CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTION

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CHAPTER – I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Information explosion as it is known in everyday parlance is not only the executive domain of Science and Technology but also the Social Sciences. Law is not an exception to it, it can be said that it faced print explosion much earlier than in Science and Technology. Law is not static, it is ever dynamic and one who is seriously interested in it will have to keep abreast of the latest trends in Law.

A library is a reservoir of the intellectual resources for the academic community it serves with a growing emphasis in modern education. As such libraries have become the backbone of higher education. Law practitioners make heavy use of such sources. Law libraries in a region will have to come together. In meeting the information requirements, documentation and other activities, which have to be improved and librarians must innovate in providing new services. Due to the rapid progress and development of higher education in India and the teaching methods and research, it is keenly felt that the future law libraries will function as a vital and integral part of the teaching process.

Right from the emergence of human civilization enjoyment of law and justice has been the cry of the mankind. Law embraces every aspects of human life from birth to death. It is so closely associated with life that lawless life is not merely undesirable but practically unthinkable in modern Information Technology society. It seeks to regulate life. It brings order and disciplines among citizen’s problems of life which are infinite and varying and they never remain constant. As the wheels of time roll along with life cycle of man, his problems multiply and here comes the law in the
shape of new regulations to save the mankind. So the life of the man and law go side by side. Both are dynamic, ever changing and endless but not static.

The law teachers, students and the researchers who may give best to the society must be assured of adequate research facilities and proper encouragement in the shape of books, periodicals, reports and other resources through a well-organized library. Legal teaching and research in order to be effectively directed for social well-being must be institutionalized. That is the library should be duly recognized and should receive due patronage of the parent organization, without which a qualitative legal education is impossible (Agarwal, 1992).

1.2 ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN LEGAL EDUCATION

It is said ‘Librarians are tools in the pedagogical techniques in Law College’. The importance of this statement has not been felt by persons in authority and the decimal picture in the Karnataka can be generalized to India as a whole expect for a few libraries where the collection as well as the services are excellent and no efforts have been made to streamline as well as to strengthen the libraries. Numerous commissions, committees, in legal education have been set up, reports submitted but not a single committee did tackle the library problem and give it the due importance.

A detailed picture of all the law libraries is hard to find in the literature. The Indian Law Institute in its directory of Law Colleges, 1971 did make an attempt and also the U.G.C. committee which was appointed to study the development of teaching and research in law submitted its report in 1971. The committee recommended conveying of an “all India seminar on legal matters”. The seminar was conducted in Pune, and is popularly called as the Pune seminar. This was the first seminar of this kind which had a detailed discussion on law and a sub-committee was constituted
under the name, Library equipment, location, library services. Minimum holdings of college and departmental libraries under the chairmanship of Prof. J. E. Richardson, had for its members Dr. M. P. Jain, Dr. S. Dayal, Dr. S. N. Jain and H. C. Jain.

1.3 CONCEPT OF NETWORKING

Connecting several people together and you have multiple players for the creation and flow of knowledge. Combining knowledge from different perspectives and you can create new opportunities and respond to challenges in innovative ways, when more than two libraries or information centers are interrelated by continuing transactions often in support of a common operation or service. It is termed as ‘Network’.

The concept of networking was old one found throughout the world popularly in the form of interlibrary loans centralized and catalogued. But now there is a wide spread interest in the possibility of improving operations interconnecting information systems services as well as interlibrary operations.

A networked library means a formal organization of group of libraries following common pattern or design for information exchange and communication with a view to improve efficiency effect economy in an overall meaning.

The digital library networking concept is a co-operative venture of all the participating libraries and transmit the data on short and long distance lines from one library to another.

