

Library Facilities in First Grade Colleges of Chitradurga District: An Assessment

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Abstract

College Libraries play an important role in the developing the overall of the college courses and PG students go-into students and teachers. At presently First Grade Colleges have various post-graduation students and also the college libraries are supposed to perform the functions: teaching, research, publications, conservation of knowledge and ideas, services and interaction and also they are depend upon the quality of services that are being provided by college students and teachers. This article deals with an availability and use of information resources, service facilities in First Grade College libraries in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. A questionnaire designed for this purpose was framed with components focusing on number of collection and their nature, service facilities and the users of the libraries. Questionnaire was distributed to affiliated First Grade Colleges in the district and data collected is analyzed statistically. Computer based service facilities, Physical infrastructure, collection and services provided by these libraries have not developed sufficiently.

Keywords: College library, Computer service, Physical infrastructure, Chitradurga district, Colleges of Karnataka.

Introduction

Library is a dynamic instrument of education. Its basic functions are to satisfy the intellectual needs of the users in the past. The librarians were not subjected to the rapid use of the documents as it prevails today. Modern libraries are not a storehouse and books are meant for the preservation and conservation. These are regarded as a service Institutions or knowledge and Information centers.

A Modern Library, with a few exceptions is regarded as a service institution. Its aim is to enable the users to make the most effective use of the resources and services of the library. This type of library acquires material, processed it, and makes it available for use rather than preservation. It allows open access to its collection and provides service to its users. It is expected to convert potential users into habitual users. A habitual user is the one who goes to a library regularly and uses the library as a matter of habit.

Today we are living in digital Era. As Internet revolution is unfolding users are becoming more aware of information and communication benefit for over all development at individual and society level.

Former president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has given in his essay viz “*The Knowledge Society*” that; *the word ‘knowledge’ is available at many places. One can get them through the education, information, intelligence, and experience. All these get through the academic institutions and libraries and these libraries are play a major role in preserving resource of knowledge*”.¹

Academic libraries are established for the benefit of the faculty and students users. They are real academic parts of every educational institutes offering services based upon book materials, Non-book materials and modernized digital resources for various subject based faculty and student groups on arts, commerce, management, science and technology etc. Among all these types of libraries evolved by institutions in current era, academic libraries are most popular because of the functions they perform. They play a very significant role in the welfare of the college and higher education.

College Libraries

A college is considered as an academic institution of higher learning offering three-year degree course. In colleges, library occupies a prominent position and it is an important and integral part of the teaching programme. It is not merely a depository of books, but an active workshop instrument in the production of original thinking. The aim of college education and college libraries is inter-related. College library extends opportunities for self-education to the deserving and enthusiastic students without any distinction. These libraries develop in each student a sense of responsibility in the pursuit of knowledge. College library stimulate the students to obtain, evaluate and recognize knowledge and to familiarize him with the trends of knowledge for further education and learning new discipline.

The clientele would consist of students and teachers and administrative staff. Library should provide the information to the students and teachers specific subject area. Information documents of the library. Assistance in the location of documents or use of library catalogue, OPAC or understand of reference books etc.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

The present study attempts to know the present conditions (i.e., facilities, resources, and services) of First Grade Colleges libraries in Chitradurga district. The college libraries consist of Arts, Commerce, Science, Business management and Bachelor of Computer Application. The study delimits its scope to Government, Private, aided and unaided colleges. This study excludes professional is that limitation colleges. Geographically the scope of the study is limited to first grade colleges located in Chitradurga district only. Further, while studying user requirements, the scope of the study is confined to students, teachers of first grade colleges.

Need For the Study

The College libraries cannot be intellectual centers, unless they move fast and equip them-selves well to catch up with the current trend. At present all types of First Grade College Libraries in Chitradurga district are suffering inadequate resources-documents, finance and manpower unscientific organization poor quality of physical facilities and services and above all, lack of recognition of their important academic role. This needs the study of the first grade college libraries in Chitradurga district. Therefore, to study in details various aspects of first grade college libraries in Chitradurga district.

Hence the present study entitled **“Availability and Use of Information Resources-Service Facilities in First Grade College Libraries in Chitradurga District: A Uses Survey”** is undertaken.

