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Abstract

As we all know that in any University or Institution Library is the heart of the academic setup. This heart i.e. libraries supply or disseminate the knowledge. It is the elixir of academic life. University presents a major role in the growth of human resources. It is the centre of learning for higher education that imparts instruction at graduate and post graduate levels. Universities also provide facilities and infrastructure for research and specialization. The article gives a state of the art overview of library and information science education in Rajasthan University located at Jaipur. The article provides annual data of library and information science. This article may be useful for the doctoral students doing research in University Library Systems and service.

Keywords: Library, University, Better Future

Introduction

The objectives of higher education at University level is to reshape the students from a form of 'raw material' into a what may be called 'finished product' of a commonly and accepted standard for use of the society at a large.

University of Rajasthan

University of Rajasthan is a vibrant community of scholars who stand in the service of Rajasthan and that of the country as a whole. It is the oldest institution of higher learning in Rajasthan which established on 8th January, 1947, as the University of Rajputana. The main objective was to disseminate knowledge and cater to the needs of the students of Rajasthan. It had jurisdiction over the entire state. In the year 1956, the Rajputana University was renamed as the University of Rajasthan, keeping intact its enveloping jurisdiction. It is the major hub for Higher Education in

Rajasthan paving the way for the other universities. It attracts students from all over Rajasthan and other parts of India and abroad. University of Rajasthan is a multi-faculty University and is recognized under 2f and 12B of U.G.C since its inception. It has 37 Post Graduate Departments, 15 recognized Research Centers, 6 constituent colleges and 500 affiliated colleges spanning 6 districts. The location of the University is Urban and its Central Campus is spread over 285.50 acres and the satellite campus, comprising the constituent colleges, is spread over 149.53 acres. It has been accredited A + by NAAC India.

Central Library of University: A Profile

The Rajasthan University Library was established in the year 1949. The library got its birth in a fort like building Kesargarh in the corner of the office of the first Vice-Chancellor, Dr G.S. Mahajan, which was later shifted to the present building in October 1958. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the



then Prime Minister of India inaugurated the building on 2nd October, 1959. Over the years to achieve the aims and objectives of the higher education, Rajasthan University Library is playing a vital role. The first librarian of this University was Late Prof. M.V. Mathur who joined in 1953.

The Goals and Objectives

The collection of the library is intended to provide services to individuals of all ages and has abilities with resources that offer a choice of format, treatment and levels of involvedness so that most individual libraries needs can be met. Providing access to electronic information for adults and young people is an important component of the library's collection development process. The collection is intended to offer supplement materials for persons pursuing educational programs and also serve as a starting point for those who seek more advanced works housed in other institutions. The University library exists to support the function of the University in terms of teaching and research. Particularly through its provision of adequate and relevant information resources that are supportive for faculty program needs. It is clear that the provision of up-to-date hard cover material and publications is limiting to which access to and downloading of information from computerized systems remains crucial factor. This makes the University library role crucial in ensuring that the information materials are readily accessible with ease of sharing. The library computerization work is a challenge to meet criteria of enabling access and sharing of information resources, enhancing communication processes within and without and achieve distributed CD-ROM databases for central link-up across campuses, colleges and Universities.

Infrastructure

The library building has been constructed facing the administrative building in University Campus. It is a two storied building. The current building is architecturally simple and dignified and architecture blends with the style of other buildings in the university campus. The interior of the building has been designed on modern lines but domes and other ornamental features have been provided to give a touch of the Jaipur architect use. Thus, the building represents a happy blend of the traditional and the new facade being in the traditional style, while the interior is functional. The structure is mostly of stone mingled with reinforced cement concrete work where necessary. The architectural features on the outer face have been built both with red color stone and red cement imitation.

The total area of building is 10,000 sq.mt.

- It has three reading hall:-
 - Two on ground floor
 - One on first floor, these three halls covers 3000 sq.mt.
- The carpet area of stack rooms is 4000 sq.mt.

Publication

Libraries & the cultural record is published by University of Texas Press and affiliated with the School of Information and the Kilgarlin Center for Preservation of the Cultural Record at the University of Texas at Austin. It is a valuable resource for those in the working in library science and librarianship, archival and records enterprise, preservation/conservation of information, museum studies, and

information science, as well as those interested in a fresh perspective on cultural, social, and intellectual history. Established in 1966 as the Journal of Library History, it was edited and published at Florida State University until 1976 when its editorship moved to the University of Texas at Austin. In 1988, the title was changed to Libraries & Culture; it assumed its present title in 2006.

