

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND STATUS OF E-RESOURCES IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN INDIA

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**Abstract** *In library collection, e-resources has become the buzz word, which on one hand and the development and impact of the technologies on libraries where as on the other hand, pose new challenges for library professionals to manage the electronic information resources properly. University, the topmost higher education institute also changing their collection from print media to e-resources very rapidly to fulfill the requirement of their user community. This paper identifies the various problems of collection building of e-resources in state university libraries of Uttar Pradesh as well as provides the suitable suggestions to improve the present situation.*

**Keyword:** *Collection Development, E-Resources, Internet, UGC-Infonet Consortia, University libraries.*

## INTRODUCTION

The concept of library has been changed at today's electronic environment due to rapid growth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) which created a revolution in every sphere of library especially in its collection. Before some decades Lancaster stated that we are growing towards paperless society very rapidly and Prof. R. G. Prashar stated that paperless society is a distance dream. That day has gone when it was only a dream now that very idea is whimsical all over the world. Every university library is giving more attention on e-resources and also allocating some special amount in their library budget for their collection including books, journals and other documents of library.

## COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Library Collection means the holdings of several types of documents of library like books, periodicals, govt. publications, academic thesis & dissertations, research reports, annual reviews, conferencing proceedings, pamphlets, standards & specification, patents, trade literature, maps, atlases, and globes, photographs, illustrations, painting, microfilms, microfiches, rare books, manuscripts, slides, audio cassettes etc. and with the advent of electronic media like computerized databases, Floppies, CD-ROM, DVD, e-journals, e-books, e-thesis, Internet etc. with other special materials in addition to books as principal constituent. Collection Development is a vital process in creating and building of a library collection to serve study, teaching, research, recreational and other

needs of library users. The process includes selection and rejection of current and retrospective materials, the planning of strategies for continuing acquisition, preservation and evaluation of collections to determine how well they serve user needs. Over all Collection Building encompasses many library operations ranging from the selection of individual titles for purchase to the withdrawal of expendable materials.

## E-Resources

An E-Resource is defined as any resource which requires computer access means a resources which consists of material that are computer controlled in which information are stored electronically and which are also accessible through electronic systems and networks. Any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on.

The e-resources of a library includes e-journals, e-books, e-theses and dissertations, e-databases both on line and off-line, which should be acquired by library as per its needs, infrastructure facilities, financial provision etc. Different types of e-resources in libraries are CD-ROM, e-journals, Online Database, e-books, abstracting and indexing databases, e-mail and list servers, e- reports, e-content pages, e-clippings etc.

There are so many advantages of this new media which are creating more interest in user's community compare to print

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collection are Multi-access facilities, Tremendous speed to browse or such, Multidimensional functionality, Huge content capacity of information, Internationally reach and more convenience to use rather than print collection.

There are several reasons to justify the collection development of the e-resources in libraries. These can be summarized as:

- Ever increasing price rate of the print journals
- Irregular publication and the long time gap between publication of a journal and its availability in the market
- Problems related to conversion rates of foreign currencies
- Technological developments
- Easy to access and easy to search
- Lower price per user or free access
- Low searching time
- Availability of vast amount of the e-resources in every field of knowledge

The electronic resources on magnetic and optional media have a vast impact on the collections of university libraries. Initially it was started with secondary databases and gradually accepted for primary resources which are available only in electronic forms.

## U. P. STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Although we have around 400 universities in all over India but according to 31<sup>st</sup> ed. of University Handbook in U.P. there are 28 University- level institutions including 2 deemed Universities, 11 are conventional Universities, 4 central Universities, 5 institutions provide education in agriculture and veterinary science, 1 health science, 1 open University, 3 Engineering & Technical Institutions, 1 from other discipline. These all have library systems to support education, learning and research and meet information needs of their academic and research community. These are the hub for information storage and dissemination.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

### Objectives of The Study Are as Follows

- To reveal the present status of e-Resources in the university libraries.
- To find out collection development policies of e-Resources adopted by the university libraries and evaluate such policies and practices.
- To explore the current practices of selection and evaluation of e-Resources.
- To recommend practicable guidelines for improved collection development programme.

