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Growth and development of University libraries in India

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Abstract

Rich heritage of the culture and civilization has been preserved in the libraries since olden times. Especially the university libraries are educative in their nature. This task has become more important with Information Explosion. Human knowledge is increasing very fast. Therefore, to access to information pin pointedly exhaustively and expeditiously organized university library services have become essential. This paper reviews the growth and development of Indian university libraries in Ancient, Medieval and British period. Paper also discusses growth & development of university libraries in the Pre-independence and Post-independence period of time. For a long time a library was not considered an essential unit of the campus. Soon after 1857, the British government set up India's first three universities in the three presidency cities of the country. Reports and recommendations of various committee and commission and their impact on the growth of university libraries has been reviewed through the literature. The paper concludes that there has been considerable quantitative growth in the number of university libraries over the period especially after independence. The UGC has played an important role to propagated library consciousness in academic community to a long way. University library services have been mainly revolutionized on the recommendations of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan pioneer library scientist of the century.

Keywords: University library, growth, development, India, education commission

Introduction

University libraries in India have originated for several decades from the primordial concept of preservation of reading materials, for several decades since their inception, most of the universities in India continued to remain only as examining bodies without any teaching or research activity. They have therefore no organized library service, even though they have certain book collections of their own, these collections were left in the charge of the door keeper or at the best some clerical staff, to keep them clean and in some kind of order. With the explosion of information, the university libraries have replaced the old concept of being mere store houses of knowledge by extending their sphere of activity to provide timely information to the user, thus satisfying the motto of right information to the right person at the right time. The escalating research programmers realized the importance of university libraries. (Murlikrishna, C. 1993) ^[1].

It is an irony of the history of universities in India that for a long time a library was not considered an essential unit of the campus. Soon after 1857, the British government set up India's first three universities in the three presidency cities of the country, but they were merely administrative and examining bodies presiding over a few constituent colleges. It was much later, in 1873, that libraries were accepted as part of the universities, at least in some of them with the result that we had 20 universities - level libraries in India at the dawn of freedom. But during the last four decades, the education system in our country saw an explosion of university libraries.

It is another irony that, with this rapid growth in the number of university libraries, we are still groping in the dark for an official national policy on university libraries. (Agrawal, S. P.) Now the university library is no longer part of an ivory tower world; it is a practical service institution, accountable for every aspect of its performance, as M.A. Gelfand in his book states: "the fundamental role of the library is educational. It should not be operated as a mere

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storehouse of books attached to a reading room, but as a dynamic instrument of education." (Thompson, James 1970)^[3]

University is an integral part of the society; therefore, these have social obligations to solve social, economical and political problems. University research facilities are being increasingly used towards this aim. Besides this universities are also providing extension lectures, correspondence courses, radio talks, public lectures, T.V. programmes, adult education programmes, etc. The university library is an agency of scholarly communication. A university library is a part of a university set up; therefore it exists to fulfill the objectives of its parent body. (Wilson, L. R. and Tabular, M. F. 1956)^[4].

At a time a library was regarded as a storehouse and books were meant for preservation. However, significant changes have taken place in the outlook of university administration, research scholars, teachers and students. The development and growth of university libraries in India especially after independence clearly indicate that the development has been slow, uneven and haphazard in almost all respects, still efforts in various fields have been made for the development of university libraries. Three universities have been added every year on an average. The enrollment at different levels in various educational institutions has been phenomenal and is bound to increase in the coming year in view of the increasing population of the country and the keenness of the central and state government to enable all sections of the society (specially the backward classes) to get higher education. The rate of growth of enrollment in the universities in recent years is about 3 percent. Besides, the number of teachers has also grown eight fold during the last 30 years. These are bound to put more and more financial burden upon the universities and other institutions of higher learning. In the foreign countries annual acquisition is equal to the total holding of an Indian university.

The services provided by most of the universities are conventional and are still in the underdeveloped stages whereas the foreign university libraries are progressing step by step in the ultra-modern society which has been passing through rapid changes i.e. it has also passed through the post-industrial era and is entering a self-service era. (Mittal, R. L. Ed. 1988)^[5].

The library being the largest reservoir of knowledge, the quantitative and qualitative growth of literature has necessitated the preparation and availability of various varieties of tools like indexes, abstracts, bibliographies, documentation list etc. by the library. In the absence of such library tools, the researcher is sure to waste his or her previous time in finding out the relevant literature. The university library has an important role to play in this sphere.

