ABSTRACT

Purpose: Collection development includes acquisition, selection, evaluation, preservation and weeding out of reading materials after assessing users’ needs. With the advent of internet and the consortium especially for e-books and e-journals, makes the University library easier to provide various information resources effectively in a nominal cost. In the University libraries there are various factors which are directly influence on the collection development. The most important factors are users’ needs and financial involvement.

The purpose of the study is to find the impact of information technology on collection development in University libraries of Assam. The study also aims to understand the expenditure for collection development, factor, selection criteria, grants allocation criteria, sources uses for selection of documents, weeding out, collection evaluation criteria and problems of collection development through applying information technology.

Design/ Methodology/ Approach: The methodology for conducting the study consists of library survey through prescribed set of questionnaires, personal interview with library professionals, observation and literature review. Literature review helps in preparing the outcome and principles of different aspects involved in carrying out a study. Documents like books, journals articles, online resources, theses, dissertation and seminar papers dealing with collection development and impact of information technology have been consulted. Search engines, Meta search engines, various institutional repositories and digital libraries etc. are used extensively for the study. The geographic area of the study is confined to the University libraries of Assam.

Findings: The study reveals that the University libraries of Assam are applying information technology on collection development. The study reflects that the Central Government funded University libraries are financially sound than the State Government funded University libraries. So, the annual growth rate of print and non print material is highest in Central Govt. funded University libraries. The study also shows that the growths of printed books is very nominal and are decreasing every year. University libraries of Assam access the more electronic journal than the print journals.
Now, the University libraries of Assam provides the information technology based library services such as lending, reprographic, information, OPAC, Web OPAC, internet, reference, SDI, CAS etc.

**Research Limitations/Implications:** The objective of the study is to find out the impact of information technology on collection development in University libraries of Assam only. There are sixteen Universities in Assam and the newly established Universities are not considered for the study as their collection development is still at the initial stage. Hence, the study is conducted only in seven Universities namely Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Assam Agricultural University, Tezpur University, Assam University, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and National Institute of Technology, Silchar.

**Originality/ Value:** The research work will be of utmost value for library management authority, LIS professionals and research scholars. In the present juncture, this study it is hoped will have a special significance as IT has been applied in all the areas of library house keeping operations. Acquisition and collection development in modern libraries are also greatly influenced by IT applications.

**Keywords:** Collection Development, Acquisition, Fund, Information Technology, University Library, E-resources, Internet, Consortia, Collection Evaluation, Weeding Out.

**Research Type:** Descriptive, Evaluative, Survey based.