CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
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As the social science research gained momentum, the need for specialised form of information to researchers also grew. As the required information is to be well processed before its dissemination, it is essential that information is well organised before it is presented. The variety of documentation services extended by the research LICs met certain specialised academic needs of the researchers, but with the advent of communication technologies, the job of these LICs became easier. The new technologies inspired most of the specialised LICs to impart Information Services using these modern and innovative technologies. Soon, these LICs got a status of automation and a few of them also started using Information Technology for their clients. But still the status of automation of these LICs was not as bright as it should have been. Different factors have hindered the growth and development of these LICs in a variety of ways. The dissertation completed by Chowksi on "Computer Application in the Libraries of ICSSR Institutes: An Evaluative Study" indicate the various library operations of these LICs, which are automated. The studies related to IT Applications in Social Science Research Libraries in India emerged only after having studied about computerisation in these LICs. This was perhaps the first study being done for ICSSR LICs automation. It was indeed essential in Information Age to reassess the status of these ICSSR LICs in terms of not only their automation status but also the use of Information Technology in these LICs. In view of this, it would be useful to get an overview of the major findings of certain selected studies, which might be quite useful in identifying the broad spectrum of library automation and status of IT applications in ICSSR LICs.
In order to conduct this study, a number of published and unpublished work, primary and secondary sources have been surveyed. The studies based on social sciences or ICSSR Research Institutes were consulted, among which a few were Ph.D. Theses on growth of social science research libraries in India. A number of ICSSR published work by S.P. Agarwal gave a broad view of the Library and Information services, social science libraries in India and Documentation facilities provided therein. DARE data of UNESCO provided the data and information on growth of social science research institutes in India over a period of time. A number of research articles, discussions and commentary given in Economic and Political Weekly, Frontline and Northern India Patrika were also studied to understand the need for quality social science research and the current scenario in social science research. The profiles of all the ICSSR Institutes and their Libraries were also consulted in order to get complete information about their structure and profile. This was apart from the questionnaire, which these Libraries filled up. The informal discussions with ICSSR/NASSDOC and the Librarians of ICSSR Institutes was very encouraging and inspiring.

For the purpose of reviewing the literature available on this work, the classification of the theme has been done according to chapterisation. To begin with, basic literature search was done for the first chapter, i.e. Introduction, where a report of Social Science Research Council (SRC), Working Paper Series, New York on Social Science Research Capacity in South Asia by Chatterjee Partha, provided a lot of details regarding the growth of social sciences in relation to financial issues also. Mathews, P.M., "Is Social Science Research Dying?" in Economic and Political Weekly, Vol.XXXVII, No.35, 2002, discussed the problems related to social science growth and its status in India. Singh Prem, Managing Technological Changes in Libraries in Administrator, Vol.36, No.1, 1991 highlighted the changes brought about in libraries due to

The third chapter on *Social Science Research in India: A State of Art* concentrates on the genesis and growth of social science research in India. Binwal in his book *Social Science Information: Problems and Prospects* highlighted about social science research in India in Part-II section through contribution of a few papers on the topic. The paper by Kaula, on *Social Science Research in India: Genesis, Development and Trend* not only identified the various disciplines in social sciences but also showed the growth of social science research in India.\(^7\) The development of scientific methodology of social science research along with need and trends in social science research. Mohanrajan in his paper (in the same book) entitled Paradigm for Social Sciences in India defined the social sciences showing its emergence and importance of research as introspected by various Indian social scientists. In *Library and Information services in India* by Agarwal, S.P. emphasizes was laid on the availability of well equipped library and information services for advancement of education. This would help us to achieve the objectives of higher education and research.\(^8\) The paper by Agarwal, S.P. on *National Social Science Documentation Centre in the Journal*
International Library Review stressed on requirement of information centres for providing specialised services so that the LICs should function as acquisition oriented institutions. The information should be well generated, collected, handled and transferred. Agarwal, S.P. in his book Development of Library Services in India: Social Science Information again stressed that LICs are an important source of data collection and the LICs which are strong infrastructurally can coordinate to for their own network. He also stressed on formulation of a National Information Policy and the need for linkages and resource sharing among various information centres.

