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Theme: 'Changing Library Strategies for the New Generation of Users'

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Bibliometric study of Ananda Coomaraswamy: with special reference to Sri Lankan libraries

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&

Manori Samarakoon

ABSTRACT

The main objective of the percent study is to conduct bibliometric study of the Ananda Coomaraswamy (AC) & his academic work and to develop an online Database Management System (DBMS) which can be accessed *via* the World Wide Web.

Twenty (21) Sri Lankan libraries were selected as the sample using stratified random sampling technique. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), WEBOPACs, card catalogues and on-site visits were used to capture all related bibliographical data. The bibliography covers only the books, and the project will be extended to include relevant research articles as well as his art work.

The study was found that the library of University of Peradeniya houses maximum number of AC's scholarly work within Sri Lankan context and other selected libraries archive as much as his published titles as paying special tribute to his mastering contribution to the world history. Total number of 86 entries was available in the 21 libraries and 27 entries were published during the years 1926-1950.

Online bibliography of Ananda Coomaraswamy, named as an **"InforSys Ananda Coomaraswamy"** and researchers could find the bibliographic information *via* the following Uniform Resource Locaters http://thakshana.nsf.ac.lk/wwwisis/bisac/form.htm. http://www.libraryfriends.net/resources/.

Keywords: *Ananda Coomaraswamy Bibliography, Bibliographical Information System, Publications of Ananda Coomaraswamy, InforSys Ananda Coomaraswamy, WIN ISIS, Web Based Data Base Management Systems, Sri Lankan Libraries*

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the Murray Fowler (1947), Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy (1877-1947) was a Ceylonese philosopher and metaphysician, as well as a pioneering historian and philosopher of Indian arts, particularly arts history and symbolism, and an early interpreter of Indian culture to the West. On the other hand, Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy was one of the great arts historian of the twentieth century and there are multi-faceted bibliographical contents of Ananda Coomaraswamy (AC) as online, offline and printed forms.

Bibliometric is the quantitative study of written products of research. It is assumed that scientific subjects develop at an international research frontier (Price, 1963). Therefore, two main objectives of this study was to conduct a bibliometric study of the AC and develop a online bibliography of his academic work.

It is difficult to find bibliographical data of him which can be accessible within the Sri Lankan context. In order to fill this gap, an online Data Base Management System (DBMS) has been created for utilizing bibliographical data of AC's and to obtain accessible details of them through Sri Lankan libraries.

2. OBJECTIVES

Two main objectives of this study was to conducted a bibliometric study of Ananda Coomaraswamy and develop a Online Data Base Management System (DBMS) which can be accessed *via* the World Wide Web. It will help all researchers as a dynamic searching tool for all documented publications related to the foremost Art historian of the 20th Century, Dr.Ananda Coomaraswamy (AC) and his academic and artistic work.

According to the first main objective of this study, bibliometric analysis was done under the *entry types, entry locations, distribution year* and *subjects*. Second objective was discussed under the AC's online bibliography.

7.1 Entry types

According to the analysis of data, it was found that the total number of 86 entries were available in twenty one (21) libraries in Sri Lanka. Following Table 1.1 shows the entry types of the Ananda Coomaraswamy's (AC) academic works. All entries represented the books (Monograph).

Entry Type	Number of entries	Percentage (%)
AC	80	93
Others	06	07
Total	***86***	100

Table 1.1: Entry Types

According to Table 1.1, 93% was represented the AC's bibliographical data and next 7% was represented the AC's work which were done by others. Following Figure 1.1 describes it further.

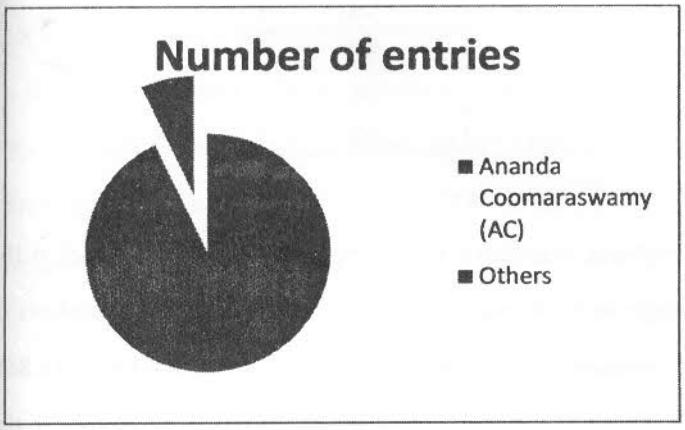


Figure 1.1: *Entry Types*

7.2 Distribution by location

Table 1.2 shows the locations of the availability of the Ananda Coomaraswamy's monograph entries. This will be advantageous to Sri Lankan researchers to find out availability of his works without going physically to the library.

