STATISTICAL HANDBOOK ON LIBRARIES IN SRI LANKA

2013

Library Research Division

National Library and Documentation Services Board

STATISTICAL HANDBOOK ON LIBRARIES IN SRI LANKA

Preface

As the main national institute in library and information field in Sri Lanka, National Library and Documentation Services Board has the responsibility to make available the statistics relevant to the library and information field in Sri Lanka. This handbook includes statistical information on different types of libraries in district and provincial level. I hope that this handbook will be useful for library professionals as well as general readers.

I am thankful to Mr. G. D. Amarasiri, Director in charge of Library Research Division, Mrs. Priyanga Bandara, Assistant Director and Head of the Library Research Division, Mrs. Kamalangani Subasinghe, Library Development Assistant and Mrs. Ashoka Damayanthi, Management Assistant for compiling this handbook.

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Introduction

Maintenance and publishing of Statistics relevant to library activities in Sri Lanka is a responsibility of the National Library and Documentation Services Board as the main national body of the library and information field in Sri Lanka. Making available statistics is very important for research, decision making, policy making etc. in any field. Most government and non-government organizations compile statistical handbooks on their respective subject areas. This handbook includes statistics on libraries in district and provincial level. It also includes statistics on services of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. I hope that this handbook is useful for librarians, researchers and policy makers in the library and information field. I thank Mr. G. D Amarasiri, Director in charge of Library Research Division, Mrs. Priyanga Bandara, Head, Library Research Division, Mrs. Kamalangani Subasinghe, Library Development Assistant and Mrs. Ashoka Damayanthi, Management Assistant for compiling this handbook.

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Director General
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Basic Indicators of Sri Lanka

Indicator		Data
Area (Sq. Km.)		65,610
Life Expectancy, Years (2012)		75.94
Literacy Rate, % (2012)		95.6%
Population		20,271,464
Population by Residential Sectors		
Urban		18.3%
Rural		77.3%
Estate		4.4%
Education Status		
No Schooling	Population aged 5 years and above	3.8%
Primary	Population aged 5 years and above	23.6%
Secondary	Population aged 5 years and above	40.7%
G.C.E. O/L	Population aged 5 years and above	17.0%
G.C.E. A/L	Population aged 5 years and above	12.3%
Employment Rate	Population aged 15 years and above	93.1%
Unemployment Rate	Population aged 15 years and above	6.9%
Public Sector Employment Rate		
Government Institution		993,037
Semi-Government Institution		251,278

Sources - Department of Census and Statistics, 2012
Central Bank of Sri Lanka Annual Report, 2012

Information on Services of the National Library and Documentation Services Board

National Library Membership During 2013

Type of Membership	Number of Members
Daily membership	7517
Life membership	111
Three months membership	451
Annual membership	47
Free membership provided to mark the National Reading Month – 2013	2940

Number of Libraries Graded in 2013

Type of Library	Grade III	Grade II	Grade I	Supra Grade
Public Libraries	21	13	05	01
School Libraries	09	01		
Department Libraries			01	
Total	30	14	06	01

Training Courses for Librarians 2013

Type of Librarians	Number of Courses	Number of Participants
Training Courses for Public Librarians	3	190
Training Courses for School Librarians	2	73
Training Courses on Information Communication Technology	6	24
Training Courses on Conservation of Library Materials	9	118
Total	20	405

Donation of Books to Libraries

Type of Library	Number of Libraries	Number of Books Donated
Public Libraries	160	2898
School Libraries	367	7493
Pirivena Libraries	47	1149
Other Libraries	146	2349
Total	720	13889

Issue of ISBN, ISSN and ISMN Numbers 2013

Project	Number Issued
International Standards Book Numbers (ISBN)	8993
International Standards Serial Numbers (ISSN)	281
International Standards Music Numbers (ISMN)	27
Cataloguing in Publication Data (CIP)	350

Project for the Purchase of New Publications

Project	Number of titles purchased	Expenditure (Rs.)
Project for the Purchase of new Publications	119	937,912.28

Publication Assistance Project

Project	Number of books sponsored by NLDSB	Expenditure (Rs.)
Publication Assistance Project	27	1,387,345.60

Usage of National Library Collections by Readers

Collection	Number of Readers
Legal Deposit Collection	1612
Sri Lanka Collection	7741
Government Publications Collection	2121
Foreign Publications Collection	549
Science and Technology Collection	178
Theses Collection	609
Reference Collection	536
Library and Information Science Collection	459

