Chapter 3

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: AN ASSESSMENT

Preceding chapter was a brief account of the development of higher education in the state. This chapter relates to the assessment of the libraries in universities and colleges in the state by way of introduction. Use of "assessment" in place of introduction did not need any explanation. As Best puts it "Assessment describes the status of a phenomenon at a particular time. It merely describes a situation that prevails without value judgment, attempts no explanation of underlying reasons, and makes no recommendations for action"(1). As this chapter was not designed to determine the effectiveness of these libraries which is the area of concern for latter chapters, it simply studies their present position. However certain implied judgment may become unavoidable at some stages of description for clarification without involving value judgment used in evaluation.
The description of those libraries would follow a set pattern: physical planning, operations and services.

Iqbal Library, University of Kashmir

As described in the previous chapter, the University was established in 1948 as the University of Jammu and Kashmir and split into Kashmir and Jammu universities after the promulgation of the Kashmir and Jammu Universities Act in 1969. The University of Jammu and Kashmir had established a library in 1949 which became the Kashmir University Library after the split, and was named as Iqbal Library in 1979.

Physical Planning:

The library was first housed in an apartment at Lal Mandi in Srinagar where the University was first established in 1948. In 1965 the University shifted to its present campus and the library was also shifted and housed in a wing of the administrative block of the University. In 1970 the University Grants Commission sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25 hundred thousand for the construction of a separate library building. But the University approved a plan costing more than 90 hundred thousands rupees for certain reasons which were later debated about even in the Union Parliament. The building thus constructed on loans from the banks is the tallest on the campus, located centrally with enough space for expansion. It is a modern functional building adequate
enough for a long time to come. The only major draw back with the building, and which really matters, is that it is not suited to the climatic conditions of the Valley. It is a six story building without any elevators so far and is not air-conditioned nor is there any central heating system.

It has all the qualities of a standard library building with spacious stacks areas, research cubicles, public conveniences, auditorium, binding workshop and a cafeteria. The building is architecturally also attractive. But the building, for its maintenance, because of its being huge and unsuitable for the local climatic conditions has become a white elephant for the university. However, during the recent years much has been done and spent to give to the building a better cosmetic appearance.

The library has acquired adequate furniture and fixtures over the years including standard stacks, journal display stands, reading tables. The library has a seating capacity for about 800 readers.

Structure of the Library

So far as the structure of a library system is concerned, there are three possible systems for academic libraries as shown in Figure 2.

1. A central library as well as individual departmental libraries;
2. Departmental libraries with no central library; and
3. One central library with no departmental libraries.
Figure: 2

University Library Topology

University with a Central Library and dependent Departmental Libraries

University with no Central Library with independent Departmental Libraries

University with one Main Library

University

Central Dept. Library

Deptl. Library
The Iqbal Library of the University of Kashmir fits into the Model A. It has a central library with departmental or seminar libraries in all the teaching departments and other institutes and centres. The management and processing are centralized whereas selection, acquisition, maintenance and services are decentralized. Generally this type of structure has the faculty support at other places as well. For, the faculty members contend, as Waldhart and Zweifel put it, "their work (primary their research activities) requires unlimited access to library materials overtime, and, in addition, that library materials should be physically situated in the closer proximity to the greatest number of potential users."(2)

Collection Development:

So far as the resources in monographic publications are concerned the accession records put the number as 325,000 by the end of March 1992. The library subscribed to 311 foreign and Indian Journals in all subjects taught in the university. The additions to the collection and subscriptions to journals are on the decline in keeping with the trend worldwide. The collection includes very comprehensive materials on Jammu and Kashmir, Islam and Iqbaliyat, 500 manuscripts and 15000 back files of periodicals.

Selection of materials, and even their acquisition, is done by the departments directly without any scrutiny by the central library while the central library acquires materials
for itself. This uncoordinated and unscrutinized selection, it was learnt, has resulted in duplications, overlapping and acquisition of substandard and obsolete materials. This practice had at times affected the budgetary control mechanism as departments acquire materials beyond their means. This was particularly true as inadequate book trade market in the valley hampers a judicious selection a great deal.

The maintenance though a real problem was not a matter of great or grave concern in view of the fact that of the materials selected and acquired by the departments were got transferred to the departments and left on their mercy for maintenance. There is no limit to these transfers although there were some regulations in the University Calendar governing the transfer of materials to the departments that read:

"... The Head of each Department/Centre shall have the books transferred to the Seminar Library from the Iqbal Library with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor....

