CHAPTER 3
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

3.1 Introduction

Review of literature is an important process in conducting research. It is a process of reviewing the earlier research done on the topic, published in books, journal articles, conference proceedings, reports and dissertation. The main purpose of this is to bringing together all relevant and important works done on the topic, which includes the methodology used and findings of these studies. Review of literature also helps in avoiding the duplication of research and better understanding of the research problem.

In this direction, earlier studies related to the use of information resources and services of public libraries and studies that have impact of Public Library System in other countries, in India and in Karnataka State are reviewed in this chapter.

The following sources of information were consulted to collect required literature:

LISA database;

Full text articles from LISTA;

Full text articles from print and e-journals;

Websco database; and Dissertation.

The review of existing literature is presented under following headings.

1. Use of Public Libraries: International;

2. Use of Public Libraries: India; and

A total of 222 documents (Print and E-versions) were referred in the preparation of the theses and 129 research publications are reviewed in this chapter.

3.2 Use of Public Libraries: International

Weech and Goldhor (1982) carried out a pilot study to determine the relative effectiveness of obtrusive and unobtrusive methods of evaluating library reference service. Reference service in five public libraries in Illinois, USA was evaluated unobtrusively by using university students from the community served by the libraries as proxy reference clients. The same libraries were evaluated obtrusively by requesting reference staff to provide the answers to a list of fifteen reference questions. Questions asked at one group of libraries unobtrusively were asked obtrusively at another group of libraries to control the influence of a given set of questions. The results indicate that the library staff in all the five libraries tend to answer a greater proportion of reference questions completely and correctly when they are aware of being evaluated than when they are unaware of the evaluation process. The difference in the results of the obtrusive and unobtrusive evaluation is found to be small but statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

D’Elia and Sandra (1983) conducted a study on user satisfaction with a presumption that users’ self-reported degree of satisfaction with library services is a subjective measure of public library performance. An attempt was made to develop measures to evaluate the level of performance of various services within a library and to compare this level of performance with those reported for other libraries based on a survey of 623 patrons of
public libraries. User satisfaction is presumed to be positively related to the users’ degree of library use. The results of the survey demonstrate that (i) the measures developed are potentially useful for evaluating the performance of services within a library; (ii) since the measures are affected by the demographic characteristics of the users, it should not be used to compare presumed levels of performance for libraries serving different communities; and (iii) the results are related to the user's degree of library use.

Richardson (1987) has surveyed children’s services of public libraries in Illinois, USA in 1977 and 1987, and found that (i) the children’s room is open on an average of 41 hours per week; (ii) expenditure for children’s books and magazines represent an average of 28% of the total expenditure for books and magazines of the libraries; (iii) children’s books represent 33% of the total book collection of the libraries; (iv) the average number of children’s books in the collection is about 10000; (v) children’s materials account for 37% of the total circulation of the libraries, and (iv) 85% of the libraries in the State have at least one story hour for children.

Saiful Islam (1990) has carried out a study to understand the structure of public library systems and services in Great Britain and Bangladesh. It evaluates the British public library system and passage of various Acts. The study showed total number of public libraries, constituent libraries, computerized acquisition, cataloguing, classification, literature search, and library finance and major differences in library services between the two countries were brought out and recommendations for developing an effective public library system in Bangladesh were made.
Yeh (1995) examined the public library through the eyes of public library users, and attempted to understand how users define the functions of the public library in modern society, what their motivations for public library use are, how they get help in such use, and how they satisfy their information needs and recreational purposes. The study aimed to re-evaluate the traditional functions of the public library: cultural, educational, recreational, and informational. 120 adult users of a branch library of Taipei City Public Library were interviewed. The results show that majority of users use the public library for recreational purpose, and that it is one of the main channels for recreational and information needs in people's lives. The results also indicate that no user goes to the public library for a cultural purpose. However, it also demonstrates that the educational function affects children's reading habits and aids their school learning. Present patterns of public library use suggest that the public library should have a more accurate understanding of the information needs of users. Upon this, the public library could decide the most appropriate mission, roles and functions for its users.

Nespeca (1995) reported results of a study to determine what parents of children in urban USA are doing to help their children to establish emergent literacy skills and the role played by the public library. Public library use was found to be minimal due to the fear of damaging books, problems of getting to and from the library and lack of time or effort. Complaints ranged from the need for regularly scheduled programmes to the drab appearance of libraries. Suggestions for improvement included: home delivery of books and workshops for parents and library staff on the importance of reading and sharing books with young children.
Kuan (1996) examined the philosophy of librarianship from four points of view: the 'good book', 'public library use', 'reading' and 'mass media'. The author argued that the ideology of 'the good book' has a detrimental effect on book selection and collection development. Librarians must break away from this ideology and concentrate instead on 'knowledge' as the central tenet of librarianship and let this guide them in the future development of their profession.

Tangen (1996) reported on a survey of public library use in Trondheim, Sweden by immigrants, in order to provide a foundation for introducing relevant initiatives to improve services. The paper discusses the nature of the survey, methodology adopted and findings related to level of use of the library, ways in which findings to be used, and user satisfaction.

Vaughan (1997) reported on a survey of users belonging to medium-sized businesses in Ontario, Canada to investigate the impact of public libraries on business success. Results showed that 45 per cent of the business community used the library; 58% of the users sought the help of staff to locate documents and 90 percent of these users were satisfied with information found. A significant relationship was found between public library use and business success, with those who used the library being more successful. If the public library were to be closed, 31 per cent of the businesses anticipated that there would be some or significant impact on them.

McQuillan (1998) described a study which examined differences in public library use among a nationally representative sample of children. It was found that children from homes in the USA where language other than English is spoken use the public library
significantly less than children in English-only speaking homes. But, these differences are no longer present when parental education is taken into account.

Khurshid (1998) traced the history of the library movement in the city of Karachi, Pakistan with emphasis on Karachi Library Board which designed the library system in the city. The salient features of the Education Policy (1972-80) and its impact on public libraries have been described. He draws attention to the findings of the survey in seven public libraries in Karachi in 1975 which revealed that the status of all the public libraries in respect of their resources, services, and physical facilities were poor and use of the public libraries was diminishing. The study traces three phases of Karachi municipal libraries’ development: first phase from 1947-1970, the second phase from 1970-78; and third phase from 1979-87; and also examines the position of municipal libraries in Karachi in 1994.

Yilmaz (1998) reported results of a sociological and demographic study of public library users in Ankara, Turkey, in order to determine the level of public use and to isolate the factors affecting the usage. A survey of the history and statistics of Turkish public libraries was followed by the user survey involving 1800 users (aged 6 years and above) in three socioeconomic strata. The study took usage of the library as the dependent variable and demographic and socioeconomic properties (age, sex, marital status, educational level, occupation, income level and geographic past) as the independent variables. Other socioeconomic factors (social status and social role) were also considered.
Coles (1999) examined why public library users chose to use electronic sources, specifically CD-ROMs and how they related to them. The author studied the nature of searches carried out, some of the problems inherent in studying end-users in public libraries and the difficulty in obtaining reliable data, reasons for use and non-use of CD-ROMs and types of CD-ROM databases used both in the library and in general are discussed.