Martin Wickramasinghe Collection	108
Newspaper Collection	3600
Periodical Collection	1269
Total	18782

Issue of Photocopies to National Library Readers

Number of Readers who Obtained Photocopies	8781
Total Number of Photocopies Issued	97256

Production of Library Stationaries

Type of Library Stationary	Amount Produced
Catalogue Cards	48000
Accession Registers	128
Newspaper Boxes	326
Closed Pamphlet Boxes	123
Open Pamphlet Boxes	100
Date Labels	200,000

Acquisition of Library Materials for the National Library

Type of Library Materials	Number Acquired
Books	7498
Periodicals	1500
Postgraduate Thesis	06
Rare Books	08
Government Publications	4855
Electronic Databases	02
Special Collection	01

Number of Libraries in Sri Lanka by District

Ampara District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	308
Public Libraries	41
Pirivena Libraries	17
University Libraries	02
Teacher Training College Libraries	01
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	04
Total	374

Anuradhapura District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	300
Public Libraries	33
Pirivena Libraries	42
University Libraries	07
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	383

Badulla District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	292
Public Libraries	40
Pirivena Libraries	41
University Libraries	01
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	02
Total	377

Batticaloa District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	157
Public Libraries	72
University Libraries	03
Teacher Training College Libraries	01
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	235

Colombo District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	346
Public Libraries	52
Pirivena Libraries	46
University Libraries	18
Teacher Training College Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	04
Total	467

Galle District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	308
Public Libraries	69
Pirivena Libraries	70
University Libraries	03
Teacher Training College Libraries	03
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	02
Total	456

Gampaha District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	396
Public Libraries	83
Pirivena Libraries	58
University Libraries	05
National Colleges of Education Libraries	03
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	546

Hambantota District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	220
Public Libraries	36
Pirivena Libraries	29
Technical College Libraries	02
Total	287

Jaffna District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	187
Public Libraries	60
University Libraries	05
Teacher Training College Libraries	02
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	256

Kalutara District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	254
Public Libraries	50
Pirivena Libraries	46
National Colleges of Education Libraries	02
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	353

Kandy District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	377
Public Libraries	103
Pirivena Libraries	75
University Libraries	08
National Colleges of Education Libraries	02
Technical College Libraries	03
Total	568

Kegalle District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	272
Public Libraries	32
Pirivena Libraries	40
Technical College Libraries	02
Total	346

Kilinochchi District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	27
Public Libraries	10
Total	37

Kurunegala District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	512
Public Libraries	118
Pirivena Libraries	82
University Libraries	02
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	03
Total	718

Mannar District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	31
Public Libraries	18
Total	49

Matale District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	172
Public Libraries	43
Pirivena Libraries	20
Technical College Libraries	02
Total	237

Matara District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	269
Public Libraries	41
Pirivena Libraries	63
University Libraries	02
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	377

Monaragala District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	170
Public Libraries	27
Pirivena Libraries	21
Technical College Libraries	02
Total	220

Mullaitivu District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	28
Public Libraries	12
Pirivena Libraries	01
Total	41

Nuwara Eliya District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	206
Public Libraries	42
Pirivena Libraries	10
Teacher Training College Libraries	01
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	261

Polonnaruwa District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	145
Public Libraries	22
Pirivena Libraries	14
Technical College Libraries	01
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Total	183

Puttalam District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	217
Public Libraries	56
Pirivena Libraries	12
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	286

Ratnapura District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	291
Public Libraries	34
Pirivena Libraries	45
University Libraries	03
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	02
Total	376

Trincomalee District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	133
Public Libraries	31
Pirivena Libraries	05
University Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	171

Vavuniya District	
Type of Library	**Number**
School Libraries	46
Public Libraries	10
Pirivena Libraries	01
University Libraries	01
National Colleges of Education Libraries	01
Technical College Libraries	01
Total	60

Province	University Libraries	School Libraries	Public Libraries	Pirivena Libraries	Collage of Education Libraries	Technical College Libraries	Teacher Training College Libraries	Total
Western Province	23	996	185	150	05	06	01	1366
Central Province	08	755	188	105	03	06	01	1066
Southern Province	05	797	146	162	02	05	03	1120
Northern Province	06	319	110	02	02	02	02	443
Eastern Province	06	598	144	22	02	06	02	780
North Western Province	02	729	174	94	01	04		1004
North Central Province	07	445	55	56	01	02		566
Uva Province	01	462	67	62	01	04		597
Sabaragamuwa Province	03	563	66	85	01	04		722
Total	61	5664	1135	738	18	39	09	7664

Glossary

Audio-visual (AV) materials: Materials in non-print form, such as audio cassettes, video cassettes, compact discs, DVDs, and filmstrips.

