Chapter – IV

AUTOMATION SCENARIO IN THE LIBRARIES OF MANIPUR

4.0  INTRODUCTION

Library is a place of preservation. It is a store house where collection of books used for reading are kept, a place where knowledge is preserved or collection of information resources in print or in other forms are kept. The old concept of library was that, it was only for preservation and not for use, it was also just like a store keeper and only the selected persons can use those preserved books. But in the modern concept library is regarded as a service institution. The overall concept or objective of a modern library is to provide comprehensive, timely, reliable and readily available information easily accessible to the satisfaction of all readers or users. Therefore, the purpose of the library can be termed as to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of all walks of life or people at all ages of every society. The origin of libraries lies in the practice of keeping records; as early as the 3rd millennium BC. Records on clay tablets were found to be stored in a temple in the Babylonian town of Nippur. The first libraries as repositories of books were those of the Greek temples and those established in conjunction with the Greek Schools of Philosophy (4th century BC). Important libraries of the ancient world were those of Aristotle, the great Library of Alexandria with its thousands of papyrus and
vellum scrolls, its rival at Pergamum that included many works on parchment, the Bibliotheca Ulpia of Rome, and the Imperial Library at Byzantium set up by Constantine the Great in the 4th century AD. China also has a long tradition of record keeping and book collecting in private libraries as well as in centralized government libraries. In Manipur factors for marching towards library can be traced back to the royal palace where astrologers, priests and other scholars used to go and read the records of manuscripts kept there. Today one can find all types of libraries in the state, their status being other matter of concern.

