Chapter Nine

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.0 Introduction

The analysis in the foregoing chapters has revealed a number of crevices in the financing of the three university libraries investigated. The issues are many and vary from inadequate revenue to unscientific fiscal allocation and expenditure. The major findings that have evolved from the discussion in the previous chapters are summed up here under the major heads 'Magnitude and trends of revenue', 'Trends and pattern of expenditure', 'Estimate of Library expenditure' and 'Finance Vs responsive library services'.

9.1 Magnitude and trends of revenue

9.11 University Revenue

The sources of University revenue in Kerala are both external and internal. Of these, external sources contribute the major portion of University revenue. Grants from the State Government constitute the major portion of income of the Universities. The income from internal sources is nevertheless on the increase from year to year.
The study revealed that the total revenue of the universities viz University of Kerala, University of Calicut and Cochin University of Science and Technology has increased significantly from one plan to another. The growth rate is the highest in the Cochin University of science and Technology and the lowest in the University of Calicut. The annual growth rate of income in the University of Kerala, University of Calicut and Cochin University of Science and Technology is 51.57%, 42% and 178.22% respectively. The higher percentage of growth rate of Cochin University of Science and Technology reflects the policy of the State Government and UGC in providing stronger financial support to special universities like Science and Technology universities than to general universities. This uneven growth rate of income among the Universities has resulted in an imbalanced development of universities in Kerala.

9.12 University Library Revenue

The funds allocated from the university budget and grants received from the UGC constitute the major sources of income of the University Libraries in Kerala.

Allocation from University Budget

The funds allocated to libraries out of university budget include both recurring and non-recurring grants. A
total amount of Rs.7,11,98,758 had been received by the University Libraries under the recurring head during the Plan periods. The recurring grants to libraries from their universities have been increasing steadily from plan to plan. In the Kerala University Library the allocation in the 7th Plan was 279 times more than the 1st Plan allocation. The 7th Plan allocation of the Calicut University Library was 7 times that of the allocation for the 5th Plan whereas the allocation for the Cochin University Library during the 7th Plan was 4 times that of the 6th plan. (As already shown in table 23 recurring grant out of University budget was available to Calicut and Cochin University libraries only from the 5th and 6th Plans respectively).

A total amount of Rs. 12,99,801 had been received by the University Libraries from the University budget under the non-recurring head during the Plan periods. Out of this, the maximum amount had been received by the Kerala University Library. This is due to the fact that Kerala University Library is the oldest university library in Kerala which received grants during all the Five year Plan periods.

Grants from the UGC

Grants from the UGC constitute another significant source of revenue of the university libraries. The grant
received from UGC by the Kerala University Library under the 7th Plan has been 95 times that of the grant under the first Plan, but only 2 times that of the 4th Plan. The ratio of the 4th Plan allocation to the 7th Plan allocation in the Calicut and Cochin Universities was 1:2 and 1:3 respectively.

A total amount of Rs. 1,30,67,257 had been received as recurring grants by the University libraries from UGC till the 7th Plan. Of this, the share of the Cochin, Kerala and Calicut University Libraries was 46.91%, 28.46% and 24.62% respectively. The above figures show that Cochin University Library has received the maximum as recurring grants from UGC, even more that the grant received by the Kerala University Library, the oldest University Library in Kerala. The recurring grants to the university libraries by the UGC have not been uniform during the plan periods. This is one of the reasons for the imbalanced growth of libraries in Kerala.

As regards non-recurring grants, these have not been received by the university libraries from UGC during every plan. A total amount of Rs. 29,45,322 had been received from the UGC by the Libraries till the 7th plan. Out of this, Kerala University Library had received the maximum amount (Rs. 20,54,739).
Gifts and Other Sources of income

In Kerala, no endowment has been instituted by philanthropists for the development of university libraries. However gifts in the form of books have been received by the university libraries. These included gifts from individuals and institutions.

The amount collected by way of overdue charges, cost recovered from members for damaged or lost books, xerox copying charges, amount collected through sales of waste paper etc are not available to university libraries for utilization but is credited to the university account. Of the three university libraries under study, Kerala University Library had collected the maximum amount under this Head.

A total amount of Rs.7,451,138 had been received from various sources by the university libraries till the 7th Plan. Of this, the maximum, i.e. Rs.409,863,87 had been received by the Kerala University Library. The Cochin University Library received Rs.1,912,187 and Calicut University Library received Rs.1,440,287.

