CHAPTER-5

Research Design And Frame Work Of The Study

5.1 – Introduction-

The formidable problem that follows the task of defining the research problem is the preparation of the design of the research project, popularly known as the “research design”. Decisions regarding what, where, when, how much, by what means concerning an inquiry or a research study constitute a research design. “A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure” (Sellitz, Claire and others, 1962) (4). In fact the research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data. As such the design includes an outline of what the researcher will do from writing the hypothesis and its operational implications to the final analysis of data.

5.2 - Scope of The Study

It is a fact that libraries are receiving a lot of information requests from their users, but with the existing financial resources, particularly in the developing countries like India, no library can afford to meet such information demands, therefore university libraries have no other way but to find out a mechanism through which such problems can be handled. In the past the concept of library co-operation, resources sharing, and resource sharing through library networking came forward to help universities in overcoming the problem of financial constraint. The
present study is intended to look into the possibility of overlapping of secondary sources of information in social science especially the subjects of sociology, economics, psychology, Anthropology, Education, political science and behavioral science available in hard and soft form (on internet).

5.3 - Objectives of the Study

Every day a vast amount of literature is being published in science and social science disciplines especially and it is doubling in every few years according to various studies. Many journals, books, encyclopedias, bibliographies etc are being published in every field. Although primary sources are original works but when we go to secondary sources of information it goes to many copies of originals in duplicate also. In social sciences there are many secondary sources which are publishing duplicate information or overlapping each other. Libraries are purchasing many secondary sources and spending a huge amount of money on these. The objective of this study to find out the most overlapping secondary sources and to suggest libraries to save money by not purchasing the duplicate materials.

These are the main objectives of the study:

To find out the overlapping of secondary sources of information in social science by:-

- Finding out the secondary sources of information in social science.
- Categorizing the secondary sources of information in social science as to format, type of information, reliability, accuracy, coverage and authority etc.
- Finding out most readable and usable secondary sources of information.
Finding out the strength and weakness of secondary sources of information.

Finding out the overlapping in secondary sources in social sciences available in libraries.

Assisting collection management at a time of reduced funding.

Maintaining a proper library budget.

5.4 - Significance of the Study

Significance is presented either in the inductive or deductive perspective. In an inductive perspective, the researcher moves from the particular to the general, and presents the importance of the study for the target beneficiaries, to the researcher himself, to the people in the community, to the people in the province, region and nation. The present study will help the scientists, researchers and students of social science in selecting and searching the secondary sources of information in their respective fields. The study will also help the librarians to save money in purchasing the secondary sources of information in their library. The study will suggest the most important secondary sources of information in social sciences so the present study will have its significance.

5.5 - Research Design and Methodology

Research design is needed because it facilitates the smooth sailing of the various research operations, thereby making research as efficient as possible, yielding maximum information with minimum expenditure of effort, time and money. Research design stands for advance planning of the methods to be adopted for collecting the relevant data and the techniques to be used in their analysis, keeping in view the objectives of the research.
Research design and methodology is a way to systematically solve a research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In it we study the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in carrying out the research along with the underlying logic. It is necessary for the researcher to know not only the research technique but also the methodology. Researchers not only need to know how to develop certain tests? How to apply particular research techniques? But they must also know which are not required/needed and what would they mean and indicate and why? The researcher must also understand the assumptions underlying various techniques and they need to know the criteria by which they can decide that certain techniques and procedures will be applicable to certain problems and others will not be applicable. All these mean that it is necessary for the researcher to design his methodology for his problem as it differs from problem to problem.

5.6 - Techniques for Collecting Data

Research is an endeavor to discover, develop and verify knowledge. It is an intellectual act that begins with the asking of questions (emerging from an awareness of one's ignorance) and progresses through the critical examination of evidence that is the relevant and reliable, to revelation of truth that is generalized and universal. Its goal is the perfectibility of human knowledge through the pursuit of truth, a goal that can never be attained. But which must always be assumed to be attainable.

Research endeavors to probe the past study, the present and look into the future of a subject through one or more of the following methods.

- Historical
The three methods have derived their names from history, sociology and science respectively. It is so because the procedures, steps and sources applied in these methods are in consonance with procedure and sources adopted by these subjects. However, it does not mean that historical, descriptive and the scientific methods are used only in research in the field of history, sociology and science respectively e.g. scientific method can be used successfully for research in social science as well as history etc. because scientific methods does not mean science rather it is a technique/method of study.

Descriptive Method

Since the researcher has used "descriptive method" in this work. Hence some brief description of this method is given here.

