Chapter-II

Development of libraries in Himachal Pradesh
The previous chapter discussed the introduction, review of literature, need for the survey, selection criteria for comparative study, category of readers, scope of the study, objectives of the study, hypotheses of the study, research methodology, methods of interpretation of the data, limitations of the study and the structure of the study. The present chapter comprises of: development of libraries and importance of university libraries in Himachal Pradesh.

"Without books God is silent, justice dormant, natural science at stand still, philosophy lame, letters dumb, and all things involved in Cimmerian Darkness": so write thomas Bartholin a Danish Librarian in 1672.¹ But books, by themselves, fail to serve any purpose, unless they are put to effective use.² Therein arose the need for providing a channel through which, such accumulated wealth of knowledge as is contained in books, may be disseminated. And it is the library which is provide such a channel.

With the explosion of knowledge, the influence of Science and Technology on national development, is today universally recognised, as a major force motivating scientific research of all types. The under-developed countries which are fighting against poverty, illiteracy, disease, economic crisis, declining moral standards and international political intrigues, have starting realising the necessity of raising the intellectual level of their backward masses, through the development of education. In order to achieve this ideal, they are spreading the network of educational institutions and libraries. Libraries play a significant role, not only in advancing research, but also in furthering the literacy movement.

2. Ibid.
2.1 DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES IN INDIA: A BRIEF HISTORY:

Libraries, in some form or other, existed in India in by gone days i.e. in Ancient times. Manuscripts and other graphic materials were procured and arranged for use in all the Indian Universities at Nalanda, Taxila, Kanchi, Vikramshila and Varanasi. After this, Kings, Rulers, Priests of temples and Monasteries began to store manuscripts and preserve them. In the year 1784, the first library in modern India was established at Calcutta by the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and the second library by the Asiatic Society of Bombay was established in 1804. The Public Library, Calcutta was established in 1835. It was a public library at the true sense which was for the English Community in Calcutta, and may be regarded as one of the first functional libraries in India. The Public Library, Calcutta was amalgamated with the Imperial Library in 1901, by Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, and opened to the public on January 30, 1903. The imperial Library, located at Calcutta, became the National Library of India in 1951. In the year 1896, the Connemara Public Library, Madras was established, and at present this library is functioning as the State Central Library of Madras.

The concept of free public libraries for the masses, may be said to have begun at Baroda in the first decade of the twentieth century. "So far as library education in India is concerned, it was first started at Baroda, when Maharaja of the state invited an American Librarian W.A.Borden and appointed him as the Director of the State Library Department in 1910. The first training class was started in 1911. The second state providing the training facility was Punjab, when the Panjab University Library, started training classes in library

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science in 1915, under the guidance of another American librarian, namely, A. Dickinson. The third state to start training in this subject was Tamil Nadu when Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, first started, a certificate course in library science, in 1929. In 1937, Bengal started a regular certificate course in librarianship. Andhra Pradesh started the library science course in 1935. Between 1940 and 1947, the universities at Varanasi, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, started courses in 1941, 1944 and 1947 respectively. The postgraduate courses were started at various universities in India, between 1947 and 1980. States like Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and some other provinces, set up village libraries and in some cases, even travelling libraries. Efforts was also made later on, to provide library service to the maximum number of people. With this end in view, Madras enacted the library act in 1948, which was the first legislation of its kind in India. Madras was followed by Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Maharashtra. So far, Himachal Pradesh has not enacted any such legislation in the state. Since independence, education has been increasing throughout the country. It includes the improvement of library science, as well. Scores of schools, colleges and universities, have been established. A network of libraries has been set up in each state with a Central State Library at the top. The village library is the base, Over the village library, at the next level is the Block or Panchayat library, reaching followed to the Subdivisional or Taluk library and then, the District library. The State Central Library is completes this work at the state level. At the national level, it has been proposed to co-ordinate library systems, through a National Central Library.

