Chapter 3

COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN KERALA

3.1 Introduction

Kerala's achievement in the field of literacy, education, health care etc is noteworthy and several social scientists hail Kerala for its achievements. The state government gives utmost importance to education. State funding for education in Kerala is above 40 percent of GDP and as a result maximum people get opportunities for higher education. Kerala surpasses many other states in respect of educational expenditure. There was a concerted effort on the part of the Kerala government and non-governmental agencies to achieve total literacy and consequently this southern most state became the first to achieve total literacy in late '80s. This small state is also characterized by high degree of social awareness among people of all walks of life. This achievement is also due to the spread of college education in Kerala.

A college is an institution of higher education where an individual sharpens the intellect and unfolds the mysterious faculties of mind. It helps in exploring and developing talents of students and teachers how to live successfully in the society. The college educations opens to its entrant new vistas of knowledge and inculcates in him a sense of purpose and values (Inamdar, 1995). It enables the students to be responsive and responsible to the problems faced by the contemporary society and motivates them to contribute to the welfare of their fellow beings. The education imparted therefore should be meaningful and relevant. The colleges and the libraries attached to them have been playing their important role in the academic achievement and development of the state as a whole. The college library development goes along with the development of University libraries in Kerala. All the committees and Commissions appointed by the Government of India, Government of Kerala and the University Grants Commission have stressed the need for
the rich college libraries. The colleges and college libraries are playing their role in shaping the fate of the nation, being the first door step to the higher education in the country (Chaturvedi, 1994). In this chapter an attempt is made to highlight the objectives and functions of colleges and college libraries and discuss the present situation of the college libraries in Kerala in the IT environment. Data for the preparation of this chapter were collected mainly from colleges through a questionnaire.

3.2 Objectives and functions of colleges

A college is any institution of higher education not designed as a university (Collins Standard Dictionary, 1978). It can be defined as any non-university institution of tertiary education. It occupies the middle order of the hierarchy of education where schools remain at the bottom and the university on the top. Colleges play an important role in higher education. A college seeks to provide the opportunity for those who have left schools to continue and extend their education, to give vocational training for those who have not yet entered employment and to enable those in employment to further qualifications. Colleges also support personal development and strengthen social relationships. In essence, a college seeks to be a focal point in the life of the community and to make a positive contribution towards its enrichment. The more specific objectives and functions of colleges according to McElroy (1984) are the following.

1. To determine and respond to the changing needs of the community, to technological changes and to matters of community concern;
2. To offer the community an appropriate mix of full and part-time courses;
3. To co-operate with institutions of higher education to provide more access to continuing education;
4. To provide vocational education and training opportunities to individuals so as to equip them to contribute to industry, commerce and public sector;

5. To assist in increasing and developing the interaction of recreational, cultural and educational activities in the locality.

In general, college is regarded as an institution of higher learning, which provides courses after school learning to Bachelor's degree. Some of the prominent colleges also offer courses leading to Post - Graduate degree and Research work leading to Ph.D. degree.

3.3 Educational role of College Libraries

The role of the library in supporting and sustaining higher education has been universally recognized. From their very origin, colleges have depended on libraries attached to them for the successful implementation of their academic programmes. Indeed, the college library has all along played a prominent role in the promotion of all the objectives of higher education. This educational role of the library has assumed greater importance and new dimensions today in the context of various developments, especially the phenomenal growth of knowledge and introduction of information technology. One of the primary aims of higher education is to impart advanced and specialized knowledge to students and enable them to acquire competence and skills in the various fields of human activity meant for all - round social progress and the enrichment of human life. According to Malcom Adiseshiah - a renowned educationalist, "If the purpose of higher education at the high levels - post graduation, doctorate and post - doctorate is to develop new sources of knowledge and new knowledge then there should be no alternative to the library" (Adiseshiah, 1992).

Every commission and committee that has gone into the state of higher education in our country since independence has underlined the importance of libraries. The University Education Commission, 1948 (Radhakrishnan Commission), the Education Commission, 1964 (Kothari
Commission) and the Library Committee of the University Grants Commission, 1959 (Ranganathan Committee) have all, in their reports, laid great stress on the importance of the educational functions of the University and College Libraries and on the need for equipping and developing the libraries of these functions.