The library exists not merely to help the instructional function of the university; it does also a good deal in aid of research, which is another major function of the university. The library therefore, performs a variety of function by way of helping student with textbook parallel studies, reference books and periodicals, by providing a large number of bibliographical tools and up to date literature on every subject for student, teachers and research workers, as well as by maintaining an efficient reference and information service.

Wilson and Tauber stipulate the functions of a university library as "by accumulating and organizing books,

manuscripts, journals and other materials, the university library serves as an invaluable aid in the conservation of knowledge and ideas and as an active force in the teachings research, and extension programmes of the university. Through direct assistance to the members of the faculty and research staff as instructional officers, the university library participates in the interpretative functions of the university. Through its many bibliographical and other reference services the library aids individuals of instructional and research staff who are engaged in the preparation of materials for publication."

Development of University libraries in India

Education system in India today has its roots going back to Vedic Age. Oral communication by the word of the mouth was the only mode known to the Aryans to impart knowledge and instruction. The transmission of knowledge from the teacher to teach, took the shape of memorizing by the pupil of the utterances of his preceptor. There is no trace of the existence of libraries in those times. The scholars were the only known moving reservoirs of knowledge at Taxila, the famous ancient seat of learning for nearly a thousand years between 700 B.C. and 300 A.D. (Datta, N. 1990)^[9].

The next civilization, which appeared on the scene, was the Aryan. No reliable evidence is available regarding the nature of libraries of this period. However, this is regarded important because during this period a great cultural synthesis took place between the incoming Aryans and the original inhabitants, the Dravidians. Naturally some sort of record of this synthesis must have been in existence and preserved in the libraries of these days for the posterity.

Development in Ancient Period:

One of the greatest contributions that the Aryans made to the world civilization was the Vedic literature. This literature includes the Vedas and the Vedangas, i.e. Upanishads, Brahmanas, and the Aranyakas. The existence of this enormous amount of literature indicates that Indians knew the art of writing as early as 2500 B.C. From the grammatical sutras of Panini who lived in India in the 4th Century B.C. it is clearly revealed that the granthas or books in the manuscript form were in existence in those days. Besides this mass of literature about which panini speaks, it was enriched further by great scholars of the maurya Renaissance (322-150 B.C.). Between 60 B.C. and 300 A.D. the message of Buddhism was carried to China, Java, Burma, and Ceylon, in the form of Buddhist texts and translations. (Sharma J. S. 1978)^[10].

The teaching came to be practiced through the written word in the times of Buddha. Fahien has hinted about the existence of a library at Jetavana monastery in the fourth century A.D. The ancient seat of learning at Nalanda which flourished from 300-850 A.D. had a big library complex called Dharmganj. In addition to Nalanda, some other famous seats of learning were Vikramsila, Odantapuri, Somapuri, Jagaddal, Mithila, Vallabhi, Kanhery and Ujjain. All these had good manuscript libraries, which passed into oblivion on one count or the other. (Datta, N. 1990)^[9].

Books in Nalanda were in three buildings. One of these, Ratnadadhi, was a nine-storied building. The manuscripts were stored in wooden shelves with pigeon holes. Some libraries used leather or wooden boxes for storing manuscripts. Jains preserved manuscripts in basements. A

kind of very crude binding existed - birch barks and palm leaf manuscripts were sewn together, using chords. But the art of binding had not yet been formalized. Books were classified according to forms and contents. A crude form of bibliography or catalogue existed. (Taher, Mohamed 1997) [12].

Financial support came only from rulers for educational and religious libraries. The kind of Java influenced another monarch, the king of Bengal, Devapala, to get a grant of five villages for Nalanda. The Maitraka monastery, at Vallabhi, received a royal grant to purchase manuscripts, as evident from the records of listing. (Taher Mohamed 1997) [12].

Development in Medieval Period

The Medieval period of Indian history was full of battles and wars, which affected the progress of higher education and the development of academic libraries. The Muslims first invaded India in 1175 A.D. and their frequent invasions did not even spare the educational institutions of higher learning. The losses were very heavy and 'The destruction of the Buddhist Vihar and their famous libraries through Muslim Vandalism created a void in the intellectual, cultural and literary life of the nation' during the early medieval period. Later Muslim rulers in India were book lovers, had their own libraries, and encouraged the establishment of Madrasas (Colleges). Most educational institutions of higher learning in Medieval India had their own libraries, but access to the educational facilities, as during the ancient period, was still limited to only a few privileged people and scholars. (Sharma, R. N.1986) [13].

