CHAPTER - II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
Review of related studies helps to bring clarity and broaden the knowledge base in the subject area. The review shows that many studies were conducted in India and abroad to examine the different aspects of public libraries. The review of these studies were made under different headings such as public library movement, library development, library collections, library finance, library services, public library special services, use and user study, computerisation of public libraries, role of public libraries, collaborations with other institutions, evaluation of public library effectiveness, and public libraries Acts.

2.1 Public Library Movement

Ramanujan Nair (1974)\(^1\) has traced the history of library movement in Kerala. He describes its beginning, organisational movement, the objectives and programmes of the Kerala Granthasala Sanghom, and its administrative set up. He has also examined the several attempts at public library legislation. His study revealed that the Trivandrum Public Library, established in 1829 is the first public library in Kerala. The organised movement arose in Kerala with the establishment of Malabar Vayanasala Sanghom in Malabar in 1937. Travancore Granthasala Sanghom, which was established in 1945, was converted into Kerala Granthasala Sanghom and its services were extended in Kerala. It stressed the need for library legislation as it would facilitate collection of finance, standard and adequate library service, and also administrative efficiency.

Menon (1974)\(^2\) has traced the early history of Trivandrum Public library. He gives an account of the different opinions about the year of its establishment, its founders, its different locations, recognition of it by the
State, conversion of it into people's library before 1878, transfer of it to the government in 1898, and construction of the new building in 1902 in commemoration of diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. It has been reported that the most important event in the early history of Trivandrum Public Library is the takeover of the library by the government in 1898 and the opening of its membership to the public.

Hamsath (1979) sketches out the public library movement in the union territory of Lakshadweep and the important events highlighted by the author are: 1) At first Lakshadweep Central Library was located in Calicut, where the Lakshadweep secretariat was situated initially; 2) At present, besides the State Central Library, there is one rural library in each island; 3) All the libraries have trained librarians; 4) Libraries are administered by the Social Welfare Wing, and the Social Welfare Officer, Lakshadweep; and 5) Sole source of income of the public libraries is the government grant.

John and V. K. G. Nair (1979) have given an account of public library movement in Kerala and their study has documented the following events: 1) Public library movement in Kerala started in 1829 with the establishment of Trivandrum public library, 2) The establishment of Malabar Vayanasala Sanghom (1937) and Granthasala Sanghom (1945) has contributed much to the growth of public libraries, 3) Under local library authorities several libraries were established in Malabar, and 4) In 1979 there were nearly 4000 libraries in Kerala.

Ramachandra Rao (1981) has mentioned 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 Andhra. The events such as the passing of Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948; the role of Hyderabad Library Association led to the enactment of Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, 1955 and Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960.

Shantaram (1985)\(^6\), in the historical study of public libraries in Western Mahasrashtra, from 1805 to 1921 has highlighted that: 1) All the libraries established up to 1805 were manuscript libraries mostly in Sanskrit and Marathi language; 2) In 1830, Bombay General Library was established; in 1838, Ahmednagar Native Library and in 1845, Bombay Native General Library were established; 3) By the end of 1880, about 100 libraries were established in 78 towns, with the encouragement of Government of Bombay; and 4) By 1921 the number of libraries increased to 227.

Job (1990)\(^7\) has surveyed the historical development of public libraries in Ethiopia. The survey states that the libraries in the modern sense started to appear in Ethiopia only in 1930. The study describes the activities of National Library, branch libraries, City Council Library, and British Council Library and says that 16 branch libraries were established between 1967 and 1986. It outlines the Addis Ababa Municipality Plan for the development of public libraries in municipal area which visualises to establish one central library and five zonal libraries with in a period of three years, and to establish 25 libraries within a period of 10 years. It also states that 9, 457 reading rooms were established mainly intended for the benefit of neo literates in the locality. The general set up of and the role
played by the Ethiopian Library Association in bringing the various aspects pertaining to the libraries to the notice of the authorities concerned has also been described.

Sewa Singh (1991) has traced the historical development of libraries in Punjab during the 19th century and early 20th century. There is also an attempt to analyse the role of libraries in the society. The study critically looked at the facilities such as building, collection, services and finance. It mentioned the role played by the voluntary organisations and the Punjab Library Association in the library development. It revealed that the development of library services was lop-sided because of its greater emphasis on cities and towns than on villages. The study offered various suggestions for improvement of the library services in Punjab.

Wiele (1991) has described the historical development of public libraries in France since 1789. The study states that the landmark in the public library development after the Second World War was the creation of the Directorate for Libraries and the setting up of reading club in the public libraries from the fifties onwards. Different types of public libraries such as city libraries, rural public libraries are mentioned and their collection, user services, finance, and membership have been discussed in detail. It is pointed out that the libraries in urban and rural libraries are very modest and there exists an effective structured network.

Pasilithil (1992) has evaluated the history of public libraries in Kerala during the pre and post Granthasala Sanghom period. He has traced out the origin and development of the mass movement and assessed its contribution in the socio-cultural fields. In order to study the socio-
cultural relations of the libraries with the society, a survey has been conducted. The study indicated 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.

Anis Khurshid (1998)\textsuperscript{11} has 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 the 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 the use of the public libraries was diminishing. The study traces the three phases of Karachi municipal libraries development, the first phase from 1947-1970, the second phase from 1970-78, and the third phase from 1979-87; and also examines the position of municipal libraries in Karachi in 1994.

Kalia (1998)\textsuperscript{12} 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 Andhra 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 has directorates of public libraries under a director or a superintendent as in Bihar. The entire expenditure is met by the governments. 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.

Jones (2005) has traced the genesis and growth of public library movement in New South Wales (Australia). The study pointed out that the first move into free public library services was made with the opening of the Melbourne Public Library. He has also highlighted the impact of the Public
Library Act in the development of public libraries in New South Wales. By the end of 1946, a quarter of the three million inhabitants of New South Wales were being served by free public library. In 1950s and 1960s more and more local authorities adopted the Library Act and set up free library services.

2.2 Public Library Development

Odini (1990)\textsuperscript{14} has pointed out the need for and the role of the public libraries, and the planning cycle that could be applied in the management of public library development. He has stressed the importance of assessment of the needs of library users and the evaluation of current library services and resources in the planning process.

