

Provision of Current Awareness Services by Special Libraries: A Study based on Colombo District

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A special library provides services and specialized information regarding the particular subject to users. Among various Services which are provided by Special library, CAS and SDI services are important. Current awareness is a process whereby the user is kept abreast of the latest literature in his/her field or subject. The main objectives of the study are to identify the most frequently provided service of CAS and SDI services, recognize the objectives of providing the most frequency used service (CAS and SDI), find out the availability CAS in selected libraries and barriers which librarians face when providing CAS. The study based on survey method. Questionnaires were used for data collection. SPSS was used analyzed the collected data. Under the survey research method, 25 special libraries were used as the sample. As the result of the study, most of the libraries provide CAS. The objectives of providing CAS are save the user's time, provide trustworthy information to users and fulfill user's information needs commonly. Most of the libraries provided CAS by displaying new arrivals, paper clipping service, inform ongoing research, making aware of the seminars to be held and Content Page Service. E-mail, social media, and library websites are used to provide CAS. The problems of libraries are lack of human resources to provide services, gab between staff and users and lack of awareness among students about services which are provided by library. The study suggests that, librarians should take possible action on this issue in order to provide effective services. Special training programs to be organized for library staff to improve working efficiency. Marketing tool like, hand books, leaflet to issued for readers to make them aware about the services.

Keywords: Special libraries, Current awareness service, Information services, Library marketing, Information sources.