

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN INDIA: SURVEY ANALYSIS AND POLICY PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

The main purpose of the study is to identify the current status of collection development and management, further to make a comparative analysis of collection development and management in the five central university libraries in India, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Lucknow, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad AP, Central University of Jharkhand and Tezpur University Assam. A well structured questionnaire was administered to the librarians. The findings of study reveal to support the systematic improvement in collection development and collection management.

KEYWORDS :

Collection Development and Management, Central University Libraries, India

1. INTRODUCTION:

The richness of collection development, organizational pattern and provision of comprehensive services shows the development of University Libraries. The concept of knowledge process has gained wider currency at global level. India is regarded now a great knowledge provider in the domain of IT only on account of availability of quality knowledge personnel. To make human capital including teachers, lawyers, accountants, scientist, managers, executives, researchers and the students, the role of libraries is ever significant. For dissemination of quality knowledge, quality information is a sine-qua-non. For quality information, the availability of current academic paraphernalia in terms of books, journals periodicals, reports, non-book materials is indispensable. Obtaining these materials and organizing them systematically and making the vital services available to the users' including the knowledge workers now constitute the core arenas of globally renowned academic libraries. As a matter of fact the entire mechanism of garnering the requisite materials and their proper organization and provision of services is christened as collection development, organization and service management.

The stages of collection development, organization and services fall under the domain of librarian. Librarians principally the professors of library science enormously impinge on shaping of library collection and their organization in 20th century. Even in an era of globalization and information age where the entire world as one village as information available anywhere in globe is on the click of the mouse. It is hence that the role of librarians remains ever-significant.

Against this background the survey of five central university libraries in India (Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Lucknow, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad AP, Central University of Jharkhand and Tezpur

University Assam) was undertaken to gauge the role of librarian as regards collection development and management.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature pertinent to collection development and management in library is presented and based upon research gap has been identified. Tucker, J.C. and Torrence, M. (2004) observes that there are many challenges facing new librarians in the academic environment, including collection development. This article analyzes the topic of collection development and how it relates to new professionals in the field of librarianship. The study of Hsieh, C., Runner, R. (2005) includes a survey targeting academic collections development and an analysis of academic collection development policies. Also, the study explains treatment of materials, library policies reasoning, impact of faculty and students on policy changes and other related factors. Mandal, M. and Panda, K. C. (2005) have elaborated different dimensions of collection development with specific reference to Engineering College Libraries. They have analyzed data on library collection received from 17 major Engineering College Libraries of West Bengal and enumerated the activities of seven major library consortiums of the world engaged in sharing resources among Engineering college libraries. The paper by Barbara Susana Sanchez (2005) is based on both research about collection development policies and data compiled as a result of a survey of 16 centers of higher and technical education in Cuba. The results has indicates that although the directors of university libraries and managers of collection development were aware of the process of collection development, only few actually adopt and implement a policy for the same and carry out user studies. Wittenbach, Stefanie (2005) proposes the restructuring of collection development at the University of California Riverside University Libraries. The author describes the new system that has created more accountability for the resources budget. As a result of the new system, faculty members are more aware of the budgeted amount for monographic purchases in their own area and whom they can contact with concerns or purchasing requests. Ameen, Kanwal (2006) discusses all kinds of managerial and practical issues related to collection development and acquisitions to collection management.

Vignau, Barbara Susana Sanchez (2006) have discussed the Collection Development in digital environment and have mainly focused on user-oriented concept in development of digital collections. They believe that developing digital collections is a logical consequence of inserting information technologies in organizations. They have rightly concluded that the usual route towards other models of libraries has allowed the development of the digital collections as a source of digital Libraries.

RESEARCH GAP

Review of literature on the subject matter of collection development and management, it is clearly inferred that despite the bonanza literature available in the sphere of collection development and management, there is still dearth of relevant and appropriate literature pertaining to the policy of collection development and management. The present study very specifically deals with the policy aspects and dimensions of collection development and management from librarian's point of view.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives have been designed for the purpose of the study on Collection Development and Management in the Central University Libraries in India:

- To cull up information regarding the collections in select central university libraries and also to examine the budget for printed documents as well as on-line databases/resources.
- To examine and study the collection development policy of the select referred central university libraries in the terms of printed and electronic documents and revision of collection development policy.
- To critically study the selection criteria, acquisition process
- To examine the resources management including technical process, stocking and weeding out of the documents.

