CHAPTER – I
INTRODUCTION
1.1 Introduction

Library is the store-house of knowledge for posterior use. Human knowledge can be recorded and preserved in different media. Some years back, documents written or printed in paper were considered as the best medium. But with the development of science and technology today electronic multimedia have been widely used for preservation of knowledge in the libraries of any kind whether it may be public, academic or special library. Since the beginning of civilization human beings have been putting emphasis on storing of information in different ways. However it must be admitted that libraries in ancient times were not like those of the present days. Libraries are dynamic and grow along with human civilization. The urge of social, economic, intellectual and cultural improvement necessitates the development of different kinds of libraries.

Since knowledge and information are so vital for all round development, libraries that handle and manage knowledge and information are invaluable indeed. The present knowledge society has been, as understood, characterized by the competition, the supply and demand for knowledge to meet the varied and complex needs of the individuals, which are expected from the library. Dissemination of right information to the right reader/user at the right time is the dictum of all the library and information centers. In short library is an agency for dissemination of information. The basic function of library is education. The purpose of a library in modern society is to educate the community in a wider sense. Libraries play a very important role in the educational process of formal and non-formal learning, in research and development, in cultural activities, in spiritual and ideological
realms, in recreation and entertainment etc. With the spectacular advances in information technology and increasing categories of users and their information needs in different situations, modern society is heading towards an information society in which the central instrument of change, force and direction of change are knowledge and information.

In traditional libraries, user cannot easily locate a piece of information and have to spend more time in searching information. But in this age of Information Communication Technology (ICT), computers are being used for day to day house keeping activities of the libraries, to read and download of texts of articles, reports and other materials. Thus, it saves the time of the library professional and end user and makes the library service smooth and effective.

1.2 Definition of Library

Library is a place where the collection of information resources in print or in other forms that is organized and made accessible for reading or study is kept. International Organization for Standardization has defined library as “irrespective of the title, any organized collection of printed books and periodicals or of any other graphic or audio-visual materials, and the services of a staff to provide and facilitate the use of such materials as are required to meet the informational, research, educational or recreational needs of its users”. (Krishan Kumar; 1987; 1)

Advances in Information Communication Technology (ICT), particularly the World Wide Web (WWW) have seen the evolution of the
automated library, electronic library, digital library, virtual library, Hybrid library etc.

1.2.1 Traditional library

The collection of the traditional libraries are mostly print media, manuscripts etc and are not well organized. The documents are deteriorating at a rapid rate, the collected information is not easy to locate and procure. Such information does not reach the user of the libraries on time. It is difficult to get such publications in the absence of personal influence and contacts. There are certain restricted publications containing highly informative materials but may not be easily available. Sometimes the information is published after many years. By the time it is published, the information becomes obsolete and then abandoned. Since it is not properly indexed or listed, the researcher is forced to go through long and tedious process to ascertain whether any material of his/her interest is available or not. Here the collections are not well organized and some reports are deteriorating at a rapid rate. Preserving them in their original form is difficult and it is not cost effective. Again the traditional libraries are confined itself within a physical boundary.

1.2.2 Automated library

A library with machine-readable catalog, computerized acquisition, circulation and OPAC are called as automated library. The holdings of such types of libraries are same as that of traditional libraries.
1.2.3 **Electronic library**

When automated libraries go for LAN (Local Area Networking) and CD-ROM networking and started procuring E- journals and other similar kinds of publications then it is known as electronic library. The resources of the electronic libraries are in both print and electronic form. The electronic media are used for storage, retrieval and delivery of information.

1.2.4 **Digital library**

It is a later stage of electronic library. In digital library high speed optical fiber are used for LAN and the access is over WAN and provide a wide range of Internet based services i.e. audio and video conferencing and like other. The majority of the holding of a digital library is in the computer readable form and also acts as a point of access to other online sources.

1.2.5 **Virtual Library**

It is a companion term to digital library, brought forth by the National Science Foundation. The concept of virtual library also emerged simultaneously with electronic library and digital library. This emergence is perhaps because all the information uses are at present through networked libraries at the desktop which is quite virtual (practical) without the physical existence of books on shelves. A virtual library can be simply defined as the internet-based digital library or a library without walls. The concept of virtual library is that any person who has a computer and connection to the library networks can access not only the resources of that library but also a variety of
information available through national and international networks like internet and intranet without being physically present in the library.

