CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTION

Maharashtra is an important state in India which is very large from the point of view of its area. Its population is 11,23,72,972 (based on the year 2010). Maharashtra got its independent place on 1st May, 1960. Its past goes back Before Christ and up to Middle Ages, and its cultural and literary and educational value is immeasurable. It has a very separate significant place. After the year 1960, Maharashtra swiftly underwent progress in various forms and branches of education. In Maharashtra state, there are 14 universities, which are concerned with Arts, Literature, Commerce, Science, Law, Ayurved, Agriculture, Engineering, Physical Education, Medical Science, Management etc. In Maharashtra state in order to encourage agriculture, four agriculture universities have been formed.¹

Along with these educational and cultural institutes, along with their progress, the government of Maharashtra has founded libraries and their cooperation has been considered to be the most important to its library act. Libraries have been functioning in the forms of public libraries, educational libraries, area-wise libraries, and there are also libraries concerned with the administrative departments, institutes and units of Maharashtra states.² Maharashtra has been praiseworthy from this point of view. The librarians serving in the university and college libraries are paid by the U.G.C. and Maharashtra is at the forefront in the case of library science education as compared to other states.

The research study of agricultural university library users of Maharashtra state; is its survey. Its main aim is, in the agriculture university
libraries, what type of roles in the case of, information transfer, research and higher education and research works have been going on. Along with this study and exploration, the study of facilities, information sources and information services being given to the users of the agriculture university libraries, have been done. Expected encouragement, united effort from the authorities and native institutes should be done in the field of agriculture. It has been brought to light.  

**Agricultural Education:**

Agricultural education has been the worlds’ the most ancient education in the form of agricultural business. Right from the ancient times, religion and business have been co-related. In the ancient time, agricultural education was given by the priests. After the sixteenth century, some experiments started in agricultural science. The main aim of agricultural education was to give different theories, technical and practical knowledge.

**Agriculture Education In India:**

The British Rulers tried to distract the Indian people from their growing unrest towards their unjust rule. They started attracting those people towards the improvement of agriculture. The British Government started agricultural area in 1868 at Madras in Saundapeth. In the course of time, this Agricultural area was turned into agricultural college. That was the beginning of modern agricultural education in India. Around this period, the Governor, Sir Richard of Mumbai province started curriculum in Science College located at Pune.

In 1929, the Agricultural Ministry of India as per the suggestion of the Royal Commission of Agriculture (R.C.A.) a research centre was founded. On its behalf, research works started in India in the field of agriculture and agricultural science. In 1947, after the Independence of India, agricultural
education used to be imparted from 15 agricultural universities and veterinary colleges. In these colleges, there is facility for 1500 students' education. These colleges were being directed by various governments of various states. That's why, they lacked mutual co-operation and consistency.\(^5\)

After the year 1947, such inference had come forward that no improvement had been taking place in agriculture science, it's because, there was lack modernity in agriculture science. Then Dr. Radhakrishnan committee, formed in 1948-49, suggested to established agriculture universities. As per this information, the first agriculture university was founded in Pantnagar. In between 1960 to 1975, nearly in all the states of the country, agriculture universities had been founded.\(^6\)

In India, the education, related to agriculture, commenced since 1905, in the twentieth century, from five agriculture universities, in diploma course. In the course of time, in these institutes, agricultural education was started at graduation level. First of all, agriculture colleges were founded in Chennai (Madras), Mumbai (Bombay), and Calcutta (Kolkata). On recommendation of the “Royal Commission of Agriculture commission”, formed in 1926, in the year 1929, “Imperial College of Agriculture” was founded, which was recognized after the Independence as, “Indian Council of Agriculture Research”. In the present time, in India, there are 35 agriculture universities among them; one Central Agriculture University is also involved.\(^7\) In Maharashtra state, in 1962, the first agriculture university was founded. After that, three more agriculture universities had been founded.

**Importance of the Present Research:**

The users of library are of different fields, viz; policy maker and expert, advisor, researcher, teachers, research students and students, along with
that educated person and farmers etc. The main aim of library is to inform them as per their needs. The main aim of the agriculture science libraries is to convey the specified information by rearranging it, for the users.  

