

***The Problems of Resource Sharing in Sri-lanka : the case among Scientific and Technical Libraries**

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Abstract

This article briefly describes the main resource sharing programme of the “Sri-Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Network” (SLSTINET) and examines the problems it faces in the process of resource sharing among the Scientific and Technical Libraries in Sri-Lanka. The article ends with recommendations on how to improve resource sharing in SLSTINET libraries and ways and means of solving the problems identified in the cause of this study.

Keywords: Library networks, Resource sharing programme, problems of resource sharing, Scientific & Technical Libraries, Sri-Lanka

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Sri-Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Network known as “SLSTINET”, is the national Library & Information Network of Science and Technology in Sri-Lanka. SLSTINET is the brainchild of the “Sri-Lanka Scientific & Technical Information Centre” (SLSTIC) of National Science foundation.

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SLSTINET is a subject-oriented network, using mostly manual system for its operations. Computer and telecommunication technologies are partially exploited for the SLSTINET.

However resource sharing and exchanging activities are taking place, whether or not the new technologies are applied in the library networks. In the present era of advanced technology development, the application of information technology for communications has created an environment for rapid information exchange and transfer in a convenient form to a requesting patron even at a remote location. This phenomena has influenced library/ information networks to send and receive information and exchange resources quickly.

The SLSTINET consists of libraries across the nation, having a common interest in disciplines related to Science and Technology. The network brings together libraries to serve the institutions, involved in scientific and technical field, while maintaining better service to their own individual institutions. As a library and information network, SLSTINET having a group of 98 member libraries, share resources, develops services and produces some products and services.

Williams, J.G defines the library context of resource sharing as “the process by which two or more entities accommodate one another to approach a mutually satisfactory condition.”¹

De Silva, W.R.G. describes the goals of resource sharing in a nutshell as

“the goals of resource sharing are varied and the net result is a positive effect on all participating libraries. The library user would have access to more materials and services. The participating libraries would be able to provide increased service at a reduced cost than if undertaken individually. These goals have to be achieved without any harm been caused to the missions of the participating libraries.”²

This research study explores the main resource sharing programme of the SLSTINET and examines the problems it faces in the process of resource sharing among the Scientific and Technical Libraries in Sri-Lanka. The research study further recommend for improving the resource sharing among SLSTINET libraries and ways and means of solving the problems identified in the cause of this study.

02. SRI-LANKA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION NETWORK (SLSTINET)

The SLSTINET consists of libraries across the nation, having a common interest in disciplines related to Science and Technology. The network brings together libraries to serve the institutions, involved in scientific and technical field, while maintaining better service to their own individual institutions. As a library and information network, SLSTINET having a group of 98 members libraries, share resources, develops services and produces some products and services.

2.1 Historical Background of the SLSTINET

The history of the library networks in Sri-Lanka is very closely associated with establishment of Sri-Lanka Scientific & Technical Information Centre (SLSTIC) of the National Science Foundation. (NSF).

SLSTINET is the brainchild of the SLSTIC of National Science foundation. The origin of the SLSTINET may be traced back to the meeting of the librarians representing from 20 scientific and technical institutions, held on 28th June 1977.

2.2 The Structure and Mechanism of the SLSTINET

SLSTINET is the Library & information network formed as a group of Libraries serving Scientific and Technical Institutions of Sri-lanka. The gradual developments of the SLSTINET over the past 25 years are described with regard to its structure and mechanism for resource sharing and networking. This information was gathered from the NSF through the structured questionnaire and the brochure of the SLSTINET.

2.2.1 The Scope of the Network

SLSTINET started as a library and Information network for Scientific & Technical user community of Sri-lanka with the aim of providing cooperative services and sharing & exchanging library materials, expertise and equipments for the economic use of the available resources for the betterment of the user community. It was expected that SLSTINET will not only facilitate in exchanging bibliographic information among members, but will also provide various products and services to its user groups to satisfy their information needs.

