Information Resources Development and Management in State Agricultural University Libraries in India: Issues and Challenges

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Abstract

Paper discussed the some of the concerns and challenges associated with the development and management of Information Resources in State Agricultural University (SAU) Libraries in India. The term "information resources" was also attempted to be defined, as was "library collection." It also covered the Indian Agriculture Scenario, as well as the library and information system that is in place, and also the procedures that are followed for the selection, identification, acquisition, processing, storing, and sharing of agricultural information resources to different stakeholders. As a one-stop destination for primary information sources for Education, Research, and Extension at State Agricultural Universities, the paper makes the point for the continued requirement of university libraries with continuing stack, infrastructure, and human resource advancements.

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Keywords
Information Resources, Management of IRs, State Agricultural University Libraries

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1. INTRODUCTION

In ancient times, libraries were thought of as places where books and other reading materials were kept safe. Librarians were thought of as protectors of these libraries of knowledge. There have been a lot of changes in the way information is handled, stored, and spread around the world because of time and changes in electronic information technology. These changes have made libraries more than just a place to store documents. The library become dynamic information centres that help both scholars and other information seekers find and use useful and need-based collections of documents. People used clay tablets, palm leaves, paper, and other materials to store information. Presently, use of electronic and optical media to store and retrieve large volume of data/information, which transformed the libraries into digital and virtual as well. This has led to a paradigm shift in how libraries adapt technological trends.

The fundamental goal of university libraries is to collect, preserve, and make information accessible to users for the purposes of teaching, research, and learning. Along with its prime responsibilities of teaching, research, and learning, the university is charged with the pursuit, promotion, and dissemination of knowledge; intellectual leadership; manpower development; social and economic transformation; and intra- and intercontinental and international understanding. Thus, University Libraries play a significant role in achieving the objective of the parent organization by way of providing up-to-date information resources to the clientele i.e. Faculty, Research Scholars, Students and Administrators.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

With reference to any list of core skills, technical and organizational changes that are made to make it hard to cope-up with specific set of skills. Even more so in the field of information resources development and management, this is rapidly changing. Many papers have talked about how changes in information resources are made and managed could affect the work of library workers on a daily basis.

Singh and Mahajan (2021) The study looks into how professors and researchers view their collections, how involved they are in collection development, how satisfied they are with the library's collection, and whether their resource recommendations are problematic. The results of a questionnaire study of

lecturers and graduate students from five Northern Indian universities. The researchers chose 465 complete questionnaires to analyse. The data were analyzed and a 2 test was used to evaluate hypotheses. The awareness of CDP and resource recommendations among university research scholars and instructors varies (e.g. textbooks, reference books, journals and periodicals, and non-book materials). Professors and researchers found the library collection satisfactory in most cases, but not in all. Levenson and Nichols Hess (2020) Collaborative Collection Development (CCD) allows academic libraries to better accomplish their core collection management goal of providing improved access to relevant content at low cost. Libraries have used CCD initiatives to save money. The authors performed a survey on existing CCD activities, librarians' views on its merits and drawbacks, and elements that lead to effective CCD programmes. Librarians have employed CCD ways to protect access to these resources, shifting from ownership to access. The report indicated that despite some shortcomings, CCD programmes have benefited university libraries financially and non-financially.

Gordon Conyers (2019) Small university libraries' collection development policies may lack a particular statement addressing print periodical retention. However, a precise policy for acquiring and retaining print journals is required. Publishers' choices to discontinue print journals in favour of online-only electronic editions have harmed academic libraries' periodicals holdings. The change in format makes it difficult to maintain a successful print periodicals collection. Academic libraries must review their print publication retention rules in light of changing publishing formats. This essay will review the literature and present a case study on managing periodicals collections. It will argue that collection development policies should include a separate policy for print periodicals and that, contrary to popular belief, periodical retention policies can help preserve core titles and acquire new titles that support academic programmes and the college community's work. Sheila Corrall (2012) stated that Collection development and management must stay up to date, just like they have in the past, to manage new content that is relevant to their users, show how important their existing collections are, and integrate library and information services into the information infrastructure. While greater emphasis is being placed on the function of "collection as process" and "collection as access," the relevance of "collection as thing" is not being overlooked.

