

Evaluation of Collection Development Provided by NIT Libraries in North India

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to know about the collection development policies and the users' views about various aspects of their respective libraries' functioning like working hours, collection, services, staff, space available for seating, etc. It was also intended to know their suggestions about any improvement, change required in the existing library functioning and services. This study investigates existing collection in NIT libraries and trends of collection development being followed in the changing environment. Besides collection and services, the study also touches the other aspects of the library, i.e., finance, staff and the user's impact both directly and indirectly on building up of an adequate and efficient library collection and also on the services provided by libraries.

Keywords: Public library, user satisfaction, state central library, library services

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INTRODUCTION

Knowledge is power and libraries are the reservoirs of this power manifest in books and other reading materials. NIT library is a storehouse of knowledge. It is an axiomatic truth that a library cannot function without an appropriate collection. The efficiency of the library services is governed largely by the quantity and quality of its collection. It preserves and disseminates knowledge among the educated people and all reading and research activities are radiated from the library. Library collections are measured not only in terms of number but also in terms of their value and utility to the clientele.

Definition

1. David H. Stam, borrowing from Rene Dubos, urges us to "think globally and act locally" in developing collections. He observed that all libraries are linked in a great chain access.
2. Harrods's Librarian's Glossary 6th edition defines as "the process of planning a stock acquisition programme not simply to cater for immediate needs but to liquid a coherent and reliable collection over a number of years, to meet the objectives of the services".

3. Shipman "Building a collection may occasionally involve a selection and acquisition of materials in most cases. It is likely to mean the planned systematic development of an already existing collection".

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Collection development focuses on the building of library collections, ideally following guidelines already established and articulated in the libraries written collection development policy. It is a concept that fits most happily during times of expansion and financial prosperity, and one which has tended to be associated primarily with libraries with large research collections. Although this term is sometimes used synonymously with the term collection management, the two are not identical [1].

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

Collection management encompasses the activities concerned with the selection and acquisition of library materials, sometimes described as collection development but goes beyond this; it also includes the systematic maintenance of a library's collection, covering resource allocation, technical processing,

preservation and storage, weeding and discarding of stock, and the monitoring and encouragement of collection use [2].

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Effective collection development requires creating a plan to correct collection weaknesses while maintaining its strengths. A collection development policy is the written statement of that plan, providing details to guide the library staff. Thus, a policy statement is a document that represents a plan of action and information used to guide the staff's thinking and decision making.

The policy should also stipulate the norms and standards regarding the following:

- Optimum size of the collection;
- Proportion of the allocation of funds to books, journals, and other categories of documents;
- Proportion of allocation of funds on the basis of service to different groups;
- Guidelines regarding the duplication of documents; and
- Procurement procedure for different type of reading materials.

COLLECTION EVALUATION

Collection evaluation should be an intrinsic part of collection management, but it can be a complex and expensive process. Collections are evaluated in order to find out how good they are in breadth, depth and scope—in terms of their relevance to the needs of the library's users community. In the course of such an evaluation, collection strength and weakness will be identifying. The data gathered in this way can be used to assist in the preparation or revision of collection development policy statements and to guide budgeting and strategic planning [3].

No library is self-sufficient today on account of ever increasing information needs of research scholars and ongoing multidisciplinary research being conducted in the NIT. So when the required documents are not available in the library in its own collection, library acquires the same on Inter Library Loan from other institutes for the purpose of use and consultation by its scholars and teachers [4].

National Institutes of Technology (NITs) are premier colleges of engineering and technology education in India. They were originally called *Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs)*. In 2002, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government, decided to upgrade, in phases, all the original 17 Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) as National Institutes of Technology (NITs). There are currently 20 NITs, the latest being NIT, Agartala. The Government of India has introduced the *National Institutes of Technology (NIT) Act 2007* to bring 20 such institutions within the ambit of the act and to provide them with complete autonomy in their functioning. The NITs are deliberately scattered throughout the country in line with the government norm of an NIT in every major state of India to promote regional development. The individual NITs, after the introduction of the NIT Act, have been functioning as autonomous technical universities and hence can draft their own curriculum and functioning policies.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter deals with the review of literature available on the subject. Detailed information on research in this area of library and information science is presented. Review of literature is an early step for conducting research. It enables to avoid the duplication of research work and broadens the understanding of the research problem. Various research problem "An Evaluation of collection development and readers services provided by NIT libraries in North India" these studies related to the different aspects of libraries particularly college libraries, including library administration, finance, document collection, library staff, services, physical facilities, use of libraries by students, research scholars and teachers, there information seeking behavior, use pattern and user's satisfaction with the resources and services of libraries, etc. In this chapter, a review of the selective and useful studies related to the research problem has been attempted [5].

