

## **A study on Sri Lanka public library collection development**

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The useful services of a Library mainly depend on the collection of volumes it has. It is seen that a lot of collections are in libraries and documentation center/ Collection of books, information, Information media, and media other than books or electronic data bases are identified as collections of libraries.

A satisfactory collection does not necessarily mean a large collection but collection which has a maximum usage. To develop such a collection, the librarian should possess a high degree of ability of collecting library material to manage properly and with proper understanding.

To achieve the objectives and mission any library should develop collection in a systematic way. It is through this means only information requirements could be supplied to readers. Specially for a People's library a collection development plan is essential to ensure satisfactory collection. A public library should be public institution used by various types of individuals in the society from children to old age groups.

This Research was done mainly in Colombo district, Municipalities, Town Councils, Pradeshiya Sabha, public libraries using librarians or public Library users for a qualitative and quantitative evaluation. Discussions, Questioners were used for the Collection of data.

Similarly, the analysis of data in the evaluation shows is the absence of firm collection development policy. For instance, properly documented publication is not in operation as a firm policy frame work. Another factor revealed in the research was that there has been no assistance obtained from Committee of subjects' specialist in the process. The inadequacy of space and money are other observations made in the study.

The under trained staff, the inadequacy of availability of library items, non availability of proper conservation methods are other basic factor revealed in this research.

The Library collection development procedures are not in satisfactory levels and also the response of the readers for the same has been unsatisfactory.

Hence it is clearly seen that public libraries in Sri Lanka necessarily needs collection development policies. It is proposed to deploy knowledgeable individual or individual team to manage the library items utilization as the main thrust.

**Key words:** Public libraries, Collections, Collection development policies, Sri Lanka, Library and information science.

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