1.2.6 Hybrid library

It was designed to bring a range of technologies from different sources together in the context of a working library and to explore integrated systems and services in electronic and printed environments. It reflects the transitional state of the library, which today can neither be fully printed nor fully digital.

1.3 Types of Libraries

According to the mode of services rendered to the readers; libraries are broadly divided into three types viz: 1. Academic library, 2. Special library and 3. Public Library.

1.3.1 Academic Library

Academic library is the library which is attached to academic institutions like schools, colleges and universities. An academic library serves more specifically the students, research scholars, teachers and staff of the academic institution. Main objective of an academic library is to give maximum learning materials to its clientele so that they may be fully educated in their respective level. Academic libraries are categorized into school libraries, college libraries and university libraries.

1.3.1.1 School library

A school library is a learning laboratory, providing a variety of instructional media, essential for optimum support of the education
programme. The purpose of the school library is to attain the objectives of the educational programme. It concerns with the development of effective methods of thinking, inculcation of social attitudes, acquisition of important information and promoting growth and development among the children. The function of the school library is to help the students in the process of their self-discovery, to adopt high ideals in life, improve scholastic efficiency through self study and to develop the capacity for critical thinking.

1.3.1.2 College Library

College performs an important function in educational process. A college without a library is like a tree with no roots. The status of every college is measured through the position of the library that it maintains. Hence every college library should become a teaching instrument in itself. A college library is expected to support the objectives of the college. Thus, the basic function of a college library is to assist its parent body to carry out its programmes.

1.3.1.3 University Library

A library is more important in a University, because a library can do without a University whereas a university cannot function without a library. A university library is an integral part of the institution. It is primarily maintained for the benefit of students, officers, faculty members and for those who are engaged in research work. It plays a very important role in the national life of the community by acquiring material for educational use for the benefit of students and teaching departments.
1.3.2 Special library

Special library became popular since the beginning of 20th century. A special library is “one which serves a particular group of people, such as the employees of a firm of government department, or the staff and members of a professional or research organization. Such a library deals essentially in information”. (Krishan Kumar; 1987; 72)

1.3.3 Public library

“A public library (also called circulating library) is a library which is accessible by the public and is generally funded from public sources (such as tax money) and may be operated by the civil servants. Taxing bodies for public libraries may be at any level from local to national central government level. The public library is an excellent model of government at its best. A locally controlled public good, it serves every individual freely, in as much or as little depth as he or she wants.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/public_library)

1.4 Role of library in Society

Library and society are inter-linked and inter-dependent. Society without libraries has no significance, and libraries without society have no origin. To serve as a vehicle of social progress, the library plays a vital role:

1) To assemble, organize, preserve, socialize, and serve all expressed thought embodied as manuscripts, books, periodicals, their constituents documents, however minute, and every other similar document produced as a means for communication; and by this means
2) To help in the transmission of knowledge of the earlier generations to the later ones; and by this means

3) To help in cumulation and further building up of knowledge from generation to generation; and in a similar way

4) To help in the contemporary development of knowledge, by the unintended and purposeless repetition of effort and the consequent wastage in the research potential of humanity; and further

5) To conserve the research time of humanity by the separation of literature search from positive search; and also

6) To help in the perpetual self education of one and all; and further

7) To collect together all available recorded information particularly in the form of reference books, and to socialize and serve freely all such information to each according to his needs at the moment; and by all such means

8) To increase the economic resources of humanity to the extent necessary to maintain the ever-increasing population, in comfort and free from want of any kind; and also

9) To help in the mutually co-operating, and mutually tolerant peaceful co-existence of individuals, communities, and nations; and further

10) To help in the elevating, self dependent use of leisure with the aid of freely served books, pictures, sound records, and other similar materials; and also
11) To help in increasing the opportunity for the spiritual awakening of one and all the members of humanity.

