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## THE IMPACTS OF USING E-BOOKS IN SRI LANKAN HIGHER EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

E-books are a type of a digital resource which is popular among young adults and according to recent studies, the consumption of e-books has rapidly grown since 2006. Among many e-book consumers, the students who engage in higher studies are popular. Moreover, it is a known factor that many undergraduates using e-books for study purposes. Thus, this study investigates the impact of using e-books in Sri Lankan higher education by taking University of Kelaniya as the study base. From the entire population of university of Kelaniya, 50 students are selected from the five faculties as to contain 10 by each faculty by using convenience sampling method which comes under the category of non- probability sampling. Data was gathered from the sample by using a questionnaire which is complied with open ended and close ended questions. The data analysis answers the research question, “what are the impacts of using e-books in higher education?” demonstrating many positive impacts such as easy access, easy maintenance, portability and sustainability. Further the research study depicts the negative impacts come along with the excessive usage of e-books, such as health issues. Moreover, the research study portrays that many students face difficulties when it comes to retrieving and using e-books, by not being able to access network or electronic devices needed. Concluding, the study recommends Safety precautions to be taken while using e-books over electronic devices. (Ex: eye protectors and correct postures) and further it is recommended that, higher educational institutes should provide free access to e-books in library laboratories: so that every student can use them.

**Keywords:** e-books, Electronic devices, Higher education, Universities, Young adults