2..2.2 Objectives of the SLSTINET

The main aim of the SLSTINET is to establish a sectoral network for sharing and exchanging Scientific and Technological Information among the participants of the SLSTINET. They will also provide various products and services to its user groups to satisfy their information needs. The main objectives, of the SLSTINET are;

- i) “to support the building of effective information infrastructure in the field of Science and Technology
- ii) to provide leadership in organization of information on the Scientific & Technical subset of the national information super highway
- iii) to help end users to define their needs, and to learn to use the available system and gain access to the information they need
- iv) to facilitate for sharing resources available at member libraries.”³

2..2.3 Membership of the SLSTINET and Participating Institution

The Scientific and technical libraries, documentation centres and information centers in the country were invited to join the SLSTINET. These libraries exist to serve specialized users, interested on Scientific and technical information. These libraries exist to serve the users of the Universities, academic institutions, research institutions, learned societies, government department and industrial firms. Membership is open to all the Scientific & Technical libraries in Sri-lanka. These libraries are expected to serve the governmental and no-governmental institutions.

2.2.4 User groups

The users of the SLSTINET are the research workers, scientist, undergraduates, postgraduates and other specialist of the Scientific and Technical Libraries of Sri-lanka. In this way this programme is designed to find out ways and means of serving these user groups.

2.2.5 Organizational Structure of the SLSTINET

This section describes the organizational structure of the SLSTINET and its mechanism on which the SLSTINET has been operated since 1977 to-date.

2.2.5.1 The Management

The management committee of the SLSTINET is consisting of the three sub-committee and a coordinating Secretariat to manage its affairs effectively. They are as follows

i. Policy Committee: - All the members of the Board of Directors of the National science Foundations are the members of this committee. This committee is responsible for formulating the principles related to the implementation of the programme of the SLSTINET. This committee formulates the objectives, funding sources and identifying the parameters of the SLSTINET. It also appoints other sub-committees.

ii. Planning Committee: - The standing committee on the Scientific & Technical Information is virtually functioning as the planning committee. The Board of Directors of the National science Foundations appoint this committee. i.e. The Policy Committee appoints this committee. This committee designs the activities, programme, work plan, procedures , standards and norms.

iii. Implementation committee: - This committee is appointed through the system of electing members among the Librarians of the participants of SLSTINET. The policy-making committee only decides on selection of the new members of the SLSTINET on the recommendation of the planning committee.

iv. Coordinating Centre or Focal Point:- The SLSTIC of the NSF is the Secretariat or the Coordinating centre of the SLSTINET. This centre is coordinating the activities and programme of the SLSTINET. This centre only coordinates and communicates with the members of the SLSTINET. This Coordinating centre also links and activates these sub committees in the matter of managing the SLSTINET.

2.2.5.2 Types of Network – SLSTINET

The SLSTINET is a centralized network of 97 Scientific and Technical libraries with SLSTIC as the coordinating centre of the network. Here the information is disseminated from a central source to its members. SLSTINET is a kind of combination of directed and non-directed network. Here the network members have a choice to either contact the coordinating centre or fellow members directly for recourse sharing and information transfer.

2.2.5.3 Geographical boundary of the SLSTINET

The SLSTINET is the national network. The Scientific and Technical Institutions exist in and around the Sri-Lanka can become the members of the SLSTINET. The territory of the Sri-lanka is the geographical boundary of the network.

2.3 Finance

The SLSTINET was established and has been operated without a definite budget. SLSTINET does not have any dedicated fund. The operational and maintenance cost are being borne up by the SLSTIC of the NSF.

2.4 Location & Building

The SLSTIC building is being used for the SLSTINET functions and activities. It does not have separate building.

2.5 Staff

The staff of the SLSTIC contributes and helps the SLSTINET to function properly and carry out functions and activities.

2.6 Communication

SLSTINET has been organizing periodic meetings to discuss their problems and future development plan. SLSTINET has been publishing the News Letter and distributed them among its members for better communication and understanding.

2.7 Development of the SLSTINET

The enrolment of membership of the SLSTINET has been steadily increasing. SLSTINET created a forum for scientific and technical librarians to discuss their various problems in information handling. SLSTINET organized several training and workshop programme for the personnel development of the librarian and their user community. It also, formulated standards and norms in order to have system of exchanging resources and information among the participants. SLSTIC has undertaken to publish home pages for the participants of the network. SLSTINET organized corporate programme for its development. Besides, it also has formed several sectoral- networks in the umbrella of the SLSTINET. They were AGRINET for Agricultural Libraries, RERINET for Renewable Energy & Resources, TECHNINET for technical libraries. The RERINET and TECHNINET are now abandoned and not functioning. SLSTINET also gave a helping hand in establishing and operating the HELLIS and ENLINET.

