C H A P T E R - 5

CONCLUSIONS

5.1. FINDING AND SUGGESTIONS:

According to the plan of research at first contact was made with various types of users of ALAL mainly MLA’s, Ex-MLA’s, Administrators, Executives, Research Scholars with structured questionnaires and personal enquiries. Secondly Parliament Library and BPST, New Delhi are visited which are the parent organizations of State Legislature Libraries of India and some prominent State Legislature Libraries of India to know the functioning and services of these libraries of India. Thirdly suggestion received from the Hon’ble MLA’s, Ex-MLA’s, Administrators, Executives, Research Scholars are also scrutinized and lastly personal involvement and observations have revealed a lot in regard to organizations and services which need to be redesigned to cope with recent development in information technology and to meet the demands of the users.

The main users of Assam Legislative Assembly Library are MLA’s who are elected by the people for a term of 5 years and they are not permanent users. Members of ALA can not be permanent due to the system of General Election to be held after every 5 years. From the records of MLA’s (who’s who of Assam Legislative Assembly) it has been found that MLA’s differ from one another in their cultural background, general qualifications and aptitude for social works for society. Ministry is formed by the largest party which claims majority. Some members become Ministers and some Chairmans of various Public Undertakings from the ruling party. Various Assembly Committees are constituted by the Hon’ble Speaker among from the members of Assembly irrespective of party affiliation. At present 23 nos of Assembly Committees are functioning in Assam Legislative Assembly. Some members become the Chairman of the different
committees. Some members from ruling party of Assam Legislative Assembly are required to function as Ministers, Chairman of various Public Undertakings and State Legislature Committee and also as members of various legislature committees. Opposition members are also nominated/appointed as Chairman and Members of various Legislature Committees. It has been observed that Ministers, MLAs as a whole remained busy during session time for their constitutional duty. In non session time specially MLA’s are busy with their meeting of various State Legislature Committees. Besides now a days large numbers of visitors come to meet them daily for various problems faced by the people of their own constituencies.

From the above alalysis, it is clear that main users of ALAL are the busiest persons who get less time to come to ALAL for study and collections of their required information, data etc. from the Assam Legislative Assembly Library.

5.1.1. FINDING AND SUGGESTIONS FROM MLA’S, EX-MLA’S ETC:

From the responses received from the Hon’ble Members regarding Subjects which the Hon’ble Members like to study in the ALAL, most of the members revealed that they like to study books and journals on Political Science, Constitutional matter, History, Economics, Sociology, Travels, literature books on Assamese, English, Bengali, debates of other State Legislature as well as Parliament and Commonwealth. Most of the members also stated that they like to study the proceedings of the Assembly before independence specially from 1937-1952 and also Commonwealth Parliamentary proceedings. It is also stated by the members that they are benefited by using the ALAL. Their scholarship in socio-economic and political life have also improved a lot after studying the valuable books/documents from the library.
Suggestions:

Majority of the members have visited Lok Sabha Library and some State Legislature Libraries of India during their study tour programme to various States and some of them also visited modern libraries of foreign countries. With the vast experience most of members want to see Assam Legislative Assembly Library at par with the Parliament Library of India. Legislators have also expressed their opinion that Assam Legislative Assembly Library is one of the richest library with various valuable and also rare documents. Members have suggested for further reorganizing of the Assam Legislative Assembly Library with all modern amenities and facilities. Legislators have also suggested that to save their valuable time, ready made services like preparation of notes as per their requirements and delivering of the notes should be undertaken by library personnel in their MLA quarter. Regarding books/journals/documents which they want to consult should also be delivered to the messengers sent by them for the purpose to Assembly library.

So ALAL should/ is so designed in such a manner that valuable time of honourable members can be saved by providing ready made answer of their requirement. If necessary documentation works and services are also be provided. Orientation programme for newly elected members at the beginning of Assembly should be arranged to make them familiar with parliamentary system and also to be familiar with the functioning and service of the Assam Legislative Assembly Library. Moreover CAS is a must for the MLAs to keep them aware about the recent development in political system, economic condition of the country as well as with social problems faced by the nation.
5.1.2. **Finding and Suggestion from Executives, Administrators etc:**

Administration of the State are run by the top executive administrators and they also help Ministers during the session time and non session time. During session time reply of questions are prepared by the respective departments and submit it to Assembly. All the replies to be given by Ministers are also prepared by the Department. Hence they require to use assembly Library. Assembly Library which provides information as per their requirement pinpointedly and exhaustively. In this way the employees of various departments under the guidance of their senior officials use the Assembly Library during the session time. In their reply they have expressed their satisfaction for getting the required documents/books from the Assembly Library.

