

II. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

1. National inventory

Compilation of the ICH Inventory was commenced in 2008 by the National Library and Documentation Board, under the support of the UNESCO. A National Committee consisting several scholars and Heads of institutions in the relevant fields was set up for the purpose.

It is to be noted here that although a common national inventory of ICH as such was not in Sri Lanka, the different institutions such as the National Museums Department, Department of National Archives dealing with cultural heritage in the country have their own inventories of intangible as well as tangible cultural heritage in their custody. These inventories are used for efficient delivery of missions of such institutions.

The ICH data collected at the Department of National Archives forms the nucleus of the present ICH inventory of the National Library and Documentation Board. The objective of the compilation is to collect, preserve and make available ICH data to interested parties for research purposes. The Compilation is ongoing and not completed yet. Information contained in the inventory is available at the Official website for ICH:
<http://www.natlib.lk/inhe/>

Categories of ICH

In the inventory ICH is classified into three categories. They are: 1. Traditions, 2. Rituals and rites, 3. Rites of passage. Each category is subdivided as follows:

I. Traditions

Animal lore	Customs
Ethics	Folk belief
Folk games	Folk language
Folk medicine	Folk songs
Folk tales	Magic
Mass communication	Plant lore

	Proverbs and riddles	Other
II.	Rituals and rites	
	Agricultural	Architectural
	Business and industrial	Illness
	Religious	Other
III.	Rites of passage	
	Birth	Death
	Marriage	Puberty
	Other	

At present the database contains 65 entries. With each data set the following information are given:

1. Recording number
2. Institutional recording number
3. Name (category)
4. Location
5. Responsible entity
6. Categories
7. Community value
8. Description (text)
9. Observations (present condition of IH)
10. Source of information
11. Registration
12. Availability of photo/sound records/video clips