Similar progress has been made, in the establishment of scientific and technical research institutes, all over the country, with excellent libraries and documentation facilities. Scientific activities started growing steadily in India and now got supplemented by excellent libraries, all over the country. The Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), was established in 1952. "The INSDOC gets the contents pages of serial periodicals, even before the periodicals are published. The aim of the INSDOC list is to give advanced information about the periodicals. The contents pages are brought by air-mail, as soon as they are available. Contents pages of some of the periodicals are received as microfilms." INSDOC has made arrangements for translating, scientific and technical publications. The publications are available for consultation at INSDOC. They can also be borrowed through inter-library loan.

"The Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, helped in the establishment of many special libraries, all over the country, attached to their National Laboratories or otherwise. The institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, and Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, have also good libraries, which are effective contributing towards the field of scientific advance."  

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2.2 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HIMACHAL PRADESH:

LOCATION:

Himcahal Pradesh, known as, Dev Bhumi, to the ancients, is situated in the heart of the western Himalayas. Geographically, its location is strategic. It is surrounded by Jammu and Kashmir in the north, Punjab and Haryana in the west, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in the south, while its eastern border extends from Uttar Pradesh to Tibet, in the north. It is bound between 30°22', and 33°12', North latitude, and 75°47' and 79°4', East longitude. The Himachal Pradesh is almost wholly mountainous, with altitudes ranging between 350 and 7000 metres, above the mean sea level. Physiographically, Himachal Pradesh can be divided into three zones: (a) The Outer Himalayas: The annual rainfall in this zone varies from 1500 mm to 1800 mm. The rich and fertile valleys of Kangra (Kangra district), Balh (Mandi district), and Panota (Sirmour district) are located in this zone. (b) The rainfall in the second zone varies annually from 700 mm to 1000 mm. This region has magnificent deodar forests. The Alpine zone remains under snow, for about five to six months in a year. The average annual rainfall in Himachal Pradesh is 1600 mm. Five rivers flow through it. Yamuna, the eastern river which originates from Yamunotri in the Garhwal ranges of the Himalayas forms its eastern boundary with the Uttar Pradesh.

The Sutlej, the largest among the five rivers of Himachal Pradesh, originates beyond the Indian borders at the southern slopes of the Kailash Mountain, Lord Shiva's abode in Puranic lore. After flowing through 320 kilometres from Rakasthal, it enters the eastern part of Himachal Pradesh at Shipki. Flowing through Kinnour, Shimla hills and Bilaspur districts, it enters the plains of the Punjab at Bhakra. The river Beas, which forms the world
famous fertile valleys of Kullu and Kangra, rises from the 3978 metres high, Rohtang Pass. At Pandoh, in the Mandi district, the waters of the Beas, have today been diverted to Sutlej, through a big tunnel. The Ravi river rises from Bara Bhangal, a branch of Dhauladhar. Chamba town, housing the headquarters of the Chamba district, is situated on the right bank of Ravi. The last and fifth river is the Chandra Bhaga of the Chenab. The Chandra and Bhaga streams, rise along the opposite sides of the Balacha pass, at an elevation of 4891 metres, the Chandra along the south-east, the Bhaga along the north-west. These rivulets, unite at Tandi to form one river of great size and volume, which flows through the Pangi valley of the Chamba district and enters the Padar valley of Kashmir at Sansari Nala.

SOIL:

Soil formation in Himachal Pradesh has a marked difference in character. The Himachal Pradesh is divided into five soil zones, viz:

(1) The low hill soil zone and the area under the zone is suitable for the cultivation of wheat, maize, sugarcane, ginger, paddy and citrus fruits.

(2) The Midhill zone area: (between 1000 and 1500 metres above the sea level). The zone is suited for growing table potatoes, maize and stone fruit.

(3) The high hill zone (area between 1500 and 3000 metres above sea level). It is suitable for seed potatoes and temperate fruit.