Jim Martin RaikZaghloul, (2011), in his study, gave a detailed plan for how to build the skills that library workers need to handle respective information resources in any academic library. Leach (2008) talked about the skills that science and technology libraries need to keep their collections up to date. He emphasized on library personnel who work in the publishing industry need to know how to budget, know about the publishing industry, and follow government rules. Further they also need to be aware of the trends in scholarly communication, technical skills, and be able to cope-up with the changes. According to Tony Horava (2010), the words "transformation" and "paradigm shift" are used a lot when people are talking about the future of libraries in a time when there has been a lot of technological, cultural, and institutional change. Additionally, he stated that throughout the process of collection development, one must think creatively and devise new methods of performing the duties in light of developments in scholarly communication, procurements, availability and service levels, and innovation, while complying with the basic professional values of improving access, academic freedom, and stewardship. Finally, he emphasized that one must be aware of rapidly growing environment in order to demonstrate the stakeholders and entire institution. S P Jain (2001) an attempt is made to ascertain the current state of Indian agricultural libraries. This study is based on an examination of agricultural libraries' skilled professionals, consumers, collection, budget, computerization (hardware and software), and mechanized information services. Comparative data in tabular format are presented for 30 State Agriculture University (SAU) libraries and 37 ICAR institute libraries out of 50 to illustrate the weaknesses and strengths of agricultural libraries. proposes the institution of a National Agricultural Library, taking into account all of the factors affecting agriculture's development. This data will aid in the planning of agricultural library policies.

Several studies suggest that libraries are taking on new roles and adding important new dimensions in both collection and development and management by using latest technological trends.

3. INFORMATION RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 Information Resources Development

Collection development encompasses all aspects of material acquisition, including how to choose, order, and pay for things. It is a series of events that begins with planning, continues with administration, and concludes with control. Collection development lays the foundation for all the other library services.The collection development process entails the development of guidelines and procedures, the coordination of acquisition activities, the formulation and allocation of budgets, the conduct of needs assessments and collection evaluations, as well as the selection, resource sharing, and de-selection of materials. The term "Information Resources Creation" refers to the actions involved in the development of library collections. Collection Development is the process of developing and preserving the library's whole collection of materials, which includes print, non-print, electronic, and remote media. The library funds are used to purchase materials for the library's circulating and non-circulating collections solely.

As a means of analyzing the merits and limitations of a library's resources in accordance to the demands of its users and accessibility. The librarian brings together a variety of materials so that they can meet the needs of their customers in the library. All of the things that people do, like study, make policies, pick things, get them, weed them, and look at them, are part of this ever-changing and continuous cycle. (Evans, 2004, pp. 16-17).People usually think about things like how many resources they should have, how many they should have, and how they should get rid of things that aren't useful anymore. People Eguavon and Ochai (2002)who write about this topic say that collection development is the systematic, planned growth of a collection based mostly on what the library wants to do. According to Michael Gorman (2000, pp. 10-11), library materials include: tangible and intangible items owned by the library; tangible and intangible materials owned by other libraries; and intangible materials not owned by the library but accessible through it. Library and collection were once thought of as synonyms for "access" for a long time.

3.1.1 Purpose of Information Resources Development

Samantaray Rath, Moorttimatee & Rath, Pravakar. (2014) states that Libraries and information centres develop their collections in order to fulfill the parent organization's information requirements. Library and information centres are primarily concerned with facilitating the interchange of information and the growth of knowledge. The primary goal of information resource development in a library is as follows:

- To meet the library's commitments to its community,
- To assess the specific requirements of the readers,
- To ensure that appropriate document is available to the suitable reader at the right time during selection and purchase process.
- To make judicious use of the library's funds;
- To conduct frequent reviews of the collection in order to eliminate duplicates,
- To share resources by networking.

3.2 Information Resources Management

The development of electronic publishing has had a huge impact on how libraries manage their resources, such as how they buy, catalogue, preserve, and make available materials that users need both offline and online, as well as how they keep them safe. It also buys things that might be needed in the future and that might be hard to get copies of later. The term asks for a lot of depth and quality in documents. The main goal of collection development is to meet the informational needs of library users and students.

3.2.1 Information Management

Information Management is a unique process of planning, organizing, implementing, and controlling that is used to establish and achieve stated objectives through the efficient use of human diverse resources. Management is the process of creating and sustaining environment in which individuals work collectively accomplish specified goals efficiently. It is defined as the process through which members of a cooperative group focus their efforts toward common goals. According to Harold Koontz "Management is an art of accomplishing goals by and with the cooperation of members of formally organized groups. It is the skill of establishing an environment in which individuals can excel while also cooperating to accomplish group goals. It is the art of removing obstacles to such performance, a technique for increasing efficiency in achieving objectives." Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's theory of information

management has long been characterized by the principle of delivering the appropriate information to the appropriate person at the appropriate time. Information skills that are competent and efficient are required in order to understand how and when information should be used, its significance in a process, the most relevant sources, and the most appropriate modes of delivery. Information management in libraries encompasses several activities. In general, information management refers to the process of acquiring, organizing, and disseminating information efficiently, effectively, inexpensively, and in accordance with the users' demands, ease, convenience, comfort, and interest. It developed primarily in response to the information society, but also from a variety of fields, including warehouse management, archives, library administration, library management, information science, information technology, and organizational theory. Information resource management involves not only the procedures of information selection, gathering, processing, control, and dissemination, but also its optimal use. IRM encompasses capabilities and value addition, as well as possibilities and obstacles. entails not only the substance of information but also the knowledge contained in an employee's thinking.

