Chapter 6
CONCLUSION

6.1 Introduction

The primary objective of a University is to meet the needs of students who are interested in higher education. The University mainly stands for higher learning and research. The library is the heart of the University and it is a centre of collected documents and dissemination of information. The fundamental role of the University library is to impart education and support the teaching needs of the students, faculties and research scholars. The University library also performs the extension and publication of programmes.

Radhakrishnan Commission (1948) supports the needs of the University library in higher education. The Kothari Commission (1964-66) analyzed the Indian education system and stipulated the University library functions. The Salder’s University Commission (1917-19) also upheld the importance of library in a modern University. The Library Committee (1957) constituted by University Grants Commission headed by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan advised on matters relating to proper functioning of University libraries. University Grants Commission accepted the recommendation of the Ranganathan Committee.

In 2006, the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) came into existence and made some recommendations for institutions, National Mission on Library and Information Services (NMLIS) for creating, disseminating and preserving knowledge. The Knowledge Commission also gave importance to modernize the libraries and collection development.
In the present electronic environment, University libraries have built their collection on electronic and printed forms. They have incorporated modern web technologies to provide better, dynamic and user friendly services. University libraries are currently building healthy collection of full text journal in electronic format and continue to access various online databases.

The improvement in electronic library system has forced to review the library services and structures. The information services are provided through online. Information technology help the users to access the same information simultaneously, thus, costs are reduced and time of library staff in handling and shelving resources is minimized.

6.2 Summary and Findings

In chapter five of the theses a detail discussion on the analysis of data collected from the different University libraries of Assam regarding the Impact of Information technology on collection development in University libraries of Assam has been presented. This chapter highlights the major findings, observation and suggestions based on outcome of the previous chapter and prove the hypothesis, fulfill the objectives which are stated in chapter 1.

6.2.1 Meeting the Objectives

Keeping in view the issues on the impact of information technology on the collection development in University libraries of Assam, it was proposed to study the area with few basic objectives. These objectives have been given due importance while preparing the thesis. The way the objectives are studied and the results received have been recorded in the following few points.
Objective 1: To know the types of University library collection in Assam.

It has been found from the study that the major print resources such as books, theses, reports and other materials (special collection, databases and book bank collection) are available in all the surveyed University libraries of Assam. Among the surveyed library KKHL possess the highest numbers of collection which is followed by LNBL and BMPL respectively (Table 5.7).

Manuscripts collection is only available in KKHL [Table 5.7 and 5.7 (d)].

Bound periodicals are the important collection in University libraries to serve the library users. KKHL has the highest number of bound periodicals which is followed LNBCL and LNBL respectively (Table 5.8).

It is found that all the surveyed libraries are subscribing current periodicals, both at national and international levels (Table 5.9).

Geographical materials are available in KKHL & LNBL (Table 5.10).

It is found from the analysis that the surveyed libraries have a range of e-resources which includes the online journals, CDs/DVDs (Table 5.10 and 5.11).

CLNIT has higher number of e-journal collection in the year of 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 (Table 5.11).

Objective 2: To examine the expenditure for collection development in the University libraries of Assam.

There are different heads of expenditure in every year to purchase Books, Periodicals, E-resources, Library automation & Others (Newspaper, Binding & Furniture) in the University libraries of Assam (Table 5.12).
From the study it is found that the expenditure on book purchase is highest in LNBL (68.8%) in the year of 2012/13. In the year 2013/14 the expenditure on book purchase is highest in KKHL (60.4%). Again in 2014/15 the expenditure is highest in RLAU (83.9%) [Table 5.12(a), Figure 5.10].

In the case of periodical subscription, the rate of expenditure is higher in LNBCL (69.3%, 75.7% and 70.5%) in the year of 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. [Table 5.12(b), Figure 5.11].

In the year 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 the expenditure of e-resource subscription is highest in CLNIT (69.2%, 82% and 82.7%) [Table 5.12(c), Figure 5.12].

It is found from the study the expenditure of library automation in the year of 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 is the higher in BMPL (33.6%, 39.7% and 18.7% respectively). [Table 5.12 (d), Figure 5.13].

It is observed from the analysis that the expenditure of others such as newspaper, binding and furniture cost is highest in KKHL in the year of 2012/13 (5.9%) and in 2014/15 (7.4%). Again in the year of 2013/14 the others expenditure is highest in BMPL (9%). [Table 5.12(e), Figure 5.14].