(4) The mountainous soil zone (area between 3000 metres and 3500 metres above the mean sea level): This soil is not of much agricultural use. The dry hill zone is suited for dry fruit cultivation.
CLIMATE:

Himachal Pradesh is a mountainous region, with an elevation ranging from 350 to 7000 metres. The climatic conditions here, accordingly, vary from the semi tropical to the semi-arctic. The climate of the Kangra valley, the Beas valley, the Shiwalik areas and the Kiarda valley, is severe in summer and pleasant in winter. Snowfall is rare. The climate, in the middle or lower Himalayan ranges of Himachal Pradesh, which cover some of Shimla ranges and the Ravi valley, is pleasant in summer a very cold in winter, with heavy snowfall. In the Chandrabhaga and the Kinnour valleys, climate is temperate in summer and semi-arctic in winter. Snowfall normally begins in October, and after December, the whole valley is under snow, till March or April. Communication remains cut off and the villages become almost isolated. In winter, the inhabitants move towards the lower hills.

MINERALS:

The chief minerals of Himachal Pradesh are: salt, gypsum, limestone, barytes, clays, mica, iron pyrate and lead; but of these, salt, limestone and slate are of significance. Rock salt deposits are located in the Mandi district and gypsum at Sirmaur, Kinnaur and the Spiti valley. Vast deposits of slate are found in the Mandi and Chamba districts; limestone is found in abundance in Bilaspur, Sirmour, Mandi and Solan districts. Sirmaur and Bilaspur deposits of limestone are the findings of a recent survey. Uranium deposits have been reported to be found in the Kullu valley and the Hamirpur district. Traces of antimony, asbestos, nickel, copper, glass-sand and china clay, have also been found. At Jawalamukhi, temple jets of combustible gas, have attracted people since long.
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW;

According to the Puranas, Himachal is the Jalandar Khand of the Himalayan Mountain chain. It has been associated with a number of places of pilgrimage, rivers, lakes, springs and peaks. Himachal was visited by travellers from Central Asia and Tibet, who visited Kulu, Mandi, Rampur, Kangra and the plains of India.

The Aryans settled down in the lower hills and in the fertile valleys of the higher Himalayas, at a very early period. Gradually, they fused with the hill tribes that were already living there. The people who migrated to the upper hills and the trans-Himalayan tracts, mixed with the people of Tibetan (Mongoloid) origin.

Kangra, known earlier as Bhimkot, was the most famous kingdom of this state. Many wars were fought in the Kangra region. Other princely states were those of Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Bilaspur, Rampur and Sirmour.

The Shimla hills were annexed by the British, after the Gurkha wars of 1815-16. Shimla became the summer capital of British India in 1864. After independence, parts of Himachal Pradesh were first formed into a Union Territory, before the present state came into being.

Constitutionally, Himachal Pradesh has had a very precarious but eventful history. It was constituted as a Chief Commissioner’s province, on April 15, 1948, after the merger of some thirty, erstwhile, princely hill states. Behind this merger, lay the valiant struggle by the Praja Mandal and the people, against the feudal rulers under whom they had suffered for centuries.

The crowning events of this long drawn struggle were, the Solan Conference of the representatives of the Praja Mandal and the princes held on January 26, 1948, and the Suket Satyagraha, wherein the Praja Mandal workers, along with thousands of people, marched into the Suket State on February 18, 1948, capturing one police post after another.

A little prior to the formation of Himachal Pradesh as a Chief Commissioner's province, the Union Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, in a letter dated March 18, 1948, had stated: "In the final stage, the area is sufficiently developed in its resources and administration. It is proposed that its constitution should be similar to that of any other province. The ultimate objective was to enable this area to attain the position of an autonomous province of India."

In face of this assurance, Himachal Pradesh apparently was on a good wicket from the start. But it had to pass through some very difficult phases, before it could attain its proper status. At the time of its inception, Himachal's area was 27018 sq. kilometres with a population of 9,35,000.

In September, 1951, the Government of Part 'C' States Act, conceded responsible Government, of a limited character to Himachal Pradesh, along with, some other part 'C' States, under a Lieutenant Governor. Election for the 36 member Legislative Assembly, created under the new Act, were held in November, 1951. The Congress Party won twenty four seats and the first popular Ministry, headed by Dr. Y.S. Parmar, was sworn in on March 1, 1952. The Chief Commissioner was replaced by the Lieutenant Governor. Later on July 1, 1954, Bilaspur was merged with Himachal Pradesh. On November 1, 1956, Himachal Pradesh was made a Union Territory, under an Administrator with the designation of a Lieutenant Governor.

