CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW
Chapter - 2

Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

A literature review is a description of the literature relevant to a particular field or topic. A critical literature review is a critical assessment of the relevant literature. The review, like other forms of expository writing, has an introduction, body and conclusion, well-formed paragraphs, and a logical structure. However, in other kinds of expository writing, we use relevant literature to support the discussion of our thesis; in a literature review, the literature itself is the subject of discussion.

The review literature is an essential component of any research investigation, which gives necessary input to the investigator to frame the research study on the chosen topic. It sets an investigation in the right direction, which would keep abreast of the latest developments of the subject. A literature review gives an overview of the field of inquiry, what has already been said on the topic, who the key writers are, what the prevailing theories and hypotheses are, what questions are being asked, and what methodologies and methods are appropriate and useful. It is a partial summary of previous work related to the field of the study. A careful review of literature enables the researchers to collect and synthesize prior studies related to the present study. Thus in turn it helps in firm building a better perspective for further research and helps in avoiding duplication in research.
A critical literature review shows how prevailing ideas fit into our own thesis, and how our thesis agrees or differs from them.

A literature review develops the skill in two areas:

Information Seeking: The ability to scan the literature efficiently using manual or computerized methods, to identify a set of useful articles and books.

Critical Appraisal: The ability to apply principles of analysis to identify unbiased and valid studies.

To get the background information about the topic of the study and to start the work properly, it is important to scan the available literature on the topic. The review was done from the primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information. After getting the basic idea about the type of information to be collected, two questionnaires were designed which were basically used for collecting the data and information on Women's Studies and this process continued throughout this work.

The thesis is based on literature search and analysis of concepts related to Women's Studies, Documents and Documentation, Information Resources and Bibliometric analysis. For study and analysis of existing literature, documents are collected from different sources, such as LNB Library of Dibrugarh University, KKH Library of Gauhati University, Central Library of Delhi University, Central Library of JNU, Central Library of Calcutta University, Library DRTC, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore; Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University; Women's Studies Research Centre, Gauhati University; Centre for Women's Development Studies, Delhi etc. Alongwith these, lots of information are collected
While conducting the study different types of micro and macro documents are consulted. The literature review is organized in the areas, such as Women's Studies, Documents and Documentation, Information Resources and Bibliometric Analysis. The areas are organized in a systematic order from general to specific topic. Under each area the reviews are organized under the headings Macro, Micro and Online Literatures; wherever available. Regarding online literatures, some literatures may have print as well as online versions, in which case the version which is used by the researcher is considered under that section. In case of chapters of books, if the complete book is on Women's Studies and the researcher is considering a particular chapter helpful for the thesis, then the review is considered under Macro literature. Within Macro, Micro and Online, the literatures are organized according to chronological order of publications. Following are some of the literatures, from where ideas are borrowed while preparing the thesis:

**Women's Studies**

Women's Studies is an academic discipline which has its own identity and autonomous existence. It has over a period of time developed its own theories based on feminist concepts, and evolved its own methodology that is distinguished from the varied precepts and methodologist adopted by "mainstream" discipline (Kaushik, n.d.).
Women’s Studies was sometimes referred to as the ‘Academic arm of women’s movement and a critical instrument in the educational process’ (Sharma, 2002).

John (2008) provides a map of the development of Women’s Studies and the ever expanding terrain that it has been investigating. The introduction explores the growth of the field from the upheavals of the 1970s to the transformed conjunctures of the 1990s. In the process, the often elusive relationships between Women’s Studies, the women’s movement, and the structures of higher education are highlighted. This reader is for both newcomers to Women’s Studies and for those who have long been part of it.

Mathu (2008) discusses the importance and trends of Women’s Studies research and issues relation to incorporation of Women’s Studies in curriculum along with the theoretical perspectives of studies. Towards the end the author puts some suggestion towards strengthening the Women’s Studies centres in India.

Khanduja (2005) identifies some important trends relating to emerging needs in the content and pedagogical approaches of women’s study, examines the place of Women’s Studies in the educational structure in the Indian context, giving special emphasis towards practical strategies to make Women’s Studies an integral part of the system of education at all levels.