The Radhakrishnan Commission described the library of a University or a College as the "heart of the University or the College" and asserted that, both humanistic and scientific studies, a first class library is essential (India, University Education Commission, 1948). The Kothari Commission warned that nothing could be more damaging to a growing department than to neglect its library or to give it a low priority (India, Education Commission, 1964). Gelfand (1992) in his book "University libraries for developing countries" states that "The fundamental role of the library is education. It should not be operated as a mere store house of books attached to a reading room, but as a dynamic instrument of education". All education commissions and educationalists have used the most impressive expressions to highlight the pivotal role, a library has to play in an academic institute. 'The heart of the university' 'Falcrum of university education', 'laboratory of the learned' etc are examples of such expressions (Isaac, 1996). Thus an academic library has to play a very fundamental role as an instrument of education. It should feed the intellect of the student, and encourage the researchers and the faculty. In effect, library use becomes a method of indirect learning.

In the light of the points stressed above, of the focal role of the library in higher education, it is needless to say that there should be an all-out effort to equip the University and College libraries adequately to enable them to discharge this role effectively.

3.4 Objectives and functions of college libraries

College library is a library established, maintained and administered by a college to meet the needs of its students community (Harrod's Librarian's Glossary, 1971). Each college has its own library, which is
bestowed with the supporting function for achieving the immediate objectives of the colleges and ultimately that of higher education. College libraries are institutions endowed with the responsibility of meeting the educational needs of the users. Tikha and Arneja (1983) is of the view that "when education is basically dependent upon library the latter becomes the fountain head of education". This shows the role of college libraries in the modern world.

All college libraries have one objective in common which can be described as follows. The college libraries aim is to serve the students and teachers of the college in such ways that will promote their programmes of higher academic pursuits. Thus each college library is obliged to help its parent institution in attaining the high academic standards and in making remarkable achievements in the field of higher education (Gupta, 1978). The aim of college education and college libraries are interrelated. College library extends opportunities for self education to the deserving and enthusiastic students without any distinction. These libraries develop in each student a sense of responsibility in the pursuit of knowledge. College library stimulates the students to evaluate and recognize knowledge and so familiarize himself with the trends of knowledge for further education and learning new disciplines. The role of the college libraries reflects in the statement made by S.R. Ranganathan (1946), "Academic library system postulates that there should be library centered education in schools, colleges and universities.

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in the USA for college libraries in 1959 dominate functions of a college library as under:

The college library should be the most important resource of the academic community. Its services, given by a competent staff of adequate size, should be geared to implement the purpose of the college's general
programme and to meet the specific educational objectives of the institution. Its collection should aim at presenting the heritage of Western and Eastern thought, but should stress those particular areas which are essential to the curriculum of the institution. Beyond supporting the instructional programme to the fullest extent, the library should endeavor to meet the legitimate demands of all its patrons, from the senior professor engaged in advanced research to the freshman just entering upon the threshold of higher, to stimulate and encourage the student to develop the lifelong habit of good reading, and to play its proper role in community and in wider realm of scholarship beyond the campus (Harwell, 1971).

According to Lyle (1961) the function of the college library, is threefold. First, its service to the college community; second duty towards the alumnus; third, it must become a positive influence in the society for the expansion of knowledge and helping men and women in their quest after truth. The objectives of a college library as laid down by the Education Commission (India, Education Commission, 1964, Chairman: D.S. Kothari (1966) are the following:

(i) Provide resources necessary for research in the fields of special interest to the college;

(ii) Aid the teacher in keeping abreast of development in the field;

(iii) Provide library facilities and services necessary for the success of all formal programmes of instruction;

(iv) Open the door to the wide world of books that lie beyond the borders of one's own field of specialization; and
(v) To bring students and scholars together under conditions which encourages reading for pleasure, self discovery, personal growth and the sharpening of intellectual curiosity.

There is no need to underscore further the unchallenging role of the college library in supporting the teaching, learning and research programmes. In our colleges teaching and learning are fully identified with classroom lectures, which leave no role for the library to play in promoting the teaching learning process. But with the restructuring of the conventional degree courses and the introduction of the Credit and Semester System (CSS) for P.G. courses are the colleges, libraries are becoming the nucleus of all the intellectual activities and research projects in colleges.

Different authors have described the characters of college library in a variety of ways. According to Feber (1974) a college library should possess four characteristics, such as (1) manageable size; (2) relative clarity of institutional goals; (3) personnel, almost always deeply dedicated; and (4) students and faculty for the most part a captive clientele. Dollard (1981) presents five paradigms for the college library (1) it is established to meet the needs of a large corporate entity; (2) it has a captive audience required to use the library; (3) its collect goals are not comprehensive; (4) its aim is to provide good bibliographic access; and (5) its role in the institution as a laboratory.

