5.1 West Bengal College Libraries

In West Bengal 17 general government colleges and 375 non-government general colleges are imparting higher education. These are affiliated to five general universities. Out of these only “46 colleges are imparting PG education”\(^\text{1}\). The colleges which have opted to offer PG courses are naturally regarded as pioneers. Out of the 46 PG college libraries only 16 post graduate college (one-third of the total number of PG colleges) libraries have been chosen for the study. These include 12 government college libraries, two non-government college libraries and one autonomous college library. The present situation in these libraries is briefly described below.

5.1.1 Government College Libraries

(1) Presidency College Library (1817)

Presidency College, the parent body of the aforesaid library, is a leading post graduate college affiliated to Calcutta University, established on 20th January 1817 as Hindu College. At present it offers undergraduate and post graduate courses and facilitates for research in humanities, science and social sciences. The college has five main library viz. Science Library, Arts Library, Economics and Political Science Library, Hindi Library and Centre for Economic Studies Libraries along with separate departmental libraries.
The college does not have a separate library building. All libraries are scattered in different corners of the college building. Total library space is about 6000 sq ft. Libraries function from 10.00 AM to 5 PM on weekdays and 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday. On an average libraries work for 40 hours per week. The college has approximately 2500 student-users, including 679 PG students and 66 Ph. D scholars. The total library collection consists of 3.5 lakh books and 1.5 lakh bound volume of periodicals. At present the libraries subscribe to 35 journals, and receive 16 complimentary journals. There are other materials including CDs and floppies. The college has 11 posts of librarian but only five librarians are working at present (six posts are lying vacant till date). There are also 12 group-D staff. One post of cataloguer is also lying vacant. All branch libraries provide reading room service, lending service, photocopy service also provide CAS and SDI service in a restricted way. Documents are kept in closed access and are processed by the DDC scheme and AACRII-R. A huge number of un-processed books are lying in the stack rooms. There is no provision for co-ordination and co-operation with other college libraries. OPAC and Internet facilities are available.

The libraries are governed by a library committee and the senior most librarian acts as a convenor of that committee. The libraries receive grant for procuring books and journals from the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal and the UGC. No information is available regarding the amount of grant allocation for last few years. Recently the library received a special grant (app. 2 lakh) from National Archives of India for preserving the library materials especially the rare ones.
The automation project started with CDS/ISIS package. Casual library workers were appointed in 1997 for data-entry job. They prepared bibliographic database for 15,500 books. The project ran for two years (1997-1999). Before completing total bibliographic database the college procured BIBLIOSYS-a nonstandard library software from Data Core Ltd. in 1999 with a contract for retro conversion of the entire library collection. But the task remained unfulfilled. Ultimately, it was felt that with BIBLIOSYS it was not possible to build a standard bibliographic database. The libraries procured LIBSYS-4, a standard software in 2005 to achieve the goal. Due to lack of planning, professional and technical expertise, shortage of staff and fund, the automation project still remains incomplete. Hopefully, it will be completed in near future. At present the libraries of Presidency College are run both with the help of the computer as well as through cumbersome manual system. In the college official web-site www.presidencycollege.org there is very brief information about its libraries. The college is accredited by NAAC as A+ grade college. The UGC has certified this college as a centre ‘with potential for excellence’.

(2) Bethune College Library (1879)

One of the leading women colleges situated in Kolkata, Bethune College, under the direct control of the Government of West Bengal was established in 1879. At present it offers UG and PG courses, and facilities for doctoral research. The college has approximately 600 students including PG students. The college has two libraries such as Science Library and Arts Library. The college has some departmental libraries also. The
libraries remain open from 10.00 AM to 5 PM on weekdays and functions from 10AM to 2PM on Saturday. On an average libraries work for 39 hours per week. All the students, fifty teaching staff and other staff members use the libraries regularly.

The collection consists of 70,000 books, 32 journals and 10,000 bound volumes of periodicals. The college does not have a separate library building. Data about the library space is unavailable. It has two posts of librarians for two libraries. six group-D staff are also working in the libraries. At present one post of librarian is lying vacant.

The libraries are governed by a library committee. Teacher-in-charge-library is the convenor of the library committee. Library books are kept in closed access and are processed by the DDC scheme and AACRII-R. The libraries provide reading room service, lending service. The libraries offer OPAC, Internet and photocopying facilities. There is no provision for co-ordination and co-operation with other college libraries.

The libraries receive grant for procuring books and journals from the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal and the UGC. No information is available regarding the amount of grant allocation for last few years. Recently the libraries received a special grant from National Archives of India for preserving the library materials especially the rare ones.

Bethune College Library started the library computerisation in 2000 with the UGC heritage grant. The library automation project was completed in time due to proper
planning and uninterrupted fund supply. A multi user software (BIBLIOSYS) was installed, server computer was connected with hub having 32 ports at the very initial stage for providing fully automated service in a networked environment. The first system worked up to the mid 2005. In 2005 the library shifted to the second system LIBSYS for providing better service to the user and developing a network among the units of the college library. The college has a homepage www.betunecollege.ac.in which contains a brief information about its libraries. The college was graded A by the NAAC in 2006.

