

Building up Library Collection in Colleges of Assam with Reference to Lakhimpur and Dhemaji District: A Critical Analysis

Ramyajyoti Arandhara¹

¹MLISc, Gauhati University

Received: 05 May 2020 Revised: and Accepted: 15 July 2020

ABSTRACT: Collection is the most important content of a library. Library is considered as a centre for research and other academic activities. Primary literature is original in nature and very helpful for libraries especially for college library. So, a college library should acquire adequate number of primary literature. It is observed that most of the college libraries of Assam don't have any specific policy to increase the number of primary literature. Here it is tried to highlight an idea on the policy for collection development of primary literature. This paper basically emphasizes about development of the library collection and its status vehemently in the college libraries of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts and tried to give some suggestions on the basis of findings.

KEYWORDS: Building up Library Collection in Colleges of Assam with Reference to Lakhimpur and Dhemaji District: A Critical Analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

It intends to focus on library as knowledge temples for acquiring learning agendas in the respective part of the life of students which are open to each and everybody. The library assumes as a storehouse of knowledge and it is an axiomatic truth that a library cannot be functioned without proper collection. It can be succinctly said that the library service is governed largely and efficiently of its quality to quality for collection. Mostly it is seemed that the preservation and dissemination for acquiring knowledge among the educated people along with reading and research activities has been radiated from the library. These processes are measured not only towards in terms of numbers but also in terms of their value and utility to the clientele. It can be posited toward the growth always focus from quantitative to qualitative in case of published literature has been generating since its break. It is also important thing that the nature and functions of parent institutions the varied requirements of the readers and financial stringency force us as per principle of pick and choose. Finally, it is delineated that the book selection and collecting assume as major activities of the librarian along with his staff. It is here that the acquisition section and the principles of acquisition become important. A college library caters to the reading needs of the faculty and the students. Library collection must have to be consisted its balanced stock of books, periodicals, institutional and government publications, newspapers, pamphlets, dissertations, maps, tapes and so and so. The collection should satisfy all curricular needs of the students and enable the teachers to keep abreast in the way ahead toward the development for common interest of the readers.

It is mentioned that the collection process mainly divided into two categories for further discussion about the topic under study. In first, it states on fundamental which is a strong and up-to-date reference collection. A broad representation of major reference works always contain with encyclopedias, language dictionaries, handbooks to subject fields, almanacs and statistical compilations, language guides are prime assets. Moreover, it also intrinsically involves with biographical dictionaries, geographical atlases, histories, research directories, bibliographies, indexes, abstracting services, book catalogues, translation lists etc. are encompassing in the fields of knowledge. As an epitome of the world's knowledge the reference collection provides the means of identifying and locating authoritative sources of knowledge especially outside the college. The second and largest category is the general collection of books, periodicals and other library materials. Like the reference collection, it should serve not only curricular and research needs are found. But, having a universal character too, it is required some modification to ensure important subjects which are not directly covered by the curriculum are represented by the standard works.

“The purposes of book selection are to provide the right reader with the right book at the right time.” The famous phrase implies three factors –

- (a) Knowledge of the extent and character of reader’ demand.
- (b) Knowledge of books that meet those demands and
- (c) Satisfaction of those demands in terms of the highest book values.

The condition of college libraries in Assam is to some extent better than the school libraries. The Government colleges including the colleges of technical education have well developed libraries. They have got necessary staff members in the library. Almost all the colleges of general education in Assam are under the tale of deficit grant-in-aid system and this type of colleges is treated as Semi Govt. Colleges. Only a few colleges have got some special grant for the library development. But this amount is not sufficient for a college library to be developed. The student’s fee for college library is the main source of income colleges in backward areas especially in tribal areas gets some special grants from the state government.

A few colleges’ libraries are well developed with books. But the staff and other reading facilities are not sufficient. It has been found that the college libraries have been staring for adequate staff in Quantity and Quality as well as the situation needs improvement. The library staff both professional and semi professional should be well Qualified with a developed feeling of appreciation for scholarship, knowledge, the reading materials and with a strong attitude for service which is very fundamental of college library, to the students and teachers. But authorities of the most of colleges in Assam do not give much interest in case of library staff appointment. Still there are not more than 20% deficit colleges running without qualified libraries in Assam. It shows the attitude of the college authorities towards the college libraries.

Most of the students are not library minded. Even the teachers are also not interested in going library. The course curriculums of the universities are not library oriented. For the examination purpose the market note book is sufficient to cross the same.

