

A study on author names authority control related to online public access catalogue (OPAC) of national library, Sri Lanka

B.G.S.P.Wimalasiri¹

The limited definition of the term “library” existed in the past was expanded widely at present due to electronic information media inherited by modern technology which has become “the information distribution center.” This technological change has resulted in effecting various development change in library activities. The card catalogue which facilitated the easy search of book in a library has improved by way of electronic communication system and the internet, up to the level of online public Access Catalogue system at present. As a result of above facility, the reader who visits the library is capable of fulfilling his or her requirement speedily and efficiently with the adaptation of library catalogue authority. In order to provide and efficient service to the readers it is necessary to ascertain as to whether there is a proper authority control in the online public access catalogue in the library. The objective is this study observed as to whether the authority control is functioning properly in libraries in order to provide and efficient service to the readers. This study is concerned about the in house online public access catalogue of national library of Sri Lanka and its functions regarding author names (personal author name, co-operate author names) and to ascertain as to whether proper authority control is in practice.

While carrying out the study regarding the authority control of author names, participant observation method and questionnaire method was adopted while information and opinions were gathered presenting them with open ended questionnaires.

According to the study the functions in respect of the authority control online public access catalogue are in and unsatisfactory level at the national library of Sri Lanka. Weaknesses were observed in translation, transliteration, term spacing and differences in names etc. The functions regarding author names, authority control have to be streamlined introducing a proper comprehensive author name authority files, using correct transliteration method. It is conducted that, suitable software should be used and entering bibliographic data to be carried out with more care, using a separate form for transliteration.

It could be mentioned that the national library of Sri Lanka being the leading library in the country, it should adapt exemplary method to other libraries in the country in maintaining authority files and an authority of online public access catalogue in the future. Similarly, it is role of the national library to maintain the authority files constantly. National library in Sri Lanka Should set an example to other libraries in devoting on authority control. It is a national responsibility.

Keywords: Online Public Access Catalogue, Authority control, National library of Sri Lanka

¹ Library and Documentation Officer, Bibliographic Control Division, National Library and Documentation Services Board, suleka.wimalasiri@gmail.com