CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTORY BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

Law is regarded as the cement of society. It is an essential medium of social change. Knowledge of law increases ones’ understanding of public affairs. Its study promotes accuracy of expression, felicity in argument and skill in interpretation of the written word, as well as understanding of social values (Williams, 2002).

ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science (1983) has defined library as, “a collection of materials organized to provide physical, bibliographical and intellectual access to a target group, with a staff that is trained to provide services and programs related to the information needs of the target group.”

Generally, the objectives of a library depend upon the type of the library. The objectives of library are fulfilled through the functions and operations. The objective of special library is the provision of information in support of the objectives of its parent organization. Although special libraries exist in a wide variety of organizations and most of them are units of larger organization but these are established to serve only a particular group of users or specialists working on a subject or a group of subjects or on a particular type of documents (Dhar, 2010).

Encyclopedic Dictionary of Library and Information Science (2010) defines law library as, “a type of special library with a collection consisting of primarily materials for legal research and study, including case law, federal and state statutes, international legal agreements, treatises, reference works, legal periodicals and electronic research tools. A law library maintained by a court, law school, or legal firm is normally managed by a librarian who may hold a J.D. degree in addition to the M.L.S. or M.L.I.S”.

The Academic Law Library is indeed the heart of an academic institution and plays an important role in all academic activities. A law library is truly a vital factor in the administration of justice. In the present context, legal education is centered on the strength of law libraries rather than class room teaching. The law library stands as a functional lead for legal information in the form of books, journals, reference books, statutes, reports and general books.
“Law library plays a vital role in the administration of justice. It is an institution of extraordinary social significance in a free society. Inspiring the men and women of vision who devote their talents to the creation and preparation of law libraries, whose benefits reach out far and beyond the personal interest of the original creators” (Tewari, 1997).

An efficient and responsive law library service is achievable through well organized collections of legal information sources. Hence, a law library is to legal practitioners and judicial officers what instruments are to a technologist, and apparatus to scientists. In order to accomplish these roles, the library performs the traditional functions of collection development, organization, retrieval and dissemination of legal and related information sources. As law library is a special type of library. A workable definition of law library might be “a collection of materials wholly or mainly containing legal information, organized for use” (Moys, 1976).

Law librarianship, especially the librarianship in judicial institutions, is different from librarianship in any other discipline. This aspect is more appropriately explained by Kavass, (1975) when he says that “the reason for law libraries being different from other types of libraries is that they serve a profession which is literally unable to exercise its work without the use of books.” While librarians in other organizations may convince their users to give them some time for catering to their information requirements, a court librarian has to furnish the desired information at once because the case is being argued in the Court and desired information is needed in the court at the time of argument. So, a law librarian has to provide the information instantly without any excuse/delay. Because of this reason, a law librarian has to be a very alert professional and must develop his or her own tools and have the requisite expertise to provide the desired information instantly.

The law library has skilled people to classify and arrange the books in an orderly manner. A law library need to stock books on law and law alone. It has to stock authoritative books from allied branches like philosophy, political science, public administration, economics, etc. it must also stock language dictionaries, dictionaries of law, judicial dictionary and thesaurus (Gandhi, M. 1992).

On the basis of different types of users, law libraries could be categorized into:

- Academic Law Libraries (for Students, Research Scholars and Teachers);
- Judicial Libraries attached to Courts (for Judges, Jurist);
• Government Departments Law Libraries (for Civil Servants and Government Officials);
• Legislative Libraries (for Legislators);
• Bar Association Libraries (for Legal Practitioners); and
• Practitioner’s Libraries (for Practitioners).

1.1 Collection Development

Collection development is systematic planning and rational building of library material. The term includes all activities involved in assessing the users’ need, evaluating the present collection, determining the selection policy, coordinating the selection of items, re-evaluating and storing parts of the collection and planning for resource sharing. It is not a single activity, but an agglomeration of activities (Parameswaran, 1997). Similarly ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science (1983) defines collection development as, “a term which encompasses a number of activities related to the development of the library collection, including the determination and coordination of selection policy, assessment of needs of users and potential users, collection use studies, collection evaluation, identification of collection needs, selection of materials, planning for resources sharing, collection maintenance and weeding” Shipman, (1975) has also defined it as “the sum total of library materials; books, pamphlets, manuscripts, punched cards, serials, government documents, microfiches and computer tapes, etc. that makes up the holdings of a particular library. In other words, it is planned; systematic development of an already existing collection.”