Singh (1991)\textsuperscript{15} has assessed the current status of public libraries in Bihar. He discusses in detail the position of public libraries in different levels of State, divisional, district, sub-divisional, block, and village. He also deals briefly with the activities of library associations in Bihar, training in librarianship, the library services, and the administrative structure of the libraries. This analytical report states that the reason for poor performance in this sector seems to be the low literacy rate and dearth of fund.

Bouri (1994)\textsuperscript{16} has described the development and current decline of public libraries in Egypt. Egyptian public libraries have been in decline since the late 1960s because of an overall policy which directed the Egyptian government to shift the developmental priorities from education for development towards a new development priority referred to as "information for development". The new priority has subsequently oriented the Egyptian government towards building national information
infrastructures for decision-making, overshadowing the earlier assumption that public libraries were central to development.

Sahib Singh Verma (2002), in his survey of the existing conditions of public libraries in Delhi, Haryana, and Rajasthan examines the effect of the library legislation in the development of public libraries and the role of public libraries in literacy movement. The study revealed that: 1) The role of public libraries has not been realised much in the rural areas as compared to the urban areas, 2) Public libraries have contributed more in fulfilling the recreational/cultural rather than the information/educational requirements of the society, 3) A majority of the public libraries are not associated with literacy programmes, 4) Only big libraries have their own buildings, and 5) Public library reading materials and services are not based on the needs of the community.

Jones (2004) has outlined in detail the critical issues in public library building planning in New South Wales. The study recommends that 1) the variety of user needs should be taken into account while planning the library buildings and 2) growth areas of the public library building should include group study, training, volunteers, meetings and seminars, exhibitions and other public programmes. The study revealed that 1) there are 392 public library building in New South Wales ranging in size from under a hundred square meters to over 5500 square meters, and 2) funding new library building has never been easy in New South Wales.

Hennen's (2005) survey report on American public libraries has indicated that 1) in the State Plains there were 1655 public libraries, the highest in U.S. and in Far West there were only 476 public libraries, the
lowest in the country; and totally there were 9211 public libraries in U.S. 2) 
an average of 1.2 square footage per capita buildings was constructed in 
U.S. for public libraries; 3) 95% of the libraries spent less than $ 10.52 per 
item circulated; 4) on an average, libraries spent per capita of $0.66 on 
electronic materials, while the spending per print item use averaged per 
capita of $0.81; and 5) an average of six computer terminals for every 
10,000 residents were provided.

2.3 Library Collections

Doll's (1984) study of overlap and duplication among children's 
collections in selected public and elementary school libraries was 
conducted in four Illinois communities with populations between 25,000 
and 40,000. One public library and two elementary school libraries have 
been surveyed in each community. Two hundred book titles have randomly 
been selected from the shelf lists of the libraries and the lists were 
compiled of magazines, science filmstrips, and fiction sound recordings. 
Analysis of the data indicated that overlap is linear and positively 
correlated to collection size, but there is no apparent relationship between 
collection size and duplicate titles. The demand is the criterion used to 
purchase duplicate copies. No library subscribed to duplicate copies of 
magazines. The study indicated that co-operation would be more practical 
than merging the libraries.

Serebnick and Quinn (1995) have conducted a study to develop a 
method for measuring diversity of opinion in public library collections in 
OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre). For this purpose four potentially 
controversial subject areas were investigated viz. abortion, capital
punishment, disarmament or arms control, and euthanasia. Testing the method included analysing the questionnaires, the library holdings of books and the audiovisual materials, publishing and reviewing patterns, and the checklists from Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The important findings of this study are: 1) 78.3% of respondents considered diversity of public library collections as "very important", 2) Librarians have difficulties in selecting and acquiring diverse materials on certain subjects, and 3) The librarians were much more willing than the general public to include potentially controversial materials in subjects. According to this study, Special Interest Groups (SIG) serve as useful resources of selection aids for potentially controversial titles and it was broad in scope and not subject to investigator bias.

Cole (2000)\(^\text{22}\) has examined the influence of librarians and the attitudes of elected members and library users on the availability of materials in public libraries in United Kingdom. The study was carried out in six British Library Authorities. The primary method of data collection was in-depth interview with 76 persons including 24 librarians, 10 elected council members and 42 library users. The interview data were supplemented by data generated by a questionnaire. The important findings of the study are: 1) A majority of the respondents agreed that stock management should be conducted according to a philosophy of intellectual freedom; 2) A majority of the respondents stated that stock management decisions should relate to local council policy; 3) In all six library authorities, librarians restrict access to materials that they believe, it might stimulates negative or unfavourable actions or attitudes; 4)
Seventeen librarians working in all authorities surveyed said that they had restricted access to materials if their presence on the open shelves caused problems for them, or if materials of similar type had previously been problematic; 5) Five librarians observed that their stock management decision was influenced by their desire to avoid potentially negative media coverage; and 6) Twelve librarians cited lack of money as a barrier to conducting stock management in accordance with the principle of intellectual freedom.

### 2.4 Library Finance

Goudy (1982)\(^{23}\) has provided an overview of the history of General Revenue Sharing (GRS) and focused on the contribution of the funds to public libraries in U.S.A. The first objective of the study was to determine the allocation of GRS fund to public libraries during the fiscal years 1973 through 1977. The second objective was to estimate the fiscal impact of these funds on public libraries. The study revealed that 1) the libraries received $374.55 million during the five year period under consideration, 2) the libraries acquired a greater proportion of revenue sharing funds relative to their normal share of total government expenditures, and 3) nearly two-thirds of the GRS funds were used for development, maintenance of programmes and services.

Guruswamy Naidu (1990)\(^{24}\) has critically analysed the trend and pattern of financing of public libraries in Andra Pradesh. The study indicated that 1) no district in the State spends optimum on reading materials; 2) the expenditure on the staff is not optimum; 3) though cess is
a major source of revenue, the yield has been unsatisfactory; and 4) the per capita revenue does not provide an encouraging picture.

