UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN KERALA

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Chapter 5

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN KERALA

The focus of this study was to examine the role of university libraries in Kerala in research. For this purpose, it is essential to study the existing status of the university libraries in Kerala. This chapter provides background information about the state of Kerala focusing the field of higher education, universities in the state, and the university libraries. The collection of primary data for this purpose was made through a structured interview with the university librarians and by personal observation. Secondary data were collected examining library brochures, websites, and annual reports of universities.

5.1 Background Information

Kerala is located on the southwestern coast of Republic of India, between north latitudes 8 degree 18' and 12 degree 48' and east longitudes 74 degree 52' and 72 degree 22'. It is bounded on the north and north east by Karnataka state, on the east and south by Tamilnadu and on the west by the Arabian Sea. The state covers an area of 39,863 square kilometers, which makes it the seventeenth in area among the states of India.

The present political entity, known as Kerala was formed in 1956 by the States Reorganisation Act of 1956. Kerala has 31,838,619 people according to the 2001 census, which is nearly 3.44 per cent of the country's population. The sex-ratio recorded in this census is 1058 females per 1000 males. The nature of
the terrain and its physical features, divides an east west cross section of the state into three district regions - hill and valleys, midland plains and coastal region. The majority of the population lives in coastal region.

The state has a unique place in the literacy map of India, with a literacy rate of 90.92 percent. Keralites have migrated in large numbers in search of employment to several foreign countries like United States, Malaysia and Singapore in South East Asia as well as to several countries of Africa and West Asia. The professionals of Kerala are among the most wanted experts in the fields of Medicine and Information Technology. (Government of Kerala).

The education system in Kerala is based on 10+2+3+2 structure, which provides ten years of primary and secondary education followed by two years of higher secondary education, three years of graduate education and two years postgraduate education. M.Phil., a preparatory programme for doctoral level studies is normally of one year duration. PhD programmes require research study for minimum two years.

Primary education is the first level of formal school education in Kerala. There are 6712 lower primary schools in Kerala in government, private aided and unaided sectors. Primary education starts at five years of age. Secondary education constitutes a consolidation and transition between primary and higher secondary education. There are 2951 upper primary and 2608 high schools in Kerala. At the end of secondary education, the students sit for examination for the Secondary School Leaving Certificate of Board of Examinations, Kerala. In higher secondary level, there are 2608 higher
secondary schools in Kerala. Besides this, there are 375 Vocational Higher Secondary Schools in the state.

University education is the apex of Kerala’s formal education and training. Apart from undertaking research and development, the universities are preparing high-level manpower for national development. Other than universities, education and training are also provided by institutions such as Polytechnics, Teacher training colleges, Food craft institutes and specialized institutions run by government and ministries. There are 121 polytechnics, which offer diplomas and certificates in various fields of technical trades.

The State of Kerala has at present seven universities namely:

1. University of Kerala
2. University of Calicut
3. Cochin University of Science and Technology
4. Mahatma Gandhi University
5. Kannur University
6. Kerala Agricultural University
7. Sri Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit

There are 356 Arts and Science Colleges affiliated to four Universities namely, Kerala, Calicut, Mahatma Gandhi and Kannur. Out of these, 39 are government colleges, 150 are private aided colleges and 167 are private unaided colleges.

There are several government departments providing non-formal education for adults through extension services and literacy programmes aimed
at enhancing the participation of the whole communities irrespective of age, sex, religion for socio economic improvement and overall development of the state.

5.2 University Education in Kerala

The history of higher education in Kerala started with the establishment of C.M.S College at Kottayam by the Christian missionaries in the early nineteenth century. The history of universities in Kerala goes back to 1937 when the University of Travancore was established at Thiruvananthapuram by Sri Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma, the then Maharaja of Travancore, who was also the first Chancellor of the University. Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar, the then Diwan of the State, was the first Vice-Chancellor. It was the sixteenth University to be set up in India. The ten colleges previously affiliated to the Madras University, were affiliated to the University of Travancore.

