

Revitalizing National Library services in Tamil speaking areas through Regional National Libraries (RNLs) – Sri Lankan perspective

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Abstract

National libraries have special responsibilities within a nation's library and information system. In Sri Lanka, NLSL is moving towards transforming the library and information services at grass root level by delegating its powers and responsibilities to periphery. In this connection, this study intended to examine the reach of NLSL's services to the people in the Tamil speaking areas of the country with special reference to the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, and propose appropriate measures to improve the situation. A survey method was employed. In addition, related primary and secondary resources were also consulted. Findings revealed that services of the NLSL have not been adequately reached the Tamil speaking areas of the country, due to language barrier and unavailability of Tamil staff in the managerial and decision-making levels at NLSL. To overcome these drawbacks, establishing *Regional National Libraries* in the Tamil speaking areas is proposed. This venture could be undertaken in collaboration with Provincial councils of the regions. Moreover, a detail proposal for the establishment of *Regional National Library for Northern Province (RNLN)* is also presented.

Keywords: National libraries, National Library of Sri Lanka, Regional National Libraries, Sri Lanka