PROFILE OF MAJOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF KERALA

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CHAPTER II

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2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a profile of the four major University libraries of Kerala selected for the study. The profile consists of the working hours, different sections, special features and other details of the four major university libraries in Kerala state namely Calicut University Library, Malappuram; Cochin University of Science and Technology Library, Kochi; Kerala University Library, Thiruvananthapuram and Mahatma Gandhi University Library, Kottayam.

2.1 Calicut University Library, Calicut

The University of Calicut was established on 23rd July 1968. The objectives of the University are envisaged as reorganization of the system of education of the northern districts of Kerala, upliftment of educationally backward people and expeditious development of education in this comparatively undeveloped region. The jurisdiction of the University is at present confined to the districts of Kozhikode, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and south Wayanad. The C H Mohammed Koya Library, the central library of the University of Calicut was established to satisfy the information and intellectual requirements of academic community of the University consisting of students and teachers of the 24 teaching and research departments.

A full-time Librarian was appointed in 1971. The C H Mohammed Koya Library is located at the headquarters of the University in Thenjippalam in Malappuram District, 24 kilometers south of Calicut city. On the eve of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the University of Calicut, University Library was renamed as C H Mohammed Koya Library in honour of late C H Mohammed Koya, who was the first Pro-Chancellor of the university.
The Calicut University Library functions from 8 AM to 8 PM on all working days. On second Saturdays from 8 AM to 2 PM and on Sundays from 8.30 AM to 2 PM. The membership is open to students, teachers, research scholars and non-teaching staff of the university, graduates from any recognized university, students and teachers of affiliated colleges, members of Senate, Syndicate and Academic Council. The work of the library is carried out through the following sections: Acquisition, Technical, Periodical, Reference, Maintenance, Circulation, Binding, Computer and Infonet. The collection of the library consists of 80293 books and 4726 non-book materials like dissertations and theses.

Books are classified according to Dewey Decimal Classification and they are catalogued according to Classified Catalogue Code with certain modifications. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and card catalogue are maintained. Library maintains separate language catalogues for Sanskrit, Arabic, Hindi, English and Malayalam books. The periodical section subscribes to 4 English newspapers and 7 Malayalam newspapers. Around 30 foreign journals and 200 Indian journals are subscribed to by the periodical section. In order to access online journals, the library has introduced a new section, INFONET (Information Network).

The library is a recognized Research centre for undertaking research programmes in various disciplines. This is the first university library in Kerala to have internet connectivity through V-SAT. In order to serve the users, the library is equipped with modern gadgets and technology. There are 26 professionals in the library. The services offered in the library include reference, periodical, bibliographic, indexing, photocopying, lending of books, display of new arrivals, online search and provision of materials in electronic format. National seminars, Training programmes, exhibitions and workshops are conducted periodically under the auspices of the library.
2.2 Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) Library

The university of Cochin was established in 1971 for development of higher education with particular emphasis to post-graduate studies and research in Applied Science, Technology, Industry and Commerce. The University of Cochin was reorganized and converted into a full-fledged Science and Technology of a unitary type for promotion of postgraduate studies and advanced research in Applied Science, Technology, Industry and Management in February 1986. The jurisdiction of the University extends to the whole state of Kerala. Cochin University Library was established in 1977 as a central agency for meeting the information requirements of the academic community of Cochin University of Science and Technology consisting of 28 teaching departments. The function of the library includes collection, organization and dissemination of information that supports research in Science and Technology subjects.

The Cochin University of Science And Technology Library is housed in an attractive five storeyed building on the Thrikkakkara campus near Kalamassery, Kochi. The library is functional and modular in construction and has built up a well balanced collection in Science and Technology and Humanities with latest books, doctoral theses, back volumes of periodicals, conference proceedings and patents.

The library is open on all days throughout the year from 9AM to 8 PM. It is kept open on Sundays and Second Saturdays not forming part of public holidays from 10 AM to 4 PM. The membership of the library is open to all members of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the university. Graduates of three years of standing who reside in the greater Cochin area are also entitled to membership. Institutional membership is also given to educational institutions, Research & Development organizations and industrial concerns on the responsibility of the heads of the institutions concerned.
The work of the library is carried out through the following sections: periodicals, acquisition, circulation, maintenance, special collection, reference, technical and information services division. The collection of the library consists of 95000 volumes inclusive of several reference books, doctoral theses, back volumes of periodicals, patents and CD-ROMs. Books numbering 63999 form part of the collection.

The documents in the library are classified according to Universal Decimal Classification and they are indexed according to Anglo American Cataloguing Rules with local modifications. The University Library has started a special collection section, which includes collection of Theses, patents, Art books, documents of World Health Organisation and other United Nations Organisations, Census reports, Development Reports and books on Library and Information Science.

University Library is managed by 22 library professionals. The services offered by the library are: issue of books, inter-library loan, literature search, reference service, proficiency corner, compilation of bibliographies, reprographic services, document delivery service, conference alert service, new addition alert service, patent information, consultancy service, internet service, CD-ROM search, information desk and Current Contents on Diskettes(CCOD) search and retrieval service.

Cochin University Library is actively participating in Information Library Network Programme of the University Grants Commission. The library has already created a database for serials as per the guidelines provided by the INFLIBNET(Information Library Network). The library has created a local database using CDS/ISIS software supplied by UNESCO, aimed to store and disseminate bibliographic data elements of documents available in the library. The library Local Area Network has become a part of campus-wide network, which has made it possible for the academic
community to access information from their location itself. Computerization of the activities of the library has been undertaken with ADLIB software and has interconnected the departments using LAN. Library is issuing a quarterly publication namely Cochin University Library Information Profile (CULIP) containing information regarding new additions, patents, conference alert and other important scientific discoveries.

