

**University Library Consortium: A Tool for
Resource-Sharing among University Libraries which are
coming under the authority of the
University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka**

DECLARATION

I do certify that this thesis does not incorporate, without
acknowledgement, any material previously submitted for
a Degree or Diploma in any University or Institutions, and
to the best of my knowledge it does not contain
any material previously published or written by another
person except where indicated in the text.

By

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Degree of Master of Library and Information Science

This is to certify that T. Ramanan has accomplished this
thesis under my supervision.

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Abstract

The paper looks into the need and avenues for resource-sharing among university libraries in Sri Lanka. There are, at present, 15 universities in Sri Lanka, which are coming under the authority of the UGC, are offering degrees in various fields of knowledge. Each university has a main library and faculty and/or institutional libraries. These libraries are primarily funded by the UGC that administers the universities. However, budget restrictions and the rising price of information materials is an impediment to better services rendered to users.

This study is intended to discover the need for efficient and effective resource-sharing cooperation between academic libraries in the Island. It will examine the rationalization of expenditure on library collections and services. Most importantly, the study seeks ways to devise a consortium model for these institutions by investigating on the library resources strengths and to provide a positive attitude towards library cooperation without which there can be no resource-sharing.

The methodology used in this study was a survey which employed questionnaires and interviews to collect essential data. Since the number of institutions fifty (50) no sampling was needed. All these respondent universities were administered with questionnaires. Interviews were conducted to obtain key-information from the respondees who hold the posts of librarian in main libraries. The response rate was satisfactory (82%).

Data were analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 13.0). These investigations have helped to find the strengths of the university libraries' resources; as a consequence the feasibility of libraries being able to work together was analyzed. The attitude of librarians towards the introduction of library consortia was analyzed by applying the Likert Scale. Chi-Square test (at 0.05 significant level) was applied to find the relationship between variables.

The findings reveal that the university libraries are struggling with stringent budget cuts (73.7%) and increasing price of information materials (53%). In these libraries,