There was a wide variation noticed in respect of revenue of the university libraries during the Plan periods. The variation from Plan to Plan was very high in the Kerala
University Library. A year-wise comparison of University allocation and UGC grants to libraries in Kerala shows that the university allocation to libraries had shown a steady increase over the Plan periods whereas the UGC grants had been of a varying nature.

The link relatives of University allocation and UGC grants have shown that allocation to libraries from University budget ranged from 139.7% to 535.66% and 160.18% to 232.79% during the Plan period in the Kerala University Library and Calicut University Library respectively. But in the case of UGC grants the percentage varies from 1.44 and 52862.22 in the Kerala University Library whereas this varies from 4.03 to 1088.54 and 34.14 to 743.38 respectively in the Calicut and Cochin University libraries.

The Proportion of library revenue in relation to university revenue varied from 0.29 to 4.65. The lowest proportion had been recorded by the Kerala University Library and the highest by the Cochin University Library.

The study revealed that there is a high degree of positive correlation between the total university revenue and total library revenue in the University libraries in Kerala during the Plan periods. The correlation coefficient is +0.999 in the Kerala University Library, +0.997 in the
9.2 **Trends and Pattern of Expenditure**

9.21 **University Expenditure**

The expenditure in the universities in Kerala as is only natural, shows an upward trend from one Plan to another. A total amount of Rs.25146.89 lakhs had been spent by the Universities till the 7th Plan. Out of this, the maximum (Rs.13049.21 lakhs) had been spent by the University of Kerala which was in existence during all the 7 Plan periods. The University of Calicut and Cochin University of Science and Technology which were established much later during the 4th Plan period had spent only Rs.7467.94 lakhs and Rs.4629.74 lakhs respectively. The growth rate of expenditure during the Plan periods in the University of Kerala is 28 times from 1st to 7th Plan and 8 times from 4th Plan to 7th Plan. The growth rate is 9 times and 40 times in the University of Calicut and Cochin University of Science and Technology respectively from 4th Plan to 7th Plan. There is a substantially higher growth rate of expenditure in the Cochin University of Science and Technology as compared to the other two universities. A Plan-wise expenditure pattern shows that the rate of
increase is not uniform from Plan to Plan in the
Universities.

9.22 University Library Expenditure

A total amount of Rs.7,45,1138 had been spent by the
university libraries in Kerala till the 7th Plan. Out of
this, the maximum (55%) had been spent by the Kerala
University Library. The Calicut University Library and
Cochin University Library had spent 19.32% and 25.66%
respectively. The rate of increase on expenditure is 263
times in the Kerala University Library from 1st Plan to 7th
Plan. In the case of Calicut University Library and Cochin
University Library the growth rate is 11 times and 41 times
between the 4th Plan and 7th Plan respectively. But the
growth rate in the Kerala University Library is only 7 times
from 4th Plan to 7th Plan, much lower than that of the other
two universities.

Recurring Expenditure

The recurring expenditure (Rs.7,0320012) constitutes
the lion's share of the total library expenditure in the
university libraries. The Calicut University Library stands
first with 98% of its total expenditure for recurring items
during the Plan periods. The Cochin University Library and
Kerala University Library had spent 94.66% and 92.97%
respectively under recurring items. This trend in the expenditure on recurring items confirm the fact that the expenditure in a library is primarily recurring.

The growth rate of recurring expenditure from Plan to Plan is more or less uniform. The growth rate from the 1st Plan to 7th Plan in the Kerala University Library is 246 times while it is 6 times from the 4th to 7th Plan. The growth rate is 13 times and 39 times respectively in the Calicut University Library and Cochin University Library from 4th Plan to 7th Plan.

Non-recurring Expenditure

A total amount of Rs.4,191126 had been spent by the university libraries on non-recurring items of expenditure. Out of this, the maximum (Rs.28,84376) had been spent by the Kerala University Library. The second position (Rs.10,19547) goes to Cochin University Library and the third position (Rs.2,87203) to Calicut University Library. The general trend in the non-recurring expenditure in the libraries is irregular and haphazard.

As regards the expenditure of each university on various items the following pattern and trends are observed.