Collection development is a plan which can be implemented and evaluated. The process involves three main aspects:

• Collection planning- a design to acquire documents.
• Collection implementation -process of making documents available.
• Collection evaluation -examining and judging the relevance in relation to goals and objectives.

Collection development is actually a blue print for the maintenance and expansion of the library’s collection in all formats. It is based on a strategic policy which is responsible for selecting materials for the library to understand the philosophy and rational that guides the development of collection. With this, the library is able to allocate acquisition funds wisely, shape a strong collection and
inform the user community about the nature of collection. University of Connecticut School of Law (2003) also defines collection development as “It evolved to emphasize the needs of users and to assess their changing attitude towards the collection. Collection development is sometimes considered as synonymous to ‘collection building’ which means that there is already a nucleus (the central and most important part of an object, movement, or group, forming the basis for its activity and growth) of collection in the library and the librarian is going to build up the collection”.

Since the beginning libraries have been providing various services such as issuing books and personally guiding users to the actual source. The vast array of services that most of the libraries provide consists of circulation, reference, reprography, translation, current awareness and selective dissemination of information etc.; but now the mode of services have been drastically changed to provide access to resources rather than providing the documents itself. This paradigm shift is because of the ICT revolution that has compelled libraries to modify the existing mode of services. This developmental change has not only occurred in Academic Law Libraries, but also court libraries and government law libraries in Delhi.

1.2 Collection Development of Law Libraries

Collection development involves selection and acquisition of information sources which translates into the collection of a library. Collections of law libraries are the bedrocks of all the services they can offer and determinant of the extent to which such services can be provided. These collections can be categorized into three sources as primary sources, secondary sources and tertiary sources.

Primary sources of information related to law are books of law as a subject, like Constitutional Laws, Acts, Decrees, Edicts, Gazettes; Law Reports i.e. Courts and Appellate, Court Decisions, Regulation and Ruling of Administrative Agencies. Secondary sources are information sources about law, which are not sources of legal authority. They vary widely in quality, form and authority. Although they lack legal authority in a formal sense, some may have a persuasive influence in the process of law-making by virtue of recognized prestige of their authors or quality of their scholarship, examples are journals, textbooks, treatises, commentaries, restatements and other periodicals. Tertiary sources of legal information provide access to large body of law, great number of decisions and statutes issued over time. This facilitates
effective operation of the doctrine of precedents, as judges and legal practitioners can have access to them and decide cases relevant to a particular case or problem. Examples are digests of decisions, citations, encyclopedias, phrase books, annotated statutory compilations, loose leaf services and indexes.

The Collection of a law library must be reasonably good and diverse. Such collections must include all categories of information sources mentioned above. These collections are available in both print and non-print form, in databases, such as Lexis-Nexis, Lawtel, and the Internet.

1.3 Status of Law Librarianship in India

Shrivastava (2008) has stated that “Law librarianship in India is still a new field and much effort to be done for the development of law libraries in a coordinated manner. Even though there are approximately 600 law schools, 430 sub-ordinate courts, 22 high courts, along with their 14 benches, a supreme court, 19 national and state judicial academies and many legal research institutions, except sub-ordinate courts, there is little coordination among them. There is neither resource sharing initiatives among them, nor any consortia of law libraries. Though one attempt has been made to form a consortium of legal libraries by some law school librarians, these efforts are few and far between. Similarly, an attempt has also been made to form an association of law librarians in the country and a conference of law librarians was also organized in Bombay (2006) and in (2012) a conference of Law Librarians was held in National Law School, New Delhi, but the association could not be registered and yet to be given a formal birth. Unlike in the United States of America, where the American Bar Association (ABA) has formulated some standards for Court Libraries, no attempt has been made in India by any agency so far to formulate the standards for judicial and court libraries at different levels. The Bar Council of India has promulgated some standards for law school libraries for the purpose of accrediting law schools, but once the accreditation has been granted, there is no mechanism to check whether or not the law schools are adhering to prescribed norms”.