METHODOLOGY

A set of questionnaires was designed for librarians, for collecting information regarding collection development and management. The questionnaire was sent to the five central university libraries of India by mail. The survey was designed to be as simple as possible to answer and opportunity was provided for additional comment on any given question, and fuller explanation was encouraged.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table I reveals information about the size of library collection in the form of print. Among these five libraries EFLA University has highest number of collection, were as central university of Jharkhand has less, but one cannot judge it is less collection because the university itself started in the year 2009. IGNO university has large number of both the current journals subscribing and as well as back volumes of the journals. EFLA University also has a comparable collection of current journal and back volumes but in other university it very low in number. Theses, dissertation and reports collection in EFLA university is more compare to BBRAU and Tezpur university that is 850 and 220 respectively. Collection regarding the maps, standards, patents and others is not sound.

Table No 01 Library collection in print form

Print Documents	BBAU	IGNOU	EFLAU	C U of Jharkhand	Tezpur University
Books/Monographs	28511	141208	158000	17417	57492
Current journals (titles)	46	490	338	29	148
Bound volumes of journals	--	12581	890	--	--
Theses/ Dissertations and Research reports	850	62	1485	--	220
Maps/charts/diagrams	02	--	--	--	--
Patents/standards/specifications	00	--	--	--	--
Others	--	--	--	--	--

Table No 02 Library collection in Electronic form

Electronic Documents	BBAU	IGNOU	EFLAU	C U of Jharkhand	Tezpur University
CD-ROMs/ DVDs	1030	5120	1200	500	1744
Online/Internet Databases	11	60	05	03	16
E - Books	00	1711	60	--	--
E - Periodicals	5000	75000	--	14231	8492
Video/Audio cassettes	00	--	100		81
Microforms/ Microfiche	00	17757	--	--	--
Total	6041	99648	1365	14734	10333

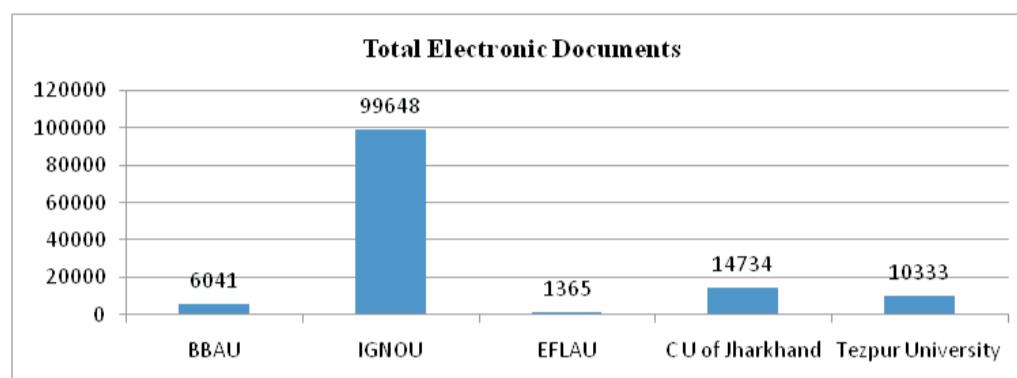


Table No 02 provides facts and figures of electronic resources in a respective library. It's obvious that IGNOU is the very old university and it scattered all over India and having huge funds so it has highest number of e-resources compare to all other central university. IGNOU has total 99648 of e-resources while EFLAU University has less e-resources of 1365, may be its because of university of languages. Though the central university of Jharkhand established after the BBA University has more in collection of e-resources that is 14734 compare to BBA University (6041). Tezpur University also has a comparable e-resource.

Table No 03 Selection of documents to the library

Selection basis / Authorities responsible for selecting documents.	BBAU	IGNOU	EFLAU	C U of Jharkhand	Tezpur University	%
Based on Collection development policy		Y		Y		40%
Recommendations of Faculty	Y	Y	Y	Y		80%
HODs Recommendation	Y	Y		Y	Y	80%
Students Demand	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Personal convictions	Y					20%
Quality reviews				Y		20%
Strength of collection	Y					20%
Books prescribed in curriculum	Y					20%
Availability of funds	Y	Y			Y	60%

Table No 03 shows that all the universities considered students demand in collection development by scoring 100%. Only two universities followed collection development policy while 80% of the central university libraries taking faculty and HODs recommendations for collection development. Three universities are also depending on the fund availability for collection development.

Table No 04 Classification and Cataloging Code used

Code	BBAU	IGNOU	EFLAU	C U of Jharkhand	Tezpur University	%
Classification Scheme	Colon Classification					
	Dewey Decimal Classification	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
	Universal Classification Code					
Cataloging Code	Classified Catalogue Code					
	Dictionary Catalogue					
	Anglo American Cataloging Code	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%

All the universities libraries of this study are using Dewey decimal classification scheme for classification of the resources and AACR for cataloging.