The second-half of the twentieth century has been the final duration, extreme duration of knowledge. Science-related literature with its development and communication since 1965; it has been growing 5 to 7 per cent every year. In the enlargement of knowledge, technology has been playing its important role. The modern means of communication like web, internet have given particular energy and speed. Now, we should think of future libraries of the 21st century.

Day by day, science has been influencing the community in its different fields. Since has influenced us to the extent that we cannot do any activity of life without its help. In this age of scientific revolution, information technology has been brought, gradually, in all the fields of knowledge. In other words, we are enclosing the whole world in our fist. We can see any type of information on the screen with the help of information technology. The maximum use of technology, in the present times, along with technological sectors, is also done in libraries for its propaganda.

Information+science are conveying for the communication of information, for broadcasting it and in libraries in order to use new inventions. Today, this information has stirred every sector with this activity.

With the aim of information transfer, information has been used at the most in libraries. Our country is an agricultural country. ¾ of the people of our country live in villages and spend their life there. With the help of this agriculture, the affluence and development, its duration depends. The researchers, in relation to the following points, can fulfil research works successfully in Maharashtra state.
1. **Achievement of New Knowledge:**

   In the field of library and information science, by means of technology in our country and abroad, on the basis of different innovations, new technology can be brought in our country. In the field of agriculture, if we have to collect suitable knowledge of agricultural research activities and their implementation, then by giving to the libraries, with the help of information technology, the facts can be clarified. In information technology, the experiences of every researcher are put into proper sequence and can be presented systematically so that he can send his knowledge to every person with the help of information technology: Due to information technology, we can easily grasp that knowledge.

2. **Importance of Research from the Point Of View of Learners and Researchers:**

   The field of invention is so vast that it is not possible for researcher to achieve all the researches from one point of view, in the case of information. For any invention it is essential to know the former experiences of the researchers. The experiences of inventions direct the researchers to obtain new knowledge. From this point of view, information technology has brought about new revolution in the field of inventions.

3. **Importance of Information Technology from the Point of View of Library:**

   The conveyance and propagation of knowledge has increased to such an extent that the boundaries of knowledge cannot be tied up with libraries, if that is possible, perhaps, in a library, it is highly impossible to find out the related source. In such circumstances, it is not possible for learners to find out all the information from a book. In such circumstance, information
technology has brought about a miracle. The learner easily finds out the essential sources by collecting them and using them for his improvement of knowledge with the help of information technology. In this way considering the economic condition of India, the use of information technology is done in selected libraries. In the mind of the researcher, it is a natural process to create curiosity, to know to what extent information technology, by means of science, uses it in library. He should see for himself, to what extent the information technology is important and useful. This is because; the researcher is at work in library department, from this point of view, research has its own importance.

Determine the Scope and Limitations:

Agriculture is a subject with various aspects, in fact, those who have been working in scientific practical subjects, need a vast collection of literature and sources. In agricultural field, new inventions have been taking place every day. With the help of different publication sources, such as, Biological abstract, Bibliography of Agriculture Science, N.A.L., Agrindex, F.A.O. and C.A.B. Abstract service etc. With the help of them, it can be said that every year, nearly 8 to 10 lakh documents are being published, in which, there are 2 lakhs of books only, monograph ad hoc information and comments. The number of “Agriculture Bio-technological literature” is nearly 65000, which is published in the form of 800 “Research Periodicals” and 500 “Monographs” and Reports. In the present time, changes have taken place in it, now there is the need of paying attention to quality than quantity.13

A large shape of a library and collection of documents with its capacity, do not qualify that library. It is a general truth that, a reader, whether, the user may be impressed with this expected book or not, whether it is available in
that library or not on its huge shape and huge capacity of collection of document. It has been observed that, among the readers, the dissatisfaction in readers was found in the case of reading sources, not in the case of facilities it imparts. In fact, in the use and availability of expected sources of the library, there are a close relation the more the expected sources will be available, the more will be its importance.14

The Purpose of the Study:

In the achievement of information related to science, different abstracts are created. In the extreme development of agriculture science, the literature related to it, new concept has come into being, with reference to different difficulties which can be called “Information Explosion”. Due to different aspects of research personality, the irrelevant needs of learners, documents and research journals growing value has decreased the availability of information among the readers. Due to the present developed form of Indian Universities, every year serial development has been taking place among the students, teachers, learners, scientists. But to the university libraries, in relation to their needs, on rethinking about it; it has been binding. The achievement of documents and availability of information creates special peace in the mind of the readers, even teachers and learners are its gainers. In the agriculture university libraries also, it has been attempted to fulfil it as a result.