Descriptive method is based on surveys. Describing survey, Hillway (1964) writes "The survey is to especially constitute a way of obtaining exact facts and figure about current situation." (1) This method attempts usually to describe a condition or to learn status of something. It should be kept in mind that the survey need not be restricted to fact finding but may often result in the formulation of important principles of knowledge and the solution of scholarly problems.

Methodology stands for 'the correct arrangement of thoughts either for the discovery or for the clarification of truth" (2). A correct methodology is required for arriving at a correct or an exact knowledge. The consistency of thought cannot be attained by means of inconsistent set of reasoning or method.
There are as many different research methods as there are different kinds of problems. Different stages of inquiry have different research methods, and a method, which is scientific at one stage, may not be scientific at another stage. Scientific method like time and space is relative to the stage of inquiry and type of problem. Methods in research are highly elastic and adjust to new problems as they arise.

At the beginning of the study, review of the literature was done to discover some basis for research activity and to find out contribution of information sources. One questionnaire was prepared for Librarians and distributed to the Librarians of the selected University Libraries to know the availability and use of secondary sources of information in manual and electronic form whenever available and also for knowing the overlap status of these resources.

There are several techniques available for collecting data such as:-

1. **Questionnaire Method:** This method of data collection is quite popular, particularly in case of big inquiries. It is being adopted by private individuals, research workers, private and public organizations and even by government.

   In the present study one questionnaire was prepared for librarians and distributed to the libraries of the selected university libraries to know the availabilities and use of secondary sources of information in manual and electronic form.

   a) **Merits:**
   1. There is low cost even when the universe is large and is widely spread geographically.
   2. It is free from the bias of the interviewer.
   3. Respondent has adequate time to give well thought.
4. Respondent, who are not early approachable can also be reached conveniently.

b) **Demerits:**
   1. Low rate of return
   2. It can be used only when respondents are educated.
   3. It is difficult to know whether respondents are truly representative.
   4. This is slowest method of all.

2. **Content Analysis Method:** Content analysis consists of analyzing the contents of documentary materials and all other verbal materials. Contents analysis is a central activity whenever one is concern with the study of the nature of the verbal materials. A review of research involves the analysis of the contents of research articles that have been published. In this method first the investigator recognized the important secondary sources in the field of social sciences then evaluated them by going through their contents so as to find out overlapping.

3. **Telephonic Interview Method:** The interview method of collecting data involves presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral-verbal responses. This method can be used through personal interviews and if possible through telephone interview. The interview method is direct and has greater flexibility. Interview infect is a systematic method by which a person enters more or less imaginatively in to the life of a comparative stranger. This method is unique because the collection of data is through direct verbal interaction between the individual.

   In the present study the researcher selected some libraries and sent questionnaires but very few questionnaires returned so the researcher telephoned the selected respondents and asked questions related to the research and thus found out the required data by this method.
a) **Merits:**

1. More information and that too in greater depth can be obtained.
2. Observation method can as well be applied to recording verbal answers to various questions.

b) **Demerits:**

1. It is an expensive method.
2. It is time consuming.
3. It may also introduce systematic errors.
4. There remain possibilities of bias.

4. **Interview method (with users):** This method requires a person known as the interviewer asking questions generally in a face to face contact with the other person or persons.

   In this method the researcher interacted with users to find out their views related to overlapping and problems faced by them when they find out same information in different sources. This method involved the use of a set of questions asked in a random order i.e. not in a particular sequence. Some of them are:

   (1) **Personal Details** – Name, Age, Gender, Position/Designation, Educational Qualifications, Contact Number.

   (2) **Secondary Information Sources Details** – Name Of Secondary Sources Of Information Which You Used Most In Print Or Electronic Form.

   (3) **Overlap Study** –

   (a) Do You Think There Is Overlap In The Coverage Of Secondary Information Sources Which You Read In The Library?

   (b) Can You Quantify To What Extent Is The Overlap?

   (c) Name the Secondary Sources Of Information Which You Find Most Useful.
(d) What Is Your Opinion About The Coverage Overlap In These Secondary Sources Of Information?

(e) What Suggestions Can You Give In Order To Control This Overlap?

(f) Do You Think Selective Subscription To These Resources Will Help Libraries Control The Overlap?

(g) In What Way Do You Think The Overlap In Coverage Affects The Library Budgets Or Cost To Library?

(h) What Do You Think About The Coverage Overlap?

(i) Open Suggestions.

Merits-

1. More information and that too in greater depth can be obtained.
2. Personal information can as well be obtained easily under this method
3. Samples can be controlled more effectively as there arises no difficulty of the missing returns; non response generally remains very low.