4.1 MANIPUR: A PROFILE

Manipur which has been described as “Switzerland of India” by Lord Irwin and a “Jewel of India” by Jawaharlal Nehru is a beautiful scenic tiny state situated in the corner most part of North-East India. The total land area is 22,327 squares kilometers. Manipur has total population of 27,21,756 (2011 Census Provisional) with a literacy rate of 79.85% and the male literacy outnumber the female i.e. male 86.49% and female 73.17%. Manipur has a sub- tropical monsoon type of climate. The summer months of the state are hot and wet while the winter months are cold and dry. The year in Manipur is divided into four different seasons. They are (I) the cold season (December, January and February), (II) the hot-dry season (March, April and May), (III) the rainy season (June, July, August and September), (IV) the retreatng monsoon season (October and November). The state shares boundary with three Indian states and one international boundary: The Northern part with Nagaland, in the south with
Mizoram, western side with Assam and Myanmar in the East. Since time immemorial, Manipur was a princely state before it came under British rule in 1891. Manipur became union territory in the year 1956, and attained full-fledged state in the year 1972. Manipur has a traditional division in itself i.e. the Valley and the Hills. The Valley traditionally inhabited by the Meiteis, and Meitei Pangals (Muslims). The Hill areas are traditionally inhabited by the Nagas and the Kukis or the Hill Tribes. The people of the state comprises of different ethnic community having different cultures and traditions. Every community living in the state has its own distinctive history, language, custom, culture and tradition. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Manipur. About 70% of the total population of the state depend on agriculture for their livelihood and economy. Important agricultural crops of Manipur are rice, maize, sugar cane, cotton, pulses, vegetables, tobacco, oil seeds and fruits. Rice is the staple food of the state which is grown in both the hill and the plain areas. Maize is the next important crop of Manipur, Ukhrul and Senapati districts are the two main districts that produce of maize. Sugarcane is mainly cultivated in Thoubal district. Agriculture in Manipur is dominated by mono-cultivation of rice which accounts for 98% of foodgrains production. The staple food of the state is grown in both the valley as well as in the hills. Permanent cultivation of rice is generally practiced in the valley while shifting cultivation is widely adopted in the hills. In Manipur, small scale industries play a vital role in the fulfillment of socio-economic objectives. They contributed in the form of production, employment, and exports. At present, all the industrial units except those of cottage and village
industries belong to the categories of small industries. These include (a) agro-based industries like rice, floor, and oil mills, (b) forest based industries such as saw mills, carpentry, etc. (c) mineral based industries like making of small machinery, gum, hum pipe, etc. and (d) miscellaneous industries such as printing, brick making and workshops for various purposes. Handloom weaving is the oldest and the largest cottage industry of Manipur. It is famous throughout the country for its artistic handloom products. Handloom weaving is an innate art for every Manipuri woman and it is a labour incentive occupation. There are more than 2.7 lakh looms in the state, providing full time or part time employment to over 2.8 lakh persons, mostly women. Besides, sericulture industry, handicraft industry and khadi and village industry also play an important role in the state’s economy. The distinctive showcase of Manipur to the world is its own Art and Culture. Ras Lila is the epitome of Manipuri classical dance. It is performed at night in a Mandap in front of a temple and watch with a deep sense of devotion. Manipuri style of dance and music Nupi Pala (Kartal Cholom or cymbal dance) are performed by male artistes using cymbals and wearing pheijom and spherical turban. Another important dance is the Khamba-Thoibi dance which is a duet performance of male and female dancers along with the maibi dance (priestess dance), Leima Jagoi, etc. from Lai Haraoba dance. Love of art and beauty is inherent in the people of the state. Each ethnic group has its own distinct culture and tradition deeply embedded in its dances, music, customary practices of the pastime. Indigenous games and sports in Manipur dates back to the history of small kingdoms which were in keen competition with one another. Some of the
important games commendable are Sagol Kangjei (Manipuri Polo), Khong Kangjei (Manipuri Hockey), Yubi Lakpi (Manipuri Rugby), Kang, Hiyang Tannaba (Boat Race) and Thang-Ta & Sarit Saraat etc. Manipur is also famous in sport in national and international sport arena; there are few commendable sport personalities in various disciplines like football, boxing, judo, martial art, weight lifting, and Hockey etc. some of the sport personalities can be mentioned are MC Mary Kom (Boxing) Olympic medalist and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awardee, Dingku Singh (Boxing) Asian boxing champion, Renedy Singh (Football), Kunjarari Devi (Weight lifting), Sanamacha Devi (Weight lifting), Thoiba Singh, Sangai Devi (Hockey), Suranjoy Singh (Boxing Olympian), etc. Abundant natural beauty of the hill range and the valley of Manipur is a fascinating destination for discerning tourists. Some of the tourists’ attraction in the state are: Shaheed Minar, Manipur state museum, War cemetery, Manipur Zoological Garden, Keibul Lamjao National Park, Kaina, Red Hill (Maibam Lok Pa Ching), Loukoipat, Shree Shree Govindajee Temple, Phubala, Loktak Lake, Moreh, Tengnoupal, Andro, and Khongjom war Memorial etc. Manipur state is blessed with amazing varieties of flora and fauna. Some of the most important beautiful and precious blooms, orchids flowers have their natural habitat in Manipur. There are about 500 (Five hundred) varieties of orchids which grows in Manipur of which 472 (four hundred seventy two) have been identified “Siroy Lily” the only terrestrial lily is found on the hill tops of Siroy hill in Ukhrul district of Manipur. Keibul Lamjao is also another unique floating marsh where blow altered (Sangai) the rare animal is found. Manipur while comparing with other developed states is
lagging behind in education; the state has three central universities namely, Manipur University, Central Agricultural University, and Indira Gandhi Tribal University (Imphal Regional Campus) for pursuing higher education. There are countable number of Government Colleges, Aided Colleges, and affiliated Private Colleges. There are also special and technical institutions like Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Science, NIELIT, Polytechnic, NIT, etc. to meet the educational needs of the state.

4.2 GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES IN MANIPUR

A brief account of the growth and development of libraries in Manipur is being made in this section. Preserving its history, custom, cultures and traditions through folklores and later came into a written form and a written record maintained by the rulers of Manipur can be termed as the initial beginning of the library history. As library is the outcome of human civilization, the keeping record in written form can be termed as the limelight and the beginning of library in Manipur. In fact looking back to the history, beginning and emergence of libraries in Manipur, there has been a process of preservation of manuscripts long times back, even under the royal patronage. But when we look to the real structure of library in the state of Manipur that served the information need and resource needful for the people, we can say that it is of recent emergence.

4.2.1 Different types of Libraries in Manipur

The existing libraries in Manipur can be classified or divided into three categories: 1. Academic library, 2. Public library, and 3. Special library.
4.2.1.1 Academic Library

Academic library is an integral part of every educational institution which also sometimes describes as the heart and soul of any learning institution. Academic library consists of school libraries, college libraries and university libraries that serve the students, teachers and non-teaching staff of the academic institution. In general, the library became an organization that served all disciplines not only with similar tools but in similar ways. The main objective of an academic library is to give maximum learning materials to its clienteles so that they may fully educate the users in their respective levels. In fact, academic library is a library that is attached to educational institution which serves two complementary purposes to support the academic curriculum of the institution and to support the research of the university faculty, students and scholars.