High (1999) reported results of an interview survey, conducted by Hounslow Libraries, UK, to examine the use and non-use of the public libraries by Asian users covering: ethnic origin; age profile; languages spoken; borrowing patterns from the English language and Asian languages collections; reasons for non-use of library services; ethnic collection borrowing patterns; use of the children's library services; and the use of periodicals and video collections. The author notes the most disliked and the most appreciated elements of the library services and the most requested improvements. Results revealed highly specialized use of the services by many users and the diminishing interest in Asian language services by Asian children.

Nicholson (1999) reported results of a questionnaire survey, based on an MA thesis, submitted to Loughborough University, Department of Information Science, to determine the use of public library service by the students in Lincoln, UK. Two questionnaires were distributed to university students one year apart and the findings were compared. The questionnaire investigated the students' use of various information resources in the city, including the public library service. Findings indicated that majority of students did use
the public library for academic purposes (especially book borrowing), though their use was essentially for additional rather than core material.

Matchett (1999) presented results of a questionnaire survey, carried out on the use of periodicals in three UK central public libraries: Leicester, Nottingham and Coventry, UK. The reasons for visit; frequency of periodical use; titles held in all three libraries; ratio of newspaper to periodical use; reasons for use; demand for unstocked titles; and periodicals holdings were studied.

Smith (1999a) compared data from Westminster Libraries, United Kingdom on membership, borrowing frequency and stock use, with significant studies of public library use from the last 50 years. The author examined the extent of public library use and the social and demographic factors influencing use. The findings show that public library use has remained constant over at least the last 50 years and across geographical boundaries. Public libraries are used principally for leisure, for borrowing recent fiction, for useful non-fiction related to immediate life interests, and for pop music.

Smith (1999b) conducted survey at Westminster Public Libraries and Archives, UK, and collected information from the library housekeeping automation system about frequency of borrowing of documents by the members in Westminster's public libraries. Results indicate that a high proportion of documents were issued to a small proportion of the members.

Mansfield (1999) reported results of a questionnaire survey of the legal reference collections of three public library authorities in Scotland in which the stock was
evaluated against three main criteria: absence of key sources; currency; collection development; and exploitation.

Black (2000) discussed social class in relation to the history of public libraries in United Kingdom. The author looks at a recent survey carried out by the Mass Observation Archive at the University of Sussex, in which over 200 volunteers produced accounts of their personal experiences of public library use. The findings demonstrate that the issue of the social class of its clientele has always proved somewhat difficult for public libraries from earliest times to the present.

Vavrek (2000) described a survey conducted for Clarion University, Pennsylvania, which dealt with the study of the impact of the public library on the daily lives of adult users. The study attempts to report the survey findings in comparison with other public library use studies and outlines some of the problems encountered when making such comparisons.

Omoniyi (2002) investigated the use of libraries by the adult educated elites in Ilorin, the capital of Kwara State, Nigeria. It reveals that most do not bother to use the library again from soon after the graduation. Those who use the library occasionally, do so to keep abreast of the current socio-economic and political situation in the country. A few use the library when they need to prepare for exams, while many use the library when they want to find job vacancies. Only a minority of them use the library to widen their horizons in various fields. The major factors that limit use of libraries are identified as poverty, poor state of libraries, poor political and economic situation, and poor reading culture. Several recommendations are made to address the situation.
Martensen and Gronholdt (2003) described the development and application of a structural equation model which allows librarians to quantitatively measure library users’ perceived quality, satisfaction and loyalty with a library as well as the degree to which specific elements of a library’s services, collections and environment contribute to those perceptions. The article reported the results of a survey among users of five Danish libraries with particular attention to Copenhagen Business School Library.

Toshokan (2003) presented Results of a quantitative analysis of the 163 Japanese public libraries with the highest borrowing rates (the top 10 per cent). The aspects studied included number of libraries in the area, population, library size, employees, and acquisitions including journals and audiovisual materials, and budget. The physical space in these libraries, on an average was 1000 square meter and average document collection was 50,000 volumes, on an average, budget of all the libraries was 1 per cent of the local authority budget and out of this 2 per cent was spent on document collection.

Haruna (2004) assessed the extent of utilization of resources and services by users of Kogi State Public library, Lokoja, Nigeria. The survey revealed that majority of them used library to study, borrow books followed by use of library for assignment and examination purposes and for reading own books. About 40.9% of the users were partially satisfied with library resources and services.

Shenton and Pat (2004) presented the results of a qualitative English study broadly concerned with young people' information seeking behavior to explore how youngsters locate non-fiction books within public libraries. The findings show that some of the users went directly to the appropriate part of the collection where others did not know the
position of the desired section and combed the shelves randomly, consulted labels on the shelves/walls, sought help from staff or exploited the subject index. Most of the users searched for information on a certain topic, not a particular item. There was high level of ignorance of both library terminology and the arrangement of books within the building. The article concludes by making recommendations for both practice and future research, based on the findings.

In a survey of students, Salma and Yelwa (2004) examined the attitude of students towards resources and services Central Library in Borno State of Nigeria. In addition to questionnaire, interviews and observations were also used to collect data. Survey brought to light that majority of students visiting library were not its registered members. Resources and services were inadequate to meet information needs of users. Inadequate funds and accommodation were the problems being faced.

Andrea and Hongmian (2005) examined the use of 200 public libraries in New York City according to their neighborhood characteristics. In addition to demographic, economic, and cultural factors traditionally considered, the social and spatial interactions within a neighborhood were related to public library use. Correlation and regression analyses were implemented for all the libraries. The researcher found that traditional factors are not enough to explain public library use, especially in cosmopolitan area such as New York City. Social connections, racial diversity and integration stimulate public library use. Based on these findings, suggestions were made for improving the underutilized library branches in disadvantaged neighborhoods.
Valeda and Yannotta (2005) undertook a study to know the use and users of the Kitengesa Community Library in Africa. The research focused on who in the community uses the library, how they use the library, an analysis of the collection, and the impact the library has on the community. The methodology included several means for gathering data, including observation of library use, focus groups, individual interviews, and home visits, as well as examination of library circulation and membership information kept in a database. The findings consist of several implications for ongoing development of the library, including the importance of the library to local teachers, and the impact of the library on classroom activities and learning; differences in the reading habits of boys and girls who use the library and some possible reasons for those differences; and how the collection of reading materials in local languages and about local situation might be key in terms of community libraries, and the development of a reading culture elsewhere in Africa.

Hayes and Morris (2005) examine the leisure role of public libraries in the United Kingdom from a historical perspective and value of the public library service in providing leisure opportunities from a user point of view. The results demonstrate that public libraries have a significant impact on people’s leisure time. Benefits include providing relaxation, improving health and well-being, opening up choices and opportunities despite financial constraints, alleviating boredom and allowing people to socialize. Public libraries are, therefore, providing a worthwhile and necessary function through their leisure role.
Aabo (2005) discusses public libraries’ role and value in the age of digital technologies. Reassessment of their role due to technological development and widespread public use of the Internet are analyzed. Central challenges of the digital society, including an increased digital divide and a weakening of local community identity have resulted in lower social participation and involvement in community issues. Further, the study focuses on special characteristics of public libraries to assess their potentially enhanced role and value, as a public room and social and physical meeting place in the digitized age, and identifies a need to strengthen the public libraries’ democratic role in information society by furthering social inclusiveness and citizenship.

