

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Library is the essential centre for an academic setting. Libraries supplement the instructional work of classrooms and carry forward the ideals of education, thus real education can only be achieved through the libraries. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Chairman of University Education Commission (1949) described the role of university library as “The library is the heart of all university’s work: directly so, as regards its research work, and indirectly as regards its educational work, which derives its life from research work. Scientific research needs a library as well as laboratories, while for humanities research the library is both library and laboratory”. The Library collection is considered as the total of library materials like books, serials, thesis and dissertations, conference proceedings, manuscripts, government documents, pamphlets, catalogue, reports, recordings, microfilm reels, micro-cards, microfiche, punched cards, computer tapes, CD, DVD, standards/ specifications, patents and digital resources which make up the holdings of a particular library. The university library plays important role in the process of education by supplementing curricular learning materials.

A library consists of documentary and non-documentary sources and the collection management covers the both. The documentary sources are the recorded work on paper or other materials for easy physical handling, transportation and preservation for example printed books, thesis, dissertations, reports, monographs and audio visuals etc. Documentary sources are also includes e-resources such as e-books, e-journals and online databases, which the library of the institution subscribes or make available through various types of measures like participation in consortium, resource sharing, etc. The non-documentary sources are institutional sources and human

sources like funds, infrastructure and manpower. Collection management is the proper and systematic management of planning, funding, acquiring, use and evaluations of library collections over a comprehensive period of time to meet the objective of an institution. Collection development is a process of building up and improving the collection of a library. Collection management is similar to collection development but it highlights the management aspects which includes collection organization. Thus, both the terms can be merged as collection development and management. User need, collection development policy, book selection, acquisition, management evaluation, resource sharing, weeding policy, storage and preservation of the collection are the important area of collection development and management. The most troubling problem faced by the libraries in collection development is the explosion of literature, literature scatter, the rising price of documents, widening gap and cost between hardbound and paperbound edition, inelastic budget, book selection, weeding out, delay in the release of book grants and technological evaluation. Collection management for better service to the user is the most important and primary objective of any library. A university library deals with file information; often semi published or unpublished and emphasizes unit of information rather than the entire document. A university library may have to deal with specific, current and up to date information in a variety of forms like technical reports, reprints, offprint, pre-prints, conference papers and proceedings, trade catalogue, instruction manuals, equipment manuals, code of practice, data handbook, data sheets, engineering drawing, newspaper, market surveys, slides, cassettes, records, motion pictures and photographs etc. as unconventional forms.

To develop a proper useful collection in a library the collection development policy is important. The main purpose of the collection development policy is to establish operating guidelines for the pre-planned development of a quality collection of materials to meet the educational needs of students, research scholar and faculty members of the university. The policy provides general guidelines for allocating funds and formulating objective of selection criteria. The goals are to ensure consistency among those who have responsibility for developing the collection and to provide a

tool for evaluating and improving collections for all relevant subject disciplines. The objective of the university library is to provide information resources and facilitate information access in support to scholarly activity and research, student learning and teaching excellence which is full filled by the proper and structured collection development policy.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study analyses the collection management in the university libraries of Assam. The study focuses on the state-of-the-art and the possible measures undertaken by the library and information centres in general. The phenomenon of collection management of resources among university libraries in Assam is still a recent development. The statement of the problem of this study is related to the university libraries of Assam where some of the libraries are not following any collection management policy. The problem mainly arises in the private universities of Assam. The private universities are lacking in number of collection and the book acquisition policy is not appropriate.

1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The adequate library collection helps to meet the needs of library users i.e. teachers, students and research scholars. A good collection of documents is the base of a library. In order to develop a good collection, documents of various types and forms are an important facet which a library should procure.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the collection management in university libraries of Assam. The objective of the study is also taken into consideration of importance of both printed and e-resources for the university libraries.

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the resources and services available in university libraries of Assam.

2. To find out the purpose of using printed resources by the users in their day-to-day activities in university libraries of Assam.
3. To find out the purpose, frequency and importance of using the e-resources in university libraries of Assam.
4. To find out the use of ICT applications in university libraries of Assam.

1.3 HYPOTHESIS

Keeping in view the need for the study and its objectives, the following hypotheses were formulated:

Hypothesis 1: A good collection optimizes the level of user satisfaction in university libraries of Assam.

Hypothesis 2: E-resources are required to be introduced in some university libraries of Assam to enhance their collection.

1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The study area is under the jurisdiction of state of Assam. In Assam a good number of universities like central, state, open and private are functioning for providing higher education. The study has been taken in the universities of Assam. Institute of higher studies in technology, Assam are excluded from the present study.

Out of eighteen university libraries of Assam eight university libraries are not considered, due to the reason of their newer establishment of those libraries and the lack of infrastructure and resources. Some of them are established but lacks resources.

The names of the selected universities of Assam are as follows:

Table A: Selected university libraries for the study			
Sl. no.	Name of the University	Place	Year of established
A. Central Universities of Assam			
1	Assam University	Silchar	1994
2	Tezpur University	Tezpur	1994
B. State Universities of Assam			
3	Assam Agricultural University	Jorhat	1969
4	Bodoland University	Kokrajhar	2009
5	Dibrugarh University	Dibrugarh	1965
6	Gauhati University	Guwahati	1948
C. Open University of Assam			
7	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	Rani, Patgaon, Guwahati	2006
D. Private Universities of Assam			
8	Assam Don Bosco University	Azara campus, Guwahati	2009
9	Assam Don Bosco University	Sonapur campus, Guwahati	2009
10	Assam Don Bosco University	Kharghuli campus, Guwahati	2010
11	Assam Down Town University	Panikhaiti, Guwahati	2010
12	Kaziranga University	Jorhat	2012

1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THE CHAPTERS

The entire study is presented in six chapters. A brief outline of each chapter is given below:

Chapter 1 Introduction deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, hypothesis, scope and limitations of the study and organization of the chapters.

Chapter 2 Literature Review deals with the review of literature related to topic.

Chapter 3 Research Methodology includes the research method used to take the study forward; it also includes the data collection tools, research population and area of the study.

Chapter 4 Collection Management: An Overview includes the theory based on the collection management. It also includes the collection development policy; and the present scenario of collection development and management in university libraries of Assam.

Chapter 5 Data Analysis and Interpretation deals with data analysis of collection management of the selected university libraries in Assam.

Chapter 6 Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion deals with the findings based on the analysis of the study. The chapter also includes suggestion and conclusion of the study.

References APA (American Psychological Association) 6th edition referencing style has been followed to cite the references and arranged alphabetically.