**Objective 3: To find out the factors affecting collection development in the University libraries of Assam.**

The factors of collection development are the institutional goal, users’ community, existing collection, human and financial resources.

Library collection should support the goal of the institution. So, library should collect all the documents which are essential for the students, research scholars and faculty members. It is found from the survey, University libraries of Assam collect all the
materials which are important to the users’ community (Table 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 and 5.11).

Generally, the users’ community of the University libraries consists of students, faculty members, research scholars, officers and supporting staff (Table 5.6). It is observed that in the University libraries of Assam the students are the maximum numbers among the library users. The library authorities have formulated collection development policy according to needs of the users’ community.

To make the collection users’ oriented, collection evaluation is an important work for the library professionals. It is found from the study that all the surveyed University libraries used some criteria for collection evaluation such as amount of fund spent, number of books added, numbers of books borrowed, numbers of books consulted in the libraries (Table 5.34).

The most important factor of collection development in the University libraries is library grants. The present study has found that KKHL, LNBL, CLTU & RLAU received 85%, 80%, 90% grants respectively from UGC. BMPL received 80% grants from ICAR. LNBCL and CLNIT received 90% grants from MHRD. State Government University the libraries received 10% grants from the State government. Except KKHL the other surveyed libraries received 10% grants from University’s own fund. KKHL received 5% grants from University’s own fund. (Table 5.13, Figure 5.15).

To provide effective services to the users and help a balanced collection the library staff should be well trained. It is found in the study that the KKHL staff attended the training programme in CDS/ISIS, SOUL, Koha, DSpace and ETD. Professional staff of LNBL attended the training in CDS/ISIS, SOUL & ETD. BMPL staff attended the training in
CDS/ISIS, SOUL, Koha & DSpace. Staff of CLTU attended DSpace, ETD and LIBSYS training. RLAU staff acquired the knowledge of Koha and DSpace. Staff of LNBCL attended the training programme of DSpace and LIBSYS. Professionals of CLNIT attended only LIBSYS training (Table 5.5).

Objective 4: To study the selection criteria, acquisition process and weeding out of documents in the University libraries of Assam.

The selection of document in the libraries depends upon three factors; they are demand, supply and finance. It is observed that all the seven University libraries (100%) under study, the Head of the Departments and faculty members are playing active role in selection for library materials. In six University libraries (85.71%), the Librarian has responsibility for the selection of reference materials; in five libraries (71.43%), generally the vice chancellor participated in selection process. In BMPL there is a book selection committee. It is found that students are not involved in book selection process of all the surveyed University libraries (Table 5.22).

Collection development policy in the surveyed libraries the user’s needs are given the first preference than fund allocation. Circulation statistics, possibility of resource sharing, growth rate of publication and objectives of libraries guiding for collection development policy (Table 5.23).

It is found in the study that except RLAU and CLNIT the other University libraries were given rank one in the current value in respect of while selection of reading materials. All the surveyed University libraries were given rank two in significance of subject matter and given rank three in the price of documents. The KKHL, LNBL, BMPL and LNBCL were given rank four in accuracy of information regarding the
document selection criteria. In the document selection criteria the reputation of authors and publishers were given the rank five all the University libraries of Assam (Table 5.24).

Selection of documents is a very responsible work. The success of library depends upon the book selection process. If good books are selected, the demand of the library automatically increases. It is observed from the survey that the publisher catalogue, publisher websites and faculty recommendations are followed as source for selection by seven University libraries (100%). Book sellers list are followed by six University libraries (85.71%). Book reviews are followed by five University libraries (71.42%). The sources of book exhibition and directory of internet are followed by four University libraries (57.14%). Subject bibliography is followed by KKHL, LNBL & BMPL as a source for selection of documents (Table 5.26).

It is observed that books procured from vendor is the highest followed by publisher, book fair, directly from author and gift. KKHL procure 75% from vendor, LNBL procure 85%, BMPL procure 50%, CLTU & RLAU procure 80%, LNBCL procure 90% & CLNIT procure 75% from vendor (Table 5.27 and Figure 5.18).