4. IRDM IN SAUs LIBRARIES

4.1 An overview of Indian Agriculture

"Everything else may wait but not Agriculture" – these words of PanditJawaharLal Nehru, our first Prime Minister, bear ample testimony to the concerns of our national leadership towards strengthening agriculture. Agriculture in the mainstay of the Indian economy. Agriculture and allied sectors contribute nearly 22 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP of India), while about 65-70 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The setting up of agricultural universities and institutions in India was begun in British era with the guidelines of Royal Commission which was set up in the year 1926. Agricultural research and practices, as well as all stakeholders in agricultural knowledge producers and users, such as agricultural scientists, entrepreneurs, farmers, policymakers, and, of course, library and information professionals, have got a new lease on life owing to advancements in information and communication technologies. The ICAR and State Agricultural Universities, as well as its constituent libraries, are critical in disseminating relevant information to their users for teaching, research, and extension. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is actively involved in knowledge exchange among agricultural users. Agricultural science is a vast multidisciplinary field that comprises the components of precise, natural, economic, and social sciences that are used to and understood in agriculture and related industries. Agricultural libraries have been a vital part of agricultural education, research, and extension throughout the country, contributing to the country's agricultural information and development. The Indian agricultural system is one of the largest in the world, consisting of the following:

S.No.	Description	Total Nos.
1	Research Institutions	49
2	Project Directorates	25
3	National Research Centres	17
4	Agricultural Technology Information Centres	44
5	KrishiVigyanKendras (KVKs)	594
6	State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)	73
7	Central Universities	01

4.2 Agricultural University Libraries

Agricultural libraries in India have been playing an important role in supporting the research, teaching and extension mission of the agricultural universities and institutions. They provide scientific information, support and function as the nerve centre for research and teaching activities. Since the establishment of agricultural universities and institutes, agricultural libraries always served the nation. Libraries and library management practises are undergoing considerable changes nowadays, not just in terms of appearance, but also in terms of functions, services, procedures, and strategies for developing, processing, and disseminating information collections. Agricultural libraries, like other types of libraries, must keep up with technology advancements in the management of library resources. They should consider not just the current generation's needs through providing up-to-date library services, but also the development process for shaping libraries for the coming generations.

4.3 Recommendations of ICAR Vth Deans Committee for Library Strengthening

Improved reading resources, including textbooks and instructional materials of the highest

quality, as well as infrastructural and e-learning resources, are required for agricultural universities. Financial assistance must be considered for library strengthening and transformation such as networking for online e-Resources access, for assessing equity and availability of information resources required for students and teachers both in on and off-campus colleges, online learning platforms, modules and overall library strengthening as well as popularization of ICT interconnection, conferencing and technology-enhanced learning (TEL).

5. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN INFORMATION RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Issues and Challenges in I.R. Development

Every library, regardless of its size or type, encounters various challenges/difficulties during the process of development of library collection. The following are some of the difficulties encountered:

- Increased publication of content universally
- Increase in the price of Information Resources (Print and Electronic)
- Increased reader demand for varied formats of information resources
- Currency fluctuations in terms of subscription or purchase of foreign resources
- Alert with unethical practices of publishers/vendors.
- Increased demand for multiple copies
- The lack of a distribution of funds formula for documents and other items;
- Non-availability of foreign literature despite library orders;
- Non-selection of book titles by faculty members from reviews, publisher/bookseller catalogues, INB, and book fairs.

5.2 Issues and Challenges in I.R. Management

- Access to library materials in a variety of physical formats
- Inconsistency in the library purchase policy
- Escalation of Information Resources Cost
- Shrinking of library budget
- Obligation to acquire irrelevant information resources, which are not relevant to institutions mandate.
- Budget allocation to several departments
- The catalogues of Publishers and Booksellers are not available in all parts of the country.
- Less attention attached to the acquisition/preservation of institutional repositories.
- Frequent changes in information formats, devices,
- Issues of Copyright and Digital Rights Management (DRM)

6. Discussion and Conclusion

Collection development or Information Resources Development (IRD) is the systematic, constant, and cost-effective purchase of high-quality, relevant materials to suit the demands of users while also achieving the goals of a library or information centre. Collection development encompasses not only an increase in the number of volumes and titles, but also an improvement in the quality of the materials obtained, which aids in the transmission of more effective information. To understand how a collection is going to grow, you have to look at it this way.

Information Resources Development in a university library is a complex task that requires careful analysis and study. Policies and plans must be developed by the university administrators with a composition of all disciplines faculties must be involved to develop strategic collection. Since, the IRD is a significant and complex process that will continue to grow in relevance as the need for information organization grows. To grow and maintain the collection's quality and services, the acquisition process must be regularly monitored and updated according to the changing needs of its stakeholders. As a result, collection development requires an effective and current policy framework to oversee and gather methods and procedures that help professional managers function and make decisions.

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