Poonacha (2003), in her book *Understanding Women's Studies* provides a basic concept of Women’s Studies. Also provides an overview of the socio-political and economic conditions that triggered the resurgence of feminist consciousness in
the 1970s. The role of caste, kinship and family ideologies in determining gender roles, violence against women, women's economic contribution to the family and society, education of women in India and women's political participation etc are some of the other issues discussed in the book.

Jain and Rajput (2003) aims at documenting the history of Women's Studies in India and with this view the book brings together the personal accounts of seventeen scholars and activist who have initiated and/or nurtured centres for Women's Studies in India. The book of Women's Studies Centres covered here represents the entire range of the Women's Studies family- from centres embedded within the university system or supported by state-run institutions to independent institutions that sprang up in response to the women's movement.

Women's Studies is no more a new subject in India and lots of literatures are coming up in the field and the subject is moving towards getting a status of academic discipline. Unlike of the literatures in the area, which are case studies in the field, the book by Thara Bhai (2000) is giving a theoretical framework in the field in Indian context. In the later part of the book the author applied different methodologies, such as content analysis, case study

Pillai (1995) in the chapter on Education and Empowerment of women discusses the nature of research on Women's Studies and the changing trends in methodologies adopted for Women's Studies research in India during 20th century.

The note on Women's Studies and the university system (1986) defines Women's Studies, its objectives, importance of Women's Studies in educational
system and provides a history of various attempts towards development of Women's Studies curriculum in India.

The article by Krishnaraj (2005) argues for research in the subject to be imbued with more vigour. This implies a greater self awareness and also an understanding of past and of earlier endeavours and interventions. Emphasise on carefully adopting methods and methodologies to suit the nature and circumstances of the study. Discuss various aspects associated with oral history as a method of data collections.

Poonacha (2003) examines the political impulses that led to the development and growth of Women's Studies scholarship and programmes within an outside the university system. The paper also discusses the theoretical developments of the Women's Studies and their implications for political action.

Bhagwat (2002) provides explanation and experiences of the institutionalization of Women's Studies in the Indian context. Particular reference is made of WSC of Pune University. The paper provides important glimpses of how a particular centre has been able to grow and survive in spite of severe problems and uncertain future. Concludes with some future visions regarding academic development of the centre.

Pappu (2002) begins by mapping the moves by which Women’s Studies was designated as a field of study within the academy, also tracks the parallel history of how other research centres came to be established outside the university structure.
The paper also discusses a major lacuna in Women’s Studies, that is its pedagogical dimension and some discussions of the problems that Women’s Studies faces today.

Sharma (2001) reviews the evolution and development of Women’s Studies in India from the time of its first emergence that is in the mid 1970’s. The paper also discusses various pressures encountered by Women’s Studies during its different stages of development and also identifies new challenges faced by Women’s Studies towards the end of the century.

Mazumdar (1994) discusses the impact of women’s movement on Women’s Studies in India and how far Women’s Studies is able to sustain the strength and deepen the sociopolitical impact in women’s movement.

Mazumdar (1985) looks at the causes of the development of women’s study in five phases starting from the second quarter of the 19th century. The author identifies different issues that gave rise to women’s question in different phases such as colonial system of education, rise of cultural nationalism and revivalism, as a counter attack to the spread of western influences and values in our society, involvement of women in nationalist movement, colonial transformation of economy and towards equality report. Critically examines the representation of women’s issues in research and writings and briefly discusses the activities of different programmes which reflects the women’s situations and problems. In her paper discuss the emergence of women’s issues in Indian context. She has divided the history starting from 19th century till today into five phases, analyzing the reasons behind coming up of women’s issues in different periods.
Mitra, Bhatia & Chatterjee (2013) begin by tracing the development of WS in India and conducts a content analysis of syllabi from ten Indian universities that offer WS degrees and certificates. Offers a critical assessment of some of the complexities experienced by WS practitioners and strategies to overcome them. The paper discusses WS in India with two broad research questions: Are WS programs in India institutionalized? Has Globalization impacted the WS curricula in Indian Universities?

