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## Summary

The purpose of this research study is to assess the contribution made by Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs) of university libraries to the National Union Catalogue (NUC), which is maintained by the National Library in Sri Lanka. The main aim was to identify whether a valuable contribution was made by the university online catalogues, and also to assess the current situation with regards to this. This research study was conducted over the period from 1986 to 2014.

Six universities representing the Western Province were selected as sample sites for this study: University of Colombo, University of Kelaniya, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Moratuwa, Open University of Sri Lanka, and University of the Visual and Performing Arts. These six universities are among the 15 of those managed by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Two separate questionnaires were distributed among the senior librarians of the universities selected, and to employees who were involved in maintaining the NUC. Discussions were also held with these staff members to gather further information. The primary data collected have been analyzed and presented with clear explanations using graphs and tables in this report.

Results of the study suggest that the online catalogues of university libraries do not make a satisfactory contribution to the NUC. The report provides recommendations on how to improve the level of contribution made by the online library catalogues of all the universities in Sri Lanka.

**Key words:** University, Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs), Library Automation, Union Catalogue, National Library in Sri Lanka