

A Study of the Collection Storage and Housing at Law College Libraries in Karnataka

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Abstract

This study discusses the importance of collection development in libraries. Various factors have to be taken into consideration while developing a qualitative collection for the benefit of the law college library users affiliated to Hubli Law University. These factors include handling, collection storage, techniques and procedures, problems associated with collection development and weeding out as well. Questionnaire method is used for data collection. The present study is focused to understand the collection storage and housing aspects at law college libraries in Karnataka. The study is limited to all the law colleges affiliated to Karnataka State Law University, Hubli. It is important to evaluate the collections to assess its use and moreover the usefulness of collection development in electronic environment. Authors conclude that, library professionals need to take utmost care in developing a balanced collection, which enhances the quality of the library.

Keywords: Collection Development: Law College Libraries, Collection Storage, Library Collection

Introduction

Collection development is one of the most challenging processes of the library profession whereby, the library staff acquires a variety of materials to meet the demands of its users. Library collection development is a process of meeting the information needs of the people in a timely and economical manner using information resources locally held, as well as from other organizations. According to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), acquisition and collection development focuses on methodological and topical themes pertaining to acquisition of print and other analogue library materials (by purchase, exchange, gift, legal deposit), and the licensing and purchase of electronic information resources

Collection development is an essential function of libraries to make available needed resources to their users. Its goals vary according to the type of library and any special wants of its user community. Successful collection development requires providing users with these materials when they

want them from the vast universe of possible purchases. As library collection is the soul of any libraries, its quality and quantity is also a matter of concern both for the library as well its users. Collection management and collection development are often used synonymously. Collection development and management are the meat and potatoes of libraries. If you don't have a collection, you don't have a library qualification or large number of resources will definitely increase the value of particular library or information centers. Growth in collection is not an overnight business. Sometimes the libraries grow with scratch to sustain their user community; on the other hand some old institutes have switched over to digital collections to satisfy their clientele.

Hoping to avoid construction costs, they asked librarians to look at alternatives to open shelf storage of library materials. In response, librarians consider the use of microforms and of off-site storage centers, or depositories, for some of the older and less-used library materials in their collections.

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Although the establishment of depository libraries initially caused controversy on many campuses, the idea of storing and preserving less-used periodicals and books in remote storage centers has grown and received grudging acceptance.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the present study are:

- To identify the law college library's collection which needs preservation and conservation
- To estimate the size of collection that needs preservation and conservation
- To find out what percentage of collection is not adequately stored in law college libraries
- To examine the adequacy of growth space for storage of the library collection
- To present an overview of the librarian sample population of law colleges

Methodology

The methodology followed in this study is based on collected through the use of a questionnaire. A structured questionnaire was distributed to 100 librarians working in the law college libraries affiliated to Law University, Hubli. About 96% valid responses were received back. The responses received were analyzed. Along with questionnaire method personal observations were also made in the library to determine preservation practices, methods and chemicals used to clean the library and also to check the presence of pests.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is focused to understand the collection storage and housing at law college libraries in Karnataka. Hence, this study is limited to law colleges affiliate to Karnataka State Law University, Hubli the scope of the study is confined to Law college libraries only. Law departments of universities in Karnataka are not considered for the study.

Review of Literature

Literature search plays a very important role in research activities, as it forms the very first step of research pursuit. A thorough review of related literature is very essential in conducting new research.

Ugah (2009) has made a report on the several strategies used for preserving and increasing access to news studies including storage on microfilm, digitization to be accessed online, the creation of a database of Nigerian news studies and abstracting and indexing services. Asiamah (2008) has

