

## Collection Development of Library Resources in Digital Era: A Study of Selected Engineering College Libraries

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### Abstract:

*This research investigates the collection development policy in engineering colleges and mainly its policies pertaining to E-resources and describes various trends in collection development in digital environment. The article discusses various changes impacting librarians and readers, highlighting the limitations, restrictions, and challenges they face. It also examines how these developments have influenced the academic environment and transformed the role of librarians. A mind map is provided to illustrate these concepts clearly. Collection development is essential for libraries and information centers, enabling them to remain responsive to changing user needs and fostering an environment conducive to knowledge sharing and community engagement.*

**Keyword:** Collection Development, Digital Library, Acquisition, Information, Preservation, Weeding.

### Introduction:

Collection development refers to the systematic process of building and maintaining library collections to meet the diverse needs of users, including study, teaching, research, and recreation. This process involves selecting and deselecting materials both current and historical while also planning strategies for ongoing acquisition and evaluation to ensure that the collection effectively serves its users.

The effectiveness of a digital library heavily relies on the nature, content, and quality of its digital collections. These collections encompass a variety of resources such as journals, books, and CD-ROM databases. Collection development is crucial for aligning library resources with the teaching, learning, and research needs of users, encompassing acquisition, selection, evaluation, preservation, and organization of materials.

This ongoing process involves collaboration among librarians, library staff, faculty, and students to ensure that the collection meets current demands and anticipates future needs. In the digital age, collection development has evolved from traditional methods, enabling users to access a wealth of information from a single repository rather than needing to visit multiple libraries. These

digital collections are curated and organized effectively to facilitate easy access to high-quality print and electronic resources.

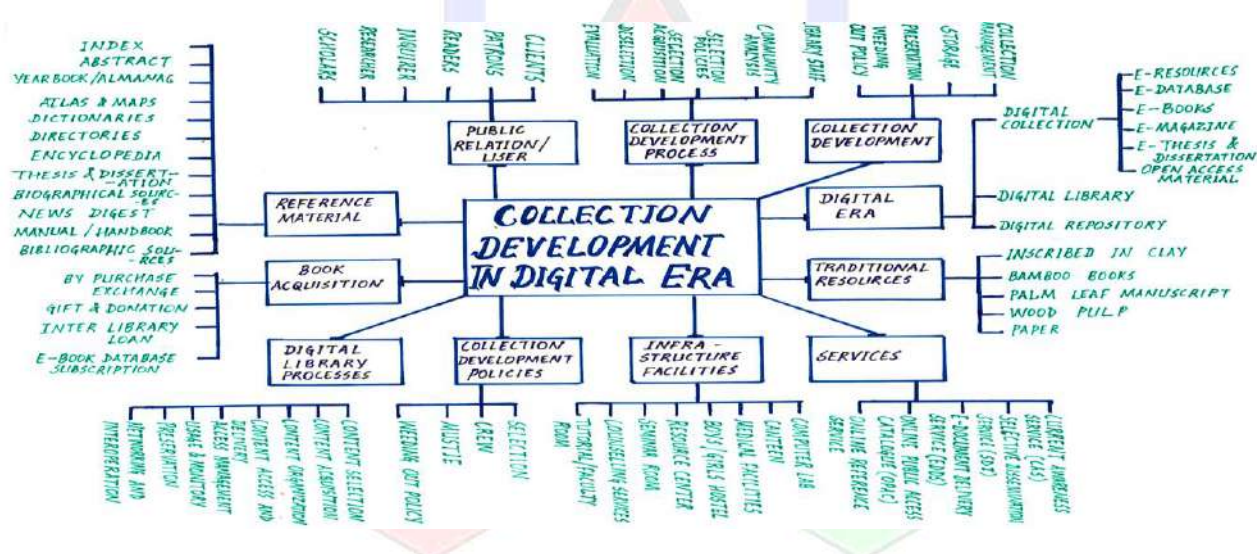
### Definition of Collection Development:

Collection development is defined as the process of addressing library patrons' information needs by providing appropriate library materials, managing the replacement or repair of damaged or lost items, and establishing policies and programs related to the collection.

### Process of collection development:

Collection development is a fundamental process in libraries that involves staff curating a diverse range of materials to satisfy patron needs. This ongoing cycle includes six key components: community analysis, selection policies, selection, acquisition, weeding, and evaluation. The aim of collection development is to effectively meet users' information needs in a timely and cost-efficient manner, utilizing resources from both local sources and external organizations.

### Conceptual Mind Map Collection Development



### Purpose of Collection Development in Libraries and Information Centers:

Libraries and information centers aim to develop their collections to attract a broader audience while addressing the specific needs of their parent organizations. The proportion of resources allocated for long-term retention can differ significantly among organizations. Some may retain a large amount of information that is rarely disseminated, while others focus on high dissemination with minimal retention, such as archives and research libraries.

The primary goal of libraries and information centers is to facilitate information transfer and promote knowledge development. Key purposes of collection development include:

- **Community Obligation:** Libraries strive to meet the informational needs of their communities, ensuring access to diverse resources.
- **Understanding Reader Needs:** Identifying the specific preferences and requirements of users helps in curating relevant collections.
- **Right Resources at the Right Time:** The process focuses on ensuring that users have access to appropriate materials precisely when they need them.

