CHAPTER 6
FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Introduction

Based on the analysis of the data and discussion in Chapter 5, ‘Analysis and Interpretation’, major findings of the study are listed in this chapter. Suggestions for further research, and a proposal for the integrated development of Public Libraries at Taluk and District Levels in Karnataka State are given.

6.2 Findings of the study

1. All the libraries in district headquarters are kept open from 8.30 A.M. to 7 P.M., while all the libraries in taluk headquarters are kept open from 8.30 A.M. to 11 A.M. in the morning and 4 – 8 P.M. in the evening. All branch libraries at district and taluk level are closed on every Monday as it is a weekly holiday, second Tuesday of every month and on all government holidays.

2. At the district level, library in Kolar district, Bangalore division is the oldest library, established in 1971. It has the largest document collection (51,522) and highest number of registered users (5233). Library in Bidar district, Gulbarga division has highest number of visitors (500) per day. On an average, highest number of 100 books are circulated every day in libraries of Bidar and Kolar districts (Table 5).
3. The year of establishment of the library has (i) moderate positive correlation with its document collection; (ii) marginal correlation with library and registered number of members, and number of books circulated; and (iii) no relation with average number of visitors per day (district level).

4. At district level, older libraries tend to have better document collection, while average number of registered users, number of books circulated per day and number of visitors, depend only marginally on the year of establishment of the library.

5. At taluk level, library in Gokak taluka, Belgaum division, is the oldest library, established in 1973. It has the highest number of registered members (3034), and highest number of visitors per day (400), while library of Ullal taluk has highest document collection of 39000. Highest number of books (100) are circulated in the library of Tiptur taluka, Bangalore division. Library in Basavakalyana taluk, Gulbarga division has lowest document collection (8721). Library in Anekal taluk, Bangalore division has lowest number of visitors (60) and books circulated (12) per day (Table 6).

6. At taluk level, the year of establishment of the library has (i) moderate positive correlation with average number of visitors per day; (ii) marginal positive correlation with number of books circulated per day, and registered number of users; and (iii) no correlation with document collection.

7. At taluk level, the year of establishment of the library has only marginal correlation with registered members, average number of visitors and books circulated per day, and no relation with its document collection.
8. At district level, average document collection in libraries is 25591, and average number of newspapers and magazines subscribed is 17 and 22 respectively (Table 7).

9. At taluk level, average document collection in libraries is 19389, and average of 10 newspapers and 14 magazines are subscribed (Table 8).

10. 68.78% of the librarians of libraries at district level and 39.58% of librarians at taluka level are satisfied with their information resources. But, all of them have rated their Non Book Materials collection as inadequate (Tables 10-12).

11. On an average, 52.1% of the librarians at district level and 22.2% of librarians at taluk level have rated the infrastructure available in their libraries as adequate. Compared to libraries at district level, libraries at taluk level have poor infrastructure in terms of Reading Room space, drinking water and parking space. Wash Room facility is not there or is inadequate in all the libraries, at district and taluk levels (Tables 13-16).

12. At district level, 75% of the libraries have one telephone (landline), 62.2% of the libraries have one telephone (landline), one television and one computer each. Library in Haveri district has none of the equipment. Libraries in Belgaum division are poor in the status of equipment (Table 17). None of the libraries have Internet connectivity.

13. At taluk level, 50% of the libraries possess one television each, while telephone is available in only two libraries (33.3%), and computer is not available in any of the
libraries. Libraries (taluk level) in Bangalore division do not have any of the equipment (Table 18). None of the libraries have Internet connectivity.

14. At district level, five libraries (62.5%) have one Assistant Librarian (Professional) with B.L.I.Sc. degree and three libraries (37.5%) are managed by Library Assistants (Semi-professionals). Library in Kolar district, Bangalore division has recommended staff of one Assistant librarian with B.L.I.Sc. degree and two Library Assistants. All the libraries have one unskilled personnel (Sweeper / Peon) (Table 19).

15. At taluk level, none of the libraries have qualified library professionals. Only three libraries have one Library Assistant each with B.L.I.Sc. degree. Other libraries are managed by semi-professionals who have completed Certificate course in Library and Information Science. All the libraries have one unskilled personnel (Sweeper / Peon) (Table 20).