A few students generally seek text books prescribed by the subject teachers. It is seen that reference section, periodical section is needless for the collegiate education in Assam. Not to speak of library reading room most of the colleges have no library building. Generally two or three rooms of the college building are used as the college library.

The Assam College Librarians Associations (ACLA) has been playing an important role in removing the various problems of Assam college libraries. Regarding UGC pay scale of Assam college librarians, the ACLA is able to attain its goal.

II. BASIC UNDERSTANDING

The most significant change is seemed in collection development process which is mainly depends on librarianship. Collection development plays a pivotal role in all libraries and should be guided by a library purpose out the need of its user. It is the backbone of the library services and important for the librarians to develop his collection in an organized way. It is planning and decision making. A library collection development effort cannot be effective, unless its acquisition effort are also business like and efficient collection will be able to increase the parameter of functions. It can be repeatedly emphasis about the informative ground that the library would have to be brought dramatic change in the vision and mission comparing with the pace of modern. The man power planning is one of the important measures to sustain the collection activity and information resources. The librarians and library staff are the path breaking workers and become a watching dog for the overall development of the library in case of buying. Otherwise, it vain in acquiring materials over a period of time, based on assessment of the information needs of the Library users. On the other hand, it is an interesting phenomenon that in various social concerns the librarians may seek to increase awareness among the user in the means of including but not limited to issuing bibliographic and presenting exhibits and programs. As a professional responsibility the librarian of a particular college always become inclusive in collection development as well as in the provision of interlibrary loan. It is found that in case of accessing to all materials legally obtainable should be assured to the user and policies should unjustly exclude materials even if they are offensive to the librarian or the user. Collection Development and Selection of materials should be done according to professional standards and established selection and review procedure. Some of the summarizing points are holding to emphasis the topic in the library collection development is clearly indicated as follows.

1. Adopting certain policies to guide materials selection.
2. For the replacing worm out and lost materials
3. Rejuvenating and weeding out materials no longer needed in the collection
4. Planning for new technology in collection on specific collection areas.

5. Cohesive decision making with other librarian due to written library consortia.

III. MODERN APPROACH AND ITS POLICY

The making of the policy comparing with modernization and globalization is an important fact toward the collection development and in the meantime a written statement prepared for the guidance of the library. It is an important tool for guiding all activities related to planning, building, selecting and acquiring the material in the library. The most important objective of the institution and the need of the users are to provide assistance and support in justifying the selection made for the library. The 21st century is an age of knowledge instead of age of faith, reasoning, progress and stress for which pragmatic solutions are encompassed herewith. Therefore, an individual feels to be in need as the ground of topmost priority for libraries to adopt a collection development policy for their particular problems. In the increasing conscious mind of the users and workers, it can be easily faced the lack of space, limited budgets, inadequate staff and so on. From the experience of the earlier collection development of the library, it is seemed that indispensable tools enable the book sectors to work with greater consistency towards defined goals. It also helps in collection development policy to assure continuity in collection development because library staff members as well as the member of the library committees, who select books, often keep on changing. In this situation the policy is a reference tool for new library staff member and the member of the library committees.

A written policy is guided to the service of library. It defines the collection development to the objective of the institution. It also defines many of their user need with a reasonable degree of accuracy since the objective of their governing institution can themselves be defined with some precision. Through the policy should be broad general foundation, collection has to be suitable to the level of its users and maintain balance in the resource on economical and student oriented. The policy of the collection development shows on written statement of selection principles and criteria with guidelines on the depth of subject coverage and details as language geography and period. Standards for various types of libraries make firm statement about the need for such policies.

IV. BOOK SELECTION POLICY

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan mentions that there are various sources of selecting books in the library. Some of these enumerated as follows –

- (a) Trade list, state and national bibliographies.
- (b) Bibliographies and reviews published in books and periodicals and Sunday Magazine of newspaper.
- (c) Suggestion from the readers.
- (d) Reference section, circulation section and shelf section of the library.
- (e) Experts and specialists of the subject concerned.

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE TOPIC

- (i) To state the total library collection in the sphere of surveyed libraries.
- (ii) To search the main difficulties arising in case of development of library collection.
- (iii) To draw an overall scenario on library services at the surveyed college libraries.

VI. AREA OF THE STUDY

There are many colleges in Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts and it is not possible to cover all the colleges due to various reasons. Therefore, some colleges are randomly selected for data collection. The colleges are North Lakhimpur College, Lakhimpur Girls College, Lakhimpur Central College, Panigaon OPD College, Sankardeva Mahavidyalaya, Dhemaji College, Dhemaji Commerce College, Moridhal College, Silapathar College, Murkongselek College.