Nasir Uddin et al. (2006) evaluated the magnitude of public library use and resulting values among people with associated socio-economic-cultural features of Bangladesh and thus to indicate strategies for better library impact in societal, cultural and economic development. Primary data were collected from the users of four public libraries in the cities of Dhaka and Rajshahi considering rich library profiles and wide variety of users. Interviews were conducted based on a structured questionnaire by visiting the sample libraries and studying the users and libraries closely. Some factors like age, income, education, and gender are found to be very important in using public library in relation to particular socio-economic features of Bangladesh. Though the study reveals dissatisfaction in library resources, it shows a strong library impact on recreation and culture, self-learning, social welfare, and on economic development of the country. Some recommendations for improved utilization of library are made based on the findings.
Corradini (2006) reviewed some considerations about a small scale research study conducted in a small town in Northern Italy between December 2003 and April 2004, that gathered quantitative and qualitative data about adolescents aged 11 to 19 who answered 20 questions on their experiences, expectations and perspectives on library use and services. The findings show that teenagers are the demanding and challenging public, with clear ideas regarding innovation of services and implementation of resources. They believe that public libraries are important place to find up-to-date information, and to discuss with peers.

Denise et al. (2007) reported the results of a written survey of ninety-seven female and male adolescents, aged between fourteen and seventeen years, at two U.S. public libraries. In addition to exploring gender-related variance in the reasons for which teenagers use public libraries, the survey investigated how frequently the respondents needed information relating to twelve major topic areas and how useful they considered public libraries in helping them to find information relating to these topics. For the most part, the results indicated no significant gender difference in the respondents' reasons for using libraries or in their frequency of information needs. The only major gender difference was the girls' tendency to rate libraries as more useful in helping them to meet their personal information needs, making public libraries "female-friendly spaces" for adolescent girls. The authors conclude with suggestions for helping both female and male adolescents realize the full potential of public libraries and public library services.

Philip (2008) conducted a survey of use and nonuse of the Wagga Wagga City Library in region of New South Wales, Australia. Over three hundred residents in and around the
city completed the survey questionnaire. Their responses indicate that most people in the community visit the library from time to time, and that all its core services and collections are widely used and valued. Home Internet is having some impact on public library use, but the chief reason for nonuse appears to be the modern lifestyle and lack of time. Libraries cannot make more time for people but they can encourage people to make more time for libraries. The library is still mainly perceived as a physical space. Hence, the author suggests that it should continue to promote this space but, at the same time, work on its online services, so that some people use the library more frequently. Many members of the public are still unaware that they can visit their library without leaving their homes.

Rachel (2008) conducted a study as part of a strategic planning process of an affluent public library. The study analyzed over 1,200 user responses in a survey. Male patrons in many respects were simply below-average in many areas (fewer visits, fewer services or resources used) but also showed distinctly different choices in a few areas, mainly related to electronic and business-related items. They also are almost completely uninterested in children's areas a sharp contrast with adult female patrons. Male usage is distinct enough to warrant special attention from library planners. Experience and anecdotal evidence suggest that men and women use public libraries in different ways and amounts.

variables to be significant. These variables include factors that have not often been studied, such as distance from the library, age/school attendance status, use of other types of libraries, and public library expenditure and per State capita. It is also worth noting that disadvantaged groups, including ethnic minorities, recent immigrants and people with disabilities were less likely to use public libraries. This was true even after other factors such as education and income were held constant. The study provides a national-level assessment of the under-served population. It also offers triangulation to other existing research, particularly, qualitative information behavior studies of specific groups.

Howard (2011) investigated the attitude of twelve- to fifteen year-old residents of an Eastern Canadian regional municipality to the public library and Phase 1, a quantitative survey, analyzes overall satisfaction ratings and frequency of use of the public library. Phase 2 uses qualitative methodology (focus groups) to illuminate and enrich the findings from the initial survey research. This study concludes that although most young teens in this regional municipality have a positive overall impression of the public library, they are not frequent public library users. In particular, teens highlighted the lack of relationships with library staff, appealing facilities, an appealing teen library Web site, and teen involvement and participation as key barriers to library use.

Kinya (2011) undertook a study of users of public libraries in Kenya. Questionnaire was used to gather required data from the users. The findings of the study are (i) most of the users were men, diploma holders (ii) most of them visit to read newspapers and other information (iii) majority visit library daily or twice a week and spend two to four during
their each visit and (iv) majority of the users are not satisfied with collection, facilities, staff and other services.

Obinyan et al. (2011) carried out a survey on the use of information resources and services in community public libraries in Nigeria, with particular reference to Edo State. The study revealed that the majority of users were students and youths whose information needs were basically for examination and for personal enlightenment. The available resources in the libraries were found to be inadequate and in most cases, inappropriate. This situation was credited to poor funding of the libraries as well as to lack of local content in the collection of the public libraries. It was also revealed that the libraries lacked Internet facilities. In terms of service delivery, the libraries also lacked the capability and competence to provide translation services to the non-literate group of the communities.

Omotosho and Okiki (2012) carried out a study on challenges of public library users in use of health information for attainment of millennium development of six public libraries in Oyo, Ogun and Lagos State, Nigeria. Questionnaire method was used to collect the data from the two hundred users. The study reveals that the level of satisfaction with the services offered in the library is significantly convincing, the library users have significant level of satisfaction towards the service, and lack of awareness is a major challenges library use’s encounter in the getting access to information. The author recommends that public libraries in Nigeria need to create awareness of its services to the communities they serve and support other role that is not centre on information service delivery that can lead to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.
Iwhiwhu and Okorodudu (2012) made a study to understand the users’ satisfaction with the Edo State Central Library, Benin-city, Nigeria. Questionnaire and interview method were used for data collection from the users. Findings of the study are most users were satisfied with some facilities but not satisfied with information resources and services of the library. The author suggests that the State government need to provide the necessary funds to stock the library with relevant information resources and ICT facilities for effective functioning of the library.

Olarongbe at al. (2013) examines the information needs and characteristics of the users of Oyo state Public Library, Nigeria. Questionnaire was used as data collection tool. The finding showed that the majority of the library users were students and needed information that supports their education, which were sought mainly from their personal textbooks. The major constraints to accessing the needed information were inadequacy of relevant materials.

3.3 Use of Public Libraries: India

Gupta (1973) made a users survey of the Laxmibai Nagar Branch of the Delhi Public Library. Author examined the characteristics of users, use pattern, and users’ views about collection, services and facilities. Half of the respondents considered library collection as inadequate while all most all the users were satisfied with services of library.