The transfer of books to the Departmental Libraries shall be restricted to books of the following description:-

1) Books required by the Post-graduate staff for their class work.

2) Books needed specially for Post-graduate study. The List of such books shall be prepared by the Head of the Department.

3) Sets of Journals and Periodicals of purely technical nature.

.........

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Books shall not be transferred to the Departmental Library until they are properly classified and catalogued.

.......

Books required by more than one department shall be kept in the Iqbal Library unless it is possible to obtain more than one copy of each such book. (3)

But none of these regulations are followed in the transfer of materials to the departments. In actual practice most of the materials obtained by the departments are immediately got transferred to their respective departments just after accessioning even without proper classification and cataloguing.

Whether this phenomenon of unlimited transfer of materials to the departments is advisable? Does it promote liberal use of such materials? It is debatable and will be dealt with in the next chapter.

It was also found that weeding and physical verification was not done in the library in any systematic and professional way. Some weeding has been done now decades ago when it had become almost inevitable after reorganization of the secondary educational system in the state. Some stock taking has also been done on two or three occasions but never completed to obtain results. As a consequence, the library abounds in obsolete and seldom used materials occupying space and involving huge unnecessary expenditure on maintenance.
Processing:

For processing the Iqbal Library used Dewey Decimal Classification scheme and Anglo-American Cataolguing Rules, 1967 (North American Text) with a number of modifications, and the Sear's List of Subject Headings. But it was found that not all books were properly classified and the public catalogue too was not up-to-date. The library did not maintain a separate catalogue of monographs transferred to the department nor was any marking done on the cards of the public catalogue to indicate such transfers. As most of the departments chased the newly acquired materials for expeditious transfer to their respective departments, the processing became an immediate causality and most of the materials reached their destinations without proper processing.

This state of affairs has been canvassed at several meeting and lamented about on several occasions. Last it was discussed and criticized in the library committee meeting held on December 28, 1992. But nothing substantial was resolved except talking in terms of pooling the professions manpower in various departmental libraries for completing the job on war-footing.(4)

Readers' Services:

Readers services in the library were limited to traditional circulation and passive reference service. In circulation department a modified version of the Browne charging system was in use. Though no exact circulation statistics
was readily available it was estimated to be around 200 books per day on the average.

The registration of borrowers is done in a professional way; the patron is given a registration card to be filled a and got attested by the concerned head of the department. All students were required to deposit a refundable library deposit of Rs. 200. The students are issued a library card with three tickets for borrowing and in the case of research scholars the number of tickets was five. For faculty and other staff of the University and for outsiders the ledgers were used for lending the materials. Reservations, reminders and overdue charges were found to be the normal practices though in the case of sending reminders many lapses were spotted. It was also found that there were four well qualified professionals in the department two of whom were very senior professionals whose services could have been better utilized elsewhere.

The library has a separate reference department with a rich collection of several general and subject encyclope- dias, dictionaries and a host of other reference materials which it behoves to a university library to possess. The collection includes a large number of thesis, and project reports submitted to the university for Ph. D. and M. Phil degree and for partial fulfillment of some Master's pro- grammes. A bibliography of these materials was complied in the library almost a decade ago which has not been updated
eversince and hence has gone out-of-date. No other bibliographical tools are available that could provide information about the reference collection. The bewilderment experienced by patrons in identifying and locating materials in reference department naturally results in diminished exploitation of these rich resources.

There is a limited reference service available in the library which could be improved and expanded with technical organization of the department and adequate staffing. There is enough scope for transformation of this department into a true reference department - a department which does not only satisfy the patron but stimulates and involves him further in the use of the library's resources in men, materials methods and services. This department could initiate user's education programmes which are conspicuous by their absence in the library ever since its establishment well nigh half a century age. But this department was manned by a solitary professional who is perforce required not only to plan an organize the work of the department but also to carry it out. Furthermore, it is essential to staff, the department with persons who have special aptitude for offering services, have a wide range of intellectual maturity and have complete knowledge of the library's resources because in performing his job he is expected to exploit all resources of the library and even outside resources. There can be no two opinions that the performance efficiency of a library depends considerably on the performance of this department.
The services of the library according to the statutes of the University are available to the whole university community comprising teaching, non-teaching staff and students plus the members of the staff of constituent/affiliated colleges and recognized institution. But due to some mismanagement and loopholes in admitting staff of constituent/affiliated colleges and recognized institutions it has recently been discovered that several of the patrons in this category have not bothered to return the borrowed materials. Some of these teachers after attaining the age of supernuation have since retired from active service and thus the materials borrowed are lost by the library. Unless the government is apprised of this situation and requested to make it compulsory for the college teachers to obtain clearance certificates from the university library before their post-retirement matters and benefits are settled the library shall continue to suffer at the hands of some unscrupulous college teachers.