3.5 Higher education in Kerala

Higher education in any society is of vital importance in the whole education system. In India higher education has been an integral part of education. The importance of higher education has been pointed by various commissions and committees.
Though Kerala has achieved total literacy it lags behind the demand both in qualitative and quantitative terms in the field of higher education. In Kerala there are seven Universities that manage higher education. They are University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram (1937); University of Calicut, Malappuram (1968); Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi (1971); Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur (1972); Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam (1983); Sree Sankara University of Sanskrit, Ernakulam (1993) and Kannur University, Kannur (1996). There are also two deemed Universities viz. National Institute of Technology, Calicut and Sri Chithra Thirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.

Out of the seven universities, Cochin University of Science and Technology offers courses mainly in Science and Technology. Similarly Sree Sankara University of Sanskrit offers courses in the areas of Arts and Humanities. Kerala Agricultural University offers courses in the field of Agriculture and Animal Sciences. The other Universities (Kerala, Calicut, M.G. and Kannur) offer courses in almost all disciplines. The higher education scenario in Kerala comprises Arts and Science Colleges, Technical Education and Medical Education.

The number of colleges in the state have gone up along with the number of universities. In the field of higher education colleges and consequently the college libraries have seen the most dynamic growth in the last few decades in Kerala. Table-3.1 below shows the nutshell of higher education setup in Kerala.
### Table 3.1 Higher Education in Kerala in a Nutshell

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<th>Un aided</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Music Colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arabic Colleges</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Law Colleges</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Colleges</td>
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<tr>
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<td>72</td>
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<tr>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Colleges</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidha Medical Colleges</td>
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</table>

3.6 College Libraries in Kerala

There are 657 colleges in Kerala which include Arts and Science Colleges, Fine Arts Colleges, Music Colleges, Arabic Colleges, Physical Education Colleges, Law Colleges, Training Colleges, Engineering Colleges, Agricultural Colleges, Medical Colleges, Dental Colleges, Pharmacy Colleges, Nursing Colleges, Ayurveda Colleges, Homeopathy Colleges and Sidha Medical College which are affiliated to various Universities. There are 157 colleges under the Kerala University, 175 under Calicut University, 205 under M.G. University, 93 under Kannur University, 19 and 9 under CUSAT and Kerala Agricultural University respectively. Out of this 215 are Post-Graduate Colleges.

Arts and Science Colleges still dominate the higher education sector in Kerala. There are 356 Arts and Science Colleges in 2005, of which 39 are Government Colleges, 150 are aided and 167 in the unaided sector.

The Technical Education system in the state covers courses in Engineering, Technology, Management and Architecture etc. Engineering Colleges belong to this system. In recent years, there has been a remarkable increase, in the number of Engineering Colleges especially in the number of private self - financing colleges. By the end of the Ninth Plan (2002), the number of engineering colleges was 44. At present there are 84 engineering colleges in the state. Out of 84 engineering colleges, 9 are government colleges, 3 are private aided and 72 are self-financing engineering colleges.

The Medical Education system in the state comprises of Medical Colleges (Allopathy), Dental Colleges, Pharmacy Colleges, Nursing Colleges, Ayurveda Colleges, Homeopathy Colleges and Sidha Medical Colleges. A total of 118 Colleges in this sector. Out of which 14 are Medical Colleges, 11 are Dental Colleges, 21 are Pharmacy Colleges, 54 are Nursing Colleges, 12 are Ayurveda Colleges, 5 are Homeopathy Colleges, and 1 Sidha Medical College.
Table 3.2 Colleges affiliated to various Universities in Kerala

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<td>120</td>
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<td>Fine Arts College</td>
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<td>191</td>
<td>89</td>
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<td>9</td>
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</table>
Another major section of colleges are Teacher Education Training Colleges. They are 67 in number. Other types are Five Arts Colleges - 3, Music Colleges - 3, Arabic Colleges - 11, Physical - Education Colleges - 2, Law Colleges - 6 and 7 Agricultural Colleges including Veterinary College. A synoptic view of the different types of colleges affiliated to various Universities in Kerala is given in Table - 3.2.

All the colleges have libraries, as it is compulsory for recognition. After the NAAC visit the situation of some of the libraries has been improved much. There are 100 colleges accredited by NACC is Kerala. Of these, six are Government and others are private colleges. But, in the contemporary educational setting in the state, libraries are not getting the importance they deserve. In Kerala, college libraries are grouped into four grades. First grade, Second grade, Third Grade and Fourth grade. The grading is based on the number of documents available in the library and number of books issued per year. Within their limitations all the libraries maintain a good collection and offer all possible services to its users. An account of the administrative setup, documentary resources, staff, technical organization, services, clientele, use of Information Technology, finance, physical facilities, library management and organizational pattern reveals the present situation of the college libraries in Kerala.

