

ORGANISATION & WORKING OF THE PRATAP PUBLIC LIBRARY, KARNAL, HARYANA: A CASE STUDY

Subir Kumar Narula

Chief Librarian, Prem Institute of Medical Sciences, Panipat, Haryana
E-mail: bobby72narula@gmail.com

Abstract

This study was committed to determine the Organisation & Working of the Pratap Public Library, Karnal (Haryana). The purpose behind the study was to determine the objective and goal of the library. This case study put forward its historical background; policies; constitution & Specially professional library services to the society.

Keywords: Library Resources; Library Services; Public Library Act, Haryana; Pratap Public Library; Case study

Introduction:

The Public Libraries are called People libraries, as these are established for the benefit of the public. These are social Institution offering services based upon the books and information for various Public groups on Social, Political, Economic, Cultural and other matters. Among all other types of libraries evolved by society in modern times, public libraries are the most popular libraries, because of the functions they perform. They play a very significant role in the welfare of the society.

Objectives of the study:

1. To know about the historical perspective of the Pratap Public Library;
2. To know about the collection/documents; library staff; Services; Processes /Procedures followed by the library to provide these services.
3. To know about physical facilities in the library;
4. To know about the users, their needs & expectations
5. To know about the suggestions of the Librarian and the users regarding the Improvement of the library;
6. To know about future plans of the library.

The Pratap Public Library - (Historical Background):

The Pratap Public Library (PPL) is the oldest & biggest Library in the Karnal District. The Sponsoring or parent body of the library is "Rai Sahib Choudhary Pratap Singh Charitable Trust Society", which came into existence on 03rd June 1964. In the very

beginning , two libraries were established, one in Jundla and other in Model Town, Karnal. The libraries were started on very small scale in the beginning. But in 1968, the library at Jundla was wound up, and the library at Model Town was shifted to Jarnailly Colony, Karnal.

The Library got its name “Pratap Public Library” from the name of the founder-Rai sahib Choudhary Pratap Singh Bhatia”. The Pratap Public Library was established and flourished with sincere efforts of only one man i.e. Dr. R.S. Bhatia s/o Sh. Rai Sahib Choudhry Pratap Singh Bhatia. Presently, PPL is situated in Jarnailly Colony (Near Dyal Singh College, Karnal), Which is considered posh area of the city. It is centrally located within the heart of the city.

Library Resources:

At present, the PPL has total 60,000 accessioned books (including General Books; Text books, Reference books, & Gifted books).

Being a Public Library, there is no specific thrust/subject area of the library. It covers all subject fields i.e. Literature; Science; GK; History; Geography; Arts; Religion; Social Sc.; Language etc.

Reference section covers all common reference tools like- Encyclopaedia; Dictionaries; Atlases; Year Books; Reports; CD-ROM's; VHS's etc.

The Library is getting total forty common national as well as International periodicals (English & Hindi) regularly. The subject coverage of the periodicals is also wide i.e. Politics; Current affairs; GK; Sports; Sc; & Religion etc. The Library has been subscribing total 15 national newspapers in three leading languages of the region i.e. English; Hindi & Urdu.

The library's digital section is presently at developing stage, and acquiring sufficient number of audio-visual material.

Library Services:

The Library services provided by the PPL mainly are- Reference service; Reservation of Books; and Reading section.

The Reference service is provided on demand as well as in anticipation. The searching of library documents and Information Retrieval is done through library software, by the library staff.

At present, PPL has more than 600 members, comprising students, professionals, housewives and others.

The library charges nominal membership fee and book security from the members.

One member can borrow maximum two books at a time for fourteen days. The circulation service is most common and time consuming service provided by the library staff.

The library was automated in year 2000, with the complete library software. All the circulation is done by the software.

Public Library:

UNESCO defines Public Library as- “Those which serve the population of a community or region free of charge or for a nominal fee. They may serve the general public or special categories of the public such as children, members of armed forces, hospital patients, farmers, prisoners; workers and employees.”

Dr.SR Ranganathan, father of Library Science in India defines-“Public library is one which is open to any member of the public and is usually free of any charge paid as so much service. It is usually supported by local rate and grants from govt.”