(3) Maulana Azad College Library (1926)

For the spread of general education among the Muslim youths Maulana Azad College was founded in 1926 in central Kolkata. It was known as Islamic College. After the independence it was renamed as Central Calcutta College and it was open to all students, irrespective of religion, caste or creed. The college was later renamed as Maulana Azad College. In 1996-1997 the college was declared as a co-educational institution. The college is affiliated to the University of Calcutta. It offers both UG and PG courses. M.Sc course is imparted only in Zoology. The college has been granted academic autonomy for imparting post graduate education under the umbrella of the University of Calcutta.

The college has a general library and some departmental libraries. The library remains open from 10 AM to 5 PM on weekdays and 10AM to 2PM on Saturday. On an average library works for 39 hours per week. The feeble staff-strength does not permit any
extended service even during the university examinations. The library has no separate building of its own. The carpet area of the library is 6000 sq ft. It possesses 99,972 books. Books are kept in open access. The library subscribes to some journals also (the exact number of journals is not available). Books are arranged in open access. There is a huge number of rare manuscripts in Arabic, Persian and Urdu literature in the library (the exact number of manuscripts is not available).

Recently the library received a special grant of Rs 780,000/- from National Archives of India for preserving the library materials, especially the rare ones. The conservation work is going on in the library. Library books are processed by the DDC scheme and AACR II-R. It provides lending service, reading room service, reference service, photocopy service. It offers OPAC and Internet facilities to its users. Library is providing Internet facility but its speed is not up-to-the mark, not to the satisfaction of the users. Two librarians and three group D staff serve in the library. There is no provision for semi professional staff in the library. There is no provision for co-ordination and co-operation with other college libraries.

Very recently the library has started shifting its gear through library computerisation. In the first step the library has developed a bibliographic database of its own collection. The library has installed ULIB software. The library is running in both traditional mode and by using computer. Casual library workers have been appointed for the data entry job. LAN facility is available in the college for using Internet. A separate networking facility exists in the computer lab and the library. Library database is not connected with LAN.
The library is governed by a library committee and its convenor is the librarian. The library is financially supported by the Development Grant from the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. The UGC provides grant for book and journal purchase. An amount of Rs 7,00,000/- has been spent in the past five years for purchasing books and journals. There is no provision for fund-raising programmes as it is a government college. The library infrastructure fails to meet the demand of the 21st century college community. The library uses pesticides for preserving documents.

The college has its web-page at www.maulanaazadcollege.org. Some information regarding library is available on the web-page. The college was graded B++ by the NAAC in 2006.

(4) Lady Brabourne College Library (1939)

This is a leading women’s college in West Bengal, established in 1939. Initially it was established to impart education to the Muslim girls. In course of time it has been transformed into a general women college. At present it offers UG and PG courses and research facilities. It is affiliated to the University of Calcutta. For PG courses the college got academic autonomy in 2005. The college has 19 departments in Humanities, Science and Social Science. There are 1500 users including PG students and full time teachers, research scholars and other staff members.
The college has a general library along with departmental libraries. The general library functions for six hours a day (10 AM to 5 PM) and for 4 hours (10 AM-2 PM) on Saturday. On an average the library works for 39 hours per week. The total library collection consists of 1 lakh books and 387 bound volumes of periodicals. There are 300 non book materials including CDs and floppies. The total number of users is approximately 2000. The college does not have a separate library building. It possesses three separate halls for reading room, computer lab and library stack. Total library space is 6000 sq ft. The college has one librarian (two posts are vacant) and four group D staff. Library books are processed by the DDC scheme and AACRII-R. It provides reading room service, lending service, photocopying service, CAS and SDI for its users. OPAC is available for bibliographic search. There is no provision for co-ordination and co-operation with other college libraries. Internet facility is available to users (restricted use).

The library has a library committee. The Teacher-in-charge- library is the convenor of the said committee. The library is financed by the Department Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. Development grants from West Bengal Government are received for purchasing books and periodicals. The UGC provides grants for library collection. Recently Lady Brabourne College Library received a grant of Rs 6 lakh from National Archives of India for preservation and conservation of age old documents and other purposes. There is shortage of grant for library contingency and AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) for maintaining the library equipments. During the last five years the library received on an average Rs.1.5 to 2.5 lakhs for book purchase. During Ninth Five-Year Plan period the library purchased a computer and a library software. With the grant from the Tenth Five-Year Plan the library procured 3000 books.
Lady Brabourne College started to change its system in 2000. The college bought a multi-user library software BIBLIOSYS and started to develop a database in 2000. Till now bibliographical detail of over 66000 books have been entered into the database and 20,000 books have been bar-coded. Circulation system is running both by manual process and using computer. Initially the manual library system was not in a standardized format. At present the library is partially computerised, but a part of the collection remains uncoded. Library computerisation project had been started in 2000. The project has not been completed in due time because of the shortage of manpower, shortage of fund and lack of knowledge. Moreover, there was a lack of planning at the initial level. Very recently Lady Brabourne College library has installed VLIS- a library management software launched by Ballygaunge Vivekananda Centre For Library and Social Services (A Govt. registered non-profit organization for the cause of library ). However, the said software has not yet been tried or tested in any library. The library has taken a new move for system changing. The college has a website www.ladybrabourne.com. It provides a very brief information about the library. The college was graded A by the NAAC in 2006.