Ramaiah’s (1993) critical perspective on public library finance in India 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 were discussed. It was suggested that a proportional method of providing a certain percentage either of the education budget or the regular State budget for the public library development is advisable.

Merrifield (1995) has discussed two funding sources for the rural libraries in USA which are Federal and State. It discussed the first federal public library grant-in-aid programme, the Library Services Act and its amended act called the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and their funding levels to the rural libraries in USA from fiscal year 1964 to fiscal year 1992. It discussed three types of State aid to meet required standards, to support the operation of multi type library systems or networks, and to assist in the construction of public library buildings. The comparison of State funding shows that in 1989, per capita State funding for the large urban libraries is nearly five times than for the smallest libraries. It also traced the historical background of State role in aiding public libraries in U.S. which goes back to 1835, in which year New York adopted a law authority for each district to levy tax for the establishment of a public library collection. It revealed that all funding sources are critical to the survival of rural libraries.
2.5 Public Library Services

Sarada (1986)\textsuperscript{27} has conducted an intensive study of Branch Library in Pendurthi village in Visakhapatnam taluk and district (Andhrapradesh). This study also analysed the information needs of the village community and examined the nature of the policy of the government towards the public library. For this purpose three sets of structured questionnaires were distributed, one for the deposit holders of the library, the other for the visitors-cum-readers of the library, and yet another for the non-users of the library. The findings of this study are: 1) Telugu fiction occupies a large portion of the collections; 2) 80\% of the loaned books are novels, short stories and other forms of fiction; 3) A stationary group uses the library frequently for reading newspapers and magazines; 4) A large percentage of the people (79.79\%) who belong to the middle class in term of social and economic status use the library; 5) The educational, social, informational and cultural functions of the library have been almost completely neglected; and 6) Since the library functions as a government agency, it provides information about citizens and the programmes of the government.

Richardson (1987)\textsuperscript{28} has surveyed children's services of public libraries in Illinois in 1977 and 1987 and found that 1) the children's room is open on an average of 41 hours per week, 2) expenditure for children's books and magazines represents an average of 28\% of the total expenditure for books and magazines of the libraries, 3) children's books represent 33\% of the total book collection of the libraries, 4) the average number of children's books in the collection is about 10000, 5) children's materials
account for 37% of the total circulation of the libraries, and 6) 85% of the libraries in the State have at least one story hour for children. The study indicated the ranges in the extent and quality of public library services in U.S.

Saiful Islam (1990)²⁹ has carried out a research on the current status and structure of public library systems and services in Great Britain and Bangladesh. It evaluates the British public library systems, passage of various Acts, various library authorities, total number of public libraries, constituent libraries, computerized acquisition, cataloguing, classification, literature search, and library finance. Major differences in library services between the two countries were brought out and recommendations for developing an effective public library service in Bangladesh were made.

Ottensmann, et al. (1995)³⁰ have examined the patterns of circulation of adult books in the public library branches and the distribution of circulation across subject categories for the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library. The analysis of the data revealed that the distribution and circulation across various categories of adult books were very similar among the various branches, and were weakly related to the social and economic characteristics of the populations served by the branches. Adult fiction accounted for the largest share of the circulation over one quarter of the total. The findings also indicated that at least some of the differences in circulation patterns between branch libraries might be due to the variations in the interests of individual patrons of those branches rather than to systematic variations in the broader interests of the community using the branches. The study led to the conclusion that
people who read and borrow books from the public libraries seem to share a broad common set of interests. This study had important implications for materials selection and materials acquisition budgeting.

Wigg (1995)\textsuperscript{31} has examined rural library services to young people in New York State. These services include collection of quality materials, providing culturally diverse materials, working with preschoolers, assisting students, conducting summer reading clubs, and giving computer literacy. The study concludes with the suggestion that a rural library action plan is needed to overcome the barriers which prevent rural librarian from making use of existing resources.

Aslam (1998)\textsuperscript{32} recognised the importance of rural libraries to be reshaped as Community Information Centres. 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; emphasises the need for strengthening the rural libraries to shoulder new responsibilities for the socio-economic development. It identifies the following main objectives of Community Information Centres (CIS): 1) Provide easy access to necessary information to enable rural people to effectively participate in the process of development, 2) Serve as centre for educational and cultural activities, 3) Provide access to non-print media such as radio, TV, audio-video tapes particularly for those who lack study skill, and 4) 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.
Padmamma et al. (2001)³³ have conducted a study of the public library service for women in the Chickmangalore City Central library, Karnataka. The necessary data for this study were collected through interviews of and questionnaires to the women users of Chickmangalore City Central Library. The results of the study pointed out that 1) almost all respondents were satisfied with the collection of books, magazines, and newspapers and 58.33% were satisfied with the borrowing facility and 2) the library did not provide the user services such as new arrivals display, interlibrary loan, paper clipping service, reference service, over night issue, and book exhibition.

Vijayakumar and Kumar (2001)³⁴ have made quantitative study on the different aspects of rural libraries such as functions, staff, finance, collections, services and facilities in Shimoga district of Karnataka. The important findings of the study are: 1) None of the rural libraries under study had any permanent, professional or semi professional library staff; 2) Four libraries had a library committee and other 11 rural libraries did not have library committee; 3) All rural libraries under the study got financial support from the district central library, 5 libraries received fund through Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and only one rural library enjoyed financial source from the grama panchayath; 4) Maximum collection was of novels, and maximum reference collection of biographies; 5) All the rural libraries had adopted their own system of classification, no library maintained any library catalogue; 6) None of the rural libraries had mass media like Radio, TV, Projectors or computers; and 7) None of the libraries had its own building and was in good condition. The investigators
have suggested that the Department of Public Libraries should have more concern for upgrading the rural libraries.

Malarvele and Higgins (2003)\textsuperscript{35} have explored the provision of public library services to the Tamil community through the National Library Board of Singapore's system of public libraries. The methodology employed in this study was the focus group interview technique comprising of 12 participants aged between 14 and 65. The important findings of the study are: 1) All twelve participants visited the library at least once a month, 2) Eight participants proposed that all magazines should be placed in the lending section, 3) Four participants felt that library could develop non-print materials for children in Tamil, 4) Eight participants said that the reference collection in Tamil did not meet their intellectual needs, and 5) All participants were not satisfied with the collection as a whole including the classification and location of these materials in the library. They all suggested that home delivery services for Tamil books, internet services in Tamil, one regional centre for Tamil studies should be provided to the Tamil community.