Objectives:

The objective of this research in the field of agricultural sciences is to observe the curiosity of readers in earning data of agricultural university. For this purpose, the study is divided into following objectives to achieve the above mentioned chief objective.
1. To identify important sources for readers available in other foreign languages except English language.

2. To observe investigations carried out by agricultural scientists and study their suggestions.

3. To examine an extraordinary suggestions given by users on a particular subject.

4. To study library facilities for research in agricultural sciences in readers’ prospective and study the lack of quality in the collection.

5. To study all suggestions given by agricultural scientists and readers on receiving information relating to science library.

**Work Plan and Methodology:**

At least one research method is adopted while doing research from available research methods. Researcher uses the applicable survey method related to the research work. Survey method is a worthwhile method when you want to determine the present condition in general. So researcher considers survey method as a useful one.\(^{15}\)

Research method and research techniques are two basic sources of survey. In the absence of these two, researcher cannot complete his research work.

Survey plan is prepared in different stages. In it, choice of survey is one of the stages in which general survey is carried out through library survey. Survey can be made by interview, by inspection, by studying of library records, by authoritative analysis, by computer based data from the survey, accordingly traditional and non-traditional methods etc.\(^{16}\)
In my research work, I collected data from all the distant users by circulating questionnaire and arranging interview with them. The questions are comparatively smaller and accountable. I prepared a short questionnaire with interesting questions which are in simple vocabulary and intuitive.

**Research Methods:**

The proposed research work is carried out by following different research methods such as –

1. Questionnaire and Interview
2. Observation and Analysis
3. Test
4. Statistical data study

Questionnaire is a technique by which we can learn about users and their needs independently. The questionnaire is divided into two parts.

Part:- I Users’ personal information.

Part:- II Their needs and details regarding the procedure of usage in detail.

On the basis of available questionnaire and concerned data, a comparative study is made in this research work. Both direct and indirect ways are used for descriptive as well as analysis method in which facts are conveyed and make them general.

**Sampling:-**

Data collection of survey work related to libraries of Four Agricultural Universities of Maharashtra is the sampling for this proposed research work. These Universities are –
The sampling data will be collected from the users of Two Agricultural Universities of Maharashtra through questionnaires and interviews. Total 600 questionnaires sent to users for comparative analysis which will be based on the statistics data. We expect to receive at least 70 percent responses from the users. After receiving responses, data will be analyzed by using group frequency method which is a recognized standard research method.

Utility:

1. It is a suitable method in preplanning and in pursuit of the present research work.
2. It is a community and group-based method.
3. It studies the present condition of research.
4. Maximum data can be collected by using this method.
5. This leads individual information to general information by using sampling in this method.

Hypothesis:

When we present the word “Study of Library User” then it means, the study of library users, then it means, the study of library users with their activities related to information sources. This word is equally effective for the achievement of information and its use for research, its concept also serves as an important task, as much as writing. The meaning of hypothesis is,
thinking beforehand, this is an important column of research process. For the explanation of any problem, out of translation, it is fully thought for its reasons.  

The research is the hypothesis of the creation of this hypothesis and its observation. The creation of this concept always depends on the nature of problem. I have formulated the concept before my research thesis, about which activities, I have to do. With the purpose of research, I have fixed the topic “Agriculture University Libraries of Maharashtra State”. I have fixed a particular faculty related to this and by imitating the activities done in this field in the past, I have created this concept.

In my hypothesis, I have given adequate answers, clarity of problems with easy and clear manner, along with that, with the purpose of specialization and standardization, observations and suitability have been clearly mentioned, so that it will not be difficult to present the figures received with their truth.

**The Research Study is based on Few Hypotheses. They are:-**

1. There is the lack of information services in libraries in Maharashtra state agricultural University.

2. Most of the users use just text-books and exchange services provided by library.

3. Working hours of library affect the users of library.

4. Inadequate funding is the main reason for the lack of efficient library services.

5. Most users are not satisfied with the concerned libraries.
REFERENCES