Collection

The Central library building is located near the main gate of the University. It has a seating capacity of about 400 students at a time. It has more than 400,000 books and bound periodicals etc. The Library subscribes to some current journals, popular magazines relating to various Subjects, in addition to E-Journals available for online access under UGC-INFONET E-Journals consortia. In order to serve the users, the library collection has been well organized. The books have been grouped in different sequences, for example general Books, text books, reference books, theses and reports-set collection etc. The periodicals back run have also been segregated into two groups' pre-1971 and the rest. The books collection has also been grouped into pre-1951 prints and the rest.

Other Collections

ABU Collections

The library has a rich collection of old documents. The collection of the British resident at Mount Abu is popularly known as Abu collection. This includes government reports, gazetteers and other publications dating back to early 19th century. These are of historical research value for Historians, Economists and Sociologists etc.

Micro Collection

The library has the collection of Micro-films and Micro-fiches. This collection of the library includes a variety of reports, for example, Census of India publications of the earlier period beginning from 1872 A large numbers of gazetteers of India down to district level published during the British period. The memoirs and annual reports of Archaeological Survey of India, legislative proceedings/ debates for the period 1854 to 1957 for the Central Legislative Body, Proceedings of many other legislative bodies in the country, a large number of periodicals, many news papers e.g. Tribune from 1881 to 1995, newspapers from a number of South Asian Countries etc. Library also has the Micro-film readers to facilitate the use of these documents.

Special Collection

The collection of some science books and journals has been kept at the place of their use i.e. in the concerned departments, e.g. the collection of books and journals of Zoology and Botany have been kept in the concerned departments. Similarly, the collection of journals are kept in the Department of physics and Chemistry concerning to their subjects.

General Works

This section consists primarily of books on nonverbal communication (sign language, symbols), controversial knowledge (UFOs, legendary monsters), bibliographies, library science and publishing. It also includes the popular subject of computer science, which is covered below. Books on controversial knowledge are the highest interest items.



Selection is made from patron requests, book reviews in professional journals and newspapers, and publishers' catalogs like Llewellyn. The limited number of library science materials purchased tends to be titles that will be used frequently or consulted periodically by staff and public. Some

workroom titles are purchased. Both current and retrospective coverage is provided where needed. Special collections such as local history and genealogy (located for the most part in the Janesville Room) are described elsewhere.

The following Figure 1 shows the collection development of the library

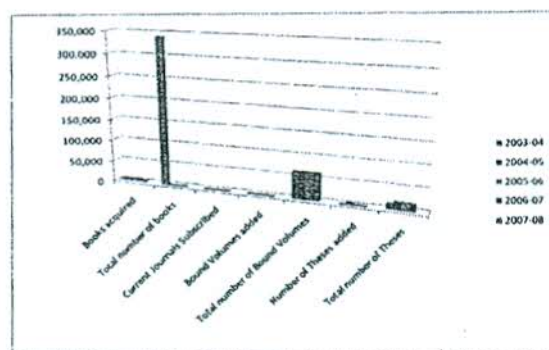


Figure 1

Issue and Consultation of the Books and other publications

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Books issued for home use	17008	17300	17174	18140
Books Consulted in Library	370000	440000	430000	445000

Figure 2 shows the issue and Consultation of the library from 2003 to 2008.