Under the Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526) at least five types of libraries were established by Muslims: palace/court libraries, academic libraries, khangah libraries, mosque libraries, and private libraries. The existence of private collections is mentioned in various standard histories. The private collection of Sufi Nizamuddin Aulia and Ghazi Khan; an Afgan noble, are notable. Babur (1438-1530) established the Mughal Imperial Library in Delhi. Humayun (1507-1556) contributed to the development of the library by himself being a bibliophile. Humayun developed the library in a separate structure called Sher Mandal, originally build by Sher Shah. Akbar established a separate department for libraries to look after the Imperial library and other libraries. Thus libraries grew quantitatively and qualitatively in the medieval period. Book binding an essential component of the library and a significant contribution of Muslims, improved drastically during this period.

Development in British Period (1757-1947)

The first contribution of the East India Company (the representations of the British Power) to the development of libraries was the establishment of academics, like Calcutta Madarsa and Calcutta Sanskrit College, to which libraries were attached. This contribution was amplified when a series of university libraries began. Calcutta University Library initiated the process in 1873. The Indian academic library began to modernize when it consulted library professionals from the United Kingdom and the United States. By the Indian University Act of 1904 it was made compulsory for colleges to have libraries and to lend books to their students.

Library development received another boost with the formation of the Library Association in the early 20th century and through the leadership of trained and committed

librarians. The release of the first journal, Library Miscellany, in 1912 - initiated the development of library science literature. (Sharma, R. N. 1986) [13].

Development before the Independence

The universities established before independence were conceived on traditional lines. They mostly catered the needs of the elite who depended mostly on verbal instruction for fulfilling their degree requirements. As such they did not see the need and importance of an organized library system in the modern sense of the term.

"In 1882, the Government of India appointed the Hunter Commission with a view to enquire into the working of the existing system of education. The commission felt that the conditions of university libraries were hardly credible."

The Indian University Act, which was passed in 1904, contained specific statutory provisions for the universities to establish, equipped and maintained university libraries.

Calcutta University Commission, 1917-1919

This commission also surveyed the positions of libraries and found that in general the libraries were very inadequate for the needs of the students and still more so for those of the teachers.

The commission recommended "to maintain a library on the amplest possible scale and to make it as useful as it may be for all teachers and serious students" must be the most important function of the university. The University should have the services of a librarian who should have the salary and status of a professor and should be an ex-officio member of the academic council."(India, Calcutta Commission 1917-19) [15].

The University Committee was appointed in 1938 was constrained to point out that the finances provided to the University Libraries were decreasing. The commission suggested that larger grants should be made available to the libraries. (Vishwanathan C. G. 1972) [16].

Development in Independent India

The growth of academic institutions in independent India was very rapid. The report of the University Education Commission, 1948, under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan is considered to be a landmark of the development of university libraries in India.

University Education Commission (1948-49)

The committee stated, "The library should have adequate and well qualified staff. Each library requires several grades of employees. At the top will be a man, of the caliber of university professors, who has specialized in some aspect of Library Science..... "(He) must have qualifications corresponding to a Doctorate in Library Science."

The commission further stressed the need for librarians of high caliber both in an academic field and library science to head university libraries. The commission also stressed on proper status and equivalent salaries so that the librarians enjoy proper status in the society, which they serve. (India University Education Commission 1948) [17].

In 1953, University Grant Commission was established by the government of India. The U.G.C. has been playing a remarkable role for the development of the college and university libraries in India.

In 1957, the University Grant Commission appointed a Library Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. S.R.

Ranganathan, the commission was required to advise the U.G.C. on matter relating to the proper functioning and management of university & college libraries in India." The following are among the important recommendations of the committee".