2.8 SLSTINET Today

SLSTINET consists of 98 member libraries across the country at present. Its headquarter is the SLSTIC of the NSF in Colombo. SLSTIC is also the coordinating or focal point of the SLSTINET. It is being operated with participation of 98 member libraries of the Scientific and Technical Institution in Sri Lanka.

3.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The SLSTINET has been serving its users continuously for the last 28 years since 1977 to-date, and thus having plenty of opportunities to offer better services to its members. It was therefore felt useful to identify and evaluate its resource sharing programme in the context of networking activities and services to determine whether SLSTINET remains effective and that it responds to the needs of the users, which it serves. This study may also reveal the shortcomings and problems while the Scientific and Technical Libraries exchange the resources and services among them. This study also recommend the ways and means to promote its activities to make the SLSTINET an effective system.

Therefore, new approaches are necessary to develop an effective coordination and resource sharing system at national level, especially in the light of developing the SLSTINET and make suggestions for the developments of the SLSTINET.

3.2 Statement of the Problem and Its Significance

Scientific and Technical libraries in Sri-Lanka are responsible to serve their clientele for their learning, teaching and research by fulfilling the information needs of them. This situation made the libraries to look into the network based resource- sharing as an alternative to stand-alone mode of acquisitions of materials. This way, the available resources would be utilized to the maximum, as stated “The sharing of resources through networking is regarded today as the most practical way of utilizing available resources to meet the increasing demand for information⁴”

Information is also scattered in several places or sources. Information available in the country is not conveniently organized for easy access. Hence users find it difficult to obtain the needed and relevant information from a single source. This problem could be solved to some extent by forming an information network with common objectives and aims. This may lead the libraries and information centers to access to regional, national, international and foreign databases.

The availability of information at right time in the desired format to a correct person is of prime importance, which, the library should take into consideration in planning and designing library services. Access to information has therefore become a fundamental human right. The library and information centers can come to the rescue of readers by removing the possible barriers and thus facilitating free flow of information among the Scientific and Technical Libraries in Sri-lanka.

3.3 Objectives

The researcher intends to examine the following objectives;

01. To study the resource sharing activities among SLSTINET libraries.
02. To identify the problems that SLSTINET encounter in the process of resource-sharing and exchange of information.

3.4 Research Questions

In this research study, the following research questions were used to gather data to cover each specific objective so that comprehensive answers to them could be provided. Research questions are as follows;

1. What are the resources sharing activities operating among SLSTINET libraries?
2. Are there problems the SLSTINET encounters in the process of resource sharing and exchange of information and what are they?

3.5 Selection of the Study Area and Population

The member institutions of the SLSTINET are purposively selected as the study area. This includes Science faculty libraries of the universities, libraries of the Scientific & Technical research institutions and other libraries having Scientific & Technical collection. All participating librarians of the SLSTINET were taken as the study population.

4.0 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A number of primary and secondary sources both published and unpublished, were consulted for the purpose of this work. In considering the scope and objectives of the study, this literature review covers the resource sharing activities in general, historical background, evaluative studies.

IFLA proceedings on resource sharing of libraries in developing countries held in 1977 resolved that “resource sharing on a regional basis could often benefit developing countries.”⁵

The University of Pittsburgh carried out a survey of over 150 library networks in the USA and Canada in 1977. It revealed the following functions or resource sharing activities of library networks.

“the library networks, most frequently performed. ILL, reference, delivery, acquisition, union list, continuous education, bibliographic access, photocopy, circulation, communications, publications, cataloguing, processing, storage, literature searching, collection development, abstracting/indexing, referral, consulting, accounting and management, and microfilming.”⁶

Vickery, B.C. pinpoint the range of possible resource sharing activities from a library and information network. It is a very kind of clear and brief statement of the resource sharing activities or function of any library or information network.

“Documents, which may be: loanable stock; non-loanable (reference stock, private reports, manuscripts, rare books, etc) photocopies, translations, reference to documents (bibliographic descriptions or abstract), data information, extract from documents, location of information sources (experts, specialized institutions, other libraries)”⁷

Swell, P.H.⁸ denotes that the poor transport services, unreliable telephone connection and poor postal services as the common constrains and these inhibit ILL and other resource sharing activities. He further identified financial services, the absence of legislation on legal deposit or authorizing ILL, shortage of skilled manpower and the shortage of relevant publication, call for government action for their removal are also the constrains, encountered when doing resource sharing activities.

