

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DIGITAL ERA

Rajinder Kaur

Librarian

Arya Kanya Mahavidyalya,
Shahabad Markanda (Kurukshetra)
Email: rajinder18gill@gmail.com

Dr. Rupesh Gaur

Librarian

Indira Gandhi National College, Ladwa (Kurukshetra),
Email: gaurrupesh@gmail.com

Abstract

Academic libraries are considered to be nerve centre of teaching, learning and research activities which primarily objective is to satisfy the information needs of its target users and this can be possible only through adequate collection. In digital environment, collection development policy is undergoing a metaphoric transformation due to diversity of digital resources which are easily available through internet. The present paper attempt to emphasize on collection development policy, internet based collection and challenge in collection building in digital era. This present paper also throws light on trends as well as needs of collection development in digital environment.

Keywords: Collection development, Collection development policy, Process, Digital collection and Digital resources.

Introduction

Libraries are strive to develop collection, resources and services to meet the cultural, informational, educational and recreational demands of its target users, because libraries primarily objective is to satisfy the multiple needs of its target users. On other side with the advancement of information and communication technology libraries have redefined its resources, operations, and services due to changing demands of users. These days the users prefer to browse through the internet for their information needs rather than visiting the library. The academic library cannot compete with the modern information technology in its traditional collection of print material. To attract the students and to provide better services to its users, the academic library should develop digital resources along with print materials. Though the selection, acquisition and the dissemination of e-resources are similar to print materials, but actually they are differ from print material. The selection of quality and quantity of collection is an important and challenging activity

of a library. It includes process of selecting, ordering and making payment of information material. A library encompasses a numbers of activities related to development of library collection like determination and coordination of selection policy, identification of users need, user studies, selection of information material, planning of resource sharing, collection maintenance and weeding.

In digital environment collection development is undergoing a metaphoric change due to diverse e-resources which are easily available through internet. With the advancement of information and communication technology, information explosions, availability of large number of documents in electronic forms has replaced the traditional concept of library into digital or virtual library. In this context the libraries have no other option rather than building collection of e-resources. On other side the publishers did not remain behind; they took advantage of these applications to a considerable extent and tapped a treasure house of electronic and web resources. In modern digital era, librarians are also acquiring more and more e-resources to provide the right information to right user at right time. All this has created a change in the collection development in the electronic environment.

Meaning and Concept

- Collection development is a systematic and essential process of building library collection to fulfil the teaching, learning and research needs of its target users. It includes acquisition, selection, evaluation and preservation of resources according to users' requirement.
- Collection development is the selection of library materials keeping in view users' current needs and future requirements. It involves developing the use of the collection, its preservation, its organization and making it accessible to users.
- Collection development is mean by which libraries provide high quality information resources of print and non-print material and provide access to e-resources. Collection development is ongoing process, undertaken by librarian and library staff with input from faculty and students.
- The process of examining the academic and research needs of its target users and selecting materials in support of those needs, for both faculty and students.
- Library collection development is the process of meeting the information needs of the people (a service population) in a timely and economical manner using information resources locally held, as well as from other organizations.
- According to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) collection development mainly focuses on methodology for acquisition of print as well as e- resources.
- Collection development is important process of library in which efforts were made to increase the reading material for the satisfaction of its target users.

Process

Collection development is a process of meeting the information needs of users in timely and economic manner using information resources locally as well as from other organizations. It includes a number of activities as:

- Set objectives of collection development.
- Collecting data to determine the information needs
- Create a CDP in written
- Make a selection committee
- Make selection criteria for material
- Acquiring the materials for the collection
- Periodic or continual evaluation of resources
- CREW (Continuous Review, Evaluation and Weeding)

Review of relevant literature

Horava (2009) explained some of major issue concerning collection development in academic libraries in digital environment. The present study concluded with ideas for incorporating shift from manual collection to sustainable and forward looking approach to collection management.