Singh (1999) took up a comparative study of reader services provided by IIT libraries of India under name "Reader's services in IIT libraries (India): A commutative study". It has been found that reader services namely

circulation, Interlibrary loan, reference, current awareness service, photocopy, translation, document reservation, and bibliographical services were existing in all the IIT libraries. The CD – ROM search was most popular service. Three of the total 05 libraries understudy started the process of transforming themselves into digital libraries.

Sridhar (1995) wrote an article named “problems of collection development in special libraries”. He explored the various factors affecting collection development in special libraries and highlighted the significance of collection development policy manual. The author pointed out various problems related to document selection and procurement [6].

Gressesse (2000) in a paper titled “collection development and management in the 21st century with special reference to academic libraries: an overview” examined the concepts and problems which needed consideration for collection development in academic libraries aligning the collection development activities with the changing environment of 21st century.

Pandita (2004) in her paper “collection development in the digital era” examined the impact of electronic format on the collection development. She pointed out that the policy of content development needs to be worked out and redesigned.

Mandal and Panda (2005) in their research paper titled “collection development in the internet age and the need for a consortium in the Engineering colleges libraries in West Bengal: A study” discussed the different dimensions of collection development. The existing stage of library collection and infrastructural facilities of 17 engineering college libraries in West Bengal were examined. Author suggested the staff training, provision of adequate staff and funds, appropriate infrastructures in IT and a need-based collection.

Mulla and Chandarshekhara (2006) conducted a study “E-resources and services in engineering college libraries- A case study” to examine the

efforts made by the engineering college libraries in Karnataka to build electronic resources. The result of the study revealed that collection and services infrastructure of the libraries in sampled regions were not up to the mark and libraries were struggling to build a digital collection and in dissemination digital information due to lack of ICT infrastructure, IT and manpower and the paucity of finances, etc.

Mary and Sankar (2008) “Collection evaluation of PSN College of Engineering and Technology library and PET Engineering College Library in Tirunelveli District”. Authors described the various techniques of evaluating the document collection in academic libraries and evaluated the collection development practices of two engineering colleges.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Dictionary meaning of the term ‘research’ is a systematic or closed investigation. According to Shorter Oxford Dictionary it is “an investigation directed to the discovery of some facts by careful study of a subject” or “a course of critical or scientific enquiry”, or “to investigate or to study closely”. The Webster’s Dictionary defines it as “careful or critical enquiry or examination seeking facts or principles”. Research is therefore, basically a systematic enquiry which employs critical examination with an objective to search new facts or to interpret known facts in new light. To quote J.S. Shera, it is “an intellectual process whereby a problem is perceived, divided into its constituent elements and analyzed in the light of certain assumptions”.

The purpose of the study was to know the collection development policies of NIT libraries of North India

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The topic under investigation is “Evaluation of Collection Development Provided by NIT Libraries in North India”. NIT libraries mainly serve the information requirements of teaching community, researchers and students of the parent institution; the scope of the users is restricted to include only students and teachers. Other administrative and non-

teaching staff has been excluded from the purview of present study [7].

As mentioned in the topic, the focus of study is collection development and readers' services. In this context the topic includes following questions:

1. Are the users really using library collection and services effectively?
2. Are users able to use e-resources themselves or some kind of help is needed?
3. What are the hindrances faced by the users in the use of resources?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are to:

1. To investigate existing collection in NIT libraries and trends of collection development being followed in the changing environment.
2. To find out the information sources and to ascertain how far they are useful and adequate to meet user requirements.
3. To examine the impact of technology on NITs' collection development and information services.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The topic under investigation is "Evaluation of Collection Development Provided by NIT Libraries in North India" mainly covers two important aspects of the library i.e., its

collection and the readers' services provided. Besides collection and services, the study also touches the other aspects of the library, i.e., finance, staff and the user's impact both directly and indirectly on building up of an adequate and efficient library collection and also on the services provided by libraries. This study will cover the NITs of Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh [8].

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Users are the mirror of the library services through which the image of library services is reflected. In the present chapter the data obtained from the 175 respondents i.e., faculty members and students have been analyzed [9].

For the purpose, a total of 175 questionnaires were distributed to the students and the faculty members of three NITs, i.e., NIT Kurukshetra, NIT Hamirpur, NIT Jalandhar. In response 90 questionnaires were received from the students and 60 questionnaires were received from the faculty members (Table 1).

Table 1 shows the total response received from faculty members and students. The highest response was received from the faculty members and students of NIT Kurukshetra, i.e., 80 and 90%, respectively. The overall response from all NIT's was satisfactory (Table 2).

Table 1: Shows Distribution of Questionnaires and User Response.

