Chapter VII

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
7.1 CONCLUSION

In a modern society, besides fulfilling the three necessities of life i.e. food, cloth and house, feeding the intellectual hunger of each man and providing him with the information/ knowledge relevant to his profession, health, happiness and prosperity are the indicators of his success or failure. Since knowledge is so vital for all round human development, libraries that handle and manage knowledge are indeed valuable. It is the library which is responsible for the development of the personality of the citizens of a nation, and undoubtedly it plays an indispensable role as a community centre for education, information creation and culture. It is the need of the hour that the government should have serious consideration for the growth and development of libraries by solving the problems being faced by the libraries. Knowledge and library do not develop by heap and bounce. They are developed one generation after another generation along with the development of society. People in the past did not know the role and importance of libraries. But the agricultural revolution, industrial revolution (17th and 18th century), along with the invention of printing by Johann Gutenberg in 15th century had given influence on the development of libraries. Now, the effective use of computer and information technologies in libraries has given momentum on the development of libraries.

In Manipur, the actual stage of library movement came into existence as early as the beginning of 20th century. Early initiations towards the development of libraries in the state came from general public/ voluntary organizations. The first ever government library came into being in Manipur in the year 1946 when the first college of the state viz. D. M. College was
instituted with a well furnished library with a number of collections. Though the growth and development of different types of libraries in Manipur are under progress, the spirit of challenge is not seen in this field in Manipur. These libraries are established under the government and some belong to private and aided (semi-government) institutions and most of them have separate library buildings.

It is a matter of regret that though there are many libraries in the state, they could not cater to the needs of the library users. Thus, it is found that libraries in Manipur are under slow progress in its development. This may be due to the less attention of the government to overcome the problems faced by the libraries.

From the foregoing discussions made on the basis of data obtained, it reveals the glomming pictures in most of the libraries are due to management of the libraries by inadequate and unqualified staff and of improper functioning. Without library staff, it will not be possible to maintain stock, reading room, and other sections of the library. From this, it has been observed that the lack of library staff is the main cause for the slow growth of library. It is expected that libraries will be able to meet the demands of the users, if the library has adequate professionally trained and qualified staff.

Collection may also be the main cause for the development of any library. If proper collections are not maintained properly, then the library will be useless and the old concept of library i.e. “Library is the store house of knowledge” may be used in a wrong notion. So collection is one of the most important aspects of library. From the surveyed data, it is known that the collection has been developing year by year but not upto the full expectation.
Most of the libraries in Manipur have lesser number of collections in regard to books and periodicals. Collection development existed in the libraries of Manipur is very slow during the decade 1997-2007. With the advancement of ICT, now-a-days most of the library users want to browse information through a computer which is connected to a library network and Internet. In order to cope with the changing trends in information seeking behavior of the users the present libraries should procure both print and electronic media. Some libraries in Manipur have collections of not only printed books but also other electronic media like Audio Visual Aids (Magnetic tapes, DVD/CD-ROM etc). This shows that there is change in the methods of collection also. For proper functioning of a good library, the authority should try to increase the collections as desired and demanded by the user. So, lesser number of collections provide improper service to the user. Most of the libraries which are surveyed provide services like circulation, reference etc. In a few libraries SDI, CAS, Internet, Library network, binding services are provided.

There is less impact of Information Communication Technology on most of the libraries in Manipur. It is regretted that computerized services are not introduced in most of the libraries in the state. Majority of the libraries i.e. 87.67 % (64 libraries) are yet to start automation and the remaining 12.33% (9 libraries) are partly automated. Not a single library is fully automated till the time of survey. However, there are good numbers of libraries which are coming up strongly for the implementation of the computerized service in their future plan. Most of the libraries in Manipur are still following the traditional systems of library services and at the same time trying to modernize their libraries. Information Communication Technology is the wave of the day and we are living in the computer era. Computers have
come into the area of library and information activities in a big way. The irresistible invasion of them into science has triggered a revolution in our traditional method of library operations. Nowadays computer can be put to use for providing efficient library services to multiple number of users. As an impact of Information Communication Technology, nowadays many libraries are being automated. To keep in pace with the changing needs, automation of libraries in Manipur is in progress.

Keeping in view the existing situation, in the state, it is necessary to make plans and policies for the development of libraries in service, collection, staff, finance etc. Most of the libraries in Manipur have inadequate budget. Because of the lack of fund, most of the libraries could not achieve their desire goals.

In Manipur, the services provided/ rendered by different types of libraries are not satisfactory to the library users. But some libraries used to render nine types of services like circulation, cataloguing, reference, CAS, SDI, Reprographic, Internet, Library network services and Binding. Without library staff, the library materials will become messed up and such a mess can be seen where there is no adequate staffs of the library. Some of the libraries in Manipur are headed by librarian in-charge who is not professionally qualified. So it is essential to create sufficient number of qualified library staff for increase of efficiency of library services. The collections of different types of libraries in Manipur vary from one library to another library. The collection development of most of the libraries is very slow due to lack of fund. To improve the situation, it is required to provide adequate funds from the government and other funding agencies.
The study made an attempt to review the past and present conditions of library functions and services in the state of Manipur. But in Manipur most of the libraries are in developing stage. So, libraries are facing difficulties in providing effective and efficient services. This is due to a number of constraints. In most of the libraries, there is no adequate staff and some of the libraries do not even have librarian and libraries are run by the librarian in-charge. This is due to the lack of fund and lack of support from Government. One of the most important setbacks is the lack of co-operation among the libraries in Manipur. They never recognize that library plays a pivotal role in educational and societal development.