(5) Bidhannagar College Library (1984)

Bidhannagar College, Salt Lake, Kolkata was established in 1984. It is affiliated to the University of Calcutta and is under the administrative control of the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. Initially it was providing under graduate education in sciences, arts, and social sciences. Since 2004 it has been imparting PG education in Zoology and Microbiology.
The college library has an area of 2000 sq ft. The library remains open from 10.00 AM to 5 PM on weekdays and from 10AM-2PM on Saturday. On an average library works for 39 hours per week.

Total student strength of the college is 940 (UG 880 and PG 60 ). Two research scholars are doing their Ph.D work in this college. The entire academic community of the college uses the library. Reading room provides 100 seats. Total collection of the library is 40,000 books. The library is manned by one qualified librarian, one library assistant and one group-D staff. The library provides lending service, reading room service, photocopying service and reference service. The library offers OPAC facility. There is no provision for co-ordination and co-operation with other college libraries.

The financial condition of the college library is much better than other colleges in West Bengal. The library is administrated by a library committee. Teacher-in-Charge-library is the convenor of the library committee. Bidhannagar Government College is comparatively newly founded college among the colleges under study. So, most of the reference sources it possesses are recent. The college has planned for a new library building. Books are arranged in open access unlike the other college libraries in West Bengal. For classification the library uses DDC and for cataloguing AACRII-R. A huge number of un-processed books are lying in the library stack room.
Computer has been introduced for mechanizing the library management system. The library has installed ULIB software for developing a computerised library database. An outside agency has taken the charge of the system change.

The college received Rs.4 lakh on an average during last six years from the State Government as it is a new college. During the Ninth Five-Year Plan period the UGC provided Rs. 1 lakh for purchase of books. In the Tenth Five-Year Plan period the college has got Rs. 2 lakh from the UGC for books and periodicals. The college has no homepage of its own. Brief information about college library is available through www.indiaeducationernet.in (institution/profile. asp no 002158). The college was graded B++ by the NAAC team in 2006.

(6) Hooghly Mohsin College Library (1836)

Hooghly Mohsin College was established in 1836. Initially it was affiliated to the University of Calcutta. Since the inception of Burdwan University it has been imparting both UG and PG courses as an affiliated college of Burdwan University (1963). The library does not possess a separate library building. The ground floor of the main building has been functioning as a library. The library has 3900 sq ft area. Hooghly Mohsin College library works in three shifts. The library remains open from 7 AM to 7 PM on weekdays. Saturday is a half-working day. Students enrolled in morning section use the library only in the morning shift from 7AM to 2PM. Similarly for day college students and evening college students the library remains open from 10AM to 5PM and 2PM to 7 PM respectively. On an average library service is available for 44 hours a week (per
The library possesses 130,000 books and subscribes to 17 journals. 2700 students, 85 faculty members and other staff members use the library. The space is very limited in respect of the number of users. Library provides reading room service, reference service and lending service. The library offers OPAC to its users. Internet facility is available in a very restricted way.

There are four qualified librarians, one library assistant and four group-D staff. Number of library staff is very few compared to the user number. Presently one post of librarian and one post of library assistant are lying vacant. Books are kept in closed access and are processed by DDC. Most of the books are catalogued by AACRII-R. Some books remain unprocessed. The library works in an isolation, without any co-ordination and co-operation with other college libraries. The library is governed by a library committee. Librarian is the convenor of that committee.

The library started computerisation since 2000. At the initial level the college purchased two computers, one printer and an integrated library software TLMS (Total Library Management System) with the UGC Ninth Five-Year Plan grant. Librarians are preparing database using TLMS for general library. Law section of the library has installed WINISIS (WINDOWs version of CDS/ISIS) for making the bibliographic database. Of late, the retroconversion process for old books is being carried on. Standalone TLMS software does not provide the multi-user facility. Hence the library has shifted to LIBSYS software for completing the system mechanization. The regular activities of the library is still running in a conventional mode. Internet facility is available in the library. Lack of fund, manpower, and proper planning are the causes of the delayed library automation.
Funding agencies, both the State Government and the UGC, are usually releasing grant for purchasing books and periodicals. Hooghly Mohsin College received Rs 300,000 for book purchase from the State Government Development grant during last five years. During the Tenth Five-Year Plan the library received Rs. 5 lakhs for books and periodicals from the UGC. In 2005 with the financial and technical support of MCIT, Government of India a venture has been taken for digitization of old and rare books. Preservation of books is carried on by using pest control by an outside agency.

