A Critical Analysis of Resource Sharing and Networking of SLSTINET Activities

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MLS/97/02

Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies,

University of Colombo

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the

Degree of Master in Library and Information Sciences

2002

Abstract

The research study intends to examine whether the SLSTINET stands to serve the member institutions to meet the Expectations of them. The researcher is therefore to study the present situation of resource sharing and networking activities prevailing among SLSTINET libraries and to evaluate the effectiveness of SLSTINET. Having examined the data obtained in detail the study, consequently had proposed an innovative model and some feasible recommendations to develop the SLSTINET as an effective library network to serve the purpose.

The evaluation of the SLSTINET was conducted based on its objectives and selected criteria. The Likert's Method of summated stating has been used to measure the objectives statement of the SLSTINET. The effectiveness of the SLSTINET has been assessed by using chi-square test with 95% confidence level. For data collection 02 different structured questionnaires has been used. The study has found out the effectiveness of the SLSTINET is as $59.13\% \pm 4.24\%$ at 95% confidence level. As its effectiveness is found above 50%, so it is recommended to continue the network as worthwhile in the light of the recommendations given in this research study.

The co-operation between member libraries and information centers of the SLSTINET and their resources, products and services has also been studied in line with this research programme. The research includes the present status of computerization in the SLSTINET libraries. Although the computerization is at its preliminary stage, there is a tendency in advancement in utilization of Information and Communication Technology in SLSTINET libraries.

The study has also discovered the main resource sharing programme of the SLSTINET and identified problems it faces in the process of resource sharing among the SLSTINET libraries. The research study has produced some recommendations on improving resource sharing in SLSTINET libraries and ways and means of solving the problems identified in the cause of this study.

This study also concentrates on different aspects of Inter-Library Loan programme such as workflow and attitude of ILL staff. Researcher has found some reasons for the delay in ILL operations and recommends changes in the process of ILL. The study also suggested some inter-lending methods for sharing expensive foreign periodicals among the SLSTINET libraries.

This research study has build up an innovative model consisting of 03 major resourceful university libraries in Sri-Lanka as regional centres having connection with SLSTIC - the focal point of the network for better co-ordination and networking.