Bandara, H.M.⁹ has done a research study on “The National Library of Sri-Lanka: possibilities of establishing a national information network”. In this study the researcher has reveals that resource-sharing activities were limited to ILL and compilation of acquisition tools.

Ranasinghe, R.H.I.S¹⁰ has done a research study on “The Possibilities of Resource Sharing among University Libraries in Sri-Lanka”. The study found out that the inadequate funds, lack of communication methods, inadequacy existing resources, no over all plan for resource sharing, lack of library services, distance among libraries, lack of properly trained staff, equipment failure and un co-operative attitudes & policies as the constrains the University libraries are facing in the resource sharing process.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data-Gathering Activities

The data for the research study generated using Survey Research Method.

The researcher collected qualitative and quantitative data through structured questionnaires, Interview and Records available in the library, in this study.

3.2 Field Survey

In the first phase of this study, the questionnaires were sent to some libraries. Researcher too visited 75% of the participants of the resource sharing and networking of the SLSTINET and explained the questionnaire. After 02 months, only 25% of the questionnaire had been received. So a follow –up letter with a copy of the questionnaire were sent off again to those who did not respond. The researcher further contacted such participants over the phone. In 04 months time the number of the responses reached 72%. The visits to the participants' libraries enabled the author to test the questionnaire and to confirm that it was well understood.

3.3 Research Plan

3.3.1 Resource Sharing Programme

The common resource sharing programme of library networks were identified through literature survey about library networks. Resource sharing activities of the SLSTINET were also found out by interviewing the Co-ordinating Centre. These activities and general function of the networks were extracted and included in the questionnaire. The respondents were asked to tick off the respective function/activities in which the particular member institutions of the SLSTINET involve and the column was given to write the other activities in which the SLSTINET members involve.

3.3.2 Problems in Resource Sharing and Networking

The study also intends in finding the problem that hinders the resource sharing and co-operative activities in the SLSTINET. The common resource sharing problems of library networks were identified through literature survey and by interviewing the Co-ordinating Centre and few librarians. These problems identified were included in the questionnaire. The respondents were asked to tick off the problems that hinder them in resource sharing and networking effectively. The problems were identified and indicated by the respondents. The questions in the part C of the Section III are provided in the questionnaire for this purpose. i.e. what are the problems your library is facing in the process of resource sharing and networking?

4.0 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

Statistical and other reports were also obtained from the co-ordinating centre. The study relies on quantitative and qualitative methods in-order to analyze the data to arrive at the conclusion on the research study. The following sections provide a detailed description of the study methodology used, including description of the data-collection activities, and data analysis. These multiple data collecting techniques enabled the researcher to find out the answers to the research problems.

4.1 Products & Services of the SLSTINET

SLSTINET has undertaken various activities of the resource-sharing programme to benefit its members. The following products and services of the SLSTINET were identified in this study.

I. Co-operative programmes

1) Co-operative acquisition

The Abstracting and Indexing journals are high cost publications and access to these materials is very limited as the research users only refer these types of materials. Therefore SLSTINET has decided to acquire these expensive abstracting and indexing journals through a co-operative acquisition of the members. The participants were requested first to identify their field of interest. Thereafter these journals were acquired through cooperation among them. These items were exchanged among the institutions and used economically. The cooperative acquisition programme is not in operation at the moment due to the uncooperative attitude of the members.

2) Union List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals (UNILIST)

The Union List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals available in the SLSTINET Libraries was compiled by the participation of the SLSTINET members. It lists about 6300 Scientific and Technical Periodicals held by the 54 libraries in Sri-lanka. This is a very useful tool in sharing the periodical articles among the users of the SLSTINET institutions. The patrons of the SLSTINET institutions request the periodical articles via Inter-Library- Loan and enjoy the services of the SLSTINET.

3) Union Catalogue of Books (UNICAST)

SLSTIC also compiled Union Catalogue of Books (UNICAST) of the Scientific and Technical Libraries in Sri-Lanka. This activity of compiling the Union catalogue was abandoned, as the National Library documentation Board started compiling the Union catalogue.

