CHAPTER – IV

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF KARNATAKA STATE: STATUS AND PROFILE

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4.0 Introduction

A brief profile of six universities of Karnataka State selected for the study is presented in this chapter in the chronological order.

4.1 University of Mysore

The University of Mysore (http://www.uni-msyore.ac.in) is among the foremost institutions of its kind, and is an enduring symbol in the sphere of higher education in India. It was founded by the then Maharaja of Mysore, His Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV and his Dewan, the renowned engineer-statesman, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, on July 27, 1916.

The University encompasses 122 affiliated colleges and 5 constituent colleges (with an aggregate of 53,000 students). In addition, the University has 37 postgraduate departments, 8 specialised research and training centres and 2 postgraduate centres which together offer about 55 regular academic programmes to 3,500 students. It also runs a number of employment-oriented diploma courses and certificate programmes. The postgraduate departments are reputed for excellence in advanced studies and research, and have attracted projects and grants worth crores of rupees from many national and international institutions. The University has developed excellent infrastructure for curricular and co-curricular activities.
The Mysore University Library was established in the year 1918. The Library is the largest and also oldest among the University Libraries in the State of Karnataka. The library was started with 2,311 volumes. It has now today a resource collection of nearly 7.5 lakh documents in its system, 2,400 journal titles and 1 lakh volumes of journals and membership of 5000 users (University of Mysore Annual Report, 2006-2007).

The library has a collection of 28 CD-ROMs databases in various disciplines. Internet center owes its existence to the vision of the authorities of the university. By getting the finance from the UGC and other agencies, the center is able to have 22 nodes on a 128 kbps having leased line from Software Technology Park of India (STPI). The university provides OFC connectivity to all the postgraduate departments of the Manasagangotri campus. Students, research scholars and the faculty are extensively using this facility for 15 hours a day.

The automation of various library operations and services is being done with the financial assistance of the INFLIBNET centre, Ahmedabad, sponsored by the UGCD. The bibliographic data conversion of books and dissertations is now in progress and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) will be in operation shortly.

The Library has a rich collection of books relating to “History of Mysore” and administrative reports on the princely State of Mysore, including
works on Indian painting, art and architecture. The Oriental Research Institute (ORI), one of the branches in the system, has a collection of Sanskrit, Kannada and Telugu manuscripts.

4.2 Karnatak University

Established initially at Mumbai in 1949, and later shifted to Dharwad in October, 1949, Karnatak University (http://www.kud.ernet.in) had its official inauguration in March 1950. The University in its formative years had the leadership of Dr. D.C. Pavate as the Vice-Chancellor (1954-1967) who gave it a shape all its own with symmetry that merges with the environment that spells harmony. The University to day is identified by NAAC by giving a five star status which only a handful of Universities have been able to achieve (Karnatak University Annual Report, 2006-2007). The UGC recently has granted an outlay of rupees 25 crores for the newly created Departments, like Genetics, Microbiology, and Reproductive Health Management bid fair to do well besides the established departments of yore with a track record of Academic Excellence. The second oldest in the state, Karnatak University has 48 P.G. Departments, 5 P.G. Centers, 5 Constituent Colleges, and more than 300 affiliated Colleges.

The University Library came into being in 1950, when the first installment of 10,000 books and back volumes of periodicals costing Rs. 1,00,000 were purchased and housed together with 2,514 books which were
received as a gift from the Chief of Mudhol, in some rooms of the main building of the Government Training College for Men in the city. It started serving the readers in October 1951. It moved to its new home on the salubrious heights of Pavate Nagar in June 1959 in the main educational building “Vidya Soudha” with a complete wing to house the library. The library shifted to its new independent building in August 1981.

The building has a carpet area of 41,500 sq ft and can accommodate over 5 lakhs of volumes and 200 readers at a time. There are 24 cubicals for research scholars.

The Library has in stock more than four lakhs of volumes covering a wide variety of subjects. It acquires every year about 4000 new titles. It also receives over 400 periodicals of general and research nature. The Library has purchased records in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Russian and other languages. The Library has Microfilm and Micro-fische collection. It has acquired Micro-films and fische of some rare books and filmstrips of some research articles appearing in scientific periodicals.