2.3 Kerala University Library

The University of Travancore, subsequently reconstituted as University of Kerala was established in November 1, 1937. The objective of the University was to effect reorganization of the system of education in the state excluding Cochin and Malabar so as to develop education and research in all fields of knowledge with a stress on Applied Science in addition to promoting Kerala art and culture. After the formation of Kerala state in 1956, steps were taken to reconstitute the University of Travancore. As a result the Kerala University Act came into force on August 30, 1957 and the University of Kerala came into being. The jurisdiction of the university of Kerala at present extends to the revenue districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha(excluding Kuttanad Taluk) and Pathanamthitta(in part).

The Kerala University Library was established in 1942. It started functioning with a small stock that was left behind by the Arts college at the time of its merging with Science college. The library was housed in the Arts College building till 1946 and from 1946 to 1962 in a building constructed for the library on the eastern side of the University College. On September 8th, 1962 the library was shifted to the new building at Palayam. Apart from the main Library at Palayam, the university library system consists of a campus library at Kariavattom, 40 department libraries and 3 study centre libraries.

The working hours of the library are from 8 AM to 8 PM except on Sundays. The working time on Sunday is from 2 PM to 8 PM except on
public holidays. The membership of the library is open to all the staff and students of the university and affiliated colleges, heads and staff of non-teaching departments, members of Senate, Syndicate, Faculties and Board of Studies, and graduates of recognized universities residing in Kerala. The functions of the library are carried out by the following sections: circulation, acquisition, technical, reference, periodical, documentation and information services, information technology, Kerala studies, UN and World Bank, Research and Maintenance sections.

The collection of Kerala University Library has over 3 lakh books, bound volumes of journals, theses, CD-ROMs, Microfilm and Microfiche. The library subscribes to 47 foreign periodicals, 245 Indian periodicals, 35 popular magazines and 20 newspapers. The activities of the library are managed by 49 library professionals. Books are arranged on the shelves according to Colon Classification Scheme. The cataloguing of documents is done according to Classified Catalogue Code.

The services provided by the university library include display of newspapers, popular magazines and periodicals, internet services, compilation and publication of bibliographies and Kerala Index, photocopying service, reference service, loan service, display of UN updates, exhibitions of UN and World Bank publications and subjects related to Kerala.

The library functions as the most important research centre of the University. Computer-based library services are provided from Information Technology section. All sections of the library have been connected through a LAN. Consequent to the establishment of LAN cum CD-ROM network and the opening of the computer-aided information search and services in the University library as a part of the INFLIBNET programme a new section was formed with the name IT and INFLIBNET section in 1996. Internet services are provided through VSNL Dial-up access. The documentation and
information services section publishes ad hoc bibliographies apart from its quarterly publication Kerala Index. The Kerala University Library is the only depository for UN and World Bank publications in Kerala. The Kerala Studies section of the library started in 1973 is being developed as a specialized comprehensive collection comprising books and other materials dealing with the subjects relating to Kerala such as its history and culture, language and literature, religion, education, politics and sociology.

2.4 Mahatma Gandhi University Library

Gandhiji University re-named as Mahatma Gandhi University came into existence on October 2, 1983 as the 5th university in Kerala state. The University was inaugurated by the President of India on October 26, 1983.

The University is located at Athirampuzha, about 10 kilometres north-west of the Kottayam town. The jurisdiction of the University extends to the revenue districts of Kottayam, Ernakulam and Idukki and the Kuttanad taluk in Alleppey revenue district and Pathanamthitta revenue district in part.

The Mahatma Gandhi University Library is situated on the main campus of the university at Athirampuzha on the top of the Priyadarshini hills. The University library was started in 1989 under the supervision of a Special Officer. A full-fledged librarian took over charge of the University Library in 1991. Under his leadership, the library system built up the required Information and Communication Technology infrastructure to facilitate access to relevant internal and external sources of information to the academic community of the University.

Mahatma Gandhi University Library and information system consists of University central library and more than 30 libraries of departments and study centres existing in different campuses of the University. The working hours of the library are from 8 AM to 7 PM on all working days from Monday
to Saturday. On Second Saturdays and Sundays the library works from 10 AM to 2 PM except on public holidays.

Library membership is given to students and teachers of the University Departments, members of the Syndicate, heads and staff of non-teaching departments, post-graduate students and teachers of the affiliated colleges.

The functions of the library are smoothly carried out through the following sections: acquisition, technical, circulation, maintenance, periodicals, union catalogue and documentation. The collection of the library consists of more than 36000 books, 350 journals, theses numbering more than 600, 120 CD-ROM databases, Online fulltext journals numbering above 4000 through UGC Infonet.

The books in the library are classified according to Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme and cataloguing work is carried out according to Anglo American Cataloguing Rules. The activities of the library are carried out by the 23 professionals.

In addition to the traditional services, Mahatma Gandhi University Library provides specialized services like document delivery service, CD-ROM information retrieval service, internet services, online information retrieval service, reprographic service and inter-library loan services. The University Library is a member of the INFLIBNET(Information Library Network) Centre, Ahmedabad and DELNET(Developing Library network), NewDelhi. The University Library is a fully automated system using the library software package SOUL developed by the INFLIBNET centre. Moreover, through UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium, the University library provides access to more than 4000 journals and databases.
References


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