The University of Travancore was renamed as the University of Kerala in 1957 by the Kerala University Act. The University has three campuses located in three different parts of the State viz. Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode. In 1968, the University Centre at Kozhikode became the University of Calicut covering the colleges and departments located in Thrissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode and Kannur districts of Kerala. The Cochin University of Science and Technology was founded in 1971 as the University of Cochin. The name of the university was changed in 1986. The Kerala Agricultural University was set up in 1971 at Thrissur. The Mahatma Gandhi University was established in 1983 at Kottayam as Gandhiji University. The
name was changed in 1986. With the establishment of these Universities, the area of the jurisdiction of the University of Kerala has been limited to Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha districts and some parts of Pathanamthitta district.

Now there are seven universities in the state offering opportunities for higher learning and research in the widest possible range of subjects of Science, Arts, Humanities, Engineering, Medicine, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. The Table 5.1 shows the year of establishment and location of the seven universities in Kerala.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of the University</th>
<th>Year of Establishment</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Thiruvanathapuram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>UC</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Tenhipalam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CUSAT</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Cochin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>KAU</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Thrissur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MGU</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Kottayam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SSUS</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Kalady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>KU</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Kannur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the Table 5.1 it can be seen that the University of Kerala (UK) is the oldest university in the state located at Thiruvanathapuram, the state capital. The University of Calicut (UC), the second university was established after thirty-one years. It is located at Tenhipalam in Malappuram district, 24 kilometer south of Calicut city. The year 1971 witnessed the establishment of two universities: the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), the only science and technology university at Cochin, the industrial
belt of Kerala and the Kerala Agricultural University (KU) at Thrissur. Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) was established in 1983 at Kottayam. Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (SSUS) and Kannur University (KU) are the recently established universities in the state.

The University of Kerala (UK) has at present sixteen faculties and forty-one departments for teaching and research. There are 157 affiliated colleges. Of these, 46 are aided Arts and Science colleges and 14 are unaided. In addition to the departments, the university also maintains several centers for carrying on studies and research in particular areas. The International Centre for Kerala studies, the Centre for Canadian studies, and the Centre for Women's studies belong to this category.

The University's Web site http://www.keralauniversity.edu/ launched in January 2000, offers several services like downloadable application forms, question papers of past examinations, free resource links, and subject gateway. The University has academic cooperation with some foreign Universities namely Valladolid of Spain and Claremont of the United States of America. The UGC has identified the University as one of the 26 institutions selected for promotion of India Studies by foreign students. The National Assessment and Accreditation Committee (NAAC) has placed the University at the B++ grade (University of Kerala).

The University of Calicut (UC) was set up with the objective of developing human resources in the northern districts of Kerala by extending the reach of higher education and by promoting research in all areas of
development with particular emphasis on technology, art and culture of Kerala.
The jurisdiction of the University extends to the districts of Kozhikode, Waynad, (except Manathavady taluk), Malappuram, Palakkad and Thrissur. The university has twenty-one postgraduate departments of teaching and research and 262 affiliated colleges.

The Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) was established for the specific purpose of development of higher education with particular emphasis on postgraduate studies and research in applied science, technology, industry and commerce. The University is situated in the central region of the state. The territorial jurisdiction of the University extends to the whole state.

The University has at present twenty departments of study and research and an engineering college at Pulinkunnu, Aalapuzha and twenty recognised colleges and institutions. The University has academic links and exchange programmes with several institutions in North America, Europe and it is participating with the Netherlands Organisation for International Co-operation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) and the European Union under the Asia Link Curriculum Development Programme, in areas such as applied economics, environment, photonics, and polymer science and management information systems besides academic collaboration with some of the premier educational institutions in France, Korea and USA.

The Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) was established as the fifth university in the central part of Kerala. The University extends its jurisdiction
to Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki and some parts of Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts. Presently the University has 21 teaching and research departments/schools and 183 affiliated colleges, six information centres, three study centres and several campuses. The MG University is the largest of the seven universities in terms of affiliated colleges. The University has ten interdisciplinary schools of teaching and research and 12 schools of higher learning in applied science and professional studies with academic autonomy.

The University has tie-up with national and international universities in France, USA, Belgium and Switzerland. The University has awarded 865 doctoral degrees for the research activities undertaken by the scholars in various disciplines and published over 5000 papers in research journals of international repute.

Kerala Agricultural University was established with its headquarters at Vellanikkara in Thrissur district. The university is carrying out research related to the problems of agriculture and allied sciences for aiding the development of farmers in the State. The jurisdiction of the university extends to the entire State.

The Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, located at Kalady in Ernakulam district has been set up with an aim of imparting higher education in various branches of Sanskrit language, literature and fine arts. The jurisdiction of the university extends to the entire State.
Kanuur University is the youngest university in the state with the jurisdiction of revenue districts of Kasargode, Kannur, and Manathavady taluk of Wayanad district.

5.3 Library Tradition in Kerala

Kerala has a rich tradition in learning and scholarship. The contribution of library movement to this tradition is noteworthy. The library system of Kerala consists of public, special and academic libraries. The history of public library movement in Kerala began with the establishment of Trivandrum Public Library in the year 1929 by Swathi Thirunal, the then Maharaja of Travancore. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, more libraries were established with the help of enthusiastic people. It became an organised movement when the All Travancore Grandhasala Sangham came into being in 1945. Later its name was changed to Kerala Grandhasala Sangham (KGS). The KGS was the apex body of public libraries for the entire state up to 1989 when the Kerala Public Libraries Act was passed and the KGS was transformed into State Library Council, the apex administrative body as per the Act.

The Special library system of Kerala comprises of those libraries attached to specialised research, development, and technical institutions in Kerala in both private and public sector.

The academic library system is the most flourished library sector in the state. It comprises school libraries at the lowest level and university libraries at the highest level.
5.4 University Libraries

The history of university libraries in Kerala goes back to the establishment of a library in the University of Kerala in 1942. Now the seven universities in the state have well-equipped libraries. The collection in these libraries reflects the wide range of subjects being offered in their parent organisation. Since the present study is limited to the four university libraries in Kerala, various aspects of these libraries were examined in detail. The Table 5.2 shows the year of establishment of four universities and their libraries.

Table 5.2 University Libraries and Their Year of Establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the University</th>
<th>Year of Establishment</th>
<th>Year of Establishment of Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>University of Kerala (UK)</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>University of Calicut (UC)</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Cochin University of Science &amp; Technology (CUSAT)</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU)</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the Table it is clear that no university had set up its library in the same year of its establishment. It took three years for the University of Calicut (UC) and Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) to set up their libraries. The University of Kerala (UK), the oldest university in the State and the Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU), the recently established university under study, took five to six years to establish their libraries. All University libraries in Kerala are known in the names of the university except the library of the University of Calicut, which is known as CHMK University.
library. The library is renamed after C.H Mohammed Koya (Former Minister for Education, Government of Kerala). The investigator has used UC library to denote CHMK University library. For convenience, the investigator has used UK to denote University of Kerala, UC to University of Calicut, CUSAT to Cochin University of Science and Technology and MGU to Mahatma Gandhi University.

5.5 Collection Development and Preservation

Document collection is considered the foundation of any library. A university library cannot respond to the rising needs of its numerically increasing users unless it has the materials required by them. For supporting education and research programmes of the university, its library must develop a well-balanced and rich document collection.

Collection development is a process of planning and building a useful and balanced collection of library materials over a period of years, based on an ongoing assessment of the information needs of the library users, analysis of usage statistics, and demographic projections, normally constrained by budgetary limitations. All the four university libraries examined in this study reported to have collection development policies in one form or another. Where policies are not active, the libraries rely on the university Statutes and Acts. It is noted that there are no laid down policies to guide the acquisition of electronic information sources. All university libraries examined in the study reported constrains with regard to collection development due to inadequate
funds. No university library under study is in a position to subscribe to full text databases.

5.5.1 Selection Procedures

All the university libraries under study have displayed similarity in document selection procedure. The principle selectors of books and journals are faculty concerned. The librarians help them by providing information from websites of publishers, online books shop, best sellers columns in news papers, books review columns in magazines and journals, printed catalogues, list from local book suppliers, indexes and bibliographies. Librarians select materials for areas of their competence as well as reference materials. Computer and communication technology have enhanced the ability of librarians for locating, identifying and procuring relevant materials.

5.5.2 Preservation and Weeding

University libraries in Kerala have been involved in various preservation activities. The common method used is physical preservation that involves binding and other regular repairs. Of the four university libraries under study, the UC library and UK library have binding section. Chemical preservation is also carried out by all libraries to a minimum level. Reprographic preservation is not much prominent in any university library. Digitization of rare and valuable materials is also yet to be started in the four university libraries. University libraries of Kerala have not initiated any digital preservation methods to ensure long-term conservation of electronic materials. It shall be a
great task for the university libraries as the medium of electronic documents are constantly changing.

