

## **Current Status & Future Challenges of the Public Libraries in Sri Lanka for the Pattern Change: a Case Study**

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### **Abstract**

*This study focuses on the current status future challengers of the public libraries where located in the Polonnaruwa district in the North Central Province (NCP) in Sri Lanka with the perspectives of its properties, services, users and the staffs and latter part of the discusses the future challenges with the pattern change of the library professionals' perspective. The questionnaire and interview were used as instruments in this study to collect data. The study revealed that the public libraries of Polonnaruwa District are not in the correct position by collection development. It also pointed out the most of the libraries are administered by the non-professional staffs. The major challenge was examined that library staffs are not in the good satisfaction level about their promotion mechanism. Finally it was reviled that the need of deep study about their problems strategically and address them quickly to uplift the service to the up to date level.*

**Keywords:** Public libraries, Polonaruwa district, Public librarians, Collection development, ICT

### **Introduction**

Generally, public libraries are used by the various communities who come from the infants' age level up to the elders' age levels. Therefore, they play a vital role as the gateways to knowledge for any kind of age groups especially in the metropolitan and rural communities of the worldwide. When comparing to the international scenario, the public library service of Sri Lanka, is still in the conventional mode and even though, some of them are also running by the non-library professionals such as library servant or road labors due to the lukewarm of the local government authorities. Sri Lanka has more than 1500 public libraries in different categories and only few users of large scale libraries which located around Western province and Southern are utilized both conventional and modern facilities. However in several other governments of the Asian countries, pay a huge attention to improve the both traditional and modern services of their public libraries by introducing the various user services such as kindle reading, open reading, Internet café and etc., as they are daily utilized by the various communities who come from small age groups up to old age groups.

This paper analytically evaluates the current status of the public libraries where located in the Polonnaruwa district in the North Central Province (NCP) in Sri Lanka with the perspectives of its properties, services, users and the staffs and latter part of the paper it discussed the future