3.6.1 Administrative setup

Administration involves the techniques by which the purpose of an organization is fulfilled at minimum cost and with maximum efforts. Administration concerns with the following functions:
Both administration and organization are meant for attaining a laid down aim or objective. Administration is the art of getting things done through people but it would be for better if it is got done through their cooperation and goodwill. An effective and efficient library plays an important role in the field of higher education. The size of the staff for any given library or library system must be based upon the programme of service adopted by the library, the population and size of the service area, the financial support and more specifically, the number of departments, branches and other organized units, the amount of circulation and reference service, the plans of the library buildings, the hours of opening and other factors. The effectiveness of a library's service is determined in large measure by the availability of the staff. Its members convey the attitude of hospitality, encourage readers to use its resources, interpret its book collection. Allocation of funds for various items should be finalized. The library work may be divided broadly into two kinds of jobs e.g., work behind the scene and the work with the readers.

In administration of a college library the following pattern is considered. It has been shown diagrammatically. Diagram - 3.1 (Sharma, 1994).
In Kerala, the administrative setup of college libraries is loose and on traditional lines. In majority of the colleges the practice of placing a teacher-in-charge of the library, as a control over the librarian is in vague. This is particularly more common in government colleges than in the private colleges. In most of the private colleges this situation has been changed libraries are governed by qualified librarians. But in some colleges, the librarians have no control over the supporting staff. In such
cases the supporting staff are controlled either by the principal or by the office staff who are ignorant of the functions of the library, which results in collisions or clash between the librarian and the supporting staff (Chinnamma, 1997). This is an undesirable practice and stifles the initiative of the librarian and creates administrative problems in the library, which should be discouraged. Many colleges maintain department libraries besides the central library. There department libraries are managed by the respective departments.

3.6.2 Documentary Resources

Documentary resources or collection should be regarded as a precious treasure of an academic institution. Well selected and representative collection of library material will attract more and more students and help to inculcate the reading habit in them. Skilful selection and arrangement of the collection will promote maximum utilization of the collection. The collection should be reviewed and revised periodically in order to make it up-to-date. The library collection of books, periodicals, bound volumes of periodicals, newspapers, maps, microfilm, microfiche and other materials should be provided and organized in such a way as to give strength and support to the educational programme of the college. It should be suitable for all levels of teaching and learning conducted by the college, and should keep faculty members abreast of new research in their respective fields.

College library should have textbook collection consisting of multiple copies of text books of graded standard on every subject taught is the college. It should definitely cover the requisite textbooks recommended for each of the courses. There should also be books of a popular nature for informative recreational reading, and the reference collection should be rich in bibliography. Periodicals should be selected with care for covering all fields of interest to the college. Every college library should have an audio-visual section. Modern college libraries should have computerized library holdings and CD-ROM databases and other reading materials.
The report of the University Grants Commission (1965) contained important specifications for the efficient functioning of the university and college libraries. In the case of document stock the report recommends a collection of 5000 to 50000 books and 20 to 100 current periodicals for a college library. Goel (1968) recommends that there should be at least a dozen periodicals in a college library for each of the subjects taught. He also prescribes provision of one copy of the textbooks for every 10 students.

Most of the college libraries in Kerala have different types of hard copy collections like books, journals, bound volumes of periodicals, newspapers etc. But very few libraries especially professional college libraries subscribe to on-line journals and commercial on-line databases and they are made available. Some of the libraries are using CD-ROM databases. College libraries do not follow any book selection policies and nearly one forth of the librarians have no role in book selection. Hence there is imbalance is the book collection.

The present collection is inadequate to meet the requirements. As far as textbooks are concerned private college libraries possess more. Mainly the collection is limited to books and periodicals. The scholarly journals are inadequate. Non-book materials such as tapes, slides, films, audio-cassettes, video-cassettes, CD-ROM etc. are not available in all libraries. There is no practice of regular weeding out of obsolete and outmoded reading materials in libraries.

It is seen that, the availability of textbooks prescribed for various courses are very inadequate. The college libraries, in general, are ill-equipped to meet the reading requirements of students and teachers both with respect to quantity and quality.

3.6.3 Staff

Another important matter that should be given due attention is the proper staffing of libraries. The most important ingredient of a sound library programme is the availability in adequate strength of a qualified and
competent team of staff with a sense of motivation who can be depended on to translate modern library objectives into practice. This is another neglected aspect of the college library scene in Kerala today.

