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Impact of the university library usage by undergraduates in Sri Lankan universities on their academic performance

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State University libraries in Sri Lanka are maintained in complex and large spaces incurring a great expense with the assistance of a big cadre. However, statistics reveal that use of university libraries for academic purposes by undergraduates is low. As these libraries are maintained by public funds, library authorities are responsible to demonstrate their value, contribution and effectiveness for the academic success of the undergraduates. Studies reveal that enhancing student motivation to use libraries positively affect their academic achievements. The primary objective of this research is to analyse patterns of impact on academic achievement by gender, faculty and usage type etc. Other different sources used by undergraduates to gather information for academic purpose will also be explored. Finally, it is intended to introduce a systematic way to enhance library use by demonstrating benefits. A sample of 1293 undergraduates from State Universities will attend the final survey. A pilot study was conducted using 20 undergraduates selected randomly from the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo. According to the pilot study, only one library usage type (use of photocopy, scanning and other utilities) shows a positive significant relationship with the academic performance of undergraduates. The detailed study will be carried out for obtaining more meaningful results.

Keywords: *academic performance, library usage, undergraduate studies*