Sule (2003)\textsuperscript{36} has discussed the functions, problems, and prospects of rural library services and examined their role in the development of literacy in Nigeria. The study revealed that major problems faced by the libraries are: 1) Lack of qualified library staff, 2) Financial constraints, 3) Scarcity of reading materials, 4) Scattered settlement pattern, and 5) Attitudinal problems of government. The prospects of the libraries are listed as follows: 1) Rural libraries can sustain the level of literacy of the rural populace; 2) They can check rural-urban migration, which has
negative consequences on development; 3) They can be the centres of
independent study; and 4) They can serve as centres of recreation and
culture.

Brown (2004)\(^3\) has studied the reference service for children in
public libraries in Australia. The study revealed that 1) the reference needs
of children are primarily the requirement of information to enable them to
complete a given school assignment; 2) for the successful reference
transaction, the librarian needs to be conscious of children's wants and
needs; 3) it is important to create an environment in which children and
their questions are taken seriously; 4) to facilitate the delivery of quality
reference and information services to children, it is important to have
accepted guidelines or standards; and 5) the need for specific evaluation
methods for children's reference services will increase the quality of the
reference service.

Ranjith (2004)\(^3\) 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, grade, yearly grant, other assistance received, and reading
habits of public. The important findings of the study are: 1) A majority of
the libraries (60%) have book strength in the range of 1001-5000; 2) 90% of
the libraries have own land and building; 3) A majority of the libraries
(75%) have women membership of less than 30%; 4) 45% of the libraries
work 9 hours or more, 30% of the libraries work 4 to 9 hours, and 25%
work less than 4 hours; 5) A majority of the libraries (62%) have the
membership 500 or below; 6) 45% of the libraries have a distribution of
500–1000 books on an average per month, 40% unto 500, and 15% 1000 and above; 7) The 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 8) 60% of the members are satisfied with the collection of the libraries.

2.6 Public Library Special Services

Griebel (1995)\textsuperscript{39} have discussed the development and implementation of an innovative, cooperative model of library service for blind and print disabled Canadians through the 'Visunet: Canada'. As it is described, it is the partnership between the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Library, a private, charitably funded organisation; and the local libraries. The study revealed that technology and library consortia are essential for the successful implementation of this service. The partnership is expressed in terms of the programmes such as virtual library; online catalogue; delivery of full-text newspapers, magazines, and publications through computer or telephone.

Mcharazo's (2000)\textsuperscript{40} research report has highlighted the issues and dilemmas facing public libraries and distance learners in Tanzania. The author used a case study approach. A total of 56 students of OUT (Open University of Tanzania) and librarians of 6 distance learning institutions were interviewed. Both participatory observation and direct observation methods were also used to ascertain the students' usage behaviours. The study revealed that 1) the main issue of public libraries in the provision of effective distance education service is the inadequacy of reading materials to the students; 2) to 50% of the participants, the reading space in the
public libraries is enough while to another 50%, the space for reading was inadequate; 3) reference and readers’ advisory desk was being staffed by library attendants and untrained library assistants and they failed to satisfy the users’ needs; and 4) students are not in favour of being charged by the public libraries for the service. The study recognised the need to embark on new approaches in public libraries to support the distant learners.

Leong and Higgins (2002) have conducted an exploratory study of public library services in Singapore for young people between thirteen and nineteen years of age who are wheelchair bound. Three main research questions explored in the study are: 1) What are the information needs of wheelchair-bound young people? 2) What are their perceptions of libraries and library services? 3) What are the problem they face in using library facilities and services? The findings indicate that: 1) Most participants enjoyed reading books but did not read newspapers, 2) The computer was used primarily as a recreational tool and the convenience of the internet appealed to them, 3) Their use of public libraries was infrequent 4) They were unaware of the full range of library facilities and services, 5) Current library promotions were inadequate in stimulating or sustaining their awareness and interest, and 6) The problems faced in using libraries were mainly related to architectural and physical access to library facilities and services.

Myhill (2002) has made a case study on the different information services offered by the Gateshead Library (UK) to the disabled and has highlighted them as: 1) Provision of national and regional talking
newspaper service; 2) Transcription service; 3) Offering Braille; 4) Provision of large print, audio tape and digital formats to organisations and individuals; 5) Products of CD-i (Compact Disc interactive) 6) Provision of cable television information services; 7) Networked Internet access, and 8) Gateshead grid for learning through online educational programme.

Ng'ang'a (2004) has presented in detail the different services offered to the visually impaired through public libraries in Kenya, their impact, challenges faced by them, and has suggested a way forward. The KNLS (Kenya National Library Service) established library and information service to the visually impaired in Kenya in 1996. The services offered in all 34 KNLS branches countrywide are lending of books; reading of stories and newspapers to the blind; document delivery to the homebound, elderly and such others; production of Braille materials; provision of talking books; inter library lending; and transcription of popular local information materials.

The objectives of the services are: 1) Integrate the visually impaired persons among the sighted population, 2) Sustain Braille literacy and support continuing education, 3) Empower the visually impaired persons with information and knowledge, and 4) Inculcate a reading culture among the visually impaired. The main challenges faced by KNLS are: 1) Society's perception of the visually impaired, who are viewed as people who require sympathy and alms rather than being empowered; 2) Inadequate information materials in Braille and equipment for providing services; and 3) Limited mobility of visually impaired persons. The way forward suggested by the author to meet the challenges mentioned above are 1)
Awareness creation through sensitisation of society to visual impairment and through the acceptance and appreciation of their role in national development, 2) Seeding more copyright agreements from publishers and authors for transcription of their titles into Braille, 3) Acquiring vans for transporting visually impaired persons to the library, and 4) Construction of a purposely-built national resource centre for visually impaired persons.