The Himachal Territorial Council was converted into a Legislative Assembly and a popular ministry, headed by Dr. Y.S. Parmar, was installed.

On the recommendations of the Punjab Boundary Commission, the Government of India, while reorganising Punjab into two separate states i.e. Punjab and Haryana, decided to integrate certain Punjab areas with Himachal Pradesh. These areas comprised of Punjab's hill districts of Kangra, Shimla, Kullu, and Lahoul and Spiti, along with the Nalagarh area of Ambala district, and parts of Una and Pathankot tehsils of Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur districts, respectively. These areas were merged with Himachal Pradesh on November 1, 1966.

At present the state consists of 3 divisions, viz. Dharmsala, Mandi and Shimla & 12 districts viz. Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul and Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan and Una besides 45 sub-divisions, 67 tehsils, 31 sub-(tehsils and 69 community development blocks.

AGRICULTURE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

Himachal Pradesh has a predominantly agro-pastoral economy. Over three-fourth's of its working population is directly engaged in this sector. Holdings are marginal, with over 80 per cent farmers, falling in small and marginal category and the net irrigated area accounts for one-fifth (20 per cent) of the net sown area. Diverse agro-climatic conditions, afford excellent opportunities for horticulture and cash crops. Returns to market, per unit of area, have been maximised by significant shifts in cropping patterns. Fruit production in state has crossed the four lakh tonne mark. Vegetable production, mainly of off-season vegetables, is also being encouraged. Large
scale expansion of mushroom cultivation, has been undertaken. On-farm activities are being supplemented by improvement in milch cattle, through a cross-breeding programme; rabbitry; pisciculture and floriculture. Apart from the largest fruit processing plant in this part of the world, having already been located and commissioned, a corrugated cardboard carton factory has also been established for making fruit and vegetable packaging, more scientific and attractive, besides reducing the consumption of coniferous timber. Forests occupy about 68 per cent of the area.

The production picked up during 1988-89 and reached 11.39 lakh tonnes. During the year 1991-92, a total of 13.38 lacs tonnes of foodgrains was produced, as against a target of 13.40 lac tonnes (Table 2.1).

As stated above, this poor performance has been due to the lack of irrigation facilities and non-suitability of the new farm technology to the field area. It may be seen from (Table 2.1) that, the performance of some crops declined in a span of twelve years. Consumption habits in the state are such that, people, particularly in the rural areas, depend more of Kharif crops (Maize and Paddy) and pulses.

HORTICULTURE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

The promotion of horticulture in the hill areas like Himachal Pradesh falls in the national priority, because undulating physiography is more suitable for raising the horticulture crops as it does not require, frequent tillage and clean cultivation. The development of horticulture is not only supplementing the national food stock by way of providing nutritive food in the form of fruits and vegetables, but also playing a vital role in promoting environmental conservation in Himachal Pradesh. In the case of horticultural crops particularly of temperate fruits, Himachal Pradesh has made remarkable
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.NO.</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TARGET ACH.</th>
<th>FOODGRAINS</th>
<th>NET AREA SOWN</th>
<th>NET IRRIGATED</th>
<th>YIELDING VARIETIES OF CROPS</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>(000 Hec.)</td>
<td>(000 Hec.)</td>
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<td>1980-81</td>
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<td>N.A.</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>95.00</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1985-86</td>
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<td>582.00</td>
<td>96.10</td>
<td>315.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1986-87</td>
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<td>11.72</td>
<td>580.00</td>
<td>95.40</td>
<td>320.00</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>13.65</td>
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<td>12.00</td>
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<td>1990-91</td>
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<td>13.57</td>
<td>---</td>
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**SOURCE:**
progress. There is a potential for tropical fruits also, but their commercial viability is yet to be achieved. Area under fruit increased impressively (Table 2.2). Apple alone, accounts for 22.7 per cent of the area and 91.6 per cent of the total fruit production, in the state. But the growth rate in the production of individual fruits revealed, that due to the higher productivity of apple, its total production has been increasing, consistently and significantly, as compared to other fruits. However, this is clear cut indication that available production technology for apple, is far superior than that for other fruits. Further, the apple of Himachal origin, has a well established market in the country and abroad as well, suggesting, thereby, that in the area in the state where apple production is possible, the farmers have enough incentive to take up apple production along commercial lines. Moreover, in these areas, apple cultivation is relatively more profitable than other alternative uses of land. Thus, progressively, more and more land has been brought under apple farming.