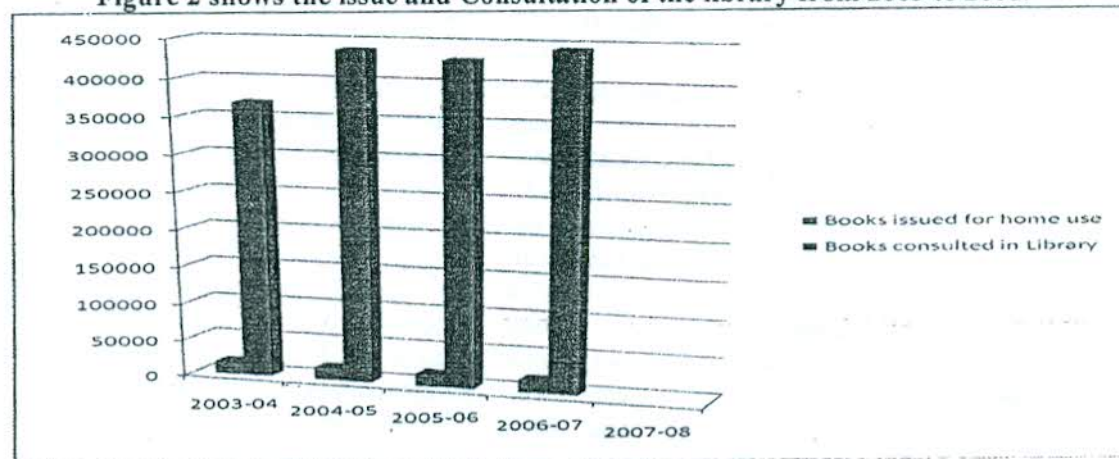


Figure 2

Other Departmental Libraries and Collection

Besides, the collection in Central Library, the collection of the reading

material is also available in departmental libraries. The departmental libraries in the university exist in the department, namely; Academic Staff College, Faculty of Fine Arts, Indira Gandhi Centre for Human

Ecology Environment and Population Studies, History, Law, Library and Information Science, Philosophy, Poddar Institute of Management. Besides, the libraries in the following Constituent College also exist and these have good collection of reading material:

1. University Commerce College
2. University Law College
3. University evening Law College
4. University Maharaja's College
5. University Maharani's College
6. University Rajasthan College

Selection Criteria

The Library purchases monographs and textbooks that support the defined Undergraduate, postgraduate and research activities of the University. Collection development is primarily driven by the library audit process, which mandates the involvement of academic staff in the development of collections that directly support their teaching:

- Course textbooks are acquired once they have been formally ordered as textbooks with the University's bookshop
- Recommended readings are acquired on the basis of direct recommendation from the relevant academic staff
- Supplementary readings and general titles that support the University's teaching and research interests are acquired either on the basis of direct recommendation from the relevant academic staff or on the recommendation of the liaison or campus librarians
- Reference materials are acquired upon the recommendation of the liaison or campus librarians.

In order to serve the users, the library collection has been well organized. The books have been grouped in different sequences, for example general books, text books, reference books, thesis and reports set collection etc. The periodicals back run have been also segregated into two groups pre-1971 and the rest. The books collection has also been grouped into Pre-1951 prints and the rest. This has been done to make actively used collection more accessible.

Various library services in addition to the user consultation and lending facilities are as follows:

1. Inter-library loan service
2. Photo copy service
3. Reference Service
4. Internet and E-Mail facility
5. CDROM database search service (off line)
6. E- journals online Accessibility
7. Current awareness services
8. Reprographic services

Information Technology

University has always been positive in use of the computers and new technologies in its various activities. Dating back to 1990, library initiated and acquired two 386 PC/AT computers, two dot matrix printers and relevant softwares. The real boost in this area came when the non-recurring grant of Rs. 50, 00,000 was received from UGC for the modernization of the library services during the period 1996-97. With the financial support infrastructure was prepared within the library. Local Area Network in the library was created with the provision of 16 points connectivity with the help of CAT (UTP) cabling. Two Pentium servers were also purchased. One was made as UNIX server and another as Novell server. One Pentium CD-Net server was



linked with the LAN, which was available at node sites through LAN in the library itself. Since, then the library has been endeavoring to the computerization of its house keeping activities/ operations and its services.

Currently, Barcode scanner with software, modem, fax, CVT, UPS, HP ScanJet 4c HP desk 870 and printers were also purchased and installed. To keep pace with the advancement of information technology and emergence of information services on modern lines, 10 computer nodes (pentium4) with supporting hard are like DVD Combo writer, laser printers were also installed with the financial assistance form State Plan grant. Since, 1998 computerized cataloguing is being done in the library. All the housekeeping work is in process at present. The State Plan Grant is allocating recurring grant of Rs. 50,000.00 annually to the University for the Data Entry Work. The IT has enabled the library by :-

- Easier access and sharing of information resources
- Improved efficiency and increased productivity
- Enhancement of communication processes
- Access of CD-ROM databases.
- Creation and management of in house database
- Operations and maintenance of information systems and information resources.
- Better public relations
- Improve information resource storage and retrieval through multi-media capabilities
- Enhance document delivery
- Boost electronic based library information searching and delivery

- Enhance institutional links for resource sharing by accessing national and International linkages.