The staff pattern and strength should be related to the major functions of the library and to the workload. The Library Committee of the University Grants Commission has prescribed a set of norms for determining the staff strength in various categories in university and college libraries. This existing staff provision (as per the UGC norms) are totally insufficient to handle the present Information Technology situation. Readers service never gained attention due to this reason. More professional staff is required to handle circulation, collection management, IT oriented information and reference service and other routine housekeeping operations in libraries. In Kerala, the Joy Committee recommended a staff formula for college libraries based on an understanding of the correct position of library and information system in colleges, the role of library science professionals in improving the quality of higher education and the nature of the profession. But, no standard staffing pattern is followed in any of the college libraries in Kerala.

In Kerala, the college libraries and librarians are grouped into four grades. First grade, Second grade, Third grade and Fourth grade. For colleges having the First, Second or Third grade libraries, there will be one librarian in the prescribed grade and one-Fourth grade librarian. For Fourth grade libraries, there will be only one librarian in that grade. Fourth grade librarian is not a professional unless he possesses a P.G. degree in Library Science.

The minimum qualifications prescribed for the first three grades of librarians are a degree with a degree in library science. For the Fourth grade librarian SSLC with a Certificate in Library Science is fixed as the minimum qualifications. Those First grade librarians included in the UGC scheme, UGC qualifications are prescribed. The strength of the supporting staff should be worked out on the basis of rational norms. The
First grade colleges have professional, semi-professional and non-professional staff. But they are inadequate in numbers. So most of professional work in these libraries are done by semi-professionals, in few cases by non-professionals. The number of different category of staff for a particular grade library is fixed by the state government.

The salary of librarians is not commensurate with the responsibility they shoulder. Even the salary of First grade librarians is less than that of lecturers in the college. But only those librarians placed in the UGC scheme are drawing UGC salary. They are very few in number and more in private colleges. Even though UGC scheme was implemented in the Govt. colleges the librarians still not getting its benefits. Some of the colleges librarians are appointed on contract basis with consolidated salary.

The academic qualifications possessed by the librarians varied very widely. With respect to professional qualifications, 59.85 percent of librarians possess Masters degree in Library Science and 36.43 percent of the librarians possess Bachelors degree. Some of the Forth grade librarians having Bachelors or Masters degree. Higher professional qualifications such as M. Phil. and Ph.D. are possessed by a very few professionals. There are professionals having Certificate or Diploma in various areas of computer applications but their number is meagre.

The professional qualifications possessed by majority of librarians are inadequate to perform the specialized professional responsibilities in the present IT environment. In respect of distribution of sex, majority of librarians are male. Libraries are facing acute shortage of supporting staff. It is estimated that there are 392 professional librarians in different types of college libraries in Kerala.

In short, the professional manpower distributed in the college libraries is inadequate both in quantity and quality.
3.6.4. Technical organization

A college library collection include a variety of document resources such as books, textbooks and reference books, general and subject periodicals, newspapers, maps, atlases, audio-visual materials and other types of micro forms. All these materials are to be organized in a proper way suitable to the user community. It is a difficult task.

In Kerala, college libraries follow different methods of organization. These methods are as follows:

1. Single arrangement of all types of materials without any discrimination to courses or classes.

2. Separate arrangement for each type of materials - News papers (Alphabetical and data wise), periodicals (Alphabetical and Classified), textbooks, reference books, maps and atlases, audio-visual materials (Accession Number wise or Classified).

3. A combination of the above. Very few college libraries - organize their collection according to materials and category of users. Such libraries have Periodical section, Textbook section, Reference section and / or Graduate section, Post-graduate section and Teachers section. Most of the government college libraries in the state follow accession number wise organization in their collection (Majeed, 1999).

A modern classification scheme and catalogue code are to be used for the proper organization, arrangement and retrieval of documents. For organization of the collection some libraries follow class numbering system strictly. Dewey Decimal Classification scheme is used in more libraries than Colon Classification. Collections for many of the government college libraries are fully or partially unclassified. The classification work in most of the libraries are done by semi-professionals. They lack intensive training is classification and filing orders.
A college requires some sort of a catalogue to assist the users for identifying and locating their required documents. Card catalogue is popular among college libraries in Kerala. Certain college libraries do not maintain a catalogue properly. The most used code of cataloguing is AACR. Most of the professional and first grade college libraries in the state use computers for the preparation and maintenance of their catalogue. Dictionary Catalogue is popular than Classified Catalogue among most of the professional college libraries. Collections in most of the government college libraries are not completely catalogued.

