Outline of Collection Development in Law College Libraries of Karnataka: A Study

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Abstract - Law libraries which are considered to be serve to academic and legal research activities must help achieve the academic goals of their institutions and this is possible only through developing adequate library collection and/or providing seamless and wider access to relevant electronic resources. It maintains that the major indicator of a good library is the quality and quantity of its collections. It is necessary for law libraries to acquire existing and relevant information resources necessary for supporting the teaching, learning, and research activities that law colleges are known for. The researcher investigates the trends in collection development activities in law college libraries. This article describes briefly the impact of publishing on collection development in libraries. It also examines the status and management of print and electronic resources in law libraries surveyed and enlists the challenges before library professionals in the changed perspective. It also explores the kind of collaborative collection initiatives taken up by law libraries and the perceptions of the library professionals on collaborative collection development.

Keywords: Collection Development in Libraries, Collaborative Collection Development, Collection Development Activities

Introduction

A collection development policy deals with the nature and scope of collection, sets priorities, calls for commitment to organizational goals, provides inclusion and exclusion guides, eliminates personal biases of selection, helps to maintain consistency by orienting new staff and controlling old staff, aids is resolving complaints, weeding and evaluation of collection, collection development program and serves as a public relations and accountability tool.

Document selection, document procurement process, technical reports, microforms, vendor-controlled order plans and journal subscription are the prominent factors associated with collection development policy making (Sridhar, 1995). By drafting individual policies, libraries can "produce tools that enable selectors to work toward defined goals and thus to use funds wisely in shaping strong collections, to inform staff and users concerning the scope and nature of existing resources and plans for continual development of collections, and to provide information that will help to provide objective evidence for use in the budgetary allocation process (Gabriel, 1995). Collection development policies are used to respond to the

new demands of the new academic programme to ratify the status quo in academic and research libraries (Hazen, 1996).

Review of literature

Collection development and collection management are influenced by the impact of information technology. Collection development policy, resource sharing, networking and collection evaluation matter most in the present technology - driven environment (Seetharama, 1997). Collection development in university libraries should be based on proper planning (Parameswaran, 1997). Collection development includes assessing user needs, coordinating selection of items, weeding and storing of parts of the collection and planning for resource sharing. Collection development needs to be undertaken on the basis of planned and logical manner to build and maintain its collection.

Collection development has become a complex task in the new digital environment (Edmonds, 2002). Collection development parameters include identification of subject specialists, budget allocation, collection development policies, collaboration and resource sharing, liaison with reader's forum and staff representation in the committee (Kumar, 2003).

Collection development has to defined in the present age of electronic information revolution (Maharana et. al. 2004). Collection development librarians have to justify the adoption of electronic books and resources keeping in mind their capacity to fulfill the needs of the users. Collection development basically includes a systematic assessment of the needs of the users and usefulness of the information resources (Hsieh, 2005). Collection development is based on both research about collection development policies and data. Successful collection development is based on the professional clarity and competence of the managers of collection development in academic libraries.

Methodology

The present study is survey of law colleges libraries in Karnataka, India. The survey hunted to find out the nature of the collection, procedures and policies followed to develop collections, nature and budget allocations for them, their selection, access, evaluation and withdrawal procedures and policies and the type of collaborative activities they are involved.

Objectives of the Study:

The following objectives have been pursued for the purpose of the study on collection development, in select law college libraries of Karnataka
- To information regarding the collections in select law college libraries located in Karnataka
- To examine the budget for printed documents as well as e-resources.
- To examine and study the collection development policy of law college's libraries located in Karnataka
- To critically study the selection criteria, acquisition process and de-selection criteria of the documents.

Result and Discussion

The law college library has library advisory committee.

