

## Role of Academic Libraries and Information Services: A Study

Chitransh Dixit<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Kanchan lata Dixit<sup>2</sup>, Dr. Chandra Kumar Dixit<sup>3</sup>, Dr. Praveen Kumar Pandey<sup>4</sup>

1. RV Institute of Technology and Management, Bangalore, India
2. Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, Lucknow, U.P., India
3. Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University Lucknow, U.P. India
4. Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University Lucknow, U.P., India

### ARTICLE INFO

#### **Keywords:**

*Academic  
Library Type;  
College Library;  
Library services;  
Resources; Users*

### ABSTRACT

Role of academic libraries serve an important role in helping students, teachers, and staff with their academic and research needs. They provide a variety of services and resources to promote learning, teaching, and scholarship, including as access to scholarly databases, e-books, print collections, study spaces, and instructional support. In recent years, college libraries have also expanded their digital collections and services to meet the changing needs of users in the age of digital information. This paper explores how librarians must constantly evaluate and adapt their services to meet the changing demands of their users in order to ensure the success of college libraries. This includes creating user-friendly interfaces for accessing and using library materials, giving personalised guidance and support, and establishing creative programmes to improve the learning experience. As higher education institutions continue to evolve, college libraries will remain a vital resource for supporting academic success and lifelong learning.

## **Introduction**

Academic libraries are those libraries which are linked to any academic organization and devoted to their parent institution. These libraries provided services according to the need of parent institution. Academic library can be established at three levels, these can be School Library, College Library and University Library. These libraries serve students, faculty, staff, researchers, and other members of the academic community by offering access to print and electronic resources, such as books, journals, databases, and other materials. Academic libraries often have specialized collections in various subject areas, such as science, engineering, humanities, social sciences, and more. They also provide reference services, instruction and information literacy programs, interlibrary loan services, and other support to help users navigate the complex world of scholarly research. All of these meet the academic community's needs by completing the institution's study and research programmes and assisting in the preservation and dissemination of information.

### **1.1 College Library:**

College libraries serve as the primary learning resource and are an essential component of higher education. A college library is a library that is associated with a college and is intended to support the academic and research needs of its students, faculty, and staff. College libraries typically have a wide range of materials, resources, and services that are specifically tailored to the courses and programs offered at the parent institution. College libraries usually have a collection of books, journals, and other reading materials related to various academic disciplines, as well as online databases and other digital resources that students can access from anywhere with an internet connection. They also provide access to research assistance and support services, such as librarians who can help students with their research and citation needs.

College libraries typically have a variety of study spaces, including individual study carrels, group study rooms, and quiet reading areas. They may also offer computer workstations for students to use, as well as printing and scanning services. Overall, college libraries play a critical role in supporting the academic and research needs of a college or university, providing a wealth of resources and services that help to promote learning, innovation, and community engagement.

### **2. Evolution of College Libraries:**

The evaluation of the college library traced back from the British colonial period. In 1818, The first college library was established at the Serampore College in West Bengal. The library was founded by Danish missionary and scholar William Carey, by his books brought from England. The library gradually grew in the period of time and having more than 50,000 volumes at the early of 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the early 20th century, several universities were established in India, which are having

associated colleges and these colleges are having own libraries. Today's college libraries are playing tremendous role in the promotion of the education, research and academic activities.

### **3. Features of College Libraries:**

- It supports teaching and research activities in the colleges.
- College library developed enormous collection of books and journals and broad category of reading materials related to courses.
- It provides access to various online as well off line data base search services for the users.
- It offers variety of facilities such as study and reading space for individual and group study.
- College libraries offer internet services for the users for access of information, printing, scanning, etc.
- It provides research assistance services for the students such as finding information, accessing online databases, reference management, etc.
- It offers inter library loan services for the users.
- Few college libraries have very important rare or unique collection such as historical documents, manuscripts etc. for research purposes.
- It organized various workshop and events to develop skills among the students

### **4. Functions of College Libraries:**

College libraries perform various functions to support the academic and research activities in the premises. The functions of college libraries are as follows:

- Provides various information reading materials such as books, journals, magazines and other information sources which are relevant to the education and research.
- It offers various kinds of research support facilities such as helping in finding relevant information, plagiarism checking, guiding reference management, etc for the students and faculty members.
- Facilitating various spaces and resources for the academic communities to support learning.
- Working as a repository for preserving knowledge of the society in the form of the historical documents, rare books, or manuscripts, etc.
- It offers various tools and technology for encouraging innovation and creativity among the students.
- It helps in the development of the educated society by providing platform for the intellectual, faculty, and students to share their knowledge and social engagement.

### **5. Collections of College Libraries:**

College libraries typically have a wide range of collections that are tailored to the academic disciplines and programs which included as follows:

8. It has wide range of subject text books, monographs, reference books.
9. College libraries are subscribing various Journals and Periodicals, related to specific or wide range of discipline in print as well as electronic formats.
10. College libraries are having access of online databases form the consortia to fulfill the information need of the users.
11. It has collection of the multimedia information resources to fulfill the academic information need of the students and faculty members.
12. Few college libraries having rare book collection, manuscripts and other historical documents for transferring the culture and knowledge.
13. College libraries are having diverse range of collections which are tailored as per the courses and programs offered by the college.
14. College libraries are having well developed archive for the historical documents, student publications and administrative documents.

