CHAPTER - VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
Libraries play a key role in the accumulation and dissemination of knowledge. They enable people to enrich their innate abilities. They help in social, economic, educational and cultural progress of a nation.

Libraries and society are inter linked society without libraries has no significance and libraries without society have no origin. Knowledge has been growing fast. It is impossible to commit to memory all the information generated. Hence, the need for corporate memory. Libraries represent corporate memory storing information in the form of books, journals, pamphlets and audio-visual materials.

Public libraries foster social reconstruction and economic growth. They facilitate easy reach of information. They are the agencies for human resource development. Economic growth demands wide use of scientific and technical know-how embodied in books. Access to the right book at the right time for the scientist, engineer and agronomist could have multiplier effect on the economy.

The success of modern democracy based on adult franchise depends upon the extent of education. Mass education promotes political consciousness. Public libraries play a
commendable role in the promotion of mass education. Libraries promote research too. Research is the life blood of modern society. It expands the horizons of knowledge for socio-economic development. Information is the bedrock of research. Research requires free flow of information. Libraries make possible such free flow.

Ancient seats of learning like Nalanda and Taxiila (600 B.C.) had their own libraries. The Buddhists emphasized upon manuscript writings and their collection. The great Mughals also set up royal libraries. The libraries in ancient and medieval India received royal patronage.

The genesis of public library movement may be traced to the advent of the British in India. The British inspired India to set up Libraries. The dawn of the twentieth century marked the beginning of a new era in public library movement. The Government of India took keen interest after independence in reaching public library service to the masses. Public library movement received impetus during planning era. Planning era provided organized effort to streamline and strengthen public library movement in India.

Library legislation is necessary for uniform and successful growth of public library system. Most of the Indian states
have not enacted public library Acts. This accounts for difference in administrative pattern and management of public library services in different states and union territories.

Public libraries are included in the state list. Cess is an important source of financing library activity. Local bodies collect library cess as surcharge on house tax in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In Karnataka, library cess is levied not only on house tax proceeds but also on proceeds of sales tax, motor vehicles tax and professional tax. The widening of tax base is a progressive step which can provide more funds for the development of public libraries. Other states could emulate Karnataka example.

Library Cess alone cannot meet the entire bill of the public library system. A provision from general revenues could also be made to ensure adequate funds. This would provide sound financial base for development of public libraries.

Library legislation is necessary for the proper growth of public library system. Along with legislation, standards of public library service at national state and local level should be laid down for the creation of effective, efficient and economic public library system. Further, library consciousness should be created among the people.
Libraries were started with the active support and initiative of Europeans in India. However, in Andhra Pradesh, library movement was a people's movement. The library movement took firm roots in the 20th century. The establishment of Krishna Devaraya Andhra Basha Nilayam in 1901 at Hyderabad was a significant event. Andhra Desa Library Association formed in April 1914 was a milestone in the growth of library movement in Andhra Pradesh. The Association was chiefly responsible for creating a wide popular base. It gave top priority to rural libraries. It helped in the establishment and organization of several hundreds of village libraries. The Association also conducted library conferences and pilgrimages. Its contribution to the promotion of adult education is commendable.

The enactment of Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act in 1960 was a landmark in the promotion of library movement. This Act, gave definite structure for public libraries in the state. In pursuance of the provisions of the Act, the Government of Andhra Pradesh constituted Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas in all districts of the state to organise library system at the district level. A network of public libraries came into existence, offering services both in urban and rural areas. However, the growth of library movement in Andhra
Pradesh has been uneven. The adhoc and half-hearted support is responsible for uneven growth. The allocations to library development cannot be treated as residue things. Library service is urban biased. Dissemination of information and knowledge in rural areas is essential in the context of rural development. Hence, the need for extension of library service on a priority basis to rural areas.

Public library movement in Chittoor district made a modest beginning. Library facilities in the district are inadequate judged from the angle of modern standards and information needs.

The Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha organizes and promotes the library movement in Chittoor district. During the period under study there is no much improvement in the total number of libraries. Expansion of Branch libraries on a faster rate is called for to strengthen grass root level library movement in the district. The number of village libraries has to be increased to promote overall library movement in the district. Mobile and Aided Libraries are conspicuous by their absence. They solely cater to the needs of rural people. Hence, the need to establish them on a priority basis to reach the library facility to every nook and corner of the district.

Finance is the chief input. Library activity should be assured of regular and adequate supply of finance. Library cess,
donations, fines and fees and government grants constitute the sources of public library revenue in Chittoor district. The major sources, however, are salary grant and library cess. The increase in public revenue and expenditure has not been uniform. Revenue and expenditure did not conform to each other. The calculated rations of expenditure as a proportion were less than one in majority of the years under the study. It means provisions made could not be utilized. Care and foresight which would ensure proper expenditure planning are the need of the hour in the promotion of library activity.

Per capita expenditure on public libraries varies Rs.2.87 to Rs.4.52 over a decade in the district. Revenue mobilization vastly depends upon governmental grants and cess collections from local bodies. There is an element of adhocism in governmental grants. Grants need to be allocated on a priority basis rather than on a residue basis. Grants and their allocation do not conform to a pattern. Library movement does not get a fillip by mere release of salary grant. The contribution of donations towards revenue mobilization is nil. Philanthropists could be made to come forward and donate towards the promotion of library movement by appropriate measures. Exemption of donations made from the purview of gift tax and income tax could augment public library revenue.
Library cess is another major source of revenue. The library cess is levied and collected at the rate of 8 percent on house tax revenue in the district. The performance in the realization of cess in the district is not uniform. Further, the cess collections are inadequate. Hence, it becomes necessary to widen the cess base. Linkage of cess to octroi duty proceeds, tax proceeds on motor vehicles and land revenue would net larger resources for financing public library activity in Chittoor district.

Investment on libraries is an investment on human resource development. Libraries in general and public libraries in particular play a vital role in the development of a nation. Public libraries have not received enough of attention in developing countries though they hold the key to progress. Timely and adequate expenditure becomes necessary towards the promotion of library development. In the years 2001-2002 and 2007-2008, there was a substantial increase in the expenditure in the district. Such expenditure could be made possible largely due to prompt cess collections. It means the cess collection was lax in other years. Administrative machinery has to be effectively geared up leading to prompt and full cess collection.
Expenditure on salaries and wages accounted more than 50 percent in majority of the years under study. Expenditure on books and periodicals was less than 25 percent in seven years under study. The accepted norm is to incur at least 25 percent of expenditure on books and periodicals. Adherence to norms would serve the cause of library movement. This could be made possible by regular book grants. Most of the libraries in Chittoor district are in rent free accommodation. The accommodation is not at all weather proof resulting in damage to reading materials. There is an imperative need to strengthen this area of infrastructure. Funds should be allotted on a priority basis to finance expenditure on buildings also for the development of public libraries in the district.

To conclude, an important aspect of any library is an array of objects that contribute to library service; the media, physical facilities and electronic technologies. For all these purposes finance is crucial. But one thing matters and matters very much. That is human being. Human being is responsible for combining these elements into effective library service and the investigator feels that this aspect should also be emphasized in case of public library system of Chittoor district.