This type of library occupies a very prominent place in the educational set-up. The changing pattern of education demands that learning must be accelerated and broadened by the use of many and varied devices and materials. In a dynamic approach to teaching, library is an essential part of academic institution. All good methods of education postulate existence of a well stocked and efficiently organized library. Teaching in the new set-up cannot be class room centered but has to be library centered. Johnstone Higher Secondary Library is considered as the oldest institutional academic library in Manipur. The school was established by the British and initially it was Johnstone English School and was established in 1885. But today the service of Johnstone Higher
Secondary School library is in name sake only. Today there are a number of schools, colleges and three universities in the state. In almost all the schools under the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur the scenario of library is in a pathetic condition. In the secondary schools under the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur, though libraries are there, majority of them are not maintain even minimum standard of being a library. It is also observed that schools under central government organizations like, Sainik School, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, Kendriya Vidyalayas are having good libraries. A sizeable number of secondary schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, but run by private, and mission organizations have also developed their libraries. As much development and growth of libraries in the school levels have been greatly influenced by the growth and development of the schools under different organizations/institutions.

Growth and development of libraries in college levels, in Manipur, have been increasing in the last about one decade with the development of such institutions of higher learning in the state. Though the scenario of the libraries in such level of academic institutions needs to be explored, it is a good sign that authorities became realize to develop libraries in colleges which contribute towards the growth and development of academic libraries in the state. Manipur University, Central Agricultural University and Rajiv Gandhi National Tribal University (Regional Campus, Imphal) are the universities currently in existence in the state. Emergence of the later is an important addition in the growth and
development of university level libraries of Manipur. However, the status of these libraries require to be assessed.

4.2.1.2 Public Library

Public library is an agency of lifelong self education. It is for all and for every one dwelling in the society, irrespective of caste, creed, sex, religion, age, etc. ‘Public library is considered to be the peoples’ university. It is a democratic institution operated for the people by the people and of the people’ (Khomdon Singh 2007). It is a centre of attraction where everyone can participate and every one can benefit from it. Generally, a public library is to facilitate information to meet the information needs of all, to give recreational and effective use of leisure time, etc. in the society. Considering the importance of public libraries the fifth UNESCO meeting which was held at Hamburg in 1977 declared that ‘UNESCO should strengthen their libraries, museums, heritage and cultural institutions as learning places and partners in the lifelong learning process and modern citizenship’. The opening and initiating of club and voluntary organizations in the state can be termed as the emergence of public library in Manipur. The public library movement was started in the state with help of voluntary organization. The Manipur Public Library Act 1998 came in with effect from June, 9th 1993. The objective of the Act is to provide the establishment and maintenance of public libraries in the state of Manipur. Manipur Library Association MALA a voluntary organization was also form to promote librarianship towards the importance of library in education. In Manipur we can find three types of public
Ibohal Singh (2013) in a study has recorded the growth and development of public library in Manipur. According to him, the very idea of the library movement in this part of the country was conceived in the year 1927 with the establishment of Manipur Club, mainly to provide public library services by Dr. H. Atulchandra Singh, a philanthropist, a great social reformer, indeed a multifaceted person of the 20th Century. The need and importance of library and its role to play in the society was conceived in the mind of Atulchandra since long time while he was studying at Driburgarh and Benarus. He was also very much inspired by the nature of Library Movement launched in Bengal in 1925 by the Bengal Library Association headed by Vishwakavi Rabindranath Tagore as the President of the said Association. The dream of Atulchandra became true with the birth of Manipur Club on April 7, 1927. The said Club was renamed as Manipur Club Library on the 1st January, 1931 by adding the term “Library”. After the death of Atulchandra’s mother Chonu (Juvabati) in 1932, the name of the library has again been changed to Juvabati Memorial Library on April 19, 1933. Today the overall management and functioning of the same is under the control of the Manipur Foundation, Imphal. The Organization uses to observed the 10th September, birth day of Atulchandra as Manipur Library Day since recent past.

