CHAPTER TWO

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2.0 Introduction

A survey of related literature in the field of study is attempted in this chapter. This includes Commission Reports, Proceedings of the Seminars and Conferences, Post-graduate and doctoral studies and other important studies conducted in India and abroad. This survey is intended to give a clearer idea of the subject under investigation.

2.1 Commission Reports

A number of Commissions were appointed in the field of Education and Library in India during the pre-independent and post-independent periods. The Commission reports on education have helped in one way or the other in the development of libraries especially academic libraries in India. These reports have emphasised the role of university and college libraries in the field of higher education. In addition to this, the commissions pointed out the important problems including fiscal inadequacy faced by academic libraries in India in achieving the objectives of higher education. The major reports and the important recommendations therein are given below:
The Indian Education Commission was appointed by the British Indian Government in 1882 to study the progress of education under the new policy adopted in 1854 by the East India Company and accepted by the Secretary of State in 1859. The Commission, better known as the Hunter Commission after the name of its Chairman, Sir William W Hunter, reviewed the Indian educational system including the status of academic libraries. The Commission was disappointed to see the condition of libraries and declared them "hardly creditable". The recommendation of the Hunter Commission about special grants to libraries was actually the first official statement stressing the need for assistance to libraries attached to institutions of higher learning.

The Indian University Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Thomas Raleigh was appointed by Lord Curson in 1902. The Commission paid special attention to the university libraries and found that:

"Of the present university libraries there is not much to be said. The library at Madras appears to be entirely neglected. Bombay has good collection of oriental and other books; but the library is little used by graduates and hardly at all by students. Calcutta has a library and money has been granted for the purpose of
making it supplementary to other libraries in Calcutta. It is open to fellows and to persons permitted by the syndicate to use it for the purpose of library research. The Allahabad university has no library. Lahore has not a very large university library".  

The Commission recommended that "Good reference libraries should be provided in this connection both with universities and colleges in order that students may have an opportunity of forming the habit of independent and intelligent reading".  

A Commission known as the Calcutta University Commission was appointed by the Government in 1917 to study the situation and make recommendations to solve the existing problems. The Commission is also known as the Sadler Commission, after its Chairman, Sir Michael Sadler. The final report of the Commission was published in 1919. The Commission made important recommendations and also looked into the affairs of libraries and found them in a very poor working condition, with small collections. The Commission pointed out that the majority of academic libraries did not provide open access to their collection, and books could not be borrowed for home use. The general observation of the Commission about the university and college libraries is that in general the libraries are
quite inadequate for the needs of the students, and still more for those of the teachers.\textsuperscript{5} The Commission was of the view that "one of the greatest weaknesses of the existing system is the extraordinarily unimportant part which is played by the library".\textsuperscript{6}

In respect of finance, the commission recommended that 2 lakh rupees be provided to the Calcutta University for the initial expenditure on books with a minimum of 50,000 rupees per year to keep the book and periodical collection up to date. There is no doubt that the recommendations of the commission were very radical and in fact a landmark in the University Library development in India.

The University Education Commission (1948-49) after strongly emphasising the important role of libraries in education, as already referred to in the previous chapter, has observed the inadequacies of the financial assistance given to University and College Libraries and recommended that the expenditure on libraries and laboratories will also have to be increased if teaching is to become effective. The commission suggested Rs.40 per student as the normal expenditure to be incurred on libraries. If this recommendation is adopted by all the Universities and the
affiliated Colleges, the expenditure will be, in addition to what is being incurred at present, 4% of the total budget. 7

