ABSTRACT

The present study investigated the management of collection in university libraries of Assam in the information and communication technology environment. The study covered the main criteria like library organizational structures, collection development policy, library budget and expenditure, document selection, supplier selection, book order, resource collection, licensing policy, technical processing, organization of resources, access to collection, both the manual and online library services, collection maintenance, user strength etc. on the basis of data collected from the library professional of selected university libraries. The separate data collected from the library users also studied in context of purpose, frequency and importance of using the library collection and satisfaction level of users regarding print as well as eresources etc.

The study investigates and elaborates the primary way to learn about the collection management in accordance to user's need of today's information exploitation age. It also studied the resources and services available and purpose of using ICT enabled library services. The intention of it was to assess the extent of user's satisfaction on information and communication technology based resources, services, facilities available in the libraries and problem faced by the users. Findings and suggestions have been given on the basis of the study to make the service more beneficial in the university libraries of Assam.

Information and communication technology has impacted on every corner of university library services. Computing technology, communication technology and mass storage technology are some of the areas of continuous developments that reshape the way of libraries in access, retrieve, storage, manipulation and dissemination of information to users. Tremendous advances in context of collection and services has made in library due to technological advancement. Now the user requirement can be provided more efficiently and effectively using ICT, as they provide convenient time, place, cost effectiveness, faster and most-up-to-date dissemination of information. University libraries of Assam are also influenced by ICT, have brought many changes and transformation to library services which provide the IT based services in addition to manual services, such as OPAC, Web OPAC, online inter library loan service, online reference services, online referral services, online bibliographic services, online current awareness services, online document delivery service, online selective dissemination of information service, online library portal based services and online indexing and abstracting services etc.

Though the e-resources are considered as the vital components of university library collection, till now some of the reputed university library are not in a position to purchase the e-resources and although some of the university library have their ecollection till now that are not fully organized, it may be due to various factors like insufficient funds, inadequate trained staff to handle computers and software packages and administrative concerns etc. Automation has been initiated in all university libraries of Assam and they are enjoying the ICT in almost all aspects such as user, resources, staff management and services. It is most important to evaluate whether the progress of ICT implementation has any impact on the library profession in these highest educational institutions or not.

The total respondent of the study is 12 university librarians and 600 library users from the preselected university libraries of Assam. The study carried out through survey method to collect the data where separate questionnaire has been prepared for both the library users and librarian. The selected universities are personally visited to collect data by using the data collection tools like structured questionnaire, interview and observation. It is hoped that the study will be valuable for professionals and research scholars in the field of library and information science and library management authorities.