Objectives of the Public Library:

1. To infuse awareness among people about the sources of Information, And encourage them to make use of Information Which are available in the Library.
2. To take care of Economical; Educational; Social; Cultural; & Informational needs of the local people.
3. To convert uneducated illiterate and neo-literate into potential users.
4. To provide Information on all aspects such as Agriculture; Finance; Public Hygiene; Family Planning; Legal Matters etc.

Functions of Public Library:

1. Access to tools of Information & Education
2. As an instrument of Informal self-education
3. Promotion of Cultural & Social Activities
4. Preservation of Local Cultural Material
5. Development of understanding
6. Strengthening of Democratic spirit

Services of Public Library:

1. Issue of documents
2. Inter Library Loan
3. Provision of general & specific Information
4. Assistance in searching or location of document or use of library catalogue or understanding of reference books
5. Readers' Advisory Service
6. Compilation of Bibliographies
7. Referral Service
8. Library Orientation & Bibliographic Instruction

9. Extension Service

UNESCO Public Library Manifesto:

In 1949 UNESCO issued a manifesto on purpose of Public Library. To mark the International Book Year, the UNESCO asked the Public Library section of the International Federation of Library Association to prepare a revised manifesto taking into account the changes and development that have taken place over nearly twenty five years.

This manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the Public Libraries as a living force for Education, Culture & Information and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and understanding between people & between nations.

Public Library Act, Haryana:

The Haryana Public Library Act was passed in 1989, which provides for a comprehensive rural and urban library service and a network of libraries. As per the Haryana Public Library Act, 1989 the state library authority is the main authority which consists, among others of the minister-in-charge of the libraries, who is the secretary. The State Library Directorate supervises the development of public libraries in the whole state. The District Library Committee looks after the district library

Research Methodology:

This study is carried under the Non-experimental method of research. The Non-experimental research is one in which the researcher simply measures the present level of the independent variable. It possesses only one component, viz. Measurement.

Data Collection:

Under this study, data collection was done with the Case Study method under the Field Method of Non-Experimental method of research.

The Case study is a method of intensively exploring and analyzing the life of a single social unit- be that unit a person, a family, institution, cultural group or even an entire community.

The aim of this method is to locate the factor that account for the behaviour patterns of the given unit as an integrated totality. The Case study method is a form of qualitative analysis wherein careful and complete observation of an individual or a situation or an institution is done, and efforts are made to study each and every aspect of the concerning unit in minute details and then from the case, data generalizations and inferences are drawn.

Table No.1 Total collection (Pratap Public Library)

Sr. No.	Type of document	Session 2003-04 (Quantity in No.)	Session 2004-05 (Quantity in No.)	Session 2005-06 (Quantity in No.)
1	Books	56165	56700	57277
2	Reference Books	900	970	1020
3	Magazines (Current volumes)	37	37	37
4	Magazines (back volumes)	120	135	150
5	Newspapers	13	13	13
6	Non-book material	7	15	17
7	Gifted Books	64	100	51
	Total	57306	57970	58565

Graph No. 1 Total collection (Pratap Public Library)