The four university libraries weed out collection in one way or other. Majority of the librarians have admitted weeding out would facilitate easy access and retrieval but it is a tedious job involving administrative restrictions. Hence, the university libraries do not write off materials that are weeded out, but keep them in a room not accessible to users. This may add more problems to university libraries that are suffering from lack of storage space.

5.6 Library Resources

The number of books and print journals available in the four university libraries under study is presented in Table 5.3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Library</th>
<th>Volumes</th>
<th>Print Journals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGU</td>
<td>33,301</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUSAT</td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC</td>
<td>89,456</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>2,91000</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data presented in Table 5.3 reveals that only one university library in Kerala has more than one lakh volumes. The UK library is the largest university library in terms of book collection. UC library is the second largest library followed by the CUSAT library. The MGU library is the smallest library in terms of book collection. The data presented above shows that the oldest library has the largest collection that is eight times more than the
collection of the recently established university library and three times more than the second largest library.

Regarding the subscription of current periodicals, it is found that most of the university libraries subscribe to around two hundred and fifty journals. The CUSAT library has more journals followed by MGU library and UC library. The UK library has less than 250 journals.

The impact of Information technology in collection development is very prominent in university libraries in Kerala. The four university libraries examined in this study are in the process of integrating electronic and Internet based information sources in their collection. All the university libraries in Kerala keep non-book materials like floppy disks, CD-ROMs and multimedia reference books in the collection. Most of them have switched from print to electronic format of abstracting journals. The libraries of CUSAT and MGU have five editions of the Current Contents, a publication of Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). Chemical Abstracts (CA) on CD-ROM is available only in CUSAT library. The UK library is also subscribing to a number of CD-ROMs and six online databases. MGU library is subscribing to eleven bibliographic databases and multimedia reference books, including Indian Science Abstracts, National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials in India, PSYCI Info, Wilson Social Science Abstracts, and INSPEC. Electronic collection in UC library is not much noticeable. No university library subscribes to any full text database in any subject field.
Majority of the university libraries in Kerala has special collection sections. The UK library is the depository for UN and World Bank Publications in Kerala. CD-ROMs on important topics published by the UN and World Bank are available in the library. The library has also a Kerala Studies section with specialised collection comprising books and other materials dealing with subjects relating to Kerala.

The CUSAT library has a section for special documents that includes collections of patents, art books, WHO and UN publications, census reports and Planning Board publications. Being a depository of Indian patents, CUSAT library has twenty seven thousand five hundred and seventy odd patents supplemented by the INPAT, a patent database on CD brought out by INSDOC, New Delhi.

The CUSAT library is the only university library in Kerala having membership in Indian Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology (INDEST) Consortium, initiated by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. With this membership, CUSAT library has access to IEEE Electronic Library (IEL) online, covering electronic resources of IEEE.

All the four university libraries under study have access to E-journal consortium under UGC Infonet, a project initiated and funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to provide electronic access to scholarly literature in all areas of learning to the university sector in India. The INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad administers the programme. At present more than four
thousand e-journals can be accessed through UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium.

5.7 Library Funding

Library funding is the money that supports the daily operations of a library or library system and its capital projects. Finance is very essential for a service library for satisfying the ever-increasing demands of an active academic community.

5.7.1 Sources of Funds

All university libraries in Kerala are supported by the parent organization. The fund for a financial year is allocated as per the university annual budget plan. The university finance includes the grants from the state government, internal receipts like fees and assistance from UGC and other technical bodies. Of these funding sources, universities depend mainly on UGC. The rapid growth in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based infrastructure and resources in the university libraries are the clear evidence of UGC assistance. Regarding the budget allocation, the university librarians have expressed in common that the library budget is declining every year.

Majority of the university libraries under study do not collect library fees directly. The income generated through library fine is very less and overdue charge of one rupee per day is the highest fine collected in the university libraries in Kerala.
5.7.2 Library Marketing

The concept of application of marketing principles in library services has been absorbed by the university libraries in Kerala to a minimum extent. They used to generate income through reprographic services, Internet services and literature search. Some university libraries collect fees from non-members for using the library resources. However, in most cases libraries have no control over the funds they generate since the amount is remitted to university account.