The UGC had granted a special fund for constructing a standard library building before a decade ago but the Department of Zoology had taken over the possession of that building. The library is still located at the ground floor of the main building. Hooghly Mohsin College has a home page www.hooghlymohsincollege.org containing a very brief information about its library. The college has been graded B++ by NAAC.

(7) Chandannagar Government College Library (1891)

The origin of Chandannagar Government College can be traced back to a French Primary school. With the passage of time this institution developed as College de Bussy in 1931. In 1948 this college was renamed as Chandannagar Government College. This is the only college in West Bengal where French is taught at UG level. During 2001-2002 the college had introduced PG courses.

The College possesses a library since its inception. The library has no separate building. It occupies 6000sq ft area of the ground floor of the main college-building. There is a
provision for departmental libraries along with the general library. Faculty members of the concerned departments monitor the activities of the departmental libraries. It is a three shift college but the library time is from 10AM to 5PM on weekdays. Saturday is a half working day. On an average library works for 39 hours per week. In the morning and in the evening the library is not providing support in a proper way. The total student strength is 2400 at the UG level and 300 at the PG level. All student members and 88 faculty members use the library. Other staff of the college are also entitled to use the library.

Books are kept in a closed access. Documents are processed by the pretty old version of DDC and AACRII-R. The number of un-processed books is limited. Before NAAC accreditation a lot of renovation took place in the library. The library holds 90000 books, 21 journals and 120 bound volume of journals. 20 per cent of the total area is being used as the reading space for the readers. Till now the library follows the cumbersome traditional method of working. Library is manned by two professionally qualified librarians and one group D staff. There is acute shortage of staff in the library. Lending service, reading room service, photocopying service, reference service are being provided for the users. It offers OPAC also. Library has its own fumigation chamber. An outside agency takes care of the preservation work. Recently the library has received a grant from National Archives of India for protecting age-old valuable documents.

The library is governed by a library Committee. A teacher-in-charge-library is the convenor of the library. The library is financed by the State Government and the UGC.
During last six years the Government development grant was Rs 2 lakh per year on an average. UGC sanctioned Rs 2 Lakh and 2.5 Lakh during the Ninth Five-Year Plan and Tenth Five-Year Plan period respectively.

Recently the library has installed LIBSYS software. Library automation project has been started recently by an outside agency. Library has no web page of its own. The college has been graded B++ by NAAC (2006).

**8) Durgapur Government College Library (1970)**

The college was established on September 15, 1970, with affiliation to the University of Burdwan. It is offering UG courses in arts, science, and commerce stream and PG courses in Geology. About 4500 students are at present studying in this college. There are approximately 60 faculty members and 30 part time lecturers. The central library is an asset of the college. It is located in a small separate two storied building having 1500 sq ft area. The library works for seven hours (from 10 AM to 5PM) on weekdays. Saturday is a half working day. On an average it works for 39 hours per week. The collection is comprised of 60,000 books. The library subscribes to five periodicals. Besides the central library, each department lends books to the departmental UG and PG students through the departmental seminar library. The library is manned by two qualified librarians and one library assistant and one group-D staff.
The library provides closed access. The books are catalogued by AACRII-R and classified by DDC (22nd edition). The library is working in the traditional mode. It is providing reading room service, photocopy service, lending service to its users.

The library is governed by a library committee. Librarian is the convenor of the library committee. Library receives both State Government and the UGC grant for procuring books and journals. Data is not available regarding the amount of grant received during the last few years. Internet facility is being offered centrally (not in library) in a very restricted way. The library is functioning as a conventional college library.

In 2005 from the UGC-Tenth Five-Year Plan grant, SOUL (library software) had been acquired for the library system changing. The progress of work is very slow. Bibliographical data of only 1500 books have been entered in the catalogued module of the SOUL software. The library has no web page of its own. The college was graded B+ by NAAC. College has its own web-site www.durgaporegovtcollege.org containing a very brief information about the library.

(9) Krishnanagar Government College Library (1846)

Krishnagar Government College was established on 28th November, 1846. Since its establishment upto 1998 it was affiliated to the University of Calcutta. Now it is affiliated to the University of Kalyani. It is imparting PG education in Philosophy and Geography along with UG education in different subjects.
The college library has its own one story building (covering 1000sq ft area only). The college runs two shifts but the library works from 10 AM to 5PM on weekdays. Saturday is a half working day. On an average it works for 39 hours per week. The library infrastructure is not adequate. Library service to the users is not satisfactory. It houses 87480 books. There is no provision for journal purchase on a regular basis. Library books are arranged in closed access. Books are processed by the DDC scheme and AACRII-R. A huge number of un-processed books are lying in the library stack room. 2500 UG students, 200 PG students, 58 faculty members and a handful non-teaching staff use the college library. The library is manned by one qualified librarian; two posts of librarians are remaining vacant for a long time. There is no post for semi-professional staff in this college library. Only four group D staff work in the library. It provides lending, reading room and reference service only. The library is functioning as a conventional college library.

