Preface

This work is designed to give a comprehensive idea about collection development policies and procedures in university libraries with special reference to the Calcutta University Library System.

Here an attempt has been made to analyse different topics including their sub-divisions along with related tables and graphical representation.

In fact, collection development policies play a pivotal role to build library collection in a concrete manner and acts like a proper guide for future generations also. A written collection development policy with its different elements always performs a good job in the way of providing needed models applicable to different libraries. Its different facets like selection, budgetary system, use study, evaluation, preservation and weeding are discussed here in a comprehensive way in different chapters. To think of different university libraries, great emphasis is given on the Calcutta University Library System (especially in Indian context) as a role model, because of its vastness and richness of collection as well as its wide range of campuses and departments.

This work also gives a clear concept of the term – ‘collection development’ which is useful for each and every library. Along with important theoretical aspects of this concept, its real application in the form of policies of the aforesaid areas is presented. Not only that, the main aim is to deliver the basic need of collection development policies in a written manner in our Indian scenario.

Similarly, an attempt has been made to give an idea of integration of two kinds of resources- print and electronic. In fact, a rapid change has been observed in development of collection underlying the basic concept. Minute changes have also been viewed in university libraries during 1990s. Formats have been changed from monographs and print journals to new micro media formats. The new concepts – library consortia, online journals, electronic books, license agreements are now emerging in building collection in university libraries also. All these changes must be included in collection development policies in a compact manner. This is highlighted in this work through the survey of different university libraries with special reference to the Calcutta University Library System.
A further impetus is given to the idea—how such combination of resources for building collections is affecting the users is noteworthy for analysis. This work aims to attempt to give a broad idea about use study in different manners. Here also the Calcutta University Library System plays the main part to get an extensive view of use study in its different campuses and departments.

Evaluation or the judgement of quality of resources is highly effective for managing the collection, especially for university libraries. A good portion of this work is for analyzing the need of evaluation. Interlibrary loan, statistical overview of different library services, collection assessment are helpful for discussing this matter.

All these concepts from budgeting to evaluation are critically observed and discussed for total concept of collection development. These practices are basic issues to give a good value for preparing the written collection development policy. It can guide future professionals to choose the right path ahead in continuation of the existing way. Now-a-days different collection development policies abroad are viewed through Internet. In perspective of our Indian scenario, much discussion by different associations, organizations have already done, but a fruitful conclusion of writing a standardized collection development policy, especially for university libraries, is yet to be touched. Like different associations abroad (for example, ALA, IFLA) we, in India, are also feeling the urgent need of such a policy format nationally. To think of our university libraries, as storehouse of knowledge, the main vision of this work is to take a university library like the Calcutta University Library System as role model, because of its richness and vastness. A clear view is provided here depicting a model collection development policy so that it can spur the need of writing and updating the policy in a written manner with its complete format.