The gradual efforts towards building social science research in India is shown by the coordinated efforts put in for various aspects of social science research. An important move in this area was by the Research Programme Committee of the Planning Commission, which emphasized on encouraging, integrating and financing different research schemes in the country. This was again emphasized by Agarwal, S.P. in his book Concepts in Communication Informatics and Librarianship-I. Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi, in its seminar on Methodology of Social Science Research recommended various ways to encourage not only social science research but also social scientists to adapt to certain methodology and standardization in research studies.

UNESCO has also put in tremendous efforts to encourage, enhance and recognize social science research. Kaula appropriately mentioned the contributions of social science research by UNESCO in his paper mentioned above. UNESCO established a Research Centre on Social Implications of Industrialization in South Asia. The Department of Library and Information Science, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, organised a very significant National Seminar in 1988, which held discussions on the themes like structure and development of social sciences, information needs and user
studies, characteristics of social science literature and its availability, and information systems, services and planning.

The issue of funding of social science research evolved way back in 1970s by a study sponsored by ICSSR in 1974-78 carried out by J.L. Azad, Suresh Kulkarni and S.V. Khandelwal. The study was novel and comprehensive in itself and covered 181 research institutions of all kinds and from all regions. The findings concentrated mainly on the research and infrastructural facilities and staff strength. This situation as compared to 1960s was far more improved. The funding found a major source from Central Government in all the regions except South, where it was through the State Governments. Chatterjee’s report on behalf of Social Science Research Council (SSRC) on social science research capacity in India in 2002 stressed on the issue relating to all the states especially South and East. Other regions were more fund starved. Some similar issues were raised for discussion by Deshpande, in *EPW*, September 6, 2002, on Social Science Research capacity in South Asia. Ghosh, Partha also raised the issue of the status of social science research and the role of ICSSR in the same in *EPW*, February 27, 2001 issue. Kaula discussed in his paper for IASLIC, Social Science Research and its problems in India from the view point of academic and research infrastructure available in the research Institutions. Mathews emphasized on the fading status of social science highlighting its causes in “Is Social Science Research Dying?” in *EPW*, January 6, 2001.

While most of the social scientists like Sethi, Harsh in Social Science Research, Economic and Political Weekly, September 30, 2000, Vaidyanathan, A., Social Science Research in India: Some emerging issues, Economic and Political Weekly, January 13, 2001 discussed about social science research India about its pattern, development and
trend. On the other hand, some others like Joshi, P.C. in Some Basic Issues of Social Science Research and Role of Research Institutes in ICSSR Newsletter, April-September, 1981 and Kurien, C.T., Social Science Research and Research Institutes in ICSSR Newsletter, 12.2.1982 discussed the social science research in India with special reference to contribution and role of research institutes. Most of the social scientists posed a worrying picture of social science research in India and its fading and dying status in Indian context and in context of the role of research Institutes in India.

In the chapter fourth on "Comparison of Existing Resources and Facilities of ICSSR Research Institutes LICs", mostly the annual reports of ICSSR were consulted for a detailed year wise and comparative budgetary figures. The details about the resources, facilities and services were supplemented by Tyagi, K.G. Directory of Social Science LICs in India, New Delhi; ICSSR 2001 along with the questionnaires filled up by the respective Librarieans. Devarajan in Library Computerisation in India, New Delhi: ESS ESS Publishers, 1990 provided need and steps for library computerisation. Vashishth in Library and Information Services in India, Delhi, Indian Library Association, 1989 highlighted the Library and Information Services in India with special reference to modern services to readers. The various ICSSR Annual Reports from 1995-96 to 2002-03 provided a lot of first hand literature especially the budget allocation to each Institution. In the chapter fifth on "Status of IT Applications in ICSSR LICs viz-a-viz User Satisfaction" emphasis is laid on the overview of Information Technology (IT), its use in general, why we have marched towards IT, its use for LICs and how the development of computer and communication technologies have revolutionized the modes and methods of Information Storage and Retrieval. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development discussed on Information Technology for Development; Advanced Technology Assessment System, Issue 10, Autumn 1995. The
document provided an overview of IT in general, its utility at the global level in the various spheres and sectors of the society.  