- The entire finance of a university or a college library should be provided by the U.G.C. and the state government. There should also be a special initial library grant in the case of a new university.
- It should be regarded as improper to call for tenders or competitive quotations for purchase of books in the university libraries.
- Safeguarded open access and provision of ample reference service should be provided by each university library.
- Reference librarians should be appointed in sufficient numbers to help the students with sympathy and understanding in the selection of reading materials.
- Books, which are worn out and are quite outdated, should be weeded out once in a year.
- It is not economical to build independent departmental libraries, unless a department is far away from the campus.
- A post graduate department of a university may be allowed a permanent loan up to the maximum of 2,000 volumes that are expected to be frequently needed for the research in progress in the department.
- The status and the salary scale of the library staff should be the same as that of the teaching and research staff.
- The system of appointing a non-professional person, such as professor, as honorary librarian should be abolished." (U.G.C. Report of Library committee 1959)^[18].

Since independence there has been a large expansion in the field of higher education, the no. of universities has increased from 20 in 1947 to 64 in 1966.

Education Commission 1964-66

This commission was appointed in July 1964 by the Govt. of India, under the chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Kothari, chairman of U.G.C. The report was submitted in June 1966. The commission found out that with ever increasing enrollment in universities and colleges, the demand for library service has been constantly growing. Unlike the past, the library staff now has to cater to the diverse needs of undergraduates, postgraduates and research scholars. It should be realized that modern university libraries are also required to serve a larger number of academic departments and to perform new functions like indexing and abstracting. Moreover, the present position of expenditure on books and periodicals is not satisfactory.

In this connection the following recommendations are given:

1. The Head of Department and library staff should cooperate fully in drawing up an integration plan of library development, from a long-range point of view. Such a plan should take in to consideration a number of factors such as the anticipation increase in enrollment, the faculty wise distribution of students, new subject and fields of specialization, special research project and so on.

2. No new university, college or department should be set up without taking into account library needs in terms of staff, books, journals, space, etc. Nothing could be more damaging to a growing department than to neglect its library or give it a low priority. On the contrary, the library should be an important centre of attraction on the college or university campus.
3. The utilization of library grants should be suitably phased over a plan period.
4. An essential thing about the development plan of a university library is to lay down physical rather than financial targets. Even more important is proper use of books by students and teachers. Measures should be provided to help raise the standard of library service. The reading habit, which is appallingly low, must be toned up in every possible way.
5. In addition to having 'departmental' and 'seminar' libraries stocked with a 'working collection of books and journals' the central library should facilitate interdisciplinary communication as also the work of research scholars in border line disciplines. This will also be economical in the long run.
6. With the emergence of active research in our universities, there is a need for conservation of its search potential through documentation work and service. It is therefore necessary to appoint document lists in university libraries who speak the language of research workers and undertake the work of documentation-search indexing and abstracting.
7. We should completely break away from the traditional view that a library is a conventional but more or less useless accessory. No definite set of standards can be used in developing a university library programme, but the essentials related to competent staff, an adequate collection of carefully related and well-organized books, well planned physical facilities and professors - teachers who teach with books.
8. A collection of books, even a collection of good books, does not constitute a 'library'. The book selection should be oriented toward supporting instruction and research.
9. The library should provide resources necessary for research in fields of special interest to the university; aid the university teacher in keeping abreast of development in his field; provide library facilities and services necessary for the success of all formal programmes of instruction; open the door to the wide world of books that lie beyond the borders of one's own field of specialization; and - to bring books, students and scholars together under conditions which encourage reading for pleasure, self-discovery, personal growth and the sharpening of intellectual curiosity.
10. There is no formula for estimating with precision how much money a university should invest in its libraries. The University Education Commission had suggested about 6.5 per cent of the educational budget as reasonable expenditure on libraries. It may also be suggested that, as a norm, a university should spend each year about Rs. 25 for each students' registration and Rs. 300 per teacher.
11. The foreign exchange needed for university and college libraries should be allocated separately to the U.G.C. (India, Education Commission 1964-66)^[19].

Review Committee on University Grant Commission (1977) [20], was also library conscious and expressed "use of a library is itself a technique and unless students are trained to use libraries, they may not derive any benefit. The matter needs attention, the main emphasis should be put for improvement of library facilities. (Review Committee on the University Grant Commission 1977) [20].

Review Committee on University Grant Commission (1981) [21] was also of the view that Universities should draw up integrated plans of library development from a long range point of view. An essential thing about the development plan of a University library is to consider it from the academic rather than the financial point of view. Even more important is the proper use of books by students and teachers. (Review Committee on UGC 1981) [21].