16. All the libraries, at both district and taluk levels, offer Book Lending Service, Reference and Reading Room Service and majority of them offer Newspaper Clipping Service (Table 21 and 22).

17. Men between the age group of 10-30 years are the major users of libraries, both at district and taluk levels. Majority of them have completed twelve years of schooling. Average annual family income of respondents at district level is slightly above the State’s average Per capita income, while that of taluk level is below the State’s per capita income (Table 23).
18. Majority of the respondents visit library daily or once in two days, and majority of them spend between 30 minutes to two hours in the library during their visit (Tables 24 and 25).

19. There is no relation between the gender of respondents and frequency of visit to the library (district and taluk levels) (Table 26).

20. There is no relation between the gender of the respondents and time spent in the library during each visit (district and taluk levels) (Table 27).

21. There is relation between the age of the respondents and frequency of visit to the library at district level, whereas no such relation is there at taluk level. Further, in both the cases, majority of the respondents within the age group of 10 – 30 years visit library daily or once in two days. Respondents between the age group of 41-50 years visit library least number of times (Tables 28 and 29).

22. At both district and taluk levels, there is relation between the age of the respondents and the time they spend in library. Majority of the respondents spend 30 minutes to two hours in the library (Tables 30 and 31).

23. There is relation between the educational status and frequency of visit to library at district level, while the relation is not statistically significant at taluk level. Majority of the respondents with higher education (Pre-University, Bachelor’s degree or Post Graduation) visit library more frequently (daily or once in two days) at district level compared to their counterparts at taluk level (Tables 32 and 33).
24. At district level, 93.5% of the respondents spend at least 30 minutes in the library, 54.4%, 77.6%, and 71.4% of the respondents having completed Pre University, Bachelor’s degree and Post Graduation respectively spent one-two hours in the library (district level) (Table 34).

25. At taluk level, 58.8% respondents with Pre-University education spent one hour or more in the library. 46.1% of the respondents spent 30 minutes or less in the library (Table 35).

26. There is relation between the educational status and time spent in the library at district level, while no such relation is observed at taluk level. Respondents with Pre University or higher education tend to spend more time in the library at district level compared to those at taluk level (Tables 34 and 35).

27. At district level, 55.7%, 64.1% and 54% of Students, Employees in government sector, and Employees in private sector respectively visit library daily or once in two days (Table 36).

28. At taluk level, 58% of the respondents visit library once in a week or even at lesser frequency. 45.2%, 41.3%, and 45.6% of Students, Employees in government sector, and Employees in private sector respectively visit library daily or once in two days (Table 37).

29. There is relation between occupation of the respondents and frequency of visit to the library at district level, where as there is no such relation at taluk level. Majority of Students, Employees in government sector and Employees in private
sector visit library daily or once in two days at district level and less percentage of them visit library daily or once in two days at taluk level (Tables 36 and 37).

30. Majority of Businessmen, Retired employees, Students, Employees in Private sector and Employees in Government sector spend one – two hours in the library. There is relation between the occupation of the respondents and time spent in the library, both at district and taluk levels (Tables 38 and 39).

32. There is relation between the family income and frequency of visit to library at district level, while no such relation is observed at taluk level. Majority of the respondents with annual family income of Rs.10,000-1,10,000/- visit library daily or once in two days at district level. At taluk level, majority of respondents, irrespective of the annual family income, visit library less frequently, once in a week or once in a month (Tables 40 and 41).

33. There is relation between the annual family income of respondents and time they spend in the library during their visit to the library, both at district and taluk levels.

34. At both district and taluk levels, respondents with annual family income of Rs.10000 - Rs. 110000/- visit library more frequently. But, Respondents with annual family income of more than Rs.110000/- spend more time in the library (one – two hours or more) (Tables 42 and 43).

35. More than 89% and 53.6% of the respondents, at both district and taluk levels respectively, visit library mainly to read newspapers and magazines, and to spend
leisure time. More number of respondents borrow fictions / novels from libraries at taluk level (50.8%) than at district level (38.9%) (Table 44).