Demerits-

1. It is very expensive.
2. There remains the possibility of the bias of interviewers as well that of the respondents.
3. This method is relatively more time consuming, especially when the sample is large.

5.7 - Tools Used For The Study

The questionnaire, content analysis, interview (with users) and interview-telephonic methods (with librarians) have been used as tools for the studies.
5.8 - **Pilot Survey**

The pilot survey ensures that the present questionnaire is relevant and meaningful to the average respondents and to decide which questions were relevant for the purpose of study. The investigator interacted with library staff and users at AMU library for a pilot survey which was very useful and helpful in modifying the study area and identifying of secondary sources for the study.

5.9 - **Data Collection Procedure**

The researcher visited some libraries and approached the librarians with questionnaire for librarians and also collected back. The researcher also undertook the telephonic interview with the Librarians. The researcher also interacted with library users to find their views and problems in the field of overlapping. Besides this, the content analysis method was also used to find out the overlapping in social science secondary sources by going through their contents.

It is well known that there are a very large number of secondary sources of information in the field of Social Sciences. However, as proportionately a smaller amount of a University Library’s budget is allocated for Social Science, there is a major problem in locating these resources. The lion’s share of the budget is earmarked for medicine and engineering subjects, followed by the Sciences. Social Sciences and Humanities get the baby’s share. The number of independent Research Institutions devoted to Social Sciences is also quite low, in these circumstances the researcher has tried to optimize the efforts by analyzing overlapping across different types of secondary sources.

The modern age is known as the computer age where most resources are available in a digitized form, but these sources and resources are still available in the printed form, in fact in the Social
Sciences the literature produced and written before 1990 in most languages and regions of the world is still in the printed format. Unlike the Sciences and Applied Sciences such as medicine, engineering and agriculture, very little effort has been made to convert print in to machine readable (digitized form). Therefore, there is still a need to know how much duplication or overlapping there is between similar secondary sources, in the printed format. In a developing country like India where library budgets are low, where electricity is available only for a few hours in a day, where purchase of books and journals has to follow a tedious long drawn out procedure, there is still a need for such kind of study to get value for money.

However, keeping in view the demands of the modern age the researcher has analyzed a few Consortia also to give a well rounded picture in the area of the Social Sciences.

There are some examples of secondary sources in the field of social sciences which are as follows:-

5.10 - **A List of Some Examples of Secondary Sources in Social Science**

**Economics**


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History


**Political Science**


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**Sociology**


v. *Social Science and Humanities India* (1907): H. W. Wilson And Co. Q.


**Social Science**
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Statistics


Public Administration

i. All India Civil Lists (1967). Delhi: Ministry of Home Affairs.

ii. Directory Of Municipal Corporation In India (1984): Pub on behalf of All India Council of Mayor’s Bombay; All India Institute of Local Self Government.

Anthropology: Mythology


Law


Education

i. Higher Education in Developing Countries: A Selected Bibliography by Centre for International Affairs (1970). Harward University Press.


**Behavioral Science**


**Geography**


**Biographies**


There are so many secondary sources in the field of social science so it is very difficult to analyze all the sources. The researcher has made her best effort to analyze easily available secondary sources in the field of Social Sciences

5.11 - List Of Selected Sources Which The Researcher Examined in This Thesis:


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5.12 - Data Analysis Method

The data collected through questionnaires, Interview, telephonic interview and content analysis by using statistical method. Statistical method of research lays stress on fact and figures. Statistical method has their own characteristics. One important characteristic is that this method does not study any individual but a group of individual. Secondly it is a method which is quantitative rather than qualitative statistical method on a mechanical process designed to facilitate the condensation and analysis of a large body of quantitative data. Inferential statistics are used to make predictions to test hypotheses and to infer characteristics as a sample.

5.13 - Layout Of The Chapters- The researcher divided her work in to the seven chapters. Chapter 1- deals with Historical background of Social Sciences which describes origin, definitions, characteristics, various discipline, history and scope of the social science subject. And also
discussed social science in India. **Chapter 2** – deals with Information Sources which describes its meanings and kinds of various information sources. **Chapter 3** - deals with a brief discussion on overlapping. **Chapter 4** – deals with statement of problem and review of literature in the field of social sciences. **Chapter 5** - deals with research design and frame work of the study. **Chapter 6** – deals with data analysis. **Chapter 7** - deals with findings, conclusions and recommendations. Appendices include an alphabetical list of bibliography and one questionnaire (for librarians) which are given at last.

### 5.14 Conclusions

Thus, the most desirable approach with regard to the selection of the method depends on the nature of the particular problem and on the time and resources available along with the desired degree of accuracy. But over and above all this much depends upon the ability and experience of the researchers.
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