

Preface

As a researcher who commenced work on the climate of Sri Lanka in 1997, I faced difficulties in initiating work due to the lack of information regarding literature, data records and holdings, library holdings and the work of other researchers. Over time, I collated these information. During one visit to the NSF library, I pointed out the need for a bibliography on the climate of Sri Lanka to Ms. Deepali Talagalla, the Director of Information Services who encouraged me to apply for a grant from the NSF. As there was a change of the Chair of the NSF, the evaluation of this grant was delayed by a year but it was made available so that I was able to complete the bulk of work before I left to employ at the Institute of Fundamental Studies.

Another shortcoming in the field of climate studies in Sri Lanka is the lack of networking among various researchers. To alleviate this, after consultation with several active researchers, I initiated the Sri Lanka Meteorology, Oceanography and Hydrology Network with a quarterly newsletter as its main vehicle of communication. This newsletter has now seen eleven issues and was helpful in publicizing the work related to the bibliography and soliciting for references.

Alexsandra Somasundera and Jayampathy Ratnayake were recruited for the project as Technical Assistants. We started by consulting available bibliographies and bibliographers. We wrote to established scientists requesting their personal bibliographies. The archives of Sri Lankan libraries that hold materials related to climate were searched. We were able to obtain only limited access to two important libraries, that of the National Museum and the Department of Meteorology. The museum library was being renovated and was not accessible to us. However, a member of the museum staff Ms. S. Samaradiwakara helped us obtain references. In the case of the Department of Meteorology, the library was being relocated and the materials were all bundled up. Mr. G.B. Samarasinghe, the Head of the Agrometeorology Division, who oversees the library, assisted us.

References in related fields that have a particular bearing on climate and its impacts such as in hydrology, oceanography, coastal studies, geology and agriculture were included in the bibliography. Many references on Indian and Asian climate are relevant to Sri Lanka and some of these that have a particular bearing on Sri Lanka are included here. However, no effort was made to include references that may be found in a bibliography of climate in neighboring countries.

An author index and a subject index for the bibliography was prepared. We have indexed references that have geographic specificity by province, district and location. Entries are also indexed in terms of wet, intermediate, dry and arid zones where there is explicit reference to these zones. The hydrology related references were indexed references by river basin. The agriculture related references were indexed in terms of the crops such as tea, rubber, coconut, sugarcane and rice. References related to the societal aspects were indexed under education, historical accounts and policy. The compilation of bibliography has brought to light many useful studies and sources of data that the vast majority of climate and related scientists do not refer to.

While attempts were made to find all relevant references, we know that there will be a number of references that have not been included. We hope to keep collecting these references in the future and so I will be grateful to receive correspondence on any missed or new entries.