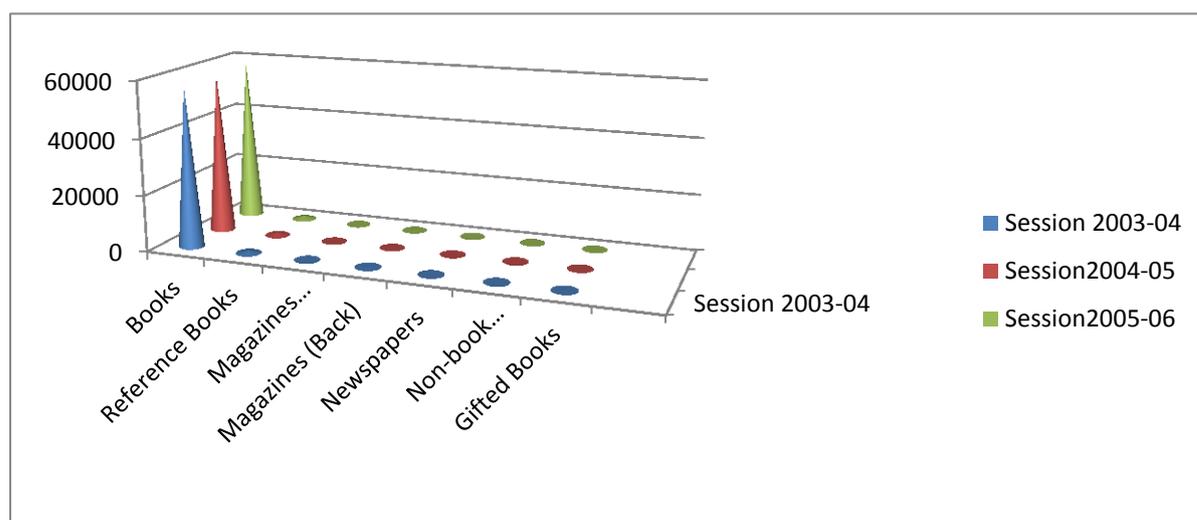
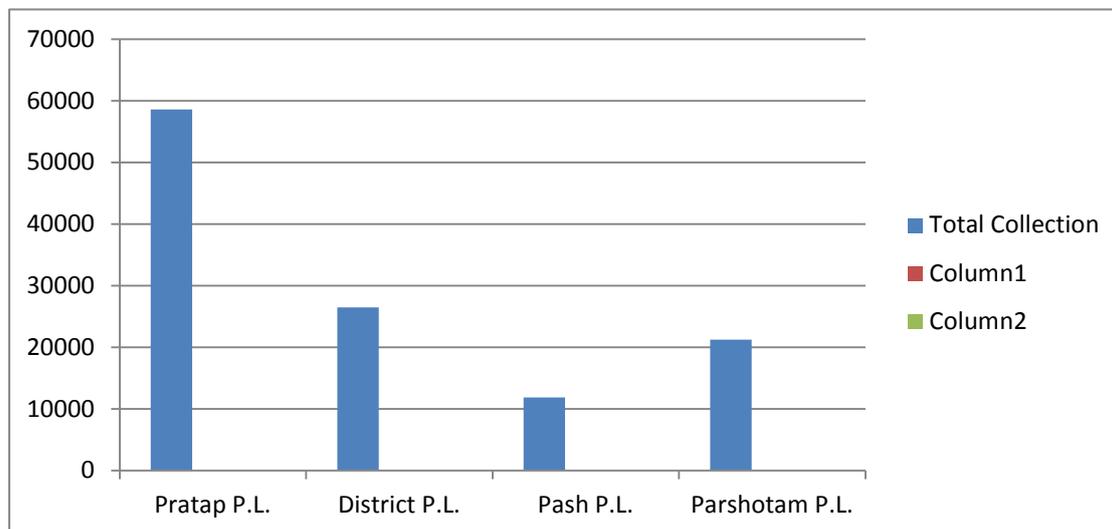


Table No.2 Comparative study (Pratap Public Library with other public libraries in Karnal city)

Sr. No.	Name of the library	Total Collection (No.)
1	Pratap Public Library (Pratap P.L.)	58565
2	District Public Library (District P. L.)	26463
3	Pash Public Library (Pash P.L.)	11870
4	Parshotam Public Library (Parshotam P.L.)	21240

Graph No. 2 Comparative study (Pratap Public Library with other public libraries in Karnal city)



Advantages of Case Study Method:

1. This method enables us to understand fully the behaviour pattern of the concerned unit.
2. A researcher can obtain a real and enlightened record of personal experiences which would reveal man's inner striving, tension and motivations.
3. It enables the researcher to trace out the natural history of the social unit and its relationship with social factors and forces involved in its surrounding environment.
4. It helps in formulating relevant hypothesis along with the data which may be helpful in testing them.