**Suggestions:**

Most of the top bureaucrats have vast experiences and they know the latest development of modern technology which were employed in every field specially in information technology. These executives are fully aware about the modern services rendered by prestigious libraries of the country and abroad. These top executives have suggested that ALAL should be organized in such a manner with all modern facilities to serve its clientele as quickly as possible. Use of all modern equipments should be employed with qualified persons for better services.

5.1.3. **Finding and Suggestion from Research Scholars of Assam as well as Outside Assam and also Abroad:**

The research scholars as well as research guides from the Gauhati University, Tezpur University, Dibrugarh University, Assam University, Silchar and some scholars from outside Assam and also abroad come for study and research in the Assam Legislative Assembly Library are critical about the Library services.
Research scholars come to Assembly Library to consult books, documents relating to their topics of research for Ph.D., M.Phil etc.

Research scholars also revealed that they have got the books, documents, journals, proceeding etc. which are not available in N.E. State. Some of the Scholars also mentioned that rare and unpublished books, documents, journals etc. which are preserved separately in the library have attracted them a lot and as a result they come to library even after completion of their research programme. Some scholars also stated that they have been very much benefited by using Assembly Library. Some scholars stated that they are now becoming writers as they can collect preliminary materials from Assam Legislative Assembly Library.

It will be pertinent to mention here the comment of one Ph.D. candidate from Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley for his research programme on the topic of student movement on foreigner issue from 1979-1985. David Stuligross, the research scholars could be able to collect 75% of his requirement from Assam Legislative Assembly Library within 3 months and 25% collected from Gauhati University and others institutions. He was so satisfied that after going from Assam he had sent a letter offering appreciating and thanks to the authority.

Suggestions:

Most of the research scholars visited various well known libraries of the country-like National Library, Calcutta, Delhi Public Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University Library and other University Libraries. So some of them suggested more facility should be given to the research scholars during the period of their research work at Assam Legislative Assembly Library. Some of them suggested that the closing hour of Assam Legislative Assembly Library should be increased from 5 PM to 8 PM. Coffee and Snack bar should be installed inside the library so that they can take Coffee and Snacks during their study hour in the library just like some University Libraries of India.
5.1.4. **Finding & Suggestion from Principals of various Colleges of the State:**

Principals of various colleges of Assam also come for preparation of seminar papers and for collections of data, documents for writing books mainly in Political Science, History, Sociology, Economics etc. Some of them also come to see the functioning of Assembly Library to reorganize their library.

Though Principals are educationist, they are also to look after the administration of the college. Some of the Principals who attended National and International Seminar and also visited reputed libraries stated that the collection of Assembly Library are also very rich and they have been benefitted by using Assembly Library.

Most of the Principal generally come from a long distance of the State so they want to collect their required information as immediately as possible. So they want to send their requirement on Fax/Letters and accordingly their requirements should be kept ready by Library Staff and send a Fax message/Letters to them for collection of their requirement from the library. Accordingly they will be coming to Assam Legislative Assembly Library for collection of their requirement from the Assam Legislative Assembly Library.

For establishing of a new library in their college they want information about various sources for collection of books, journals and library equipments at reasonable prices. For reorganization of their respective library some Principals want to know about the technical procedure to be followed for reorganization of his College Library from the Assam Legislative Assembly Library.

**Suggestion:**

Most of the Principals want to see Assam Legislative Assembly Library as per with top most libraries of the country in respect of collection, service and facility to reader.
5.1.5. **Finding Suggestions from different State Legislature Libraries of India:**

From the reply received from different State Legislature Libraries of India, it is seen that most of the Assembly Library was established after independence of India. Collection of books/documents/journals of big state legislature libraries are more than 1 lakh to 2 lakhs. All most all State Legislature Libraries face the same problems of space. So they subscribe only a few leading English News paper and a few local news papers of their languages which they also preserved. Except Parliament, most of the libraries use traditional method for preserving documents. Rare and unpublished documents are kept separately under locks and keys. Reference services, Lending services, Ready made preparations of notes on required topics are made by almost all Legislature Libraries of India.

