

University Library Building Planning In Sri Lanka:

A Comparative Study

K. R. N. Harshani

Faculty of Applied Sciences Library, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

wimukasi@yahoo.com

Library is cultural centre for a community. It is known as the heart of an educational institution. (Mishra, 2004) mainly university library is a place which shares universal knowledge and provides information for students and academic staff for their education and research purposes. Planning a library building is the most important responsibility of librarianship. Mainly the university library is expected to cater to the varied needs and requirements of undergraduate, post- graduate, research scholars and other academic and non- academic library members. The collection of university library consists of books connected with their subject related information as well as research and teaching needs. In addition university library occupies recreational and literary sources too.

The primary objective of the study is to find out state of the art of planning a university library building in Sri Lanka. The second objective is to find out favorable factors which contribute toward the university library buildings planning in Sri Lanka. This was done as a survey research. Primary data was collected circulating two structured questionnaires among the first year, final year student, librarians, senior assistant librarians and assistant librarians.

When the data were analyzed it was found that the librarian and the architect should need to work closely to understanding of the requirements of library system. As well as librarians must have to knowledge about the library functions, space, working capacity, combination of the duties, staff needs and user needs.

Key words: *University library, University library building*