1.4 Statement of the Problem

The past two decades are often described as the Information age and people now work in what has been renamed as Information Centers/Industries. The basic foundation and the first perception of any information center is the collection and its development. The strength of the collection, policies for acquiring the documents,
developmental techniques used to organize the collection, and other related aspects are the key areas and buzz words of the current scenario of Information Communication Technology (ICT) environment. Collection development remains an immensely important yard stick in determining the nature and to a considerable extent, the level of service which a library is able to provide. The present study is thus undertaken to reveal the different facets of the collection development and its related aspects in the law libraries of the Indian Capital (New Delhi) which is entitled, “Collection Development and Services in Law Libraries in Delhi: A Comparative Study”.

1.5 Need and Significance of the Study

The collection development is most important benchmark in determining the nature and the services of a particular library. It has generally been perceived that a library good in collection is good in its services and thus the satisfaction level of users is also higher. It is known that the availability of good documents largely depends on user needs and their satisfaction. In order to satisfy the users, the first and the foremost aspect that is to be kept in mind is the presence of a good collection and its development. Any study relating to the collection development programme will be pertinent in the current era and the same applies to the present study as well. The study is more significant as it covers the law libraries which have been less explored as revealed from the available literature. The study analyses the complete outlook of law libraries under the purview of aspects like: users’ need for the process of selection of documents, library’s collection development policy and also the status of collection development in the libraries. Though, several studies have been undertaken regarding acquisition of documents and the related collection development facets of various libraries, but there has not been a proportionate research which has investigated the collection development and services in Academic Law Libraries and Special Law Libraries (Non-Academic Law Libraries). Thus, the study intends to fill up the gap.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The present study is limited to examining the collection development and Services of law libraries located in Delhi. The time span considered for this study is from 2007-2011. Data collected through a set of questionnaires, used in this study are primary in nature. Some data are however, secondary too. The study under purview is
aimed at identifying the current status of collection development and services of the following law libraries in Delhi:

- Indian Law Institute Library
- Law Library-University of Delhi
- Law Library- Jamia Millia Islamia
- Supreme Court Judges Library
- High Court Judges Library
- Parliament Library.

The study focuses mainly on collection development policies, selection criteria of documents, collection evaluation methods, users’ assessment methods and the different types of services provided by these libraries. The study also examines users’ assessment with regards to level of their satisfaction with collection development and services.

1.7 Aims and Objectives of the Study

The mainstay and the core area of the present study is to determine the collection development operations like acquisition, budgeting, organization, maintenance, weeding out, etc. in the law libraries in Delhi along with the services provided by them. For mining out the same, the following objectives have been pursued for the purpose of the study on collection development and services of select law libraries i.e., Academic Law Libraries and Special Law Libraries in Delhi:

- To study the present position of law libraries under study;
- To bring out information regarding the collection and also examine the budget of the libraries under study.
- To examine and study the method of selection of study materials, tools used for material selection, modes of acquisition, criteria of evaluation of documents, provision of library committee, criteria for weeding out of reading materials, etc. in libraries under study.;
- To study and examine about the collection development policy used in libraries under study.
- To know the collections and use of legal databases in libraries under study;
- To know the provision of resource sharing in libraries under study;
- To examine the frequency of visit by the users of the law libraries under study;
- To find out the purpose of visit to the libraries;
• To assess the frequency of their use of library materials;
• To find out electronic information sources provided i.e. online databases and CD-ROM databases, e-books, e-journals, e-cases, e-reports, etc.;
• To find out the use, awareness, level of satisfaction, etc., of the users regarding the various services provided by the libraries, i.e. circulation service, reference service, CAS and SDI services, bibliographic service, reprographic service, translation service, etc.;
• To find out the users opinion regarding the overall general facilities available in libraries; and
• To collect suggestions from the librarians/head of the libraries and users for further development of libraries, its resources, facilities and services.
• To suggest measure to make library services more effective and efficient.