**Suggestion:**

As most of State Legislature libraries are organised in modern footing and use of modern technology are increasing in their respective libraries and follow mainly parent organization of Parliament Library. So most of the State Legislature Libraries suggested that Assam Legislative Assembly should also follow their path and also should organize the library as per Parliament Library of India.

To solve the problems of space, some important news papers, Govt. documents, rare and unpublished books may be made in microform which will solve the space problems to a great extent. These types of documents are in microform in PL and are available in some State Legislature Libraries of India.
5.1.6. **Finding and Suggestion From Parliament Library and Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, New Delhi:**

Parliament Library is the mother of all State Legislature Libraries of India. It is well organized and main divisions are suitably run by Director to look after the smooth functioning of the division. Every section has sufficient staff. Library is a growing organization in relation to staff, collection and reader. Parliamentary Library is well aware about this and keep proper balance among these three namely staff, collection and reader.

BPST is an institution which carries out various training programmes for state Legislature libraries of India. It also undertakes training in various subjects for the benefit of various institutions, organizations, universities of India and also abroad. It is mainly a high level training centre on multiple subjects.

**Suggestion:**

Parliamentary Library suggested that Assembly Library should follow the Parliamentary Library for reorganization of the Library and service of Assembly Library to reader.

BPST suggested to hold training programmes atleast for newly recruited members of Assembly. Officers and employees of Assembly should join the various training programmes which BPST organized for better performance of their duty.

5.2. **CONCLUSION:**

From the records and from our experiences, it was found that the main clientele of Assembly Library are MLA’s, who are elected from different constituencies of Assam with different educational background. There are some members, who have not crossed matriculation examination and some are highly qualified like M.A., M.Sc., LL.B., LL.M. degree holders and a few of them Ph.D. holders.
Before coming to politics, some of the members were Legal practitioners, reputed Doctors, Professors etc. So providing help and service in the uniform way is not possible. Naturally demand for documents and assistance from the library differ from members to members based on their educational background and scholarship. Again there is no guarantee that some members would be returned in the next election, which is quite unlikely. But there are few lucky MLA’s who got returned several times to the Assembly. Any way, it would be beneficial and useful if the study about the needs and their educational, cultural, and professional background are studied by the library personnel. On the basis of that, books of their choice and interest can be procured besides the books and other documents which are commonly needed for the Assembly Library for deliberation in the Assembly.

For Assembly Library, introduction of documentation services is highly essential. With the introduction of this service, nascent thought, micro literature and specialist users can be brought together for the smooth functioning of the Library. This type of documentation services will definitely help the clientele in the most effective way.

Extension service like documentation service is also very important and essential for the Assembly Library. Extension Service if introduced like the Public Library System in the Assembly Library, this will definitely helps the clientele of the Assembly Library. List of recently added documents to library are to be sent to all the MLAs with brief note. This will not only save the valuable time of honourable members but also books costing hundred and thousands will be utilized. This will no doubt help in fulfillment and implications of the “Third Law” of Library Science enunciated by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the eminent library scientist of the world repute.
Orientation programme for the MLA’s and Ministers if possible should be organized at least once for the members of newly constituted Assembly. It would be herculian task since these clientele will not cherish. But this can be done by employing diplomacy. This year the honorable Speaker Shri Pranab Kumar Gogoi thought over the matter to hold orientation programme for the MLAs of 13th Assam Legislative Assembly. If this is carried out it will be a right step in this direction. However it is to be mentioned here that orientation programme for newly elected members of ALA were held once in the year 1996 for three days i.e 12-14 November, 1996. Leading personalities from Lok Sabha Secretariat came as resource persons for the programme. All the Hon’ble Speakers from N.E. State were also invited to address the orientation programme.

It has been observed that some MLAs and Ministers does not enter the library but these numbers are a few. Assembly Library personnel should make it a policy to convert those non-readers to habitual readers.