Jalal (2009) reflected the digital collection development through the case study done on Osmania University, Hyderabad. The study highlighted the present status of digitalization in the libraries of Osmania University as well as digital collection development in order to reflect the current trends of collection. The study concluded that Osmania University Central Library is really has taken an interest to develop the digital collection through Digital Library of India Project and giving access to e-resources to its users. Therefore, the users of the university are habituated to use more and more digital documents including e-resources.

Shrivastava (2009) in his article emphasised on need of building of collection development in electronic environment due to large availability of e-resources. The present study also emphasized Intellectual property right issue and challenges regarding building of collection development.

Jones (2007) emphasized the importance of digital collection development for users. In the present article author categorizes digital collections into four areas: materials to support students; learning and teaching materials to support researchers; special collections and 'just in case' materials.

Ameen, Kanwal (2006) in his article discussed all kinds of managerial and practical issues pertaining to collection development and its acquisitions.. The paper has attempted to explore the relationship between the use of varying collection-related terminologies and ever-emerging forms of scholarly publishing in libraries. It was found that the related emerging terminology has been expanding rapidly because of the direct impact of the e-resources developments.

Manda and Panda (2005) described different dimensions of collection development through the survey on 17 engineering college libraries in West Bengal. They collected and analyzed the data received from these Engineering College Libraries and enumerated their activities of resource sharing. At last they concluded that users are completely

satisfied with the e-resources acquired through consortium or networking by these libraries.

Barbara Susana Sanchez (2005) presented a survey study based on collection development policies in digital environment and he mainly focused on user-oriented concept in development of digital collections in 16 centres of higher and technical education in Cuba. The results indicated that directors of university libraries and managers of collection development are aware of the process of collection development and they have accepted the development of the digital collections as an important source of digital Libraries.

Wittenbach, Stefanie (2005) described the restructuring of collection development at the University of California Riverside University Libraries. In this article, author has presented a new system that has created more accountability for the resource budget. The findings of result showed that users are more aware about resources purchased in their own area.

Need of CD in Digital environment

At once libraries were just regarded as a storehouse of books. But now due to information and technological revolution, library scenario is changing at a faster speed. Today, libraries are functioning under constantly changing environment and face a variety of complex challenges like information explosion, IT revolution, network revolution, shrinking library budgets, escalating prices of documents, high level of user expectations and availability of information resources in diverse media and so on. IT offers a wide range of opportunities, which could provide solutions to some of these major challenges. Rapid advances in modern technologies have greatly improved the capabilities of storage, processing, retrieval, repackaging, communicating, sharing, and managing the explosive growth of information effectively and economically in libraries. On other side due to advancement of technologies mostly resources are available in e-format and users prefer to use these resources because of

Faster and easy search ability. The library staffs is also ease with ICT and ready to explore its use at maximum extent and becoming more active and creative with information and communication technology. Thus, the need of digital collection in libraries arises due to the following reasons.

- It saves the time of the users
- It increases efficiency
- Speedy and easy access of information
- Quality of information resources
- More stable
- It helps to attract the users.
- It provide remote access to users
- It make enables round the clock access to users
- It helps in access to unlimited information from different sources
- More up to date information

- Information flexibility to the users
- Reforming and combining of data from different sources
- It helps in reduce the workload of the library staff

Collection development policy

Policy is a written planning document of a library for building its collection intended to define objective of parent institution. It should be a living document adaptable to change and growth. It serves as a necessary tool as well as guidelines for acquiring useful and relevant material in the library. It helps in developing and implementing library collection which includes Identification, selection, acquiring and evaluation of reading material. It is a best practice for libraries and archives and it should be in written. A good CDP help in following:

- Set the objectives of parent organization along with long term and short term goals
- Purpose of policy which includes planning and accountability etc.
- State users group and their education level and needs.
- Act as a rational guide for budget allocation.
- Help in determining the best method of acquisition.
- Help as a standard for selection and weeding out of material.
- Facilitates cooperative programmes like interlibrary loan, resource sharing and networking.
- Helps in description of information resources which needs to be acquired.
- Helps in replacement of worn or lost materials.
- Cooperative decision-making with other libraries or within library consortia.
- Contribute to operational efficiency in term of routine decision.
- Helps in making a copyright policy for e-resources.

