CHAPTER - 9

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS
9 Summary Of The Findings And Suggestions

The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the planning and utilisation of space in the university libraries of Karnataka. In the introductory chapter, different aspects of a university library building have been discussed, while the second chapter has dealt with the methodology of research employed in this study. In the remaining seven chapters, the first five chapters have dealt with the five university library buildings in Karnataka, viz., KUL, BUL, MUL, UASL and IIScL. A comparative assessment of planning and utilisation of space in all the five university library buildings is made in the eighth chapter. And, in the last chapter, the summary of findings relating to each university library building and a comparative summary of the findings and suggestions are presented.

The purpose of this chapter is to summarise the findings of the study.

9.1 Findings Relating To Individual Libraries

9.1.a KUL
(1) The central location of the library building is adhered to keeping in mind, the future development of the university campus.

(2) There is a difference between the written programme and the blue print plan in making provision of certain areas.

(3) The utilisation of available space is not according to the purpose for which they have been constructed and due to increase in the number of users and documents the available space for stacking and reading purposes is not sufficient.
The study has indicated that the structure of the building does not suit the climate of tropical countries like India, and the stack height is not suitable for housing standard size racks of 7 feet height.

9.1.b BUL

(1) It is pertinent to observe that the provision for periodicals section and research cubicles which are of vital importance in a university library do not figure in the blue print plan. Instead a fullfledged canteen wing of 3157 sq.ft., is considered an integral part of this building.

(2) The courtyards, corridors and staircases have consumed lot of space.

(3) There is a difference between the blue prints and the construction.

(4) There is a difference between the purpose of construction of certain sections and their use.

(5) One positive aspect of this building is that, provision has been made for conference hall, audio-visual room and exhibition gallery. And separation of administrative areas from reading areas is another important feature of this building.

(6) Lot of space has been wasted in the entrance hall, Periodicals, Reference, Stack sections and Canteen wing.

(7) And the first floor of the administrative wing is not under the control of the library management.
9.1.c IIScL

(1) The library building is not central geographically but easily accessible from different corners of the campus. And the rectangular shape with a central openyard indicates the expansibility of the building and also the degree of natural lighting and ventilation provision.

(2) The staircases and public toilets are pushed to corners and are limited in number - a feature that has maximised the functional efficiency of the building.

(3) But there is no provision for research cubicles.

(4) The provision of lounge and combined stack-cum-reading areas have further enhanced the functional efficiency of the building.

(5) Majority of the users are satisfied with the available space for reading and stacking in different sections of the library excepting Reference and Abstracts sections.

9.1.d UASL

(1) The public toilets, staircases and lifts have occupied the central position of the building and Librarian's room is pushed to a corner.

(2) The space provision in II,III, IV and V floors is very less compared to the other two floors.

(3) There is no provision for lounge, conference hall etc., and stacks have been completely removed far from reading areas.
(4) Important feature of this building is the provision of research cubicles on the mezzanine of the first floor and separation of administrative unit from the reading areas.

(5) There is difference between the purposes of construction of certain sections and their use.

(6) On the whole, lot of reading space has been wasted including space in the research cubicles.

9.1.e MUL

(1) Location of the library is not central but easily accessible from different corners of the campus.

(2) The plan has made a provision for lounge facility on both the floors and space for non-book materials.

(3) There is a difference between the purpose of construction of certain sections and their actual use.

(4) Important feature of this building plan is the provision of research cubicles and space for Department of Library and Information Science.

(5) Another important aspect of this building is that the structure of the building is functional and the inner openyard indicates the expansibility and also the degree of natural lighting and ventilation provision.

(6) The other aspects like lighting, ventilation and sanitary facilities have been planned with much care.
9.2 Comparative Summary Of The Findings

9.2.a Findings Relating To Planning

9.2.a1 Original Plans And Library Construction

One of the primary objectives of this study is to identify the differences, if any, between the original plans and the construction of the library building. In this regard it has been found that only in case of BUL building there is a difference between the two specifically the first floor of the stack wing has been converted into a mezzanine floor. The other university library buildings have been constructed according to their blue prints.