Allocation of grants is an important factor for collection development. Newly established academic department of every University gets first preference in grant allocation. In all the surveyed libraries the strength of faculties, research scholars and students of the department are given the second preference for allocation of grant. Except KKHL the other University libraries under study are given rank three in subject (Department wise) for allocation of grant. In LNBL, BMPL, CLTU, RLAU, LNBCL, CLNIT allocated the grant in the physical form of document (Book, Periodicals) and has been given rank four (Table 5.25).
Stock verification and weeding out of documents are other issues considered in collection development process. It is found that in the surveyed libraries there is no regularity or schedules for stock verification. In KKHL, LNBL and CLNIT stock verification is done by the library administration. In BMPL and RLAU stock verification is done by external agency. In five University libraries (71.43%) the weeding out of documents are done on the basis of unused books, physically damaged books, older and outdated edition of books and duplicate copies of books. CLTU and LNBCL have not adopted the weeding out policy (Table 5.28 & 5.29, Figure 5.19).

Objective 5: To examine the used of information technology (IT) in collection development in the University libraries of Assam.

The Integrated Library Management Software is significant in collection development. The present study found that libraries are using different library automation software. Two libraries (28.57%) used SOUL 2.0 software. Three libraries (42.85%) used LIBSYS software, while Koha software is used by two libraries (28.57%) (Table 5.14, Figure 5.16).

It is found from the surveyed libraries that out of seven the six University libraries (85.71%) automated acquisition and serial control work. Seven libraries (100%) provide the automated cataloguing (OPAC) and circulation services (Table 5.15).

The study has revealed that all the surveyed University libraries are adopting IT for book selection and e-mail order to the supplier and vendor. It saves the time of the reader as well as library staff and fulfills the fourth law of library science. Six libraries (85.71%) use telephonic communication with supplier and vendor. Four libraries (57.14%) pay journal bill 10% to 30% through the e-payment mode (Table 5.30).
It is observed that all the surveyed University libraries (100%) used Barcode technology and CCTV. RFID is used by only two University libraries (28.57%), i.e., LNBCL & CLNIT (Table 5.19).

It is found that all the surveyed libraries (100%) have well established internet connectivity. Six libraries (85.71%) has Leased line connection. One library (14.29%) has VSAT and Broad band connection. In seven libraries (100%) the Internet service have been provided by the BSNL and in five libraries (71.43%) the Internet service have been provided through NKN (Table 5.18).

It is found that all the surveyed libraries (100%) have Document scanner and printer, Barcode scanner and printer, Photocopy and Projector facilities. Four libraries (57.14%) have Wi-Fi facilities (Table 5.17).

Now a day’s consortia for e-resources are very important to access the e-journals and e-books. The centrally funded Universities have joined more than one consortium. The state funded University joined one consortium. E-ShodhSindhu membership is taken by six libraries (85.71%). DELNET Consortium membership is taken by four libraries (57.14%). One library (14.29%) has taken the membership of CeRA and one library (14.29%) has taken CEC membership (Table 5.20).

Seven University libraries (100%) the library staff got training for e-collection and six libraries (85.71) used acquisition model of software (Table 5.31).

Regarding the digitization of collection the six libraries (85.71%) have digitized their theses collection. Books and manuscripts are digitized by one library (14.29%). DSpace software is used by six libraries (85.71%) to digitize their collection (Table 5.32).
6.2.2 Testing Hypotheses

As mentioned hypotheses make the research more specific and to the point which leads towards the destination. The hypotheses assumed at the beginning of the study are thoroughly investigated and on the basis of study they are tested accordingly.

**H1: With the application of Information Technology devices in University libraries of Assam the collection growth rate of printed documents are decreasing.**

The study has been made on the existing collection available in various formats in the University libraries of Assam. Basically there are of two formats, physical and digital. Printed documents, manuscripts etc are under physical forms while digital contents are available in both online and offline formats. This study of the collection development is made showing the growth trends of both formats for the last three year 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15. While analysing the trends of growth in library collection all the University libraries studied the growth trends of physical documents are declining on the other hand the digital documents are increasing mainly because of the use of information technology devices in the libraries [Table 5.7 (b), Figure 5.5 & Table 5.11]. Hence the H1 tested is accepted.

**H2: Even though students form the major category of users, they are not part of the book selection process in the University libraries.**

Each University library constitutes a library committee for advising, guiding and suggesting to the librarian on various issues. In fact this is in accordance with UGC guideline and conventional norms students’ community forms a major group as users in all the University library (Table 5.6). It was expected that feed back received from them on the working services and also developing the collection is guiding the library
manager for extending standard library services. Surprisingly other than BMPL and CLTU students are not included in the University library committee (Table 5.21). The University libraries of Assam the book selection task is done by the Head of the departments, Faculty members, Librarians, Library committee and Institutional Heads. It is seen that students are not allowed to be a part of the book selection process (Table 5.22).