1.3.1 Networking, Consortium and Resource Sharing

The ‘consortia’ is the plural form of ‘consortium’ which is often used in place of singular form. It is derived from the Latin word ‘fellowship’ which emphasizes
coming together of separate groups for a purpose. Synonymously the term is used as alliance, coalition, collaboration, cooperation, partnership, etc. Consortium is a complicated organization. It is ‘an association’ in the sense that it is not commonly understood, i.e. a consortium is not a library association, although some associations of libraries may engage in consortia activities. Woodsworth (1991) describes consortia as a formal or informal agreement between libraries based on common principles and varies in type, goals, structure, membership and funding. In other words, it is a network of libraries formed to meet challenges and embrace opportunities for mutual benefit and optimal utilization of resources with limited budget. Nowadays the term ‘resource sharing’ describes the cooperative efforts in managing e-resources. The basic premise of consortia is that its members can collectively achieve more than they can achieve as individual institutions. Thus a consortium is an agreement, combination, or group formed to undertake an enterprise beyond the resources of any member, and it usually involves horizontal collaboration among direct competitors (David, 1998). Simply, the consortia may run to the gamut from relatively informal cooperatives founded just to realize economies of scale in purchasing, to highly-organized, centrally-staffed, centrally funded organizations; intended to share the resources, and to engage in all manner of collaborations within the member libraries.

Therefore the common focus of all definitions are ‘libraries having common interests and needs come together to achieve a common goal beyond what an individual library could achieve on its own’. Here it is intended to use the concept as a group of homogenous libraries to deal with the providers of information services as well as the partnership of the libraries for sharing those services and resources, as well
as the bargaining force to deal with the parent bodies for better allocation for the libraries.

1.4 NEED FOR THE STUDY

Incessant growth as well as multiplicity of knowledge resulted in increased user demands, which necessitated libraries to meet these demands at any cost. Consequently, libraries have been sharing their resources to work more efficiently and effectively by maximizing available resources and exchanging information, expertise and experience since a long time. Resource sharing is inevitable among libraries to cope with diminishing budgets, galloping prices for subscribing periodical and purchasing learning resources. Eventually, this transformed into e-resource sharing or consortia in the networked environment.

“Networking of Law Libraries with Special Reference to Law Colleges Affiliated to Karnataka State Law University: A Survey” this kind of study will give a clear picture about the resources available and types of services rendered by law college libraries (Sills & Davis 1986).

The organization of law college libraries is a subject that is very often neglected than respected. However the importance of law college library being an integral part of education system is being realized very recently. It is the need of the hour to know the problems. Difficulties of the law, It is with the purpose the survey is undertaken.
1.5 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study is conceived under the title “Networking of Law Libraries with Special Reference to Law Colleges Affiliated to Karnataka State Law University, Hubli”.

1.6 DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPTS

In order to provide the meaning of the terms in the title of the study the following definitions are given for the key terms, ‘Library Networking’, Law Libraries, Law University, and Karnataka.

Library Networking

Glossary of Education defines Library Networks as (http://www.education.com/definition/library-networks/) “Formal associations of two or more libraries, established to increase resources, improve services, and reduce costs.

Strauss (1992) defines a “A network is a group of individuals or organizations that are interconnected. The linking must include a communication mechanism, and many networks exist for the purpose of facilitating certain types of communication among the members. The institutions form a network primarily to achieve better sharing of resources, resources consisting of bibliographic information and better services to patrons”.

Law Library

A law library is a library designed to assist law students, faculties, attorneys, judges, and their law clerks and anyone else who finds it necessary to correctly determine the state of the law (Shera, 1972).
Law University

The law university produces law graduates and post graduates; who will inspire and lead the community, by putting service before them and strive for excellence in professional legal education. It also promotes research activities to create a basis for making law and legal institutions socially vibrant.

Karnataka

Karnataka is a state in south-west India. It was created on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganization Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. The state covers an area of 191,976 square kilometers (74,122 sq mi), or 5.83 percent of the total geographical area of India. It is the seventh largest Indian state by area. With 61,130,704 inhabitants at the 2011 census, Karnataka is the eighth largest state by population, comprising 30 districts.

1.7 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study are:

1. To identify availability of different types of information resources in law libraries.
2. To find out the existing information services in the law college libraries.
3. To identify the various issues involved in networking of the law libraries.
4. To examine availability of financial resources for library development.
5. To examine the technical and infrastructural facilities in the law colleges required for networking of law libraries, and
6. To suggest a network model for integrating of information resources of law college libraries and also to design a consortium model for law college libraries in Karnataka.

1.8 Hypotheses of the Study

Regarding the objectives of the study, the following hypotheses have been framed and tested.

1. **Hypothesis-1**: There is a significant relationship between types of institutions and provision in library building for networking of libraries.

2. **Hypothesis-2**: There is a significant relationship between types of institutions and position of librarian in the library committee.