Kuldip Chand in his book Current Trends in Information Technology: Impact on Information Scene in India, emphasized how IT is now increasingly used in Library operations, database creation and searching, networking, online services, DTP, etc.  


Dubey in his edited book Information Technology and National Development which is an offspring of the International Conference on Information Technology and National Development, held at Banaras Hindu University, in December 1991. The papers in general was based on the effective use of IT sector which provides a unique opportunity for our country to accelerate its development efforts.  

Chandra Ramesh in his book Technological Change in Libraries, discussed how the electronic and digital system brought about a remarkable revolution in the functioning of LICs which also led to computer-oriented and on-line technologies.  

Prasher in his book Indian Libraries in IT Environment provides contribution of various papers which broadly talked about how LICs scene is changing fast in the face of new challenges and in response to new demands. The advent of new technologies and their application in LICs work and services is further accelerating the pace of this change.  

Nair in his book Internet for Library and Information Services provides complete knowledge of internet for providing information services or for retrieving documents and information required for research and teaching. Various techniques of using Internet is also highlighted.  

Raina, in his publication of IIML-MANLIBNET, 3rd Annual National Convention on Business
Librarianship and Information Services: From Independence to Interdependence, compiled the conference papers which emphasized in its part-I of Technological Perspective about the Information Services in Business Libraries by way of integrating it with computing services. Kakkar, Anuradha's paper on Technological Applications and Management of LICs in ICSSR laid emphasis on the technological changes being brought about as a result of IT usage and in view of the changing user needs of social scientists with special reference to ICSSR LICs. Brittain, in his book Information Technology in Special Libraries discussed the various ways in which the IT may be utilized in special libraries and providing various IT products and services. Navalani in his book Library and Information Services is a compilation of papers based on empirical research and critical evaluation of the changing scenario of library and information science in its various facets, not ignoring the contribution of IT in providing various information sources, its trend and impact on dissemination of Information. Gaur in his volume on Business and Management Libraries: Opportunities and Challenges in the 21st Century, the challenges in business librarianship, knowledge management, resource sharing and networking, information infrastructure and IT deployment in LICs has well been covered in the book. Marsterson in his book Information Technology and the Role of the Librarian defined the role of Librarian in order to justify information services. The IASLIC Conference, 1995 on Information Technology products of 1990s and Library and Information Centres laid complete stress on the various IT products and services and how most of the LICs are utilizing them and providing databases, network and other services for the users. The chapter by Girja Kumar on Defining the Concept of Information Needs in the Book Social Science Information: Problems and Prospects by Binwal discussed the objectives of imparting information skills by identifying, translating and matching the conceptual framework of a user to that of the information system.
The book by Girja Kumar and Krishan Kumar on Philosophy of User Education discussed about the users in detail, their profile, changing needs and their satisfaction in terms of matching their academic needs with the existing information system. The chapter on Information Needs of the Social Scientists in the book Social Science Information and Documentation by S.P. Agarwal talked about building up the resources should largely depend on the requirement and its meaningful projection by way of in-depth understanding of the user needs especially with reference to the resources available in India for social scientists. Sethi, A.R. in his book Information Searching Behaviour of Social Scientists gave a complete picture of the changing academic needs and searching behaviour of social scientists and how the Information Scientists can help them in this situation. Sridhar's book on Library use and user research: with 20 case studies is an unusual compendium of twenty independent case studies on the same set of library user population conducted over a decade or so. This provided a picture of the user requirements in the past and the changing user needs. This indicates that understanding of the user becomes very essential. Laxman, Rao, N (ed.) of the publication Responding to User Needs in Changing Information Landscapes, conference papers of 49th All India Library Conference, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi stressed on the overall changing information scenario and information services taking care of changing user needs.