Vang (2005) has provided an insight into the public service to Hmong-American community. Hmong are the immigrants to U.S. and many of them still remain illiterate. The observations made by the author are: 1) Even though majority of Hmong students and Hmong adults do not read or write in their native tongue, some major public libraries in the United States where there is a large community of Hmong, collect Hmong language materials; 2) Often the public libraries provided services like story time for children, literacy programmes, and computer classes but they are never publicised among the Hmong community; and 3) 90% of Hmong people never go to the libraries to meet their information needs; they either rely on family or friends for necessary information or they go to the agencies, organisations, and centres in their community. The author opines that the public libraries should take a proactive role in providing services to the Hmong and he also adds that the library's story time programme would be a great catalyst for librarians to introduce the library and literacy to Hmong people.
2.7 Use and User Study

D’Elia (1980) conducted a study with the primary objective of the development and testing of a conceptual model for adult use of the public library. This study proposed a definition of library use, which recognises three distinct dimensions of use: 1) Non use and use, 2) Frequency of use, and 3) Intensity of use. The study was based on variables such as library use, characteristics and behaviour of individuals, and individuals’ relationship to the library. In order to test this model, data were collected from 202 residents of the Syracuse metropolitan area (U.S.A.) by means of a telephone interview survey. Results indicated that 1) individuals’ characteristics have association with library use, 2) users of the public library found the library more accessible than did non-users, 3) there was no difference between non-users and users in their degree of awareness of library services, and 4) frequency and intensity of use was related to awareness of special library programmes.

Spiller (1980) has studied the provision of fiction for public libraries. For this purpose a survey was conducted at four service points in British public libraries. The major findings are: 1) Readers like to read recreational novels rather than serious novels; 2) Most of the borrowers borrow novels for self use and a very few of them borrow novels for others; 3) 54% of the novels had been chosen on an author basis, 46% by browsing; 4) Most of the respondents found booklists of the library useful in choosing the novels; 5) A majority of the respondents do not reserve novels; and 6) A majority of the readers borrow from 1-2 to 16-20 novels a
month. The study was intended to provide information of practical value to librarians in the selection and promotion of fiction in public libraries.

Ramaraj Urs (1984) has surveyed the reading habits of clientele of the public libraries in the rural district of Bangalore. The distribution of population, occupations, membership pattern, extent of utilisation of library services, and reading habits of users in terms of subjects and type of books read were discussed. The survey revealed that the development of infrastructures for library and information system for Bangalore rural district indicated a steady growth. It also indicated that there was a steady increase in membership during the five years.

Khaiser and Ramesh (1991) have assessed the reading interest; factors inimical to the use of City Central Library, Mysore; and the necessary improvements suggested by the users to the existing condition of this library. The major finding of the survey is lack of books, noisy environment, inadequate seating arrangements, distance, and improper location are the key factors affecting the use. The desired improvements indicated by the respondents are: 1) More books in different subject areas, 2) Additional space with chairs and tables, 3) Modern photocopying units, 4) More reference books, and 5) Provision of carrels and computerisation.

Chandraiah (1993) has conducted a survey of the circulation libraries in Thirupathi, Andhra Pradesh and made an attempt to understand their nature, utility, the kind of users and their profitability. His major findings under the heading the "libraries" are: 1) The libraries were generally kept open from 8am to 8pm with break of two hours in the noon; 2) The average stock of circulation libraries ranged between 120 and
800 titles; 3) Books were arranged by author; 4) Collection of security deposit was compulsory; and 5) The demand for novels of romance, sex, suspense, and adventure was observed to be overwhelming. Under the heading “users” are: 1) The readers in the age group of 21-25 constituted the highest stratum, 2) The customers with family income between Rs.15,001-20,000 constituted the largest user group, 3) Users with educational background of intermediates figured as the highest stratum, 4) 42% users borrowed books once a week and 32% twice a week, 5) 34% of readers spent two hours per day and 26% an hour a day, and 6) 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%).

Kar (1996)\textsuperscript{50} has analysed 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: 1) Most of the users of the public library are from poor or middle class families and 2) Most of the users belong to unemployed or under employed category, followed by the student category.

Sathyanarayana (1996)\textsuperscript{51} conducted a survey to identify the usage pattern, reading behaviour and other characteristics of deposit holders of the District Central Library of Visakhapatnam, Andhrapradesh. The analysis of the data showed that there is an active participation of youth in using the library and persons with advanced academic education constitute the core users among the deposit-holders. It is observed that the majority of deposit holders visited the library once a week and they did not prefer to spend more time in the library.
Kumbar and Biradar (1997)\textsuperscript{52} have studied the use pattern and extent of utilisation of mass media particularly the newspaper, radio, television and public library by the people of Singanamane Grama panchayath area of Shimoga district in Karnataka. The findings related to the public libraries are: A majority of the respondents (73.57\%) felt the need of a public library, 82.69\% visited the public library for reading newspapers and magazines, 44.23\% respondents visited library daily, and 36.45\% of them spent less than 30 minutes for reading in the library. 24.29\% opined that library collection was adequate, whereas 69.29\% were of negative opinion about it and 6.42\% did not mention anything. The findings indicated that if proper initiative and care are taken, public libraries could compete with the other media.

Padmamma et al. (2001)\textsuperscript{53} has assessed children's views on public library through a survey of child users of Chickmangalore City Central library, Karnataka. The study revealed the perceptions of child users on the existing facilities, services, and resources as: almost all of the respondents feel good about collection of books, magazine and newspapers; but they said that the library does not provide the user services like new arrival services, inter-library loan, paper clipping service, reference service, over night issue, and book exhibition and computer facility. The study offers suggestions for the proper library services to the children and concludes with the statement that the user satisfaction should be the ultimate objective of the library.

Nikam and Rajashekara (2003)\textsuperscript{54} have analysed the reading habits of public library users in two public libraries of Mysore city of Karnataka.
State. The result of the study revealed that 1) More than half of the public library users (51%) are between 16-25 years age group; 2) 79% of the users are male and only 21% are female; 3) 45% of users are degree holders, users with masters degree (16%), and others form minority; 4) Nearly half of the users (47%) are students; and 5) A majority of the users (71.5%) visit the library for reading.