Name of Libraries	No of Entries
Budhdha Srawaka Bhiksu University Library(BBU)	22
Buddhist & Pali University Library(BPU)	14
Colombo Public Library (CPL)	01
D.S Public Library, Kandy (DSPBL)	01
Jaffna University Library (JUL)	35
Mahaweli National College (MNC)	01
National Lib. & Doc. Services Board(NLSDB)	28
National Museum Library (NML)	24
Open University Library (OUSLL)	03
Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology Library (PGIARL)	28
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Library (RJL)	15
Royal Asiatic Society Library(RASL)	19
Sabaragamuwa University Library (SUL)	09
South Eastern University Library (SEUL)	01
University of Colombo Library (UCL)	28
University of Kelaniya Library (UKL)	33
University of Moratuwa Library (UML)	21
University of Peradeniya Library (UPL)	54
University of Ruhuna Library (URUL)	30
University of Sri Jayawardanapra Library (USJPL)	36
Wayamba University Library (WUL)	02

Table: 1.2 Locations of the availability

According to the above Table 1.2, first highest numbers of 54 entries were available in the University of Peradeniya Library. Percentage wise it was 62.79%. Second highest numbers of entries were available in University of Sri Jayawardanapura Library. It represented the 41.86% percentage of the total number of entries. Third highest number of entries was available in the library of the University of Jaffna and It was 40.10%.

It is found that the Library of University of Peradeniya houses maximum number of AC's scholarly works within Sri Lankan context and other most selected libraries archive his many titles as a special tribute for his mastering contribution to the world.

7.3 Distribution by year

Table 1.3 shows the years and number of availability of the Ananda Coomaraswamy's monograph entries.

Year	No of Entries
1904-1925	26
1926-1950	27
1951-1975	7
1976-2000	23
2001-2008	3

Table: 1.3 Distributions by Year

According to the above Table 1.3, First highest 27 number of entries were published during the years of 1926-1950. Second highest 26 numbers of entries and third highest 23 number of entries were published during the years of 1904-1925 and 1976-2000 respectively.

7.4 Distribution by the subject

Table 1.4 shows the subjects availability of the Ananda Coomaraswamy's monograph entries. According to that, highest number of entries represented the Arts subject. Entry wise it was 34. Sociology subjects are the secondary highest available subject within the sample. But there was a big gap between these subjects. Hence, Ananda Coomaraswamy has written majority of books under the Arts discipline. Other than those areas he has written books on Archeology, Architecture, Buddhism, and Fine Arts, Eschatology, Hinduism, Geology, Iconography, Mineralogy and Philosophy.

Subjects	No of Entries
Archeology	05
Aesthetics arts	03
Architecture	05
Arts	34
Buddhism	05
Fine arts	04
Eschatology	01
Hinduism	03
Geology	02
Iconography	01
Mineralogy	02
Museology	02
Philosophy	04
Religion	05
Sociology	10

Table: 1.4 Subjects availability

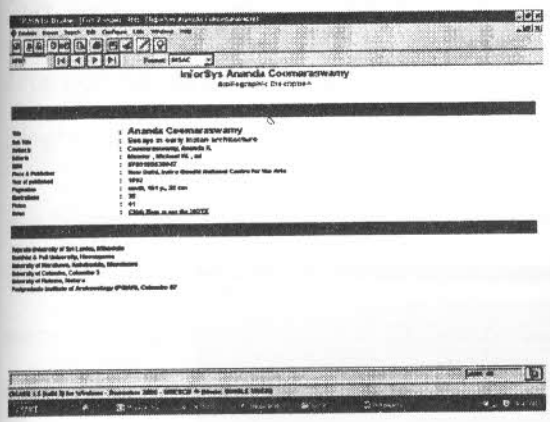
8. ONLINE BIOGRAPHY OF AC

Bibliography of Anada Coomaraswamy is an Online Bibliographical Information System of Ananda Coomaraswamy's scholarly works and this is named as an ***"InforSys Ananda Coomaraswamy".*** Picture 1.1 shows the official logo of the bibliography.