Table No 05 Criteria followed to identify less/unused documents

Criteria's	BBAU	IGNOU	EFLAU	C U of Jharkhand	Tezpur University	%
Circulation statistics	Y	Y	--	Y	Y	80%
Year of publication	Y	Y	--	--	--	40%
Usage	Y	Y	--	Y	Y	80%
Physical condition	Y	Y	Y	Y	--	80%
Change in curriculum	Y	Y	--	Y	--	60%
Availability of duplicate documents	Y	--	--	Y	--	40%
Availability of superseded edition	--	--	--	--	--	0
Other	--	--		--	--	0

Table No 05 reveals that 80% of the central university libraries follow circulation statistics, usage of documents and physical condition of the documents for finalizing as a less used or unused documents. Changes in curriculum are also considered in three libraries but availability of duplicate documents is followed only in two central university libraries.

Table No 06 How the less or unused documents are treated

	BBAU	IGNOU	EFLAU	C U of Jharkhand	Tezpur University	%
Sent for impact storage	--	--	--	--	--	--
Weeding	Y	Y	Y	--	--	60%
Off site decentralization	--	--	--	--	--	--
Donate to other libraries	--	--	--	--	--	--
Others	--	--	--	Y	Y	40%

Table no 06 shows that BBAU, IGNOU and EFLAU libraries does weeding of documents of less or unused documents. And other universities following some other methods for the same.

FINDINGS

1.Among these five libraries EFLA University has highest number of collection, were as central university of Jharkhand has less but one cannot judge it is less collection because the university itself started in the year 2009. IGNOU University has large number of both the current journals subscribing and as well as back volumes of the journals. EFLA University also has a comparable collection of current journal and back volumes but in other university it very low in number. Theses, dissertation and reports collection in EFLA university is more compare to BBRAU and Tezpur university that is 850 and 220 respectively. Collection regarding the maps, standards, patents and others is not sound.

2.It's obvious that IGNOU is the very old university and its study centers are scattered all over India and having huge funds so it has highest number of e e-resources compare to all other central university. IGNOU has total 99648 of e-resources while EFLA University has less e-resource of 1365, may be it's because of the University of only Languages. Though the central university of Jharkhand established after the BBA University has more in collection of e-resources that is 14734 compare to BBA University (6041). Tezpur University also has a comparable e-resource.

3.All the universities considered students demands in collection development by scoring 100%. Only two universities followed collection development policy while 80% of the central university libraries taking faculty and HODs recommendations for collection development. Three universities are also depending on the fund availability for collection development.

4.All the central universities libraries of this study are using Dewey decimal classification scheme for classification of the resources and AACR for cataloging.

5.The study reveals that 80% of the central university libraries follow circulation statistics, usage of documents and physical condition of the documents for finalizing as less used or unused documents. Changes in curriculum are also considered in three libraries but availability of duplicate documents is followed only in two central university libraries.

6.Paper shows that BBAU, IGNOU and EFLAU libraries does weeding of documents of less or unused documents. And other universities following some other methods for the same.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Libraries are a center of disseminating information and involvement of IT is a crucial aspect and affects profoundly both organizational structure and the library purpose and service. Hence, libraries and librarians have little choice but to adapt IT for library operations, especially for collection development activities and information services generation.

Libraries should subscribe more and more to primary printed and electronic journals.

Library must participate in consortia's at national as well as international level.

Collections should be made richer on reference materials, seminar and conference papers, maps/charts/diagrams, patents/standards/specifications, reports as well as non-book materials.

Libraries are also required to spend more on e-journals.

Proper user's needs should be assessed from time to time to determine the needs of the users. If library and information science department is available in university, the library can take help of MLISC students and research scholars for this kind of survey.

Libraries must prepare collection development policy in general as well as specific including e-resources and IT-enabled services.

Collection development policy should also revise from time to time according to the need and situation of the respective library.

The libraries should maintain a separate collection development center.

A separate specific post of Collection development In-charge (CDI) in library should be created in the libraries, who will be In-charge of whole collection development process.

Selection of documents should be done in the light of user's needs.

It is recommended that they must participate in resource sharing and networking process.

Libraries should also follow proper weeding out criteria .It will solve their space problem.

Collection evaluation must be done by library staff annually.

Library committee should meet regularly.

The researcher feels that the library committee should be elected and in this user's participation is necessary for appropriate feedback.

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