Other facilities:

The library offered a subsidized xerxing facility to the clientele which the clientele used quite liberally. The Xerox machines were in a plenty in the university as all the offices of the Deans of Faculty had been provided with the machines and even some individual departments were found in possession of the machines, but not the Department of Library & Information Science. The library also had microfilm
and microfiche reading gadgets which were found in use, where necessary.

The library had experimented to establish city Centres in the Main city, one at S. P. College for boys and the other at Government Degree College for Women at Nawa Kadal. The purpose was to provide late evening services to its bonafide patrons by maintaining a text book collection transferred from the Iqbal Library for this purpose. It was reported that because of poor utility these centres were closed down shifting the materials back to the Iqbal Library.

There was found a general feeling that the Iqbal Library had not been able to build a prestigious image and project itself as a vital component of academic excellence on the Campus. This poor performance of the library has been an item on the agenda of several committees over the years. The Tayabji Committee deserved a specially mention here because it delved deep into the affairs of the University including the library. The committee was appointed on the suggestion of the state Government by the University Grants Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. Badru-Din Tayabji. Its terms of reference were to review the working of the University and suggest ways and means for improving its working and raising the standards of its performance. Besides, other recommendations on different institutions and affairs of the University, it recommended
1. The university library should establish a cooperative relationship with various centres and school libraries for meeting overall library needs of staff and students of the university. The enter library staff on the campus should be under the overall charge of the university librarian.

2. The adhoc allocation of grants for books and journal among the various centre/ schools of the university should be discontinued. The requirements of each of them should be determined by the library committee.

3. The university library should build up a complete collection of documents and published materials on all aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir state as possible.

4. Teaching methods should be reoriented so as to require both the staff and students to make a meaningful use of the library facilities provided.

5. All policy matters pertaining to the library should be considered by the library committee. A special committee should be set up to suggest the proper use of the space available in the new library building.(5)

Jammu University Library:

The erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir University had established some departments like Geology, Economics, Law etc. only in Jammu Division. The University Library in Srinagar used to acquire materials for these departments and transferred them to these departments in Jammu. Later with the establishment of a separate University in Jammu in 1969 with the promulgation of Kashmir and Jammu Universities Act, the new university established its own library.
Physical Planning:

The library was housed in an apartment of the university campus at Canal Road in the beginning. With the establishment of a well-planned new campus across the famous Tawi Bridge, a new building was constructed for the library. It has all the qualities and facilities that an ideal university library must have. Located centrally in the new campus at a prominent place it is a functional building that can suffice the library for a long time.

Structure of the Library:

Structurally the library was akin to the Iqbal Library of the University of Kashmir. But it has a complete centralized acquisition and processing practice. The departments make selections and send them to the central library which acquires the materials almost in a routine way with little overseeing by the library to check duplications and quality of the materials. The selection was, therefore, decentralized and upon acquisition and processing, materials are transferred to the departments. But processing Jammu university Library also was a causality due to one reason or the other. It was also found that departments did not possess the resources to maintain these collection properly and thus in many cases the plight of these collections was bad.

Collection Development:

According to the accession registers the total book collection of the Library was 2,59,720 by the end of March
1992. It subscribed to 292 journals. Decline in acquisitions and subscriptions was also visible in this library due to obvious reasons mentioned in the case of Iqbal Library. Random selections without any guidelines for selection and a professional say for the librarian had created the same scene in this library also which it had created in its counterpart in Srinagar. The collection was swelling with materials which, by any standards, stood no chance of being on the shelves of a university library. Duplications were also the result of this mode of selection. Though the university's statues also provided some guidelines like those found in the Kashmir University Calendar, but adherence to them was found neglected.

The weeding and physical verifications aspects of collection development presented a dismal picture. What were its consequences were left for the next chapter.

**Processing:**

The library used Dewey Decimal Classification scheme and the AACR-1 for classification and cataloguing. The sear's list of Subject Headings was used for subject cataloguing. But many books were found without classification for which the librarian would give the excuse of shortage of staff etc. etc. Similarly the cataloguing lacked the seriousness of attention it deserved. The public catalogue was found silent about transfers to the departments. The up-to-dateness of the catalogue was equally doubtful.
Readers Services:

These services were also found limited to the traditional circulation and conservative reference service. The average daily circulation was around 150.