Limitations of Case Study: Besides huge number of advantages case study has following limitations-

1. A generalization drawn from a single cases of a few casually selected ones cannot be applied to all cases in a population.
2. The difficulty also lies in selecting subjects or units for a study that are representative of typical.
3. Time consuming and expensive;
4. At times several studies on a single phenomenon are required before deriving broad principles for universal application;
5. There are high chances of making error in the selection of cases observation, noting and interview. Since the concentration is on a single subject, one is less likely to become aware of the mistake and the mistake may become compounded in the absence of countervailing checks.
6. Goods and Hatt have identified following difficulties and problems-

- a. False sense of confidence; b. temptation to ignore basic principles of research design.

Being a case study, this has adopted following methods of data collection-

- (i) Questionnaire (ii) Interview (iii) Observation.

Questionnaire:

One of the most popular and widely used technique of data collection used in the field surveys is the questionnaire or schedule. A questionnaire is a form containing a series of questions and providing space for their replies to be filled in by the respondent himself. The schedule is the name usually given to a set of questions which are asked and filled in by an interviewer in a face-to-face situation with another person. A schedule is, therefore just the same as a questionnaire so far as the set of questions is concerned.

Interview:

The Interview is probably man's oldest and most often used device for obtaining information. It is a meeting in which the interviewer puts questions to the interviewee and records his responses. The meeting is always face-to-face where both the parties communicate with each other not only through words (verbal interaction) but also through gestures, mannerisms, facial expressions etc. (visual interaction).

Observation:

The Observation is a very important technique of data collection is used in both experimental and non-experimental, social and anthropological research. In the strict sense it implies the use of the eyes rather than of the ears and the voice in scrutinizing collective behaviour, under this method the investigator obtains the data by watching and noting the phenomena as they occur with regard to their cause and effect or mutual relations.

The face-to face interview of the Head Librarian of Pratap Public Library was the main and basic source of information in this case study. A well-structured Questionnaire was designed with both open-end questions as well as closed-end questions. The study is based upon 90% information provided by filled questionnaire and 10% information by the observation method of the Pratap Public Library.

Findings:

1. The annual Growth rate is +5.09% in annual budget of the library, and is on third level among the other public libraries in Karnal city (i.e. Pratap, District, Pash & Parshotam Public Library);
2. The Library membership is fluctuating successively in last three years; current session has increased membership by + 1.69%;
3. The library Collection growth rate is + 1.02% in the current session;
4. The Pratap Public Library has the largest number of collection among other four public libraries;

5. The Pratap Public library is on the third level in the order of total number of membership in the library (among the four libraries);
6. The Pratap Public Library and District Public Library both have equal & maximum number of staff members among the four public libraries.

Recommendations:

1. The library should also take advantage of grants or financial aids from external sources to enrich library resources;
2. The digital section of PPL required comparatively more up-gradation in the era of ICT;
3. The library should introduce special library services, which are absent today.

References:

- Bhatia, R. S. 2006. Delving into my past (An autobiography). Karnal. 43-50
- Thomas, Y.K. 1997. Public Libraries in India :Development & Finances. New Delhi. 4-136
- Viswanathan, C.G. 1979. Public Library Organisation. New Delhi: Today & Tomorrow's Printers. 19-22
- Krishan Kumar. 1989. Library manual. New Delhi. 74-76
- Gorman, G.E. & Clayton, P. 1997. Qualitative Research for the Information Professional, a practical handbook. London :Library Association Publication. 51-54
- Goode, W.J. & Hatt, P.K. 1952. Methods in Social Research. New York: McGraw hill.
- Harrod, L.M. 1990. Harrod's Librarian's Glossary.... and Reference Books. London : Ray Prytherch.
- Ivins, Tammy. 2013. "A Case Study of Periodical use by Library & Information Science students". J. Of Education for Library & Information Sc.54 (2): 124-134
- Sumeer, Gul, Tariq, A.S., Samir, N.H., Rabiya, M., Ikrah, K. 2016."Effects of gender in Library & Information Science Research: A Case Study of the Electronic Library". The Electronic Library 34 (3): 488-503
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/case_study
- <http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/design/teach/instructionalstrategies/casestudie>