The Assam Legislative Assembly Library is a tremendous help to the Ministers, MLAs and Executives, who are doing useful and effective services for the causes of democracy which is now 65 years old. The ministers are provided relevant documents and information not only of the present day functioning of the Government but also provided with past records to enable them to know about the past history, functioning and correspondence with other counter parts by library staff. In a sense, those busy people are provided with spoon feeding information and on the strength of the day to day transactions in the administration these are carried out and the library serves the general administration and legislative actions. Again MLAs of the opposition group get themselves equipped with information and document supplied by the Assembly Library and take part in the debates of the Assembly and also attack treasury bench.
Unlike some other type of libraries the users of ALAL differ in many respects. Say a particular MLA representing a particular constituency may not be reelected again or the person may not be willing to contest elections, so naturally he ceases to be a member of the library for his life. So users specially MLAs and Ministers can not continue their tenure like a permanent service holders. Then also there are a few of them who were studious, naturally they would come to the library off and on. In this connection a classic example of one MLA is to be mentioned here. Shri Nilamoni Sen Deka, first elected as member in 1991 as a Congress candidate from Dharmapur Constituency. Subsequently he was again elected in the year 2011. The honorable member now functioning as Ministers of Agriculture in the 13th Assam Legislative Assembly. During this period he authored many books of socio-economic, socio-cultural, literature and he acknowledged in the preface of each book regarding the help from the librarian and library staff of Assembly Library.

Again there are a few MLAs who were not inclined for such academic work, rather they are interested to take interest for the welfare of the people of their respective constituencies.

There are a few MLAs who did not step into the library building for such a noble purpose.

The Assam Legislative Assembly Library has to strive even though many more odds and challenges are working as barriers. State administration is run by top executives, administrators of the Government who are made directly responsible for the State administration including enactment of laws are found to be very serious and other relevant documents are needed by them. The library is very much glad to help them by providing what are needed by them in the most appropriate way. Not only they get help for their official duties but also for their personal study. A good number of such basic and classic books are authored by them and fortunately they acknowledged the
services provided by Assam Legislative Assembly Library. It will be pertinent to mention two top most senior IAS officers who used Assembly Library even after their retirement. Dr. Rohini Kumar Baruah, IAS who retired in the year 1996 as Commissioner and Secretary, Agriculture, Govt. of Assam and till he is using the Assembly Library for writing various books on Economic, Industry, Travel, Political Science, Administration etc. Already he published 17 books on the above subjects and more books are under print and still he is writing books. Like wise Shri Chandra Kanta Das, IAS who retired as Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam in the year 2008, used Assembly Library during his heavily scheduled official assignment and till he uses Assembly Library and writes thoughtful writing in local newspaper.

A good number of scholars did complete their M.Phil, Ph.D., D. Litt. degree from different Universities of N.E. India, and also other parts of the country and even a few from the foreign country by mainly relying on the available data and information found in the library.

The future glory which is desired by the Assembly Library rests with the users mainly MLA’s, Executives, Administrators, Research scholars etc. who are expected to come to the library for reading materials, ready made information and for books, journals, rare books etc. are to be made library oriented. It has been observed that during last 10 years, Central Government and State Government have adopted various socio economic development schemes in the State which are to be implemented by the bureaucrats and administrators. If the Assembly Library can keep all documents relating to these developmental schemes in the library then naturally Administrators and Bureaucrat will be bound to visit the Assembly Library more frequently. Like academic library, orientation programme with different nomenclature and different dimension can be adopted for the benefit of the users of the Assembly Library.
In conclusion it can be said that Assam Legislative Assembly Library since its inception in the year 1926 is standing as a temple or power house of knowledge to serve its clientele equipped the library with changing environment of organization and services and will remain always to serve the coming readers in the befitting manner.

5.3. SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

Assam Legislative Assembly Library remains as a centre of learning for its special clientele. It has been observed that all modern equipments and services whenever is introduced by leading Libraries specially Parliament Library and some State Legislature Assembly Library, the Assam Legislative Assembly Library also introduced the same to keep itself with the modern trend of library services. During the course of my study for the thesis, I feel that further research is essential considering the area of coverage and study covered in this work, some of the areas which are peripheral to this study but deserve the attention for further research are:

1) Socio-Political and economical background of Legislators who are the main users of Assam Legislative Assembly Library.
2) Application of modern technology in the Assam Legislative Assembly Library.
3) Preservation and conservation of books and non-books available in the library since its inception in the year 1926.
4) Role of Library Committee for collection development of Assam Legislative Assembly Library since its inception to the present.