The circulation department functioned almost the same way as it did in the Iqbal Library mentioned earlier. Hence it would be futile to repeat all these activities here.

The library had a separate reference department with a collection of about 20,000 items, both obsolete and current, which included encyclopedias, dictionaries and other reference materials including a good collection on Dogri language and culture and Jammu and Kashmir.

It was apparent that this department did not get the attention it deserved. It had just one professional assistants and the organization of the collection too was not favourable to attract patrons.

Other Facilities:

The library had a Xerox machine for the facility of the patrons and the charges were found reasonable as compared to the market rates.

A keen observation of the Library made it clear that it was ailing on the management front. What lapses were found during the investigation were left to be spotted and examined in the next chapter.
S.K. University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Library:

Established in 1982 after the enactment of The Jammu and Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology Act of the State legislature to "assume responsibility for the maintenance of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fishery, Sericulture and Forest Training/Education Centres, Experimental Stations and for the programme of training of field extension workers ...."(6) Thus the main units of education, research and extension and training were transferred to the university from the government department of Agriculture, horticulture, sericulture and animal husbandry. It is a multi-campus university with headquarters at Shalimar in Srinagar with multi-disciplinary regional stations and stations in various agro-climatic zones of the State. It was presently running the professional programmes of Bachelors, Masters degrees in Agriculture, Forestry, Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry plus some extension programmes.

The Act, unlike the Jammu & Kashmir Universities Act 1969, specifies the authority of the University Librarian in clear terms:

He shall be responsible for the maintenance and management of the University Library, to guide and coordinate the working of the libraries of the various constituent units of the University, to prepare the annual estimates of operational and development requirements of all various libraries of the University for incorporation in the budget estimates.(7).
The main Library at Shailmar was established after the establishment of the University, though some of its components have existed over the decades as libraries of various departments referred to above.

**Physical Planning:**

The building for the main library was constructed at Shailmar and became operational from 1988. It is a compact, functional building well-planned with the professional advice of library experts with enough scope for expansion. The stacks area, reading halls, research cubicles are well-designed and fitted with adequate furniture and fixtures.

The station and sub-station libraries also have adequate accommodation either separate or within the buildings of the stations. Four of the stations have separate library buildings and are well equipped with physical facilities to a great extent.

**Structure of the Library:**

The library was both centralized and decentralized. The sub-station libraries in and around Srinagar were under the direct and full control of the main library. Their acquisitions and processing was in the hands of the main Library. But the libraries outside Srinagar in Kashmir and in Jammu were autonomous in operations and services, though their administrative control was also in the hands of the main library.
Collection Development:

By the end of the March 1992 the total collection of the main library plus that of the five station and substation libraries was 67,934. The library in all subscribed to 259 journals from Indian and abroad. The phenomenon of declining acquisition and subscriptions was apparent here as well.

Out of the six station and substation libraries five made direct selections and acquisitions while the sixth at Shohama carried out these operation through the main library. Selection were made by faculty heads in consultation with the faculty committees.

The maintenance was not a problem at the main library which had all the facilities to take care of this aspect but in the station libraries faced some problems because of lack of adequate staff and physical facilities essential for proper maintenance and care.

Weeding and physical verification were equally least attended though the main library did not require to undertake these activity because of its young age. At station libraries this was needed as much as it was neglected again because of their own problems.

Processing:

The main library was responsible for processing of its own acquisitions and that of the station library at Shohama.
It had adopted Universal Decimal Classification and AACR-1 for processing with LC list of Subject Headings for subject cataloguing. The library had made humble beginnings for providing current awareness service using UDC for arrangement of indexing entries.

The other four station libraries used Dewey Decimal Classification and for cataloguing they used AACR-1 with Sears List of Subject Headings. But the processing was not that prompt and complete in these libraries. Large sections of their collections lacked proper processing because of shortage of professional staff.

**Services:**

The traditional circulation and reference services were found available at the main library. Besides, it was gearing itself to offer current awareness service to its patrons.

The main library used Browne's Charging System with modifications used by the Iqbal Library. The circulation department carried out all other activities like reservations, reminders etc. rigorously. But in station libraries the ledger system was in vogue for lending and other activities were not carried out with the zeal they were carried out at the main library. The total circulation figures were found to be 130 books per day on an average. The circulation statistics were well-maintained at the main library while it was not so in the station libraries.
Reference service was traditional in whole of the university though the main library had a better record than that of the station libraries. In three station libraries, two in Kashmir and one in Jammu, the service was not worth the name.

Other Services:

The library has two Xerox machines available at the main library while the station libraries had no such facility independently.