1.8 Hypotheses of the Study

For the smooth sailing in the area under shadow and in pursuance of the above mentioned objectives, the following hypotheses have been postulated:

1. In both the categories of Law Libraries in Delhi i.e., Academic Law Libraries and Special Law Libraries are not adopting a uniform collection development policy.
2. Tools used for the selection of information resources are not same in all the libraries.
3. There is no significant difference in increasing the collection (printed as well as electronic documents) of libraries under study during the last five years.
4. In both the categories of libraries Academic Law Libraries and Special Law Libraries in Delhi are not having a good collection and use of online legal databases.
5. In both the categories of libraries i.e., Academic Law Libraries and Special Law Libraries the budget is not increasing constantly during the last five years.
6. There is no significant difference among the users of law libraries with regard to use of OPAC and traditional catalogue.
7. All the users in both the categories of libraries i.e., Academic Law Libraries and Special Law Libraries are neither aware nor satisfied with the services provided by the libraries and also not satisfied with the behavior of library staff in the same proportionate.
1.9 Research Methodology

The term methodology, in a broad sense, refers to the process, principles and procedures by which one approaches the problems and seeks the answer. There are various research methods such as, historical, survey, experimental, etc. In this study the survey method is used to study the collection development and services of selected six Law Libraries, i.e. ILI, LLUD, LLJMI, SCJL, HCJL and PL in Delhi.

1.9.1 Variables taken in the Study

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, two sets of questionnaires were prepared, one for library professionals and other for the users of libraries under study.

The first set of questionnaire was administered to the following categories of respondents.

- Director/Librarian/Head of the Library/In-charge Acquisition Section.

The second set of questionnaire was administered to the following categories of users of these below mentioned libraries under study.

- PSs/PAs to Members of Parliament
- PAs to Judges and Lawyers
- Faculty Members of Educational Institutes, Research Scholars and Post Graduate (P.G.) Students.

The questionnaires were designed to study about collection development, total annual budget of various libraries, modes of acquisition, provision of collection development policy, collection and use of legal databases, use and awareness of e-information resources, awareness and satisfaction about the services provided by the libraries, etc.

1.9.2 Data Collection Techniques:

Large numbers of data collection techniques are available such as questionnaire, schedule, interviews, observations, socio metric, document review, psychological test, etc. The questionnaire, interview, observations and document review techniques has been used to collect the data.

1.9.2.1 Questionnaire Techniques:

Questionnaire is a tool to collect data from a diverse and widely scattered group. It is called the heart of survey operation. To collect the
necessary data for the present study, two sets of questionnaires were designed. One for each Librarian/Head of the Library and another for the users of the library. Major formatting in the construction of the questionnaire was made to obtain information on collection development and services of law libraries under study.

In order to get maximum information on present study each question is formulated on the basis of the literature reviewed. It has been recognized as the most applicable and reliable instrument for measuring the current status of libraries.

**Administered the Questionnaire**

Response rate which is also known as completion rate or return rate. In survey research, it refers to the number of users who answered the problem divided by the number of users in the sample. It is usually expressed in the form of a percentage. The response rates of the questionnaire has been outlined in the following table which represents the total population of respondents, questionnaires distributed, number of questionnaires returned and the questionnaires analysed for the final analysis.

The investigator visited all the libraries under study and got 100% cooperation and response from the side of Librarians/Head of the Library/Institute and also requested to the librarian/head of the institute for getting permission to distribute the questionnaire to the users, for this purpose the investigator visited the library in February-2011, March-2011, April-2011, May-2011, June-2011, November-2011, February-2012, May-2012, June-2012 and so on, these questionnaires were distributed to the users of the libraries under study and also collected back the questionnaire in the same period. The interviews have also been conducted with the respondents and with various categories in the same period as mentioned above.