Authority as a power which has some important rights and powers to control all activities of an institution. To construct policy for lib development to monitor efficiency in the decision making to achieve aim and objective of library to allocate, adequate financial aspect etc. Library committee consisting some selected members or responsible for the progress of institution by considering the above said criteria's and also to make a well plan and policy for the overall development. Informationwas collected through questionnaire. The data collected isanalysed and presented in table 1

Table-1
Gernder-wise and Qualification-wise respondents

Variables	Sub variable		Responses			Total	Test statistics
			Agree	No Response	Disagree		
Gender	Male	F	18	-	03	21	CC=0.246; P=0.026
		%	85.71	-	14.29	100	
	Female	F	30	-	18	48	
		%	62.50	-	37.50	100	
Education	Graduates	F	28	-	13	41	CC=0.105; P=0.44
		%	68.29	-	31.71	100	
	Post Graduates	F	20	-	08	28	
		%	71.43	-	28.57	100	
Total		F	48	-	21	69	χ^2=0.430 P=0.37
		%	69.57	-	30.43	100	

Table No.1 provides the opinion of the respondents about the statement - 'The law college library has library advisory committee'.A majority of the male (85.71%) and female professionals and non-professionals (62.50%) have stated thatlaw college library has libraryadvisory committee. There is significant association (CC=0.246;P=0.026) between the gender group and perception of the respondents about the availability of library advisory committee in the law colleges.

A majority of the professionals and non-professionals with graduation background (68.29%) and post graduation background (71.43%) have perceived thatlaw college library has libraryadvisory committee. There is significant association (CC=0.105;P=.044) between the respondents' educational status and perception of the respondents about the availability of library advisory committee in the law colleges.

A majority of the professionals and non-professionals (69.57%) regardless of gender and education have stated thatlaw college library has libraryadvisory committee. There is significant association (χ^2=0.430;P=0.37) between the demographic features and perception of the respondents about the availability of library advisory committee in the law colleges.

Statement: The law college library has adequate funds for collection development

Budgeting is an important component of collection development and management, with the continuous economic times librarian's are increasingly need to defend their budgets. Library

budget is tool for turning library dream into reality. Budget is a essential source the determined the service of offered by the library and resources devoted to needs of the users. Budget is also a financial expression of library plan and objectives. In the modern world it is known the price of e-resources packages place on already limited financial resources. With above context the respondent were asked information regarding library budget. Information so sought is analysed and presented in Table 2.

Table-2
Opinion of the Respondents

Variables	Sub variable		Responses			Total	Test statistics
			Agree	No Response	Disagree		
Gender	Male	F	13	-	08	21	CC=0.282; P=0.013
		%	61.90	-	38.10	100	
	Female	F	27	-	21	48	
		%	56.25	-	43.75	100	
Education	Graduates	F	23	-	18	41	CC=0.090; P=0.30
		%	56.10	-	43.90	100	
	Post Graduates	F	17	-	11	28	
		%	60.71	-	39.29	100	
Total		F	40	-	29	69	χ^2=0.611 P=.037
		%	57.97	-	42.03	100	

Table No.2. provides the opinion of the respondents about the statement - 'The law college library has adequate funds for collection development'.A majority of the male (61.90%) and female professionals and non-professionals (56.25%) have stated that law college library has adequate funds for collection development. There is significant association (CC=0.282;P=.013) between the gender group and perception of the respondents about the allocation of funds for collection development.

A majority of the professionals and non-professionals with graduation background (56.10%) and post graduation background (60.71%) have stated that law college library has adequate funds for collection development. There is significant association (CC=0.090;P=0.30) between the respondents' educational status and perception of the respondents about the allocation of funds for collection development.

A majority of the professionals and non-professionals (57.97%) regardless of gender and education have stated that law college library has adequate funds for collection development. There is significant association (χ^2=0.611;P=.037) between the demographic features and perception of the respondents about the allocation of funds for collection development.

Selection and Acquisition of Library Resources

A law library primarily exists to serve the information needs of the parent organization by providing the required information to its users. They need information to carry out the work assigned to them. Therefore, the library must acquire and maintain the information resources to support and assist the academic and research activities of the users in fulfilling the mission and the goals of the parent organization. It is said that an elegant library building is a white elephant unless it houses materials appropriate for its users.

