PREFACE

Growth is a process of growing, an increase in size and number of any branch of knowledge or organizations. Development is the process of developing or being developed, a specified state of growth. The web and information communication technology have emerged one of the most powerful media for the instant access to millions of information resources and services in a moment. In the digital era, the information explosion has brought many changes in every field of knowledge, especially in medical sciences. Medical library has played an important role directly in the promotion of medical education and health related information in the country.

Indian Council of Medical Research Institute (ICMR), New Delhi responsible for the promotion and coordination of biomedical research in India. It is one of the oldest medical research institute in the world. The ICMR supported and funded by the government of India through the department of health research, ministry of health and family welfare. The council was set up in 1950 with headquarters located in New Delhi. The institute promote biomedical research throughout country through intramural as well as extramural research. The structure of the institute is divided into three type i.e. Mission Oriented National Centre, Regional Research Centre and Unit Centre.

The Indian council of medical research institute scatters over India. There are thirty-two research institutes situated in different parts of the country. It covers fifteen states and thirty-two places. The present study limited to only select twenty research institutes.

The present study on “Growth and Development of Selected Libraries of Indian Council of Medical Research Institute in Digital Era : A Survey” has been undertaken for doctoral research with the objectives of asserting the status of ICMR institute
libraries i.e. trace the historical growth, services, budget, ICT infrastructure, nature of library collection and to know the librarians attitude towards the implementation of information communication technology in libraries.

Before completing the work of collecting data, research was reviews the extensive literature survey to understand the problem and trends in the area. The study based on survey research. The required data; collected through questionnaire, observation and informal interviews. Only one type of questionnaires have been used for eliciting response from librarians on various issues related to present study. Questionnaires distributed personally and also send through post as well as email attachments.

Collected data were coded, tabulated and analysed by the simple statistical method on the basis of, nature of data. The analysed data presented through table and graphs supported by interpretation. The table, charts, and diagrams drawn by using MS-Excel version 2007 & Reference and bibliography prepared according to American Psychological Association guide 6th edition available on www.apastyle.org.

The entire study has been organized into the following six chapters:

**First chapter** deals with background information on the topic, statement of the problem, need of the study, objectives of the problem, hypotheses, limitations of the study and research methodology.

**Second chapter** deals with reviews of literature related to various aspect of the present study and discuss about previous study done on the particular topic.

**Third Chapter** holds profile of the selected ICMR institute libraries and also provides brief description about institute.
Fourth Chapter deals with historical background of ICMR Institute, budgetary growth, manpower, collection, services and also discuss the objectives, function and area of specialization of Institute and their libraries.

Fifth Chapter has presented the analysis and interpretation of respondent’s data on the growth and development of ICMR institute libraries and result show with help of bar, chart, table etc.

Chapter six the last chapter which includes major findings, hypotheses testing, conclusion and provide important suggestions and topic for the furthered research.

A detail bibliography has also been provided at the end of the chapters and also attached the appendices which includes questionnaire that used for the collection of data from respondents and a detail table also attached, that includes short name of the institute and their websites.

It has been very exiting journey to explore and study the growth and development of ICMR institute and their libraries. It is sincerely believed that findings and suggestions of the study would be useful for the all ICMR institute libraries, directors of the institute and librarians and outcome of the study are used for strengthening the status of library & to provide efficient and effective information and library services to the end users.

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