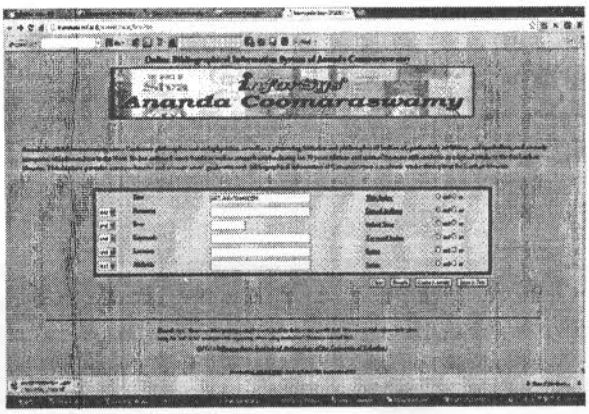
Picture1.1: Official Logo of the Online Bibliography

Collected data were fed into the master file named "BISAC" using two worksheets named "Book" and "Lib". The display formats arranged according to the International Stranded Book Description (ISBD) .There were two interfaces and named as an online and offline. Online interface was created using GenISIS Data Base, while offline interface was created using CDS/ISIS for Windows (WinISIS). Both applications were introduced and updated by UNESCO provided download facility free of charge to the libraries and similar organizations specially located in the Developing Countries. Screen shots of Offline and online bibliography can be seen

bellow.



Picture 1.2: WinISIS Interface



Picture 1.3: GenISIS Online Interface

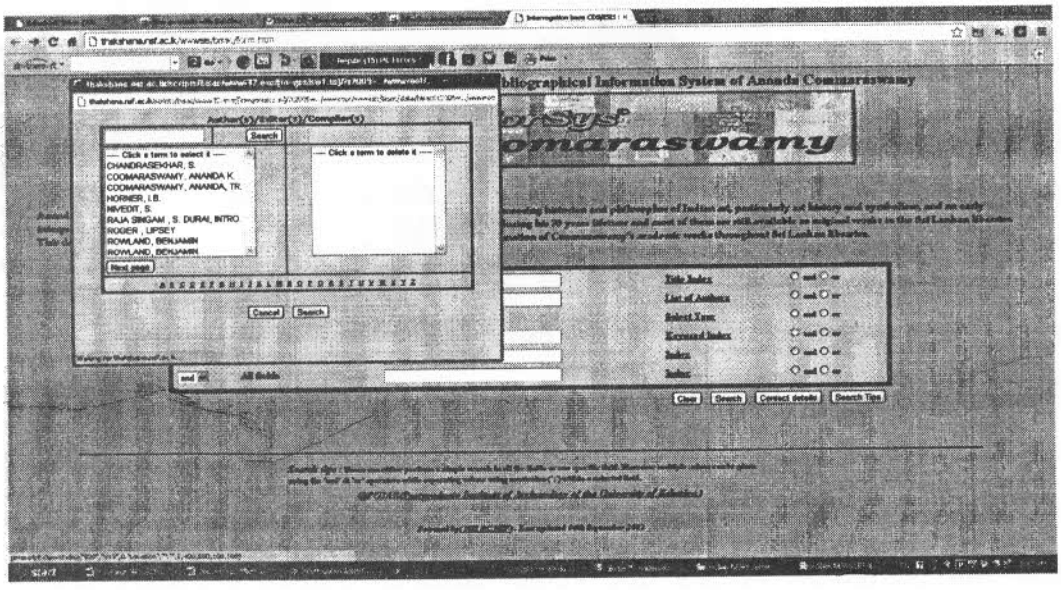
This *"InforSys Ananda Coomaraswamy"* bibliography is hosted by the Sri Lanka National Science Foundation (NSF) in its official server. This powerful Online Searching Interface provides comprehensive bibliographical information of the project and as well as their accessibility information about his scholarly works (Books) within Sri Lankan Library Context. InforSys AC is compatible both the Boolean and truncation searching modes and users can retrieve information *via* Keywords, Titles, Accessible Libraries or publishing years of the work *etc.*