Regional Engineering College Library:

Established in 1960 the Regional Engineering College in the vicinity of the University of Kashmir has BE and ME programmes in civil, mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering. It has its own library.

Physical Planning:

The library has a separate functional, compact building with enough space around for expansion. For the present the building is adequate enough and the library has no space problem even for the near future.

The library is well furnished with standard furniture, fixtures and flooring. The books stacks, magazines and journal display stands, newspapers stands and tables chairs all have been designed locally by the college in consultation with the librarian.
Structure of the Library:

It is a library with no faculty or seminar libraries well exploited by the college faculty and students as is evident from the fact that on an average 300 patrons use the library everyday.

Collection Development:

By the end of March 1992 the library reported possessing collection of 45,160 books and 4850 bound volumes of periodicals on engineering and allied subjects. The library had acquired 702 books during 1992 and currently subscribed to 94 journals. Though the library does not have a written selection policy for selection of materials yet the librarian does play his vital role in overseeing the selections made by various faculties to check duplications and avoid acquiring materials falling short of the standards of the college. The acquisition was fully centralized and the allocation of funds was systematically done in the library committee meeting convened usually before the end of April each year exclusively for this purpose. The Librarian selects a good number of works to make a well-rounded collection. In the selection of reference materials also he had a reasonable say. The library also acquires multiple copies of textbooks which followed no set pattern.

Weeding was reported to be a regular process in the library and was done in consultation with the faculty. For
stock verification no periodicity is fixed and the last stock verification was done in 1988-89 and the outcome posed no cause for concern.

**Processing:**

The Library uses Dewey Decimal clarification scheme for shelf arrangement and AACR-1 for cataloguing with Sears List of Subject Headings for subject description. All the books were properly classified and the public catalogue was also reported and found to be up-to-date.

**Reader's Services:**

The readers services in the college were restricted to circulation and the traditional reference Service. Nevertheless, the library brings out every month the list of new arrivals under the title "New on the Shelf" to apprise the faculty members of the fresh arrivals. The list is omnibus but properly classified according to the Dewey Decimal Classification.

The Browne Charging System was in use in the library with modifications proposed by Ranganathan several years ago. The loanable materials are issued to students for fifteen days while the faculty could retain materials for one month. All other activities associated with circulation department are seriously attended to and reservation procedure was a regular feature.
The reference service, no doubt, was traditional but the reference department was found well-organised with two professionals attending to the job to some degree of satisfaction.

The library has an open-access system with a very small portion of the collection of very costly materials kept under lock and key.

Other Facilities:

The library has a Xerox machine offering services to the users on very subsidized charges.

Medical Libraries:

There are four medical libraries in the state which have all been covered in this study. The Libraries are:

1. Government Medical College Library, Srinagar.
2. Government Medical College Library, Jammu.
3. Jhelum Valley Medical College, Srinagar.
4. J&K Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar.

As these four libraries had much in common and only very little to differ from one another, it was found advisable to describe their present operations and services collectively.

Physical Planning:

All the four medical libraries had no separate buildings but were housed properly in wings within the building
complexes of the colleges/Institute, specially designed for libraries. The housing is compact and functional with adequate space to allow the libraries to perform their functions smoothly and without any inconvenience to staff of the library or the patrons. The space they are occupying was reported to be adequate for them for the present though apprehensions were expressed about their adequacy during the next five to ten years. The Jhelum Valley Medical College, however, expressed no such apprehensions as it was just constructed and its collection was too meagre to lay claim for any additional space for quite some time to come.

All these libraries were satisfied regarding all other physical facilities. The furniture, fixtures and flooring of the Institute of Medical Science Library were found remarkably of a very high standard while those of others were found up to the mark. All the four have spacious, cosy and well-furnished reading halls with special chambers for faculty members and doctors working in their attached hospitals.

Structure of the Libraries:

All the libraries belonged to the Model C as shown in Figure 3.1 i.e., none of these had any seminar or faculty libraries.

Collection Development:

By the end of March 1992 the libraries indicated their collections as: Government Medical College Library, Srinagar
16,400; Government Medical College Library, Jammu 17,620; Jehlum Valley Medical College, Srinagar 4118; and J&K Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar 19,400. Correspondingly, the figures of their current periodicals subscriptions were 289, 328, 70 and 190 respectively.

The collection of books and the number of periodicals subscribed to by the Jhelum Medical College was found quite small compared to those of the other three libraries in this category. The reasons are obvious: it was established only five years ago and was in private sector. Currently it utilized the services of the Government Medical College Library in Srinagar quite heavily.