After the establishment of the Manipur Club some remarkable pioneering efforts from individuals and general public towards public library movement in
the state were also made during 1930-1950. These include the establishment of Imphal Reading Club (1930) at Moirangkhom, Imphal, Chitrangada Library (1934) at Imphal, Library established by Captain M.K. Priyabrata with collections of Newspaper at Sagolband near Ibudhou Khabrangba Mandir (1933-34), Imphal Public Library (1934) near Uripok Chakrikom, Imphal, Manipur Public Library (1950) at Bir Tikendrajit Road, Imphal. However, almost all these libraries became extinct due to many reasons.

The Government efforts towards the development of public library in Manipur came a bit late in the state with the establishment of District Library and Children Library-cum-Museum in 1958. It was followed by the establishment of Netaji Memorial Library (1968) at INA Complex, Moirang; upgradation of the District Library to the status of the State Central Library (1970); establishment of district libraries in different districts of the state for Ukhrul, Mao (Senapati), Tamenglong, and Churachandpur (1974), Chandl (1977), one branch of the State Central Library at Ningthoukhong for Bishnupur District (1991), Thoubal (1997), Imphal West and Imphal East (2006). The overall affairs of the public library matter in the state is under the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur.

The role of different NGOs for the cause of library movement in Manipur cannot be ignored at all. Around such 300 (three hundred) NGOs of the state are organizing libraries with or without assistance from the Government, RRRLF, and other Agencies. They are, as a basic component of the public library system,
playing an important role in the movement as well as rendering services to the rural masses.

The Raja Rammohun Roy Libray Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata has been playing a vital role in the process of development and promotion of library movement in the state, as done in other parts of the country. A separate wing under the name of RRLF, sponsored by the Department of Culture, Ministry of human Resources Development, Government of India, was open at the State Central Library, Imphal since 1978. The state started its participation in various schemes of the Foundation since 1981-82 onwards. The Foundation has rendered financial assistance under its Matching and Non-matching schemes. Under these two schemes, the Foundation has provided assistance towards procurement of Books, Almirahs, T.V. sets; Organization of book fairs, Orientation Training Courses, Construction of building for the libraries run by the NGOs, etc. Besides, MALA has been organizing seminars every year under the sponsorship of RRLF. Previously the State and RRRLF share was in the ratio of 50:50, but now the pattern has been changed to 10:90. As such the role of the Foundation towards development of public library in the state in quite commendable.

The need for an organization to lead the library movement in a more systematic manner in the state has been long felt. But because of want of professionals in the field the real library movement with the support of the people could not be materialized for a long time. The 26th May, 1975 was a remarkable day in the history of the formation of Library Association in the state. On that
day, the Manipur Library Association (MALA) was born with Shri M. Anandamohon Singh (then Chief Librarian of the State Central Library, Imphal), Shri R.K. Dave (then Deputy Librarian of the erstwhile Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Post Graduate Studies, presently Manipur University) and Shri Ch. Radheshyam Singh (present Librarian of Manipur University) as its President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. However, due to lack of professionals, support of the public, etc. led to non-functional of the same. Later, after a gap of 12 years the present Manipur Library Association (MALA) came into being only on the 24th May, 1987 with Shri N. Giridhari Singh, Shri K. Chaoba Singh and Shri Th. Khomdom Singh as its founding President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. After the emergence of MALA with the support of the public, the momentum for the library movement in the state has been in increase taking a new shape. Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, Awareness Programmes, Training courses, etc., organized by the Association in the last more than two decades could change the mindset of the people of the state becoming them aware of the need and importance of library in the society. Besides MALA has also been publishing a journal titled “Librarygee Echou” (Library Movement), which plays an important role in the library movement in the state. Very recently, a monthly journal entitled “MALA NEWSLETTER” has also been published by the Association.

The public library movement received impetus by enactment of library legislation in different states of India. Such acts aim at ensuring perennial funding
support for public libraries, defining stricture of public library system in the state, powers and functions of library authorities and such other matters relating to the public libraries. Library legislation has been enacted so far in 18 states in the country, Manipur being the sixth state.