36. Lack of time, not being a member of the library, or lack of facilities in the libraries are the main reasons for not visiting library more frequently at district / taluk levels by majority of the respondents (Table 45).

37. Magazines, newspapers, text books, and fictions are the frequently read information resources in libraries at both district and taluk levels. Atlases and maps are consulted most frequently in libraries at district level. Non-fiction / general books are read less frequently, and Reference sources such as dictionaries, encyclopedia and manuals are consulted rarely or never consulted by majority of the respondents. There is similarity in the pattern of use of information resources at both district and taluk levels (Table 46 & 47).

37. The Reading Room Service and Book Lending Service are the most frequently used services in all the libraries under study (district and taluk level). Reference Service is used less frequently or never used by majority of the respondents (Tables 48 and 49).

38. Among informal channels used to gather the required information, family members are frequently consulted, followed by Friends and Neighbors. Mass media such as Television, Radio and Newspapers also used less frequently for information gathering (Tables 50 and 51).
39. Information resources in Kannada and English languages are most preferred by majority of the respondents in the libraries at district and taluk levels (Tables 52 and 53).

40. New books are classified according to Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme at District Central Libraries and sent to branch libraries (district and taluk levels). No catalogue is maintained in any of these libraries.

41. In the absence of library catalogue, majority of the users access the required information resources by browsing through the shelves. Very less percentage (26.7%) of them seek the help of the library staff (district and taluk levels) (Table 54).

42. Majority of the respondents (69.6% and 76.5%) of libraries at district and taluk levels take 30 minutes to more than one hour to find the document they need (Table 55).

43. Majority of the respondents in libraries, at both district and taluk levels, read Newspapers in Kannada and English languages. Newspapers in Marathi and Hindi are the least read newspapers. Vijaya Karnataka (in Kannada) and The Hindu and Deccan Herald (in English) are the most widely read newspapers (Table 56).

44. Sudha and Karmaveera (in Kannada) and The Week and Employment News (in English) are the most read Magazines by majority of the respondents (at district and taluk levels) (Table 57).
45. Using the resources of the library (district and taluk levels) has helped majority of the respondents in improving their communication skills, critical thinking abilities and improvement in language skills. Very less percentage of them are benefited by libraries in improving their leadership abilities and political awareness (Table 58).

46. Not finding the required document in time, unhelpful nature of the library staff, lack of knowledge about information sources available in the library, and non-availability of the required document in the library are the major problems faced by the users of libraries, both at district and taluk levels (Table 59).

47. 95% of the respondents are not fully satisfied with any of the information resources available in the libraries (district and taluk levels). Majority of them are satisfied with Newspapers, Magazines, Fiction and Non-fiction documents (Tables 60 and 61).

48. At district level, majority of the respondents are satisfied with arrangement of books (58.2%) and lighting in the library (46.7%). But, they are not satisfied with the Wash rooms (64.7%), Furniture (65.7%) and Cleanliness (55.6%) (Table 62).

49. At taluk level, only 23.2% of the users are somewhat satisfied with cleanliness and lighting in the library. Majority of them are not satisfied with any of the facilities in libraries (Table 63).

50. At both district and taluk levels, majority of the respondents are fully satisfied with Book lending service and Reading room service, and somewhat satisfied or not satisfied Reference service (Tables 64 and 65).
6.3 Suggestions for further Research

The findings of the present study have helped in understanding the status of Branch libraries of District Central Libraries in Karnataka State, at district headquarters and taluk headquarters, in terms of their information resources, infrastructure, equipment, human resources and library services. In the next phase of research, the study may be extended to cover City Central Libraries and their functioning, so that a comprehensive plan for the improvement of public libraries at all levels, from Gram Panchayat libraries to State Central Library can be prepared for Karnataka State.

6.4 Integrated development of Public Libraries at Taluk and District Levels: a Proposal

6.4.1 Need for integrated development of Libraries at Taluk and District Levels

The findings of the study illustrate the present state of public libraries at taluk and district levels in Karnataka State. In the light of these findings, an attempt is made in this section to propose an integrated development model for the improvement of these libraries in terms of (i) development of information resources, (ii) improvement of infrastructure, (iii) addition of new equipment; (iv) enhancement of human resources; and (v) introduction of innovative library services; and (vi) Financial commitments.