Book: A set of sheets of paper bound along one edge and enclosed within protective covers to form a volume, especially a written or printed literary composition presented in this way.

Cataloguing in Publication (CIP) Data: A Cataloging in Publication record is a bibliographic record prepared by the NLDSB (as by other relevant authorities in other countries) for a book that has not yet been published. It is prepared in the process of assigning an International Standard Number (ISBN, ISSN, and ISMN).

Collection: A group of resources that are related to each other in some identifiable way. The relationship might be through a topic, a place, a person, an organization or a type of object.

Government Publication: Publications of an official character, or of an institutional, descriptive, or historical nature, which are published by the Government Publishing Department for Parliament or one of the government departments.

Grading: The NLDSB has a grading mechanism for public, departmental (Government), and school libraries. Public and Departmental libraries are graded from Grade III (lowest) to Supra (highest) Grade. School libraries are graded from Grade III (lowest) to Grade I (highest).

International Standard Book Number (ISBN): The International Standard Book Number is a unique numeric book identifier with 13 digits (earlier 10 digits).

International Standard Music Number (ISMN): A thirteen-character alphanumeric identifier for printed music. A publication may be assigned both an ISBN and an ISMN.

International Standard Serial Number (ISSN): A unique eight-digit number used to identify a periodical publication (eg: journals, magazines and newspapers).

Legal deposit: The requirement, enforceable by law, to deposit with one or more specified agencies, copies of publications of all kind record used any medium by any process for public distribution, lease or sale.

Martin Wickramasinghe Collection: Books from the personal library of the well known Sri Lankan author; Martin Wickramasinghe.

National Colleges of Education (NCOE): A National College of Education is a pioneering Pre - Teacher Training Institute in Sri Lankan education system. These colleges produce skillful, knowledgeable professional teachers for the government schools, annually

Periodical: A publication with a distinctive title which appears to stated or regular intervals, without prior decision as to when the last issue shall appear. It contains articles, stories or other writings, by several contributors.

Pirivena libraries: Pirivenas are the monastic colleges for the education of (mainly) Buddhist priests in Sri Lanka. This was the earliest type of formal education institutions in the country.

Postgraduate Theses: Dissertations and Theses submitted for Sri Lankan or overseas Universities and Higher Education Institutions by Sri Lankans as part qualification for their postgraduate degree programmes. These have been acquired through the Theses Acquisitions project. Not all theses submitted to Sri Lankan Universities are collected through the programme.

Project to Purchase New Books: One of the main activities of the NLDSB is to donate books to libraries in Sri Lanka. These books are usually acquired in the form of an author-assistance project. Under this project, authors can request from NLDSB to consider purchasing of the books authored or translated by them.

Public Library: A library or library system that provides unrestricted access to library resources and services free of charge to all the residents of a given community, district, or geographic region, supported wholly or in part by public funds.

Publications Assistance Project: One of the main projects to support literary activities in the country, NLDSB provides monetary assistance for publishing selected manuscripts after a review process.

Rare book: A book so old, scarce or difficult to find that it seldom appears in the book markets. Among rare books may be included: incunabula, sixteenth to eighteenth century imprints, first edition, limited and deluxe editions, specially illustrated editions, books in fine bindings, unique copies, books of interest for their associations (local, regional, subject etc.)

School Library: An organized collection of books placed in a school for the use of teachers or pupils, but usually pupils. It may comprise books of reference and/or books for home reading, and be in the care of a professional librarian, teacher, or teacher librarian.

Teacher Training Colleges (TTC): A college of higher education that specializes in training students to be teachers.

Technical Colleges (TEC): a college that trains people for jobs in technology and other practical subjects

Types of Libraries: For the purpose of this booklet, NLDSB catagorises libraries as University (UNI), School (SCH), Public (PUB), Pirivena (PRV), Colleges of Education (CED), Technical Colleges (TEC), and Teacher Training Colleges (TTC) libraries.

University Library (UNI): A library or group of libraries established, maintained, and administrated by a university to meet the needs of its students and members of the academic staff.