4.2.1.3 Special Library

Special libraries are also the out-comes of human civilization, a civilization that crops up with particular fields or areas of studies that has a distinctive nature with other field. ‘Special libraries and information centers are natural out-come of the need for information support to research and development, business and industry, expanded functions of government and similar other organizations’ (Thapa 2005). They are libraries that house collections of a specific nature or for a specific agency or institution. There are special libraries for government departments, private business, art galleries, museums, and legal firms, to name only a few. The role and mandate of special libraries is to provide specialized information services for staff and members of the parent agency/organization. May be because of the backwardness in different fields of study, the existence of special libraries in Manipur is also a recent one originating from the second half of the 20th century. Some of the leading special libraries of Manipur include:- Manipur State Kala Academy, Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, NIELIT, Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Institute of Cooperative Management (ICM), Government Polytechnic (GOPOLY), Manipur Institute of Technology (MIT), and Tribal
Research Institute (TRI), Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS), National Institute of Technology (NIT), etc.

Also there are a number of specialized institutions in various fields where libraries have been developed since about two decades. Libraries in Theological Colleges, Churches, Health Care settings, Nursing Institutes/Colleges, Voluntary organizations/firms specialized in different subjects, etc. also contribute towards the growth and development of special libraries in the state. All the libraries of this category, however needs to ascertain their status, service, mode of organization and management, etc.

4.3 LIBRARY AUTOMATION: DEVELOPMENTAL PERSPECTIVES

The word Library automation has become a buzz word today. Computerization and application of information technology library has become a must today, due to exponential growth of knowledge and information explosion, possibility of on-line information search and resource sharing among libraries etc. Automation, as expected enables to monitor the rapid growth of information, to provide SDI/CAS to the readers either on line or through telephone, to provide speedy, accurate service to the users, to save the time of the user or readers and to increase the efficiency of the library staff. The history of automation can be traced back to 1880 when Hollerith invented the punch card for tabulating census data since this card is being used for automation in many fields. University of Texas was perhaps the first to use punch cards in 1936 for circulation control and
further, for serial control in the mid 1940. In 1942, the Montclair Public Library in New Jersey installed two specially designed book charging machines for recording individual transactions automatically on the punched cards. The Library of Congress used the unit record machines for the production of catalogues for the first time in 1950. Since then many libraries in USA have use unit record machines for automating several of their activities (Ravichandra and Abideen 1999). In spite of India’s advancement in both hardware and software and due to various reason like fearing computers and computerization will create unemployment, lack of computer literacy, financial support and lack of knowledge in theoretical and practical aspects of library computerization so to take up computerization and other related project with confidence etc. The use of computer is limited to only some specialized libraries and as such libraries in general and public libraries in particular remained backward in application of advanced, new information technology, which synonymous with computers and other related application. However, during the 1980 there was a growing enthusiasm in favour of library computerisation. There is a growing recognition on the part of policy makers (government) and politicians in the country that information is an essential resource for social- economic development of a country. Thus computerization of library information operation and services became an accepted policy for implementation (Afonso 2004).

Coming down to the native state, Manipur, there are a number of Academic, Public and special libraries. Few libraries are found functioning accordingly and are in initial stage of automation. But most of the libraries are in
pathetic condition and the libraries ranging from village, district, centre and higher level of education is not up to user’s expectation. Some are in the name sake, and the condition of building itself is in deplorable condition. Most of the libraries have no trained staff and adequate infrastructure. It is also found that the functioning or styles of functioning of various libraries are hard to bear, because even reputed institution of academic or college libraries are run by in-charge from other department like History, Political Science and so on which makes the condition of libraries from bad to worst in the state. The condition of libraries in Manipur is still not encouraging, due to not implementing the required infrastructure and the requisite trained staff for the service which would be a great lost for the students, researchers and general public. If the concerned authority does not pay attention for the development in the near future it will be a great lost for the whole society. But on the other side, libraries in the state of Manipur also witness the influence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Computerization of the same is also a very recent development.

In this chapter of the work a brief account of the automation of libraries in the state is being analysed.

4.4 ROLE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN LIBRARY AUTOMATION

According to UNESCO, ICT is a scientific, technological, and engineering discipline and management technique used in handling information
and application and association with social, economic and cultural matters. Information and communication technology (ICT) is a comprehensive and parallel concept with information technology and its application to the library affects the way information is handled in the libraries and information centers in this present information age. ICT is not only a single unit of technology but assemble of technologies like telecommunication equipments, data processing equipments, semi conductors, consumer electronic, etc. Development and use of ICT enables change in the information collection, preservation and dissemination scene of the world. It involves collection, storage, processing and distribution of information in the libraries of the modern world. It is the complete system of technologies and comprises of two strong technologies, one is information technology which actually deals with the hardware and software elements that allow us to access, store, organise and manipulate the information by electronic means. The second is communication technology, which deals with equipment, infrastructure and software through which information can be received, accessed and disseminated.