The university library provides services such as Bibliographical Information Service, COPSAT service, E-Mail and Internet Service. From June 1967, the Library has been designated as a Depositary Centre for the publications of the United Nations, the UNESCO, FAO, GATT, the World Bank and few other agencies of United Nations.
4.3 Bangalore University

Bangalore University (www.bub.ernet.in), located in the Garden City of Bangalore aptly hailed as the “IT capital of India”, was established in July 1964 as an offshoot of the University of Mysore, primarily to include institutions of higher learning located in the metropolitan city of Bangalore and the districts of rural Bangalore and Kolar. Initially, the two premier colleges of the city, the Central College (CC) and the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering formed the nucleus of the Bangalore University.

Since 1964, the Bangalore University has grown both in size and strength to include a large number of affiliated colleges, P.G. centres of research and a rich diversity of programme options. In 1973, in consonance with the expansion, the University moved into a new campus ‘Jnana Bharathi’ (JB) located on a sprawling 1,100 acres of land and shifted many of its post-graduate departments to this newly established campus.

The university has been accredited in 2001 by NAAC and has received the Five Star Status. It has 41 post-graduate departments, 473 affiliated colleges (of which 88 have PG courses) and several other centers and Directorates of higher learning and research under its purview. At present, the University offers 51 post-graduate courses (Bangalore University Annual Report, 2006-2007).
Bangalore university library was established in 1966 with a mission to identify, select and procure the relevant text books, journals, monographs and other documents to the courses offered by the university and to organize the materials for easy access, reference and reading by the faculty, students and research scholars of the university. The university library both at the Jnana Bharathi Campus and at the Central College Campus (City Campus), caters to the information needs of the students, staff and research scholars very effectively.

The library procures on an average 4,000 volumes a year, and an average number of books received as gifts is 500, and as on today, the collection is about 3 lakhs, and it subscribes to 300 journals per year.

The library has been developed on modern lines with the latest computer and communication technology and it provides Internet and E-mail facility through SIRNET and NICNET to the faculty members and research scholars. The library has initiated the computerization activities to provide Online Public Access Catalogue service, easy access to the library holdings, better and comprehensive access to information by providing remote access in a networked environment.

At present, the library subscribes to Inside Information on CD-ROM discs, CAPS (Contents Abstracts Photocopies Service) and COPSAT (Contents of Periodicals in Science And Technology). The services rendered by the
university library include borrowing of books, Inter-Library Loan, Reference Service, Browsing and reading facility, photocopying service, Internet access and E-mail service.

4.4 Mangalore University

Mangalore University (http://www.mangaloreuniversity.ac.in) was established in the year 1980. It caters to the higher educational needs of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Kodagu districts. It has accredited at the 4 star level by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The University has 25 post-graduate departments on its campus, two constituent colleges and 129 affiliated colleges/institutions. Financial support from different funding agencies, to the tune of Rs. 4.5 crores has been received for the 25 ongoing research projects.

It is the first University in the country to start Bachelor's degree programmes in Hotel Management, Fashion Design, Garment Design, Leather Design and Human Resource Development and Post-Graduate programmes in Computer Software and Yogic Sciences. College Development Council facilitates the affiliated colleges in securing grants from the UGC for equipment, library, hostels and introducing vocational courses.

The University offers innovative and need-based Master's degree programmes in Computer Science, Business Management, Microbiology, Electronics and Geo-Informatics. Variable Energy Microtron Accelerator
facility, installed in collaboration with CAT, Indore and BARC, Mumbai, is available for research in Radiation Physics and interdisciplinary areas. The university has 11 Endowment Chairs on areas like Banking, Rural Development, Yoga, Environment, Literature, Fine Arts, Culture, Religion and Regional languages. The University collaborates with several premier national and international institutions.