carried out research on these challenges and the study revealed status of physical buildings, storage practices, pollution, light and biological agents, security of, as well as the handling of documents. Aina & Lateef (2011) have recommended that there should be training programs for information handlers/users, and improvement in the storage environment should also be given top priority. According to Wijngaarden (2007) about 34 European libraries have identified the long-term preservation of digital documents as an essential strategic priority to ensure storage and reliable carriers. Uluocha (2014) carried out a survey of the challenges of storage and preservation of legal information resources in developing countries. It concludes legal materials (both print and electronic publications); law libraries should begin to develop strategies for digital preservation in their libraries. There are many issues like - lack of trained personnel in the management of audiovisual materials, technological challenges, inadequate storage facilities and the perception by users that audiovisual materials are not as valuable as records in other formats. Lin, et al. (2003) present combined problems of immense volume, unstable storage media, and obsolete hardware and software add up to some very tough problems, which have to be dealt with. Digital preservation is becoming a business issue. Hain (2003) study reveals that there is irreplaceability of materials as well as the innumerable variations in physical condition and storage needs, special collections present many challenges to preservation and conservation professionals. In reaction to these challenges, there have been many advances and changes within the fields of preservation and conservation. Dureau & Clements (1986) discuss library policies, problem assessment, selectivity, links with other libraries and library functions, implications of preservation policies, training, and cooperation. The second section, preservation, considers factors related to storage and accommodation, temperature and humidity, light, air pollution, dust and cleanliness, storage materials and equipment, buildings, and standards employed.

Result and discussion

Gender Wise Distribution

It may be seen from (Fig-1) that a majority of the respondents numbering 67 (69.79 percent) are Male and the remaining 29 (30.21 percent) are Female. Male respondents are dominated.

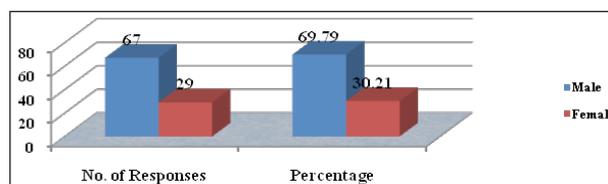


Figure 1. Gender Wise Distribution

Age Wise Distribution

Age wise break up of librarians is shown in Fig-2. The respondents in the age group of '41-45 years' age range scores 28 representing (29.17 percent), followed by the age group of '<29 years' age range scores 20 representing (20.83 percent), the age group of '46-50 years' scores 15 representing (15.63 percent), '36-40 years' age range score 14 representing (14.58 percent), 'above 51 years' age range scores 12 representing (12.50 percent) and only '30-35 years' of age group of respondents score 07 representing (7.29 percent).

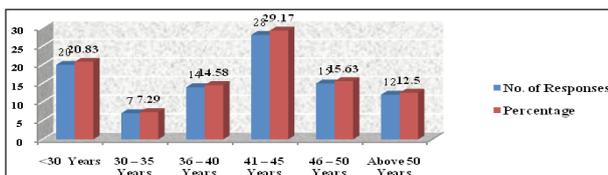


Figure 2. Age Wise Distribution

Educational Qualifications

Educational qualifications of the librarians are shown in Fig-3. It may be seen that 78 (81.25 percent) of librarians are having the qualification of 'MLISc', followed by 08 (8.33 percent) of them having qualification of 'PhD/ Mphil', 06 (6.25 percent) of them have only of 'BLISc' and 04 (4.17 percent) of them have PhD.

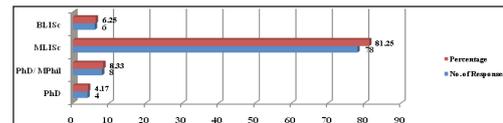


Figure 3. Educational Qualifications

Type of Collection that needs Preservation and Conservation

The Table-1. shows type of collection that needs preservation and conservation. Print resources numbering, 96 (100 percent) are 'General books', followed by 'Reference books (Encyclopedia, Dictionaries etc.)', 'Maps and atlases', 'Indian journals', 'Text books', 'Popular magazines', 'Subject journals', 'Newspapers', 'Current periodicals', and 'Question papers of previous years' have similar percentage, followed by 78 (81.25 percent) respondents was prescribe text books (in syllabus), 47 (48.96 percent) score 'Foreign journals', 66 (68.75 percent) score 'Other than prescribed text books', 78 (81.25 percent) score 'Back volumes of periodicals', 21 (21.88 percent) 'Directories', 07 (07.29 percent) score 'Project/dissertation', 51 (53.13 percent) of them score for 'Government publication', and 36 (37.50 percent) 'Conference proceedings', 82 (85.42 percent) score 'E-Reference resources (Dictionaries, Encyclopedia etc.)', followed by 51 (53.13 percent) who score 'E-Books', 47 (48.96 percent) score 'E-Journals', and only 39 (40.63 percent) 'E-Databases'.