1.5 Need for the study

A comprehensive study on the growth and development of libraries in Manipur has not yet been undertaken so far by any research scholar in Library and Information Science. The successful management of any organisation depends on the study of the early history of the organisation. The problems faced by the organisations and their solutions are guidelines for future plans of development. Analysis of the problems will certainly differ from one type of library to another type of library, but the general problems will be quite similar. Until and unless the problems are spelt out by the concerned persons whether he may be an administrator or staff or clients, it will not be possible to draw the solution of the problems. So, such a study is the need of the hour and thus prompted the researcher to take up this research problem.

1.6 Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the present study are:

➢ To survey the present conditions of the libraries in Manipur;

➢ To trace the historical development of the libraries and growth pattern of their collection development;

➢ To assess the status of automation of different types of libraries;

➢ To evaluate the level of satisfaction of users with the services, facilities and collections of the libraries; and
To suggest the remedial measures for the growth and development of the libraries in the coming years.

1.7 Scope of the study

The scope of the present study is limited to the:

- college, university, special and public libraries established in Manipur from 1941 to 2007;
- collection development of the libraries for the period of ten years i.e. from 1997-98 to 2006-07;
- budget of the libraries for the period of five years i.e. from 2002-03 to 2006-07;
- manpower of the libraries;
- services provided by the libraries; and
- infrastructure available in the libraries.

1.8 Methodology

Questionnaire method is widely used for collection of data from the libraries. Two types of questionnaires were used for the study, they are - 1. Questionnaire about the libraries and 2. Questionnaire about the users. The questionnaires are shown at Appendix- I and II. The questionnaire of the first type was to be filled up by the Librarian or Librarian In-charge and the questionnaire of the second type was to be filled up by the users of the
concerned library. The questionnaire method was supplemented by Interview
and discussion methods.

1.9 Review of Literature

Review of literature presents detail account of original publications
mainly the research publications in order to access the availability of research
work already carried by different scholars. In this process the scholar makes
an attempt to fill up the gaps on which the researches have not been
undertaken so far.

Some of the publications undertaken by research scholar on the
research topic or related are stated below:

Narinder Kumar Sharma (1980) highlights the pricing technique
adopted by publishers to fix price of a book and taking a case study of
Kurukshetra University Library, discusses briefly how the rising prices have
appreciably affected the library development pattern. The author also suggests
remedial measures to overcome the price rise.

K. R. Rao (1980) discusses the impact of rising prices of books on the
development of library. The study reveals how proper utilization of existing
resources and improvement of existing services can help in overcoming the
problems created due to the rising prices of books. The author suggests that
libraries should go for microforms of documents to save space and money and
makes out a case for interlibrary loan and cooperative acquisition
programmes.
Serwer Hossain (1981) describes briefly the recommendations/observations regarding library development given in various reports/schemes submitted from time to time. The study also mentions that none of these was fully implemented due to lack of funds and foresight on the part of the government planners. The author suggests that a permanent library commission should be appointed without any further loss of time.

Ramansu Lahiri and B. B. Pradhan (1987) highlight the growth and development of periodical section of Manipur University Library during 1973-87. The study narrates the service points maintained by the periodical section of the Library keeping in mind the requirements of the academic community of the University as well as the state.

T.Y. Mallaiah and K. K. Badani (1995) attempt to analyse the development of Mangalore University Library. The paper highlights the aim and objectives of the library, library user and opening hour of the library. The authors mention the present status of library collection, library budget, library staff and library services and facilities available in that library.

P. C. Shah (1995) describes briefly the development of public libraries in Gujarat without library legislation. The paper gives a brief account of the pioneering work done in the erstwhile Baroda state and contributions made by Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad, Mr. Borden, Mr. Amin and others. The study provides a detailed account of efforts made in Gujarat state for public library legislation and shows statistical data regarding public libraries in Gujarat. The author concludes with suggestions for further development of public libraries in Gujarat without waiting for library legislation.
Afifa Rahman (1997) highlights the establishment of National Library of Bangladesh, National Archives of Bangladesh, Public Libraries, Academic Libraries and Special Libraries and their activities. The study covers a brief account of Library Science Education and the Library association of Bangladesh and also states the establishment and services of selected National and International Library and Information centre. The author evaluates the present status of library development and activities in Bangladesh.