Mangalore University Library is housed in a picturesque building with all modern facilities. The collections and services are fairly widespread, and they meet the needs of almost all users visiting the library. The total collection is 1,77,586 documents in number. It includes 1,25,122 books and the remaining are documents including bound-volumes, dissertations, theses, reports and microforms (Mangalore University Annual Report, 2006-2007). The important library services include accessing information through on-line, CD-ROM facility, Selective Dissemination of Information through Press Clippings, in addition to Inter-library Loan, lending, photo copying, readers' guidance, teleconferencing, reference and Internet, UGC- Infonet services covering 4,500 full text journals of users' interest and also access to around 40,000 core journals' content pages with abstract available from inside web database of BLLD, U K.
4.5 Gulbarga University

Gulbarga University (http://www.gulbargauniversity.kar.nic.in) was established in 1980 by an Act of Karnataka State. Its jurisdiction extends to the five districts of Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur, Bellary and Koppal of Hyderabad Karnataka. The main campus is situated on 860 acres of land, 10 kilometers east of Gulbarga city. It has 35 postgraduate departments and 4 postgraduate centers located at Krishnadevarayanagar, Bellary, Raichur and Bidar. Another post-graduate center at Basavakalyana is on the anvil. The university enrolls about 3,500 students every year for various postgraduate, M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes in various disciplines. There are about 200 faculty members and about 700 technical and non-technical supporting staff. There are 230 colleges affiliated to this university, which enroll approximately 45,000 students every year in various graduate / diploma courses in arts, fine arts, music, social sciences, science and technology, commerce, education and law.

The University library, which is heart of the university, is the prominent Learning Resource Centre on the sprawling campus, ideally situated and easily accessible by all the departments and hostels. A well-planned and dynamic library building housed with print and digital collection is a centrally situated building, provides the best possible satisfactory services to the clientele.

The library is logically divided into seven units, i.e., acquisition, periodicals, technical, maintenance, circulation, UCAIR (University Computer
Aided Information Retrieval) center and SC/ST book bank for carrying out the activities of library effectively and efficiently. These units are strongly supported by establishment section and photocopier service. This library is one of the prominent university libraries identified by the UGC for establishing National Network, the INFLIBNET, programme in the year 1993-94.

Information services offered by the university are reference service, referral service, user education, bibliographic service, technical writing skill service, document delivery service, OPAC services, reprography service, CD-ROM services, Internet and e-mail facility to the user community.

The university library has a total collection of 2,00,000 volumes, subscribing to 400 current periodicals, and sixteen CD-ROM databases are accessible on multi-user CD-NET Tower 14 drives (Gulbarga University Annual Report, 2006-2007).

4.6 Kuvempu University

Kuvempu university (http://www.kuvempu.ac.in) came into existence in 1987 incorporating the P.G. center of Mysore university, established at the B.R. Project in Shimoga district. A one-man commission report of T.R. Jayaraman led to the formation of Sahyadri university, which was later named after Kuvempu. The university was given territorial jurisdiction over the area comprising the revenue districts of Shimoga, Davanagere, Chitradurga and Chickmagalur.
There are 24 post-graduate departments, 18 on the main campus and 6 at the post-graduate centre, Davanagere involved in teaching and research. There are 124 degree colleges affiliated to Kuvempu university, in addition to four constituent colleges, administered by the university.

The university library is an old establishment of the B.R. Project, and it was established at the erstwhile post-graduate center which was later shifted to the Academic Block on Jnanasahyadri Campus in 1988. The existing library building has two floors. The first floor is of 127 sq. ft., and one more hall is extended to the library to house reference and text books with a seating capacity of 30 readers. A functionality planned building is nearly complete covering an area of 1,10,254 sq. ft.

The collection of library runs to 90,000 books and 225 current journals (Kuvempu University Annual Report, 2006-2007). The major objective of the library is to provide the best possible information services to the faculty, research scholars and postgraduate students in the university. It strives hard to build its image by collecting, organizing, maintaining and disseminating the various information sources to the user community.

