CHAPTER 6

FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Summary and Findings

In the earlier chapters of the work, discussion and analysis have been made on different issues on the study undertaken. In the previous chapter (chapter 5) an analysis has been presented based on the data collected from the different Public libraries of Assam regarding the present status, problems of automation and networking in Public libraries and other related aspects. This present chapter highlights the major findings, observation, and suggestions based on the outcome of the previous chapters in conformation with the stated objectives proposed in chapter 1 of the work.

6.2 Meeting the Objectives

Keeping in view the issues on the problems and prospects of public library networking in Assam, it was proposed to study the area with few basic objectives. These objectives are given due heed while preparing the thesis, the way the objectives are studied and results received are recorded here in the following few points.

Objective 1: To study the present situation of public libraries of Assam: Collections, users, manpower, and services

i. It is observed from the study that out of 20 surveyed public libraries 6 (30%) possess the total collection of documents between 60001-70000. Followed by 5(25%) libraries is in the range of below 50000, the collection of 3(15%) libraries is in the range of 50001-60000, every (5%) library has ranged between 70001-80000, 80001-90000 and 90001-100000, three (15%) libraries have above 100000 books (Table 4.10).
ii. It is revealed that 1 (5%) library subscribe to less than 5 foreign journals and 4 (20%) Indian Journals, about 19 (95%) libraries did not subscribe to any foreign journal at all. 6 (30%) libraries have in between 5-10, about half of the libraries 10 (50%) subscribe Indian journal 11-20 (Table 4.11).

iii. With regards to Braille Books, 13 (65%) libraries have these type of books while in 7 (35%) libraries the Braille books are not available (Table 4.12).

iv. Regarding library membership registration in the libraries under study, it is found that the District Library Guwahati maintains the highest number of membership registration during the year 2015, 2016 and 2017 while the District Library, Karimganj has the lowest membership registration during the period (Table 4.8).

v. Out of the total 103 Library staff in the libraries under study 38 (39.14%) are professional and 65 (66.95%) nonprofessional staff (Table 4.16). Among the Professional staff working in the mentioned libraries, 4 (20%) librarians are having Bachelor degree in LIS while 14 (70%) Master Degree, 1 (5%) MPhil and 1 (5%) Ph.D. in LIS (Table 4.17).

vi. It is observed that out of the total 20 libraries all the Libraries provide Current Awareness Service, Reference Service and OPAC to their clienteles. Again 19 (95%) provide Circulation service, 17 (85%) provide Reprographic Service, 4 (20%) provide Internet service, 1 (5%) provide Digital Library Service, Book Bank Service, Inter-Library Loan Service and Document Delivery Services are not provided among the surveyed Public Libraries. It is found from the data that 13 (65%) libraries provided services to Differently abled person and user education/orientation 3 (15%) (Table 4.15).
Objective 2: To study the existing infrastructure facilities available in the public library system in Assam

Library infrastructure includes physical facilities of the libraries. The information technology plays a vital role in the overall performance of the library services. The question was asked to the librarians about the hardware facilities available in the libraries. The availability of computer infrastructure, librarians were asked to indicate the hardware and software facilities available in their library. It is observed that the information of infrastructure is appreciable in the majority of the libraries.

i. In the library building, it is shown that out of 20 surveyed libraries there are 19 (95%) libraries that owned library building and 1 (5%) library have rented library building for the smooth functioning of library activities (Table 4.4).

ii. In the distribution of the library area (in Sqft) it is observed that 3 (15%) libraries have below 2000 Sqft, 4 libraries (20%) have the range from 2001-3000 Sqft. It ranges 3001-4000 Sqft in 7 (35%) libraries. The area exceeds 4000 Sqft in 6 libraries (30%) (Table 4.5).

iii. It is observed that there are 5(25%) libraries have the seating capacity bellow 50. It is clear that 9 (45%) libraries having a seating capacity in the range of 51-100. It is seen that 4(20%) libraries have a seating capacity in the range of 101-150 and 2 (10%) libraries have seating capacity above 150 (Table 4.6).

iv. It is observed that out of 20 surveyed libraries there are 19 (95%) libraries which have Circulation Section, 18(90%) libraries have Reference Section, and, 17(85%) libraries have periodical and Photocopy Section, 4(20%) libraries have Internet Section, 1(5%) library has binding Section, 15(75%) libraries have Back volume section,
Children section 11 (55%), differently able corner 13 (65%), Women corner 2 (5 %), Senior Citizen Section 1 (5 %) and Science and Technology 2 (10 %) (Table 4.7).

v. ICT Infrastructure in surveyed libraries has been shown that out of 20 Public libraries, all the 20 (100%) libraries have the personal computer, Server, and UPS. Followed by 18 (90%) that have printers in the library, 07 (35%) of libraries have scanners, 2 (10%) of libraries have a projector, 17 (85%) photocopier and 4(20%) libraries have CCTV (Table 4.25 (a) and 4.25 (b).

vi. RFID technology is used in 2(10%) surveyed libraries (Table 4.26).