Sharma (1974) conducted a survey of users to understand their views about library collection, timings, rules and regulations, and services of Delhi Public Library, Karol Bagh Branch. Questionnaire was used as a data gathering instrument. Findings show that majority of users were satisfied with opening hours, rules, staff, facilities and services of
library, and to some extent, with its collection also. It was found that maximum use of library was made by students. Therefore, special emphasis is needed to meet their information needs.

Venkatiah (1976) examines four ways in which public libraries provide service to modern society: (i) as self-educational centers; (ii) as a source of materials for researchers; (iii) as information centers for the community; and (iv) as cultural centers. Author suggests that the library authorities need to maintain a close watch to ensure good library service and good use.

Kumar (1979) prepared a report of the Committee appointed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in February 1976 to review the working of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960 and to suggest amendments. The author traced the history of the State's library movement and suggested the following amendments (i) sufficient autonomy for the Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas (ZGS) to enable them to operate freely within their budgets; (ii) designation of ZGS employees as government employees; and the levying of extra taxes for a State Library Fund. Further, role of public libraries in eradicating illiteracy and the importance of school and children's libraries is discussed.

Hamsath (1979) sketches out public library movement in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Important events highlighted by the author are: (i) earlier, Lakshadweep Central Library was located in Calicut, where the Lakshadweep secretariat was situated initially; (ii) at present, besides the State Central Library, there is one rural library in each island; (iii) all the libraries have trained librarians; (iv) Libraries are administrated by the
Social Welfare Wing, and the Social Welfare Officer, Lakshadweep; and (v) Sole source of income of the public libraries is the government grant.

Rao (1981) mentions that the national factors such as the advent of English education, emergence of the educated elite, the Swadeshi movement and the spread of liberal and democratic ideas were the roots of the library movement in State of Andhra Pradesh, India. Further, he discusses the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948, the role of Hyderabad Library Association in enactment of Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, 1955 and Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960.

Khan (1983) examine the role of public library in relation to two vital national problems, literacy and adult education, in the context being viewed as an institution which can assist in solving these problems and discusses the reasons for the state of the affairs. Also, the study focuses on the role of the public libraries envisaged to play in literacy and adult education programmes from the view point of information services, educational and cultural functions.

Kaula (1983) Outlines types of illiteracy and focuses on the role of the librarian in responding to social needs and promoting library services. The author highlights the importance of follow up reading in keeping literacy alive and discusses the special needs of new literate readers and the role of public library as a centre of continuing education.

Mittal (1985) describes the current state of the public library service in India, focusing on the development programme during seventh five year plan period. The author explains the provisions made by the 7th Plan in respect of the National Central Library in Delhi,
national regional libraries, state central libraries, district central libraries, sub-district libraries, block development libraries, town libraries, metropolitan city libraries, village libraries, and training facilities in Library Science and lists steps that need to be taken to ensure the future of the public library system in India.

Raju (1985) discussed the role of public libraries in the development of education, culture, research, commerce and industry, and emergence of research on topics of local importance, defined the scope of the local history collection and examined the need for the development of Local History Collections (LHCs) at the district central libraries in Andhra Pradesh State, India. Further, the list of the various types of documents which deal with local history is given and also problems relating to the acquisition, organization and processing of LHCs are discussed. A draft scheme for classifying LHCs is suggested.

Devarajan (1985) describes Public library development in the Kerala region of India. He reviewed the role of Granthalaya Sangham, professional associations, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation and other organizations in the development of public libraries in the State.

Shantaram (1985), in the historical study of public libraries in Western Mahasrashtra, from 1805 to 1921 has highlighted that: (i) all the libraries established up to 1805 were manuscript libraries, mostly in Sanskrit and Marathi language; (ii) in 1830, Bombay General Library was established; in 1838, Ahmednagar Native Library, and in 1845, Bombay Native General Library were established; (iii) by the end of 1880, about 100
libraries were established in 78 towns, with the encouragement of Government of Bombay; and (iv) by 1921, the number of libraries was increased to 227.

Sarada (1986) has conducted an intensive study of Branch Library in Pendurthi village in Visakhapatnam taluk and district, Andhra Pradesh. The study analyses the information needs of the village community and examines the nature of the policy of the government towards the public library. Three sets of questionnaire were used to collect the data from deposit holders of the library, visitors-cum-readers of the library, and Non-users of the library. The findings of the study are: (i) Telugu fiction occupies a large portion of the document collection; (ii) 80% of the loaned books are novels, short stories and other forms of fiction; (iii) stationary group uses the library frequently for reading newspapers and magazines; (iv) large percentage of the people (79.79%) who belong to the middle class in term of social and economic status use the library; (v) the educational, social, informational and cultural functions of the library have been almost completely neglected; and (vi) since the library functions as a government agency, it provides information about citizens and the programmes of the government.

Naidu (1987) discuses the role of public libraries in adult education in developing countries, gives the successful examples of public library involvement and describes measures to tackle the problem of reading materials.

Chopra (1987) traces the role of public libraries in the society and analyses the factors responsible for the slow progress of literacy drive and mentions the Government of India’s 20 point programme for socio-economic development of India. The author
recommends that Literacy Centers and Adult Education Centers be established within public libraries and the literacy drive be specified as part of public library system.

Janakiram (1988) discusses the role of adult literacy and education in helping the rural population of India, reasons for the slow growth in literacy and examines the concept of a formal library adult education programme. The author describes the prerequisites for the implementation of such a programme and examines the ways in which it may be implemented: adult literacy classes in the village library; group discussions; demonstrations; and audiovisual materials. Further, author recommends for improving the service provided by rural libraries.

Naidu (1990) has critically analyzed the trend and pattern of financing of public libraries in Andhra Pradesh. The study indicated that (i) no district in the State spends optimum on reading materials; (ii) the expenditure on the staff is not optimum; (iii) though cess is a major source of revenue, the yield has been unsatisfactory; and (iv) the per-capita revenue does not provide an encouraging picture.

Chahande (1991) traces the growth of public libraries in Maharashtra from the pre-Independence era to date and describes the current public library system in Maharashtra, staffing patterns, financing, and training and examined the impact of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation assistance on the development of public libraries. Further, the author explains the public library services in Maharashtra State.

Singh (1991) has presented a State –of- the Art report on public libraries in Bihar from State to Village level, activities of library associations in Bihar, training in librarianship,
financing of library service, and facilities and the administrative structure of libraries. The reason for the poor performance of public libraries is directly related to inadequate funding and has listed the areas requiring the support of Central Government.

Sewa Singh (1991) has traced the historical development of libraries in Punjab during the 19th century and early 20th century and has attempted to analyse the role of libraries in the society. The study critically looks at the facilities such as building, collection, services and finance. The role played by the voluntary organizations and the Punjab Library Association in the library development is discussed. The study reveals that the development of library services in rural area is lop-sided because of its greater emphasis on cities and towns than on villages and various suggestions for improvement of the library services in Punjab are offered.

Pasilithil (1992) evaluates the history of public libraries in Kerala during the pre and post Granthasala Sangham period and traces the origin and development of the mass movement and its contribution in the socio-cultural fields. A survey was conducted to understand the socio-cultural relations of the public libraries with the society. The study indicates that Sanghom enabled rural populace to form their opinions on the social, political, and economic problems of the society and it contributed much to the elegance of the social fabric of Kerala.

