ABSTRACT

Traditionally, the library is a physical place where collection of information resources in various formats (books, journals, videos, CD-ROMs etc.) is organized in a specific manner to meet the needs of a specific user or user groups. It is a service organization with both tangible and intangible assets. The tangible assets constitute physical document and the human resources. The intangible assets comprise the invaluable services rendered by the library staff. The library plays an important role in the world by providing access to world class information resources and services and stimulates research in the country.

Collection development is an exciting challenging area in which to work and electing the right materials for the library’s community is as intellectually demanding an activity as a librarian will encounter. Collection development (also known as collection or materials management) involves the identification, selection, acquisition and evaluation of a collection of library resources (e.g. Print materials, audio-visual materials, electronic resources) for a community of users. While it is the goal of collection development to meet the information needs of everyone in a user community, this is not usually realized due to financial constraints, the diversity of user information needs, and the vast amount of avoidable information.
A collection development policy is a written statement of the library’s intentions for building its collection. It describes the collection’s strengths and weaknesses and provides guidelines for library staff. A collection development policy should be a living document, adaptable to change and growth. It provides guidelines that can be modified as the library’s collection needs change.

The present study specifically deals with the policy aspects and dimensions of developing library collection and its uses from the viewpoint of the librarians as well as the user communities including scientists. The study has been made meaningful by taking up the studies of 9 surveyed libraries.

Before collecting data, extensive literature survey was undertaken to understand the problems and research trends in the area. The literature survey helped to understand the problems related to developing library collection in a proper perspective and broaden framework. It also helped in developing different questionnaires.

The study was carried out through survey. The study based on 9 CSIR libraries i.e. CDRI, NBRI, ITRC, CIMAP, NISCAIR, NPL, NISTADS, CRRI and IGIB. Two different questionnaires have been used for obtaining responses from librarians and users on various issues related to collection development and their use. The questionnaires were tested before finally administering them to the respective population groups. Questionnaires were distributed personally and sent both by post and e-
mail attachments. The sample size for the survey relating to 2 groups of questionnaires was chosen on the basis of their estimated strength and the practical constraints of space, time and economy in administering the questionnaires.

The entire study is divided into 6 chapters. A brief outline of each chapter is given below-

**Chapter-I Introduction:** This chapter introduces various components of collection development process, factors affecting collection development, collection development policy with reference to special libraries and research topic and its background, statement of the problem, scope of the study and its limitations.

**Chapter-II Review of Literature:** This chapter is about the literature which has been scanned and surveyed to study the various trends in this area of study. It deals with various aspects like collection development policy, services and their use.

**Chapter-III CSIR Laboratories’ and their Libraries:** This chapter discusses the CSIR laboratories and their libraries under study. CSIR Libraries under study i.e. information including background, services and other activities.

**Chapter-IV Methodology:** This chapter relates to the method of study, construction of the questionnaires, and selection of variables,
organization and administration of the questionnaires. The chapter further mentions the process of data collection and its analysis.

**Chapter-V Data Analysis and Interpretation:** This chapter analyses the data collected during survey. The analysis is divided in 2 different sections as per 2 different questionnaires which were designed and distributed.

**Chapter-VI Findings, Summary and Conclusion:** This last chapter is devoted to the important findings of the study which have come out of the research. It gives recommendations to improve the existing situation. Areas for further research have also been suggested.

The results of the study are revealing and invite attention of instructions policy makers for devising appropriate action plans. The study will be fruitful and successful if the recommendations suggested in this thesis are considered favorably by concerned authorities and implemented for the benefit of the libraries, which in-turn support the scientist community in the state/country.