

# *Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Centre (SLSTIC) of the National Science Council of Sri Lanka*

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The National Science Council has expanded its Documentation and Information Division into a Scientific and Technical Information Centre. The basic objective of this Centre, which is designated the Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Centre (SLSTIC) is to collect, process and disseminate information relating to Science and Technology.

SLSTIC fulfils this objective by (a) library resource development (b) coordinating with other libraries and (c) providing information and documentation services.

SLSTIC does not intend to build up a comprehensive collection of books, periodicals, etc., as it would lead to duplication of resources available in other libraries. Instead, it concentrates on subject areas which are not covered by other local libraries in order to fill the gaps in the library resources of the country. Three special subject areas have been identified by SLSTIC for information development, namely, *Science Policy*, *Science Education* and *Environment*. Apart from these collections, SLSTIC endeavours to develop a collection of reference books which are not available in most other local libraries.

With the cooperation of other local scientific and technical libraries, SLSTIC has initiated a National Science Information Network. This network helps SLSTIC as well as other libraries to exchange and transfer information and to share their resources with a view to utilizing locally available information sources in the most economical way. Hence, SLSTIC'S information and documentation services are not restricted to its own stocks.

Some of the current activities of SLSTIC and the services provided by it to scientific personnel in Sri Lanka are as follows:

## **Union Catalogue**

In keeping with its objectives of coordinating the resources of Sri Lanka libraries, SLSTIC has inaugurated the compilation of a Union Catalogue of Scientific and Technical books in Sri Lanka. This is the first of its kind compiled in Sri Lanka.

At present 20 libraries send information about their new acquisition to SLSTIC to be included in the Union Catalogue.

This Union Catalogue helps to locate locally available

scientific books, promotes inter-library lending, avoids duplication of materials, etc. Additions to the catalogue are published in a quarterly bulletin (Current Science Bulletin) which is distributed among the participating libraries.

## **Union List of Periodicals**

This is a Central Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Periodicals acquired by the libraries in Sri Lanka. Whereas the union catalogue records the book acquisitions, the union list will record the periodicals. This is being compiled and would be issued shortly.

## **Indexing of Scientific Literature**

One of the earliest services started by SLSTIC is the indexing of local scientific literature. The main objective of this service is to record and analyse the national output of scientific and technical literature. The information is issued in the form of a quarterly bulletin ..... The Sri Lanka Science Index.

SLSTIC's national indexing service is designed to include all forms of published and unpublished documents, giving special emphasis to periodical articles, conference reports, research reports, newspaper articles, etc.

## **Reports Depository**

Work on building up a national depository for scientific and technical reports has been started. This collection includes R & D reports issued by scientific and technical institutions, seminar and conference documents and reports prepared by individual research workers.

SLSTIC has received reports issued by Scientific and Technical Institutions through more than 100 coordinating officers nominated by the institutions concerned for this purpose.

## **Inter-library lending**

One of the services provided by SLSTIC to local scientists is lending of reading materials. SLSTIC borrows books from other libraries, too, for the purpose of lending. Requests for inter-library loans should be made by the library of which the requestor is a member. Inter-library lending facilities have been granted to SLSTIC by more than 25 libraries.

### **Photocopying Services** (locally available publications)

SLSTIC undertakes the supply of photocopies of scientific documents at comparatively low rates. This service includes the location and procurement of the original document for copying. Requests for photocopies could be sent by post.

### **Photocopy Procurement Service:** (documents not available locally)

When the original is not available locally SLSTIC endeavours to procure photocopies from foreign sources. The British Lending Library which holds a vast collection of periodicals and reports has been selected by SLSTIC for obtaining photocopies. Payments can be made to SLSTIC in local currency for this service.

### **Environmental Information Service**

For the benefit of scientists who are engaged in research and study on various aspects of the environment, SLSTIC has inaugurated an Environmental Information Service. A survey of information requirements to evaluate the interests of individual scientists is being carried out by SLSTIC. These scientists will be supplied with information relating to their fields of interest.

A quarterly, Environmental Acquisitions, is published and distributed among scientists in the relevant fields.

### **Annual Reports**

One of the functions of the information centre is to maintain an organised collection of annual reports of Scientific and Technical Institutions. This collection now consists of more than 500 annual reports of various institutions.

### **Library Services**

Apart from the above special information services, SLSTIC performs the usual library services to its members. Literature searches, compilation of bibliographies, and provision of reference facilities are some of these services.

### **Publications**

SLSTIC prepares several occasional and regular publications. Besides the documents produced by SLSTIC, other publications of the National Science Council are also available for sale or for reference at SLSTIC. Among them are the following

#### *(a) Information Bulletins*

Sri Lanka Science Index (Quarterly)  
(described above)

Current Science Bulletin (Quarterly)  
(described above)

### **Environmental Acquisitions (Quarterly)** (described above)

#### *(b) Directories*

Directory of Scientific & Technical Personnel-1974

Directory of Scientific Research Projects 1970-73

Directory of Scientific Research Institutions  
in Sri Lanka - 1976.

Current Foreign Science Serials in Sri Lanka  
1975.

Sri Lanka Scientific & Technical Periodicals  
Directory.

Union List of S & T Abstracting and Indexing  
Services in Sri Lanka libraries.

Directory of Scientific & Technical Libraries  
in Sri Lanka.

#### *(c) Seminar Reports*

Environmental Management in Sri Lanka.  
Science Policy and Planning  
Man and his Environment  
Sun-drying Methodology

#### *(d) Periodicals*

Journal of the National Science Council  
of Sri Lanka (Bi-annual)  
Vidurava (Quarterly)

### **(12) Future Activities**

SLSTIC has planned to undertake the following tasks in the future:

*(a) Patent Procurement Service* ..... to supply foreign patents and patent literature at the request of libraries and individual scientists.

*(b) Procurement of translations* ..... to obtain translations of scientific and technical articles in foreign periodicals on request.

*(c) Panel of translators* ..... to appoint a panel of translators who would undertake translation of scientific documents.

*(d) Audio-visual services* ..... the centre will collect audio-visual material which will be accessible to other libraries.

*(e) Training Service* ..... the centre will provide in-service training for library personnel.