The first and foremost ICT component which can be adopted in the libraries is the computer for library automation and to have an in-house database of library holdings in electronic form. As many primary journals are being published in CD-form, it becomes necessary to equip the libraries with ICT gadgets to optimize the use of information. E-mail, online retrieval, networking, multimedia and Internet are the other important technologies which can be used for faster access to information. The innovation in the area of e-journals and e-
books and mounting popularity of internet gave birth to the concept of digital library and virtual library.

The adoption of ICT in library can be considered as an added tool in providing the information services effectively to fulfill the complex needs of the users.

4.5 ICT APPLICATION IN THE LIBRARIES OF MANIPUR

With the rapid use of ICT, libraries in Manipur face a period of transition. The application of ICT in libraries in the state is at the minimal stage. The situation is almost similar in all types of libraries under various organization such as:

(i) Libraries under State Governments

(ii) Libraries under Central Government Organisations and

(iii) Libraries of Non-Government Organisations.

The central government organizations as observed have adequate funding provision for procurement of computer hardware and software, databases and other computer peripherals, and for providing training for their professional, whereas, the state government organizations do not provide sufficient fund and interest shown for the application of ICT in their libraries is not encouraging. In few of the NGO libraries, there are significant initiatives taken up for automation, however in almost of these libraries the situation is not encouraging.
Adequate flow of fund for the library gives ample opportunity for adoption of ICT which is sufficiently available in libraries of central government institution, whereas, not a single library under state government can enjoy the equal status in terms of ICT application to that of the former. In the state government organization, financial position is not sound so as to encourage the authority to spend sufficient fund for library automation. As a result, the libraries under the state government suffer from the problem of inadequate finance to cope up with the task of adopting ICT in their libraries.

Libraries are primarily built upon the contribution and dedication of library professionals. Hence professional manpower requirement is a basic need in which real growth and development of library occurs. In respect of library professionals having adequate training in ICT, there is no scope and opportunity for such professionals to work in the state government libraries. The library authorities in the state do not evolve any policy, considering the importance of technical know-how and technical manpower development.

The scenario of library management and the application of ICT in NGO sector are quite different. There are a few such organizations in Manipur which have libraries up to mark and they have somehow applied ICT in their libraries. Most of the NGOs do not have formal libraries of their own so as to provide library services.
4.6 AUTOMATION SCENARIO

The beginning and adoption of ICT by the various libraries of Manipur have a direct reflection on the automation of the same. Even though the automation of the libraries in the state is very slow, attempts in this regard are found to be started since late 1990s, the Manipur University Library being the first in the initiative.

In 1986 the North Eastern Council (NEC) initiated library automation in the Universities of N.E. Region including Manipur University. But the programme was not successful. In April 1988, the University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Yash Pal to work the feasibilities of INFLIBNET. The report of this working group was published in December 1988. After taking sufficient time in planning and proper budgetary allocation, the programme was implemented by the UGC with effect from 1st April 1991.

Soon after, INFLIBNET started collection of data from the University libraries of India. By the mean time, the UGC in 1992 under the scheme called as CDC, a programme for up gradation of Computer system in Manipur University sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,45,000/- specially for the Manipur University library and purchased a) an AT 486 computer b) a Dot Matrix printer c) a Servo Voltage Stabilizer. The programme was commissioned in the library in October 1993. So far the INFLIBNET has given computer training to 3 staff members of the University. Besides the library has sufficient number of qualified staff. Some of
the above factors might be the justification for selection of this University as the first node of INLIBNET from the North East.

The application of ICT in a few libraries of Manipur is in the initial stage. Participation in the HELLIS (Health Literature Library and Information Services) programmes of the Health Science Libraries in the South East Asian Region by the Regional Institute of Medical Science (RIMS), Manipur in 1992 and INLIBNET programme of UGC by the Manipur University Library in 1993 may be considered as important steps taken up for automating their respective libraries. Most of the libraries in Manipur developed their collections in the form of printed materials and the quality of collections, facilities, services and staff are very poor. Some of the libraries have started automation using software package like SOUL, SMART LIBRARY, Window XT, CDS/ISIS and some of the libraries are under the process of automation and majority of them have not yet automated because of lack of infrastructure like computer hardware, software and qualified and trained staff thereby facing lot of difficulties to switch over to modernization of libraries. Again most of the libraries do not provide internet facilities to their users. Regarding school and higher secondary school libraries, majority of them are not able to provide even the facilities of a traditional library.