3.6.5 Services available in the library

The main objective of a college library is to make available all its services to supplement the instructional programmes of the college. The quality and variety of services offered in a library greatly decide the extend of use of their library collection. It also brings status and popularity to the library and their staff. The Standing Committee of the University and College libraries of the University Grants Commission which approved the norms and standards for college libraries has specified the services to readers as under:

"The library should make easily available to students, faculty members and other members a well organized and comprehensive stock of books, journals and other library materials. Proper services to readers include the following:

(a) Reading facilities with direct and open access to library materials on shelves;

(b) Lending facilities to the readers under fair conditions;

(c) Reading-cum-text book section for the students;

(d) Proper and adequate reference and bibliographical services to the readers;

(e) Instructions in the use of library resources and services and facilities to the users so that optimal use is made of the library;"
(f) Promotion of library use through reading circles, extension services, book exhibitions, browsing corners etc. according to local conditions;

(g) Fixing of working hours of the library in such a manner that it will be possible for the users to have access to the library materials on the shelves after normal class hours and during holidays and vacation period;

(h) Inter-library loan services and;

(i) Documentation and reprographic services, wherever possible.

Services specified at (a) to (i) should be considered to be the minimum services expected to be rendered by a college library. The last one may be considered desirable and should be undertaken at the appropriate stage of development of the library”.

So far as college library services in Kerala are concerned all the libraries offer basic services such as Circulation Service and Reference Service. Some of the libraries offer more services such as Current Awareness Service (CAS), Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI), Reprographic Service, Bibliography Service, Newspaper clipping and Documentation. There are a few well-established college libraries. According to www.keralaeducation.com 15 colleges are ranked as top five star / A grade colleges in Kerala (Appendix IV). All are private colleges. They maintain excellent libraries and provide all services on a regular basis with modern IT facilities.

It is also noticed from the survey that library hours in most of the colleges are same as college hours. They do not operate on Sundays and other holidays. Lending days and time is also limited in most of the colleges. A large amount of important books remain issued to faculty members. Reminders are not issued in time. Open-access is in existence only in a few college libraries. Nevertheless in most colleges the postgraduate students are permitted to choose books themselves. Loan facilities are available to all students and staff of the college.
Most of the college libraries display new books and periodical issues as part of current awareness programme. Certain professional college in the state prepare and circulate list of new additions among the users. Additionally some libraries follow a method of circulating new periodical issues to departments. Most of the college libraries do not conduct user education programmes which badly affect the use of library collection. Certain libraries offer reprographic service as part of PTA programme. In short, library services in majority of college libraries in Kerala are far behind the requirements and expectations, as they are not in position to provide services effectively.

3.6.6 Clientele

The user community of a college library include students, teachers and non-teaching staff. Some college libraries permit outside students and research scholars to use the library collection. They visit the library for general reading and research purposes. Those who take admission in a college are eligible to use their library. The interested students have to register their names in the library.

The number of students, teachers and non-teaching staff in a college in the state are decided on various factors like number of courses offered, extend of University and State Government conditions fulfilled etc. It is observed that major groups of students and a meagre portion of teaching community do not make use of the library collection profitably. This is due to the lack of effective user education programmes.

3.6.7 Use of Information Technology

The main functions of a library are to acquire, information from various sources and arrange, process, discriminate them to satisfy the needs of students, academicians and researchers in the right form and at the right time. Libraries use Information Technology to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their operations and services. Constant upgradation in technology are essential for survival and success. IT helps people to eliminate drudgery in routine work. It introduces speed, flexibility
and control to formerly slow, repetitive and rigid procedures. These marvelous capabilities of IT offer many advantages to librarians at their workplace especially in carrying out tasks which were previously either impossible or enormously difficult. IT provides librarians with a new set of alternatives for collecting, organizing and disseminating information effectively and expeditiously.

Dyer (1990) views that automation of libraries will offer increased productivity, improved reader services, faster movement of acquisitions between their delivery and appearance on the shelves, improved stock control and a better quality of working life for all concerned. According to Brittin (1992) IT brings out the benefits such as increased access to information sources, improvement to existing services, development of new services and higher profile for the library. Various house keeping operations and services which can be made automation with the computer application may include the following 1. Acquisition 2. Technical services 3. Serial management 4. Circulation control 5. Administration and 6. Document and information retrieval services.

As far as colleges in Kerala are concerned, library computerization is one of the pre-requisites for getting the recognition of the NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council). Along with the NAAC visit IT environment in some of the libraries has been improved. But, IT has not reached so far in all the college libraries in Kerala. Computerization is in a slow pace in our college libraries. Some of the professional and arts and science college libraries provide comparatively better IT oriented service to their users. Computer facility is also available in other types of libraries but they are meagre in number. Computers are used for housekeeping operations such as Acquisition, Cataloguing, Circulation, Serials control, Administration in some libraries. Certain libraries also offer OPAC, CD-ROM search, On-line search and Internet and E-mail facility. Other services provided are on-line reservation, renewal and cancellation, on-line display of new arrivals and book status.
Various softwares used in libraries are CDS/ISIS, LIBSYS, SANJAY, LIBSOFT, ALICE, SOUL, GRANDHA, BOOK MAGIC and more libraries use locally developed softwares. Other IT equipments available include Printer, Scanner, Multimedia, Photocopy machine, LCD Projector, Barcode Scanner, Television, VCP and DVD. Certain colleges maintain separate cyber centre for students' use.