Anandhi, Swaminathan & Padmini (2006) attempts to explore how Women's Studies was defined and carried out within the academic institutions of higher education in Tamilnadu. Based on a survey of academic institutions that are engaged in Women's Studies, this paper attempts to provide an account of important trends and directions that Women's Studies has taken over the years in Tamilnadu and its implications for the developments of Women's Studies as a discipline.

The paper by Libertin (1987) argues in favor of both men and women working together to strengthen and broaden Women's Studies programs in existence and encourages the creation of more programs and more study of gender issues.

**Document and Documentation**

Ranganathan (1963) viewed document as a synonym for "embodied micro thought" on paper "or other material, fit for physical handling, transport across space and preservation through time"
Old confusions between medium, message, and meaning are renewed with digital technology because technological definitions of "document" become even less realistic when everything is in bits. The scope of documentation has also extended in recent time to cover the digital documents.

Documentation is a practice concerned with all the processes involved in transferring documents from sources to users. The volume and variety of documents are immense and consequently procedures of handling them are often pragmatic. Nevertheless, principles emerge that may be applied in practice. It is these principles that we may call ‘concepts of documentation’ (Vickery, 1978).

Guha’s (1999) book on *Documentation and Information* is considered to be an important element of teaching. The first chapter starts with the concept of documentation. The next discusses about sources of information and users of information, considerable emphasis has been given on the topic of information services and products. Next some chapters devoted to the organization of information, use of citation, bibliometrics and the last part discusses the changing perspectives in technological, international and national level to which documentation activities will have to be adapted.

Bose (1993) in his first chapter *The transition* provides an overview of documentation with its origin and growth, documentation scenario in India and abroad and the transition of documentation from manual to computerized system.

Kawatra’s (1989) book *Fundamental of Documentation* can be considered as text in the field documentation providing national and international scenario of
documentation, a chapter on textile information and documentation in India, a chapter on sources of information with a list of various information sources in India in some of the selected subject areas such as economics and statistics, science and technology etc. Some other areas are given due consideration such as microform documentation, abstracting and indexing, thesaurus construction, information storage and retrieval, management information system, technical writing and computer application to library and information activity.

Warwick (2009) discusses the importance of documentation for digital humanities resources, which includes technical document of textual markup or database construction and procedural documentation about resource construction. A case study is presented of an attempt to reuse electronic text to create a digital library for humanities users, as part of the UCIS (User Centered Interactive Search with digital libraries) project. The article describes the problems that may emerge when documentation of digital resources is neglected.

Hazarika (2006) explains different steps involved in preparation and extension of SDI services using libsys, based on the users feedback, some limiting factors are identified which need to be considered for better flow of information in the system.

Adio (2005) examines the possibilities of establishing national documentation services in Nigeria specially in the field of science and technology. The paper also touches briefly on the provision of indexing services in the social sciences.
Dutta, & Das (2005) discusses concepts of document and documentations from various view points. The scope and feasibility of considering natural objects as most fundamental or truly primary documents have been discussed here.

Kesarwani & Bhat (1986) stresses the need for taking up documentation activities in university libraries in India to meet the challenge of information age. Discusses the present position of the documentation services provided by university libraries of India, giving certain observation and offering suggestion relating to the areas where these services could be made most effective.

Cremer (1978) highlights the developments in the field of documentation with the use of computer and communication technology, also points out some technological problems coming out with the development of computer and communication technology such as copyright, data protection, automatic text handling etc which must be solved.

Vickery (1978) discusses documentation in the light of Ranganathan’s five Laws of Library Science. Discusses different aspects of documentation such as users and use of information, information demand and information access and communication.

Viswanathan (1976) discusses the nature and importance of documentation in an information system, beginning with some well established definitions of documentation.

Frohmann (2009) discusses various definitions of document and locates the benefits of extending the concepts of document and documentations.
Hobohm (1999) studies the nature and trends of use of information resources by the social scientists and analyses the reasons behind the particular behavior of social scientists Information Seeking, use and non-use of some information sources, and emphasizes the need for worldwide endeavour towards collection, organization and communication of Social Science Information and documentation.

Wilson (1999) explains how digital signatures are used and online information authenticated, and paint a picture of the future documentation environment utilizing trusted electronic credentials for professionals.

