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Functionality of Library Buildings in Sri Lanka: A comparative study.

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research is to study and evaluate the functional role of the library building structures in Sri Lanka. A university library plays a pivotal role in storing and providing knowledge and education in a country. It is so imperative that the library buildings should be structured as to meet its functions and services.

The study mainly proposes to observe the state-of-the-art functionality of library buildings in Sri Lanka and to explore the favorable factors of the university library building set up in Sri Lanka. Specifically it seeks to identify the problems and shortcomings which adversely impact the functionality of library building complexes in the university libraries in an attempt to present measures and steps that can be taken to improve their functionality.

The method followed for this study was the survey research. The population of the study was the academic staff working in selected university libraries and the university students. Primary data was collected circulating two structured questionnaires among the first year and final year students, the Librarians, the Senior Assistant Librarians and the Assistant Librarians.

The overall findings indicate that the staff and the users are satisfied with the situation of the current library buildings. But there is room for further improvement in the functionality status of the library buildings, surmounting the prevalent shortcomings. Also, before planning a library building, the librarian and other library professional staff should pay more attention to the location of the building, construction, landscaping, interior arrangement, lighting, furniture and equipment.

Presentation of a proposal by a Librarian for planning a new library complex presupposes the need for him / her to be well – served in the library functions, working capacity, space and combination of duties, staff needs and user needs.

Keywords : Univesity library , Univesity library building, Library architecture, Library decoration, University library building planning

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