Chandraiah (1993) conducted a survey of the circulation libraries in Tirupathi, Andra Pradesh in an attempt to understand their nature, utility, the kind of users. Major findings of the study are: (i) libraries were generally kept open from 8am to 8pm with break of two hours in the noon; (ii) average stock of circulation libraries ranged between 120 and
800 titles; (iii) books were arranged by author; (iv) collection of security deposit is compulsory; and (v) demand for novels of romance, sex, suspense, and adventure observed to be overwhelming; (vi) the readers in the age group of 21-25 constituted the highest stratum; (vii) the members with family income between Rs.15,001–20,000 constituted the largest user group; (viii) users with educational background of intermediates figured as the highest stratum, (ix) 42% and 32% users borrowed books once a week and twice a week respectively; (x) 34% of readers spent two hours per day and 26% an hour a day, and (xi) Two reasons for the non-use of the public libraries are they were not accessible (64%) and books of their choice were not available (20%).

Mishra (1993) defines the term `disabled' as referring to a person having one or more of the following impairments: visual, hearing, speech, orthopedic, and intellectual or mental, and discusses the need for and barriers to quality library and information services for the disabled in India. The need for special education and training of librarians is emphasized. The need for a national policy on library and information services for the disabled discussed, which should specifically state the objectives, services to be provided and standards of service to legally compel libraries to provide quality library services to disabled individuals.

Ramaiah (1993) has given critical perspective on public library finance in India, which has stressed that public libraries required mandate of law and adequate finance for their efficient functioning, growth, and sustenance. Various aspects of the financial provisions are discussed. The author advises that a proportional method of providing certain
percentage either of the education budget or the regular State budget for the public library development.

Gautam (1994) discussed how a modern public library, using the latest technology, can play a useful role in society by promoting adult and continuing education and serving as a cultural and information centre for the community.

Jambhekar (1995) investigated the policies of the central government in India, especially regarding the financial outlay in the five year plans. Important developments and their impact on establishment of the public library system since independence have been discussed.

Satayanarayan (1996) reported results of a library use study to identify the usage pattern, reading behavior and other characteristics of users of the District Central Library of Visakhapatnam, India. The author concludes that for effective services, it is necessary to reshape the library as a community based agency. Also, it was found that most of the books issued were fictions.

Nair (1996) traces historically the work of Ranganathan towards enacting public library legislation in uniform pattern in different States of India from 1925-1972. Ranganathan’s concept of Public library system was a socialist information system for the people, which can pool the total information resources of the nation and make it available to all citizens in an equal and unbiased way. If government had adopted this Model Act, India would have established a library and information system in which it would have become possible for any poor or wealthy to get any recorded information available anywhere in
the nation or outside through the information service outlet maintained by the State near his home in the village or town. The study concludes by commenting that Ranganathan’s concept of Public Library System was far advanced than his time as well as the concepts applied at present also.

Raju (1997) made an attempt to visualize the role of the public library system in the changed context. Several functions which were not hitherto included in the mandate of the public libraries are identified for data gathering and information dissemination at the village level. This will enhance the utility of the public libraries and energizes the public librarian as a change agent. In this connection, the need for collaborating with the local voluntary sector is also emphasized.

Laxman Rao and Ratna Rao (1997) have conducted a study on the role of public libraries in national and social movements in Andhra Pradesh during the pre independence period. The social movements were against caste system, evils of drinking, widow marriages, women’s education etc. The various national movements were independence movement, swadeshi movement, non-cooperation, salt satyagraha, national awakening and such others. The findings of the study indicated that the role played by the libraries in these movements helped to redefine the purpose and function of libraries.

Venkata Ramana and Vinod Kumar (1997) have emphasized the importance of a need-based planning for public library automation in their study. The authors have suggested following steps for effective implementation of information storage and retrieval process in public libraries: (i) it requires the financial support from funding agencies, (ii) utilization of talent, education, creativity, determination, management and vision of the
library professionals and other support staff, and (iii) training the professionals to take the lead in operating the system.

Kar (1996) has analyzed the reading habit and satisfaction of the users in public libraries. This study was conducted in nine public libraries of Cuttack, Balasore, and Bhadrak. The findings of the study revealed that: (i) most of the users of the public library are from poor or middle class families and (ii) most of the users belong to unemployed or under employed category, followed by the student category.

Aslam (1998) recognized the importance of rural libraries to be reshaped as Community Information Centers. A retrospect of rural libraries in India is traced back from 1910 when free public libraries were established in Baroda; discusses the present scenario in selected States such as Karnataka and Kerala; emphasizes the need for strengthening the rural libraries to shoulder new responsibilities for the socio-economic development. The author identifies the following main objectives of Community Information Centers (CIS): (i) provide easy access to necessary information to enable rural people to effectively participate in the process of development, (ii) serve as centre for educational and cultural activities, (iii) provide access to non-print media such as radio, TV, audio-video tapes particularly, for those who lack study skill, and (iv) develop the effective communication strategy with appropriate media mix such as print material, charts and graphics, posters, non-print media to educate the rural populace.

Kalia (1998) has enlisted seven different public library systems in India. The first system is the Local Bodies System, under which the British government in India entrusted public libraries to the local bodies with the expenditure on public libraries being met from the
consolidated fund of the local body concerned. The second system is termed the Library Cess System with Local Library Authorities. In this system, library cess is levied on property tax which has to be collected by the local bodies in their areas and then passed on to the Local Library Authorities (LLAs). LLAs are the provision of Madras Public Libraries Act (1948). The third system is called the system of State Library Autonomous Board with, in which statutory State councils are empowered to select and buy books. The Andra Pradesh Public Libraries Act belongs to this system. In the fourth system, there are subscription libraries in which an annual subscription and a deposit to finance are charged. Employees of the subscription libraries are paid by the government. Public libraries of Maharashtra and West Bengal belong to this system. In the fifth system, public libraries are entrusted to the local bodies by authorising each one of them to levy library cess with the approval of government, collect the same and disburse it. Public libraries of Haryana belong to this system. The Kerala Public Libraries Act belongs to the sixth system. This Act creates a three-tier system namely State Library Council, District Library Council for each district and a Taluk Library Union for each taluk. All grants to individual libraries are routed through the council at a pre-determined rate. Public libraries run as governmental institutions belong to the seventh system. A majority of them have directorates of public libraries under a director or a superintendent as in Bihar. The entire expenditure is met by the government. It is suggested that a model bill, which can offer one system which should have constitutional and legal support might be adopted by the State governments.

Deshpande (1999) described the salient characteristics of public libraries with particular reference to the creation of grass roots level public library services to rural communities.
in India and suggested that there is a need for more public libraries and fewer junior colleges.