9.2.a2 Planning Aspects Of Library Building

Location: The location should be central and easily accessible from all corners of the campus. It is found that all the library buildings are so located that they are easily accessible from all corners of their respective campuses. However, the buildings of MUL and IIScL are not located in geographically central place.

Space Allocation: Certain amount of space allocation is very essential to perform library functions effectively and efficiently. And space allocation depends on the complexity of library functions and services.

This study has indicated that major portion of the space has been allocated for stacking and reading purposes. The details are as follows (figures in percent):

356
Interestingly none of these libraries fulfill the standards of ISI in respect of storage and reading space i.e., allocation has been done without adhering to any norm while planning space for reading and stacking purposes.

Further, except for Librarian and Deputy Librarian, none of the university library building plans indicate allocation of space for library staff members.

**Research Cubicles:** Another important facility which needs due thought in an university environment is research cubicles. The provision for research cubicles can be seen only in two library buildings viz., Mysore University and University of Agricultural Sciences.

**Audio-Visual And Microform Materials:** The present trend is towards the acquisition of non-book materials like microforms, sound-recordings etc. These non-book materials warrant different environment for their placement and use within the library. In addition, ISI prescribes that microforms reading room as an essential requirement of university libraries. However, only in BUL and MUL building plans, a provision has been made for separate space for A/V materials and non-book materials. The remaining three libraries have not touched this aspect in their building plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>BUL</th>
<th>KUL</th>
<th>MUL</th>
<th>IIScL</th>
<th>UASL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacking</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relaxation: In the university libraries a lounge is not a luxury but a necessity, because large number of researchers and other serious readers spend long hours studying within the premises which calls for periodical relaxation. And ISI recommends for such rooms. This study has indicated that only in MUL and IIScL building plans there is provision of space for lounge facility.

Extension Activities: Extension work is yet another important function of an university library, wherein it provides space, furniture and equipment to organise lectures, seminars, exhibitions etc.

ISI prescribes room for such activities as a requirement of an university library. But no provision has been made for such activities in the universities under review, except for MUL and IIScL.

Orientation Of The Building: Another important observation during this study is orientation of the library buildings. All the five libraries under study are of East-west orientation in general. However the stack rooms in KUL are East-south oriented and in MUL South-north oriented, with which the stack rooms and Documentation-cum-reference sections get direct sunlight on to the racks and tables.

Role Of The Librarian: Another noteworthy point observed during the course of this study is that the University Librarian who is one of the members of the planning team was given due place only during the early stages of planning and at later stages he was not at all consulted.
9.2.b Findings Relating To Library Overheads/
Miscellaneous Aspects Of Library Building

An university library has generally different functional units such as acquisition, technical, circulation etc. These sections need to be located in such a manner that the staff members and users of the library have smoother and easier movement from one section to another without disturbing the other users. Except UASL and KUL buildings, all the other library buildings under review have shown that relationships of different sections are functional and the movement of staff and users is easy. However, it is found that in the case of BUL, KUL and UASL buildings, the users have to make long distance walks to reach certain sections of their libraries.

All the five library buildings have succeeded in separating the administrative unit from reading areas, which is one of the essential features of a functional library building.

The provision of inner openyard in MUL and IIScL building plans indicates that these libraries have provided scope for expansion of their buildings and also for maximisation of natural lighting and ventilation facilities.

However, considerable space wastage is seen in the form of courtyards, staircases and corridors in case of BUL plan and in the form of lobbies and 'light wells' in case of KUL plan.

Some of the other notable findings of the building plans under study are as follows;
(1) The MUL building plan provides space for the Department of Library and Information Science which is not a requirement according to ISI.

(2) The BUL building plan has made a provision for a canteen wing within the premises of the library.

3) The placement of public toilets, lifts and staircases at the centre of the entrance hall is an unwarranted feature of UASL building plan.

(4) Similarly, the KUL building plan too has made the provision for public toilets at the centre of the building.

(5) Another important observation is that all the university library buildings considered in this study are planned to be constructed in a single phase. The only exception is the KUL building which is a three phased plan and at present only the first phase has been completed.