In the case of expenditure on salary the maximum percentage (65.95%) had been incurred by the Calicut
University Library and the percentage had been the least (31.96%) in the Cochin University Library of the total university library expenditure. In Kerala University Library it was 61.10%. The average percentage of expenditure on salary is 54.56% of the total University Library expenditure in the University Libraries as a whole. The expenditure on salary in the Kerala University Library and Calicut University Library is above the existing norms in India and it is below the norms in the case of Cochin University Library.

As regards the expenditure on books and periodicals, the Cochin University Library had spent the maximum (60.94%) percentage out of its total expenditure. A lower percentage (29.15%) of expenditure on books and periodicals was incurred by the Kerala University Library. In Calicut University Library it was 30.82%. The average expenditure on books and periodicals in the University libraries in Kerala as a whole is 37.63%. The expenditure on books and periodicals in the Kerala University Library and Calicut University Library is below the prescribed standards and it is above the standard in the Cochin University Library.

In the case of contingent expenditure, the Kerala University Library spent 2.94% of its total expenditure. The lowest percentage on this item was of the Calicut
University Library (1.23%). The State average of expenditure on contingent items in the university libraries is 2.31%.

All the three university libraries under study had spent only a negligible percentage on binding. The average expenditure under this head is only 0.76%. As compared to the norms prescribed by experts, the expenditure under this head is found to be far below the minimum standard suggested by experts.

The Kerala University Library had spent 5.31% on equipments. Cochin University Library and Calicut University Library had spent only 2.95% and 0.26% respectively on equipments. The average expenditure on equipments in the University Libraries is 3.72%.

Under the head purchase and repair of furniture the Cochin University Library had spent a slightly higher percentage as compared to the other two university libraries. The average expenditure under this head in the university libraries in Kerala is only 1%. On the whole the expenditure on contingencies, binding, equipments and repair and purchase of furniture do not conform to the standards/norms prevailing in India.

The ratio of expenditure on salary, books and
periodicals and other items varies from library to library. It is 5:2:1 in the Kerala University Library, 19:9:1 in the Calicut University Library and 1:2:2 in the Cochin University Library.

A comparison of expenditure on salary, books and periodicals and other items in the university libraries in Kerala with that of the prescribed national and international library standards shows that the ratio of expenditure in Kerala is different from the approved standard/norm. The expenditure on salaries in the Calicut and Kerala University Libraries is much higher than national and even international standards while Cochin University Library has recorded a higher percentage of expenditure on books and periodicals and lower percentage of expenditure on salary.

The percentage of university library expenditure in relation to university expenditure in Kerala varies from 0.35% to 5.66% during the Plan periods. The highest percentage of library expenditure in relation to university expenditure was incurred by the Cochin University Library during the 7th Plan and the lowest had been incurred by the Kerala University Library during the 1st Plan period.

The study revealed that the coefficient of correlation between the total library expenditure and total
university expenditure in the University libraries during the plan periods is a highly positive one. It is +0.998, +0.997 and +0.994 respectively in the Kerala, Calicut and Cochin University Libraries respectively.

9.3 Estimate of Library Expenditure

The study revealed that the year-wise estimate of university library expenditure in relation to University expenditure varied from 0.28% to 7.41%. The lowest proportion had been shown by the Kerala University Library during 1954-55 to 1956-57 and the highest proportion had been by the Cochin University Library during 1973-74. The average proportion of library expenditure in relation to university expenditure in the Kerala University Library is 3.14%. The rate of proportion had increased from year to year with slight fluctuation in certain years.

In the Calicut University Library the proportion had increased from year to year with slight variations in certain years. The growth rate of proportion was not uniform and significant. The average percentage of library expenditure in relation to total university expenditure in the Calicut University Library is only 1.93%.

The proportion of library expenditure in relation to university expenditure during various years is not uniform.
in the Cochin University Library. The average proportion of library expenditure to total university expenditure in the Cochin University Library is 4.13%. The Cochin University Library had shown the highest proportion of average expenditure on libraries. The Kerala University Library occupies the next position and the Calicut University Library the last position. Comparing the proportion of library expenditure with accepted standards in India it can be seen that the fiscal investment in the university libraries in Kerala is not satisfactory. The deviation from the existing standard is the highest in the case of Calicut University Library and the least in the Cochin University Library. The Kerala University Library, Calicut University Library and Cochin University Library ought to have got additional grants of Rs.405.71 lakhs, Rs.322.72 lakhs and Rs.98.16 lakhs respectively during the plan periods to be on a level with the standard prescribed by the Radhakrishnan Commission Report. An additional fiscal investment of Rs.2199.98 lakhs, Rs.1349.56 lakhs and Rs.734.75 lakhs was necessary for the Kerala University Library, Calicut University Library and Cochin University Library respectively to conform to the norm suggested by Dr. K.N.Raj Commission.