II) Documentation

1) Sri-Lanka Science Index

Sri-Lanka Science Index was prepared and published by SLSTIC by indexing periodical articles, conference reports, research reports, news paper articles, etc in Science & Technology with special reference to Sri-Lanka. The print copy is not produced now, but the database is available online though Internet.

2) National Scientific Reports Depository

SLSTIC deposits National Scientific Reports, which includes reports prepared for the Seminars and Conference, and the reports prepared by the individual research workers.

III) Database development

The following bibliographic databases were developed and maintained by the cooperation and participation of the SLSTINET libraries.

- 1) UNILIST:-** Union List of periodical held in SLSTINET libraries.
- 2) DBOSR:-** On going research on S & T in Sri Lanka.
- 3) SNET:-** A directory of SLSTINET
- 4) National:-** Database on books in the field of natural resources

4.2 Resource Sharing and Cooperative Programme

Resource sharing is now realized as an important activity of any library, because no library can satisfy its users' need from its own collection alone. Resource sharing is the main activity of any Library Network. It is the process by which resources, facilities & services of the member institutions are shared effectively.

The respondents indicated that they contribute in co-operative activities with other members. They were involved in most aspects of resource sharing; such as inter library lending, union list of periodicals, Union Catalogue, directory of resource person, directory of research, sharing of expertise, providing OPAC, training Programmes. The table 14 illustrates the resource sharing activities of the SLSTINET in details.

74% of the respondents participate in compiling the Union List of Periodicals. This is therefore the most popular co-operative activity among the libraries. 57% of member libraries take part in inter-lending. 46% of the respondents take part in training Programme and 02 libraries were involved in exchanged of staff with other libraries.

Table 1 - Resource Sharing Programme in SLSTINET Libraries

Activity	No of participating libraries	Percentage
Sharing of expertise	02	03%
Shared Acquisition	08	10%
Union Catalogue	11	15%
Shared acquisition of Periodicals	20	26%
Directory of Research	22	29%
Training Programme	35	46%
Directory of Resource persons	41	54%
Inter library lending	43	57%
Union list of Periodicals	56	74%

4.3 Barriers in Resource sharing in SLSTINET

It is very important to find out the barriers in resource sharing among SLSTINET members. This will portray the problems in the existing SLSTINET, which will be very useful in redesigning the SLSTINET activities. The participants of the SLSTINET identified a number of the problems that limited the resource sharing & networking activities among the SLSTINET libraries. The problems identified are presented in table 15.

Table 2 - Problem in Resource Sharing & Networking Activities

Problems	Percentage
Lack of funds	41%
Lack of Union catalogue	89%
Inadequate communication system	53%
Lack of institutional support	31%
Legally, we can't involve in resource sharing	02%
Lack of governmental support	04%
Absence of formal agreement	12%
Uncooperative attitude of Librarians	12%
Inadequate security of materials	48%
Lack of trained staff	49%
Inadequate available resources	39%
Our library system is not well developed	20%
Lack of mailing or transportation system	63%

Lack of Union catalogue was identified as the prime and major problem SLSTINET is facing. 89% of the respondents believed that they could not do resource sharing between members effectively due to Lack of Union catalogue available. Lack of mailing or transportation system was the second major problem the SLSTINET is facing. 63% of the respondents are facing the mail or transportation problem. The respondents identified the inadequate communication system, as the third major problem rated at 53%.

Respondents also denoted the following obstacles that hinders for effective resource sharing and networking among them. They are “inadequate security of materials”, “lack of trained staff”, “Lack of funds”, “inadequate of available resources”, “absence of formal agreement”, “uncooperative attitude of Librarians”, “lack of governmental support”, “lack of institutional support”, “legally, we can’t involved” in resource sharing.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Resource Sharing and Cooperative Programme

The respondents took part in most aspects of resource sharing; such as inter library lending, union list of periodicals, Union Catalogue, shared acquisition of books, joint directory of resource person, joint directory of research, shared acquisition of periodicals, sharing of expertise, training programme, Local Databases and publication of news letter.

