



**NATIONAL
LIBRARY
NLSL OF SRI LANKA**

**Ministry of Buddhasasana,
Religious and Cultural Affairs
National Library and Documentation Services Board
Publication Assistance Project
2026-2027**

Publication and Book Development Division
National Library and Documentation Services Board
No.14, Independence Avenue,
Colombo 7

Manuscripts for the year 2027 are accepted from 15th of September 2026 to 15th of December 2026 (except government holidays) from 9.00a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Application Fee : Rs.250.00

**Letters and Inquiries : Director General,
National Library and
Documentation Services Board,
No14, Independence Avenue,
Colombo 07**

Telephone : 011- 2687583

National Library and Documentation Services Board

Publication Assistance Project – 2026/2027

The Publication Assistance Project is a national project implemented by the National Library and Documentation Services Board since 1984 with the objective of promoting and uplifting writing career of upcoming and veteran writers.

1) OBJECTIVES

- i. To make quality books available in the country.
- ii. To promote the reading habit
- iii. To encourage authors and translators
- iv. To improve production standard and quality of publications.
- v. To maintain the prices of publication in fair level
- vi. To develop national library service

2) MANUSCRIPTS WHICH CAN BE SUBMITTED

Manuscripts on various fields can be submitted as follows:

- i. academic/research works
- ii. creative works (novels/short stories/poetic works)
- iii. Youth literature works
- iv. Children's Fictional Works
- v. Varied academic disciplines

3) MANUSCRIPTS WHICH CANNOT BE SUBMITTED

Manuscripts of following categories cannot be submitted under this project.

- i. Previously published books
- ii. Books published for exam purposes or books with question-answers written for targeting exams.
- iii. Manuscripts of less than 49 pages after printing according to UNESCO criteria
- iv. Books containing drawings, diagrams and photographs without an adequate text.
- v. comic books
- vi. Theses not edited as books
- vii. Manuscripts submitted for another assistance project
- viii. Previously rejected manuscripts
- ix. Manuscripts written authors who received publication assistance in three previous occasions under this project.

4) PROCEDURE OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

The National Library and Documentation Services Board provide assistance to authors by advising them to further improve the quality of manuscripts which are of a considerable standard, by introducing advanced printing and publication standards and by purchasing a certain number of printed copies of approved manuscripts.

With the objective of making high-quality works, distinguished by excellence in both content and physical production, accessible to the public, while supporting writers and promoting access to quality publications for readers, arrangements have been made under the Project to provide publication assistance to 30 selected manuscripts for 2027.

The manuscripts have been selected based on the high scores awarded through the prescribed evaluation process and upon the recommendation of the relevant Advisory Committee. The 30 selected manuscripts comprise works in Sinhala, Tamil, and English.

Designated submission areas for manuscripts and the corresponding proposed grant amounts are as follows:

Subject Area	Expected sponsorship amount per authors (Rs.)	Quantity of manuscripts supported through sponsorship (Sinhala, Tamil and English)
1. Academic/Research works	150,000.00	03
2.		
i. Novels	125,000.00	05
ii. Short stories	100,000.00	03
iii. Poetic works, Drama	75,000.00	05
3.		
i. Youth literature works	75,000.00	04
ii. Children's Fictional Works	75,000.00	05
4. Varied academic disciplines	100,000.00	05
Total		30

The specified grant amount also applies to translation manuscripts submitted within these categories. Additionally, a copy of the original work must be submitted alongside the translated manuscript.

The maximum amount of financial assistance provided differs according to the manuscript category. The amount of financial assistance is decided by a committee after considering the content of the book, quality and printing expenditure. At least 1000 copies of an approved manuscript should be published.

National Library and Documentation Services Board expect assisting the local readers and libraries and maintaining the price of a copy in a reasonable level by printing and distributing more copies to support reader community and libraries.

Accordingly, the Board assists the authors by purchasing a certain number of copies according to the amount of assistance decided by the printing advisory committee of the Board.

5) PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

- i. The content of the manuscript should not contain facts which are directly or indirectly criticize to any religion, ethnic group, community, institute or individual.
- ii. Manuscripts should be typed or computer typed on single page or both sides of the paper clearly and accurately. It is more appropriate to handover a typed or computer typed manuscript in order to ensure the confidentiality.
- iii. There should be an adequate space among the lines and in left margin of the paper so that the examiner could mention the observations.
- iv. The manuscript should be submitted together with the dedication, introduction, preface, acknowledgement, drawings, photographs, statistics bibliography, indexes which are expected to be included to the printed book.
- v. Manuscripts should be formal and properly bound.
- vi. The manuscript should not contain the name of the author or any other sign through which the author can be identified and the pages should be numbered correctly.
- vii. Before submitting the manuscript, its language should be properly corrected. Manuscripts with such errors will be rejected.
- viii. Dissertations submitted to a university or other recognized institution shall not be accepted in their original form and must be suitably adapted into a book format. Applicants shall also provide details of the institution to which the dissertations were submitted and the academic supervisor.

The manuscripts which are submitted without following the above instructions will not be accepted for scrutinizing.