5.8 Human Resource

The human resources available in a library have a key role in keeping, controlling and organizing the library resources and facilities. They provide life to the institution.

5.8.1 Staffing Levels

The hierarchical structure of the library staff in university libraries in Kerala is in the following order. University Librarian, Deputy Librarian, Assistant Librarian, Junior Librarian or Reference Assistant, Professional Assistant Grade I or Library Assistant Grade I, Professional Assistant Grade II or Library Assistant Grade II. The entry-level post in university libraries is Library Assistant Gr.II/ Professional Assistant Gr.II. The qualifications prescribed for the post is Bachelors Degree in Library and Information Science. Apart from the posts mentioned above, the UGC has sanctioned a post of
Information Scientist in university libraries for managing the automation and networking of libraries.

UK library accommodates the highest number of professional staff. At the time of the present study, there are seventy professional staff in the University, followed by UC library with twenty-seven, CUSAT library with twenty-three and MGU library with twenty-one professional staff.

The post of university librarian is vacant in three university libraries at the time of the study. Deputy librarians/Assistant librarians in charge of University librarian are managing the university libraries. Majority of the entry-level posts are vacant in the four universities. University librarians have opined that staff shortage and emergence of new courses are affecting the performance of libraries. The study revealed that the post of Information Scientist is vacant in UK and MGU libraries at the time of the present study.

5.8.2 Training

All the four university libraries examined in this study reported that in house training is given to staff members at the time of computerisation. UGC has provided compulsory training programmes to selected library staff members of all universities on library software, library automation and networking. All the universities have given financial assistance to library professionals to attend seminars, conferences and training programmes.

All university libraries have conducted annual conference and workshops. During the past five years, CUSAT library conducted one national workshop and hosted one national and one international library conference.
MGU library conducted one national level training programme. UK library conducted one state level training programmes to library professionals. It shows that university libraries in Kerala have promoted the exchange of ideas and information among professionals.

5.9 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

University libraries are the fertile areas for the introduction of ICT to make accessible the best possible information from anywhere any time and any source. The university libraries in Kerala are at various stages of development in the application of ICT in their functions. The status of library automation and ICT infrastructure in university libraries Kerala were collected.

5.9.1 Library Automation

Automation offers many opportunities for libraries to improve their services and serve their users well. It will also help the library staff in their responsibilities of acquisition, cataloguing, circulation and dissemination of information.

The special libraries in the state are the earliest adopters of ICT to their environment. University libraries joined the fray only during the 1990s, when the UGC established INFLIBNET as the national agency for coordinating the library automation activities of universities. The status of library automation of university libraries in Kerala is given in Table 5.4.
Table 5.4  Status of Library Automation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Automation status</th>
<th>University Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application software</td>
<td>LIBSYS-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating system</td>
<td>Windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPAC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web OPAC</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union catalogue</td>
<td>Not completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital library</td>
<td>Not initiated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The UK library is the first university library in the State to start library automation in 1994, followed by the UC, MGU and CUSAT libraries. All the libraries except UK library have completed the housekeeping activities in a limited period.

MGU library is the only library in the State that uses SOUL: a Windows based library management software developed by the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad. UK and UC libraries use LIBSYS, a Windows/Unix based software package of LIBSYS Corporation. CUSAT library uses ADLIB; a Windows based software of Databasix Information System, Netherlands.

The CUSAT library is the only library in the state maintaining a web-enabled OPAC. Majority of the libraries in the state have started preparation of Union Catalogues of various documents. No university library in the state has initiated steps for building digital libraries for managing the digitally formatted...
contents. Though all the university libraries under study have computerized most of their functions, no library could claim as fully computerized as they maintain manual mechanism also for library operations.

5.9.2 ICT Infrastructure

The process of taking advantage of modern computer and communication technology for information management in libraries depends very much on the availability of a strong ICT infrastructure. Such an environment is highly desirable for facilitating the information communication in many ways. The ICT infrastructure available in the four university libraries under study is illustrated in Table 5.5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infrastructures</th>
<th>University Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webpage</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Server</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User terminals</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printer</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanner</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcode scanner</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAN</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus LAN</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD - server</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-network</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All the university libraries maintain their library webpage in the university website. The link to library is visible in the home page of UK, UC and CUSAT libraries. The webpage of MGU library is neither available in the home page of university website nor accessible from the "general facilities" link. Apart from having telephone with intercom facility, all the university libraries offer E-mail address for facilitating online contact. LAN facility is available in all university libraries but the campus LAN is available in UK and CUSAT libraries. CD servers and CD-ROM networking are available in all university libraries except in UK library. All the university libraries possess more than twenty computers with printer facility. Majority of the libraries own Scanners. For accessing Internet and electronic resources university libraries have provided ten to fourteen terminals.

