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Issues related to improper use of knowledge organization library standards in university libraries in Sri Lanka

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It is necessary for University Libraries (UL) to adhere to Knowledge Organization Library Standards (KOLS) to render an efficient service to their users. Though these KOLS are adopted in UL, inaccurate use of these KOLS have given rise to technical many issues. The causes of these inaccuracies are non-familiarly with these KOLS and the general recklessness on the part of the UL staff. Therefore this research was undertaken to identify KOLS which different universities adopt and problems associated with the use of those standards. The Population of the study was professional and non-professional library staff of UL in Sri Lanka. The sample consisted of 3 Librarians, 9 Senior and Assistant Librarians, 9 Library Assistants and 9 Library Attendants and Laborers in 3 universities.

The research method used for this survey was the survey method. Survey techniques were observations, interviews, and use of questionnaires and 30 questionnaires were administered for the purpose.

The major issue identified was non-adherence to the guidelines prescribed in the authority control. Transliteration of author names, duplication of classification numbers for books and catalogue cards and inaccurate use also appeared to be important problems are.

Solutions recommended for issues were: Use of new editions of Knowledge Organization Library Standards, giving a substantial knowledge about Knowledge Organization Library Standards, and updating knowledge of library staff with regard to Knowledge Organization Library Standards. Recruiting library and information science specialists to the library staff and organization trainings and awareness programs in the use of KOLS for the library staff too are suggestions recommended.

Keywords: Standards, Library Standards, Knowledge organization library standards, Quality assurance, University libraries.

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