Statement of the Problem

The present problem of the study is entitled **“First Grade College Libraries in Chitradurga District: An Assessment”**. This problem related to highlight these different facets of college libraries in research area. This study will provide basis for redefining college libraries in order to play an important role in higher education.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are: to know

1. To know the organization of section in libraries of Chitradurga district.
2. To know the library resources and service facilities of research area.
3. To study the technical processing and organization of documents.
4. To know the Computer related facilities in the libraries.

5. To identify the availability of physical facilities in first grade college libraries in Chitradurga district.

Review of Literature

Kannappanvar and Mathad (2000)⁷ conducts a survey of 720 first grade college libraries in Karnataka State India; the authors were categorized in to four types of first grade colleges .Viz, Aided Government, Constituent, and Unaided colleges. The study covers various aspects of librarian's qualifications, library staff, working hours, classification schemes used, lending, reference service, and physical facilities. They concluded that the present status of college libraries in the state was far from satisfactory, owing to inadequate funds and under staff. Jayasunderara (2001)⁸ had conducts an investigation into the determinants of service quality in University Library of Sri Lanka with the objective of measuring the use perception of services quality. A careful inspection of tabulated data on the usefulness of determinants to be assessed in order to understand service quality in academic libraries. The study revealed that the students and faculty members were satisfied with the determinants of reliability, courtesy, competence, and tangible, but not satisfied with responsiveness, communication and access. The study suggested that the libraries, especially those in university libraries, must lay more emphasis on service quality than on high quality tangible facilities. Academic Libraries: Lohar and Mallinath (2002)⁹ conducted a survey of use of library facilities and information resources in Sahyadri College in Shimoga, (Karnataka). The faculty responses were collected through a questionnaire. The analysis of the data covered library resources and service and physical facilities provided by the college authority. The main aim of the study was to ascertain the opinion of the faculty regarding the adequacy of information resources and services available in the library. The study includes that the faculty members expressed their satisfaction regarding the information resources and services available in the library and that, at the same time, they expressed their unhappiness regarding the physical facilities provided by the library authority. Liao et al. (2007) ¹⁰ conducted a comparative study of the information needs and information seeking behavior of international graduate students and American graduate students under title "Information-Seeking Behavior of International Graduate Students vs. American Graduate Students: A User Study at Virginia Tech 2005". Study is based on the opinions collected through online survey. Basamma and Gurumurthy (2014)¹¹ Conducted of role of the academic libraries in Indian higher education environment. University Grants Commission and higher education experts are concerned about quality of higher education and they want to develop higher education infrastructure keeping in view the quality as s data about universities, colleges, teachers and students which have grown over a period of last 58 years. It defines best practices as an application of procedures to yield superior results which means way of doing things in particular organization as guidelines for practices in academic libraries. Some features which should have been included in the set meant for improving the services of the college libraries are being proposed here while evaluating the criteria of with an automobile industry for the purpose of quality of management with a set of indicators The paper provides a few examples of the best practices experienced in libraries in different situations by comment that blind imitation, false competition; status symbolism will not work and finally submits that best practices of British libraries and American Centre Libraries operating in India should have been included for our purpose. Adithyakumari and Talwar (2015) ¹² conducted a study of use of referenced sources in university libraries in Karnataka in the required data was collected through a questionnaire. This article investigates the use of reference sources, i.e., bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, year-books and almanacs, geographical sources and handbooks through a questionnaire based survey in seven university libraries in Karnataka. So, seven university libraries under this study and also this study indicates use pattern of various reference sources in study area.

Methodology

The investigator carried out the literature search using primarily LIS (Library and Information Science abstracts) database and other sources. The researcher has also consulted primary sources such as Journals, Reports and Conference proceedings etc., related to the research topic.

The investigator has designed the following questionnaires and interview schedule to collect the required data for the present study.

1. Questionnaire to the Librarians.
2. Questionnaire to the Faculty and Students.

Questionnaires to the Librarians

The investigator has designed a set of questionnaires to librarians and personally distributed to the entire (29 Colleges) first grade College librarians of Chitradurga district under the study area to collect the primary data about the Information resources, services and physical facilities. The librarians in the study area are well responded. The filled in questions received from librarians were later analyzed and interpreted.

Personal Interview

The interview was conducted with the members of the librarians, wherever necessary, to validate responses received.

