CHAPTER - 2

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
2.1 Objectives And Scope Of The Study

The purpose of library building is to assist suitably in the discharge of its functions. A library being a democratic and dynamic institution needs to adopt to the changing requirements of its clientele in terms of information, space and comforts. Unlike the ever increasing information needs, which can be met by enhancing the information base, the space requirements cannot be met easily due to paucity of space and funds. Hence, while planning a library building care should be taken to see that the available space is so planned to be utilised that it could at least last for 20 years ahead, duly anticipating the multidimensional growth of the library. Further, the constructed building should be a functional one so as to be amenable for use to the changing requirements of the library.

Several library building projects have been undertaken in India since independence, particularly for university, college and research libraries. But not many surveys/studies have been made so far to evaluate the functional efficiency of the buildings. Recently, Rajwant Singh has made an attempt to study systematically the university library buildings in India. As the author himself has admitted in the preface of his work, that "In the absence of the blue prints and layout plans, the evaluation of the library buildings was not possible". Hence, the present study is timely.

1. Rajwant Singh
and beginning in this direction of evaluating the library buildings in the universities of Karnataka State.

This study, in particular, attempts
- to know the difference between the original plans and the constructed buildings and the reasons thereof;
- to measure the functional efficiency of the space allocated for different functions in different university library buildings;
- to measure how effectively the available space has been used to discharge different functions in the university library buildings; and
- to know the extent of user satisfaction in respect of the space availability for different library purposes and its actual utilisation.

When the Researcher started this study (1986), the Karnataka State had two universities at Bangalore, one each at Mysore, Dharwad, Gulbarga and Mangalore, and one deemed University (Indian Institute of Science) at Bangalore. Of these the following university library buildings only have been considered.

1. Bangalore University Library Building.
2. Karnataka University Library Building.
3. Mysore University Library Building.
4. University of Agricultural Sciences Library Building, Bangalore.
5. Indian Institute of Science Library Building.
The two main aspects of the study in these five university library buildings are;

1. Planning and allocation of space for different functions.

2. Utilisation of available space for specific purposes.

The Gulbarga University although has an independent library building of its own, major portion of the building is under the occupation of various administrative units of the University (like Registrar's Office, Finance Division etc). The Mangalore University is yet to build its independent building (the library building construction started in 1991 and still under construction). The Kuvempu University located at B.R. Project in Shimoga district is yet to plan its new building. Hence, all these three libraries have been left out from the purview of this study.

2.2 Data Collection Tools

There are no standard tools available for obtaining necessary information regarding the library space. Hence, an attempt was made to construct the tools and examine their reliability with the help of preliminary survey, prior to the final data collection.

(a) Recorded Data: Original blue prints and building programmes were collected from different universities, and supplementary data relating to actual carpet area in each of the sections of different university library buildings was collected by actual measurement.
(b) Opinion Data: Two different tools were used for the collection of user opinion.

i) Questionnaire, to collect opinions from students and researchers.

ii) Interview schedule for collecting opinions from Faculty and professional library staff members.

Opinion data collected from randomly selected sample population consisted of students, researchers, faculty members and professional library staff. The details of sample are given in the table below.

**Details of Sample Response-I (Questionnaire)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Libraries</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Researchers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUL</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUL</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIScL</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUL</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UASL</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand total** 1,299

**Details of Sample -II (Interviewed)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Libraries</th>
<th>Faculty Members</th>
<th>Professional Staff</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUL</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUL</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIScL</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUL</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UASL</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand total** 368
c) Construction Of The Questionnaire: The questionnaire was designed in such a way that information could be gathered and analysed systematically under different headings. Primarily, the questionnaire was divided into three units namely library location, library space allocation and library overheads or miscellaneous. Each unit was further sub-divided to include many sub-groups as follows:

I  Location Of The Library Building

a) Type of the library user (2)*
b) Space for reading (4)
c) Distance from user location to the library building (5)
d) Distance from academic establishments to the library building (6)
e) Centrality and accessibility of the library building (7)

II  Library Space Allocation

a) Space for shelving (8)
b) Space for reading (9)
c) Space for research (10) and (11)
d) Space for A/V and Microform materials and their use (12)
e) Space for relaxation (13)
f) Space for extension activities (14)

* The number against the sub-groups indicate their order in the questionnaire.
III Library Over Heads/Miscellaneous

a) Spatial relationship of the building (15)
b) Mobility of the users (16)
c) Internal environment (17)
d) Aesthetics (18)
e) Placement of windows, doors etc (19)
f) Lighting and ventilation facility (20)
g) Colour pattern (21)
h) Hygiene (22)
i) Drinking water facility (23)
j) Sanitation (24)
k) Facility for refreshments (25)

The questionnaire focussing on these issues were administered to randomly selected sample population of different university library users. The users were personally contacted and explained the purpose of data needed and questionnaires were distributed to them for filling them at their convenience (Appendix-A).

Interview Schedule: Interview Schedule was designed to facilitate free discussion with faculty and professional staff members to get the complete benefit of their experience and exposure in the library environment. Questions were of open ended and concerning the building as a whole and not to any particular section of it (Appendix-B).

2.3 Data Evaluation Techniques

a) The planning aspect of the research study has been studied by comparing original blue prints with the carpet area of the library buildings. Attempts have been made to get the reason from concerned authorities
wherever there is difference between the two. More importantly, ISI specifications have been applied for evaluating the allocation of space in each section.

b) The utilisation of the research study has been evaluated by
   i) applying ISI specifications
   ii) opinion survey of users of the library.

Chi-square test has been used to know the significant difference between opinion of students and researchers. And the Chi-square test has not been applied to data from faculty and library staff members because of the different tools used for collecting their opinion.

iii) Close observations by the Researcher, of the space utilised.

Based on these twin approaches - planning and utilisation of space certain inferences have been drawn.