ABSTRACT

1. GENESIS OF THE STUDY

The University Grants Commission and State Governments are providing financial assistance to the university libraries in India for building up collection of the library, construction of library buildings, purchase of computers and other equipment required for supporting the teaching and research activities in the universities and colleges. University libraries are playing a vital role in providing library services to support research conducted in various departments in the university. Questions are nowadays raised whether university libraries are providing adequate library services to their users? Whether the readers are satisfied with these services? To find out answer to these questions, it was thought necessary to inquire in a systematic manner into all aspects of library services given in the university libraries in Maharashtra, in order to improve upon the library services given at present.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the growth, development and working of the libraries of non-agricultural universities in Maharashtra upto 1997.

2. To study the efforts made by these libraries to develop the infrastructure facilities and for collection development for extending adequate and effective library services.

3. To compile data regarding the Basic Library Services and Readers’ Advisory Services given by the libraries.
4. To study the information products generated by the university libraries for the use of the readers.
5. To study the problems faced by the university libraries in giving these services and to find out lacunae in the present system.
6. To study the attempts made for inter-library cooperation and resources sharing.
7. To study the efforts made by these university libraries for computerization of their libraries and its impact on giving library services.
8. To find out the strengths and weaknesses of the library services provided by the Jayakar Library, University of Pune and to suggest measures to improve upon the library services.
9. To describe the programme of National Assessment and Accreditation Council for Accreditation of universities in India with special reference to university libraries.
10. To suggest a future plan for augmenting library services using Internet resources with special reference to Jayakar Library.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey method is the best method to know the present situation of the topic for research. Hence a survey has been undertaken with the help of questionnaire designed for this purpose. As the data received from the questionnaire was inadequate, the researcher visited the libraries and collected data for this purpose from variety of documents and in person. In addition, the librarians and library staff members of these universities have been interviewed.

In order to understand the background of each university library, information sources relating to the history and development of libraries such as annual reports, statistics, records maintained by the libraries have been consulted and utilized. Some of the documents generated by University Grants Commission have been consulted.
4. UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN MAHARASHTRA

The study includes study of non-agricultural universities in Maharashtra established by the "Maharashtra Universities Act 1994" of the Maharashtra Government. The following University libraries have been included in this study.

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Library, Mumbai University, Mumbai
2. S.N.D.T. Women's University Library, Mumbai
3. Nagpur University Library, Nagpur
4. Amravati University Library, Amravati
5. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library, Aurangabad
6. Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Library, Nanded
7. Jayakar Library, University of Pune, Pune
8. Barrister Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur
9. North Maharashtra University Library, Jalgaon

5. THE ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

The study has been organised in seven chapters. Chapter one covers purpose of the selection of the topic, overview of the education in India, role of university libraries in higher education and University Grants Commission's role in strengthening university libraries. The objectives of higher education have been stated. Review of literature covers forty studies in the world, eight studies in India and twenty six studies relating to Jayakar Library, University of Pune. The aims and objectives are discussed, research methodology used for the study and outline of the study has been given.

Chapter two covers a review about, growth and development of libraries of non-agricultural universities in Maharashtra upto 1997 laying down firm foundation of these libraries.

Library services are grouped under two categories i.e a) Basic Library Services and b) Readers' Advisory Services. Chapter three deals with basic library services. The basic library services include circulation service, reading room service, home lending service, inter-library loan service, document delivery service. The indicators for performance measurement have been suggested to assess each library service.
Chapter four deals with Readers' Advisory Services which include reference service, documentation service, guidance to the user of library, Current Awareness Service, Selective Dissemination of Information service, Bibliographical service, services provided for two or more campuses, services to university departments, services regarding manuscripts, services provided to industries, translation service, services to university authorities and extension services.

Chapter five deals with university library services in Internet era. Challenges and visions faced by university education in 21st century as predicted by eminent educationists have been presented. With this background academic libraries in Internet era are described. In order to prepare for the future, efforts made to computerize the libraries in Maharashtra have been described. Estimates of library services that can be generated due to automation have been presented. Contributions of UGC, INFLIBNET, etc. are described. Development of Metropolitan Library Networks in Maharashtra are discussed.

In Chapter six, an assessment is made of the library services given by the Jayakar Library based on questionnaire distributed to students, teachers and research scholars and other readers for this purpose. An attempt has been made to find out strengths and weaknesses of the Jayakar Library services. Based on this analysis, suggestions have been made to improve the library services of the Jayakar Library, a sort of self-appraisal, to do better. Rationale and guidelines for assessing the university library services as framed by NAAC have been described. A resume is also given about the concept of Total Quality Management in library setting.

The seventh chapter includes findings of the study and suggestions for improvement of library services. A plan has been submitted to augment the Jayakar Library services using Internet resources. Areas for further studies and research have been identified.

This text is supplemented by Bibliography, Tables and Appendices.