#### **6. Services of College Libraries:**

College libraries offer a wide range of services that support the academic and research needs of students, faculty, and staff.

1. It offers research assistant services to the researchers and faculty members of the particular college.
2. College libraries provide various online tutorials for the orientation programs and other searching techniques which develop information literacy among the library users.
3. Interlibrary loan service is offered by the college libraries for the library users. For the purpose of inter-library loan (ILL), they are subscribing various union catalogues for the awareness of reading books and reading materials available in different library.
4. Allotment of the space for the different type of the study, discussion and research activities.
5. Different technological services were offered by the college library for study and research.
6. Various events and programs have been organized by the library for the intellectual and social engagement.
7. College libraries are offering various special services to the library which help in the research data management, copyright, and users assistance in finding information.

#### **7. Users of College Libraries:**

College libraries serve a diverse range of users, facilitating wide range of collection and services to

support education, research and community engagement.

- Students
- Faculty members
- Staff members
- Alumni of the college
- Visiting Scholars
- Community Members

### **8. Advantages of college libraries:**

Libraries offer many advantages to students, faculties, and the broader academic community, including:

- College libraries are offering comprehensive electronic as well as print resources to the library users for education and research.
- Various research assistant service (searching relevant documents, plagiarism check, citation management) are offered to the library users for the promotion of the research activities in the campuses.
- Libraries offered different space for focused and productive learning. These spaces are discussion rooms, quiet reading room, study carrels etc.
- Offers space for students, teachers and staff for the community collaboration learning, sharing the ideas and information.
- Provide information technology infrastructure to access information, preparation of documents, completing assignments, academic and research related activities.
- Provide various services, resources and organizing workshop for the development of the professional activities.
- College libraries host various events such as expert lectures, book exhibition etc in the campus for the promotion of the culture and community engagement for development of society.

### **9. Limitations of college libraries:**

College libraries are having few limitations as follows:

- College libraries are having limited access to the library users because it is not open as university libraries.
- College library have very limited collections of reading materials that unable to full fill the information need of the library users.

- Many university libraries are offering maker space for the library users for innovation and learning. But college library have very limited space in the libraries during examination period when each and every students wants to study in the very silence place.
- College libraries offering limited information technology facilities because of the non-availability of latest technology or obsolete technology which affects the productivity of the users.
- College library will act according to the institutional policies which may restrict some services and collection.
- College libraries have limited funds facilities which affected the purchase of information resources, development of the infrastructure, and starting new library services.
- Very limited staff is appointed in the college library which affect the services of the college library.

#### **10. Conclusion:**

College libraries are serving to the users which are associated to the college. Some time they are also offering visitor library service for the student and researchers for the outside of the college. College libraries basically intended to serve or full fill the academic and research information need of the students, researchers, and faculty members. Now the librarian is not working as a house keeper of the books but they are working as a service provider which has a user centric approach. The college library structure is very small compare to university library. But now a day many college libraries are subscribing electronic resources through consortia subscription and compiling open access information resources for the library users.

## **References:**

1. Adeniran, P. (2011). User satisfaction with academic libraries services: Academic staff and students' perspectives. *International journal of library and information science*, 3(10), 209-216.
2. Bhatia, J. K. (2011). Use of Electronic Resources in Degree College Libraries in Chandigarh. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, 31(6).
3. Cook, C., & Heath, F. M. (2001). Users' perceptions of library service quality: A LibQUAL+ qualitative study.
4. Crawford, J. (2003). *Evaluation of library and information services*. Routledge.
5. Du, J. T., & Evans, N. (2011). Academic Library Services Support for Research Information Seeking. *Australian Academic & Research Libraries*, 42(2), 103-120. doi:10.1080/00048623.2011.10722217
6. Hemavathi, K. N., & Chandrashekhara, M. (2018). User satisfaction on library resources and services in Law College libraries in Mysore, Karnataka. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 8(1), 309-318.
7. Lincoln, Y. S. (2002). Insights into library services and users from qualitative research. *Library & information science research*, 24(1), 3-16.
8. Miao, H., & Wang Bassham, M. (2007). Embracing customer service in libraries. *Library Management*, 28(1/2), 53-61. doi:10.1108/01435120710723545
9. Miller, S. (2019). Benefits of Libraries for College Students. Retrieved from: <https://collegepuzzle.stanford.edu/benefits-of-libraries-for-college-students/>
10. Poll, R., & Payne, P. (2006). Impact measures for libraries and information services. *Library Hi Tech*.
11. Soria, K. M., Fransen, J., & Nackerud, S. (2013). Library use and undergraduate student outcomes: new evidence for students' retention and academic success. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 13(2), 147-164.