In the Chapter sixth “National Information System (NIS) and Network of ICSSR LICs” various documents on the need for National Information Policy and designing the NIS were consulted. Agarwal, S.P. in Handbook of Libraries, Archives and Information Centres in India, Vol.V, gave a paper on National Information System in Social Science and emphasized that setting up of NISSS would be a step towards not only adding dimension to research in social sciences in India but also coordinate the
information activities in social sciences in the country. In the same document Rajagopalan and Rajan emphasized on the National Information Policy for India and the other chapter on Agenda for a National Information Policy wherein emphasis was made on the need and formation of a NIP. Anon in his presentation on National Information Policy on behalf of the committee on National Policy on Library and Information System, New Delhi presented his views on NIP formulation to provide uniform information services to users. Barna on National Policy on Library and Information Systems and Services for India: Perspectives and Projections, emphasized that why NIP is necessary and what are its objectives and basic issues to be dealt with which would also help in framing a National Information System to provide accurate user services. He suggested to bring about more LICs to be part of the integrated network in order to let India move towards 21st century. Binwal in his book Social Science Information: Problems and Prospects in Part-V of the book, i.e. Information Systems and Services compiled a number of valuable contributions by different authors on social science information systems and services and their dissemination technology wherein all the papers centered round the concept of application of Information Technology for developing bibliographical databases and databases and the use of communication networking is the need of the hour to increase accessibility to national and international information sources by the Indian social scientists. This would in turn help the Information Managers extend better and accurate services to the users. Gupta, B.M. in his edited book Handbook of Libraries, Archives and Information Centres in India, Vol.8, gave a broad picture of the modern developments of the information science and the way India is trying to forge ahead in consequence with the developments taking place the world over.
In the section **Planning of a National Information System Network** various documents were consulted which provided a clear picture of what are the essential prerequisites followed in some of the other famous national networks of the country. Kaul in his book *Library Networks: An Indian Experience* stressed on why should networks be made and how to plan a library network for the benefit of information managers and the user community.⁵⁴ Kaul in his book *Library Resource Sharing and Networks* emphasized on how can library network contribute to resource sharing cost-effectively.⁵⁵ Kumar, P.S.G. in his paper on *Information Service for National Development: The Indian Context* in the journal *Herald of Library Science* 24(1-2), pp.30-35, emphasized that development involves information and knowledge inputs of scientific and technological research and their application since there are new needs and demands of information today.⁵⁶ Ladner in his book *Networking by Special Libraries and the role of Special Libraries Association* in *Special Libraries, 80*(2), 1989 detailed the prerequisites of networking of special libraries and the type of network required for special libraries and the role special libraries association play in formation of NIS and networking.⁵⁷ Khanna in his book *Handbook of Library Information Systems and Services* stressed that the recorded information in itself is of no use unless it is stored in an easily retrievable manner so that it can be made available for use promptly, conveniently and economically and with precision to the users in a form or language suitable to their needs. In view of this, he detailed a number of networks like NISSAT, AGRIS, INFLIBNET, and other *Documentation Centres of India*.⁵⁸ Kaul, H.K. and Baby, M.D. in the edited book *Library and Information Networking NAACLIN 2002, DELNET, New Delhi* highlighted the current concepts on the Digital Divide with special reference to Library and Information Networking in India.⁵⁹ Mukhopadhyay in his paper *Social Science Information System and Information Technology: Problems and Possibilities in*
the book by Buriwal, Social Science Information: Problems and Prospects emphasized that our libraries must get systematized by adopting common standards. Information Technology helps us to use alternative means to maintain standards for easy and efficient handling of information and eventually formation on networks.\textsuperscript{60} Kamath in his book Role of a Special Library in a National Information System in Indian Libraries: Trends and Perspectives (ed.by) K.M. George stressed on the contributions that can be made by the special libraries in formulation of a National Information System. Since these libraries are rich in information resources, which can be utilized to share them and form a NIS.\textsuperscript{61} Kapoor and Ghosh in their paper for IASLIC Conference 1977, on Planning of National Information Network discussed the objectives, steps and basic issues to be taken care of while planning of a NIS.\textsuperscript{62} Raina in his book Library Resource Sharing and Networking took up the similar issue linking all the Indian Institute of Management Libraries cost effectively. The model suggested the sharing of journals since a major amount of budget is involved in it.\textsuperscript{63} Sengupta in his paper published in International Library Review, 19(1), 1987, titled Planning of a National Information System gave view of planning of NIS along with its utility to the readers at large.\textsuperscript{64} University Grants Commission published a report on Development of an Information and Library Network, 1988, emphasized on the utilizing of information resources by way of formulation of a NIS so that these resources may be shared by way of framing a network for the same. This has been also the brain child for INFLIBNET.\textsuperscript{65} Vashisht in the book Computerisation and Library Network emphasized on how uniformity in library automation, creation of databases and the concept of resource sharing may help the LICs to share their valuable resources by way of networking them.\textsuperscript{66} Agarwal, S.P. in his book National Information Resources for Social Sciences in India stressed on the importance of linking information and user requirements. The book makes out a case
for setting up three apex national bodies which would make every endeavour to coordinate the activities and obtain cooperation of individual information centres within a predetermined framework.  