- To study the emerging new information environment that affects the collection development activities in university libraries.
- To make an overview of the existing collection development policies and strategies and their application to Indian University library environment.
- To suggest policies for collection development suitable to Indian University Information System.

## METHODOLOGY

The main purpose of the present study was to study the electronic sources and services provided to the users of U.P. State University Libraries. The questionnaire based survey method was used for data collection. 12 questionnaire distributed to all 12 traditional university librarian to get the information related their libraries. All of them returned the filled questionnaire. The analysis of the data for the present study was done by applying simple percentage.

## FINDINGS

During the analysis of data and its interpretation, it was found that

1. 58.3% university libraries have separate e-resource section while 41.7% libraries don't have any separate section.
2. Only 8.3% university libraries are using software to manage e-resources while 91.7% are not using any software.
3. 50.0% university libraries have 1 or 2 staff to manage the e-resource section whereas 50.0% libraries don't have a single staff for this purpose.
4. 84% that is the maximum amount of budget are allocating for books where as 16% amount of budget are allocating for journals and very few amount allocating for accessories. But not a single university is allocating a single rupee for e-Resources. Although few university libraries are subscribing e-Resources from the funds allotted for books, journals and accessories.
5. Only 17% university libraries framed the collection development policy for their traditional collection but not a single university library framed this policy for the new emerging collection of e-resources.
6. 92% university libraries have average collection of CD-ROM/ Floppy.
7. 50% university libraries open their e-resource section for less than 8 hours, while 25% libraries open for 8-10 hours and only 8% libraries open more than 10 hours to access e-resources.

8. Maximum university libraries (75%) are not charging any amount to access the e-resources while only 8% university libraries are charging Rs.10 / hour.
9. Only 33.3% university libraries are following licensing agreement while 25% university libraries have adopted weeding policy of e-Resources.
10. 58% university libraries have networking facility through VSAT while 16.7% through leased line and 8.3% through broad band.
11. 58% university libraries are the member of the UGC-Infonet Consortia while 42% libraries are non member.
12. 25% university libraries are subscribing national consortia rather than UGC-Infonet while 8.3% are subscribing international consortia to access e-Resources.

## SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are put forward to improve the present situation of collection development through e-resources in U.P. University Libraries.

- A comprehensive Collection Development Policy of e-resources must be framed and maintained by the libraries under study in order to follow a set of standard practices for acquisition and management of e-resources.
- The libraries should subscribe more and more e-resources through national and international consortia rather than those are available through UGC-Infonet consortia, INDEST consortia, CSIR consortia and many more along with reputed publisher based e-resources those are easily available in market.
- The e-resources which are being subscribed by the libraries should be periodically evaluated on the basis of their usability and decision to be taken either to continue or to cancel the subscription to those e-resources through conducting user's survey in time to time.
- There should be allotted a specific and separate budget for e-resources to procurement of new resources and renewal of existing resources, such as e-journals, e-books, e-databases online subscription etc.
- E-Resources should be made easy to use and easy to learn to users. The Maximum number of users is unaware of use of e-resources as well as their availability in library. Therefore library should provide users awareness program for the users to educate them about what e-resources are available in the library and how to make maximum use of these e-resources for academic purposes.

- They must appoint the technically skilled and expert staff to undertake e-resource collection and management activities of the library.
- Library must extend their opening period of e-resource section so that users can use maximum time and they will be more beneficial.
- The problem of slow access speed can be overcome by increasing the bandwidth, increasing the RAM capacity and installing antivirus. These all are able to increase the access speed of computers to create the interest of e-resource users.

## CONCLUSION

The growth in electronic library systems has forced to review of the library services and structures. The increasing provision of information online, as opposed to on shelf, is evident in a vast array of information services. The benefits of this change are significant, many users may access the same information simultaneously, information may be updated instantaneously; costs are reduced; and staff time in shelving and handing resources is minimized. While the advantages for the information services are great, there are some significant issues that must be addressed if the information service is to continue to meet the needs of the users. These findings will help librarians to know more about their users, which will help them to set policy, make decisions and design more effective products and services. As libraries make more e- journals and full text databases available to users, both browsing and searching remain important.

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