Table 3
Selection Tools

Sl No	Selection Tools	Yes		No		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Publishers Catalogue	23	100	00	00	23	100
2	Book review	19	82.6	4	17.3	23	100
3	Approval plans (Book exhibition)	16	69.5	7	30.4	23	100
4	User Suggestion	11	47.8	12	52.2	23	100
5	Vender list	14	60.9	9	39.1	23	100
6	Mail Notification	8	34.8	15	65.2	23	100
7	Online Library Acquisition List	6	26.1	17	73.1	23	100
8	News letters	11	47.8	12	52.2	23	100
9	National bibliographies	2	8.7	21	91.3	23	100
10	Others (writers)	3	13.1	20	86.9	23	100

It is clear from the above Table that all 23 respondents constituting use 100% publisher's catalogue as the principal selection tool. The Table indicates that an impressive (19) respondents chase 'book review' as selection tool. They account for 82.6 %. Book exhibition constitute selection tool for representing 16 (69.5 %).User suggestion for 11 respondents representing 47.8 %, and Vendor list for 14 respondents. They represent 60.9 %. For 8 respondents, 'mail notification' is the preferred selection tool and not so far. 15 respondents who contribute 34.8.% and 65.2 % of the total respondents, respectively. Online acquisition respondents by 6 'representing 26.1 %, news letter 11 for respondents as and not so far.12 respondents representing 47.8 % and 52.3 % of the total respondents, respectively. Only 2 respondents found national bibliographies as selection tool and a significant, 21 did not find so representing 8.7 % and 91.3 % of the total respondents, respectively. Others, 3 respondents such as local writers are preferably representing 13.1 %.

Mode of Purchase of Printed Materials (book/ journal)

There are different modes of procurement of resources. The librarians may use simultaneously more than one mode of acquiring resources. The data regarding mode of purchase of resources by the Law libraries is presented in Table 4.

Table 4
Mode of purchase of printed materials (book/ journal)

Sl No	Mode of Purchase	Yes		No		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Directly from publishers	21	91.3	2	8.7	23	100
2	From Vendors/ book seller	20	86.9	3	13.1	23	100
3	Organizing book exhibition and selection	19	82.6	4	17.4	23	100
4	Order book through online (Flipkart, Amazon.com)	7	30.4	16	69.6	23	100
5	Personal visits to Book shop	18	78.3	5	21.7	23	100

The above Table 4 reveals that a majority of the libraries, 21 (91.3%) of libraries, purchase library resources directly from publishers, whereas 20 (86.9%) procure documents through 'from vendors/ book sellers'.and 19 librarians (82.6%) through book exhibitions. Ordering books through online (Flipkart, Amazon.com)', is the preferred medium for 7(30.4%). And18 (78.3 %)make 'personal visits to bookshops. These questions were not assumed by 5(21.7%) of respondents.

Findings of the study

- The law college library has library advisory committee
- The law college library has a comprehensive collection development policy
- The law college library had allocated resources on the basis of professional criteria
- The law college library had adequate funds for collection development
- The law college library had adequate print and electronic resources

Suggestions

The law college libraries should have independent building in order to maintain the information resources and serve the clients properly.The policy makers may also consider expanding and developing law college libraries in order to enable them to make apparent contribution for knowledge expansion and utilization in modern society. Multi -media applications and strategies would cater to the needs of users in a highly competitive information environment. These benefits would boost the identity, credibility, reputation and prosperity of these law college libraries. The top management should also lay emphasis on research, training, publication and extension activities which would improve the status of law college libraries in Karnataka State. These units can be headed by specialists so that they can provide new direction to law college library services. The management can make suitable structural changes, identify new functional areas, acquire state of art technologies, constitute advisory committee, collect feedback and improve the collection development and delivery system in the present times.

Conclusion

Collection Development Policy should address appropriate and acceptable use of e-resource. It should explain the rules and procedures that users are expected to follow when accessing the Internet from the library.The collection development policy and procedures should benefit the users in higher educational institutions.Modern collection development policy should not overlook electronic information resources. Modern academic libraries have increased their acquisition budgets spent on electronic resources. Collection development policy statement should involve short and long term objectives.Document selection, document procurement process, technical reports, microforms, vendor-controlled order plans and journal subscription are the prominent factors associated with collection development policy making (Sridhar, 1995). By drafting individual policies, libraries can "produce tools that enable selectors to work toward defined goals and thus to use funds wisely in shaping strong collections, to inform staff and users concerning the scope and nature of existing resources and plans for continual development of collections, and to provide information that will help to provide objective evidence for use in the budgetary allocation process.

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