Salma and Yelwa (2004) have investigated the students' attitudes towards public library services and resources of the central library in Borno State of Nigeria and has provided the following information: 1) A majority of the students (64%) who patronise the library have not registered with the library; 2) 36% of the students visit the library for examination purposes, 20% visit the library to study using library books, 20% came to the library to borrow and return books and 12% used the library to read newspaper and magazines; 3) 40% of the students describe the resources and services as inadequate for their needs, 28% said they were adequate for their needs, while 12% gave a rating of highly inadequate; 4) 64% of the students responded "very good" on the conduciveness of the environment, 28% said it is "excellent", and equal responses of 4% each for "good" and "fairly good" were also registered.

Sunil Kumar (2005) has undertaken a research project to assess the information needs of rural communities and this study aimed at the development of a model for a Rural Library and Community Resource Centre. For the survey, the researcher selected a sample of 375 persons from the village 'Bohar' of Rohtak district in Haryana. The model for a well functioning Rural Library and Community Resource Centres (RLCRCs) has
the proposals of 1) well developed infrastructure for the smooth flow of information, 2) rural Book Trust should be established for encouraging the publication of books on local contents, 3) NGOs should be encouraged to take part in the integrated rural library programmes, 4) a strong government policy in this regard, 5) trained library personnel should be appointed for managing and running the activities of RLCRC, and 6) the curriculum of Library Science course should need to be revised to accommodate rural information services as a part of the study.

2.8 Computerisation of Public Libraries

Keenan et.al. (1981)\textsuperscript{57} have given a report of the details of the research project on Bibliographic Information Retrieval On-line services (BIROS). It was carried out jointly by Manchester Polytechnic and Lancashire County Library. The objectives of this project were to look at the impact of the services on the library service generally, on the staff and on the users, to gather information about the motivations of users and their reactions to the services, and finally to evaluate the overall success of the services. To complement this project the British Library assisted the experimental development of on-line information services in four other public libraries of Birmingham, Liverpool, Lancashire, and Sheffield. The project resulted in the introduction of a set of guidelines for the introduction of on-line services. This study revealed the following facts: 1) An on-line service increases the demand for books and increases inter-library loans; 2) Much time has to be spent by the staff for training, updating knowledge, for practising search skills, and for actually carrying
out searches; and 3) The type of end-users attracted to this service depended on the nature of services offered.

Venkata Ramana and Vinod Kumar (1997) have emphasised the importance of a need-based planning for public library automation in their study report and indicated the following important facts to develop and execute effective plans to implement the library information storage and retrieval process in public libraries: 1) It requires the financial support from funding agencies, talent, education, creativity, determination, management and above all vision on the part of the library professional and other support staff and 2) The professionals should get themselves trained and take the lead in operating the systems. 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 described 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 emphasised.

Barber et al. (2000) have reviewed in detail the case of new technologies to provide high value added services in the context of public libraries in Buenos Aires city and surrounding areas. The main results of the survey are: 1) The percentage of automated functions of libraries
surveyed is- Acquisition (31.50%), cataloguing (65.80%), serial control (21.90%), circulation (28.8%), Reference (34.20%), and OPAC (26%); 2) 71.2% of units surveyed do not belong to library network; 3) 47.9% of units have an Internet connection; 4) 15.1% of libraries have their own website, 27.4% of libraries use e-mail for reference service; and 5) 32.9% provide online library catalogue with in-home access, 11% provide online library catalogue with Internet access, 17.8% have other catalogues and databases on CD-ROM. The study concluded with the remarks that the main deficiencies observed in IT services in the public libraries are lack of adoption of standard for information exchange and processing, use of database administrators instead of integrated library systems, lack of information quality control, and less use of information and communication technologies for service provisions.

Eve and Brophy (2000) in their study on ICT (Information and Communication Technology) based services offered by public libraries in U.K. indicated that 1) only 20% of respondents use the ICT facilities in the library; 2) 96% rated ICT as very or quite important; 3) 43% remarked that the main reason for non-use of ICT facilities is having access elsewhere, 26% indicated that they had no Internet in using this facility, 18% said they didn't know how to, 2% indicated that no help was available to use this facility and 11% have other reasons; and 4) 29% of the respondents indicated that their main use of the facilities is for leisure, 26% replied that it was for research, 20% used this facility for study and 10% for other reasons. The study illustrated that libraries are increasingly becoming important locations for accessing ICT to support a range of activities, from
formal study to job seeking, to building and maintaining social network using the Internet.

Larkin-Lieffers (2000)\textsuperscript{62} carried out a study on the older users' attitudes, experience, and issues concerning public library computer technology in Canada. Six adults with the age restriction of 65 years or more, and in-person users of the public library participated in the study. Interviews were chosen as the research method. The main findings of their study are: 1) Three of the participants were able to use computers; 2) Three participants used computers on an average of once a week for e-mail, word processing, and financial spread sheets; 3) All participants thought computers are highly useful and were impressed with their capabilities; 4) Two of the six participants frequently used OPAC, two other participants tried the OPAC but found them difficult to use, and the remaining two had never tried the OPAC; and 5) The reasons for not using the OPAC were OPAC user interface was too different from the home computer, OPAC interface was difficult to use and results were disappointing particularly in subject searches, librarians gave instructions too quickly, confusing or absent written instructions in OPAC, and OPAC was in constant demand.

Turner and Kendall (2000)\textsuperscript{63} have analysed the use of the Internet facilities at Chester Library between August 1998 and May 1999. The main findings can be summed up as: 1) The most numerous group of Internet users was full time employed users (38\%) and the next largest group was unemployed people (22\%) student users made up of 20\% of total sample, the remaining groups constituted 20\% of the total sample including 9\% part-time workers and 5\% retired users; 2) The overall average of total
users split almost in half with 51% male and 49% female; 3) 80% of the entire sample constituted persons aged between 16 and 35 years; and 4) 39% of total users stated that web-based e-mail was their sole reason for using the Internet in Chester Library, they used it for searching information on a specific subject (36%), 27% of total users were using Internet for visiting specific websites; and 5) A majority of the users (75%) had not received any formal training in Internet use.