8.1 Bibliographic Data Covered by InforSys AC

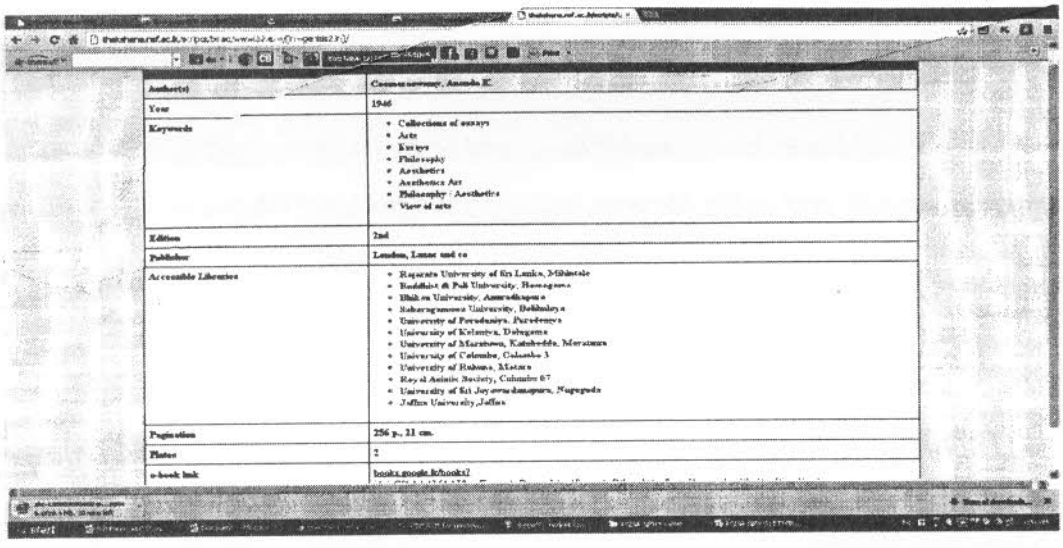
- *Bibliographical data of books authored by AC or edited by contemporaries can be seen at the academic, special and public libraries including the National Library of SL*
- *Publishing Data of above works.*
- *Pagination, ISBN and Republishing Data of above works.*
- *Names of the Libraries (Through the CODE) which can be accessible to those books within Sri Lankan Library Context. (It is covered at least one or more library for each province of SL)*
- *Relative Keywords help to retrieve the appropriate work.*

Therefore, this bibliography shows title of the book, sub title, authors of the work, publishing data as well as pagination clearly and consequently with the code of accessible library list. This bibliography covered following details.

8.2 Screens Shouts of Bibliographic Details



Picture 1.4: Searching Online Database



Picture 1.5: Result of the searching

9. FINDINGS

Total number of 86 entries were available in twenty one (21) libraries and it was covered large geographical areas in Sri Lanka .

It is found that the Library of the University of Peradeniya houses maximum number of AC's scholarly works (54 entries) within Sri Lankan context and other selected libraries archive his many titles as paying special tribute for his mastering contribution to the world. Percentages wise it was 62.79%, 41.86% and 40.10%. These highest entries were available in Peradeniya, Sri Jayawardanapura and University of Jaffna libraries respectively.

According to the analysis ,93% was represented the AC's bibliographical data and next 7% was represented the AC's work which were done by others.

Majority of 34 number of entries represented the Arts subject. In addition to that, Archeology, Architecture, Buddhism, and Fine Arts, Eschatology, Hinduism, Geology, Iconography, Mineralogy and Philosophy etc., different subjects also were represented. Limited number of books translated in to Sinhala language.

This Online Bibliography can be used as a powerful online searching interface which provides comprehensive bibliographical information on the subject. Researchers can find the bibliographic information via fallowing URLs http://thakshana.nsf.ac.lk/wwwisis/bisac/form.htm / http://www.libraryfriends.net/resources/

10. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

This bibliography covers only the books, and the project will be extended to relevant research articles as well as his art works.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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