**Objective 3: To study the library automation scenario of the public library system in Assam**

The surveyed public libraries of Assam are making an earnest effort to concentrate more on the library automation process using Library Management Software (LMS) and hardware. Following are the summary of the findings that have been derived from the surveyed analysis done in Chapter 4.

i. The library automation process was started in the year 2012. In this year 5 (25%) libraries were installed library software for automation. 1 (5%) library in 2013, 6 (30%) libraries in 2014, 2 (10%) libraries started automation in the year of 2015 and another 2 (10%) libraries in 2016, 4 (20%) libraries started automation in the year 2017 (Table 4.20)

ii. All the 20 (100%) surveyed libraries use Koha software package for library house keeping operations (Table 4.21).
iii. All the surveyed libraries have started their automation process. The surveyed Public Libraries are practicing Cataloguing (10% fully), Circulation (10% fully), OPAC browsing facility (100%). Acquisition and Serial Control are the two major areas in automated housekeeping in the libraries where enough concentration is not given by the surveyed Public Libraries of Assam (Table 4.22).

iv. Among the surveyed Public Libraries 2(10%) libraries have converted above 90% of their collection into the LMS database and 13(65%) libraries are in initial stage as they have converted bellow 20% of their collection into the LMS database (Table 4.23(b)).

v. The insufficient budget for automation, inadequately trained staff, lack of commitment by the management, lack of coordination among the library staff, lack of user’s demand etc. are some problems sorted out which can influence the automation work in a library. The surveyed Public Libraries have mostly agreed with the problems of automation sorted out by the researcher (Table 4.24, Table 4.30).

vi. It is seen that 10% surveyed Public Libraries have used RFID technology (Table 4.26).

vii. It is found that most of the Librarians working in the surveyed Public Libraries have undergone various State and National level workshop (90%), state and national level seminar and conference (45%) and training LMS packages (65%) (Table 4.18).

viii. 20% surveyed Public Libraries are having internet connectivity.
Objective 4: To study the problems of library networking in public libraries system in Assam

The study further found the barriers of library network programme in the surveyed Public libraries. It is revealed that all the librarians working in public libraries have expressed their barriers towards library network programme. 65% of librarians felt that the barriers towards library networking programme were due to lack of financial resources in the library. It is followed by lack of support from the Management/Authority, lack of confidence among the library staff, lack of interest on the part of the library professionals (60%) and lack of infrastructure facilities in library, lack of awareness on library networking programme, lack of training in ICT application (55%). Least importance has been given to lack of trained human resources (50%) (Table 4.30).

Objective 5: To propose a model of public library network for Assam

In Chapter 5, a draft has been planned to design a network model for Public Library Networking in Assam (ASPLIBNET).

Other findings based on the analysis of data:

i. It is observed that the maximum number of surveyed public libraries established in the period of 1961 to 1970 i.e. 7 (35%). Followed by in the period of 1951-1960 there are 6 (30%) public libraries established. However, in the period of 1971-1980, there are 4(20%) Public libraries are established. In the Period of 1981-1990 there are 2(10%) Public libraries are established. It is also shown that in the Period of 1991 to 2000 only one (5%) Public library was established (Table 4.3).
ii. It is inferred that out of 20 Public Libraries, for classification and cataloging library documents all of them are following Dew Decimal Classification and MARC21 standard for rendering bibliographic data (Table 4.13).

iii. It can be seen that a high level of ICT skills 5(25%) have been given Office Automation. It is followed by operating system 4(20%) and library automation and networking 3(15%). Least importance has been given to Institutional Repositories 2(10%), Digital Library and Web-Technologies 1(5%) librarian has high-level ICT skills (Table 4.19)

iv. The study found the reason for joining the library network programme. It is revealed that 100 percent of librarians have agreed to join the network to develop library infrastructure facility in their libraries. It is followed by saving the time of the users and staff, training of users and staff, Document Delivery Service 95% and 18(90%) give the importance to access to Centralized Bibliographic Service, reduce Library Budget and Professional Communication among member Institution. It is found that among the various reasons to join the library network inter-library loan (85%) is preferred as comparatively by less number of librarians, this shows that the libraries wanted to make use of the network for technical, management and ICT practices rather conventional inter-library loan process (Table 4.29).

