Sustainability of libraries through the green technology initiatives: A case study in the library system of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

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Abstract

A well-designed sustainability library system through the Green Technology Initiatives can help the institution to run smoothly by providing the correct information at the correct time through the correct means to their end-users. 'Go Green' is a new emerging concept in today's Sustainable Enterprise Development scenario and most of the libraries have success with it. The Library System of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) has not evaluated the feasibility to Go Green and as a result, still are not aware about their current status, end-users' or stakeholders' perceptions about the green concepts. Therefore, this study is of a high significance and attempts are made to uncover the current situation about green initiatives happening around the RUSL library context and finally to develop projects to implement some new green concepts for safeguarding and sustainability. This study mainly focused on case-wise observation method to uncover the existing situation, and further, two structured questionnaires were employed to get the end-users' and stakeholders' perceptions about green concepts. Some secondary data were also utilized to analyze the general operations of library services. The major results found that there are several pluses and minus points against the green initiatives in the existing library system and significant possibility to cut-down some operational costs by fine-tuning the existing green initiatives. When comparing the green building converting feasibility, it was revealed that main library of RUSL has less feasibility to go green, but found high feasibility at faculty libraries to go green due to their temporary building usage. It is found that the main library and faculty library system still use more printed papers for document sharing (official letters, students' photocopies and financial vouchers etc.). The author investigated the feasibility to operate 100% green circulation even not printing any slip at check-ins or check-outs and found there is some possibility at several places to implement it in near future. The study interpreted that there is a good understanding of green initiatives among library end-users and stakeholders as well. The findings of the study would be more helpful to the administrative and policymakers of the RUSL to implement the sustainable green solutions against the high energy utilized operations in the library system.

Keywords: Green libraries, Green technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, RUSL library system, Sustainable enterprise development

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