The library is administered by a committee convened by the Teacher-in Charge- library. It is funded by both the Department of Higher education, Government of West Bengal and the UGC. During last seven years the State Government has provided Rs 1,72,000 on an average per year. The UGC has provided Rs 300,000 approximately during the Tenth Five-Year Plan period. The major grant has been exhausted for the book purchase.

The library has taken a step to modernize its system of management through computerisation. Very recently an outside agency has taken the charge of data entry. The college has not yet been accredited. There is no web source for information about the college library.
The college was established in 1888. The college offers 12 UG courses and 3 PG courses. The members of library comprise 1550 UG students, 95 PG students, two researchers, 44 faculty members and 25 other members use the library. The college library has its own two storied building containing 5000sq ft floor space. The library functions from 10AM to 5 PM on weekdays and 10AM to 2PM on Saturday. The library possesses 55000 books and 37 CD-Rom disks. There is no regular provision for periodical subscription. There is a provision for departmental library in each department. Teacher-in-Charges of the concerned department takes care of the departmental libraries.

The library is manned by two qualified librarians and one group D staff. Three casual workers have been engaged for day to day library work. The books are arranged in closed access. Books are processed by DDC (18th ed) and AACRII-R. A huge number of unprocessed books are lying in the library stack room. At present it provides lending service, reference service and reading room service to users. There is no provision for photo-copying service in the library.

The library committee is convened by the Teacher-in-Charge-library and this committee holds the responsibility of the management of the college library.

It is funded by both the State Government and the UGC. The library received Rs 1,33000 on an average per year during the last seven years from the state government. During the Tenth Five-Year Plan period the library has received Rs 2,85,000 from the UGC. A major portion of this library grant has been used for book purchase.
Computerisation has not yet taken place in the college library. Very recently the college library has installed LYBSIS software. The college has not yet been accredited but it is reported that it is preparing itself for the accreditation by NAAC. The college has its own webpage www.abnsealcollege.org containing minimum information about the library.

(11) Darjeeling Government College Library (1948)

Darjeeling Government College was established in the year of 1948. Initially it was affiliated to Calcutta University. Since the inception of the North Bengal University it is affiliated to North Bengal University. Besides the undergraduate education it is imparting PG courses in Botany, Zoology and Nepali for the students of the hilly region. Seventy faculty members and a huge number of UG students (both Hons. and General courses) and PG students are using the library for their academic pursuit.

The library does not possess any separate building. The library officially remains open from 11AM to 5PM on weekdays. Saturday is a half working day. But the library actually operates from 12PM to 3PM. The college works in three shifts. There are 18000 students. The library consists of 68000 books. The library stack is located at the Annexe building. The books are kept in closed access. Books are processed by DDC (18th ed) and AACRII-R. A huge number of un-processed books are lying in the library stack room. Previous chapel building is now demarcated as the library reading room. There is provision for departmental libraries as well as a central library. All departmental libraries are looked after by concerned faculty members.
There are three posts of librarians at Darjeeling Government College Library. Two posts of librarians are vacant. The library works with the strength one librarian and four group D staff. The library follows the conventional method of service delivery. It provides reading room service and lending service mainly. The library services remain inadequate. Even at the time of examination there is no provision for extension of library service due to the poor infrastructural facilities.

The library is administered by a library committee. The librarian is the convenor of the said committee.

The Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal takes much care while providing grant to Darjeeling Government College as it imparts higher education to the students of the hilly region. The library grant is much more than any other government colleges in West Bengal. The UGC also provides a lump-sum amount for purchasing books and journals. Data is not available regarding the total amount of grant received during the last few years. Computer has been introduced in the library but it is not being used for housekeeping job. The web page (www.nbu.ac.in/dar1.html) which provides a very brief information about the college, has no information about its library.

5.1.2 Non-Government College Libraries – Four college libraries (serial number 12-15) have been chosen for the study.

(12) Midnapore College Library (1873)

Midnapore College was established in the year of 1873. Previously it was affiliated to the University of Calcutta. After the establishment of Vidyasagar University it came under
Vidyasagar University. The college provides UG (Hons. courses and General courses), PG courses (in Physics and Chemistry), and self-financing courses in six subjects. The college library serves 3000 UG students, 65 PG students, 10 Researchers and 70 faculty members.

The college library is located at the second floor of the UGC building. Total library space is 4284sq ft. In this two shift college, the library remains open from 6.30AM to 5.30 PM on week days. Saturday is a half working day. Students enrolled in morning section use the library only in the morning shift from 6.30AM to 2.30PM. Similarly for day college students the library remains open from 10AM to 5.30PM. On the whole the library functions for 44 hours a week for each student. The library does not extend its working hour beyond the class hour.

