networks of public, school, academic, government and other libraries and documentation centers serving all sections of the communities in Sri Lanka”. Therefore, the National Library has a major responsibility of development of all types of libraries in the country.

Library system of Sri Lanka can be divided to 04 categories.

- (A) Academic Libraries
- (B) Public Libraries
- (C) Special Libraries
- (D) School Libraries

The National Library organizes workshops for Public and School libraries. The National Library is organized limited programmes by zoom in the year 2022, because under the covid-19 pandemic situation.

- ii. National Library of Sri Lanka gets a copy of the legal deposit from the National Archives of Sri Lanka under the Legal Deposit Law.

- iii. The National Library of Sri Lanka Collaboration with National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), Sri Lanka Library Association and The Asia Foundation of Sri Lanka. The National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) could keep closer contact with these institutions in upgrading the contribution made by those institutions. The above organizations provide a formal education programmes in librarianship while the National Library of Sri Lanka generally conduct programmes related to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of libraries. The NL conducts CPD programmes like workshops, seminars and conferences, lectures and in house training programmes.
- iv. Digital Library Development programme is conducting in close collaboration with Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka

**04. International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries**

The National Library of Sri Lanka is the only institution that represents various international forums in the subject. It has power to make International Cooperation with external communities. The National Library of Sri Lanka maintains a good relationship with following institutional associations and organizations.

- CDNLAO – Conference of Directors of National Libraries of Asia & Oceania
- IFLA- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
- IFLA - PAC – Conducting Preservation and Conservation programmes
- ISBN – International Standard Book Number} the National Centre for International Standard Book Number
- ISMN – International Standard Music Number} the National Centre for International Standard Music Number
- ISSN – International Standard Serial Number} the National Centre for International Standard Serial Number
- UNESCO – Conducting Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) programmes and Memory of the World (MOW) programmes
- Common wealth of Learning Canada - Conducting job oriented professional courses for the Sri Lankan Students.

## **Conclusion**

The nation and country need new dimensions in research for the development and well-being as education, higher education and technical education in the country. Knowledge is considered as the change agent of the advancement of the new dimensions which required by the country. Within this context, the National Library of Sri Lanka in the next two decades for harnessing the knowledge, economy and library services is enormous.

W. Sunil

Director General

National Library & Documentation Services Board of Sri Lanka