

ABSTRACT

The co-operative practices in Sri Lankan libraries and information centres is an attempt to examine the current status of co-operative practices and networking in Sri Lankan libraries and information centres.

The growth of co-operative practices / resource sharing is one of the most significant development in 20th century.

The study is based on a survey conducted among networked libraries and information centres in Sri Lanka, specially within Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Network (SLSTINET) and also other major libraries in the industrial and commercial sectors and NGOs. The information was collected by a carefully designed questionnaire. Out of 125 questionnaires sent to the libraries and information centres 68 responses were received.

The literature search revealed that networked libraries and information centres have come into focus during late 1970s with the establishment of SLSTINET by the SLSTIC (Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Centre). During the last two decades the information networks have been expanded into subject fields of health science, agriculture, trade, environment and social sciences. They have taken co-operative practices (resource sharing) activities not only books and other communications, media, but also apply to anything, collection, action or staff expertise.

Co-operative practices among libraries and information centres in Sri Lanka functioning through various ways. Participating in information networks some of the libraries and information centres are associated with most of co-operative practices activities.

However these libraries and information centres have experienced several problems in implementing these co-operative practices such as inadequate finance and staff, lack of professionally qualified librarians with IT (information technology) knowledge, lack of support from the management, uncooperative attitudes and policies and not having an over all plan.

It was found that SLSTINET and AGRINET are making great effort towards achieving their aims.