9.2.3 Findings Relating To Utilisation Of Space
(1) There is a difference between the purpose of allocation of space and its utilisation in case of BUL, KUL and UASL buildings and the changes made are arbitrary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Libraries</th>
<th>Purpose of Allocation</th>
<th>Presently Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUL</td>
<td>(i) Browsing section</td>
<td>- Reference section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Reference section</td>
<td>- Periodicals section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) Exhibition lounge</td>
<td>- Browsing section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iv) Stenographers room</td>
<td>- Xerox room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(v) Library office - Store room
(vi) Staff lounge - Library office
(vii) A/V room - Newspaper store room
(viii) Conference hall - Department of Library & Information Science

KUL (i) Browsing area - U.N. Depository Centre
(ii) Waiting hall - Stenographer's room
(iii) Property counter area - Xerox room
(iv) Deputy Librarian's room - Bindary room

UASL (i) Processing unit and Technical staff area - Computer centre
(ii) Stack (ground floor) - Periodicals processing unit
(iii) Stack (Third floor) - Not in use
(iv) Stack (Fifth floor) - Old and loose issues of journals are stored.

MUL (i) Non-book materials - Deputy Librarian's room
(ii) Lounge on first floor - Exhibition hall

(2) As already indicated there is no space specifically earmarked for library staff members, other than Librarian and Deputy Librarian. However, considerable space (i.e. on an average 40 sq.ft., in UASL; 180 sq.ft., in IISc; 100 sq.ft., in KUL; 200 sq.ft., in BUL and 120 sq.ft., in MUL) has been utilised by the staff members and none of the libraries follow the ISI standards of space requirements in this regard.
(3) No university library has followed ISI prescription for rack arrangement completely and none of the university libraries have utilised fully the available space for reading and stacking purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Libraries</th>
<th>Available space</th>
<th>Utilised space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Stacking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(figures in percent)</td>
<td>(figures in percent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUL</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUL</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUL</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIScL</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UASL</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(4) Similarly, seating arrangement too is not in accordance with ISI, except in the MUL and that too in the Text book section and Documentation-cum-reference section.

(5) No library has utilised available space to an optimum level in general. In particular lot of space has been wasted in UASL (about 8,386 sq.ft.) building due to lack of furniture. And also fairly large space has been kept idle in the entrance hall (4,500 sq.ft.) and canteen wing (both floors) (5,553 sq.ft.) of BUL and the first floor lounge (1,385 sq.ft.) of MUL buildings.

(6) Although MUL and UASL provide for research cubicles, it is found that only in MUL the provision has been put to proper use, the UASL cubicles are yet to be made use of.
(7) The public toilets have been properly maintained and used in IIScL, UASL and MUL. But the maintenance of public toilets in KUL and BUL is very poor and as such these are not conducive for use.

(8) On the whole user survey has indicated clearly that none of the library users are satisfied with the available space for stacking and reading purposes and the way available space being used in respective libraries too.

Finally, it may be said that there is a strong need in India to plan the university library buildings as per accepted norms duly consulting the experts in this regard. In the planning team, the role of the Librarian need to be significant.

Further, while allocating space for different functional units, accepted norms or standards need to be followed to avoid wastage of space. Wastage of valuable space is a perennial burden to the library authorities. And lastly, the allocated space need to be utilised for the purpose for which it was meant, unless there are sound reasons to modify the space utilisation.

It is learnt during the course of this study that the library plans are to be approved by the UGC for providing financial aid. Now-a-days, the UGC is providing hundred percent financial assistance towards the construction of college and university library buildings. While approving the plans, the UGC could lay down certain conditions, which may be as listed below:

(a) The library plans need to be prepared by a team of experts comprising of Architect, Engineer, Library Consultant and the University Librarian.
(b) The construction of the library building should be according to the approved plans.

(c) The constructed space should be utilised for the purpose for which it was meant.

This study very clearly brings out that the planners of the library buildings under study have not given adequate attention for the application of ISI standards in respect of planning, allocation and utilisation of space. It is hoped that the university authorities, University Librarians and the UGC will take due cognisance of this and construct functional library buildings in the future.