The UGC appointed a library Committee in 1957 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan to look into the conditions of the University and College Libraries in India. The recommendations of the committee in respect of fiscal aspect were that:

i) The entire finance of a University or College Library should be provided by the University Grants Commission and the State Government;

ii) The Commission and the State Government should determine from time to time the proportion of their respective grants to a University Library;

iii) For the time being, the Commission's share may be four fifths of the total requirement and the share of the State Government may be the remaining one-fifth;

iv) The Commission and the State Government should have a gentleman's agreement that each will actually pay its own share of the library grant;

v) The Commission should not withdraw or lower its grant to a University or a College Library because the
State Government fails in its obligation and vice-versa;

vi) The Library grant to a University or a College should be determined according to an agreed per capita formula;

vii) For the time being the formula may be at the rate of Rs.15/- per student and Rs.200/- per teacher and research fellow. There should also be a special initial library grant in the case of a new University and of a new department in an existing University;

viii) In the case of an affiliating University, a similar scale should be followed for the college libraries. In addition, the University Library also should be helped at rates to be determined by local context;

ix) The above mentioned scale of grant is of course subject to the amount at the disposal of the Commission for grant for reading and kindred materials, the capacity of the University or college to spend and other factors of local variation; and

x) The Library grant for any year should be normally based on the statistical data of the preceding year,
without prejudice to any unexpected special demand arising in the course of the year of grant.

The late Mr. M. C. Chagla, who was Minister of Education, appointed an Education Commission in 1964 under the Chairmanship of Dr. D. S. Kothari. The Commission laid emphasis on the importance of and need for libraries in all academic institutions. The Commission pointed out that the present position of expenditure on books and periodicals was not satisfactory. Of the 43 Universities the committee visited, 5 universities expended only less than 1% of the total University expenditure and 34 Universities expended 1.5%. It was only in 4 Universities that the expenditure on books and periodicals was more than 5% of the total expenditure. The Committee also recommended/observed the following:

i) The Heads of Departments and Library Staff should cooperate fully in drawing up an integrated plan of library development from a long range point of view;

ii) No new University or College or Department should be set up without taking into account its library needs in terms of staff, books, journals, space etc;

iii) The utilisation of library grants should be suitably phased over a plan period;
iv) An essential thing about the development plan of a University Library is to lay down physical rather than financial targets;

v) In addition to having 'departmental' and 'seminar' libraries stocked with a 'working collection of books and journals' the central library should facilitate interdisciplinary communication as also the work of research scholars in border line disciplines. This will also be economical in the long run;

vi) With the emergence of active research in our Universities, there is a need for conservation of research potential through documentation work and service;

vii) We should completely break away from the traditional view that a library is a conventional but more or less useless accessory.

viii) A collection of books, even a collection of good books, does not constitute a library;

ix) The library should provide resources necessary for research in the fields of special interest to the University;
x) As a norm, a University should spend each year about Rs.25/- for each student registered and Rs.300/- per teacher; and

xi) The foreign exchange needed for University and College Libraries should be allocated separately to the UGC.9

The Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System headed by Mr.D.P.Chattopadhyaya emphasised the need for development of different types of libraries including academic libraries as part of the institutional infrastructure in the information network. The report states that 'Adequate financial support for the development of libraries and information systems will be made available by the Government of India and State Governments. The National as well as State Governments should provide for an expenditure of 6-10% of their education budgets for the libraries. All educational institutions should similarly provide for their own libraries 6-10% of their total budget.10

2.2 Seminars and Conferences

A number of seminars and conferences were held on various aspects of library and information science at the local, regional, national and international level. But only
a few seminars and conferences were convened specifically on University Libraries.

In September 1962, in collaboration with the Government of Argentina, Unesco organised a regional seminar on the development of university libraries in Latin America and Mendoza (Argentina). The seminar surveyed the needs of university libraries in the light of the future development of higher education in the Latin American region. One of the points that emerged from the seminar was the need for a greater understanding of the science of librarianship and of library problems by university administrators, teachers as well as Government officials.

The first Japan-United States conference on libraries and information science in higher education was held at Tokyo from 15-19 May 1969. The conference examined the role of university and research libraries in Japan and United States in the development of higher education.

