

# National Library of Sri Lanka

## Cultural inheritance and Sustainable Development of Libraries

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**Sri Lanka**

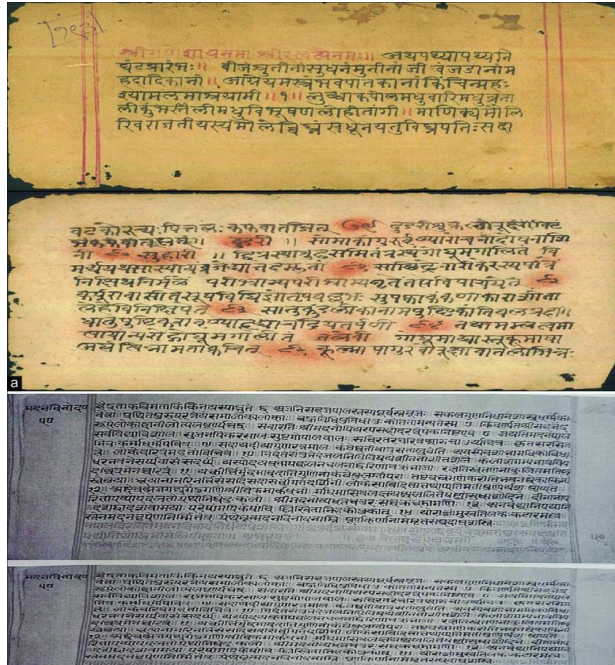
# Understanding Cultural Inheritance

- Traditions, languages, art, and knowledge passed through generations.
- Safeguard both tangible and intangible heritage
- Anchor communities in their cultural identity
- Local histories strengthen community identity

Example:

**Sri Lankan palm-leaf manuscripts and ancient chronicles**

Plam-leaf



Handwritten manuscripts



Traditional paintings



Masks



# Libraries as Guardians of Heritage

- Conservation: Climate control, digitization, preservation  
Access: Open and equitable access for all
- Interpretation: Exhibitions, workshops, publications

National Agency - Sri Lanka



IFLA - PAC Center  
Sri Lanka



UNESCO - MOW  
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UNESCO - ICH  
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## Collections

### What we collect

- Books
- Newspapers
- Periodicals
- Sri Lanka government publications
- Theses and dissertation
- Ola leaf manuscripts
- Maps
- Braille
- Drama manuscripts
- Intangible cultural heritage
- Information repackaging
- Audio-Visual and microforms
- Special collections

### Building our collection

- Collection Development policy
- National digital policy
- International book exchange

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Libraries

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Libraries as inclusive spaces for lifelong learning.

# Principles of Sustainable Development in Libraries

- Environmental Stewardship: Eco-friendly practices

Eco-friendly infrastructure helps libraries continue their cultural mission without harming future generations.

- Economic Viability: Sustainable budgeting and partnerships
- Social Equity: Ensuring that services reach underrepresented groups
- Technological Adaptivity: Embracing digital infrastructures that can scale and evolve over time

**“Sustainability means serving today's users without harming t  
Tomorrow's.”**

# SDG Projects - National Library of Sri Lanka

 <p><b>1 NO POVERTY</b></p>	 <p><b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b></p>	 <p><b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b></p>	 <p><b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b></p>	 <p><b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b></p>	 <p><b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b></p>	 <p><b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b></p>	 <p><b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b></p>
<p><b>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b></p>	<p><b>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</b></p>	<p><b>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</b></p>	<p><b>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</b></p>	<p><b>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b></p>	<p><b>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</b></p>	<p><b>Build resilient affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</b></p>	<p><b>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full &amp; productive employment and decent work for all</b></p>
<p>Libraries provide opportunities for people to improve their own lives and support informed decision-making. Mobile libraries make books, services, and internet access available in rural and remote communities, providing opportunities to people that would otherwise be isolated.</p>	<p>Agricultural libraries provide access to research and data on crops, market information, and farming methods that help develop resilient, sustainable produce. Public and community libraries also promote literacy, provide ICT training, access to information in local languages, and act as a gateway to government services and funding for rural communities.</p>	<p>Libraries provide access to medical research that supports improved clinical and public health outcomes. Public access to health information in all libraries help people to make better lifestyle choices and to stay healthy. Libraries acting as hubs for health information, education and community well - being initiatives.</p>	<p>All libraries support literacy programmes, provide a safe space for learning &amp; support researchers to access, apply and reuse research and data to create new knowledge. Libraries also act as facilitators in their communities, setting up local learning centres and networking to support learning.</p>	<p>Libraries provide a safe environment for women/girls to read or pursue learning, access computers and the internet, undertake technology training and have forums to engage with each other. Training includes literacy programmes, as well as entrepreneurship training.</p>	<p>Libraries provide public access to information on water, energy usage and sanitation. They offer access to research and evidence for policy makers and development organizations, to support the effective allocation of resources to sustainable water infrastructure and sanitation projects.</p>	<p>Many public and community libraries around the world represent the only place where people can get reliable access to light and electricity to read, study and apply for a job. They provide resources, conduct workshops, and awareness programmes to educate communities about renewable energy sources, energy conservation, and sustainable practices.</p>	<p>Public access to ICTs and training at libraries enable people to apply for jobs. Libraries offer employment clubs to share tips and resources with job-seekers in the area. Libraries conduct training on digital literacy, other vocational training, and soft skills programmes to enhance employability.</p>
<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a></p> 
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லிபரரி சேவையின் மூலம் சமூக  
நீதிக்கு வழிவகுக்க உதவுக  
உள்ளூர் மக்கள் மூலம்

மக்கள் நலம் சேவையின் மூலம்  
மக்கள் நலம் சேவை அமைத்து  
மக்கள் நலம் சேவை வழங்குவது

### Empowering Libraries for Achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



# NATIONAL LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES BOARD



*The Pathway to Global Knowledge*

National Library of Sri Lanka  
in Collaboration with The Asia Foundation



# Synergy: Heritage + Sustainability

- Digital Preservation as Eco-Friendly Practice

Ex: **National Library of Sri Lanka Digitization Project : preserved palm leaf manuscripts in high – resolution digital formats, with open online access for scholars worldwide.**

- Community Engagement strengthens social fabric
- Adaptive Reuse of historic library spaces

**Ex: National Library of Sri Lanka, plans are underway to install solar panels on the rooftop – honoring the building’s colonial – era architecture while powering modern digital services sustainably.**



Home

## Welcome to the National Digital Library and Repository

Information communication technology has revolutionized the concept of library. Each and every library is slowly digitized. Taking into consideration the modern world trend in library and information field, National Library and Documentation Services Board has taken steps to initiate a National Digital Library and Repository. The objective of the National Digital Library and Repository is to collect and maintain digital resources in the country and provide digital information to the reader community. The National Digital Library and Repository was inaugurated by Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education on 25 May 2016 in conjunction with the 26th anniversary of the National Library of Sri Lanka

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# Call to Action & Conclusion

- Preserve heritage as a living asset
- Advance sustainability with innovation
- Partner across sectors to secure funding, share expertise
- Let libraries lead in building resilient, informed communities

**“Together, let’s turn our libraries into beacons of culture and sustainability.”**

**Thank you for your attention!**