Review of Social Work Education in India (RSWEI). Report (1981) [21] also analysed the scenario of libraries. Books are very expensive and most of the students cannot afford them with an ever increasing enrollment in universities and colleges and demands for books and journals has been constantly growing.

History of development of university libraries reveals that even today, we have not been able to develop a sound university library system. We are not using resources effectively even though the libraries are the backbone of the university education system. New technological development has opened a new era for library house jobs and services. Almost all the advanced countries has started on line date access. Million of records are kept on hundreds of data-base. The automated information services that has brought over all revolution in the library services.

The UGC has propagated library consciousness in Academic Community to a long way. University library services have been mainly revolutionized on the recommendations of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan pioneer Library Scientist of the century. The library in the university system occupies a significant and crucial place, because all the functions of teaching and research are served by it. To accept modern teaching techniques as well as an improved self-learning system the libraries have to be regarded as very important. Considering the importance of libraries in higher education, the UGC is in practice of appointing various committees for studying the problems referred by the Academic Institutions as well as by professionals to improve the library services. The very-first and serious attention to university and college libraries in free India was paid by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh. The University libraries, and professional staff working in their remains behind the scene where it works to modernize higher education. This may be one of the reasons sometimes it looks like an ignorance of library services. Infact, good quality service had enhanced the possibilities of new areas of service. The UGC, which was established to maintain the standard of higher education, has always stressed the importance of libraries in maintaining standards. In higher education intensive use of libraries is involved because the knower supplements his studies with the view of those who have established parameters in the field of study. For such efforts a good library is required. In spite of favourable recommendations of Commissions and Committees about importance of library in university system the present scenario reveals to the inadequate facilities.

Aim of Higher Education is to import specialized and advanced knowledge for all-round social progress. Higher

education is to build up one's contribution to knowledge. It is an attempt to cultivate and develop excellence to change traditional thinking. It is pre-required in the modern world where progress has the basis of free flow of information. Library is the main agency to discharge this activity. This is also to establish that we are superior among the living creations of nature because of our brain. For keeping the brain healthy and bright, the use of books seems essential.

Expansion

Growth in higher education and in university libraries is well accepted, which has not been co-ordinate and channelized in a purposeful direction. About two lakhs of science journals and six lakhs titles of books are added annually to academic libraries. For making effective use of these huge collections, the Organized System of university and college libraries is an important need. These libraries are expanding in parallel lines. There is no close relation with University Library and College Library for any purpose, may be technical treatment of literature or policy frame etc. These are only looking for Inter Library Loan in some cases. College libraries are not fully developed. Library development is inadequate due to speedy growth in Enrolment, Staff, Researchers, and enormous increase in volumes of Information. It is also due to lack of sound national policy plan.

Present day university libraries policy will build up future library services "planning of library services, therefore, is regarded as one specific aspect of educational planning within the social and economic planning of a country, within this context library planning acquire the foundation of support that it needs, if it is to be effective." The planning, therefore, of library services implies a continuous systematized process of studying educational problems. Not only this, it also involves determining the aims of library services, setting the target for attaining those aims and preparing decisions to ensure that those objectives will be fulfilled through the rational available resources.

According to the Association of Indian Universities (AIV), National Policy on University Libraries. A University library is no longer part of an ivory world. It is a practical, service institution accountable for every aspect of its performance."

Though the library service is highly debated Subject in Periodicals, Books and Seminars Symposia etc. even then no serious attempts have been made so far to access the value and relevance of the library science education imparted ill the university department or by some of the Library Associations. The standard of the library training course contents differ widely from one department to another. No uniformity in the pattern of papers, admission, qualification, practical training and relevance of the course contents to the job requirement of the zone of the library school belongs, has been maintained.

The need of improving the standards of teaching and research in the department of library and information science has been realized by the UGC and a Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) has been set up to make complete review of the subject as well as to modernize the existing syllabi to make it more relevant with the Technological development of the century.

For democratic common approach and for common purpose coordinated development (Networking) of libraries and information centres is an urgent need of the nation. It will

bring quality in services. Libraries will be able to work as centres for self-directed learning, which in turns will be full use of human resources. The library services should be expanded to the reach of every one in every condition. It should not be restricted in any case.