6) APPLYING AND SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

- I. Financial assistance is provided only to the manuscripts with academic and literary value. To consider the suitability/unsuitability, the

relevant application should be filled and submitted with two copies of the manuscript and examining fee. (Application Fee – Rs. 250.00)

- II. If there are any legal issues in publishing a translation, settlement of such issues is the responsibility of the author/translator/publisher.
- III. When submitting children's literature, one copy must be in 4 colors (CMYK) with a minimum of five Comic. In addition to two printed copies of the manuscript, a digital copy (softcopy) should be emailed to pub@mail.natlib.lk
- IV. An author can submit only one manuscript during a year.

7) PRELIMINARY EXAMINING

Preliminary examining of the manuscript is carried out by the publication advisory committee of the Board and only the manuscripts which have fulfilled basic requirements for entering to the project are accepted for scrutinizing. Manuscripts which are rejected in the preliminary examining by the publication advisory committee are returned to the author with the examining fee.

8) CHARGES FOR EXAMINING

Examining of academic/research manuscripts.

Pages from 1 to 150	Rs.2000.00
For each additional page	Rs. 10.00

Examining the manuscripts of Novels, Short Stories, Poetic works, Youth literature works

Pages from 1 to 150	Rs.1200.00
For each additional Page (150<)	Rs. 7.00

Examining the manuscripts of Children's Fictional Works

Pages from 1 to 150	Rs.1000.00
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As manuscripts are usually sent to two examiners or three examiners in special occasions, this charge covers only a part of the examining fee. Balance of the fee will be borne by the Board.

Cheques for the examining fee should be drawn in favor of **Chairman, National Library and Documentation Services Board**. Payments in cash can be made to the cashier of the Board during office hours from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00p.m. and should obtain a receipt. Payments can also be made to any **People's Bank branch of the Island to the credit of the Account Number. 167-1-001-6-3170315 of the National Library and Documentation Services Board in the Town Hall Branch of the People's Bank** and the bank receipt should be forwarded with the manuscript.

9) CONFIDENTIALITY

In examining the manuscript any author's identity will remain anonymous to the examiner and vice-versa. Obstructing or trying to obstruct this confidentiality may cause for rejecting the manuscript.

10) EXAMINING OF MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts qualified for scrutinizing are usually sent to two examiners. This panel of examiners consists of experts in the relevant subject. Having considered the reports of examiners by the publication advisory committee, a decision is taken on the acceptance or rejection of the manuscript. If the committee decides to reconsider the manuscript after amendments and such amendments are indicated in the examiner's reports to improve the manuscript, the relevant amendments are informed to the author. The sole rights of the examiner's reports is with the Board and they are not issued to the authors under no circumstances whatsoever.

11) REJECTED MANUSCRIPTS

The decision of the publication advisory committee regarding the approving or not approving the manuscript is the final decision. Rejected manuscripts are returned to the author. The additional examining fees borne by the Board for examining such manuscripts are not recovered by the author.

12) APPEAL FOR REJECTED MANUSCRIPTS

The author can submit an appeal for rejected manuscripts. If the publication advisory committee accepts the appeal, an appeal deposit of Rs.1000/= should be made. If the committee understands that the appeal has a base, the manuscripts and examine reports are submitted to a subcommittee for reexamining.

13) REQUIREMENTS THAT SHOULD BE FULFILLED IN PRINTING

The standards that should be followed in printing the approved manuscripts under the Publication Assistance Project are indicated in the agreement and following the relevant standards is the responsibility of the author.

- i. All publications, except children's books, shall be printed on 70 GSM No: 01. Children's books shall be printed on paper of 80 GSM or higher.
- ii. Font size for creative literary works and translations is point 11 or 12 and point 10 can be used for research academic works if necessary. Children's manuscripts shall be typeset in a minimum font size of 16 points. (Should act according to the agreement)
- iii. The book should be bound in a binding section or perfect binding. It is compulsory to get it bound in section binding if the publication is more than 250 pages. perfect binding or wire binding is recommended for children's books.
- iv. Standard bibliographic methods should be followed in preparing the title page and designing the book. The book with instructions on the methods of compiling books published by the National Library and Documentation Services Board can be purchased from the National Library Bookshop or can be referred to in the Reader Services Division of the National Library. (www.natlib.lk)
- v. The cover of the book should be prepared with at least 230 GSM artboard.
- vi. Should be free from printing errors.
- vii. The cover of the book and initial pages should be shown to the Board and receive approval before printing.

14) AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION

- i. The author should sign an agreement with the Board before publishing the approved manuscripts under the project.
- ii. Through this agreement the author should agree to print the manuscript approved by the Board with specified conditions and should handover the relevant printed copies to the Board before the due date.
- iii. National Library and Documentation Services Board agree to purchase a certain number of copies of the books printed according to the relevant conditions at a price decided by the printing committee.
- iv. In publishing the approved manuscripts any additional part should not be added to the manuscript or removed from the manuscript without the written permission of the Board.
- v. Violation of the conditions of the agreement is a reason for the cancellation of the agreement.
- vi. After completion of the printing, two model printed copies of the book should be submitted to the Board for inspection whether the book has been printed according to the relevant conditions. After the two model printed copies are approved, the number of copies specified should be handed over to the Board. All the printed copies provided to the Board

should be consistent with the two model printed copies provided before.

- vii. The soft copy of the book approved and published under the Publication Assistance Project should be provided to the Board with the printed copies of the book. It shall be made available through the National Digital Library exclusively for readers' reference.

The Board has the sole rights to reject the books which have not fulfilled the above conditions and books specially with printing errors on the recommendation of the publication advisory committee.

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