CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS AND POINTS FOR FURTHER STUDY
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6.1 The Conclusions drawn from Theoretical Study
6.2 The Conclusions drawn from Empirical Study

A Select Bibliography
Appendix - I Questioner
Conclusions and Points for Further Study

It is mentioned earlier that this study has adopted a three pronged approach combining both theoretical and empirical studies. The conclusions drawn from this study also represent both the approaches.

6.1 The conclusions drawn from Theoretical Study

1. The Academic Libraries in general most obviously deal with traditional print media to serve their clientele, but for meeting their educational and learning needs they should possess the Multimedia Resources.

2. The Multimedia in totality comprise of a large number of products which are akin to the contents of Public Libraries, Academic Libraries and Special Libraries.

3. The study on the descriptive account of Multimedia sources reveal that in the context of Academic Library a Multimedia centre again deal with only those which directly connected with their educational, research functions.

4. In compliance with the above conclusion it is envisaged that the Multimedia centre of Academic Library would possess Maps, Atlases and Microforms in most numbers and the other Audio, Visual and Audio-visuals only when the situation demands for their needs.

4. A Multimedia Centre of an Academic Library should deal with three systems: the System of Materials, the System of Personnel and the System of users. Contextually this demands for a defined Organisational framework for such a centre.

5. The Organisational setup of a Multimedia centre in the context of an Academic Library should carry out the two essential functions: The Educational and Informational functions.
6. The Organization and Management functions of a Multimedia Centre should be well defined as regards to the selection, acquisition and organization of the collection and also it should make a special allocation of funds for a building an adequate strength of a multimedia collection.

6.2 Conclusions Drawn from the Empirical Study

7. It is found that University Libraries under the study have a meager collection of Multimedia resources in comparison with the print media resources. It implies that even the Libraries which have been established over 50 or more years ago are also not in possession of a significant strength in this area.

8. For the benefit of reckoning the strength of traditional media, the survey attempted to know the strength of Audio, Visual and Audio-Visual Resources held by the Libraries under study.

   In this context it may be concluded that the said Libraries have also not shown a good collection of these resources.

9. The advent of Microforms in 1960s and 1970s provided one of the best solutions for their persistent problems of handling the Primary Sources of Information like the periodicals, technical reports, thesis and the like.

   The microforms provided best solution for the space problem encountered by the University Libraries. It may be concluded from this study that not a good effort is made by these Libraries to acquire microform collection for the above representative sources.

   In consideration of this prevailing situation of University Libraries under study, the point to examine the same in the case of College Libraries does not arise, as the latter hardly subscribed to primary periodicals.
10. It is a matter of satisfaction to find out from the survey that some of the libraries are adopting to the changing situations. The fact that can be concluded from the above reasoning is that 4 out of 8 University libraries are tending to build a collection of CD-ROM based databases and also Multimedia products on the same media.

11. Considering the fact that in an academic library no multimedia center worth valuing exists, the study has come to a conclusion that no systematic organizational and administrative setup is found in the cases of university libraries.

This also implies that the lack of defined selection procedures, provision for special budget for acquiring multimedia resources and above all no skilled staff to handle a multimedia center in a university library.

12. In continuation of the above conclusion it can be added here that there are no physical facilities such as separate reading spaces for using the multimedia resources and also provision of equipments to use them.

13. It is however a matter of importance to seek the users responses in the context of the provision of multimedia resources for their academic use.

The study has come to a conclusion that the demands are not passive, but they are potential, hence it may be concluded that there is a lack of initiation from the library towards converting the user’s potentialities into real needs.

14. The study has also attempted to find out the use of the various Communication medias like Internet, Teleconferencing etc. It may be concluded in this context that The university libraries in particular are showing increasing interest in using Internet services.
However the libraries have not used the network-based resources and services in full complement as they express their unawareness about the project and experts databases available through a wide area library network.

15. The study concludes that the existing organizational framework of a Multimedia centre desirably so for an Academic Library and in particular for the Universities show serious lacunas in their managerial and organizational functions.

Points for further Research:

The scope of this study is limited to Academic Library environment. The new Multimedia sources and products will create lasting impact and find enhanced utility in Public Libraries. Hence a study focusing Public Libraries be undertaken for an in depth investigation.