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

Library development started in the Himachal Pradesh with the establishment of "Mahima Library", in 1930 at Nahan, the then capital of the Sirmour State.

In 1946, Maharaja Durga Singh of Bhagat State, opened the Shri Durga Singh Library at Solan. In 1952, the Government College, Bilaspur was established along with a library and the district library was also established in the same year, on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday. The Kangra District Library (Dharamsala) was established in 1954. The Teacher's Training College opened at Solan in 1955, along with a college library. The Secretariat Library came into existence in 1957 and is functioning as Reference Library
<table>
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<th>CITRUS PROD. (000 Ton)</th>
<th>NUTS AND DRY AREA (000 Hec)</th>
<th>NUTS AND DRY PROD. (000 Ton)</th>
<th>OTHER FRUITS AREA (000 Hec)</th>
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<td>202.00</td>
<td>51.60</td>
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**Source:** Economic Review of Himachal Pradesh 1985-86 and 1989-90
for the Himachal Pradesh at Shimla. The District Library, Mandi started its functioning from 1959.

On June 28, 1959, the landmark in the library development, ‘Himachal Pradesh Central State Library’, was opened at Solan. The mobile library service was introduced in Himachal Pradesh, in 1961.

The Kinnaur and Mahasu district libraries started functioning from the year 1960. The Government College at Nahan was established in 1963 and its library is also functioning from that date. The library of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, was set up by the Central Government in 1965, and in the same year a Government College was set up, along with the library. In 1967, Government Colleges of Una and Kullu, were established, along with their libraries. The District Library, Hamirpur was established in 1974 and the District Library, Keylong was set up in the year 1971. In the year 1972, the Government District Library, Kullu was set-up. One year after this, the Government College Library at Nalagarh, along with a Degree College, was established.

At present, Himachal Pradesh, has the following three university libraries.

2. Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Library, Nauni (Solan).
3. Himachal Pradesh University Library, Shimla.

2.3.1 H.P. KRISHI VISHWA VIDYALAYA LIBRARY, PALAMPUR:

The HPKVV Library owes its origin to the establishment of the third campus of the Punjab Agricultural University, at Palampur in May, 1966. The erstwhile, Punjab Agricultural University, established the College of
Himachal Pradesh
Location of University Libraries Under Study

- H.P.Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya
- H.P.Univ..
- Dr.Y.S.Parmar Univ. of Hort & Forestry

Kms.
Agriculture at Palampur, to cater to the special needs of the hilly areas of the State. With the re-organisation of the Punjab State on November 1, 1966, the campus fell in the territorial jurisdiction of Himachal Pradesh. However, the campus remained a part of the Punjab Agricultural University till July 21, 1970.

On July 22, 1970, with the incorporation of the Himachal Pradesh University and under the provision of the Himachal Pradesh University Act, the College of Agriculture, Palampur, became the constituent college of the Himachal Pradesh University and so did other research stations and centres, in those parts of Himachal Pradesh, which were functioning under the aegis of the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

Himachal Agricultural College and Research Institute, Solan, joined the family of Himachal Pradesh University, on July 5, 1971. The two institutions, along with their respective research and extension education centres, constituted the Agricultural Complex of Himachal Pradesh University and continued their activities in unison.

The Agricultural Complex of Himachal Pradesh University, enjoyed full financial and functional autonomy. Subsequently, for the purposes of financial assistance, the ICAR treated the Agricultural Complex as a deemed university. However, the State Government felt that the economic well-being of the people of the state could be revolutionised through an integrated development of Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and incorporated the Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya by an Act (Act 30 of 1978) of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. The Act lays down the following objectives for the Vishwa Vidyalaya.