3. **Hypothesis-3**: There is a significant relationship between types of institutions and allocation of library budget. The budget allotted to the library is not adequate.

4. **Hypothesis-4**: There is a significant relationship between types of institutions and available information resources in the library. i.e. availability of information sources in the law college libraries are not adequate.

5. **Hypothesis-5**: There is a significant relationship between types of institutions and services offered by libraries. i.e. the existing library services are not able to fulfill most of user requirements.

6. **Hypothesis-6**: There is a significant relationship between types of institutions and ICT Infrastructure in law college libraries.

7. **Hypothesis-7**: There is a significant relationship between types of institutions and number of computers in the library.
1.9 METHODOLOGY

For carrying out the present survey, the investigator conducted an exhaustive literature search by browsing the online database of Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), Library and Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA), EBSCOhost, Emerald and other e-dissertations and e-theses resources. All of the useable references were arranged in a classified order.

For the purpose of data collection, structured questionnaires were designed for the librarians and administered. Before finalizing the questionnaires, an attempt was made to get it reviewed by four experts in the field. The suggestions thus obtained by experts were promptly incorporated to enhance the validity of the questionnaire.

After necessary revisions were made, preliminary questionnaires were pre-tested through a pilot study. The purpose of pretesting of the questionnaire was to obtain information to improve its content, eliminate ambiguity in some questions and to fine-tune the questionnaire.

In order to get the reliability of the user questionnaire, Cronbach's Alpha was done on the collected data by the preliminary questionnaires in the pilot test. Cronbach's Alpha obtained as 0.7 is a value between zero and one. Values near zero indicate low reliability; values near one indicate high reliability (Verma, 2001).

The researcher personally visited all the 83 law colleges of the Karnataka state and distributed and received back the filled up questionnaires from the heads of the Law College Libraries (Chief Librarians/Librarians/Assistant Librarians). The response helped the researcher greatly to present a clear picture of the present
conditions of law college libraries in the state. Further, informal interview was conducted with the professional library staff to ensure clarity and authority of data.

1.10 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study is confined to academic law libraries that are established by the colleges, which are affiliated to Karnataka State Law University, Hubli. Their resources and services render to the students a role to evaluate law college librarians in the electronic era for supporting legal education by often providing right information to the right user in a right manner at the right time.

1.11 CHAPTER SCHEME

The final thesis consists of the following six chapters.

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter introduces the topic of research and establishes the need and importance of the present study. It states the research problem, definition of concepts, its objectives and hypotheses. Further, it presents the methodology adopted for data collection, data collection instruments, techniques used in data analysis and delineates the scope and limitation of the study. It also explains the organization of the thesis briefly.

Chapter-II: Legal Education and Law Libraries in Karnataka: An Overview

Chapter-III: Review of Literature

This chapter ‘Review of Literature’ reviews the published literature on past studies in the field of research. The reviews are presented under the following categories like resources sharing and Library Consortium, Development of Library Network and Consortium, Consortium Model around the world, Law College Resources and Services. These studies are presented in an ascending chronological order to highlight the changes in networking of Law College libraries from the early years to the present.

Chapter-IV: Analysis and Interpretation of the Data

This chapter deals with the background information of the library and establishment of law college libraries, types of institutions, background information about library professionals, working hours, average number of users per day, library building, space allocation and physical planning of library building, seating capacity, provision of networking in the library building, library committee, collection development, document procurement methods, source of finance, library budget, subscription of periodicals, coverage of periodicals, annual acquisition related information, technical processing and organization of reading materials, document circulation activities, library services, database subscription, library automation, library automation software, ICT Infrastructures in law libraries, computer, internet and networking, preferred operating system, bandwidth, transmission medium, user orientation programs and preferred method of user education. The data has been presented in the form of tables, graphs and figures.
Chapter-V: Network Model

This chapter highlights the law libraries networks, concept of networking, networking types, networking application in India, components in networking, proposed client-server model for library networking, project evaluation and review technique and proposed model for development of law library consortium.

Chapter-VI: Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

This chapter provides the summary of major findings, recommendations and suggestions. Further it gives suggestion to improve the networking of law libraries, future plan for law libraries and records the conclusion.

Appendix: Bibliography and librarians questionnaire are provided at the end.
REFERENCES