CD-Rom Databases

1. Geography (Silver Platter)
2. Humanities Source (Ebsco)
3. MLA International Bibliography (Silver Platter)
4. Dissertation Abstract International (UMI ProQuest)
5. Social Science Source (Ebsco)
6. Sports Disc (Ovid)
7. Wilson Humanities Abstract (Ovid)
8. Wilson Library Literature (Ovid)

Working Days and Hours

1. All days of the year expect the following:
 - a. 26 January
 - b. Dhulandi
 - c. 15 August
 - d. Dashehara
 - e. Govardhan Pooja (Next day of Deepawali)

The following are normally the working hours of the library:

Details	Working Hours
(a) From the beginning of the session till 30 Nov. and From 1 March to end of the Session	09AM To 09PM
(b) 1 December to 28/29February	09 AM To 07 PM
(c) During Summer Vacation	09 AM To 09PM
(d) Sundays and University Holidays	10 AM To 4.30PM

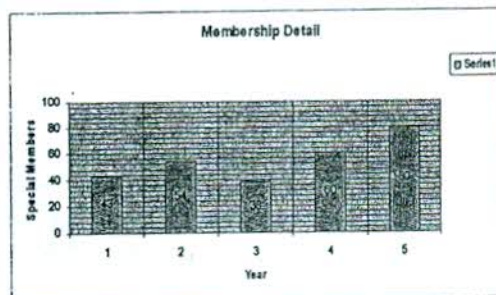
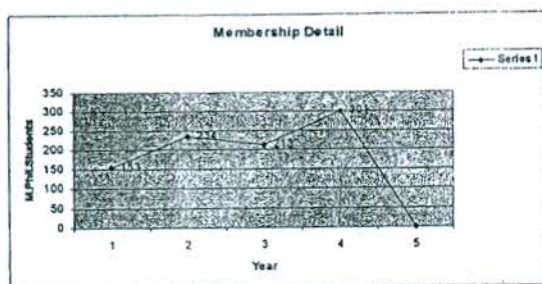
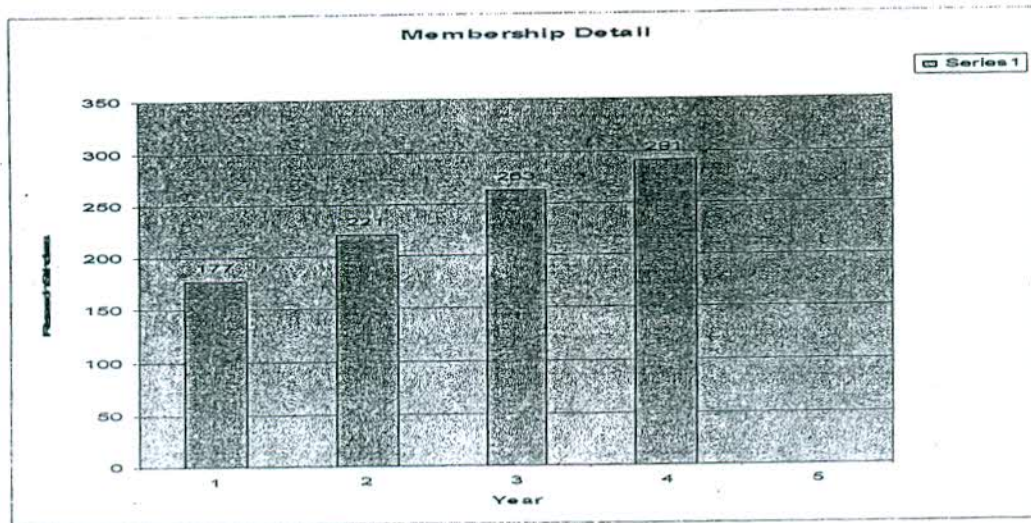
Sometimes the library hours are extended according to the requirements of the users. The loan counter functions half an hour after the opening time and closes half an hour before the closing time of the library.