1. Making provision for imparting education in different
branches of study, particularly Agriculture, Engineering, Horticulture, Veterinary and Animal Science, Fisheries, Forestry, Home Science, Food Science, and any other allied branches of learning and scholarship which the university may find necessary to include.

2. Furthering the advancement of learning and persuasion of research, particularly in Agriculture, Horticulture and other allied sciences.

3. Undertaking the extension of such schemes, especially to the rural people of the state; and

4. Such other purpose, as the university may from time to time, determine.

The HPKVV is how conducting specific and problem oriented research. The university has its main campus at Palampur, besides, 3 regional research stations and 10 research substations in the state, representing different agro-climate zones (low, middle and high hills).

At present, the university has two research station libraries, which are located at the regional research stations, Dhaulakuan and Bajaura.

In 1966, a single room library was the part of the college of Agriculture, Palampur, which was housed in a rented building in Chuggar, located at the western ridge of the Palampur town.

The library was, later on, shifted to an independent building in mid 1967. Finding the space insufficient in that building as well, an adjoining building was occupied and two rooms in that building were also allotted to the library, where in the periodical section and the reading room were established.

In June, 1969, the entire college activities were shifted to the new site,
where the College of Agriculture is presently located (near Tanda), which at that time had two wings, besides, lecture rooms and laboratories and a library hall. The library hall in the College of Agriculture, had an area of 1942 Sq.ft. and there was no problem, in sofar as the space was concerned, till that time.

Later on, the library was shifted to the premises of the former Wah Tea Estate, in June, 1976. It was later named by the university as Patel Hall. The library had a sufficient space of 4276 Sq.ft., with all the sections of the library housed in one complex, where, as earlier in the College of Agriculture, the Bindery was located in a part of the Gas Plant Complex.

2.3.2 DR. YASHWANT SINGH PARMAR UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURE AND FORESTRY LIBRARY, NAUNI (SOLAN):

With the establishment of College of Agriculture, Solan in July, 1962, as an affiliated college of the Panjab University, Chandigarh, the library also came into existence and the first book was accessioned, as per the information obtained from the accession register. In 1965, the college was upgraded as a Post-graduate college and approved Ph.D. research in 1968-69. The state government, transferred some research centres in 1966. This teaching and research activities were integrated and the college was renamed as, Himachal Agricultural College and Research Instt. With this, the college started Post-Graduate programmes in the subjects of Entomology and Zoology, Botany and Plant Pathology, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Agronomy and Soil Sciences. After the inception of the Himachal Pradesh University, the college was on July, 5, 1971, was made a constituent of Agricultural Complex of Himachal Pradesh University, under the then existing arrangements. Besides, Under-Graduate programmes, the college is also imparting Post-graduate education, leading to M.Sc. and Ph. D. Degrees, in Pomology and Fruit Technology, Vegetable Crops and Floriculture, Entomology and Apiculture,
Mycology and Plant Pathology and Forestry. The college also has the associate departments of Agronomy and Agrometeorology, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Soil Science and Water Management, Animal Science and Agricultural Economics. On November 1, 1978, with the incorporation of the Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, the institution was put under its control, and accordingly the library became the Solan Campus Library of the H.P.K.V.V. and came under the direct control of the university librarian, as per a provision of the H.P.K.V.V. Act. With the shifting of the institution from Chambaghat (Solan) to the New Campus at SNS Nagar (Nauni-Khetlotoo), which is located at a distance of 15 km. from Solan on the Solan - Rajgarh road, the library was also shifted completely, to the new campus, by September, 1980. With the growth of the activities of the institution, a simultaneous growth occurred in the holdings of the library.

In order to provide a forum for exclusive attention and to cater to the needs of teaching, research and extension education in Horticulture and Forestry, the Government of Himachal Pradesh, by Act 6 of 1986, established Dr. Y.S.Prmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, with its headquarters at Nauni (Solan).

The territorial jurisdiction of the university, extends to the State of Himachal Pradesh. The College of Horticulture and Forestry is located at the headquarters of the university. The enrolment, as on March 31, 1986, was 375.