There are 04 main resource-sharing activities in which, the member libraries participated actively. They are inter-library lending, union list of periodicals, training programme and co-operate databases. The Union List of Periodicals and ILL were identified as the most important corporative activities among the SLSTINET libraries

5.2 Barriers in Resource Sharing & Networking among SLSTINET Libraries

The SLSTINET at present encounter some basic problems that has limited the resource sharing & networking activities among the SLSTINET effectively. The study identified these problems, which were indicated by the respondents. They are as follows;

1. Lack of On-line Union catalogue was identified as the prime and major problem the SLSTINET is facing. Although, this activity is being continued by the National Library. The National Library produce printed version of the Union Catalogue. The members find it very difficulties in tracing the information from the printed version.
2. Time taken for mailing or transportation system
3. Lack of efficient communication systems among the SLSTINET
4. Lack of trained staff
5. Insufficient funds allocated to libraries in the network.
6. Absence of formal agreement
7. Uncooperative attitude of Librarians
8. Lack of support by the parent organization
9. Legal barriers

6.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Resource Sharing and Co-operative Programme

The universities & research libraries have major collection of scientific & technological materials, while the other categories of institutions have limited number of documents. Therefore the scientific & technical literature available in the SLSTINET libraries can be shared through Resource Sharing and Co-operative Programme. While having give priority to their own clientele of the particular institution and issue the documents to the small libraries in complimenting the collection of scientific technical literature of the holdings of the small libraries. The resource-sharing programme among the SLSTINET seems to be significant way of easing the collection development problems prevails in the member libraries.

The SLSTINET is the pioneer Library network in Sri-lanka and has introduced several services and activities. The study found that the most of the services are abandoned due to the poor contribution of the participants towards the focal point the SLSTIC. The study therefore recommends that participants should render their full support to the SLSTIC in introducing those resource-sharing programmes.

In order to make resource sharing a success, participating libraries must compile and produce Union Catalogues Periodical Indexes, Subject Bibliographies, Directories, etc. and make these available to each participating libraries. These should be updated regularly.

6.2 Overcoming the Barriers in Resource-sharing among SLSTINET

The members would access and use the SLSTINET for resource sharing & networking effectively, if the barriers identified in this study could be overcome. The study therefore recommends taking immediate steps in the following.

01. Union Catalogue of Books:- The National Library & Documentation Services Board is in the process of compiling the Union Catalogue of Books. The SLSTINET can compile the Union Catalogue / use by coordinating the National Library. The SLSTINET should prioritize for this activity. The conversion of union catalogs into compact discs (CDs) and make them available in the SLSTINET libraries could also be taken up eventually.

02. Union List of Periodicals:-The SLSTINET already compiled Union List of Periodicals that has to be updated yearly. The Union List of Periodicals available in the University Libraries, prepared by the University of Peradeniya also will be useful in this venture. The database on articles of the current periodicals has to be created for better resource sharing. Sri-Lankan Periodical Index prepared by the National Library will also be a good tool for this purpose.

03. Sri-Lanka Science Index:- The SLSTINET already published a Science Index. The SLSTINET should also compile this publication yearly for the benefit of the scientific user community in Sri-lanka.

04. Better System of Transportation:- The participating libraries must improve the means of communication to facilitate exchange of documents and bibliographic information. The SLSTINET libraries could be used e-mail and fax facilities instead of the traditional mail system. If the documents are in digital format, transmitting such documents would be easy and quickest way for better resource sharing.

05. Legal Agreement: - Libraries should sign a formalized agreement on the use of library facilities and the resource-sharing programme. This kind of legal agreement might be helpful in defining the nature and extend of cooperation among the SLSTINET. The agreement will solve problems of document supply which includes key issues like fees and costs, means of communication, copyright laws of the materials photocopied, etc. This will act as guideline and be able to satisfy the needs of all parties. SLSTINET must also formulate a policy that will be used as a guide in handling resource-sharing activities with other libraries in SLSTINET Libraries.

06. Attitude change of the Organization:-An effective cooperation among the SLSTINET members is necessary for better resource sharing programme among them. It is therefore recommended that there must be major changes in the attitudes of SLSTINET Librarians and users and in the area of library activities and programme. The Librarians and users of the SLSTINET must not purely rely on their individual own holdings in meeting their information needs. The holding concept has to be replaced by access. all the SLSTINET Librarians and users must rely on materials owned by the hundred member networking libraries.

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