Modernizations has accepted the application of technology to cope with faster growth. At present country people have a general feeling that technology will minimize job opportunities and this fear of pushing youth towards unemployment prevents them from accepting the new light coming from the Scientific and Technical development of the world. Where the modernization will generate potential and creative thinking for understanding International socio-cultural linkages.

To get the proper return of resources the UGC has to get cooperation from the universities in promotion and understanding of the academic and technical functions of a modern library staff. Libraries have come a long way in meeting the challenges of modern information science and Information technology for fastening by implementing computers to develop a Information culture in the Indian Academic population. (Gupta, O P 1992) ^[23].

In India, use of computers in libraries is very slow. Although a number of special libraries or departmental libraries and information centres have taken the lead in using computers. But the development in university and college libraries is yet to take place. Expectations are that the eighth plan will create an environment to implement the advanced technologies. (Gupta, O P 1992) ^[23].

The U.G.C., taking into consideration the twin phenomena of information explosion and price rise, which has created a situation of inadequate resources even in front line and established university libraries, decided to take a quantum jump into a new era, by setting up an "Inter-Agency Working Group for Development of an Information and Library Network", popularly known as INFLIBNET, which has recommended that to keep pace with the costly information resources, the libraries in the higher education sector, whether they are University Libraries or Research and Development Institute Libraries should be reorganised and linked via modern means of communication.

"It should be possible through such a system to search for a book no matter where it exists in the country and ask for an inter-library loan irrespective of whether you belong to a newly set-up university or laboratory and irrespective of your location. Whether you are in an isolated institution in the foot-hills of Himalayas, Middle of a forest, sparsely populated regions of the North-East, Western edges of the Rajasthan desert, Island in the sea, or in a large metropolitan city, you should be able to search and get copies of the abstracts of the latest papers published in any major journal through the INFLIBNET facsimile service. Similarly, you should be able to get synopsis of any of the ten thousand Ph.D. thesis written in the country every year. You should be able to reach and get information from specialized data banks put together by different agencies, including NISSAT, UGC and the Planning Commission. If one makes specific arrangements, it should also be possible to reach foreign data banks from anywhere in the country". (Mustafa Zaidi, S 1979) ^[24].

Growth in higher education and in university libraries is well accepted which has not been coordinated and channelized in a purposeful direction. About two lakhs of science journals and six lakhs titles of books are added

annually to academic libraries. For making effective use of these huge collections, an organized system of university and college libraries is an important need. These libraries are expanding in parallel lines. There is no close relation between university library and college library; library development is inadequate due to speedy growth in enrollment, staff, researchers, and enormous increase in volumes of information. It is also due to the lack of a sound national policy plan. In recent years, Indian university libraries have undergone significant changes to adapt to the evolving needs of students and faculty. Some of the recent developments include:

Digitization: Many university libraries in India have started digitizing their collections to make them easily accessible to users. This has enabled users to access rare and out-of-print materials, manuscripts, and other resources that were previously unavailable.

Open Access: Universities in India are increasingly adopting Open Access policies that allow unrestricted access to scholarly articles, research data, and other educational resources. This has helped in promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration among researchers and academics.

Information Technology: With the advancement of technology, Indian university libraries are incorporating various digital tools and software to enhance the research experience of their users. Libraries are providing online resources, such as e-books, journals, and databases, to support research and learning.

Collaborations and Networking: Indian university libraries are collaborating with other libraries, institutions, and organizations to increase the availability and accessibility of resources. These collaborations are helping in the exchange of information and knowledge among different institutions.

Personalized User Experience: Indian university libraries are increasingly focusing on enhancing user experience by providing personalized services, such as reference and citation assistance, research support, and workshops on research tools and techniques.

Overall, the recent developments in university libraries in India reflect a commitment towards providing quality education and research support to students and faculty, and improving access to knowledge and information. Present day university libraries policy will build up future library services "Planning of library services, therefore, is regarded as one specific aspect of educational planning within the social and economic planning of a country, within this context library planning acquire the foundation support that it needs, if it is to be made effective. The planning, therefore, of library services implies a continuous systematized process of studying educational problems." Networking of library and information centres is an urgent need of the nation. It will bring quality in services. Libraries will be able to work as centres for self-directed learning, which in turns will be full use of human resources. The library services should be expanded to the reach of every one in every condition. It should not be restricted in any case.

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