67 Sreedhar, G.S. (ed.), in Networking Educational Institutions gave a path to network academic institutions to share information resources to satisfy user's need.  

68 Vittal, N. in Information Technology and Library Networking: The Challenges Ahead in DELNET Newsletter, stressed on how Information Technology could be helpful in Library Networking so that more and more information is provided to potential users for accurate retrieval and timely dissemination.  

EMERGING CONCLUSIONS  

The foregoing review of the literature on the subject relating to Automation and Application of Information Technology in Social Science Research LICs in India enables us to derive certain significant conclusions, which are recapitulated through the following paragraphs:  

Firstly, there is a steady growth in social science research which is interdisciplinary character has given way to probe and inquire into other disciplines. This has not only promoted but also strengthened the synthetic tendency of social science and gave way to further research. Gradually, more and more academic bodies got into social science research to accelerate the social and economic development of a nation. The research patterns took a definite shape like development research, applied research, oriented fundamental research and free fundamental or pure research. Thereby, research witnessed some changes and it was research by teamwork or research-in-series. There was more flexibility in research and a definite development of research methodology was adopted by the social scientists. Thus, not only the role of social scientists was important but the functions of research organisations also became
challenging. There was more and more need of well documented research literature for researchers and dissemination of research literature required suitable and advanced library techniques. With the advancement of technology, this dissemination of information became very easy for the information managers. Most of them felt that the use of Information Technology Products not only helped the Information Scientists but also the researchers.

Secondly, in order to provide modern automated services to their users, there is no separate budgetary provision for the development of ICSSR LICs either from the parent body, i.e. ICSSR or at the Institutional level. Yet, some of these LICs are not only automated but are also using IT products. This is due to their own efforts by way of obtaining one time grant from various sources. Most of the LICs are providing CD-ROM databases, in-house databases and Internet facilities to their users. The users of ICSSR LICs find the in-house databases, automated CAS/SDI services and documentation services extremely useful. Yet, Internet browsing is the most popular source of exploring information at the global level. The user’s future information needs in the context of electronic information environment still needs to be assessed.

Thirdly, the macro and micro level studies cited above generally indicate that a lot of efforts has been made in past over establishing a National Information System in Social Sciences with a view to take steps to improve library services in the country, both by the professional and government bodies. Though NASSDOC supports the research and development efforts in social sciences but yet no final shape has emerged as far as formulating of a NIS Network is concerned. In view of this, it is felt imperative to carry out the present study in the context of understanding social science research, providing research facilities and infrastructure, understanding changing user needs in view of the
technological advancements and thus forming a National Information System Network in Social Sciences. In this study, it is proposed that a NIS Network of ICSSR LICs be formulated with the initiation of ICSSR/NASSDOC, which may workout to provide these LICs financial assistance. This dissertation is also emphasizing to study the status of IT applications in ICSSR LICs since most of them are automated and the ones, which are not automated, are still far from doing so. But prior to this, efforts have been made in the following chapters to analyze the reason of these LICs lagging behind in modernisation and examine the relevance of application of Status of Information Technology Applications in the ICSSR LICs. Thereafter, these ICSSR LICs would reach a state having sound infrastructure so that they can easily be part of the National Information System Network in either of the three phases as proposed in this study. In the light of this, the selected hypothesis is further examined for carrying out the proposed work.
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