The library possesses 50000 (approximately) books and 1000 bound volume of journals. Reading space occupies 590sq ft area. 16 periodicals are subscribed by the library. Books are kept in closed access. Books are processed by DDC and AACRII-R. The library collection is preserved by using insecticides by the in-house preservation unit. Apart from this an outside pest control agency also work in the library from time to time. The library has 14 staff members including one librarian, one professional. At present times it provides lending service, reference service, reading room service and photo-copy service to its users. CAS and SDI services are also available for the users. The college library provides OPAC facility to its users.
There is a committee for administering the library as a whole. Teacher in-charge, library is the convenor of the library committee.

The library is funded by the Department of the Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, the UGC and college itself. The college received Rs 1,52,305 from the state Government in last two financial years. The college fund has provided Rs 10 lakh for purchase of computer, software and books during the last three years. The UGC provided Rs 3,85,000 and Rs 2,08,080 during the Ninth Five-Year Plan and Tenth Five-Year Plan period respectively. There is an enhancement in the UGC grant due to the PG course in Physics run by the college.

The library is partially computerised. The project for computerisation was started in 2004. Initially the library had installed SOUL but later shifted to LYBSYS. It is an accredited college having the prestigious A+ grade from NAAC. The college website www.midnaporecollege.org contains a very brief information about library.

(13) Ananda Chandra College Library (1942)

Ananda Chandra College was established in the year of 1942. Ananda Chandra College has two shifts (morning and day). The library of the college holds 6000sq ft area. There are about 36800 books in the library. The library remains open from 7 AM to 5 PM on all week days. Saturday is a half working day (6.30 AM-12 PM). Students enrolled in the morning section use the library only in the morning shift from 7AM to 1PM. Similarly
for day college students the library remains open from 11AM to 5PM. On the whole the library function for 44 hours per week. The library has a qualified librarian and other nonprofessional staff. Information regarding the number of library staff is not available. It provides reading room service, lending service and reference service to its users. For PG students there is no extra privilege from the library. The library provides reprographic facility. The college has a computer centre but there is no direct interaction between the computer centre and the library. The system of operation is still manual. The computer centre provides the Internet facility to the students.

The college library is guided by a committee. The library is running with the college fund and state government contribution and UGC grant.

The college library is trying to change its system through adoption of information technology. The authority of the college is trying to release funds available from the UGC and state government for procuring computers. The college has its own web site www.accollege.org containing minimum information about the library. The college has been graded B++ by NAAC.

(14) RashtraGuru Surendranath College Library (1953)

This college was established on 19th September 1953. Initially it was established as Barrackpore Girls’ College. Later it was transformed into a co-educational college and renamed as Rashtra Guru Surendranath College. At present it is imparting PG courses as
well as UG courses and self financing courses in different subjects. The college is affiliated to the University of Calcutta; administered by the Governing body of the college under the umbrella of the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. This government aided college has the privilege of fund raising for the development of the college. During the present decade the college has developed its total infrastructural facilities.

The college possesses two campuses at 185, Middle Road and at 85, Riverside Road, Barrckpore. Total student strength is 4000 and number of faculty member is 70. The library is located at the River side Road campus. The library has an area of 1080 sq ft. The library works from 10AM to 6PM on weekdays and from 10AM to 3Pm on Saturdays. The entire college community uses the library. Ex-students are also entitled to use the library. Total book strength is 30000 including bound volume of journals. The library subscribes to 29 periodicals and 12 newspapers. The space available to the library is not sufficient according to the need of the users. Books are arranged in open access. Documents are organized by DDC scheme and AACRII-R. A huge number of unprocessed books are lying in the library stack room. The library provides reading room service, lending service, photocopy service to its users. The library provides all traditional service along with OPAC and Internet facilities.

The library is administered by a committee. The teacher-in-charge, library is the convenor of the library committee. The library is manned by one library assistant and one library clerk. The library is financed by the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, the UGC and college fund. Last year the college received a special grant from MP-LAD fund. The library received Rs 5,55000/- and Rs 8,97488
from the UGC during the Ninth Five-Year Plan and Tenth Five-Year Plan period respectively. The library hires out-side pest control agency for preserving its collection.

The library has introduced computer for its management during 2006. The library has installed a local made library software (Cella system). A separate LAN has been developed in the college. Library database is not connected with that LAN. The college has been graded B++ by NAAC in 2002. The college has its web-page at www.brsnc.com but information about the library is not available on that web-page.

(15) Scottish Church College Library(1830)

The college was established in 1830. It is affiliated to the Calcutta University. The library of the college has an area of 2000 sq ft. Its collection comprises of 76,428 books and it subscribes to 16 journals. 200 students visit the library daily. Apart from the central library the college has also class-libraries and departmental libraries. A total number of 2500 students (UG and PG courses) and 120 faculty members use the college library.