In India the UGC organised a seminar on 'From the publisher to the Readers' hands: Work flow in university and college libraries from the 4th to 7th March 1959 at New Delhi. This seminar was conducted to give the professional staff of university and college libraries an idea about the modern developments in library management.
The first national seminar of university librarians in India was held at the Rajasthan University, Jaipur from 16th to 19th November, 1966. The seminar was sponsored jointly by the University of Rajasthan and the UGC. It was intended not for the university librarians alone but for all those who are responsible for higher education in India. The seminar put forward a number of recommendations under the heads, 'Library staff', 'Administration', 'Book resources and services', 'interlibrary cooperation', 'loss of books', 'University Grants Commission' and 'General'. The seminar recommended the following in respect of financial aspects of university libraries.

i) Upto 10 per cent of the university budget be set apart for the library;

ii) All book grants be deemed as non-lapsable grants;

iii) The policy of calling for tenders for the supply of reading materials be dispensed with, reconcile service with cost and encourage competition. 14

A national seminar on National policy on university libraries was organised by the Osmania University library on 29-30th September 1986. 15 A number of recommendations were made by this seminar. The recommendations were grouped under the heads, 'status of the library', 'collection building',
'financing', 'relation between the university libraries and college libraries', 'modernisation', 'resource sharing', 'space', 'open university' and 'miscellaneous'. Under the facet 'financing' the seminar recommended the following:

"The recommendations with regard to the financing of libraries made by both the Radhakrishnan and Kothari Commissions are several decades old. Taking into consideration the phenomenal rise in the number of users of university libraries, number of books and journals being published and their price rise, the seminar recommends the suggestion made by the Karnataka state universities/review committee in 1980-81 under the chairmanship of Dr.K.N.Raj be adopted for implementation. The committee has recommended that 20-25% of the total budget of the universities may be set apart for the operation grant for university libraries. This recommendation, if implemented may enable the libraries to operate at the research and teaching level. The seminar further recommends that the annual increase in the budgetary provision of university libraries shall be of the order of 20-25% in keeping with general price rise".

Besides the aforesaid seminars and conferences a number of seminars and conferences were organised in India by ILA, IASLIC, DRTC, State Library Associations etc on various aspects of library science including university
library as one of the facets. All these seminars and conferences highlighted the important problems especially inadequacy of finance in the case of university libraries in India through deliberations and resolutions.

2.3. Post-graduate and Doctoral studies

It is estimated by Dr. P.S.G. Kumar that out of the 1025 M.L.I.sc dissertations produced in the Library schools in India, the largest number i.e. 142 studies (13.9%) are in the field of information and its related aspects. The second position goes to studies on university libraries with 134 (13.1%) dissertations. This priority on university libraries is due to the fact that many of the Master's students, faculty members and librarians themselves are naturally interested in university libraries, their problems and their services. Studies conducted by B. Bhagyalakshi, Alka Bhardwaj, N. Bhaskar Reddy, Indra Bumb, D. Chandran, Neena Sud, Ponnamma Devaiah and Raju M Mathew are significant studies in the field.

According to one statistics there are 71 Ph.D holders working in libraries and library schools in India. Of them, 44 persons did their Ph.D in the field of library and information science. Of the studies conducted by these 44 persons 7 (15.9%) studies are in the field of various aspects
of university libraries. Studies on university libraries come second in the subject-wise distribution of doctoral studies.

Studies conducted by Tejomurthy,26,27 Jugal Kishore,28 Rajwant Singh,29 Chandra Kant Sharma30 and Somaraju31 are significant studies on various aspects of university libraries in India.

Tejomurthy has conducted two doctoral studies on university libraries in Madhya Pradesh. Of these, one study is specifically on university library finances. This study examines the university libraries in Madhya Pradesh in the context of the state of library finances. The study has examined the sources of finance for university libraries received in the form of state grants, UGC grants, endowments and gifts, fees and fines from students etc. It compares the finances of 8 university libraries in M.P. Methods like per capita method and method of proportion were used in estimating the expenditures in the university libraries. The study was primarily based on secondary data. The findings arrived at in this study are:

i) The UGC grants constitute the major portion of the finance (70%) for the improvement of university libraries in Madhya Pradesh.
ii) On an average the universities in M.P. have spent 5.5% of their total funds on libraries.

iii) There is a very high degree of positive correlation between the total university expenditure and total library expenditure in M.P. over the past eleven years.32