(i) Development of Information Resources

Division-wise statistics of the document collection shows that Branch libraries at district level have better document collection compared to Branch libraries at taluk places. However, their main document collection includes print sources such as newspapers, magazines and fictions. Findings also show that majority of the users of these libraries
are aged between 10 – 30 years, and Students form a major category of users. Also, 93% of the users of these libraries are those who have completed minimum 12 years of schooling.

In the light of these findings, it is necessary to improve document collection of libraries by adding more information resources related to general knowledge, Competitive examinations, for improving literacy among neo-literates and for children. Huge amount of information, including e-learning modules, which are very useful to Pre-University students are freely available on Internet. Hence, each branch library at district and taluk level needs to be provided with at least two computers with Internet connectivity to provide access to these web resources.

(ii) Improvement of Infrastructure:

The Branch libraries at district and taluk level are housed in non-rental government buildings. However, the maintenance of these buildings is very poor. They are not designed to house a library. Hence, there is an urgent need to provide a multi-utility, functional library building for all the libraries.

Majority of the respondents, both at district and taluk levels are not satisfied with any of the library facilities, like proper lighting and ventilation, comfortable furniture, clean drinking water, and clean Wash rooms. More than 90% of the libraries do not have Wash rooms. It is also found that majority of the users belonging to 10-30 years age group visit library daily or once in two days, but they do not stay for longer time. Hence, there is need to improve the above mentioned facilities to bring more readers into the library, and retain them in the library for longer time.
(iii) Addition of new equipment

The findings of the study show that television and telephone (landline) are available in 62% of the libraries at district level and in 33-40% of the libraries at taluk level. While one computer each is available in 50% of the libraries at district level, they are not at all available in any of the libraries at taluk level. Photocopying machines are not available in any of the libraries. The available equipment such as television needs to be used to the maximum extent to attract local community to the library, including illiterates. A good collection of DVDs related to themes relevant to local needs are to be developed.

ICT has been playing a major role in bridging the digital divide. It is a main means of providing remote access to information. Karnataka is in the forefront of e-governance. Significant number of services are available online for rural community. There is need bring these services accessible to rural community by the public libraries at district and taluk level.

Hence, each library should be provided with at least two computers with Internet connectivity. Each library needs to be provided with at least one television, DVD player, telephone (landline), two computers with Internet connectivity, and one UPS (5 KVa) to overcome frequent power failures.

(iv) Enhancement of Human Resources

Human resources are the vital component of any system. The success or failure of the system depends upon the attitude and efficiency of the human resource. Findings of this study has shown that only 60% of the libraries at district level and none of the libraries at
taluk level have qualified library professionals. Hence, there is an urgent need to appoint library professionals to these libraries, train them in the use of ICT to provide information services, and sensitize them about the need to be innovative to offer the services based on the local needs.

(v) **Introduction of Innovative Library Services**

At present, Branch libraries at both district and taluk levels are offering limited services such as Reading Room Service, Book Lending Service and Reference Service. There is need to introduce innovative services such as providing weather information and market prices for agricultural produces on daily basis to the farmers daily through Internet, downloading e-resources for students, introducing the government schemes to rural community etc.

(vi) **Financial Commitment**

Improvement of Branch libraries in the above mentioned lines need financial commitment from District Central Libraries. At present, Branch libraries at district and taluk levels do not have any financial resources of their own. They have no freedom to choose the newspapers and magazines they need, or books their readers demand. Hence, limited financial resources should be provided to these libraries to meet their routine expenditure and they should be involved in the book selection and other policy decision making processes. There is need to constitute a Taluka Library Authority in the lines of State Library Authority and District Library Authority to oversee the functioning of these libraries.
6.5 Conclusion

The findings of the study shows that there is a urgent need for improvement of Public Libraries at both district and taluk levels in Karnatak State in terms of their building, information resources, equipments, human resource and services offered. The minimum facilities, such as wash room and drinking water needs to be provided on priority basis.

Also there is need to use the developments in information and communication technology, including web resources to the fullest extent to offer innovotive need based library services to the users.