Abstract

Libraries are the basic centre for the dissemination and communication of ideas and knowledge through the recorded and graphic materials kept in them systematically organized and processed. Libraries are the multi purpose institution to gather, organizes, preserve, socialize and serve all expressed thoughts, irrespective of the format. Due to high degree of specialization in the present era of scientific and technological development the librarians are not only concerned with the repository of knowledge of all subjects but this give the birth of the special libraries of different subjects.

In this Age, when the developments in information technology is fast and varied in nature we find considerable application in libraries and information centres but the libraries are merely concerned with information regardless of the format in which it appears or is packaged .The other factors or aspects constitute an important elements in library’s operation. Therefore, various media of communication, broadly speaking books and electronic forms have to find their due place within the domain of a modern library.

A library being a social agency must, therefore, be planned according to meet the social needs of the community it is designed to serve. Whether, the community be general, academic, or special with the advancement in the field of science and technology, the concept, role and function of the libraries is changing.

The scientific and technological program in India has been quite rapid in comparisons to other developing centuries. During past few decades, India is
trying to accelerate its information activities and new information centres have been set up in areas of Science and Technology. Librarians are moving beyond their traditional role as custodians of printed material and integrating new methods of information storage, retrieval and transmission into existing collection and services and also started applying new technologies and accept new effective and efficient media of communication in the mainstream of the library for achieving the basic objectives of dissemination of information and ideas to the users in the desired format, speed and relevance.

The scope of the study has been taken up to look into the available resources of the library and the extent of their use by different kinds of users. The study is limited to the three special libraries which are also acting as national libraries in their own subject i.e. National Agricultural Library, National Science Library and National Medical Library. All the three libraries are located at New Delhi.

Utility of the study is to find out the development of the libraries in their respective subject and the services provided by the libraries and satisfying the need of the users keeping in view the information needs and the developments in the information technology and form of the document collection in the future of the users. It is expected the result of this study would be known to the user groups and it will then create awareness amongst them. This study would also reveal the potentials of the libraries.
The objective of the study is:

1. To trace the historical development and growth of libraries.
2. To trace the growth and development in terms of collection and budget.
3. To trace the current status of the libraries in terms of resources & services.
4. To identify the weakness of the librarian.
5. To determine the extent of the use of library resource and service and ascertain users priority for change in services.
6. To find out the factors for show development of libraries.
7. To make suggestions for better growth, development and services of the libraries.

The scope of the study is to asses the growth, development and the services imparted by these libraries. For the purpose survey method has been used and it employed questionnaires, interview, and observation technique. The study is based on the primary data. However, in some cases, secondary data have also been considered as per the rule. Only, reliable, valid and pertinent data were organized, tabulated compared, analyzed and interpreted with the help of simple statistical technique. The analysis of the data collected has been presented with the help of figures Pie diagram. The above data, findings and conclusions have been arrived. The population of the study consists of users of libraries which include students, research scholars, teachers, and scientists.
etc. Due to large number of users of these libraries. The sample was selected randomly i.e. from IARI 15%, from NML18%, and from NSL 90% because they do not have membership but they have daily membership basis that is why percentage is larger from other libraries.

Two questionnaire were framed, one for Librarian of the libraries and other for the users of the libraries. Three questionnaires were sent to the libraries. All the librarians were responded. Similarly, total 265 questionnaires were sent to the users of the different libraries and 218 were responded. Out of which 195 were selected for the study because of the problems in the questionnaire.

On the basis of the scope and objectives of the study and after reviewing the literature the following hypotheses have been formulated:

1. The growth of libraries is a continuous process.

2. Developments of the libraries take the form of expansion of physical facilities and services.

3. Budget is continuously increasing to cope up the demand of the libraries.

4. Libraries are maintaining their traditional services and collections even as they use technology in new way to deliver services and provide access to information on networks or through document delivery services.

5. The infrastructure facilities and information services available in all the libraries are not sufficient to meet the information needs of the users.
Electronic formats and online databases but surely and becoming an important part of collection of special libraries. The above hypotheses were also tested through raising questionnaire, interview and observation method and it was found that the aspects which were included in the hypotheses have sound relation directly or indirectly to achieve objectives of the study. The main features which emerged are: both staffs and users are facing problems such as problems related with technology paucity of funds, inadequate infrastructure, Lack of well equipped library/Lab workshops for improvements, inadequate seating arrangements, Networking problems libraries are not very well versed with the information technology use, lack of manpower training programs are also there. The main conclusion that arises from the study is that the researcher felt that the development is the process and all the libraries are growing in terms of material and provision of services in the library and the users are also very much keen to use the services provided by the library manually and electronically.

The present study has broadly been divided into 6 chapters. Chapter -1 contains introduction including the need, purpose, objectives and scope, utility, hypotheses and research methodology of the study. Chapter -2 deals with the review of related literature. It describes the studies which have already done on the related areas.
Chapter -3 deals with the development of the libraries especially special libraries their status and services.

Chapter - 4 covers the libraries under study that is National Science Library, National Medical Library and Indian Agricultural Research Institute library, New Delhi. Their organisational set up, staff, present state and the different services provided by these libraries.

Chapter -5 contains the analysis of the data collected through questionnaire and other methods from the Librarian and users of the libraries.

Chapter -6 is intended to provide a general summary of the enquiry and its findings. It also presents the conclusion derived from the pertinent findings related to the objectives. Finally it offers some suggestions and recommendations to improve the services. At the end, the researcher has also suggested a few areas for further research.

At the end bibliography is given followed by appendices which contain questionnaire for the librarian and for the users of the libraries.