ABSTRACT

Indian is a sovereign, socialistic, secular, democratic country. The democracy largely depends upon the proper functioning of Parliament and State Legislature of the country. India since independence it has been functioning properly through Parliament and State Legislature. Parliament Library and State Legislature Libraries are the hearts of Parliament and State Legislature respectively. Proper functioning and services of the Parliament Library and State Legislature Libraries help its clientele specially members, executives and administrators a lot to carry out their business in their respective houses.

The history of State Legislature Libraries is as old as the establishment of Parliament Library in the year 1921. Most of the State Legislature Libraries are established in various States during the period from 1919-1952 and Assam Assembly Library was also established in the year 1926 as per demands of the members.

Clienteles of Assam Legislative Assembly Library are – MLAs, Ex-MLAs, Administrators, Research Scholars, Professors cum scholars, Principals, Media persons etc.

The main users of Assembly Library are MLAs who are elected by the people for 5 years and they are not permanent users due to system of general election. From the records of MLAs (who’s who of Assam Legislative Assembly) it has been found MLA’s differ from one another in their cultural background, general qualifications etc. Hence uniform service is not asked for and so can not be provided. So it is necessary to study about their needs and their educational, cultural and professional backgrounds so that books, documents of their choice can be procured besides the commonly required books, documents.
Introduction of documentation services is highly essential. With the introduction of this service nascent thought, micro literature and specialist users can be brought together for smooth functioning of the Assembly Library.

Extension service is also very important for Assembly Library. List of recently added documents to Assembly Library are to be sent to all the MLAs with brief note. This will not only save valuable time of Honourable members but also books costing hundreds and thousands will be utilized.

Refresher course for MLAs and Ministers if possible should be organized at least once for the members of newly constituted Assembly by competent persons in the field.

To give proper service, organization of Assembly Library in the most scientific footing is utmost necessary. We are now living in the age of knowledge explosion and documents become double within 10 years. Whatever, may be budget, a library can not acquire all books, documents, journals etc. according to the needs of the library. Hence most valuable books and other documents must be acquired judiciously accordingly to the needs of the library users. It should be properly organized to give the befitting services to the clientele accordingly to the needs pin pointedly and exhaustively.

The main function of the modern special libraries generally is to store information and it helps in retrieving information with high speed. Now it is possible by using 4th generation computer. Data and space base may be located from any part of the globe and what is necessary is to link the local terminal with a centralized data base. Role of information technology specially use of internet service, chat, video conference, e-commerce and social net working which are very important for special library like Assembly Library. Assembly Library possesses almost all modern equipments for smooth functioning and services of the Library. Services such as current awareness, selected dissemination of information, electronic clipping, bibliographic service which are provided earlier manually by Library can be done by using computers to mechanize the procedure for matching the interest of users with contents of document.
The progress and development of State mainly depend on the smooth functioning of Assembly and general administration of the State. To participate in the debate of the House, MLAs require data, information for which they come to Assembly Library and required information are to be provided by Library. Administrators help minister including Chief Minister during session time in preparation of reply of questions, budget speeches, in preparation of acts and amendments etc. Accordingly they require various documents and some other services from the Library.

Accordingly the employee of various department come for collection of data, information from the library and library provide the required information. So Assembly Library plays a very crucial role since its inception in the year 1926.

A conclusion has also been drawn from the finding and suggestions from MLAs, Ex-MLAs, Executives, Research Scholars, Principals of various colleges, some State Legislature libraries of India, Parliament Library, BPST, New Delhi etc. During the course of the study, it has been felt that further research is essential considering the area of coverage and study in this work, some of the area which are covered peripheral to this study but deserve the attention for further research.