National Library of Sri Lanka

Resources and Services

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The National Library has a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Sri Lanka and many other information sources in the form of print, audio-visual and electronic media.
Sri Lanka Collection

The National Library of Sri Lanka is a deposit library and receives copies of Sri Lankan publications.
Acquisition System

- Legal Deposit
- Purchasing
- Exchange of publications
- Gifts and donations
The Collection

- General reference materials
- Books published in Sri Lanka
- Books published on Sri Lanka in foreign countries
Special Collections

► Martin Wickramasinghe Collection
► Prof. Tikiri Abeysinghe Collection
► Dr. P. B. Sannasgala Collection
► Prof. D. E. Hettiarachchi Collection
► Dr. M. H. Peter Silva Collection
► Dr. E. M. Wijerama Collection
► Theja Gunawardhana Collection
National Library of Sri Lanka holds the largest and most comprehensive Library and Information Science Collection in the country. It consists of a large collection of books including reference books and reputed local and foreign periodicals in the field.
Gazettes, acts, bills, ordinance, hanzards, sessional papers, administration reports, Sri Lanka Law Reports, New Law Reports, Commission Reports, Blue books, Circulars and many other government publications are available.
Basic Reference Collection

Contains Encyclopaedias, Directories, Indexes, Bibliographies, Glossaries, Gazetters and other reference works on a wide range of subjects.

Microforms, CD ROMs including Science Citation Index, LISA plus, Current Contents.
Theses and Dissertation Collection

A collection of theses of PhD. and M. phil. degrees compiled by Sri Lankans are kept for reference.
Electronic Collection

- DEPEC - Devolution of Power and Ethnic Conflict - Online
- Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encarta
- Martin Wickramasinghe Collection-Online
National Union Catalogue - Online

Newspaper Article Index - Online

Online Databases : Current Contents, Delnet, Library and Information Science Abstract (LISA)

Online Public Access Catalogue available at www.natlib.lk

Photographic Index

Postgraduate Theses Index - Online
Science Citation Index (provides access to current and retrospective bibliographic information, author abstracts and cited references found in world's leading journals)

Audio-video cassettes, CDs, DVDs and gramophone discs of Sri Lankan songs, documentaries, plays and teledramas.
Periodical Collection

Over 800 titles of Sri Lankan and foreign periodicals are available. This is undoubtedly a very good source for researchers to get current information. The Sri Lanka Periodical Article Index is a useful guide for searching periodical articles.
Newspaper Collection

Over 300 newspaper titles in Sinhala, Tamil and English are available. This is a comprehensive local newspaper collection from 1976 to date. Newspaper Article Index - online could be used in retrieving required articles.
Rare Books Collection

Contains books whose irrereplaceability or uniqueness makes them rare and books of aesthetic value.
This collection was donated by Martin Wickramasinghe Trusts. This collection consists of his personal collection of books, draft manuscripts of his writing, personal effects such as his desk, typewriter, pen, wristwatch, armchair and a number of cultural artifacts collected by him.
Ola Leaf Collection

A valuable and rare collection covering areas such as Buddhism, Literature and Ayurvedic medicine etc.
Folklore collection

Consists of a large number of material and items including the manuscripts received from late Mr. Peter Wijesinghe.
Map Collection

This collection consists of over 1000 maps relating to Sri Lanka including Divisional Secretariat wise, District wise and Provincial wise maps produced by the Survey Department of Sri Lanka.
SERVICES

Being the main reference library in Sri Lanka, National Library strives to serve people in all parts of the country.
User Education Service

Making the readers aware and skillful in obtaining information from the library.
Inquiry Service

► Readers can make inquiries by visiting or through letters, telephone calls, fax messages and e-mails.

► The information desk located at the ground floor deals with the preliminary queries of prospective users.
Reference Service

Providing reference service through National Library collection for intellectuals, researchers, academics as well as the general public.
Current Awareness Services (CAS)

This is a service for researchers to keep them informed of the new materials available with us relevant to their specific field of interests as like accession list, content pages service etc.
Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)

The specific information needs of the researchers involved in various fields are identified and the necessary information is provided through compilation of directories, indices, content pages service, quick reference services and a number of other information dissemination activities.
Information Repackaging Service

Collection of information packages prepared on various topics using the information taken from sources such as books, journals and newspapers that is useful for assignments and project works.
Indexing and Abstracting Service

With the objective of making information searching more convenient, indexing and abstracting services are maintained.

Internet Service

Internet service is provided to readers at a concessionary rate.
Reprographic Service

Reprographic services such as photocopies, copies of electronic sources, scanning are available.
Refferal Service

Readers are referred to other institutions where the required information is available.
Inter-Library Loan Service

Facilities are available to obtain required library materials from the National Library through Inter-Library Loan Service.
Publishing the Sri Lanka National Bibliography and compiling a number of other bibliographies at national level.
Documentation Services

National Union Catalogue, Sri Lanka
News Paper Article Index, Directory of Government Publications, Index of Postgraduate Thesis, Conference Index are the main documentation services available.
Reading Rooms Facilities

Reading rooms located at the ground, first and second floors of the National Library provide seating capacity for 320 readers.
Friends of the National Library

Anybody who wish to extend his/ her support and provide expertise for upgrading the National Library Services may join the "Friends of the National Library". As a member of it you will be kept in touch with National Library activities and functions and be invited for such events.
Other services

International Standard Book Numbering System

- ISBN – For Books
- ISSN – For Serial Publications
- ISMN – For Music Publications
Publication Assistance Project

- Assistance for publishing New Books
- Purchasing Newly Printed Publications
Reading Promotion Programme

- October – Declare the National Reading Month
- Select the Best Library in Public & School Library Sector
Opening Hours

- Monday to Saturday  8.30 - 4.15
- Tuesday & Thursday  8.30 - 6.15
- Closed on Sunday & other Public Holidays