Michael (1997) discuses the various definitions developed by Paul Otlet, Suzanne Briet and such others regarding *What is Document?* as an attempt by the author towards defining *What is Digital Document?* and argues for extended scope of documentation to cover digital documentation.

**Information Resource**

Information for a common man is anything that makes him identify and understand an entity in its totality and helps him to plan further course of action. In the context of libraries, information is viewed as data processing, more as collection building, its process, storage in a systematic order, for the purpose of retrieving the information as and when required quickly to serve the users in a form which is convenient and familiar to them.

Information has only recently been accepted as a national resource that is susceptible to study using techniques that have been developed and applied to other areas of human Endeavour. Information is considered as a resource considering that
it is essential to productive success as are raw materials and skilled staff. But information needs to be controlled, manipulated and managed. The effective use of information results in maximized benefit in the field of trade and commerce which also signifies the economic importance of information.

Lal & Pathak (2005) discusses characteristics of information as an economic commodity. Classifies the information economics and mentions topology of information activities such as education research and development media of communication, information machinery and information service.

Yadav & Kulshreshtha (2005) define the term information resource, historical perspectives to electronic publishing. Categorizes information resources as primary secondary and tertiary resources and concludes with some advantages and disadvantages of electronic information resources.

Laloo (2002) starts her book with a chapter on information providing concepts of information, information need and information seeking behavior and goes on to discuss the information need and information seeking behavior of different categories of users such as scientist social scientist, doctors, teachers, businessmen and citizen as a whole.

Singh & Sharma (2002) addresses some key issues related to the collection development of electronic information resources in an academic library environment. Discusses the nature of electronic resources and the importance of electronic information for academic library especially for university library.
Khan (1998) traces the importance of information, the sources of information, developments in the communication of information, along with the changing trend of information access, organization and retrieval.

Sharma (1990) mentions the role of information sources as bridge to eradicate Illiteracy around the world. Narrates the importance and describes various information sources. Traces Government of India’s plan for eradication of illiteracy in the international literacy year 1990. Describes the role of libraries, library consciousness, users’ attitudes and willingness towards library services.

Hoel (1978) discusses the nature of information as a resource like other natural resources, which cannot be distributed freely and on the other hand information is also viewed as a human right and its use should not be restricted to those only who can pay for it.

Evans (2011) provides some working definitions of information. The paper looks at the premises that underlie the provision of modern information services and the development of the concept of information as a resource. Information technology is viewed as a powerful tool in harnessing the full benefits of information in national development and in the realization of the development of the information economy.

Bibliometric Analysis

Bibliometrics is a type of research method used in library and information science. It utilizes quantitative analysis and statistics to describe patterns of publication within a given field or body of literature. The Bibliometrics information associated with a publication includes author, affiliation, citations from other...
publications, co-citations with other publications, reader usage, and associated keywords. Research evaluation is increasingly making wider use of bibliometric data and analyses. Bibliometrics is the analysis of data derived from publications and their citations. Publication of research outcomes is an integral part of the research process and is a universal activity.

Researchers may use bibliometric methods of evaluation to determine the influence of a single writer, for example, or to describe the relationship between two or more writers or works. The volume of bibliometric studies reported in the literature is big and difficult to put together and compare. Bibliometric methods, however, give opportunities to describe the content, structure and development of research and bibliometrics is becoming more important as a basis for the collection development in research libraries. Out of a good number of citation studies consulted during my research work a few of them are mentioned below:

Bibliometric Studies edited by Devarajan (1997) contains 15 learned articles that are prepared on the basis of the survey and research carried out by experts in the field of LIS by the application of bibliometrics in different areas of study alongwith two theoretical chapters on Bibliometrics and Scientometrics.

Jena, Swain & Sahoo (2012), in the study of Annals of Library and Information Studies from 2002 to 2010 reveals that the contribution of articles to each volume of Annals of Library and Information Studies is constantly increasing for year to year and found that journal citations are predominant followed by books and web resources.
Thanuskodi (2011) in his study of the journal *Library Herald* for the period 2006 to 2010 reveals that the highest number of articles appeared in the area of library automation in the subject library and information science and most of the contributions are from India with 89.85% and highest contributions were universities with 27.54% contributions.