3.6.8 Finance

The finance is the most important factor in the proper maintenance of the college library. Acquisition of books and periodicals and other reading materials is dependent on the availability of adequate finance. The potentiality of the library as an educational tool must be realized fully and necessary funds must be thoughtfully provided for the overall development of the college library. And it should be considered with reference to the other needs of the college. The finance provided for the support of the college library will in large measure to determine the quality of the library resources and services.

It is observed from the situation that the funds are normally inadequate and not spend wisely. The actual expenditure on college libraries is less than 2 percent of the total college expenditure. Because of the shortage of funds, books, periodicals and other reading materials cannot be purchased as required. The different norms laid down for allocation of funds to college libraries by Commissions and Committees are given below:

(a) The University Education Commission (1948) (Radhakrishnan Commission) recommended 6.5 percent of the total budget of a university or college or Rs.40/- per student.

(b) The Education Commission (1964) (Kothari Commission) recommended that library expenditure should be within the range of 6.5 percent to 10 percent of the college budget depending on the stage of development of the library or an
amount estimated on the basis of Rs. 25/- per student and Rs. 300/- per teacher.

(c) Khandala Workshop on College Libraries (organized by UGC, 1979) recommended 4 percent of the college budget for books, journals, binding and other library materials; staff salaries and capital expenditure is not a part of this ratio. The Standing Committee of UGC for University and College library has approve this standard.

(d) K. N. Raj Committee, Karnataka University (1980-81) suggested 20 to 25 percent of university or college budget for libraries.

(e) AIU Report on National Policy on University Libraries (1986) suggests 10 percent of total budget of university or college for libraries.

But in actual practice lot of adhocism exists in providing grants to libraries. The majority of college libraries get 2 percent amount of the total budget. This is well below the rate recommended by the Education Commissions. The grants given by UGC are not properly utilized by colleges. The following factors could be taken as base for allotting funds to libraries.

1. The scope, nature and level of college curriculum;
2. Instructional methods used;
3. The adequacy of existing collection and publishing rate of materials to curriculum;
4. The size or anticipated size of the student body and teaching faculty;
5. The range of services offered by the library;

The recommendations given by the Radhakrishan Commission (1948) and Kothari Commission (1964) need revision taking into
consideration the cost of escalation and inflation and also for introducing IT application in college libraries and maintenance of IT equipments.

There as hardly any college library in Kerala which follows any norms. There is no set ratio of amount to be spent on a college library. The main source of income for a college at present is the special library fee collected from the students supplemented by the periodical grants from the state government and University Grants commission. The library fee varies from college to college. The same is the case with the Government and UGC grants. With the result there is wide variation in the financial resources available for the libraries of different colleges. The amount from all these sources account a meagre figure, which is not sufficient for an academic year. The library fee is quite inadequate even to procure essential reading materials. Most of the colleges in our state are not eligible for UGC fund. The private colleges spend more on every aspects of libraries than the government colleges.

3.6.9 Physical facilities

The library buildings, furniture and equipment are very important from the point of view of attracting readers, for care and preservation of reading materials, providing effective services, etc. A centrally located well furnished library with separate reference, reading, browsing and journals rooms with comfortable furniture, well-ventilated and lighting provision will provide congenial atmosphere for study and research. Building and furnishing college libraries should be according to the existing standards. UGC norms prescribe for total plinth area for stacks, reading-room and staff. Norms are silent on other aspects of building, such as area of circulation of books, reference service, public utility service, storage, binding, periodicals etc. Norms are also silent on other aspects such as location, floor etc. Norms being quite old and helpful. In sufficient space and unfunctional building set-up hinder the functioning of the libraries (Gupta, 1984).
The existing standards have certain limitations. While designing new standards for building and furnishing international standards should also be considered in order to suit the requirements of electronic information environment. The design of the library building must match the needs of users and the growth of the collection and changes in its range of services need to be recognized.