The selection procedure was somewhat different in these four libraries than from those found in other libraries covered in this study. All these four colleges have chief librarians but a senior professor is usually put in-charge of the library. As the subjects in Medicine are quite specialized the librarian is usually handicapped because of his complete ignorance of the subject. The In-Charge Professor advises the librarian as a subject expert. Thus as the faculties make selection s and forward the lists to the library, the librarian submits these lists to the In-Charge who oversees them dispassionately and advises the library accordingly. As the faculties are aware of the presence of a subject expert in-charge they are usually found selecting the materials very cautiously and with labour.
The ordering is centralized and in the allocation of funds too these libraries were found more systematic. The allocations were made by the respective library committees of the colleges on the basis of the report of the Library In-Charge on the previous years acquisitions and overall strength of the collections on various specializations.

Though stock verification was not a regular features, the weeding was found an exercise attended to very seriously after every two to three years.

Processing:

All the four medical libraries were found unique in the sense that their collections were completely well-organised and the cataloguing was also up-to-date. For shelf arrangement the Government Medical College, Srinagar followed Dewey Decimal Classification, the Government Medical College Jammu followed Colon Classification while Jhelum and the Institute followed Universal Decimal Classification.

For Cataloguing all the four followed AACR-2. Even the one in Jammu which Colon Classification in use had followed this code instead of the Classified Catalogue Code. For subject description in cataloguing all the four used Medical Subject Headings constructed by the National Library of Medicine, Marryland, USA.
Readers Services:

Circulation departments in all the four medical libraries were found beaming with activity. Circulation turn out in each college was not less than 120 per day. All other activities associated with circulation were being carried out promptly. For charging and discharging all the four libraries reported following a combination of modified version of Browne Charging System and Ledger System; the latter being used only for the faculty staff.

The reference departments in three of the four medical libraries are found possessing very comprehensive collections and were being exploited by the patrons regularly. These departments were staffed by professionals offering bibliographic services on demand and reported to have complied a number of bibliographies for their patrons.

In the Jehlum Valley Medical College, however, the reference department had very little collection of reference materials, it was not properly organized and had yet to be manned properly. Its faculty and students depended heavily on the services of the Government Medical College Library in Srinagar which they frequented almost daily because the Jhelum had yet to establish its hospital and, therefore, was utilizing the hospital facilities of the Government Medical College.
Other Facilities:

Xeroxing facility was available in three libraries while the Jhelum had not so for provide this facility to its library which it surely does not need unless it matures into a fully operational library and acquires comprehensive collection required by its clientele. Microfilm reader facility was also available in the three libraries while the Government Medical College Library in Srinagar had acquired a VCP and a slide projector as well.

Regional Research Laboratory Library

The Laboratory situated in Jammu with a substation in Srinagar is engaged in developing technologies for the optimal use of regional resources, helping the industry in the region through research and technology transfer has a well-organised library in Jammu with facilities in Srinagar as well. It belongs to a fraternity of laboratories established by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) with similar objectives at different places in the country.

Physical Planning:

The library is housed in a spacious wing specially designed in one of the building for the library. It has no space problems and is physically well-furnished with standard furniture, fixtures and all other facilities essential for a cozy library atmosphere.
Structure of the Library:

The library is situated in Jammu and has library facility available in its substation in Srinagar. But the total administrative control rests with the Main Library in Jammu.

Collection Development:

Being an applied research organization it does not acquire materials on a particular academic discipline and draws heavily on a number of other subjects instead. It has a collection of 15,200 books, 18,800 bound volumes of periodicals and subscribes to 261 journals. With a Science and Technology staff of 250 with 11 fellows it has well-established selection policy. Various departmental heads send the requests of their selection to the library. The library cumulates the lists and are place before the library Committee for screening. The Committee meets at regular intervals for this purpose. The Librarian has a say in the selection to the extent that he selects various reference materials and checks duplications. Once the books have been selected by the library's screening committee the librarian places the orders with the vendors. The selection and acquisition procedure for all Regional Research Laboratories is a uniform one and this Laboratory also adheres to the same as followed in its sister organization elsewhere.

The library conducts a stock verification every four to five years. 23 books were found lost during the verification
conducted in 1991. The important of the lost items are replaced while other are written off by the library committee.

The library has a regular weeding policy. The librarian prepares a list of obsolete, and deteriorated items and of the old editions which is screened by the library committee and it takes a decision on retention or weeding out.