The average per capita expenditure in the Kerala, Calicut and Cochin University libraries is Rs.11.38, Rs.8.61
and 91.05 respectively. The State average of per capita expenditure in the University libraries is only Rs.13.58.

By applying the norm suggested by Dr. S.R.Ranganathan (Rs.100 per student) the Kerala, Calicut and Cochin University Libraries fall short by Rs.3193.1 lakhs, Rs.1528.98 and Rs.18.8 lakhs respectively.

9.4 Finance Vs Responsive Library Services

For a need-based library service adequate space for reading for users, adequate resources, equipments and manpower are prerequisites. The study revealed the following on the above aspects.

The space for reading for users in the various sections of the Kerala University Library is inadequate in the Periodicals section and partially adequate in the reference section and Kerala Studies section whereas the space for reading for users is adequate in the Calicut University Library and Cochin University Library. This is not because the space is less in the Kerala University Library than in the other libraries but because the number of readers is more.

The physical facilities and equipments are not available at the desired level in the Kerala University Library and Calicut University Library.
Reading materials like current periodicals, back volumes of periodicals, books and monographs and reference books are partially adequate for the users in the Kerala University Library and Calicut University Library. But materials like technical reports, conference proceedings, patents and standards, dissertations, indexing and abstracting periodicals, bibliographies and non-book materials are totally inadequate for the users' requirements. As regards the users of the Cochin University Library non-book materials are fully adequate and books and monographs are partially adequate for their requirements. But current periodicals, back volumes of periodicals reference books, technical reports, patents and standards, dissertations, indexing and abstracting periodicals and bibliographies are inadequate. In short the different types of reading materials which are very essential to users for study, teaching and research programmes are not available in adequate number. This has stood in the way of the University libraries in Kerala in fulfilling the requirements of users and effectively supporting the objectives of the universities.

The manpower of the university libraries in Kerala is competent and adequate in number to provide services to the user community. But the services provided by the university libraries are not up to the mark. This is due to a number of
inter related factors like inadequacy of materials, equipments, lack of proper manpower planning and deployment and above all lack of motivation among library staff. So a detailed investigation is needed in this regard.

The user community in the university libraries in Kerala is not adequately aware of the existing services provided by the libraries. Also the existing services are not suitably organised for fulfilling the actual requirements of users. This is due to lack of proper user education and user studies.

As regards the services presently provided by the university libraries, the users have different opinions. The majority of users (60.84%) in the Cochin University Library have opined that the existing services provided by this library are inadequate for their requirements whereas the percentage of inadequacy is 56.86% in the Kerala University Library. But the majority of users in the Calicut University Library are satisfied with the existing services. The higher rate of inadequacy of services in the Cochin University Library is explained by the fact that the users are more service conscious as the nature of their academic and research work needs intensive library support.

The users have suggested a number of new services to be started in order to fulfil their requirements. Majority
of the users in the Kerala University Library and Calicut University Library and Cochin University Library have indicated SDI service as their first choice. The second preference is shared by Newspaper clipping service and user education among users in the Kerala University Library whereas Newspaper clipping service and Referral services are the second and third preferences among users in the Calicut University Library. The user community of the Cochin University Library prefer to have Library bulletin service and Newspaper clipping services as their 2nd and third preferences respectively.

The above findings are indices of the deficiency of resources and services in the university libraries in Kerala. Adequate resources and services necessitate adequate fiscal support. A detailed investigation and evaluation of the existing service and prospective services required by the user community and the steps required to be taken for this purpose is necessary.

The user community in the university libraries in Kerala is in favour of a switch over from the present manual system to computer-based library operations and services so as to fulfil their requirements speedily, effectively and with precision.
The above findings and discussions are fruitful in substantiating the objectives of the study. The study proved that the financing of the university libraries in Kerala is inadequate and far below the minimum as per the standards recommended by Library and Education Commissions. It has also proved that the university libraries fail to perform the functions at the desired level of adequacy and efficiency and organise satisfactory responsive services. Thus the findings have tested and substantiated the validity of the hypotheses made in the study.