6.4 Recommendations

After the analysis and interpretation of the data, the result found and observed needs to formulate the following recommendations:
• Books, journals, magazines are mainly available in the libraries. Most of the collection are in print form but now there is a need to collect information resources in digital form. To meet the present need in satisfying user need to their satisfaction, libraries are required to concentrate on developing e-resource.

• In-service training for both professional and nonprofessional staff be conducted by the competent body in regular intervals for enhancing quality services in the libraries.

• Professionally qualified staff should be appointed in facilitating standard library services to their users.

• In addition to regular services provided presently, Public libraries have to provide advanced and enhanced services like alert and digest services, library extension services and digital collection based services.

• All libraries should have the facilities of Internet services.

• The Assam government should take immediate steps for accepting and implementing Assam Public Libraries Act ensuring the free flow of fund for and enhancing public library services to the society.

• The first priority of all the Public libraries is to fully automate their library and all the sections of a library.

• The library automation facility is inadequate in the libraries under study. Hence, these libraries should fully automate their library with a view to providing effective services.
There is a need to increase the number of client nodes in the libraries under study.

It is suggested that all the Public libraries are to be kept open for longer hours.

Librarian has to take interest in developing library web page which provides information about library and library services, functions, facilities, library collections, new arrivals etc. It also helps in sharing resources by providing connectivity.

To maintain safety there is a need to use safety equipment like CCTV cameras, RFID and barcode systems, smart card facility, fire and smoke detectors, humidity controller using dehumidifies, in addition to traditional practices like visitors records, manual gate check, etc.

The identified major problems are solved and the potential future prospect should be taped so as to foster library movement through the initiation of library automation and networking.

6.4 Conclusion

The present studies described the status of management public libraries in Assam. It is observed that information resources are available in traditional formats. Public libraries are not acquiring sufficient electronic information resources and rest on print media only. Internet and related services of Public libraries are not up to the expected level. But the growth of public library registered members are increased. The process of library automation is started in Public libraries. It will take time to complete fully automated Public libraries due to some problems like a lack of manpower, insufficient
fund etc. After overcoming this problem the automation process will be completed in Public libraries in Assam.

The opportunities of public library networking and resource sharing are immense, professionals must work together to address the problems stemming from the fact that there are no set standards for resource sharing what still needs to be considered are the needs of the end users.

The present study makes it clear that library networking is very much useful to all the public libraries of Assam. The implementation of resource sharing will eliminate the feeling among the users that the public libraries are not having the required sources. Resource sharing arrangement will help the librarians to provide the document and information, which is not available at the public library. We can visualize the impact of resource sharing on the public libraries as it is a great scheme for users satisfaction, coverage of collections, time-saving, space saving, better library image, and efficiency. So resource sharing and networking need to be implemented progressively and professionally in all the public libraries of Assam. This initiative will generate optimum satisfaction among users and also save considerable national resources. It is necessary that public libraries need to focus on the creation of professional services to meet the potential information needs. Resource sharing is the mainstay of customer satisfaction. Libraries survive through the support of satisfied customers. The fiscal concerns outline the rethinking priorities towards planning, cooperative collection development and evaluating the efficiency. The issues and strategies of Assam Public Library Network (ASPLIBNET) call attention from fellow librarians to convince management and get their fullest cooperation for a collaborative venture. The proposal undoubtedly is an
ambitious endeavour; however, if administered with necessary infrastructural, physical, financial and technological facilities for the creation of ASPLIBNET in Assam will hopefully witness the free flow of information across the participating libraries. Some suggestions and recommendations made in this concluding part of the work as such need to be taken into consideration for onward implementation specifically on the automation and networking perspective.

6.5 Scope for Further Study

Keeping in view the above problems/limitations and the findings of the study, further research as listed below in the field of the present study can be carried out in the state.

i. Problems and prospects of public library networking system in North East India.


iii. The Process of Modernization of Public Libraries in Assam.

iv. The scope of library legislation in a networking environment.