

**STUDY TO DETERMINE THE EFFICIENT AND
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A LIBRARY
NETWORK IN SRI LANKA
FOR
BANKING AND FINANCE INFORMATION**

Research paper

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Abstract

There is an increasing demand for speedy and accurate banking and financial information in an open economic society. Over the past two decades bank Libraries in Sri Lanka have been working in cooperation with each other to obtain information required by their patrons. This worked effectively to exchange publications, borrow books and to get publications and information. But now, with the initiative taken by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), this corporative activity takes place as a network in a formal and organised manner.

CBSL Library and Information Centre has taken upon them to set out the objectives of this network project, select relevant participating libraries, and initiate activities to share resources. The main objective of this project is to improve and enhance services to the banking sector. By improving and enhancing services, it is expected to improve the professional skills and experience of participatory library staff. This would undoubtedly lead to value added products and services, image building and give more marketable services. CBSL Library has also implemented a simple performance monitoring system among network libraries

This study I carried out was to survey strengths and opportunities available for bank Library Managers overcome their weaknesses, by being involved in an efficient and effecting networking process. In this process current network status was carefully examined and this proposes practical implementation guidelines.

The methodology used for this study was by gathering information from banking and finance related information users, library and information service providers and those who should be financially and

administrative supporting such projects. Questionnaires and interviews¹ were used to gather information. Both published and gray material was examined to find current network systems connected to bank libraries.

It was felt that main success factors of this project were the proper understanding of the user needs, attitudes of banking and LIS (Library and Information Service) professionals, and also of those in senior management levels who provide administrative support to their organizational libraries. These requirements and features were then mapped to the services provided.

Within the literature reviewed there is evidence that network technology has added value to library network activities and also the value of the service of LIS professional for making information available and accessible.

This study highlights that the quality of skilled information personnel, their attitude and commitment to share and dispose services, their willingness to support the network consortium in its future endeavors and the ability to change with new management skills and technology as the major contributory factors for the success of the Banking and Finance related Information Network (BFinnet).

It reveals that any negative effects of the above contributory factors could be reduced to a greater degree by a spaced out implementation strategy. A well-designed project monitoring system is likely to arrive at successful milestones to achieve its objectives and the network to stay alive.

¹ See annexure 1-4 for sample questionnaires