Lan Auh Tran (1999) reveals the recent development of libraries in Vietnam. The author investigates the current state of libraries in Vietnam through a descriptive study of selected sectors: public, academic and special library services. Attention is also devoted to the government’s development initiatives with regard to libraries.

Vihn-The Lam (1999) discusses issues relating to library infrastructure development in Vietnam. First, standardization is recommended in the organization of information. Then courses are suggested for Vietnamese library schools to adopt in their curricula. Finally the proposed role of Vietnamese library association is discussed.

Prem Chand Sehgal and K. Navalani (2000) traced the history of the establishment of a language university called the Punjabi University, Patiala and its library. The library of the university came one year after its establishment and has a library committee with Vice-Chancellor as Chairman, which gives its status and importance. The authors highlighted the factual data on finances beginning with 1970-71 and ending 1999-2000 and reveal the factual data about its collection (both books and journals) and annual addition for the same period.
Eric Glasgow (2002) recounts the origin of Birmingham University in Mason College, and the early development of its library under William Henry Cope. The paper discusses the growth of collections, particularly by donations from Thomas Pretious Heslop and services based on them into the early twentieth century.

Hanif Uddin and Anisur Rahman (2002) discuss briefly the development of public libraries, academic libraries, special libraries and national libraries in Bangladesh. The study reveals a brief account of library education and library association of Bangladesh and highlights the present status of library automation and librarian of the libraries of Bangladesh. The authors also give recommendations regarding library development in the country.

Constantine M. Nyamboga and T. D. Kemparaju (2003) reveal the development of libraries and information centres in the electronic age especially in developing countries. The paper discusses the challenges posed by the accelerating pace of change in the world of information and stresses the importance of managing the change by focusing on collection development (inclusive of electronic resources), training and development skills of the information professionals and also library users. The authors also highlight general views on how library and information centres should approach the situation in order to accomplish and acquire at least simple electronic resources while taking into consideration of the library and information policy.

A. K. Mondal and A. K. Kundu (2005) examine briefly the various problems of college libraries of Meghalaya and the difficulties faced to
develop good college libraries. The study reveals how it affects the reading habit in the age of information explosion. Unless society keeps pace with the information explosion and integration of new technologies the society cannot develop. The collections are not utilized fully because no scientific principles are followed as classification and cataloguing to disseminate information. The problem of shortage of trained manpower, incompetent book market in NE region, escalating price hike, geographical dislocation of the place and financial crunch are the major hurdles in collection development. The author suggests some remedial measure to redress this alarming problem.

Mickael Cottaschenberg (2005) discusses briefly four major players such as the ICT-Industry, the academic institutions, the publishing industry and the libraries which are the drivers and directions of development of academic libraries. The purpose of the study is not to guess what the future of academic libraries will be, but to identify and understand the present driving force with view to choosing and influencing directions of development, which will be advantageous to our users.

S.M. Rokade (2005) describes the state wise, year wise and decennial growth of agricultural university libraries in India after independence. In the paper the growth of agricultural university library in India have been examined by collection of data on 33 agricultural university libraries through questionnaire. The author concludes that the growth is remarkable but still there are seven states and six union territories in India which have their separate agricultural universities and libraries for the better development of agriculture, agriculture education, research and extension education.
Sarah Ann Long (2005) finds that in Illinois, the creation of regional library systems supported the establishment of many new public libraries and service was expanded and strengthened in existing libraries. The author also finds that with the need for new libraries less critical, the systems have greater focus on resource sharing and library development.

I. V. Malhan (2006) reveals the problems and challenges of change management in the university libraries to facilitate their growth, resources management and service management similar to the work culture of the corporate sector. The study mentions the complexities of change management in the university libraries and indicates that the university leadership, the library manager, and the professional staff play a key role in affecting change in the university libraries and highlights that change management and staff development go hand in hand. The paper points out that evaluation and review processes of the universities for accreditation, grading, and classification also help to a great extent to facilitate and manage change. The university libraries may adopt the work culture of the corporate sector for building their collections, managing their finances, training their staff, upgrading their technologies, ameliorating their operations, but for rendering their services they must ensure humanism in practice.