The Manipur University Library, which was one of the INFLIBNET centres in the first batch get the opportunity of implementing the UGC-INFONET programme of UGC since 2003 with the expectation that the different groups of the users of the library access to the Union database of INFLIBNET as well as
the internet access to more than 7000 foreign journals through UGC-Infonet. From time to time, the Manipur University Library organizes trainings and workshops about the use of Information and Communication Technologies in the library at the national and regional levels. The university has been actively participating in all the programmes which were arranged by the INFLIBNET from time to time. The UGC has released required sanctions to meet the expenditure for the automation of the library. The University has also procured most of the items as per configurations prescribed by INFLIBNET.

Inspite of some limitations, the INFLIBNET section has been providing commendable services to the library users. The libraries are now able to:

- Connect to other libraries of the country;
- Utilize information-resources of the Manipur University Library by creating database for books, journals and theses/dissertations;
- Check duplicate purchasing in the library;
- Provide reliable access to the Online Union Catalogue of documents created by other university libraries which have joined INFLIBNET programme;
- Provide e-mail facilities for the scientists, researcher, faculty, staff and students;
- Provide OPAC to different departments through campus network over the web; and
- Offer the facilities for downloading e-papers from different places (print/non-print media)
On 20th February 2007 the Manipur University made a proposal to INFLIBNET for giving INFLIBNET services to near about 50 colleges affiliated to Manipur University. The INFLIBNET had accepted the proposal and suggestion to go in a phased manner of 10 each a time.

The Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Library, Manipur has also internet facility, in 1999, the NEC provided a VSAT FTDMA (Very Small Aperture Terminal Frequency Time Division Multiplex Access) having a capacity of 64 kbps to the RIMS Library. Again in the year, 2004 it has been upgraded to DVB (Digital Video Broadcasting) 2mbps, Library has installed another 15 computer terminals for complete automation and it has a plan of a Local Area Networking (LAN) which will facilitate to all the departments to access the database of the Library. Effort for automation of the library has started from 1992 after up-gradation of RIMS Library as one of the six Regional Medical Sciences (RIMS) Library was taken over by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India, there is a proposal for complete digitization of RIMS Library.

Of the 83 (eighty three) different types of colleges affiliated to Manipur University, 33 (thirty three) have joined the “National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly, Content (N-LIST) programme of the INFLIBNET. These colleges fall under the category 2F/12B of UGC Act. This programme launched on 4th May 2010 in the country have become popular now in the state also. N-LIST as a joint programme of UGC-INFONET Digital
Library Consortium and INDEST-AICTE Consortium IIT Delhi funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the 33 registered colleges of Manipur have now started provision of:

- access to cross subscription of e-resources subscribed by the two consortia
- access to selected E-resources to the colleges covered under the 2F/12B of UGC Act.

The total number of e-journals and e-books accessible under the programme are 2138 and 48,196 respectively. With this the automation of libraries particularly in the academic settings would be enhanced in the near future.