Dutch and Muddiman (2001) have assessed the impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on the development of public libraries in U.K., and examined national and local information policy, community networking and public library policy. The findings are summarised as: 1) The government recognised the central role of public libraries in the information age and stated that every public library should be connected to the National Grid for Learning by 2002; 2) An important recent report commissioned by U.K. Government’s Social Exclusion Unit recommended that by April 2002 deprived neighbourhoods should have at least one publicly accessible community based ICT facility and envisages a network of local ICT resource centres based in schools, libraries, community centres and other public locations; 3) Department of Trade and Industry (2000) estimated that a total of approximately 6500 public ICT access points could eventually be expanded to a network including 19,000 post offices and 4716 public libraries; 4) The important aim of the research project on Public Libraries and Social Exclusion (Muddiman et al, 2000) was to assess the potential of U.K. Public library ICT developments for tackling social exclusion; 5) The U.K. National Lottery supported New
Opportunities Fund (NOF) has provided Pd. 100 million of funding to complete the people's network through a service of local infrastructure projects in U.K. public libraries. 6) It was targeted that by the end of 2002, all of the U.K.'s 4300 public libraries will function as ICT bearing centres and provide public access to ICT, and 7) U.K. public library policy has been concerned primarily with the mechanics of developing a network which involves the provision of access to ICT through existing library service points.

Thomas (2001) has studied the state of application of IT in the public library field in India, their future plans and the problems they face in this process. The findings of the study revealed that 8% of the libraries computerised are two State central libraries, two district libraries and a voluntary organisation library. They are T.S. Central State Library, Chandigarh; H. K. M. State Library, Bhuvaneswar; District Central Library, Coimbatore; City Central Library, South zone, Bangalore; and Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Library, Bhuvaneswar. Only 28% libraries were planning to automate. The major problem the library encountered was with regard to updating of databases and correctness of entries.

2.9 Role of Public Libraries

Smith (1984) has reviewed the involvement of the public libraries in literacy education. The public libraries in U.S.A. were selected for this study. The important findings of the study revealed that 1) public libraries in urban and suburban communities are involved more in literacy education than libraries in rural communities, 2) public libraries located in
large communities and serving demographically heterogeneous areas provide more literacy education services than libraries in smaller and homogeneous communities, 3) larger libraries have more literacy education programmes than smaller libraries, 4) public libraries that have a wide range of non-print materials and equipment are more active in literacy education than libraries with limited non-print resources, 5) more libraries that involved in literacy education provide in-service training to their staff than libraries which do not provide these services and 6) the main barriers to the literacy education are the low profile of public libraries in the community, staffing patterns, and lack of staff expertise.

Khan (1991)\(^{67}\) has described the role of public libraries in India in literacy and adult education in terms of information services, educational, and cultural functions. Information services to be provided are: 1) Creating awareness of literacy and adult education among rural people; 2) Information regarding literacy/adult education agencies in respect of their location, objectives, persons to be contacted, their activities/operations and such others; and 3) Dissemination of current information on vital issues related to population education, environmental education, health, hygiene, nutrition, and such others. Educational role: 1) Providing adequate instructional material to these programmes, 2) Changing/modifying attitudes towards learning, 3) Providing positive learning environment, 4) Providing library space to conduct literacy/adult education programmes. 5) Assisting in framing of suitable curricula, and 6) Assisting in all possible ways in promoting social education. The author also stressed the importance of public libraries to be a centre of socio-cultural activities.
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.

Haniff Uddin (2000) has emphasised the importance of establishing rural libraries in each and every village of Bangladesh. They are: 1) To sensitise the people to better health, water supply and sanitation, 2) To find out government policy, 3) To provide better crops, 4) To prevent and control environmental pollution, 5) To provide text books and teaching aids, 6) To provide sport facilities, and 7) To prevent and control social problems. The study explored the inter linkages between libraries and rural development and also highlighted some rural aspects of the country.

Deshpande (2000) has studied the importance of public libraries in developing countries and has pointed out the salient characteristics of a public library and grass root services. The services which can be offered to the public are detailed in the study, which are educating the illiterates, providing information services for women, giving children’s service, conducting adult education classes, providing information on social evils, giving information service to the farmers, creating science temper, and providing information services to the disadvantaged.
Stanffer (2005) has traced the growth of public libraries in Utah, a State in West America and has described their role in the establishment of a recognized social order in the State by stressing the eradication of the social evil, "polygamy." Major events in the development of public libraries and their important role as social stabiliser are listed as follows: 1) The establishment of libraries in Utah was influenced by social and cultural factors unique to Utah, in particular, the practice of polygamy; 2) The several women's organisations striving to eradicate social ills including polygamy, established many public libraries; 3) The first public library in Utah has been founded in Nauvooom, Illinois in 1845; 4) Ten of the city's prominent Mormon and non-Mormon women founded the Ladies Public Library Aid Society in 1890; 5) In 1904, Zoe Faddis, a librarian requested funds from Carnegie, U.S. Industrialist; her strongest argument for the money was the eradication of polygamy; and 6) The first public library law in Utah came in to effect in 1898.

2.10 Collaborations with Other Institutions

Bandy (2002) made a survey in 2001 to find out the level of interaction between the school and public libraries in Australia. One page questionnaire with 5 questions were distributed to all 1496 public library branches and 115 schools in Australia. The results of this survey are given under two headings. The important public library responses are: 1) Nearly half of the public librarians (49%) responded that the level of interaction with local school librarians is "low", 2) The highest percentage of the public librarians (46%) stated that lack of time is the factor that determined the current level of interaction, 3) More than half of the school library staff
(55%) did not visit the library, and 4) The highest percentage of them (44%) reported that knowledge of school library issues and developments was "low". The important school library responses are: 1) Nearly half of the teacher librarians (46%) indicated that the current level of interaction with the local public library is "very low", 2) A majority of the teacher librarians (72%) responded that interaction with the local public library during the last five years are "stable", 3) A majority of them (67%) reported that lack of time is the factor that determines the current level of interaction, 4) 55% reported that public library staff did not visit the school, 5) Half of them stated that knowledge of public library issues and developments is "low", and 6) 55% are not regular public library users.