The services offered by the library include reference service, inter-library loan, current awareness service and reprographic services. The library also provides up-to-date information about the latest additions and contents of the learned periodicals to the faculty. The library is equipped with professional
staff who are always available at the reference desk to attend to the query. The annual addition of books to the library is 1,500. The library has strong infrastructure facilities for the user community. The library publications include a directory of professionals of Kuvempu university and affiliated colleges, latest additions of books and catalogues of serials.
Table – 3: State-of-the-art of University Libraries under study at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the University</th>
<th>Year of Establishment</th>
<th>Affiliated / Constituent Colleges</th>
<th>NAAC Accreditation</th>
<th>Courses Offered (In Number)</th>
<th>Strength of the students per year (Appr.)</th>
<th>Strength of the Library Staff</th>
<th>Overall Library Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Mysore</td>
<td>1916</td>
<td>122/5</td>
<td>5 Star</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>12 Non-Prof.</td>
<td>7.5 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka University</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>300/5</td>
<td>5 Star</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>5 Prof. 21 Non-Prof.</td>
<td>5 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore University</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>5 Star</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>7 Prof. 15 Non-Prof.</td>
<td>3 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangalore University</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>129/2</td>
<td>4 Star</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>10 Prof. 18 Non-Prof.</td>
<td>2 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulbarga University</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>4 Star</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>10 Prof. 30 Non-Prof.</td>
<td>2.5 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuvempu University</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>124/4</td>
<td>3 Star</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>7 Prof. 20 Non-Prof.</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table – 4: IT Infrastructure available in the University Libraries of Karnataka State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the University</th>
<th>No. of Computers in the Library for the users</th>
<th>Library Automation</th>
<th>OPAC Facility</th>
<th>Bar Coding System</th>
<th>No. of CD-ROM Databases</th>
<th>Access to UGC-Infonet</th>
<th>Orientation Programme(s) conducted every year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Mysore</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka University</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Under Process</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore University</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Under Process</td>
<td>Nil **</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangalore University</td>
<td>2 *</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulbarga University</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuvempu University</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Under Process</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In Mangalore University each department is equipped with a large number of latest computers. Hence the library has kept two computers for users in the library.

** After having access to the UGC-Infonet, Bangalore University stopped subscribing to CD-ROM Databases

*** At the beginning of the academic year, University of Mysore, Bangalore and Mangalore Universities conduct orientation programmes for users of 2 to 3 departments per day.

$ In Gulbarga University, the Library Staff visit each department and conduct orientation programmes for freshers.
Table – 3 depicts the state-of-the-art of university libraries under study at a glance. The University of Mysore is the oldest university among six state universities (established in the year 1916) and Kuvempu university is the youngest university which is established in the year 1987. The University of Mysore, Karnataka University and Bangalore University are accredited with 5 Star status by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Kuvempu university has 3 Star status. The number of courses offered in these universities ranges from 35 to 55. Though Gulbarga university is established in the year 1980, it offers 35 courses, which is less compared to that of Kuvempu university (offers 39 courses).

Admission of students to various departments in these universities varies yearly. This ranges from 2000 to 3500. Strength of the library staff ranges from 5 to 10, where as the number of non-professional staff ranges from 15 to 30. Library collection is 7.5 lakhs in the University of Mysore, which is the highest among all the state universities, and the lowest is that of Kuvempu university (90,000 thousands).

Table – 4 reveals IT infrastructure available in the university libraries of Karnataka State. It has surprising to note that Mangalore university is the only university which has automated all the house-keeping activities, whereas the University of Mysore and Karnataka university have partially done library automation, though they are old universities. All the universities are having
Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), except the University of Mysore, wherein it is under process.

It is interesting to note here that Mangalore university is the only university having Bar Coding system. Work is under process in Karnataka, Bangalore and Kuvempu universities. All the universities are having access to UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium. The number of CD-ROM databases in these universities is very less. Bangalore university does not have CD-ROM databases. After having access to the UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium almost all the universities stopped subscribing to CD-ROM databases and print journals as well.

All the university libraries of Karnataka state are well equipped with computers for use. Along with their libraries some universities are having central computer centres and accommodate a good number of computers for the users.
References