At present, the university has a central library at the headquarters, since Dec., 1985. There are separate libraries for the regional horticulture research stations. The basic aim of the university, is geared to tackle the need-based and location-specific problems of the farmers. The research activities of the university, are carried out at the main campus, in 8 departments located at the College of Horticulture and 6 departments located at the College of Forestry.
There are 4 regional research station libraries, viz: Jachh (Kangra), Bajaura (Kullu), Mashobra (Shimla), and Sharbo (Kinnaur) and 8 substations at Dhaulakuan (Sirmaur), Nagrota Bagwan (Kangra), Kandaghat (Solan), Seobagh (Kullu), Kotkeshi (Shimla) and Mandi/Bahla (Kullu), Tabo (Spiti) and Kalpa (Kinnaur).

The new building of the central library of the university, was inaugurated on Dec. 7, 1986, by the Hon’ble President of India, Shri R.Venkataraman. The central library of the university is named after M. Satyanand Stokes, who was a pioneer in introducing delicious varieties of apples, in Himachal Pradesh and heralded the Horticulture Revolution in the state, which today is proud of being the apple state of India. The library has been steadily growing in its collection, staff and users, since 1962, when it was a small college library of the College of Agriculture, Solan.

Satyanand Stokes Library of Dr. Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, is one of the new university libraries in the country, with many computerised library services and automation of its library operations. It is well equipped with the infrastructural facilities of a modern library. In addition to its in-house data bases, it has acquired many national and international databases, for the benefit of its academic community. It has also been extending its services to other scientists of the country on request.

It initiated computerisation work during 1989 and could make significant headway in the application of information technology in information management in order to cope with the ever increasing flow of information. It is actively engaged in the computerisation of all its collection, with a future plan of computerised serial and circulation control along with a local networking plan, within the library premises.
2.3.3 HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, SHIMLA:

Himachal Pradesh University was established by ActXVII, passed by the State Legislative Assembly on January 26, 1970. The Act received the assent of the President of India on July 13, 1970. The university started functioning from January 1, 1971. The main campus of the university is situated at Summer Hill, a suburb at the western end of Shimla, 4 kms from the town. Summer Hill Railway Station is 5 minutes walk from the teaching departments and offices of the university. It is an affiliating and teaching university.

So, in the year of 1971, Himachal Pradesh University was set up. Its library, alongwith Panjab University regional centre for the Post-Graduates at Shimla, was established in 1972. Before this, the university library, which was functioning in 1970-71, in a very small room at Dingle Estate, was shifted in 1971-72 to the university at Summer Hill, and was housed in a building formerly used as Balika Ashram. After considerable renovation and reconditioning, reader facilities have been extended during the year 1972-73, by acquiring 20,852 books and 480 journals worth about 6.5 lac rupees.

Presently, the university library is housed in a new building, which is situated very near to the various teaching departments, so that the students can conveniently make use of it during spare time and can utilise library resources maximally according to their needs.

SUMMING UP:

It is found that, the development of libraries in the state, started with the establishment of 'Mahima Library' at Nahan, in 1930. The H.P.K.V.V. Library established in May, 1966 at Palampur. Dr. Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Library was established in Dec., 1985.
Before that it was the Library of the College of Agriculture at Solan, while the H.P.University Library, was established in the year 1972.

Amongst these university libraries, two are specialised type of libraries (i.e. on Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry), the third one is General/Academic type of library. In Himachal Pradesh, about 92 percent people depend on agriculture. The H.P.K.V.V.Library and Dr.Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Library are providing information on agriculture, horticulture, veterinary/animal science, fisheries, forestry, home science, food science, vegetable crops, fruit technology, plant breeding, soil science and water management and agriculture economics, etc. Both these universities are conducting, specific and problem oriented research, and these libraries providing the latest information to the readers, in their research field. The H.P.University library also promotes academic research. The library always collects and disseminates, the latest information for its readers, from time to time. The Dr. Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Library has also in-house databases, which have always helped the readers greatly and provide the latest information, their subjects. The other two university libraries, are also thinking about the computerisation of their libraries.