Asianet India is the main ISP for Internet connection. All the university libraries have leased line connectivity. The 1 Mbps Terrestrial Leased Line Internet connectivity under the UGC-Infonet program is available in all university libraries. An additional 2 Mbps and 512 kbps leased line connectivity and 32 kbps leased line connectivity are available in CUSAT and UK libraries respectively.

Internet based information services require strong Internet connectivity and more infrastructures. The study revealed that university libraries in Kerala are far behind in IT infrastructural facilitates.
5.10 User Population

The users of university libraries in Kerala can be broadly classified into four categories namely, teachers, research scholars, students and non-teaching staff. Some university libraries extend their membership to other categories also. The UK library offers membership to the students and teachers of affiliated colleges, members of faculties and Board of Studies, graduates of recognised universities, oriental title holders residing in Kerala, and recognised institutions and others at the discretion of the Vice Chancellor. UC library offers memberships to the students, research scholars and teachers of affiliated colleges, and graduates of the university. Membership is also offered to the Members of the Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council, Faculties and Boards of Studies, staff members of other offices situated in the University campus. The CUSAT library is the only library in Kerala that offers institutional membership to industrial and research units in the area. The library also offers graduate membership to those in Greater Cochin area. MGU library offers membership to students of affiliated colleges.

At the time of the present study, the UK library has 6013 members. Of these, 5207 (86.6%) are students, 457 (7.61%) are teachers and 211 (3.52%) are research scholars. In UC library, out of 4910 users only 196 (4%) are research scholars. In MGU library, out of 2414 members, 528 (21.9%) are teachers, 279 (11.59%) are research scholars, 1099 (45.56%) are students and 502 (20.8%) are non-teaching staff. In CUSAT library, there are 363 (11%) research scholars out of 3301 members.
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In terms of user population, UK library is the largest and the MGU library is the smallest university library under study.

5.11 Library Services

The investigator has found out the following facts regarding the services provided by the university libraries in Kerala. All the libraries are providing traditional library services as well as modern information services. While they are almost similar in the services being offered, they differed in the quality and level of organization of these services.

5.11.1 Lending Service

Lending documents for outside use is the most important library service in all types of libraries. Data were collected to identify the features of lending services of the university libraries in Kerala. The Table 5.6 shows the distribution of different categories of users, number of books allowed to lend, period of loan, renewal facility and fine collected per day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>University Library</th>
<th>User category</th>
<th>Loan period</th>
<th>Renewal</th>
<th>Fine per day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>T:6, RS:6, ST:2, NT:2</td>
<td>Vary</td>
<td>Twice</td>
<td>50 paise to 1 Rupee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>UC</td>
<td>T:6, RS:3, ST:3, NT:3</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>Twice</td>
<td>20 paise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CUSAT</td>
<td>T:6, RS:4, ST:3, NT:3</td>
<td>15 days</td>
<td>Twice</td>
<td>25 paise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MGU</td>
<td>T:3, RS:3, ST:2, NT:1</td>
<td>15 days</td>
<td>Twice</td>
<td>10→50 paise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(T=Teachers, RS=Research scholars, ST=Students and NT=Non-Teaching staff)
The Table 5.6 shows that the number of books allowed to lend out varies for different categories. Teachers are permitted to borrow more books in CUSAT and UC libraries whereas the number of books issued to faculty and research scholars is same in UK and MGU libraries.

There is difference in the loan period of books to different categories. While two university libraries allow fifteen days as loan period, one allow 30 days. The loan period varies according to the type of membership in UK library. In the case of renewal facility, uniformity is seen among the university libraries. The amount of library fine collected varies from university to university.

5.11.2 Information Services

Information services are the essential part of university libraries that connect the world of users and that of resources in different ways. Table 5.7 shows the information services offered by the four university libraries.
All the University libraries in Kerala provide Internet and Email services to their users. It is managed as a paid form of service in most of the university libraries. Internet connectivity under the UGC Infonet project is the backbone of these services. Bibliographic information search and compilation of bibliographies are also provided by all university libraries.

