CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Research methodology involves the methods used by the researcher to study a particular problem and the logic behind the methods in the context of the particular study. This chapter includes objectives of the study, hypotheses formulated, methods of collecting data, tools and techniques used for analysing data and limitations of the study.

3.2 Need for the study

In the digital environment research is taking place at micro level, information needs of the user community are widening, and it is the librarians’ job to select the needed information judiciously. Collection development should ensure balanced collection of documents which requires collaboration with faculty members, research scholars and students of the university. Librarians should ensure the development of library collections according to the present digital environment so that the library resources will be effectively utilised by the users. Attempts are made to provide quality learning spaces, collect and digitize archival materials, develop institutional repositories, assist in producing excellent research outputs and provide the best in print, electronic and digital collections. A study regarding efforts made by university libraries in this direction and assessing subsequent satisfaction level of the user community will be relevant. In this connection the study has been done, to know the strengths and weaknesses of the collection available in the surveyed university libraries, which will help the policy makers to take necessary steps to strengthen the quality of information.

3.3 Statement of the research problem

The study is entitled as “A Study on Library Collection Development in University Libraries of Kerala in the Information Technology Environment”.

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3.3.1 Definition of key terms

i. **Library**: A library is a collection of documents for use, an organisation that promotes the use of sources of information, an information centre that provides and disseminates information (Prasher, 2002).

ii. **Collection Development**: Collection development is “the process of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of a library’s materials collection in terms of patron needs and community resources, and attempting to correct existing weaknesses if any” (Evans & Margaret, 2004).

iii. **University Library**: A library or library system established, administered, and funded by a university to meet the information, research and curriculum needs of its students, faculty and staff (Reitz, 2017).

iv. **Kerala**: The southernmost state in India.

v. **Information Technology**: The use, study or production of a range of technologies especially computer systems, digital electronics and telecommunications to store, process and transmit information (Robinson & Davidson, 1999).

vi. **Environment**: The conditions that you live or work in and the way that they influence how you feel or how effectively you can work. (Cambridge dictionary online, 2017).

3.4 Objectives of the study

Following are the objectives of the study:

1. To find out the resources available, budget allocation and adequacy of fund for print and electronic resources in the surveyed university libraries.

2. To know the established collection development policy, guidelines for collection development in the surveyed university libraries.

3. To find out collection status, growth, selection and evaluation procedures adopted in the surveyed university libraries.

4. To find out the impact of Information and Communication Technology on collection development in the surveyed university libraries.

5. To find out the use of university library resources by the respondents of the surveyed university libraries.
6. To assess the respondents rating on print and e-Resources available in the surveyed university libraries.

7. To find out the problems faced by the respondents while accessing e-Resources in the surveyed universities.

8. To find out the respondents overall satisfaction with library collection in the surveyed universities.

3.5 Hypotheses of the study

1. Null hypothesis: There is no significant difference between the basic variables such as gender, age, qualification, etc. with rating on print resources by the respondents of the surveyed university libraries.

2. Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference between the basic variables such as gender, age, qualification, etc. with rating on e-Resources by the respondents of the surveyed university libraries.

3. Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference between the basic variables such as gender, age, qualification, etc. with respondents satisfaction with library professionals in providing information services.

4. Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference between the basic variables such as gender, age, qualification, etc. with the respondents overall satisfaction with library collection in the surveyed universities.

3.6 Target population

Kerala has 12 state universities, 2 deemed universities and one central university. Among these, four Arts & Science state universities have been selected for the study. They are Kerala University, Calicut University, Mahatma Gandhi University and Kannur University. The study population was taken from these four universities. The total population is 33689 comprising Research scholars, M.Phil. scholars and students of the universities. Factual data was collected from University Librarians-in-charge regarding budget, expenditure, collection status etc. Convenient sampling method has been adopted for the study. The researcher has selected 100 respondents from each university. A total of 400 questionnaires have been distributed to the respondents, out of which 361 respondents have returned the duly-filled questionnaire with a response rate of 90%. The details of population and sample are given in Table 3.6.1.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>% of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KUL</td>
<td>23978</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>71.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMKL</td>
<td>5824</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>17.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGUL</td>
<td>3453</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUCL</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33689</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the total population of 33689 users, 23978 (71.17%) were from Kerala University, 5824 (17.29%) were from Calicut university, 3453 (10.25%) were from MG University and 434 (1.29%) from Kannur university. From these 100 samples were selected from each university out of which 361 responded.

3.7 Research design

The study is descriptive in nature based on primary and secondary sources of data. Data was collected from the four Arts & Science state universities in Kerala through survey method. The researcher personally visited the university libraries and gathered data through questionnaires and interviews. A comprehensive literature survey was also carried out on the topic of research. The collected data was processed, codified, analysed and tabulated. This method enabled the researcher to collect information on the practices and procedures followed in collection development in the selected libraries and the views and opinions of the respondents.

3.8 Data collection tools and methods

To get first-hand information for the research two structured questionnaires were prepared, one for the University Librarian and the other for the user community. Informal interviews were also conducted with U/L-in-charge and staff of Acquisition, Periodicals and Information Technology section to supplement the data collected through questionnaires. In addition to questionnaire, personal discussions and interactions, e-Mail correspondence, websites, annual reports and budgets were also consulted to gather data requisite for the study.
The questionnaire for librarian was mainly intended to collect factual data about university library regarding budgetary information, collection details of print and electronic resources, collection evaluation methods, weeding and impact of ICT on collection development. The questionnaire addressed to the users was meant to collect information regarding their opinion and rating of print and electronic resources and to assess their satisfaction level.

3.9 Data analysis techniques

The collected data were analysed using MS Excel and SPSS package. Percentage analysis, T-test, Weighted Average Method and Analysis of Variance were used to analyse the data. The analysis was interpreted and presented using tables, charts and figures.

3.10 Scope of the study

The present study is focused on the collection development in university libraries in Kerala. The study analyses the practices and procedures followed by the surveyed libraries for developing collections and the users’ assessment of these resources. The study is limited to Arts and Science universities in Kerala. Further studies can be extended to colleges and other universities in South India.

3.11 Limitations of the study

- Out of twelve state universities only four Arts & Science universities have been selected for the study since these universities are homogeneous in nature.
- The sample category of respondents is limited to research scholars and students. Faculty members, staff and graduate members were excluded.

The information provided by the respondents is considered to be true on the basis of which analysis has been made. Necessary care is taken to ensure that the above mentioned limitations have not affected the validity of the data.
3.12 Organisation of the thesis

The study report is presented in 5 chapters.

Chapter 1

Introduction: Introduces the topic. It gives an outline of collection development in libraries, collection development functions, challenges issues and problems in collection development, impact of ICT on collection development, profile of university libraries in Kerala, need for collection development in university libraries, significance of the study, statement of the problem, definition of key terms and organisation of the thesis.

Chapter 2

Review of literature: Deals with review of literature related to the study covering collection development, collection development policy, collection development evaluation and collection development of electronic resources.

Chapter 3

Methodology of research: Describes the methodology of the present study covering objectives of the study, hypothesis formulated, population used for the study, sampling technique, data collection tools, statistical techniques used etc.

Chapter 4

Data Analysis and Interpretation: This chapter deals with the analysis of the Librarian’s views on the various collections available, budget, collection development policy etc. and also analysis of the responses collected from the respondents of the four universities.

Chapter 5

Summary of findings and suggestions: This chapter covers the summary of the findings of the analysis and suggestions for improvement.