Karisiddappa (1999) has discussed the growth of technology from stone age to information age, possible areas of technology application in public libraries in library operations like online bibliographical services, creation of computerized bibliographic database, networking with the regional and national networks, and creation of non-bibliographic databases. It describes the role of different satellite based nation-wide computer communication network such as NICNET, GISTNIC, and DISNIC to meet the growing information needs of the public at large. The need for providing Internet facility in public libraries and also the trained staff who have necessary skills in this facility are emphasized.

Tikekar (2000) explained the Indian public library system and a formal structure of libraries available in the country. The objectives of the public library were stated emphasizing the need for public libraries in rural areas of India and discussed the role of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation in the development of public libraries and the strategy adopted in the USA to meet community information needs. Further, he suggested a new strategy to develop rural libraries in India as community information centers.

Deshpande and Hungund (2001) discussed the role of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) established by the Government of India in 1972 to reactivate the public library movement in the country, and fund public libraries in various States. The authors are of the opinion of that despite this, much has been left unattended, such as
persuading those States without library legislation to introduce it, strengthening existing
library laws by amendments, and reviewing and critically evaluating the work of
beneficiaries of the RRRLF funds. It recommends study of IFLA standards and adopt
them in Indian public libraries. Also, it is suggested that the RRRLF should publish
documents relevant to public library scenario and undertake surveys on personal libraries
and reading habits, as part of a programme to transform India into a land of libraries.

Dabas and Dabas (2001) discussed the social, political, economic, historical, and
educational challenges of the Indian society suggesting that problems with literacy is the
root cause of many of the evils that exist. Relevance of libraries in the adult education
process and the shortcomings of the National Adult Education Programme (NAEP) were
analyzed which is mainly due to the complete absence of post literacy follow-up
programmes. The authors criticized the educational planners for neglecting the role of
libraries and draw attention to the emphasis given to libraries in adult education
programme in the National Policy Document on Education. National Literacy Mission
(NLM), and Jan-Shikshan Nilayam (JSN) have also emphasized the crucial role of public
and academic libraries.

Deshpande (2002) has discussed the implication of Article 45 of the Indian constitution
and landmark Supreme Court decision on the rights embodied in Article 21. The defects
in the existing Indian public library legislation were highlighted. The steps towards
development of an efficient network of accessible public libraries were outlined.
Satija (2002) discusses the role of Dr S. R. Ranganathan in bringing about public library legislation in various States in India and his involvement in planning, preparing and initiating library Bills in India.

Ghosh (2003) discusses the wide gap between knowledge have- nots emerged due to inaccessibility of new technologies in rural India. The author has proposed various ways of integrating ICT with public libraries as a means to interactive communication between public libraries and the civil society. Also, the article suggests various ways using of technologies to improve and promote the existing library services. Attempt has been made to a propose ICT driven public libraries in Indian States with suitable library extension programs to help both the rural and urban community, especially unprivileged masses.

Biswas (2003) provides information about the lack of public libraries in India and described how information professionals are attempting to use the Internet to bridge the information divide, and discusses the widespread use of computers and Internet in urban India.

Ranjith (2004) has conducted a study on the rural libraries in Kerala. Data were collected on books and periodicals collection, membership, working hours, circulation of books, daily average attendance of members, yearly grant, other assistance received, and reading habits of public. The important findings of the study are: (i) Majority of the libraries (60%) have book strength in the range of 1001-5000; (ii) 90% of the libraries have own building; (iii) A majority of the libraries (75%) have women membership of less than 30%; (iv) 45% of the libraries work nine hours or more, 30% of the libraries work four to
nine hours, and 25% work less than four hours; (v) Majority of the libraries (62%) have the membership of 500 or below; (vi) 45% of the libraries have a distribution of 500–1000 books on an average per month, 40% unto 500, and 15% 1000 and above; (vii) Average daily reading time was the highest among the youngest age groups of 15-30 years of both male and female; the highest in degree holders; and (viii) 60% of the members are satisfied with the collection of the libraries.

Shasikala (2005) conducted a survey of users of the three public libraries in Vishakapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. Findings of the survey show that majority of the users were young and college students, major reason of visit is to know current events and developments in different fields to succeed in competitive examinations, and for employment. The extent of use of particular library service is dependent on various factors like the ease of use, access and convenience associated with service.

Domonic and Nirmala (2005) conducted study of public library use in Coimbutore, Tamil Nadu. Questionnaire and observation method were used for the study. 145 questionnaire were distributed among users, out of which 125 responded. Among the study population, 74.4 percent of the users were members of the library and most of the users were satisfied with the library services.

Chopra and Banerjee (2005) made study on utilization of public library services in Punjab surveying 383 users, among them 227 were male and 156 female users. The findings show that usage of public library services by female users was significantly low and it needs serious attention by the library authorities of the State.
Sathapathy (2006) undertook a research project to assess the information needs of rural communities with objective of the development of a model for a Rural Library and Community Resource Centre. Sample of 375 persons from the village ‘Bohar’ of Rohtak district in Haryana were selected for the study. The model for a well functioning Rural Library and Community Resource Centres (RLCRCs) has the proposals of (i) well developed infrastructure for the smooth flow of information; (ii) rural Book Trust to be established for encouraging the publication of books on local contents; (iii) encouraging NGOs to take part in the integrated rural library programmes; (iv) a strong government policy in this regard; (v) appointment of trained library personnel for managing and running the activities of RLCRC; and (vi) revision of curriculum of Library Science course to accommodate rural information services as a part of the study. Further, the author defined the concept and need for Community Information Service(CIS) and critically analyses how CIS can be best served by the public Libraries and concludes with suggestions for the effectiveness of the CIS through Public Libraries.

Kumar (2006) traces the history of rural library movement in India. The paper discusses the major landmark in the history of rural library movement, the present status of public library movement, efforts for development of rural libraries in the context of library legislation, role of national and state level library associations and valuable contributions of Dr. S R Ranganathan and other devoted professionals to give impetus to public library movement at grass root level in Indian States. The importance of some notable documents which deserve special attention from the point of view of future planning of rural library network in the entire country was discussed. The author concludes that a time bound strategy is the need of hour for stimulating reading and spread of library
consciousness in rural areas. This can be done through setting up Rural libraries in Indian villages so that desired information may be provided to villagers at the shortest time. The author recommends for each State government to pass the library legislation to ensure the rural public library services in their respective areas.

Jeevan (2008) identifies the important activities of public libraries to initiate and to sustain the science communication initiatives and also discuses some of the problems in spreading science awareness in the country. He concludes that in addition to the science awareness initiatives from government institutions, NGOs and science clubs, involvement of public libraries in the people's science information dissemination network will enhance the science awareness activities.

Wani (2008) examines public libraries history from beginning of sixth century A.D. till 21st century in India. Also, the author discusses role of the Sinha Committee and Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) and concludes that a massive investment in Indian public libraries is needed in order to ensure its access to all the citizens of India.

Pyati (2009) explores impact of public library system on the social development gain. The potential of India’s public libraries to serve as community information centres (CICs) is highlighted, as well as the challenges that lie ahead in implementing a new vision for public library revitalization. The article invites for a concerted action, reflection, and dialogue with regard to this important and pressing issue.