7.2 Suggestions

Based on the above findings of the study, the following suggestions are being made for the growth and development of libraries in Manipur:

1) All educational institutions, organisations, associations should establish a library along with the establishment of their institutions so that the members of the institutions and society may get the right information and knowledge.

2) As recommended by different committees and commissions the Board/Council or UGC should give recognition to an educational institution only when the institution has a functional library of its own.

3) There should be a good public library system in the state so that all the citizens of the state may be able to access to information.
4) Library authority should understand the important roles played by librarians in dissemination of information.

5) The Manipur government should take immediate steps for implementation of the Manipur Public Libraries Act 1988 so that every citizen of the state shall be able to get the public library facilities in their respective areas free of cost.

6) In order to attract the attention of library users, an inviting building is essential. The inside of the building should be attractive and conducive to reading. Library being a growing organism, the construction of the building should be in such a way that it can be extended in future.

7) Adequate space should be made available for all sections of the library.

8) A meticulous planning is essential to manage a library under a committee headed by the head of the institution; librarian as member secretary and users as its members. All matters related to the library development programmes should be dealt with by this committee.

9) The collection of library should be developed on the basis of needs /requirements of the users. To ascertain the information needs of the users, it is essential to conduct users study from time to time.

10) Suggestions of users should be given due weightage in book selection and for this purpose suggestion box or suggestion register should be maintained in the library and all the books suggested by the readers should be screened by the book selection committee prior to their ordering.
11) Resource sharing must be initialized, duplication must be reduced to a great extent and user participation in book and periodical selection must be taken into consideration. This effort will help in satisfying the needs and requirements of the library users.

12) In order to keep the collection within a manageable size, the libraries should adopt a systematic plan of weeding out the collection from time to time.

13) As it is revealed that journals are the most used sources by the users to update their knowledge, the library should pay more attention towards subscribing to more journals which are essential and required by the users.

14) A Cataloguing and a Classification scheme should be imposed for proper arrangement of documents and for easy location of books.

15) Adequate qualified staff should be appointed and in-service training be given to the working staff so that they may be able to give maximum services to their library users by using the latest technologies.

16) Librarians and other professional should be permitted to visit other advanced libraries for motivation.

17) Every library staff should know the ethics of librarianship and he/she should serve the user to his/her best satisfaction.

18) Attempts should be made to convince the library authorities and the funding agencies for getting more funds.
19) Increase in budget should be in commensurate with the increase in prices of books and periodicals. More library budget will facilitate in developing a good collection of reading materials for all categories of users.

20) Special fund provision is to be made in annual budget for the automation of libraries.

21) Radhakrishnan Commission recommended that at least 6% of the total budget of each academic institution should be set aside for the library. Only then, the condition of libraries will be improved. It added that if institutions are not willing to allocate 6% of their budget to libraries, they should spend Rs. 40 per student enrolled.

22) The library should frequently provide CD-ROM databases, online access to books, journals and internet services.

23) With the advancement of ICT, nowadays most of the library users want to browse information through a computer which is connected to a library network and Internet. In order to cope with the changing trends in information seeking behaviour of the users, the libraries should procure both print and electronic media.

24) An efficient resource sharing network must be established between the different libraries in the state. This state network should be connected with a national network.

25) To meet the challenges of increase in number of documents and rise in their cost it is essential to pool the resources of all libraries and create a
resource sharing network of all these to ensure efficient collection development.

26) No library is self sufficient, so the librarians should think of library resource sharing, networking and co-operation amongst the libraries.

27) Services of the libraries should be improved by judicious collection, proper processing (classification, cataloguing), making easy to library users, flexibility of library rules, meeting the needs of the users in a positive manner.

28) It is suggested that documentation services like CAS, SDI etc. should be begin as early as possible to save the precious time of the user.

29) Photocopying services should be made available inside the library.

30) All libraries should have the facilities of Internet and Local Area Network of its own.

31) User studies should be conducted to know about the needs of users as well as problems they are facing while using library.

32) Taking of valuable suggestions from the users and library staffs for the development of the library will be very useful to the planner.

It is a known fact that, the influxes of information and documents have created many problems to libraries. Millions of documents and other sources of information are available through Internet and users can easily access them. Libraries cannot dream of acquiring the entire literature published world wide individually. Thus, libraries have to Co-operate in sharing their resources so
that every demand for document is not only from the libraries of their own collection but also from the collections of other libraries of different states, if possible from different countries.

Therefore, networking of libraries and information centres is an urgent need of the present era. In order to cope with the changing trends of library automation and networking the present libraries in Manipur should try to cooperate each other and join hands in giving maximum services to their clientele so that each and every citizen may get his desired information from any library of the state. Then only there will be tremendous growth and development of libraries in Manipur and Manipur will be a knowledge based society.

Knowledge is the sum total of multiple items of information and library is the storehouse of knowledge. A Knowledgeable person always relies on good books. Likewise an advanced country always gives priority in advancement of knowledge in all fields and tries to preserve all the sources of knowledge in their own national and institutional libraries. Mere collection of books and other forms of documents cannot claim as good library. The services provided by the libraries are more vital to prove the importance of the libraries. In order to find out the various variables responsible to the proper growth and development of libraries, the present research work has been conducted. The concerned authorities and the staff should try their best levels for overall growth and development of the libraries in Manipur so that the people may play their proper role in the emerging knowledge based society.