

A digital library for ola leave books

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Ola leave books were widely used in Sri Lanka in the past to document religious, medical, ritual, astrological, and other subject details. Presently, they are scattered around the country without a proper index. A fully searchable, geo-coded, and access controlled web based digital library is a must to locate and access information of these books quickly by authorized patrons.

An unique ID based on location (province, district, DS division and GN division) was introduced to uniquely identify a book. The information were categorized based on content, location, language etc... and stored in a relational database. The images were tagged to retrieve relevant images quickly.

A digital library was developed using open source software. A full text indexing was used to index the content to retrieve more relevant information quickly. A web based map displays the location of geo-coded books. The web based solution has led to round the clock availability, no physical boundary, multiple access, and user friendly information retrieval. Also a management module was included to address the management aspect of the project.

Use of digital library to collect and manage details of books has led easy querying, visualizing the content, and locating on a digital map. This project also demonstrates how a digital library could be used in archaeological research to assist project management aspects.

The digital library and unique ID system can be extended to other research areas in archaeology to collect, organize and retrieve details of artifacts.

Key words: Ola leave books, Digital library, Relational database, Web application, Archaeology