VII. METHODOLOGY

For conducting the study of the college libraries, survey method followed by questionnaire has been adopted. The secondary data and field works helps for the identification the core areas of major drawbacks in this topic. The survey is done for investigation directly observing by flexible grounds and systematically gathers data from population through personal contacts and interviews. This is more than an adequate information in a certain cases very reliable. It is one of the most important tools and widely used method for social research by which quantitative facts about a social phenomenon can be collected to contribute to the solution of immediate problems.

Here, a survey of the library collection has been carried out using a questionnaire. Specially designed questionnaire has been randomly distributed to ten college libraries of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji district. This is done to gather necessary data from the college libraries included in the study.

VIII. FINDING AND ANALYSIS

To understand the method and procedure of “Building up library collection of college libraries of Assam with special reference to Lakhimpur and Dhemajidistrict: A Critical analysis”. The questionnaires based on different aspects of library collection were distributed to all the surveyed college libraries to collect the necessary information.

The data collected from libraries are listed and analyzed.

Library Collection

Sl. No.	Name of College	Books	Periodical	Reference Books	Non-Book Materials	E-resources
1.	North Lakhimpur College	38,000	35	13,000	286	480 N-List
2.	Lakhimpur Girls College	20,000	35	1500	200	10
3.	Lakhimpur Central College	11,885	10	800	30	N-list
4.	Panigaon OPD college	13,547	11	5342		N-List
5.	SankardevaMahavidyalaya	15,600	15	6300	12	Nil
6.	Dhemaji College	24,755	48	3842	113	N-List
7.	Dhemaji Commerce College	20,218	24	9450	46	N-List
8.	Moridhal College	26,000	58	18,000	2000	2400 N-List
9.	Silapathar College	18,068	30	8135	41	N-List
10.	Murkongselek College	7943	17	3798	9	N-List

The college libraries must collect text books, reference books, journal, popular magazine, newspapers, non-book materials, special collection etc. Above this collection of books is one of the most significant areas of librarianship. It is the backbone of all library services. The books collection should not an artificially balanced collection but a “Community of readers Oriented” collection with its internal balance. The position of these libraries in respect of books collections are under in table no. 1 is not satisfactory.

Periodical publications, which contain very often the first hand information about the research in progress or computer in a particular subject field are very useful for the clientele of college library. Despite the established fact that periodical are important for a college library clientele it is different to say with precision as to how many periodicals a college library should subscribe to. However, from the above table shows the varieties of holdings of the surveyed libraries. It has been observed that North Lakhimpur College library has biggest number of collections, while Lakhimpur Girls College, SankardevaMahavidyalaya, Dhemaji College, Dhemaji Commerce College, Moridhal College has Average number of collection and Lakhimpur Central College and Murkongselek College library has lowest number of collections.

Library Services

Sl. No.	Colleges	Services												
		Reference service	Information Service	Translation service	Bibliographic Service	Indexing and Abstracting	Documentation Service	Newspaper clipping	Database Service	CAS	DDS	SDI	Extension service	
1.	North Lakhimpur College	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.	Lakhimpur Girls College	✓	✓					✓		✓				✓
3.	Lakhimpur Central College	✓	✓					✓	✓					
4.	Panigaon OPD College	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓				✓
5.	SankardevaMahavidyalaya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
6.	Dhemaji College	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.	Dhemaji Commerce College	✓	✓					✓		✓				
8.	Moridhal College	✓	✓	\	✓					✓				
9.	Silapathar College	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10.	Murkongselek College	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓				✓

From the above table it is seen that North Lakhimpur College, LakhimpurGirls College, SankardevaMahavidyalaya, and Dhemaji College libraries offers almost all the above mentioned services. While Lakhimpur central college, Panigaon OPD College, Dhemaji Commerce College, Moridhal College, Silapathar College and Murkongselek College offers the least services.

Library staff of the surveyed libraries

Sl. No.	Name of College Library	Category of staff		
		Professional	Semi-professional	Non-professional
1.	North Lakhimpur College	02	02	02
2.	Lakhimpur Girls College	01	Nil	02
3.	Lakhimpur Central College	02	Nil	01
4.	Panigaon OPD College	01	01	Nil
5.	SankardevaMahavidyalaya	02	02	02
6.	Dhemaji College	01	Nil	04
7.	Dhemaji Commerce College	01	Nil	02

8.	Moridhal College	01	Nil	03
9.	Silapathar College	01	Nil	02
10.	Murkongselek College	01	Nil	02

The above table shows the number of staffs in the surveyed libraries. The number of professional and non-professional staff in North Lakhimpur College is more than other colleges, where as there are two and one semi-professional in SankardevaMahavidyalaya and Panigaon OPD College library respectively. In Panigaon OPD College there are no non-professional.