The study on 'university libraries in Madhya Pradesh' by Tejomurthy has examined the various aspects of university libraries in M.P.33 Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. For primary data collection, questionnaire method was used. The study contains solutions to overcome the existing problems in library management, library collection, library services, library cooperation, fiscal allocation etc. As regards fiscal allocation and management it is observed in the study:

i) 25% rise in the financial aid every year to justify and satisfy the growing needs of the university libraries, should be made a statutory and regular feature.

ii) The librarian should continuously make a note of the demands of the faculty, from time to time and incorporate them into the budget. While preparing the university library budget
points like comparison with past expenditure budgeting in accordance with the work programme and using widely accepted budgetary standards may be borne in mind.

iii) The library resources of M.P. universities are inadequate to meet their current and future requirements. Funds are inadequate not only for non-recurring items, but also for recurring items like books and periodicals.

iv) Because of the financial inadequacy, lack of proper administrative structure within the library, lack of professionally trained staff, and non-availability of mechanical devices, the university libraries of M.P. are confining themselves to the traditional and pedestrian functions of the library.

A doctoral study entitled 'Development of academic libraries since 1800 and contribution of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan - a critical study' by Ravindranath Sharma was conducted at the state university New York in 1983. The study analyses the development of academic libraries, higher education since 1800 and the contribution of the late Dr. S.R. Ranganathan to the academic libraries of India. Historical method was used for data collection. The study
examines a number of problems which hinder the normal development of libraries. It is stated in the study that the financial condition of Indian academic libraries is far from satisfactory. It is far below the standard recommended by the Radhakrishnan Commission and Kothari commission. Most of the institutions spend only 1.5 to 2.3% of their budget for library purposes. It is also observed in the study that while inflation in India is rising the UGC contribution to libraries is shrinking.

2.4 Other Studies

Besides the above studies, a number of studies have been published in the form of books/monographs and learned articles in the western countries on various aspects of university libraries. But there are only a few studies specifically on university library finance. A brief account of the studies published in the form of books and articles is given hereunder.

'University libraries in Britain - a new look' is an outcome of a survey of university libraries in Great Britain conducted by Bryan in 1975. The survey is closely connected with another one made by the same author some eighteen years before. The study examined various aspects such as finance, book stock, staff, technical services,
services to readers, automation etc in a number of university libraries in Britain. Studies conducted by K.N. Neal, Norman Roberts, R.J. Bates and M.L. Shatock are significant studies in the field.

In "The annual reports of Australian University Libraries" Borchardt has reviewed the financial position. The study points out the financial problems in all university libraries. Studies by Bryan, Jolly and Balnaves and Biskup are important studies in the field of university libraries in Australia.

The study on university libraries for developing countries by Gelfand is significant as it gives information especially about the fiscal management to the administrators of the university libraries for future development in the third world countries.

A survey of the university of Delhi library undertaken by Carl M White is a comprehensive study carried out on a particular university library in the pre-independence India. The study examined various aspects of the library including the fiscal aspects. The important observations in respect of finance are the following:

1) As an aid to efficient administration accounting procedure be approved to show
plainly and accurately the total cost of operating the libraries which are maintained at university expense;

ii) While the university is building an integrated library programme of scope and strength sufficient to meet the requirements of educational programme, the ratio of library expenditure be raised, if necessary to a level higher than the average for most universities with a well established tradition of state support;

iii) The sum of Rs.94,50,000 be used as a working estimate of the cost of non-current books and journals, manuscripts, maps and related sources required to build the book collection upto a point where, with suitable current additions, the present programme of instruction and research will have the library resources it requires;

iv) The organisation of the book budget should provide for allocating each year separate funds under each of the following headings a) General works b) Reference books c) standing
subscriptions, d) special materials for research; and e) subject funds to meet the basic needs of each recognised department.

Studies conducted by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, C. G. Viswanathan, P. B. Mangla, Girija Kumar, Sriivastava and Verma, D. C. Ojha, K. S. Deshpande, C. P. Vashisht, Fathima Afroze, R. K. Dasgupta, Saini, and Sardana are significant studies on university libraries including library finance in India.

2.5 Conclusion

The literature in the field of study given above covers a wide spectrum of the important problems including fiscal problems faced in the development of university libraries. It also proposes viable solutions to improve the situation in India and abroad.
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