Processing:

The library is well-organised accordingly to the Universal Decimal Classification and followed AACR-1 with modification for cataloguing with Library of Congress List of Subject Headings for subject description.

Of all the libraries covered in this study it was the only library which was fully organized and maintained an up-to-date public catalogue.

Readers Services:

The library was offering active library services not only to its members but to a large number of outsiders from other institutions in the state. It uses Browne Charging System for lending out materials and the loan period is uniformly limited to fifteen days. The circulation wing carries out all the activities associates with circulation promptly and comprehensively.
It offers a meaningful reference service and has a rich and recent collection of reference materials which are exploited by scientists from the whole state. It has compiled a number of bibliographies to assist its patrons in carrying out their research activities.

Other Facilities

The library offers Xerox facility on nominal charges. It has some audio visual materials also for which the necessary gadgets are also available in the library.

The library is performing its duties like a library for the libraries of the State as will be confirmed by statistics on inter-library loan in the later chapter.

College Libraries

As shown in Tables 2.3 and 2.4 there are thirty degree colleges in the State, eighteen in Kashmir Valley affiliated to the University of Kashmir and 12 in Jammu affiliated to the University of Jammu. All these colleges have libraries which have much in common and are, therefore, dealt with here collectively. A profile of the courses of study, faculty strength and student intake of these colleges has been given in Tables 3.1 and 3.2.

Physical Planning

Of the thirty degree colleges of these just four had separate library buildings. All other libraries are housed
Table: 3.1
Courses of study.
Faculty Strength & Student Intake in Colleges in Kashmir.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of the College</th>
<th>Course of study</th>
<th>Faculty Strength</th>
<th>Student Intake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.</td>
<td>S.P. College</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.</td>
<td>A.S. College</td>
<td>BS BA</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>1721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.</td>
<td>G.M. College</td>
<td>BS BA BC</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) M.A. Road</td>
<td>BS BA</td>
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<td>1300</td>
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<tr>
<td>05.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) N'Kadal</td>
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<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>06.</td>
<td>Islamia College of Science &amp; Commerce</td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>1310</td>
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<td>07.</td>
<td>V.B. (W) Rainawari</td>
<td>BS BA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (B) Bemina</td>
<td>BS BA</td>
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<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (B) Anantnag</td>
<td>BA BC</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Anantnag</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (B) Baramulla</td>
<td>BS BA BC</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Baramulla</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Sopore</td>
<td>BS BA</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Pulwama</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Shopian</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Tral</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Hanwara</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Kupwara</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key: G.D.C.:- Government Degree College; (B) :- Boys; (W) :- Women; BS :- Bachelor of Science; BA :- Bachelor of Arts; BC :- Bachelor of Commerce
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of the College</th>
<th>Course of study</th>
<th>Faculty Strength</th>
<th>Student Intake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.</td>
<td>G.G.M. Science Jammu</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.</td>
<td>M.A.M. Jammu</td>
<td>BS BA</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.</td>
<td>S.P.M.P. Commerce Jammu</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Parade</td>
<td>BS BA BC</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1654</td>
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<tr>
<td>05.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) G'Nahar</td>
<td>BS BA</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1209</td>
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<tr>
<td>06.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (B) Udhampur</td>
<td>BS BA BC</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Udhampur</td>
<td>BA BC</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Bhadarwah</td>
<td>BS BA BC</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Kathua</td>
<td>BS BA BC</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>735</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Kishtwar</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Poonch</td>
<td>BS BA</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Rajouri</td>
<td>BS BA BC</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key:  
G.D.C.:- Government Degree College;  
(B):- Boys;  
(W):- Women;  
BS :- Bachelor of Science;  
BA :- Bachelor of Arts;  
BC :- Bachelor of Commerce
in inadequate, shabby apartments in one of the college buildings lacking all the facilities of a functional library building. All these libraries had acute shortage of space which had forced them to virtually dump their collections in every nook and corner of the library, leaving them to the care of insects, rodents, dust and dampness. Most of these libraries wore the look of a godown.

So far as the other physical facilities like furniture, fixtures etc. are concerned, the condition in all the libraries was found most unsatisfactory. The little furniture these libraries had now turned shabby and unserviceable. And, all this fell short of any standards that are available for library furniture. Several colleges still used double-faced wooden almirahs and the modern racks were found a rare commodity. All the libraries lacked appropriate facilities for hot and cold weather which rendered them quite unfavourable for in-libraries study.