The Library is kept open from 10AM-5PM on weekdays. Saturday is a half working day. It functions for 44 hours in a week. The college has a central computer facility as well as each department is provided with one or two computers with connectivity. The library books are shelved in closed access. Books are organized by using AACRII-R and DDC (16th Ed). The library is manned by one qualified librarian and five supporting staff. It provides reading room service and lending service mainly. The library provides reprography, OPAC and Internet facilities.
The library is governed by a library committee and the librarian works as a convenor of the said committee. The library is financed by the college fund and the UGC fund. Data is not available regarding the fund allotted during last few years.

The college has a central computer facility as well as each department is provided with one or two computers with connectivity. Under the leadership of Computer Science Department, the college is working on interlinking of all the departmental computers under a single network. The college has more than 60 computers. 20 computers are placed in the library. At present the library is running in a traditional mode. Library automation is going on by using LIBSYS. The college website address is www.scottishchurchcollege.com. The information about the library is not available from the college web-site. The college has been graded A by NAAC. The UGC has certified this college as a centre ‘with potential for excellence’.

1.3 Autonomous College Library - one college library (serial number 16) has been taken for the study.

(16) St. Xavier's College Library (1860)

One of the reputed Kolkata colleges St. Xavier’s College was established in 1860 with an affiliation of the University of Calcutta. Very recently it has been declared as the first autonomous college in West Bengal by the UGC.
The college has six library units. The library system is fully decentralized. On the whole, the college has a collection of 100000 books in different libraries. Libraries function for 39 hours per week. Books are issued from 11-30 to 1 P.M. and from 1-40 to 3-30 P.M. The total library system is manned by a qualified librarian and a few supporting staffs. Books are organised by using DDC and AACRII-R. College libraries provide lending service, reading room service, photocopying service for its user community. OPAC and Internet are available for the users.

There is a library committee for administering the college libraries. Librarian is one of the members of that committee. It is convened by the Teacher-in-charge-library. The libraries are financed by the college fund and the UGC fund. Data is not available regarding the fund allotted during last few years.

St. Xavier’s college libraries have adopted information technology for their information management. All libraries have installed a multi-user library software LIBSYS for their document organization. Library computerisation is not yet in final stage. Libraries render service both by the traditional and mechanical way. The college was honoured with the tag of the UGC’s “Centres with Potential for Excellence”. It has its own web-site www.sxcel.edu containing a very brief information about the library. The college has been graded A by NAAC (1999).

Another library “The Goethals Indian Library & Research Centre” managed by the church also serves the St Xavier’s community. Apparently the Goethals Indian Library and Research Centre is not interrelated with the college libraries but to the members of the St Xavier’s College, the library and research centre is open, with prior permission.
5.2 Analysis of West Bengal College Library Situation

The analysis is based on filled-in questionnaires, communication with the library professionals (interview) and documentary sources.

5.2.1 Financial Situation

In West Bengal state government grant is not need-based, keeping in view of the student strength or the quality of the academic performance of the college. Presidency college, Hooghly Mohsin College and Darjeeling Government College are financially more privileged, as they receive the first priority in the context of development grant from the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. The Bidhannagar College and Haldia Government College get next priority. Other colleges being enlisted in “other 12 colleges” usually receive the rest amount for their development. The UGC releases grant considering the year of establishment of the college.

5.2.2 Physical Facilities and Organizational Structure

Most of the colleges do not have separate library building. Only three college libraries have their own buildings. Other college libraries are located in a corner of the college building. Except three libraries, all other libraries have closed access system. Libraries function only during college hours. Libraries function 42 hours a week i.e. on an
average seven hours per day. Students use the library in their off-period or recess hour for 105 minutes per day on an average (only 105 minutes in seven hours). Document organization is not always consistent in West Bengal college libraries. College libraries are without any integration with the affiliating university libraries.

In West Bengal the colleges offering PG courses are solely responsible for the academic performance of their students. Students are solely dependant upon the library services of the concerned college for their academic pursuit. This situation demands better infrastructure of the college libraries. Further to note that the absence of participative policy of library management poses a hindrance to the successful completion of a computerisation project in the college libraries in West Bengal.

5.2.3 **Staff Strength**

Similar problem arises in case of the staff pattern in the post graduate colleges of West Bengal. There is no staff pattern for the government college libraries. In non-government college libraries the existing staff pattern is very much back-dated and not need-based. The autonomous college library has the staff pattern which is not adequate for rendering useful service to their readers. It is observed that the PG college libraries, bearing the extra load of work are running short of library assistants/library attendants. The West Bengal college libraries are poorly staffed and for library computerisation work there is limited provision for out-sourcing.
5.2.4 Application of Information Technology

West Bengal college libraries have introduced the information technology in the college library activities since 1997. The library computerisation projects have not been completed in due time in most of the West Bengal college libraries because of the shortage of the manpower, shortage of fund and lack of knowledge and proper planning. They are still operating mostly in their individual conventional style. Library automation has just in its infancy in a handful of college libraries.