9.5 Conclusion and Recommendations

The findings of the study have brought out many facts which are of interest and significance to educationists, university authorities, funding agencies, university librarians and users as well. That the university library plays a crucial role in higher education and national development especially in the third world countries like India needs no reiteration. There are at present various deficiencies which obstruct university library development. It is essential that they are removed and libraries are enabled to perform their role effectively. Eventhough the study is confined to the university libraries in Kerala, it can be deemed as typical of the fiscal allocation in the university libraries in India and the developing countries
in general. A few recommendations are given here which, if implemented would be helpful in mitigating fiscal problems confronted by the university libraries.

i) Each university and the University Grants Commission should evolve a policy based on rational norms for funding university libraries which would ensure their balanced and even growth and enable them to lend effective support to the academic and research programmes of the universities.

ii) In deciding the norms for funding university libraries the recommendations of the various Education/Library Commissions and Committees should be taken into consideration. It is better to link library revenue and expenditure to the total university revenue and expenditure than to work it out on the basis of per capita expenditure of students and teachers. This is because the total university revenue/expenditure is bound to go up from year to year due to various factors such as new courses started, increased enrolment of students, diversification of research programmes, general inflationary trends etc and if the library
expenditure is worked out as percentage of the total university revenue/expenditure the funds available to each library would substantially go up from year to year. The disadvantage of calculating library expenditure on the per capita basis is that the rate of expenditure fixed will have a tendency to remain static with practically no enhancement of library revenue/expenditure.

iii) The Kothari Commission's recommendation of 6.5% to 10% of the total institutional budget for the library depending on the stage of development of the library merits consideration for acceptance by the universities.

iv) The distribution of the library budget among various heads of expenditure should be more rational than at present conform to national and international norms.

v) The percentage of expenditure on salaries has been found to be too high and much above the prevailing standards, in the case of the University of Kerala and the University of Calicut. This is because of the present irrational funding of University Libraries.
While the funds made available in one year may lead to workload necessitating additional staff recruitment, in the succeeding year there may be a sharp fall in the fund leading to reduced workload as revealed by the study. The staff once recruited will continue to stay in office and while the expenditure on this account due to increments, salary revisions etc goes up, the allocation for other items especially books and periodicals does not keep pace with this and sometimes even goes down. The imbalance in the expenditure ratio of salaries and other items is a concomitant of this lack of rational funding policy. All efforts should be made to remove this imbalance by increasing the allocation for each item every year as warranted by the conditions in each University.

vi) The binding of books and periodicals, although very important, is practically neglected in the University libraries as evidenced by the very low percentage of expenditure incurred on this. The expenditure should be around 3% of the total library budget or 5% of the book budget as recommended by experts.
vii) The expenditure on other contingent items should also be substantially enhanced inorder to conform to prescribed norm i.e 6% - 10% of the library budget as suggested by experts.

viii) The book resources in the libraries especially primary sources like journals, reports, standards, patents, theses and dissertations etc essentially needed for research should be strengthened inorder to meet the requirements of the users adequately.

ix) In view of the lack of satisfaction among the library users with the services now offered by the libraries in response to expressed needs, the services should be diversified and made more efficient. Selective Dissemination of Information Service (SDI), Current Awareness Service (CAS), News paper clipping service etc for which a demand has been expressed by users should be organised to the extent needed and permitted by available sources.

x) User Education programmes aimed at imparting the requisite skills to library users to enable them to exploit library resources fully should be organised by each University Library.
xi) Services should be oriented to user needs and for this purpose surveys of user needs should be conducted periodically by the libraries.

xii) The general dissatisfaction regarding the delay and lack of precision in the services can be removed by introducing automation in the library operations and services as favoured by the majority of users covered in this study. The libraries should plan automation in a phased manner. Automation is also necessary to enable each library to participate in the information and library network (INFLIBNET) project contemplated by the UGC in the 8th Plan.

In conclusion it must be emphasised again that only through the universities adopting and implementing a sound and rational fiscal policy in respect of their libraries can the book resources be strengthened, their organisation streamlined and services made more effective so that adequate library support can be ensured for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Universities.