

National Library Group (207/18)

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Formulation of Standards for National Library of Sri Lanka

Introduction

There is no standard or prescriptive definition for the concept of 'national library': national libraries exist in a multiplicity of forms determined not least by the size, cultural history and economic development of the country they serve. Thus, the Standing Committee of IFLA's National Library Sector agreed that it would be inappropriate to seek to develop updated guidelines or standards for national libraries that would be prescriptive: rather, it was thought that the adoption of an empirical approach, providing a wide range of exemplars and case studies of actual national library practice, would provide the national library community with a useful development toolkit. (<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0955749016653031>).

As such there are no guidelines or standards set for National Libraries in the international arena. We will use available research literature by renown experts on National Libraries and national

library services, Best practices of leading National Libraries, innovative functions of National Libraries and guidelines issued by IFLA including 'Performance indicators for National Libraries' in formulating the Standards for National Library of Sri Lanka. Hopefully our final product will be in between standards, Guidelines and performance indicators.

Areas expects to be covered in developing standards

1. NL Legislations
2. NL Building and Space planning
3. Collection development
4. Organization of the collection
5. Access to collection
6. Services for Users including remote users
7. Bibliographical Control
8. National Digital Library
9. Information Literacy projects
10. Cooperative activities with Sri Lankan Libraries
11. Cooperative programmes with National Libraries in SAARC region
12. Usage of ICT
13. Conservation
14. Human Resources
15. Marketing

1. The National Library Legislations

- The NLDSB Act No. 51 of 1998
- Printers and Publishers Ordinance of 1885 and amendment of 1976
- SLLA's project on revision of the NLDSB Act
- Essence of new National Library legislations at international level

2. National Library Building and Space Planning

- Designed by Unesco Consultant Architect Prof. Michael Brawne in 1974
- The present refurbishment project of the building.
- Evolving functions of National Libraries and space requirement.
- Best practices in space planning of public buildings in Sri Lanka
- Best practices of space planning in National Libraries

3. The National Library Collection

- Present National Library collection based on National Library acquisition policy
- Impact of the Legal deposit legislations
- How the National Library share the responsibility of collecting and preserving the Sri Lankan collection
- Gaps of the national collection

- Improving the acquisition of national literature out put
- Improve legal deposit legislations
- Coverage of e-publication
- Coordinating mechanism with other Institutions with National Collections

4. **Organization of the collection**

- Current status
- Drawbacks and limitations
- Plans under the refurbishment project
- Best practices

5. **Access to collection**

- Current scenario
- Drawbacks and limitations
- Plans under refurbishment project
- Best practice

6. **Services for Users including remote users**

- Current practices
- Drawbacks
- Plans under refurbishment
- Impact of the ICT
- Emergence of new generation using social media
- Best practices

7. **Bibliographical Control**

- Current practices
- Sri Lanka National Bibliography project
- Retrospective Sri Lanka National Bibliography project
- Compilation of special bibliographies
- Drawbacks
- Best practices

8. **National Digital Library**

- Current initiatives
- Challenges
- Best practices

9. **Information Literacy projects**

- Current projects
- drawbacks
- Best practices

10. Cooperative activities with Sri Lankan Libraries

- National Union Catalogue project
- Drawbacks
- Other Cooperative projects
- Best practices

11. Cooperative programmes with National Libraries in SAARC region

- Current status
- Drawbacks
- Best practices

12. Usage of ICT

- Digitization of the National Collection
- Online National Library catalogue
- Other initiatives
- Opportunities
- Best practices

13. Conservation

- Challenges in conserving national collection
- Current status
- Drawbacks
- Best practices

14. Human Resources

- Necessary skills and competencies for the National Library
- Current status and drawbacks
- Best practices

15. Marketing

- Relationship with the library community
- Interaction with users and the general public
- Relationship with intelligentsia
- Interaction with the authors and publishing & book trade
- Publicity & marketing programmes
- Drawbacks
- Best practices

This is a preliminary roadmap of a gigantic project. We intend to cover all 15 areas in a methodical manner in the coming months which will no doubt be an enormous task. Please submit your views and proposals for further improvement.

