

**Identifying Deterioration Factors of Historically Valuable Library Resources and Treatment of Preservation: With reference to University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the library of the Department of National Museum**

H. D. Menaka Nishanthi  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura  
nishanthi@sjp.ac.lk

Historical library resources are created due to the works of ancient people. There were archaeological evidences to prove that they used various materials for writing in the past, such as stones, clay and wood. But, because of the size and difficulty of manipulation of these materials they used leaves of trees. Sri Lanka and many other countries in Asia used Palmyra leaves (Thalpath) for this purpose. Most of the time palm leaves were used for writing in the past which can be found in present libraries nowadays. With the advent of papermaking, it has changed the character of library resources. Now there are printed and non-printed library resources. We should protect different media of historically valuable library resource of both these libraries from decay. There are different types of deterioration of library resources. Those are: Physical deterioration factors; Biological deterioration factors; Chemical deterioration factors. However, it is important to identify deterioration factors in both these libraries, and protect historically valuable library resources for future generations. The study is an attempt made to analyze the deterioration factors of both of these libraries.

The specific objectives of this study are to identify the deterioration factors and treatments to preserve historically valuable library resources of both of these libraries. The study is qualitative in nature and it adopts the scientific observation method and investigates the information that is being issued systematically, while primary and secondary data are also being used. Throughout these investigations, various deterioration factors can be identified within these two libraries. In both of these two collections, the protection of printed library resources from the insects can be preserved by laying cotton wool pillows filled with citronella oil in between racks. Conducting awareness programs for readers, leaflet campaigns, etc. can help to minimize harmful effects on the library resources. It is recommended that the historically valuable library resources of the libraries of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Department of National Museum should be preserved in the future.

**Keywords:** Department of National Museum; deterioration factors; library resources, treatment; University of Sri Jayewardenepura,

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