Rodger (2005)73 has examined collaborations among public institutions providing informal lifelong learning opportunities to children and adults in the United States, through a survey of chief executive officers and staff of the public libraries, museums, public television stations, and public radio stations. He has investigated the extent of collaborations between and among these institutions, the influence of the size of institutions on the incidence of collaborations, forces driving collaboration and the impact of collaborations on the institutions. The findings are listed as: 1) Public libraries were collaborating primarily with art museums and other kinds of museums (78.3%) and, secondarily with public broadcasters (17.7%) and other public libraries (4.1%); 2) Public libraries that were engaged in collaboration had significantly higher operating revenues, had significantly larger staff, and were located in metropolitan areas with significantly higher population ranks; 3) The most important forces driving
collaboration were as follows: to expand educational opportunities, to meet community needs, to expand-diversify an audience or user base, to enhance the institutions' stature, to enhance use of collections and programmes, to be a good civic player in the community; and 4) 78.8 % of the respondents rated the impacts of collaboration on their organizations as positive.

2.11 Evaluation of Public Library Effectiveness

D' Elia and Walsh (1985)\textsuperscript{75} made an evaluative study of public library performance. Questionnaires were distributed in each of the four branches of the Ramsey County Public Library (U.S.A.) to the patrons. A number of measurements are done for evaluating library performances and they are: 1) Measurement of library use: circulation of materials, number of services used, duration of visits, and frequency of visiting the library; 2) Measurement of evaluation of services: quality of collections, availability of collections, satisfaction with physical facilities and library staff, and convenience of hours; 3) Measurement of overall evaluations of and satisfaction with library services; and 4) Measurement of individual characteristics: Importance of use, style of use and purpose of use. The analysis of the data has revealed that 1) there was no statistically significant relationship between the number of nonfiction borrowed and the libraries used; 2) there was statistically significant relationship between the number of activities in which the patrons engaged and the use of library; 3) there were statistically significant relationships between patrons' evaluations of the quality of collections, the availability of collections, the staff, the over all evaluation of the library and the general satisfaction with
the library; and one or more of the different libraries used by the patrons; and 4) there were statistically significant relationships between the patrons' evaluations of the physical facilities and the convenience of hours and one or more of the different libraries used by the patrons.

Van House (1986)\textsuperscript{75} has conducted a study on public library effectiveness in terms of theory, measures and determinants. This study has taken two kinds of empirical approach. The first is "outcome studies" which seek to define the organisational effectiveness and to develop indicators of it. The second is "determinant studies" which attempt to identify the determination of organizational effectiveness. The data were collected from Baltimore Public Library (U.S.A). The investigation was on four output measures namely title and subject/author fill rates and reference and circulation per capita. Fill rate is the materials availability in the library. A model of relationships among user characteristics, library resources and effectiveness was also developed. The important findings of the study are: 1) The success of the transaction depends on both the library and the user; 2) The users' success in the library depends on his ability to use information generally and the library specifically, which depends in part on user characteristics such as education; 3) The success of the transaction is measured by the output measures; and 4) The search success may affect the users' perceptions of the library.

Ikoja-Odongo (2004)\textsuperscript{76} has surveyed the attitudes of politicians, civil servants, and leaders of Uganda library associations towards public library services in Uganda. The following major problems were realised in the survey: 1) Uganda lacks a policy for public libraries, their development and
maintenance, 2) Ugandan public libraries do not cover the whole country, 3) The libraries are starved of grants from central government, 4) Information materials are inadequate, mostly out of date and sometimes irrelevant, 5) Literacy levels and illiteracy are the major problems affecting the use of public libraries, and 6) Reading habits of the people are very low.

2.12 Public Libraries Acts

Raju (1990) has attempted an evaluative study of the working of Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960 and its contribution towards the development of public services in the State. The evaluation of this Act and public library services in Andhra Pradesh revealed that the State Public Library System failed to provide an effective public library service. The library cess is not effectively collected and remitted by the local administrator and thus planning and phasing of services are in the face of uncertainty. Financial constraints remain the major bottleneck in universalising free public library service in the State. The government gives no due importance to the improvement of library system in the State. The study led to the conclusion that only an imaginative leadership in the State can save the situation from ending in a catastrophe.

Shiva and Rochna (2003) have pointed out the need of legislation for efficient functioning of public libraries and the following major suggestions were made in this regard. 1) Legislation should have provision for better financial support. 2) Legislation can be recommended to authorise local board/authority to levy a special tax for the library service. 3) It should carry norms and procedures to provide grant-in-aid to public libraries. 4) Legislation would allow district library to use tax money as
collateral for the improvement of public libraries. 5) Legislation can be recommended to appoint full time district library officers to manage the library at district level. 6) Legislation must include ideas to give clear account of different levels of authorities and their responsibilities. In conclusion, they observe that the Library Acts of the different States must be brought up to a common platform for comparison, to include better/specific laws in rest.

Nasirudheen (2004) has evaluated Kerala Public Libraries Act, 1989, its objectives, constitution of the library authorities, library finance, in the light of UNESCO principles for public library legislation, Model Public Libraries Bill (1963) of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, the Model Public Libraries Act (1972) of Ranganathan and the ten State public libraries Acts in India. The author has observed that 1) the preamble of the Kerala Public Libraries Act does not include the statement of the objectives; 2) the Act aims at bringing about uniform and comprehensive public library law applicable to all the existing library authorities and organisations in the State; 3) the Act provides very typical provisions with respect to the constitution of library authorities at State, district, and taluk levels; library services; affiliation of libraries etc; 4) the Act provides for a democratically elected State Library Council with the representatives of bonafied users of the grant - in- aid libraries in the State; 5) the Act provides a token representation to library professionals in the State Library Council; and 6) the Act provides for the library cess for mobilising the State library fund maintained by the State Library Council.
Conclusion

The studies reviewed show that mainly they are focused on library movement in different countries, library services, and public library use and user study. Another fact to be noted that even though many studies on public library services to the disabled people have been conducted abroad, no such studies have been carried out in India. In Kerala, major studies have been conducted only in public library movement, Act, and Kerala Granthasala Sanghom. It can be seen that no comprehensive study has been conducted to reveal the present situation of the public libraries in Kerala.

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