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A special bibliographical tool for the educational stakeholders with a special classification scheme

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Lacunae in the production flow circuit of educational information highlighted the necessity of exhaustive retrieval tools for the educational decision maker- specially the researcher and the administrator. In order to cater to the need of a chronologically continuous bibliographical tool for educational reports to bridge the primary gap of inaccessibility to existing information, an "Annotated Bibliography of Educational Reports on education in Sri Lanka from 1796 to 1987 with an analysis of post graduate theses on education up to 1987" was planned and compiled. Reports were collected from Department of National Archives, Museum libraries, and historical libraries like The Galle Library and Education Offices mainly in the Western, Southern and Central provinces. Exhaustive studies were carried out at the University libraries of University of Peradeniya and Colombo where educational theses were available. Data were analyzed according to the special classification Scheme and special cataloguing formats. It was intended to be an initial step to achieve bibliographical control of "educational reports on Sri Lanka" and to serve as a foundation for any retrieval service for educational reports both current and retrospective, to be up dated every five years. This work consists of three parts. Part 1 consists of three chapters highlighting the educational wastage caused by lacunae in the flows of educational information and the urgent need to bridge the gaps, is a especially a guide to educational information personnel. The section on "Educational Reports literature" in chapter 1, including original diagrams, on the producers, users, and decision makers in education, and the taxonomy of educational literature and also of methods of channeling educational information, in chapter three are intended to create awareness of the urgent need for educational documentation. It also includes short descriptions of important educational data bases the world over. Part II includes the special classification scheme devised by the researcher including the micro subjects of the whole spectrum of education, current at the time of compilation, enabling to locate particular specific information, for the decision makers and the main bibliography. Analysis of the distribution of educational theses according to the micro-subjects, in part II, caters to the specific needs of the researcher. The annotations for theses are almost short abstracts giving the research methodology and the important findings, which further saves the researcher's time and yielding high relevance. This is an exhaustive tool in case of theses, as this bibliography includes all the master's and PhD theses available at the universities of Colombo and Peradeniya since the inception up to 1987. Five formats of bibliographical descriptions are used for the entries, in order to prevent missing vital information. Part III include the following Indexes assisting the user in locating even the minutest piece of information: 1. subject index 2. Personal and biographical author 3. Corporate author and 4. Index to sessional papers. The content of the entries were analyzed using content analysis techniques to identify patterns of reports and theses. Accordingly educational research studies appear from 1956 and history of education, is the main theme of theses during this early period. Tendency for Action Research is seen in theses submitted after 1969. Educational psychology gains prominence after 1975. Gap areas in educational research are also identified (525 words)

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