Nature of access

Name of the Colleges	Open access	Close access	Restricted
North Lakhimpur College	✓	-	-
Lakhimpur Girls College	-	-	✓
Lakhimpur Central College	✓	-	-
Panigaon OPD College	✓	-	-
SankardevaMahavidyalaya	✓	-	-
Dhemaji College	✓	-	-
Dhemaji Commerce College	✓	-	-
Moridhal College	✓	-	-
Silapathar College	✓	-	-
Murkongselek College	✓	-	-

After the survey it is found out that except Lakhimpur Girls College library all the college libraries are open access. Lakhimpur Girls College library is restricted.

IX. SUGGESTIONS

After completing the study an analysis of surveyed questionnaires are put forwarded for development and improvement collection building process in the surveyed college libraries. These are as follows:

1. In a college library, the faculty and students are the main focus and keeping in view their needs, the library collections are to be developed. Hence, for sound collection of documents in the library the policies so formulated should be adhered so.
2. The college libraries should be housed in a separate building to be constructed with the involvement of the librarian who knows the functionality of the building for the proper service.
3. Book selection policy should not be allowed to be followed by the either principal or the librarian. It should be a common endeavour of the faculty members librarian and students which would be made aware of the problem.
4. The different book selection tool along with the bookpublishers catalogue should be easily made available by the library and for the book selector who would concern those for ready reference and use.
5. The size of the present collection is larger and older and if library is research oriented and if it influences the present collection development; development policies must be followed.
6. Library must study its community and determine the needs of the community. So also the goal and objective of the institution before finalizing the drafting of collection development policy.
7. In assessing and analyzing the past use of collection enables the librarian to predict future use; a prediction which must be deciding factor in the formulation of collection development.
8. A collection development must be formulated very carefully with utmost caution and wisdom as it is concerned with delicate and touching issues.

9. Collection development policy must be reviewed at regular intervals in accordance with the changes in teaching methodology, alteration in curriculum, changing budgetary situations and new research programme.

10. The relation between library administration and account section of the college should be cordial since many publishers are reluctant to supply books to the colleges due to the non receipt of the many for years together. Here principal can take a positive role so that payment should be made to the publishers and the book suppliers in time.

11. To meet the users of the colleges consisting of teacher's colleges and staff of a college library should get a few more semiprofessionals and non professionals then only library services needed for the purpose can be catered too.

12. The appointment of librarian/assistant librarian in the college should be professionally qualified. The system of a simple graduate in a college library as assistant librarian should be abolished and for the government should issue a fresh circular for the purpose.

13. The library professionals and library authority should be accepting the challenges with the latest development of IT application in libraries and therefore they should try to adopt every latest knowledge on the development of ICT.

14. To improve and develop a library collection adequate financial support is needed. The section should procure new and up to date research material for which financial support is essential.

These suggestions if some of them are carried out by the college libraries it is imparted that libraries will be a prospering and inspiring organization for the user community. But dedication for the cause of library service to be given by the principal and the librarian will help a library to become "a body with soul."

X. CONCLUSION

Library is an essential part of our society. It helps us to improve and develop our mental power library serves as an intellectual centre for socio economic development by providing facilities of the purpose of acquiring education information, recreation, aesthetic, appreciation and research. The college libraries all over the world are given much importance in the scheme of things in the college and institutions of higher learning. The fact is that the libraries are not only the repositories of knowledge handed over to us by seekers and thinkers of the past and the present but these also dispense such knowledge. Many people would like to give more importance to formal teaching than to informal teaching but in case of higher education which involves the use of college libraries intensively by the students, research scholars and teachers. The topic under this study clearly shows about the teaching, research recreational and other needs of the library users refers to as collection development of the process of library collection. It is also assessing that in the core of user need, evaluating the present collection, determining selection policy, coordination of items weeding and starting parts of the collection and planning for resource sharing can be included. This development of collection will definitely improve, if the different schemes of the library relating discourse are to be emphasis for all. Good day will come when coming generation will try to find out the faculty opinion about a library collection is asked the feelings, beliefs, values and individual views for library collection whether it will consist curriculum of that learning institution are answered. It is hoped that both librarians and teaching faculties' opinion should be asked and taken into account as the evaluation of the library collection should be cooperative effort that yields the best results possible. So it is very much important to have the most current and updated collection as much as possible audit for deficient collection could impact the learning institution negatively.