Techniques Used In the Data Analysis

All the questions in the questionnaire were not designed to generate scores for assessing the opinion of faculty members and students towards the college libraries. In some cases it was not possible to scale the answers because they were limited to a 'Yes' or 'No' answer. The data were measured in a normal scale, therefore the parametric technique could not be applied. Hence, it was decided to apply 'Non-parametric statistics' to the data. The data obtained from the respondents were analyzed, using the following methods; arithmetic mean, standard deviation and Co-Efficient of variation.

Organization of section in Libraries

Table-1 Organization of section in Libraries

Sl. No	Sections	No of Libraries	Percentage
1	Office	0	0.00
2	Book Ordering/ Acquisition Section	1	1.75
3	Technical Section	0	0.00
4	Periodical Section	0	0.00
5	Reference Section	20	35.08
6	Textbook section	28	49.12
7	Browsing section	8	14.03
8	Any other	0	0.00
Total		57	100.00

*** Total for multiple-choice answers***

Table-01 shows the organizational of sections in Libraries, majority 28 (49.12%) of libraries have 'Text book sections, 20 (35.8%) college libraries have 'Reference section and 8(14.3%) of libraries have 'Browsing section'. Bellow 1(1.75%) of libraries consist 'Book ordering and acquisition section'.

Separate budget for libraries

The present study (table-2) reveals that of the total 23(27.31%) college libraries have separate / independent budget, followed by 4 (13.79%) colleges, which have not provided separate budget for library.

Table-02 Separate library budget provision in the college

Sl. No	Opinion	No of Libraries (n=29)	Percentage
1	Yes	23	27.31
2	No	4	13.79
Total		29	100.00

Source library budget

Table-3 shows that, majority 20(47.61%) of the colleges received grants UGC and 16(38.09%) received from State Government and each 14 colleges received from their respective managements. Only 4 colleges' libraries received grants from other source, it represents 4.76% of the total responses respectively.

Table: 03 Sources of library budget

Sl. No	Funding agencies	No of Libraries	Percentage
1	UGC	20	47.61
2	State Government	16	38.09
3	College management	14	33.33
4	Any other (please specify)	2	4.76
Total		42	100.00

* Total for multiple-choice answers*

Status of Classification and Cataloguing

Table-4 reveals that, majority 21(72.41%) of libraries have "So for not Classified and Catalogued." their collection and less 3(10.34%) percentage of college libraries have not "Fully Classified and Catalogued" their collection.

Table: 04 Status of Classification and Catalogue

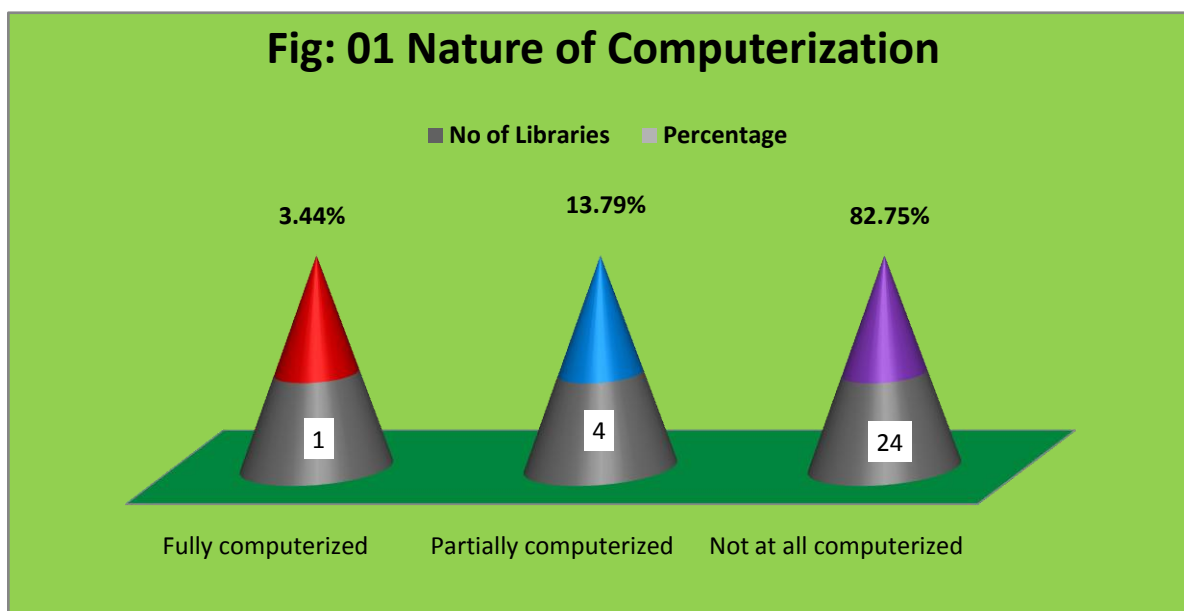
Sl. No	Type of classification	No of Libraries (n=29)	Percentage
1	Fully classified and Catalogued	3	10.34
2	Partially classified and Catalogued	5	17.24
3	Not at all classified and Catalogued	21	72.41
Total		29	100.00