Table-1.1 describes the response rate of users that is totally based on random sampling technique. The total population of users in six libraries under study is 5043. The investigator administered 866 questionnaires among the users and 574 questionnaires were returned back. Out of these only 564 questionnaires were considered for analysis because rests of the questionnaires were incomplete and many questionnaires have not returned back. The table 1.1, given below, clearly highlights that in Academic Law Libraries i.e. In ILI, LLUD, LLJMI no. of questionnaires
distributed and no. of questionnaire accepted for analysis is enough in comparison to purely specialized law libraries, i.e. SCJL, HCJL and PL. Though the investigator visited many times for distribution and collection of questionnaires but remained unable to get complete answers of questionnaires distributed in various libraries, especially in special law libraries. The details description is in Table- no. 1.1

Table-1.1: Response Rate of Users

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Libraries Under Study</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Questionnaires Distributed</th>
<th>Questionnaires Returned</th>
<th>Questionnaires Accepted for Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ILI</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>174(30%)</td>
<td>160(91.95%)</td>
<td>152(87.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLUD</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>80(30%)</td>
<td>70(87.50%)</td>
<td>70(87.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLJMI</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>33(50%)</td>
<td>30(90.90%)</td>
<td>30(90.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCJL</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16(50%)</td>
<td>11(68.75%)</td>
<td>11(68.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCJL</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>119(30%)</td>
<td>103(86.55%)</td>
<td>103(86.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>3703</td>
<td>444(12%)</td>
<td>200(45.05%)</td>
<td>198(44.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>5043</td>
<td>866(17.17%)</td>
<td>574(66.28%)</td>
<td>564(77.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.9.2.2 Interview Techniques:

Interview is an interpersonal face to face conversation in which the interviewer asks questions pertinent to the research, and respondent answers the questions. It is a very effective tool to collect the data from the people because it ensures better responses as compared to other methods of data collection. Interview also enriches the qualitative data from questionnaire. Therefore, both structured and unstructured interviews have been conducted with the various categories of users on various aspects i.e. document collection, library and staff, services of the library and their suggestions to improve the library services.

1.9.2.3 Observation Techniques:

Observation is a well established technique for collection of data. The observation method is normally employed in measuring, testing, characterizing human behavior. In order to fully assess current library practices, the researcher could not rely solely upon interviews
or questionnaire or existing data and so a variety of observation and monitoring techniques were employed. On visiting libraries, it was observed that in a few libraries, there is a wide gap of information provided by the librarians in the areas of availability of infrastructure facilities, use of the collection, both printed and electronic, use of information sources awareness and satisfaction about the services provided by the libraries etc. This technique helps the researcher to make the study more scientific.

1.9.2.4 Document review:

The investigator also consulted various printed and electronic document such as annual reports, pamphlets, brochures, CD-ROMs, concerned web-sites and other records of the libraries whenever is required.

1.9.3 Pilot Study:

The purpose of the pilot study is to test validity of the questionnaire both as a data collection instrument and statistical measurement device. At this stage it was intended to make the questionnaire easily understandable to the people and to eliminate the probability of misunderstanding, confusions and bias. A group of users, and librarians were agreed to fill in the questionnaire and being interviewed for testing purposes. As a result of the pre test it was decided to utilize more structured responses, and to record some of the questions in order to improve their clarity.

Separate questionnaires were made for librarians and users. The questionnaire designed for librarians consisting of a number of questions in definite order and format viz. qualification and designation, strength of library staff, library membership, total budget of various law libraries, opinion regarding adequacy of library budget, yearly addition of print document, collection development policy, modes of acquisition, legal databases used in libraries, provision of resource sharing etc. The format of the questionnaire has been given in appendix 1.

The questionnaire designed for library users is also based on structured pattern and is in definite format viz. purpose of visit to the library, use of library resources, use of e-information sources, adequacy of reading facilities, satisfaction with use of library resources, awareness about services provided by the libraries, satisfaction with the services provided by the libraries,
behavior of the library staff, etc. The questionnaire for library users has been appended as appendix II.

