



**A STUDY ON THE USAGE
OF THE SRI LANKA NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This is a study of the usage of the Sri Lanka National Bibliography (SLNB) in order to find out the type of users, purpose of use, factors that affect the usage and to find out ways and means of improving the usage of SLNB to make it a more useful source of information.

This study is based on a survey conducted by administering questionnaires to 87 librarians who were subscribers of the SLNB and 28 researchers (scholarly users) who had registered at the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL). Further the study has explored the historical background, objectives, present status, retrospective activities and compilation and distribution of SLNB by collecting data from secondary sources available.

It was found that the majority of librarians and library staff in *various* types of libraries use the SLNB while its use by the researchers and others is insignificant. Most librarians use it for their professional activities, specially as a tool for book selection and for reference purposes. It is used by the researchers mostly as a reference source.

The findings revealed that the main factors affecting SLNB's usage are, lack of awareness of its usefulness and importance as a source of information, and inadequate publicity.