Computerization of Libraries

The Table-5 shows the nature of computerization in the libraries. Majority 24(82.75%) of libraries have “Not computerized” their operations. Hence, 04(13.79%) of libraries have “Partially computerized their operations”. Only 1(3.44%) library having computerized its operations.

Table: 05 Nature of Computerization

Sl. No	Opinion	No of Libraries	Percentage
1	Fully computerized	01	3.44
2	Partially computerized	04	13.79
3	Not at all computerized	24	82.75
Total		29	100.00



Library Software's

The following Table-6 shows that, library software used in the libraries. 3 Libraries are using “Library Manager, Easy Lib and Koha” respectively represents (75.00%) each of the total

responses. 02 (50.00%) Libraries are using “E-Granthalaya Software” and also One 1(25.00%) library is use the “E-LIB” software in the library for its operations and services.

Table: 06 Software are using in the library

Sl. No	Name of theSoftware’s	No of Colleges	Percentage
1	LIBRIS	00	00.00
3	LIBSYS	00	00.00
4	LIBSOFT	00	00.00
5	LIBRARIAN	00	00.00
6	E-LIB	01	25.00
7	E-GRANTHALAYA	02	50.00
8	Any other (Please specify)	03	75.00
Total		04	100.00

Library Building

An inquiry relating to library building reveals that, Majority of 26(89.65%) libraries have not separate library building to house their collection. Only the remaining 03.(10.34%) do have separate library building.

Tale: 07 Separate Library Building

Sl No	Opinion	No of Colleges	Percentage
1	Yes	03	10.34
2	No	26	89.65
Total		10	100.00

Adequacy of Physical facilities

It was felt desirable to know the opinion of librarians regarding the adequacy of physical facilities available in their respective college libraries. The result of the survey revealed through the opinion of the college librarian is given below. The following Table-8 shows that, majority, 9(17.31%) of libraries having “Natural lighting” and “Proper ventilation” in their library, whereas Eight (15.38%) libraries are having “Adequate toilet” and “Drinking facility”, and each 7(13.46%) of libraries are having “Adequate space”, “Sufficient lighting arrangement” and “Comfortable furniture” in their libraries. Less percentage of (5.76%) of three libraries are having “Adequate toilet and drinking water” in the premises libraries.

Table: 08 Adequacy of Physical facilities

Sl. No	Opinion	No of Colleges	Percentage
1	Adequate space	7	13.46
2	Sufficient natural light	9	17.31
3	Proper ventilation	9	17.31
4	Sufficient lighting arrangement	7	13.46
5	Sufficient and comfortable furniture	7	13.46
6	Adequate toilet and drinking water	3	5.76
7	Parking facilities for vehicles	5	9.62
Total		52	100.00

Total for multiple-choice answers*

Conclusion:

Considering the findings of this study, the College libraries of Chitradurga district under the scope of the present study reveal that majority of college libraries are ailing on many fronts like inadequate Organization sections in libraries, library resources and service facilities technical processing, Computer related facilities physical facilities, partially classification and Cataloguing, lack of financial, lack of financial support, absence of scientific organization and processing of documents by college libraries in Chitradurga district demanding that major actions for reviving the spirit of College libraries are the need of the hour. Librarians, teachers, and students are having the responsibilities to act collectively for adding value to the concept of college libraries. It is suggested that college authorities must focus on building the infrastructure in libraries, provide professional manpower to libraries, set in motion the concept of introducing library automation in libraries, framing a policy for collection building and rules for providing services to library users in an effective and efficient manner.

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