6.3 Recommendations

After the analysis and interpretation of the data, the result found and observed needs to formulate the following recommendations:

- It is found that all the University libraries of Assam are introducing computers in performing library jobs and services. However, the state of the art is different from one another. Library automation is not equally implemented. It is suggested that library automation in all the University libraries be implemented to the fullest extent for optimum utilization of the library resources.

- Developing balance collection, the library is to give due heed for both physical and digital documents. While procuring the specific resource, infrastructure of the library should also be considered so the resource collected are not underutilized because of infrastructure like non availability or less availability of ICT devices at the library.

- Fund is a major issue of all University libraries. Necessary fund should be released for collection development. A good financial plan is also important for ICT application regarding the field of collection development.
• Now-a-days book purchase suggestions can be done through OPAC and Web-OPAC of the library management software packages used in the libraries. It is seen that users are not aware about this facility and library authority can arrange orientation for such kind of services so that paperless book purchase suggestions can be done from the users end through OPAC and Web-OPAC. University libraries should popularize such activities among the users.

• University library should join local, regional and national consortia to fulfill the needs of users by accessing the required resources.

• The University library should evaluate the library collection annually by the competent group.

• The library committee should be given sufficient power for implementing different plans and programmes for developing the library services. Library committee should be formed from the representative of all stack holders including from student body or committee. All issues should be routed through the committee wherein librarian will act as member secretary.

• The University library should engage on senior professional for looking in the collection development work in order to develop balanced collection in the respective library.

• Library schools engaging in academic programmes imparting training to the students for taking up the library jobs by developing professional expertise should be conducted. The syllabus and teaching methodology should be made as per modern requirements so that products of the schools can take up library jobs with more confidence and comfortably as per present needs.
• Continuous development of professional skills for the working professionals are must. The library schools and also other professional organizations should organize in service training programme at various levels on various issues of the libraries. The library authorities are to depute both senior and junior professionals as per the levels of the programme enabling them for attending such programme at regular intervals.

• In the University library at the time of selection of reading materials the selector must be careful about the quality and relevancy of subject matter. Selection of documents should be made in the light of users needs.

• There should be fixed time for stock verification. Libraries should follow proper weeding out criteria.

6.4 Conclusion

The basic objective of a University library is to supplement the academic curriculum and academic programme of the particular University. Accordingly University library collection should reflect that it can meet the basic goal of the University. Users community is always given the top priority in developing the library collection. A University is conducting regular academic programme in specific/various disciplines including research. Library collection should reflect the users’ needs as per programme that the University is conducting. It is in this context that a quality library collection is essential. Quality can be ensured when scientific method is adopted in developing the collection.

Proper selection process is very important to be adopted by each University library. The stack holders; faculties, researchers; students should form a part in proposing,
developing and implementing a proper selection procedure. Acquiring of selected resources by following proper procedure depends on budget provision. The funding agency like MHRD, UGC etc are to be liberal in extending fund for collection development.

Information technology devices are to be used extensively in using a library. Librarian and other professionals should work proactively in educating users on the use of IT devices and their use in library works and services.

Library collection is increasing at a regular pace both physical and digital. The trend of the growth of digital documents both online and offline has increased remarkably; though the growth of physical documents also cannot be ignored in developing a balanced collection. Acquisitions of various forms of documents are to be considered which will certainly be able to meet users’ needs sufficiently.

It is now common phenomenons that library collections are not confined with the four walls of a library building rather the resources go beyond. Library network and library consortium are too important issues presently which enable a particular library that their collection can be used outside the library establishment. This is mainly because of use of IT devices including availability of internet facility in all the libraries. The environment is very conducive now for the libraries to make a proper library collection to make specific library a real work house of users’ community.

6.5 Scope for Further Study

The present study is confined to the impact of information technology on collection development in University libraries of Assam. No doubt an investigation in other areas will help in providing a comprehensive picture of the impact of information technology
on University libraries. Therefore the researcher identified the following areas for
further research:

i. Problems and prospects of collection development in electronic publication
   and networking in University libraries of North East India.

ii. Preservation and management of rare collection of University libraries of
    Assam using IT devices.

iii. Collection development policy of e-resources in University libraries of
     Assam: a study

iv. Role of library staff on collection development of University libraries of
    Assam in IT environment.