Ngurtinkhuma (2010) undertook a study to know the role of public libraries in socio-economic and educational development in Mizoram, India. Questionnaire and interview
method were applied for the data collection. The major findings of the study are: (i) majority of the users were between the age of 10-30 years; (ii) compare to male users, female users were less; (iii) majority of the users were completed 10 to 15 years education; (iv) most of the users visit library daily and weekly; (v) most of the users visit library to borrow books; (vi) public libraries in Mizoram facing the constant problems of personnel, building, furniture, equipment, ICT equipment and facility, inadequacy of professional staff. The author concludes that government should take active steps to encourage, establish and maintain public libraries in Mizoram State.

Tyagi (2011) conducted a study on use of information resources at Delhi Public Library, Delhi, India. Questionnaire and interview method were used to collect the data from the users. Findings of the study are: (i) most of the users were retired, unemployed and students; (ii) most of the users spend one to three hours at a time in the library; (iii) more than half of the users were satisfied with physical facilities and reading materials. The author suggests that library needs to keep suggestion box to solicit the views of persons interacting with the library.

Sohail and Alvi (2011) undertook a study to know reading habit of the Delhi public library users with the help of questionnaire as tool for collecting the data. The major finding of the study are: (i) most of the students visit library daily, who visit for information purpose; (ii) most of the users prefer English language materials; (iii) most of the users rated collection as fairly good; and (iv) the reading attitude of the users is positive.
Sudha (2011) conducted a study to check the status of resources and use of public libraries in Malabar district, Kerala State, India. Questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. The findings of the study are: (i) most of the users were young between the age of 10-30 years; (ii) most of them were men and completed school education (1-10 years); and (iii) majority of them were from middle income group and employed.

Mahajan (2011) examines the status of T. S. Central State Library at Chandigarh with regard to the information use pattern of its users. Questionnaire was used to collect the date from the users. The findings include: (i) Most of the users are between the age of 31-40; (ii) 50.66% of the users were men; (iii) most of them visit occasionally and most uses sources are fiction, newspapers and magazines; and (iv) majority of the users use books, magazines and newspapers. The Author suggests that public libraries must act as knowledge centers and ensure their services match the changing scenario.

Thanuskodi (2012) carried out a study to evaluate the effectiveness of District Central Libraries in Tamil Nadu State, India with the help of questionnaire. It is found that the major users of the public libraries are youth and adults; visit library on daily basis for the purpose of borrowing books. Public libraries are found to be lagging behind, particularly, in providing user specific information.

Walia and Gupta (2012) carried out a study to find out the strengths and weaknesses of the book collection in Delhi Public Library System (DPLS) in relation to the population of Delhi, India. Questionnaire and interview methods were used to collect data about the collection and collection development process. Additionally, annual reports and other
documents were used for the purpose. Findings of the study highlights that the DPLS has very low membership with respect to the total population of Delhi; DPLS has only 64883 registered members compared to the 16.75 million population of state, rate of growth of the collection is also low and access to Internet resources was started only in 2008, and now it is available in nine units of DPLS.

Lata and Sharma (2013) attempted to understand the use of information sources and services by the users of T. S. Central State Library, Chandigarh. Questionnaire was used to identify the impressions of users towards the use and awareness of library services, adequacy of library resources, their views on library services, and satisfaction level of users about the library collection.

Ghule (2013) made a study to evaluate the performance of public libraries in social and cultural contribution of public libraries in south region, Ahemadnagar, Maharashta State, India. Questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. The findings of the study are: (i) staff of the libraries were less qualified; (ii) libraries provide book lending and newspaper clipping service; (iii) non- books materials inadequate; and (iv) the public libraries have been cultivating a lot of social and cultural values , which are very important to build a society or a nation.

Saravanan and Jadhav (2013) made an attempt to identify the information needs and satisfactory level of users at Connemara Public Library, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State, India. The data were collected from randomly selected users through questionnaire. This study focuses the availability of various library resources, services, facilities in Connemara Public Library. This study also identifies the preference of documents used
by the library users. The finding of the study are: (i) majority of the respondents visit the library daily that is 27% or 68 respondents; (ii) majority of the respondents (73%) are satisfied with collection of the library; (iii) majority of the respondents (73.16%) are fully satisfied with services provided by the library; (iv) majority of the respondents (97%) preferred printed documents for reading as a comfort; (v) 70% of the respondents do not have awareness about e-resources; (vi) 50% of the respondents suggested increasing or updating collection of the library; (vii) the remaining 50% of the respondents suggested providing physical infrastructure for reading comfort, to have easy access to information, to extend the library timings, to improve the manpower in library as 23%, 17%, 2% and 8% respectively. Finally, this study suggested some opinions to extend the services and to improve the satisfactory level of library users.

3.4 Use of Public Libraries: Karnataka

Urs (1984) has surveyed the reading habits of clientele of the public libraries in the rural district of Bangalore. The distribution of population, occupation, membership pattern, extent of utilization of library services, and reading habits of users in terms of subjects and type of books read were discussed. The survey pointed out that the need for development of infrastructure of library.

Ramamurthy (1987) states that liberally funded, systematically organized public library system would make Karnataka, the land of libraries. Library legislation was introduced to ensure regular funding for the creation, maintenance and development of libraries. With the abolition of Octroi, which was the major source for funding, the public library system was facing financial crises. The author suggests measures to overcome these problems.
Kumar (1992) described the following aspects of the Kodagu District Central Library at Madikeri, Karnataka State in India: origin; books, building; budget; periodicals; children's section; extension activities; and donations.

Gouda (1995) conducted survey (1994-95) of public library system in Chickmangalore district using interview method as a data collection tool. The results show that the three major needs among the urban users were education, health and legal, while among the rural users agricultural related information was top in the list. Most of the users replied that they visit library for recreational purpose and to know current affairs, and most of them felt that the document collection were bad.

Kumbar and Biradar (1998) reported results of a questionnaire survey to assess the use of mass media (newspapers, radio and television) and the results compared with the use of public libraries by the people of the rural Singanamane Gram Panchayat area of Shimoga district Karnataka, India. The study reveals that majority felt that library opening hours were insufficient and that the location of the library was inconvenient. Based on the study findings, authors suggested that awareness should be created among the public about the importance of public libraries through user training programmes; library document collection should be improved in both quality and quantity; film and picture shows should be arranged and television sets installed in public libraries, and minimum facilities and services should be provided to change the adverse opinion of the public about the library. It was concluded that proper initiatives and care be taken, so that public libraries stand as equally competitive to other mass media.
Biradar (1999) described the library situation in some rural parts of Karnataka, India in terms of document collection, services, staff, building and furniture, and suggested remedies for improvement, notably in holdings of agriculture related materials.

Asundi and Heitzman (2000) described the development of the public library system in the State of Karnataka, India. Several exercises conducted in the evaluation of public libraries during the mid-1990s was reviewed. After outlining the public library system in the rural district of Chikmangalore, the studies concentrate on the system in the city of Bangalore, the State capital and India's 'Silicon Valley'. Quantitative and qualitative survey data portray the demographics of library users, their information needs, their rating of library materials, facilities and library staff and the relationship between their evaluations and the preliminary stages of automation. Analysis focuses on issues of age, gender, trajectories of career development and the rural-urban divide in determining the future planning of the system. It is reported that majority of the users were young who come for reading newspapers.

