ABSTRACT

The researcher has chosen the topic “An evaluative study of Collection Development, Organisation and Management among Public Libraries in Chennai” for the purpose of the study in consultation with Research Supervisor. Generally public libraries are, for the public, by the public and of the public. Public library is a nonprofit organisation maintained for public use. The thesis comprises of collection development, organization and management in public libraries. In public libraries we have the users with different age groups of people right from child to old persons. Their qualifications vary from illiterate to highly literates, and their professions namely from labourer to IAS Officers. So, the public library should cater to the needs for heterogeneous group of these people. The public library includes buildings, materials, furniture, computer systems, and other infrastructural facilities. Building the collection of books is equivalent to building beehives. It requires collection, storage and dissemination of information to the user’s community. One quote is from library: “If you visit me today, the world will visit you tomorrow”.

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan who is considered as father of library science has prepared a Model Public Libraries Act. ‘Madras Public Library Act’ was the first act across India. The researcher explored the history of the public library movement and the library legislation. The study describes the role of RRRLF in the promotion of the public library activities in various dimensions. The Act of various State public libraries was discussed elaborately. One of the aims of the public library is ‘to reach the unreached’ and ‘to make everyman a success and no man a failure.’

Collection development is the process of meeting the information needs of the people in a timely and economical manner using information resources locally held, as well as from other organisations. Public Libraries in Chennai are governed and controlled by District Central Library under the guidelines of the Directorate of Public Libraries. This study has attempted to analyse the requirement of public library users in Chennai. It also describes the growth of the collection development in the Chennai region public libraries. The Government of Tamil Nadu and RRRLF are providing more funds to the public libraries for the development. Majority of the funds are focused to meet the information