5.2.5 Accreditation

The State Level Quality Assurance Coordination Committee was constituted in 2003-2004 for the purpose of facilitating NAAC accreditation process for the colleges in the state. The study reveals that most of the colleges in West Bengal have already undergone the NAAC’s accreditation and have been graded B, B+, B++, A, and even A+ without having proper infrastructure in the library. Actually the NAAC team assesses the total quality of a college reviewing the different aspects of the college in the perspective of the fast changing higher educational scenario. The library of the college is one such part. So the NAAC-accreditation method allows a fractional opportunity for performance evaluation of a college library. Still the study reveals that the visit of the NAAC team rather indirectly accelerated the work of library reorganization.

Apart from the NAAC, the UGC provides a separate scheme for measuring the potentiality of colleges—“centres with potential for excellence”. Already three PG
colleges of West Bengal under the present study have been recognized as centres with potential for excellence. Its proforma is very much alike the NAAC’s one. The study reveals that some weaknesses are evident in both the NAAC’s and the UGC’s proforma meant for the “centres with potential for excellence” scheme in regard to the measurement of college library performance exclusively. Thus the college library potentiality can neither be judged properly by the NAAC nor by the “centres with potential for excellence” scheme.

5.2.6 Role of Library

Ideally, the college library’s worth is best judged by the role it plays towards the user community. Questionnaire –2 reveals that the libraries provide a meaningful role to the UG students only. PG students, research scholars and faculties are not satisfied with the close door library services. Thus the college libraries in West Bengal do not play their right role to the academic community. Till date these are considered as book borrowing centres only.

5.2.7 Measurement of Performance of Libraries and Librarians

(a) Since the very beginning, the potentiality of college library has been measured by the size of collection of the concerned library. Even today, a new course is being introduced in a college on the basis of the library collection on that particular subject. Just to reach the target of the UGC plan regarding the expansion of higher education (10 per cent of the population as prescribed in the 10th Five-Year
Plan) PG courses are being opened at colleges with utter disregard to the capabilities of the concerned libraries. A relevant observation made by Kothari Commission runs thus, “nothing could be more damaging to a growing department than to neglect its library or to give it a low priority”.

(b) Librarians are to submit their performance appraisal report to the concerned authority for twice only in the service career (at the time of their career advancement). No other means are in vogue to measure the performance of librarians in a regular manner in West Bengal colleges.

5.2.8 Measurement of Cost-Benefit Ratio

The study finds that no clear-cut method is followed to measure library output in terms of the cost-benefit ratio in the colleges in West Bengal. Receiving the grant, making use of the said grant somehow within the stipulated time period and submission of the utilization certificate to the UGC or other funding agencies with an authenticated audit-report seem to be the only responsibility of the college libraries. In many cases either proper items are not selected or non-standard equipments are procured for libraries. The following case stands as an instance of the same. The UGC advised the college libraries to start automation and modernization during 8th Plan period but even after the expiry of the 10th Plan the work of automation could not be finished because of the faulty plans and the use of defective software purchased from the allocated grant. The Planning
Commission of India set up a core task group in 1996 to consider the issues related to sharing of the resources of libraries. The report of the said Task Group suggested, “There are several packages for house-keeping function as well as information service activities. There is a need to adopt a few standardized packages to facilitate faster computerisation of library function. Development of the packages at every institution may not be needed.” The UNESCO had also distributed CDS/ISIS among the academic institutions, initially free of cost and later against Rs1500 only. In spite of the availability of the standardized packages most of the reputed college libraries of West Bengal wanted to install packages of their own choice, even non-standard ones, in absence of the necessary stipulation either from the UGC or from the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. Thus college library automation projects remained incomplete or became unsuccessful in many colleges in West Bengal. As there is no clear-cut method for measuring the cost benefit ratio against the allocated grants, exact situation remains veiled for a longtime. Unwise and uncontrolled spending of the UGC grant hardly enriches the library services. It only leads to a waste.

5.2.9 Measures Taken by the College Library Administrators

To keep pace with the fast changing situation in higher education field only one measure has been taken by the UGC i.e. to develop the college library infrastructure. The UGC provides special fund for library computerisation. As stated earlier, many college administrators have already received the special grant to computerize their library systems. Presidency College has taken initiative to computerize its library system
since 1997. By 2000 almost all college libraries under the study, such as Lady Brabourne College library, Hooghly Mohsin College library, Chandannagar College library, Maulana Azad College library etc. initiated computerisation of their library systems. By 2005 other college libraries have taken steps to apply IT in their library management. Of the colleges under the study, only Bethune College library completed the system changing project with some limitations within one year. The fact is this that the venture for library computerisation was undertaken in most of the college libraries in an unplanned way and its successful time-bound completion was not seriously thought of.
References


2. *ibid.* p 55.


4. INDIA, PLANNING COMMISSION. Report of the Core Task Group on Sharing of Libraries and Information, 1996 (recommendations -7.4) In MAJUMDAR (S), BHALLA (S C)and CHANDER (R), *Comp.* Compendium of select Government reports on LIS services in India. 2003; Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi. p 1017.