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## **Changing Roles of Sri Lankan Academic Libraries: A Case Study at USJP Library**

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### **Abstract**

The rapid change in technology, the speed with which the volume of information increases, the changes in information-seeking patterns and the changes in higher education have forced university authorities to rethink the traditional roles of libraries and to invest them with exiting new roles. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP), being one of the largest university in Sri Lanka in terms of student number, has taken the challenge of tackling the changing role of the library successfully. At the moment, the library caters to 5 main faculties: Humanities and Social Sciences; Applied Sciences; Management Studies and Commerce; Medical Sciences; and Graduate Studies. The library extends its services to two newly established faculties of Engineering and Technology. The user community consists of nearly 15,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and nearly 1000 academic and non-academic staff. The changes made at the USJP library fall into two main areas: a) library services and products; and b) the physical environment. These areas were included in the "modernization project" of the library, which started in 2015 but some changes had happened before this project as well. For example, when considering the services and products of the library, the major achievement of the library in recent times was the migration of the integrated library management system from Windows for Alice, to the open source system, Koha in 2014. This migration helped not only to have an efficient system, but to save money on annual maintenance charges. In order to support the emerging research culture in the university, the library established a research support unit in 2015. In view of streamlining the user education programmes, a separate unit was established in January 2016. The library's institutional repository named 'Scholar Bank', set up in early 2012, where the publications and academic work of staff and students are deposited, is very popular among