NIT	Faculty Members			Students		
	Distributed	Received	%	Distributed	Received	%
Kurukshetra	25	23	92	40	36	90
Hamirpur	25	19	76	30	27	90
Jalandher	25	18	72	30	27	90
Total	75	60	80	100	90	90

Table 2: Frequency of Visiting the Library.

NIT	Users	Daily	Twice a Week	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Never
		No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Kurukshetra	Faculty Members	16 (69.5)	7 (30.4)	----	----	----	----
	Students	16 (44.4)	9 (25)	11 (30.5)	----	----	----
Hamirpur	Faculty Members	9 (47.3)	5 (26.3)	4 (21.05)	1 (5.26)	----	----
	Students	13 (48.1)	12 (44.4)	2 (7.40)	1 (3.70)	1 (3.70)	----
Jalandher	Faculty Members	12 (66.6)	----	6 (33.3)	----	----	----
	Students	15 (55.5)	12 (44.4)	----	----	----	----

User's frequency of visit to libraries depends up on opening hours of libraries, nature of information required, expectations about its

availability in libraries, most significantly the attitude of library staff, arrangements of reading material, etc. (Table 3).

Table 3: Rating the Library Collection.

NIT	Users		Very Good No. (%)	Good No. (%)	Poor No. (%)
Kurukshetra	Faculty Members	Text Book	5(21.7)	16(69.5)	2(8.69)
		Reference Book	8(34.7)	15(65.2)	----
		General Book	1(4.34)	----	----
		Internet Services	5(21.7)	18(78.2)	----
		Magazines	----	1(4.34)	----
		Database	1(4.34)	----	----
		Periodicals	1(4.34)	22(95.6)	----
	E-resources and Services	15(65.2)	8(34.7)	----	
	Students	Text Book	31(86.1)	5(13.8)	----
		Reference Book	25(69.4)	9(25)	1(2.7)
		General Book	13(36.1)	19(52.7)	3(8.33)
		Internet Services	18(50)	15(41.6)	2(5.55)
		Magazines	12(33.3)	21(58.3)	3(8.33)
		Database	12(33.3)	17(47.2)	4(11.1)
Periodicals		24(66.6)	7(19.4)	4(11.1)	
E-resources and Services	17(47.22)	14(38.8)	4(11.1)		
Hamirpur	Faculty Members	Text Book	4(21.05)	18(94.4)	----
		Reference Book	4(21.05)	15(78.9)	----
		General Book	----	4(21.05)	----
		Internet Services	4(21.05)	14(73.6)	----
		Magazines	----	2(10.5)	2(10.5)
		Database	----	3(15.7)	----
		Periodicals	----	3(15.7)	----
	E-resources and Services	3(15.7)	15	----	
	Students	Text Book	16(59.2)	10(37.03)	3(11.1)
		Reference Book	10(37.03)	12(44.4)	6(22.2)
		General Book	4(14.8)	15(55.5)	5(18.5)
		Internet Services	9(33.3)	13(48.1)	2(7.40)
		Magazines	8(29.6)	19(70.3)	4(14.8)
		Database	2(7.40)	10(37.03)	2(7.40)
Periodicals		5(18.5)	3(11.1)	11(40.7)	
E-resources and Services	6(22.2)	5(18.5)	11(40.7)		
Jalandhar	Faculty Members	Text Book	4(22.2)	14(77.7)	----
		Reference Book	----	16(88.8)	2(11.1)
		General Book	----	----	----
		Internet Services	----	10(55.5)	4(22.2)
		Magazines	----	----	----
		Database	----	----	----
		Periodicals	----	----	----
	E-resources and Services	8(44.4)	8(44.2)	2(11.1)	
	Students	Text Book	12(44.4)	12(44.4)	----
		Reference Book	12(44.4)	6(22.2)	9(33.3)
		General Book	3(11.1)	15(55.5)	6(22.2)
		Internet Services	9(33.3)	9(33.3)	3(11.1)
		Magazines	6(22.2)	18(66.6)	3(11.1)
		Database	3(11.1)	15(55.5)	----
Periodicals		6(22.2)	6(22.2)	12(44.4)	
E-resources and Services	3(11.1)	3(11.1)	15(55.5)		

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of the survey, so conducted in respect of the libraries of all these three NIT, coupled with a number of useful suggestions given by some of the users selected for the studies, I have arrived at some conclusion as summarized below followed by suggestion there on:

A Library has been well described as the trinity of books, readers and staff.

The number and quality of books in a library is of utmost importance and it is on these that the success of library depends. It is observed that the users are satisfied with the collection of their respective college libraries. Moreover as tables reveal the collection of NIT library is more relevant as compared to the collection of other libraries.

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