Pradhan, Panda & Chandrakar (2011) presents the trends in authorship pattern and authors collaborative research in Indian Chemistry literature from SCI-Expanded database during the period 2000-2009. The study concludes that multiple authorship research are predominant as compared to solo in case of Indian research in Chemistry.

Wani & Gul (2008) highlights the growth in the scholarly literature from different points of view through an analysis of SCOPUS. The analysis provides estimates of the research productivity of different reasons of the world. The study shows that Europe leads the world in scientific production and the physical sciences are the dominant disciplines.

The study made by Wani, Bakshi & Gul (2008) provides a detail description of library and information science literature published in various formats. Also gives a thorough insight of the growth and development of library literature in a chronological order from 1850’s to 2000’s. The decade of 1980’s ranks first with 19.44% publication which is revealed from the study of Library Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA).
The article by Zainab (2008) indicate how the growth and pattern of women studies in Malaysia can be gauged from resources listed in two published bibliographies on women in development in Malaysia.

Gupta (2007) traces the history and growth of LIS marketing literature. While journal articles books are major sources of information on LIS marketing, the study also reveals the new sources such as the newsletters and different forms of internet resources on LIS marketing.

Cronin, Devenport & Martinson (1997) analyses the articles and acknowledgements appeared in three pioneering journals in Women’s Studies, Signs, Frontiers and Feminist studies over a period of twenty years. Analyses authors and acknowledgees in terms of gender also conducts content analysis of all editorial statements published by these three journals and reveals a high level of sole authorship and a preponderance of female over male authors.

Vimala & Reddy (1996) studies the trend in authorship pattern and collaborative research in zoology with a sample of 19,323 journal citations figured in the theses on zoology accepted for the award of the doctoral degree by Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, India. The study indicates that although multiple authorship is dominant, solo research also exists.

Saraswati, Rajagopal & Kanakachary (1993) aims who know the growth of literature of tribal linguistics, the authorship pattern, the distributions of publications in different forms and years etc., based on a bibliographic word “Tribal Linguistics in India: a bibliographical survey of international resources”. The study shows that
most of the publications are with the single authors only and many of the publications of Indian tribal languages are from Dravidian family of language groups.

The paper by Kannappanavar & Nulvi (1991) studies the productivity pattern of authors in the literature of rural transformation. A comprehensive bibliography on rural transformation compiled by NIRD (National Institute of Rural Development) was taken as the main source. The study results that solo research is very prominent in this subject.

Sen & Chatterjee (1990) reviews the scientific status of information Science and growth of quantitative studies in library and Information Science leading to studies in bibliometrics. Defines bibliometrics, scientometrics, informetrics and librametrics. Facets of bibliometrics and librametrics have been categorized. Towards the end some studies in the field of bibliometrics is reviewed.

Upadhayay, Ghosh & Sengupta’s (1989) study is based on the data relating to breast cancer derived from CANCERNET database. A study of 845 specific items of information on breast cancer reveal collaborative nature of research on the study. Along with authorship pattern language and geographic distribution of contributions, the study also furnishes a rank list of journals which reflect the most preferred media for communication of breast cancer research results.

Subramanyam (1983) in the paper Bibliometric Studies of Research Collaboration; a review, identified several type of collaborations such as teacher-
pupil collaboration, and collaboration among colleagues etc. and also some of the earlier researches on collaboration has been reviewed.

Munshi & Pant (n.d.) analyses Indian Nuclear Science Literature published during 1991-2000, based on the subject search, along with country search in the Science Citation Index database. It was found that on an average 20.47 citations were appended to each article and 5.63 citations were used by each contributing author in the decade.

Pritchard (1969) discusses the use of the term statistical bibliography in different times by various authors and by analyzing the definition and purposes of statistical bibliography, the author justifies the use of the term bibliometrics over statistical bibliography for the studies to quantify the process of written communications.

The above literature review comprises only a small portion of relevant literatures available in the area of Women’s Studies. The researcher has tried to combine the concepts of Women’s Studies and Documentation of Information Resources on Women’s Studies to fulfill the requirements of the research study. During the literature review it is found that previous work in this combined area is very less, therefore only some relevant literatures on the key issues are included here.