4.6.1 Scenario in Selected Libraries

In this section the present scenario of library automation in 75 selected libraries are being discussed. The following table 4.1 shows the automation status of libraries covered in the present study.
Table 4.1: Automation Status of Libraries covered in the study  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Institution/organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Automation status</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td><strong>Academic Libraries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A.1</td>
<td><strong>University Libraries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Manipur University</td>
<td>Canchipur</td>
<td>Partial</td>
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<td>A.2</td>
<td><strong>College Libraries</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bethany Christian college</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Churachandpur College</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Chil Chil Seminary College</td>
<td>Kanglatongbi</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Damdei Christian College</td>
<td>Taloulong Sadar Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>D.M College of Arts</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>Initial</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>D.M College of Sciences</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>Partially</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>D.M College of commerce</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>D.M College of Teachers Education</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>Partially</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>G.P women’s College</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>Initial</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Grace Bible College</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>Partially</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Evangelical College of Theology</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>Partially</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Hill College</td>
<td>Tadubi</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Hindi Teachers Training College</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>Initial</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Ideal girls College</td>
<td>Akampat</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Imanuel Theological Seminary</td>
<td>Cheilon Tamenglong</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Imphal College</td>
<td>Kwakeithel Imphal</td>
<td>Partially</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Kanan Devi Memorial College of Education</td>
<td>Pangei</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Kaggui Christian College</td>
<td>Kangpokpi</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Kha- Manipur College</td>
<td>Kakching</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>College Name</td>
<td>Location/Note</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Liberal College</td>
<td>Luwangshangbam</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lilong Haoreibi college</td>
<td>Lilong</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lamka College</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>L.M.S Law College</td>
<td>Deulahland</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Maharaja Bodhchandra College</td>
<td>Palace Compound, Imphal</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Manipur College</td>
<td>Pishumthongkhong, Singjamei</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Modern College</td>
<td>Porompat, Imphal</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Moirang College</td>
<td>Moirang, Initial</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Moreh College</td>
<td>Chikim Veng Moreh</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>MT. Everest College</td>
<td>Senapati, Partially</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Naorem Birahari College</td>
<td>Khundrakpam, Initial</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Nongmeikapam Gopal (NG) College</td>
<td>Lamphel</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Oriental College</td>
<td>Takyelpat, Imphal, Partially</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Petregrew College</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Presidency College</td>
<td>Motbung</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Rayburn College</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>R.K.S.D. College of Education</td>
<td>Asha Jina Complex, Imphal</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Royal Academy of Law</td>
<td>Oinam</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Standard College</td>
<td>Kongba</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>South – East Manipur College</td>
<td>Komlathabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Tamenglong College</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Trulock Theological Seminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>V K Tawna College</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Waikhom Mani Girls College</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A.3 **School Libraries**

1. Children’s Training Higher Secondary School Churachandpur
2. H.M Higher Secondary School Keithelmanbi Sadar Hills
3. J.N.V. Lambui Ukhrul Initial
4. J.N.V. Tuinom Churachandpur
5. K.V.S. Lamphel Initial
7. Savio Higher Secondary School Thangmeiband
8. Sangai Higher Secondary School Mantripukhri
10. Tamenglong Government Higher Secondary School Tamenglong

B. **Public libraries**

1. District Library Churachandpur
2. District Library Senapati
3. Kamini Memorial Library Thau Ground, Thangmeiband
4. Library and Information Centre Kakching
5. Luithui Gonmei Memorial Trust Tamenglong
6. State Central Library Imphal

C. **Special libraries**

1. AMBA Jubilee Library Uripok Imphal
2. Central Agricultural University (CAU) Iroisemba, Imphal
3. Central Institute of Plastic Eng.& Tech. (CIPET)  Imphal
4. Economics and Statistics Department  Lamphel, Imphal
5. ICAR  Lamphelpat
6. Institute of cooperative Management  Lamphel, Imphal
7. J.N Institute of Medical Sciences  Porompat Imphal
8. Jawahalal Nehru Dance Academy  Imphal
9. Manipur Legislative Assembly Sectt.  Imphal
10. Manipur Public Service Commission  North AOC Imphal
11. Manipur Institute of Technology  Takyelpat
12. National Institute of Technology  Imphal
13. NEILIT  Akampat  Fully automated
14. Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS)  Lamphelpat  Partially
15. Tribal Research Institute  Imphal

Of the 75 libraries as in the table, 54 are academic libraries comprising of one university, 43 colleges and 9 school libraries while the rest 6 are public and 15 special libraries. These libraries fall under the different nature of organizations – central, state, private and voluntary.

It is also found that out of 75 library survey only 17 of the total libraries are automated. Of which among this, 5 are from central government libraries, 8
from the state government and 4 from private organization libraries. All the libraries of semi-government libraries and voluntary organization under study are not automated. Among the automated libraries, 2 libraries of central government and 5 libraries of state government organizations are in the initial stage. 2 libraries of central government, 3 libraries of the state and 4 libraries of private organizations are partially automated, whereas, only 1 library under central government organizations is fully automated. Therefore, it is clear that majority of the libraries in Manipur are not automated and those reported automated libraries are also partially automated.

4.7 CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that libraries have played an important role in the social, political, economic, intellectual, cultural and scientific development of the society. And knowing computerization and application of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in library will enhance library service. The overall library in the state of Manipur is still lagging behind, in terms of computerization, application of information technology in the library. Unless the concern authority steps in and shoulder responsibility in a magnificent way, marching toward library automation in the state would be further a long dream in the future to come.
References


