INTRODUCTION

The Government of Karnataka enacted the Karnataka Public Libraries Act (1965) to provide proper library services to the people of the state, thus translating into reality the maxim that the 'Public Library is the People's University'.

Though the endeavours made in this regard during the past 17 years is much appreciated, viewed from the professional angle, done little pales into insignificance when looked at the undone vast.

Quite a number of areas in the Public Library System in the state require major modifications to suit the ever-changing and fast developing society in which the system has to work. The study was undertaken with a view to critically examining the present situation and the growing demands for information from the users of the system and to plan a fullblooded and efficient system to meet effectively these demands.

Focus of the Study

Though the present study probes into almost all the aspects of the Public Library System, the emphasis is laid more on the following areas:
The Methodology

The methodology adopted to study the present situation of the public libraries and their various branch libraries and service stations consisted of the following:

A  Questionnaire Method

Three sets of questionnaire — one for the State Central Library, the second for the City Central Libraries and District Central Libraries and the third for the users' view were compiled and personally distributed among the concerned.

B  Personal Visits

To get first hand information through observation, personal visits, to the SCL, CCLs, DCLs and some of the
important branch libraries and service stations in the state, were undertaken.

C Interviews

To assess the problems faced by the staff in their day-to-day work and also to ascertain their experiences, the library officials were also interviewed personally.

Conclusion

The vast information collected through the above was collated, sifted, critically analysed and in the light of the findings an elaborate, phase-wise 25 year Development Plan with other relevant recommendations has been drawn up. Further, a few suggestions are made for amending the present KFLA (1965).