Table 1. Type of Collection that needs Preservation and Conservation

S/N	Types of Collection	No. of Responses	Percentage
Print Resources			
1	General books	96	100.00
2	Reference books (Encyclopedia, Dictionaries etc.)	96	100.00
3	Maps and atlases	96	100.00
4	Foreign journals	47	48.96
5	Indian journals	96	100.00
6	Text books	96	100.00
7	Popular magazines	96	100.00
8	Subject journals	96	100.00
9	Newspapers	96	100.00
10	Prescribed text books (in syllabus)	68	70.83
11	Other than prescribed text books	66	68.75
12	Current periodicals	96	100.00
13	Back volumes of periodicals	78	81.25
14	Directories	21	21.88
15	Project/dissertation	07	07.29
16	Government publication	51	53.13
17	Conference proceedings	36	37.50
18	Question papers of previous years	96	100.00
Electronic Resources			
19	E-Journals	47	48.96
20	E-Books	51	53.13
21	E-Databases	39	40.63
22	E-Reference resources (Dictionaries, Encyclopedia etc.)	82	85.42

Estimated Size of Preservation and Conservation Collections

The various types of resources estimated size of preservation and conservation collections of Law College Libraries, affiliated to Law University, Hubli has been summarized in Table-2 that Law college libraries have various types of estimated size of preservation and conservation of collections of print and electronic resources, about 476000 of books collections with (1st rank), followed by 221000 of 'Back volumes of periodicals' with (2nd rank), 85000 of General 'books' with (3rd rank), 12784 of 'Question papers of previous years' with (4th rank), 3876 of Reference books 'Encyclopedia, Dictionaries etc.' with (5th rank), 1972 of 'Maps and Atlases' (6th rank), 1836 of 'Directories' and 'Project/dissertation' (7th rank), 1292 of 'Conference proceedings' (8th rank), 1156 of 'Current periodicals' with (9th rank), 1088 of 'Government publication' with (10th rank), 1020 of 'Prescribed text books (in syllabus)' with (11th rank), 816 of 'Newspapers' and 'Indian journals' each with (12th rank), 408 of 'Other than prescribed text books', and 'Subject journals' each with (13th rank), 272 of 'Popular magazines' with (14th rank), 204 of 'Foreign journals' with (15th rank). In case of electronic resources, about 282 of E-Journals with (1st rank), followed by 252 of E-Books with 2nd rank), 18 of E-Databases with 3rd rank, and 15 of E-Reference resources (like Dictionaries, Encyclopedia etc.) with (4th rank).

Non Adequacy of Storage Furniture

The non adequacy of storage furniture (like shelves, flat files, cabinets etc.) collections of Law College Libraries, affiliated to Law University, Hubli has been summarized in Table 3 which depicts non adequacy of storage furniture in library (like shelves, flat files, cabinets), 78 (81.25 percent) of respondents opined as 'Yes' towards '1-25%' of range and 18 (18.75 percent) of respondents opined as 'No', followed by 29 (30.21 percent) of respondents opined as 'Yes' towards '26-50%' range and 67 (69.79 percent) of respondents opined as 'No', and 78 (81.25 percent) of respondents opined as 'Yes' with '51-75%' range and 18 (18.75 percent) of respondents opined as 'No' towards non adequacy of storage furniture in library.