XI. REFERENCES

- [1] Aina, J.O. (1991), Building a good Collection of Serial Publications for Academic libraries. International Library Movement.13(2), 102-103.
- [2] Corral, S. (1988), Collection development, Herold of Library Science 4, 384-385.
- [3] Gakhar, A.P. (1993), Collection Development and the acquisition, CLIS Observer.3 & 4, 77.
- [4] Gillespic, J. (1994), Guides to Library Collection Development. Retrieved 22.08.13 from [www.http://books.google.com/librarycollection.html](http://books.google.com/librarycollection.html).
- [5] Gregory, V.L. (2011), Collection Development and Management for the 21st Century Library Collection. Retrived 22.08.13 from [www.http://books.google.com/librarycollection.html](http://books.google.com/librarycollection.html).
- [6] Hoffmann, F. W. (2005), Library Collection Development Policies: Academic, Public and Special Libraries. Retrieved 22.08.13 from [www.http://books.google.com/librarycollectionhtml](http://books.google.com/librarycollectionhtml).
- [7] Hossain, S. & Mannen, S.M. (1990), Problems and Prospects of Library Collection. ILA Bulletin 34(2), 59-63.
- [8] Katundu, D.R.M. (2006), Collection Development in Electronic Environment ;ILM Bulletin, 28(4), 149-150.

- [9] Kumar, K. (1981), Evaluation of Services in a College Library. *ILA Bulletin*, 25 (3 & 4), 191-192.
- [10] Lal, B. (1987), Collection Development : A Strategy, Policy and Observations. *International Library Movement*, 25 (9), 63-64.
- [11] Pandey, R. & Velayudhan Pillai, M.N. (2011), *Library Resource Management*. New Delhi : Jnanda Prakashan.
- [12] Sengupta, B. (1974), *Book Selection*, Calcutta : The World Press Private Limited.
- [13] Siddiqui, A.F. (2001), Use of Library Collection. *IASLIC Bulletin*, 46(3), 184-185.
- [14] Singh, R.K. & Sengar S. (2007), *Library Collection Development and Acquisition System*. New Delhi : Shree Publishers & Distributors.
- [15] Sridhar, M.S. (1992), *Problems of Collection Development in College Libraries*. New Delhi : Concept Publishing Company.
- [16] ATANDA, LUQMAN AYANLOLA. "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SKILLS AND USERS'SATISFACTION WITH LIBRARY SERVICES IN AKWA IBOM STATE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY." *IASET: International Journal of Library & Educational Science (IASET: IJLES)* 3.2 (2017):1 – 16
- [17] Iqbal, Peerzada Mohammad, and Abdul Majid Baba. "Currency of Research Articles for Select Major Search Engines in the Field of Library & Information Science." *IASET: International Journal of Library & Educational Science (IASET: IJLED)* 5.5 (2016): 1-10.
- [18] ONUOHA, JULIET, CHUKWUEMEKA CHUKWUEKE, and OGBUJI UCHE DAVID. "IMPACT OF PROVISION AND USE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES ON THE STUDY HABITS OF STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, AFIKPO, EBONYI STATE, NIGERIA." *BEST: International Journal of Humanities, Arts, Medicine and Sciences (BEST: IJHAMS)* 7.6 (2019):27-38
- [19] MONDAL, BELA, and SABYASACHI HALDAR. "ROLE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY TO ENCOURAGE STUDENT COMMUNITY ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOGA IN MODERN AGE: AN OVERVIEW." *International Journal of Library Science and Research (IJLSR)* 7.4 (2017):23-30
- [20] NAIK, UMESHA. "WEB ENABLED LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN KARNATAKA STATE." *International Journal of Library Science and Research (IJLSR)* 7.5 (2017):1-10
- [21] Anjaline, C., and P. Saravanan. "AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON LIBRARY ANXIETY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN ARTS & SCIENCE COLLEGES IN TAMILNADU." *International Journal of Library Science and Research (IJLSR)* 7.4 (2017): 63-68.
- [22] KAUR, ANJANA RAI & KANWALJIT. "LIBRARY VISITS AND USE OF INTERNET AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, LUDHIANA." *International Journal of Educational Science and Research (IJESR)* 8.3 (2018):27-30
- [23] RAVI, S. "OUTREACH TECHNIQUES IN THE PROMOTION OF LIBRARY INFORMATION SERVICES AND RESOURCES: A STUDY AMONG LIS PROFESSIONALS." *International Journal of Human Resource Management and Research (IJHRMR)* 9.2 (2019): 11-22