Vijayakumar and Kumar (2001) conducted a study based on questionnaire, to study the extent of availability and accessibility of information from sixteen rural libraries of the Shimoga district in Karnataka State, India. None have access to mass media information provision or independent buildings to bring sources, services and users under the same roof.

Padmamma et al. (2001) conducted a study on public library service for women, questionnaire method used for collecting required data from users, 120 questionnaires were administrated among the users and 96 of them responded. The results show that
majority of the users were satisfied with book lending service and most of the users suggested that library should provide overnight issue service, interlibrary loan and book exhibition service.

Nikam and Rajshekhara (2003) analyses the reading habits of public library users in two public libraries of Mysore city of Karnataka State. The result of the study revealed that (i) more than half of the public library users (51%) are between 16-25 years age group; (ii) 79% of the users are male and only 21% are female; (iii) 45% of users are degree holders, users with masters degree (16%), and others form minority; (iv) Nearly half of the users (47%) are students; and (v) majority of the users (71.5%) visit the library for reading newspapers and magazines.

Biradar et al. (2006) made users study of City Central Library in Karnataka State. 100 questionnaires were distributed, out of them 76 filled in questionnaires were given back by users community. It is found that only low portion of the users were satisfied with library’s location, collection of books, newspapers and magazines.

Ongus and Kempraju (2007) examines the concept of public libraries in general, as well as the state of public libraries in India in the light of the new and emerging technological dispensation. It proceeds to give a detailed account of recommended steps for introducing and maintaining electronic information services for public use. Some fledgling real cases involving impressive attempts of delivering much needed information services in rural areas, using electronic or "digital" media, are mentioned. Conceivable suggestions for the way forward affecting public libraries are given, wherever applicable.
Anupama and Tadasad (2009a) undertook a survey of Gram Panchayat libraries in Gulbarga district. Out of ten talukas, eight were covered, except Afazalpur and Chincholi. The study found that most used sources were novels, story books, newspapers and magazines, and most of the users felt that furniture and equipment, cleanliness and helpfulness of the staff were not excellent.

Anupama and Tadasad (2009b) explores the concept of rural librarianship emphasizing the relations between rural development of the country that is directly proportional to the development of rural based Gram Panchayat Libraries for human empowerment to build information rich society. The authors review the literature on rural libraries with reference to Karnataka State and provides glimpse of Gram Panchayat libraries in Hyderabad Karnataka region and thereby shows significance of rural librarians in making the visibility of library system and the initiation on the part of Department of Public Libraries for a functional and active Gram Panchayat Libraries.

Parvathamma and Reddy (2009) undertook a survey of use of information resources and services in the public libraries of Bidar District, Karnataka State, India. The findings of the study show that majority of the users were men; between the age group of 11 – 30 years; majority of them were students, unemployed youth or employees in private sector belonging to lower and middle income group. They spent less than one hour in the library and inconvenient timing was the main reason for not visiting the library more frequently. Books and Magazines, Friends / Teachers and Radio/Television were the information channels most frequently used to satisfy their information needs. Newspapers and Magazines were the most frequently read information sources and
Fictions were the most frequently borrowed documents. Reading Room and Book lending services were the most frequently used services. Since majority of the users are students and unemployed youth, public libraries need to enrich their information resource collection, provide access to Internet and offer community-based services, including literacy programmes. Public libraries need to take proactive approach in motivating users to use these resources and services to enhance their competence level.

Parvathamma and Reddy (2010) made a survey of use of information resources and services in Public Libraries in Gulbarga district with questionnaire as a data collection tool. Nine branch libraries located in taluka headquarters in Gulbarga district, Karnataka State were selected, and 50 questionnaire were distributed in each library under study. Out of 450 questionnaire distributed, 259 users responded (57.7%). The main purpose of the study was to evaluate effectiveness of public libraries from users' point of view. The findings include that (i) majority of the users are men and between 11 - 30 years of age. Students, Job holders in private/public undertakings were the regular visitors to the library, who visited the library daily or at least once in two days, mainly to read newspapers and magazines; (ii) users from lower and middle income group use public library services very frequently (either daily or once in two days); (iii) most of them have completed twelve years of schooling or undergraduate degree; (iv) newspapers and magazine and reading Room Service are the most frequently used information resources and services respectively; (v) majority of the users are fairly satisfied with information resources; (vi) only two women (0.77%) and 04 men above 60 years of age (1.54%) visited library during study period; (vii) majority of the respondents are either neutral or not satisfied with book lending and reference Service. The authors suggested for public
libraries strengthen their document collection and create a better ambience to attract more users from all age groups and gender, and more trained personnel are necessary to manage the document collection efficiently and offer innovative library services.

Chandrashekara et al. (2012) made a study on use of information resources and services of City Central Library and its branch libraries, Mysore, Karnataka State, India. The findings show that (i) majority of users were men between the age group of 16 – 25 years and they included unemployed graduates and students who visit the library daily; (ii) most of the users are also members of the library; (iii) visit the library for educational purpose; (iv) most of the users spend two hours per day in the library; (v) short stories, adventure story books, biographies, sports literature and general books were the most frequently read information sources of interest to the users, and concludes that since majority of the users are students and unemployed youth, public libraries need to enrich their information resource collection, provide access to Internet and offer community-based services, including literacy programs.

Kumara and Nikam (2013) conducted a study with main objectives such as (i) to know the profile of the YAPL users (ii) to ascertain the purpose for which they visit the library, (iii) to determine the attitudes of the respondents towards quality of library staff, (iv) to identify the perception of YAPL users towards reading different types of fiction, (v) to know their opinion about library collection, and (vi) to determine their attitudes towards services and facilities of public libraries in Southern Karnataka. For the purpose of data collection, a structured questionnaire was distributed to 500 YAPL users between 15 to 40 years of age in five Central Libraries located in Mandya, Mysore,
Tumkur, Hassan and Bangalore of southern Karnataka. Of the sample selected a sum of 384 valid responses were received. For analyzing the data simple statistical techniques like mean, standard deviation and chi-square tests were used. The result of the study indicate that about 35.4% of respondents are between 21-25 year of age, majority (77.6%) of YAPL users are male, and more number of respondents visit the library daily representing 51.7%. The chi-square test shows that there is a significant difference between the frequencies of responses of YAPL users. Hence, the null hypotheses are rejected and formulated hypotheses of the study are accepted.

Sujatha (2013) examines the findings of a survey of users of the rural public library in Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka State, India. Findings of the study are: students, job holders in private public sector were the regular visitors to the library, who visited the library daily or once a week. The author, suggests that public libraries need to enrich their information resource collection and create better ambience and basic facilities needed to retain the visitors for longer duration. Need for transformation of existing libraries or establishing a new set up of dynamic information centers with the help of the latest IT to effectively cater to the information needs of users.
References