Growth Space for Storage of Collections/ Resources

The growth space for storage of collections/resources of Law College is Libraries affiliated to Law University, Hubli has been summarized in Table 4 and it shows that 80 (83.33 percent) of respondents opined 'Yes' towards 'Above ten years of growth', and 16 (16.67 percent) of respondents opined 'No', followed by 75 (78.13 percent) of respondents opined 'Yes' towards 'Between two and five years of growth', and 21 (21.88 percent) of respondents opined 'No', 72 (75.00 percent) of respondents opined as 'Yes' towards 'Between two and five years of growth', and 24 (25.00 percent) of respondents opined as 'No'.

Table 2. Estimated Size of Preservation and Conservation Collections

S/N	Collections	Estimated Size	Rank
Print Resources			
1	General books	85000	3
2	Reference books (Encyclopedia, Dictionaries etc.)	3876	5
3	Maps and atlases	1972	6
4	Foreign journals	204	15
5	Indian journals	816	12
6	Text books	476000	1
7	Popular magazines	272	14
8	Subject journals	408	13
9	Newspapers	816	12
10	Prescribed text books (in syllabus)	1020	11
11	Other than prescribed text books	408	13
12	Current periodicals	1156	9
13	Back volumes of periodicals	221000	2
14	Directories	1836	7
15	Project/dissertation	1836	7
16	Government publication	1088	10
17	Conference proceedings	1292	8
18	Question papers of previous years	12784	4
Electronic Resources			
19	E-journals	282	1
20	E-books	252	2
21	E-databases	18	3
22	E-reference resources (Dictionaries, Encyclopaedia etc.)	15	4

percent) of respondents opined as 'No', about 69 (71.88 percent) of respondents opined as 'Yes' towards 'Current collection housed adequately but no growth space', and 27 (28.13 percent) of respondents opined 'No' and finally 71 (73.96 percent) of respondents opined as 'Yes' towards 'Current space is inadequate', and 25 (26.04 percent) of respondents opined 'No'.

collection, storage, weeding, and preservation policies also need to be established as part of collection storage management. In order to see that useful and relevant documents are not lost in large numbers of mutilated, worn-out and obsolete document such documents are to be weeded out periodically. Library committee and its sub-committee can play a crucial role in collection

Table 3. Non Adequacy of Storage Furniture

S/N	Percentage Range	No. of Responses			
		Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
1	1-25%	78	81.25	18	18.75
2	26-50%	29	30.21	67	69.79
3	51-75%	78	81.25	18	18.75
4	76-100%	61	63.54	35	36.46
$\chi^2=72.4383, df=4, P=.000 < .05.$					

Table 4. Growth Space for Storage of Collections/ Resources

S/N	Growth Space in Years	No. of Responses			
		Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
1	Above ten years growth	80	83.33	16	16.67
2	Between six to ten years growth	75	78.13	21	21.88
3	Between two and five years growth	72	75.00	24	25.00
4	Current collection housed adequately but no growth space	69	71.88	27	28.13
5	Current space is inadequate	71	73.96	25	26.04
$\chi^2=4.24, df=4, P=0.375$					

Salient Findings

The main findings of the study are: The maximum number of 67 (69.79%) of respondents are male and the remaining 29 (30.21%) are female respondents about collection storage and housing law college Libraries. The highest of 41 - 45 years of range scores 28 (29.17 %) and the age group of <30 years range scores represent 20 (20.83 %). respondents about collection Storage. Out of 78 (81.25%) of librarians have of MLISc, followed by 8 (8.33percent) of respondents have 'PhD/MPhil about educational qualification. About high respondents of type of collection needs preservation and conservation about print resources. The maximum 476000 books collection of estimated size of preservation and conservation Collections in 1st rank. About '51-75%' range and 18 (18.75 percent) of respondents opined as 'positive' towards non adequacy of storage furniture in library. About 71 (73.96 percent) of respondents opined as 'positive' towards 'current space is inadequate', and 25 (26.04 percent) of respondents opined as 'Negative'. Respondents.

Conclusion

The major function of collection storage plan is to identify procedures for acquiring new materials. The plan should also help in allocating the budget to meet various needs,

storage by framing policies and formulating programmers to implement them.

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