1.9.4 Measurement Scale/the Chi-Square Test

Chi-square test describes the magnitude of difference between observed frequencies and the frequencies expected under certain assumptions. With the help of chi-square test, it is possible to find out whether such differences are significant or insignificant and could have arisen due to fluctuations of sampling.

Mathematical formula for chi-square statistics is given below:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where O and E are the observed and expected frequencies respectively

$$d = (c-1)(r-1)$$

Where d stands for degree of freedom;

c for the number of columns; and r for number of rows

Such non-parametric tests have assumed great importance in statistical analysis and statistical inference, because they are easy to compute and can be used without making assumptions and about parameters as they are distribution free tests. (examples of data analysis through chi-square test is given in Appendix-III)

1.9.5 Sources of Data

The data for the study collected from primary sources of information such as journals/periodicals, prospectus, brochures, standards, monographs, reports, websites and responses received from the librarians/head of the libraries, staff and users. However, secondary and tertiary sources i.e. Text books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, yearbooks; directories were also consulted as per need of the study

1.9.6 Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The data collected through questionnaires has been organized and tabulated by using statistical method as well as simple percentage. Statistical method of research lays stress on facts, figures, etc. They have their own characteristics i.e. these methods do not study any single individual, but a group of individuals; these methods are quantitative rather than qualitative and so on. Statistical methods are mechanical processes designed to facilitate the condensation and analysis of a large body of quantitative data. Inferential statistics have also been used to make predictions to test
hypotheses and to deduce characteristics of a population from the characteristics of a sample.

1.9.7 Standard used for Bibliographical References

For bibliographical references APA Style-6th edition has used.

The Specimen Entry of APA style-6th edition


1.9.8 Appendices

Appendix -1 is used for Questionnaire for Librarian/Head of the Library.

Appendix-II is used for Questionnaire for users and Appendix-III is used for Examples of Chi-Square Test.
1.10 Chapterisation

The present study is divided into six well structured and appropriately designed chapters which are described below:

Chapter-1
Introductory Background and Framework of the Study

The introductory chapter highlights short description of law, library, law library, types of law libraries, collection development, law library collection development, etc. This chapter also contains origin of the research problem, need and significance of the study, scope and limitations of the study, aims and objectives, hypotheses and research methodology of the study.

Chapter-2
Review of Related Literature

This chapter deals with the overall review of studies conducted abroad as well as in India in a chronological order regarding the topic under purview. The chapter is a compilation of the studies conducted earlier in the area of the present study in order to visualize the problem in multiple dimensions. The investigator reviewed only those studies, which were similar to the present study. The previously published literature related to the present study was summarized and included in the present study.

Chapter-3
Profile of the Libraries under Study

This chapter deals with an overall introduction about the libraries under study. It gives the detailed structure of their collection, users, staff, services, etc. in a systematic manner. It also includes the background information of the institution and their libraries in a more comprehensive way.

Chapter-4
Collection Development and Services of Libraries

This chapter describes the concept of the collection development, factors affecting collection development, prerequisites of collection development, collection development policy, elements of collection development policy, etc. It also includes users of libraries, their information needs, details of subject areas and formats collected elements of miscellaneous issues, selection of resources with a bent towards electronic resources and so on.
Chapter-5
Data Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter highlights the analysis and interpretation of data collected through questionnaire. It is divided into two parts based on the Librarians’/Head of the Libraries response and the Users’ response. It consists of tables with their comprehensive interpretation supported by the graphical representation of the analyzed data. All the aspects of both the Librarians’ and Users’ responses have been analyzed under the purview of the objectives formulated.

Chapter-6
Conclusion, Findings, Hypotheses and Recommendations

This chapter is the last portion of the thesis which indicates the major findings of the study, conclusion of the overall study, tenability of hypotheses and recommendation for further research. It presents a lucid summary of all the findings which will represent the overall output of the thesis based on the objectives of the study and a winding up conclusion depicting the overall core implications of the study.
REFERENCES