E-journals, full text and bibliographic online databases are accessible in all the university libraries under study. UK and CUSAT libraries are providing Internet and E-Journal access through campus LAN.

CD-ROM database access is available in UK, CUSAT and MGU libraries. Document Delivery Service is available only in CUSAT and MGU libraries.
libraries. The two libraries are depending on the Developing Library Network (DELNET) and INFLIBNET for providing this service.

Personalised services like Current Awareness Service (CAS) Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) and Literature search for researchers are available in CUSAT and MGU libraries. New addition alert service is available in all libraries in various forms. The CUSAT library informs each member the availability of new books through E-mail. The UK library makes the list of new additions available on the library website. The UC library used to send the new addition list to each department. All the four university libraries are providing scanning, printing and CD writing facilities to their users. Conference alert service and patent information service are available only in CUSAT library. All the university libraries, except UK library are providing consultancy service to institutions. At the time of the present study, no university library in Kerala offers translation service.

5.12 Technical Processing

The information on the classification system and the catalogue code followed by the four university libraries under study is given in Table 5.8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>University Library</th>
<th>Classification Scheme</th>
<th>Catalogue Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>CCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>UC</td>
<td>DDC</td>
<td>AACR II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>CUSAT</td>
<td>UDC</td>
<td>AACR II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>MGU</td>
<td>DDC</td>
<td>AACR II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Table 5.8 shows that UC library and MGU library follow Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) scheme, UK library uses Colon Classification (CC) and CUSAT library uses Universal Decimal Classification system (UDC) for document classification. While three university libraries follow Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR) for their catalogue entries. UK library follows Classified Catalogue Code (CCC).

5.13 User Education and Information Literacy

Information literacy programmes in university libraries in Kerala are not prominent. Instruction and education on library use are met only by means of giving manuals and guides. University libraries are not organising user education on a regular basis using computers and communication technology.

5.14 Working Hours

Information on the working hours of the university libraries is given in Table 5.9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>University Library</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Working Days</td>
<td>Second Saturdays and Sundays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>8 am to 8 pm</td>
<td>2 pm to 8 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>UC</td>
<td>8 am to 8 pm</td>
<td>8.30 am to 2 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CUSAT</td>
<td>9 am to 8 pm</td>
<td>10 am to 4 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MGU</td>
<td>8 am to 8 pm</td>
<td>10 am to 2 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of university libraries are kept open 12 hours a day on normal working days and 6 hours on Sundays and second Saturdays. The
working hours of all the University libraries except CUSAT library are from 8 am to 8 pm on normal days and from 8 am to 2 pm on holidays. CUSAT library opens at 9 am and closes at 8 pm. On Sundays and second Saturdays, the library is kept open from 10 am to 4 pm. The MGU library is kept open four hours on second Saturdays and Sundays; from 10 am to 2 pm. All the university libraries remain closed on public holidays except UK library that is kept open on some public holidays also. When all three libraries offer 12 hours service a day, CUSAT library functions 11 hours a day. The working hours of teaching departments in CUSAT starts at 9 am. The university library timing might have been fixed accordingly.

5.15 Resource Sharing and Networking

The study reveals that all the university libraries in Kerala have participated in resource sharing and networking ventures to enhance reciprocal access to resources and services among themselves. All the university libraries under study are having membership in INFLIBNET. Two University libraries in Kerala; MGU and CUSAT library have membership in DEI NFT. Besides this MGU library has membership in American Information Resource Center (AIRC) and CUSAT library has membership in the INDEST consortia.

5.16 Library Buildings and Environment

It is observed that all university libraries were established years back when the strength of staff and students was limited. As new courses are introduced and users increased, there is no further expansion of the library
buildings. Space is required to introduce new services and facilities. The congestion and inadequacy of reading, working and storage space could be observed in all the university libraries under study. In CUSAT library 50 seats are available for reading to a total number of 3301 users. The number of seats being provided to users is not in proportion to the increasing user population. Storage space is also found inadequate in all libraries. The library buildings of all universities do not reflect the meaning of Ranganathan’s fifth law of library science that "Library is a growing organism."
REFERENCES

   <http://www.kerala.gov.in/>

   <http://keralauniversity.edu>