Collection Development:

The collection size in college libraries varied between above 50,000 and less than 4,000. The reasons for this disparity are obvious. The very senior colleges have been engaged in collection building over the decades while the colleges less than a decade old could not compete with them. The absence of any standards for basic collections and regular additions has also compounded the problem. The statutes of both the universities regarding affiliation of
colleges are also quite obsolete so far as the provision of library services was concerned. The statute of the Kashmir University regarding the library provision essential for affiliation of a colleges is quoted here as an example:

The nominal expenditure on books and periodicals in libraries in the .... affiliated colleges .. is fixed as under:

| 1. For affiliated colleges with a roll of 300 or less | Rs 1500 per annum with an initial non-recu­rring grant of Rs. 7000 which may be spread over two years |

The selection of materials for these libraries was the prerogative of the faculties who made selections presciently and usually at the fag end of the financial year with the librarian having a say equal to naught. This rough selection brought on to the stacks of these libraries materials seldom used save in the case of prescribed textbooks which left their shelves to be in the hands of the faculty members and students often. The collection size of the individual college libraries has been shown in Tables 3.3 and 3.4.

Maintenance of these collections also suffered a great deal because of lack of physical facilities. Stock verification was conducted hardly once in ten years but never completed. Weeding was a proverbial "prohibited tree" for these libraries and thus their collections are infested with obsolete, worn and torn out materials.
Table 3.3
Collection figured in Degree Colleges of Kashmir Division (31.3.1992)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Collection Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.</td>
<td>S.P. College, Srinagar</td>
<td>52,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.</td>
<td>A.S. college, Srinagar</td>
<td>45,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.</td>
<td>G.M. College, Srinagar</td>
<td>14,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.</td>
<td>G.D.C. For Women M.A. Road, Srinagar</td>
<td>43,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05.</td>
<td>G.D.C. For Women, Nawa Kadal, Srinagar</td>
<td>25,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (B) Bemina, Srinagar</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07.</td>
<td>Islamia College of Science &amp; Commerce, Srinagar</td>
<td>08,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08.</td>
<td>V.B.C. for Women, Srinagar</td>
<td>02,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (B) Anantnag</td>
<td>36,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Anantnag</td>
<td>14,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (B) Baramulla</td>
<td>30,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Baramulla</td>
<td>05,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Sopore</td>
<td>08,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Pulwama</td>
<td>04,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Shopian</td>
<td>03,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Tral</td>
<td>02,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Handwara</td>
<td>03,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Kupwara</td>
<td>05,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.4

Collection Figured in Degree Colleges of Jammu Division (31.3.1992)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Collection Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.</td>
<td>G.G.M. Science College, Jammu</td>
<td>53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.</td>
<td>M.A.M.College, Jammu</td>
<td>54,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.</td>
<td>S.M.P. Rajput College of Commerce, Jammu</td>
<td>23,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Parade, Jammu</td>
<td>35,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Gandhi Nagar, Jammu</td>
<td>17,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (B) Udhampur</td>
<td>31,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07.</td>
<td>G.D.C. (W) Udhampur</td>
<td>28,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Bhadarwah</td>
<td>27,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Kathua</td>
<td>22,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Kishtwar</td>
<td>12,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Poonch</td>
<td>03,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>G.D.C. Rajouri</td>
<td>03,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The state Government in collaboration with the Union Government had initiated a Book Bank Scheme for underprivileged and socially backward classes and furnished these college libraries with sizable number of text and other books. But the condition of these books for want of adequate space was miserable in almost all the colleges.

**Processing:**

Whatever the collections and their conditions, twenty six out of the thirty college libraries reportedly classified their collections according to different editions of Dewey Decimal Classification. Four libraries that did not classify their collections in this manner were those which had no professional staff. They put books of a particular subject into almirahs and pasted a slip on the face of almirah indicating the name of the subject. Because of shortage of staff reported by all those libraries their classification work was also found not up to the mark.

The 26 libraries which reported classifying their collections also catalogued their collection according to AACR-1 with Sears List of Subject Headings for subject description. But their catalogues are not up-to-date nor do they have well-designed catalogue cabinets and suitable space to display them prominently. Staff shortage appeared to obstruct the smooth activity of cataloguing as well.
Readers Services:

The most conservative services for readers were found in all the college libraries. In circulation all the libraries used registers for maintaining the loaned records. The other activities undertaken in circulation were performed to the minimum. The circulation statistics was not maintained properly.

All these libraries did have reference collections but it was found that these collections were not up to the mark and lacked recency. There were no separate reference departments in most of those libraries and thus a befitting reference service was conspicuous by its absence.
FOOTNOTES

CHAPTER - 3


07. Ibid. p. 7.