In the Kerala scenario, in majority of colleges libraries are functioning in temporary halls or rooms attached to college building. Only very few colleges have independent library buildings with functional and attractive fittings and furniture. For some of the libraries new building is under construction. In most of the colleges, the space provided for libraries is inadequate. The seating capacity is very less compared with student’s strength and furniture provided in most of the college libraries is inadequate, outmoded and uncomfortable. Proper ventilation and sufficient natural and artificial lighting arrangements are not provided in many libraries. Other facilities like fans, toilets, drinking water etc, are very rarely provided in libraries. Thus, the physical facilities are far from satisfactory and do not in any way facilitate fruitful use of the libraries.

3.6.10 Library Management

To create a healthy atmosphere in the college for study and research, the college libraries should be managed properly and effectively. For that Ranganathan Committee advocated for the creation of library committees in the colleges with the aim to:

(i) To formulate library policy and objectives;
(ii) To form rules and regulations for the use of the library;
(iii) To check the implementation of the library policy by the librarian and other staff;
(iv) To check the library expenditure, allocate the library fund to various subjects and the departments;
(v) To consider proposal put by the librarian in the matter of safety of building and property under the librarian's jurisdictions, maintenance of discipline, prevention of loss and theft;

(vi) To consider the annual report;

(vii) To help the principal/management to select the librarian;

(viii) To observe the work of the library and promote its usefulness to students and teachers.

For libraries two committees can be constituted (i) a Library Advisory Committee and (2) a Book Selection Committee. A library committee is a body or an organization consisting of persons assigned a particular job. A library advisory committee is an essential body required for the governance of a library because very often library authority would be unwilling and too busy with too many activities. A library committee would be in a better position to devote enough time and attention to library matters. The committee comprises of the following members 1. Principal of the college, as Chairman; 2. Librarian, Ex-officio secretary; 3. All the Heads of the Department and 4. One student member. Librarian should have a prominent role in the composition.

In majority of the college libraries in Kerala, there exist a Library Advisory Committee. But, the committee is not functioning actively for the library. It seems that not much business is found to have been transacted by the committee due to various reasons. Book Selection Committee is also constituted in most of the libraries. At present one forth of the college librarians have no knowledge of the funds available for library expenditure and no role in book selection. The selection of books should be the collective responsibility of the principal, faculty and the librarian because usefulness of a library depends on the quality of its collection.

In majority of colleges the librarians have no definite role in budget preparation and library policy making. But in some colleges he has advisory role or he can make proposals. Some have advisory role in acquisition. As part of the duties and responsibilities librarians should
have a definite role in budget preparation, acquisition, in library policy making and in decision making.

3.6.11 Organizational Pattern

The organizational pattern of the college library varies from college to college. In some cases, there is a central library with no departmental libraries. Some have only departmental libraries and in others the departmental libraries are under the control of the central library. The college libraries are more or less administrative units and not separate departments. Such organizations cannot provide adequate and effective service until and unless they are organized and managed by competent personnel at different levels. (Goel, 1992).

In Kerala situation, besides the central library, a large number of colleges maintain departmental libraries. The departmental libraries are managed by the teachers of the respective departments and usually an attender is appointed to look after the collection. These libraries are, on the whole, found to be less efficient and more expensive as compared with the central libraries.

Survey reveals that majority of the librarians prefer central pattern to divisional or department pattern. There should be a central library with all modern facilities which is centrally located for easy access from all points of the college.

3.7 Conclusion

From the above discussions, it is clear that, the large majority of college libraries in Kerala are suffering from unscientific administration and organization, inadequate finance, and library collection, poor service, inadequate staff provision, unsatisfactory physical facilities and, above all lack of recognition of their important academic role. The present position of college libraries in the state is totally unsatisfactory from what it should be in keeping with their important educational functions stressed earlier. The library, as an effective agency for the improvement of educational
standards, is yet to make its presence felt by the student community and exert its whole-some influence on them.

There are many causes for this situation, but the most important are (i) lack of awareness of the importance of libraries in higher education, (ii) inadequate financial support, and (iii) the adoption of teaching methods which tend to make the classroom lectures self-contained and provide little incentive for the students to learn by themselves using library materials.

To conclude, what need to be done for the development of college libraries are (1) a book stock comprising instructional, recreational and inspirational materials, basic reference books and important periodicals should be built up; (2) adequate financial resources should be raised for organizing such a book stock and for the introduction of innovative library services using Information Technology; (3) a sound technical organization of the book stock should be ensured; (4) the administrative set up of the library should be such as would be conducive to its healthy growth; (5) adequate personnel both in the quantitative and qualitative sense should be provided and above all; (6) teaching methods which would promote the use of library materials should be introduced. In short, in view of importance of the college library in education, a modern college in our state must have a well-planned and functional library with all IT facilities so that it becomes an intellectual hub of the institution both for students and teachers. So it is high time to re-organize the existing college libraries in Kerala.
REFERENCES