Collection development in Digital environment

The ICT revolution has changed the traditional role of libraries as well as traditional process of collection development. In digital era, libraries are redefining their collection development policies due to low cost of e-resources, 24*7 access to e-resources, fast and easy access and multidimensional needs of modern users. In digital world resources are range from books, journals and encyclopaedia to digital version such as e-books, e-journals and multimedia etc. Digitalization has also affected the preservation and achieving of resources. In digital world there are several reasons that contribute for the changing scenario of collections process, these are as follows:

- Evolution and proliferation of information technology
- Growing popularity of internet and electronic technology in every sphere of knowledge.
- Changes in publishing trend.
- Information explosion.
- Financial constraints on the part of all kinds of libraries.
- Tremendous growth of online information products.

In digital era various type of e-resources are available, but some of most frequently e-e-resources are:

- **E-books:** E Books are electronic versions of printed books that can be accessed anywhere anytime with help of internet. There are two major categories of e-books such as:
 - On-line (Via Internet connectivity)
 - Off-line (via CD-ROM, compact disk etc.)
- **E-journals:** These are available electronically via online or offline. With advantage of ICT, usage and popularity of e-journals has been increased. Now days these have become main source of scholarly information.
- **E-database:** It is also one of important digital resource which is available electronically in various form as:
 - Bibliographic database
 - Full text database
 - Reference database
- **E-consortia:** It provides seamless access to thousands of e-journals, e-books and database. It play role in collection development. Examples of e-consortia are; UGC-Infonet, INDEST,-AICTE consortium and FORCA etc.

Why Digital Collection

- Multi-access
- Speedy retrieval
- More functional aspects
- Content analysis
- Consortia mode
- More interactivity
- Virtual reality
- More flexibility
- High storage capacity
- Ease of reproduction
- Hypertext and multimedia

Criteria for selection of Digital resources

Today's mostly libraries are acquiring digital collection to fulfil its user's requirements. But collection development in digital environment is more complex than printed resources. It's not an easy step to select e-resources' available, but some selectors have given following parameters to evaluate the e-resources:

- **Institutional needs:** First of all resources should be acquired according to institutional needs and requirement.
- **Authenticity:** It related with accurate facts, facts impartially presented and up to date information etc.

- **Appropriateness:** It includes concept, usefulness of data, titles, captions etc related to subject and suitability according to users requirements.
- **Scope:** In related with coverage of e-resources development according to users' satisfactions.
- **Access:** Access to e-resources should be easy and fast according to users' level.
- **Quality:** Quality of e-publishers and e-resources should keep in mind while selecting the resources for library.
- **Format:** It is related with technical aspect i.e. tone fidelity, clarity, size, packaging, durability and ease of repair.
- **Flexibility:** E-resources should be flexible enough for effective use and should help in promoting communication.
- **Selection aid:** these should recommend in evaluating the sources.
- **Cost:** Cost should be budget i.e. less expensive for satisfactory substitutes average supplemental costs for replacement; repair; physical processing and storage.

Advantages of digital collection

- Remote access
- Simultaneous access by multi-purpose
- Provides various search options
- Eliminates printing and postage cost
- Don't require physical processing
- Easily merge with altering service

Disadvantages of digital collection

- High infrastructure and installation cost
- Need special equipment's to access
- Lack of compatibility among different publishers
- Hardware and software compatibility issues between publishers and users
- Difficulty inherent in relating to a large amount of data on a screen
- Causes more concern about copy right

Conclusion

In today information and communication technological environment, digital resources have become most popular and are affecting collection development policies of academic libraries at great extent. Now libraries have no option apart from resort these digital resources to meet multidimensional needs of its target users. So, the libraries are redefining their collection development policies for selection, acquisition, preservation and distribution of its resources. In digital environment libraries have to take this initiative for provide right information to right user at right time. On other side if libraries want to survive in digital environment then they should have to keep necessary infrastructure for acquiring

digital resources so that they can achieve its target of providing best possible services and resources to its users.

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