Maitrayee Ghosh (2006) reveals that library association in India have been playing an important role in conveying useful messages and guidelines for library development, acting in this transitional era as meeting places for professionals, helping them exchange opinions and promoting free access to information while also facing a series of structural, political, cultural and financial challenges. The author finds that there is an immediate need for
restructuring these associations in pursuit of a new working model which would involve functioning in close partnership with other groups; the association needs to be stronger financially and have more impact in pursuing and meeting the objectives and goals of the members of association. The author also finds that an Indian Institute of Library and Information Science should be established on the pattern of the Indian Institute of Technologies.

Niels Ole Pors (2006) attempts to outline the topography of Danish Library Associations and Organisations and to analyse their role in the development of the libraries. The paper offers some inspiration for cooperation among institutions and associations outlining some of the prerequisites for a solid corporation among different stakeholders.

Adriana Ercolana (2007) highlights the importance of librarian and library staff in a successful library development program. The author finds that library development programs do not operate in a vacuum and in fact draw upon the talents of many key personnel through the library.

K. Sangeeta Devi and Kh. Roshan Singh (2007) discuss briefly the various roles and activities taken up by Manipur Library Association in promoting library services and library movement in the state.

N. N. Sharma (2007) attempts to highlight the growth and development of rural libraries of Assam from ancient period to the modern period and describes the efforts of late Kumudeswar Barthakur towards creating a library movement in Assam. The paper reveals the development of the public library system in Assam after independence of India and the role of the government and voluntary organisation in this aspect. The author comments that the non-
enactment of the library legislation in Assam is the major reason behind the poor condition of the rural libraries.

N. Vidyavati, Ch. Ibohal Singh and N. Giridhari Singh (2007) describe briefly the historical development of public library system and service in Manipur, current status, including initiatives of NGOs and Government. The study mentions the role of RRRLF and Library associations and assesses the stock of the present library services and facilities being rendered in the state.

P. N. Kaula (2007) traces the development and movement of public library in India. It discusses briefly on the need, structure and development of libraries in rural sectors.

R. K. Barman (2007) traces the history of libraries in India, England and describes the position of rural libraries in India. The paper states the multifocal role of rural libraries in Assam which helped in development of societies and shows declining trend of rural libraries in the post independence period. The study identifies the reasons for the deterioration of the rural libraries. The author concludes with suggestion for revival of the rural libraries for the development of the society as a whole.

S.C. Veenapani, Th. Khomdon Singh and Ch. Rebika Devi (2007) describe the importance of library legislation in the development of public libraries in the state of Manipur. The study mentions that the state is the sixth one in passing the public libraries act in India and observes that the rural library services are still in the infant stage. The authors suggest for the development of rural libraries in the state with the implementation of Manipur Public Libraries Act, 1988.
B.D. Kumbar (2008) discusses briefly the growth and development of public library system in India with special reference to Karnataka. The study mentions the current status of library legislation and role of RRRLF in the development of public library system in India. The author also highlights the application of ICT in the development of public library in Karnataka.

1.10 Chapterisation

The study has been carried out under the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

In the first chapter (Introduction), the term likes ‘Library’, ‘Types of libraries’, ‘role of library in society’ are introduced in brief. It further discusses the need for the study, objectives, scope of the study, methodology, review of literature and different chapters covered in the research topic.

Chapter 2: Historical Account of Libraries in Manipur

This chapter describes about the historical account of the libraries in relation to Manipur and impact of Information Communication Technology in the libraries.

Chapter 3: Library Personnel

This chapter deals with library personnel. It explains about library staffing, category of staff, staff formula, designation of library staff and skill requirement in the modern library services.
Chapter 4: Collection Development

The fourth chapter explains the selection of documents, acquisition of document, selection procedure and changing concept of the collection development.

Chapter 5: Library and Information Services

The fifth chapter elaborates about general library and information services and user point of view on library and information services.

Chapter 6: Analysis and Findings

This chapter illustrates the profile of research work with the help of tables, charts and graphs to lead findings on research problems with interpretations and give findings from the analysis of this data.

Chapter 7: Conclusion and Suggestions

This last chapter concludes with suggestions and recommendations for improvement in the problem raised from the findings of the research problems. It is hoped that this will open the eyes of those who are associated and linked with library system of Manipur.
References


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