Membership

Besides teachers, permanent non-teaching staff (Administrative and Ministerial) and P.G. students of the University, following persons can also become the member of the library:

1. Member of Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council, Faculties and Library Committee of the University duly introduced by the Registrar.
2. Registered Research Scholars, Teacher Fellows and M.Phil. Students enrolled in any of the University teaching department. Their applications should be made through the Head of the Department. They have to deposit their library fee in their departments. However, teacher fellows working under faculty improvement programmed are exempted from annual membership fee.
3. Registered research scholars and M.Phil. Students of the University enrolled in any of the affiliated colleges can become the members by furnishing a certificate from the Principal concerned for safe return of the books issued to them. In absence of the certificate The amount of Rs.150/- (Refundable) is being charged as security deposit. The membership fee Rs. 50/- is collected by the University Central Library:

4. Those research scholars who are not formally registered with the University are provided facility for consultation of reading material on a payment of Rs.50/- per week for a period extending one day by the recommendation of the concerned head of the department, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
5. For scholars and teachers of other institution, Rs.50/- is being charged as consultation charges for a period extending one day but upto one week. For another week an additional amount of Rs.50/- is being charged and so on.
6. Retired teachers of university residing in Jaipur can also avail the services of the library on the recommendation of the head of the university teaching department/Dean university studies by paying a security deposit of Rs. 600/- However, the retired teachers of University of Rajasthan are exempted from annual membership fee of Rs.50/-.
7. All people wishing to enroll themselves as member of University Library are suppose to apply in a prescribed form which cab be obtained from the Library.
8. Membership of persons enrolled, generally is valid for one academic session only i.e. from 1st July to 30th June.
9. Members should clear their account of books at the end of every academic session.
10. Security deposit can be withdrawn at the end of a term and not later then two years after the expiry of membership.
11. Other matters are at the discretion of the Librarian.



Library Advisory Committee

The Library Committee is constituted by the University Academic Council, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor; it includes all the Deans of the faculty and six faculty members of the Academic Council. The Director of Library is its Secretary. This Committee is empowered to make recommendations about purchase, funds, development and other library Services.

Future Plan of the University Library

Given the history of computer technology, there is every possibility for the predicting developments in the ICT industry. Therefore, there is a need to consider ICT

rapid development in the light of the following:

- The likely future trends of using wireless connectivity and networks between terminals.
- The use of World Wide Web via internet for sharing and communicating information for teaching and research.
- The use of voice recognition systems and hand writing recognition systems are apparent for the present era.
- Reduction in size and weight of computers is certainly influencing the working pattern of people who are the library end-users, for instance working from home and

away from the organizations.

Plan Proposal

In the present five year plan, three major facets of development plan of the library are:

1. Strengthening of computerization/ Automation/Digitization
2. Renovation and Interior designing
3. Books and Periodicals

Suggestions

There is need of greater use of information resources and information technology to support the vision, mission and objectives of the technologically oriented university. There is a tremendous demand in perfecting the library system which has to take into account information accessibility and flow. Thus application of state of the art ICT has to be enhanced according to the quality of services offered. Although, the University library is improving and strengthening its services using modern technology in the interest of the users, but the steps taken by the University Library over the time is moving slowly. The future plan of the library suggested above must be implemented as soon as possible. More efforts and work is required like, retrospective converting of the catalogue data being a massive operation should be carried out as a crash programme in a time bound manner. Special grants for these works should be sanctioned on priority basis. A complete database of library resources comprising books, bound journals, reports, theses etc. should be created on urgent basis and must establish computer-based system to acquire the information from and within the campus. Bar-coding of the library should also be carried out simultaneously as this is the need of the hour. Training programmes for staff and

users should be conducted from time to time. Thereby, more information services like digital information services, document delivery services etc. may be created. Marketing of library services is also required to be strengthened.

Conclusion

The future of the library will require the librarians to re-orient themselves. The rapid changes in the information technology have opened up an entirely new environment for providing improved information services, particularly the internet and the accessibility of e-journals through UGC INFONET E-journals consortium in Rajasthan University Library. The membership of the library is also increasing day by day. This is due to the services that are being provided by the library. Information Literacy programmed to the new users and the research scholars etc. must be conducted for better usage of the library. Lenin says that "theory without practice is sterile". Libraries are now increasingly playing the role of facilitator in the IT environment. It will also require to redefine and to incorporate new technologies, tools and resources to cope up with the University objectives.

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