- Judicious Budget Use: Libraries aim to make informed purchasing decisions to maximize the impact of their budgets.
- Regular Collection Review: Periodic assessments allow libraries to identify outdated or underused materials for weeding, making space for new acquisitions.
- Resource Sharing and Networking: Collaborating with other libraries enhances the breadth of available resources, benefiting the entire community.

### **Ongoing Process:**

Collection development is an ongoing and dynamic process that includes:

- Assessment: Continuously evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the collection based on user needs and available community resources.
- Acquisition: Selecting and obtaining new materials to address identified gaps and enhance the collection.
- Maintenance: Keeping the collection relevant and updated through regular reviews and adjustments.

### **Aims and Objective of the Study:**

#### **Aims: -**

To study the collection development of library resources in digital era: A study of selected engineering college libraries.

#### **Objectives: -**

1. To find out the current present collection development policy in the library.
2. To identify the usage of digital collection of the library.
3. To identify the ICT infrastructure for collection development in digital era.
4. To identify the challenges faced by librarians for digital collection.

### **Literature Review:**

Amanulla (2018), States that Collection development focuses on the quality of materials rather than just the quantity, ensuring that documents meet the specific needs of library users. This process should be guided by clear policies and procedures, informed by a thorough understanding of the existing collection. It involves selecting and deselecting both current and historical materials, aligning with the library's goals and objectives, the subjects taught at the institution, and efforts to promote library use.

Abdul (2012), States that the Collection Management may be considered as 'a strategy and a process to settle on what to purchase': 'a technique to choose material for purchase'; estimation of what to select library collection management is further sub-divided in to diverse area such as acquisition, technical processing, usage and making available the archiving of publication. 'Collection Management is a broad term that has replaced the narrower 'Collection building' and 'Collection development'. It includes systematic maintenance of library Collection, technical processing, and preservation, storage, weeding and discarding of stock and monitoring encouraging of collection use.

Adewuyi (2005), Classifies the Identification, Selection and Procurement of library materials as "Acquisition process" or Collection Development, and refers to processing, organization, maintenance, stocktaking, preservation and ensuring maximum exposure of these materials for the benefit of the general public as collection management.



Alvi (1997), Describe that the changing phase of collection development while discussing the information explosion in recent years along with using the example of chemical abstracts for the same. He has emphasized on cooperative collection development policies suited to the current philosophy of providing access to information through a sharing mechanism, and stressed upon the need of improving quality of library services through it. He has also discussed its advantages in his article.

Apatgiri (1997), Discussed the constraints and criteria in collection development and the different roles internet has to play in collection development in libraries. According to her the most obvious constraints in building collection included cost of publication, space limitation and manpower limitation. Other factor like information explosion, interdisciplinary nature of studies, increasing rate of obscene, date availability in multiple forms and inadequate ways to receive nascent information also added to the constraints. She gave a list of the various kinds of documents viz. primary, secondary, tertiary and other sources available on net concluded that internet has tremendous prospects for collection development.

Buckland (1989), Opined that the collection development policies are an important preparatory work accounting for nearly two thirds of its operational expenses and space. In addition, it had a strong effect on the efficiency and effectiveness of its services.

Bloomfield (1987), States that “to meet the demands, librarians have evolved theories of Collection Development, which imply a more active role in managing library’s collection and indicate that the role may change and develop in response to changing conditions”. With the change in outlook towards library and information services now librarian are more aware of user needs.

Clemons & Sproles (2006), Describe a survey on the topic using depository exchange lists as collection development tools. This paper aims to highlight the advantages of using depository exchange lists as tools for collection development. The authors offer an overview of depository collection development and examine exchange list activities at both national and local levels. Despite the widespread availability of electronic exchange lists, only a limited number of depository libraries actively utilize them, as revealed by the national analysis. Many unique and out-of-print documents are frequently available on these lists. This study sheds light on a less-explored aspect of government documents and collection development in librarianship, emphasizing how exchange lists can enhance collections at a relatively low cost.

Kanwal (2006), Opined that all kinds of Managerial and practical issues pertaining to Collection Development and its acquisitions. This paper explores the connection between the use of various collection-related terminologies and the evolving forms of scholarly publishing in libraries. The findings indicate that the emergence of new terminology is growing rapidly due to the direct influence of developments in electronic resources.

### **Research Methodology of the study:**

In this Study data collection tools are questionnaire, interview and observations, direct and indirect interview for data collections. Questionnaire as a tool of data collection that is structures and unstructured, which cover both open-ended questionnaire and closed ended questionnaire. The researcher has used quantitative and descriptive methods for the study of collection development of library resources in digital era.

### Sampling:

The sample for these particular Paper is librarian of selected engineering colleges from western Suburban of Mumbai Maharashtra. 14 engineering colleges were selected to collect data for the present research out of which only 11 engineering colleges responded and filled out the questionnaire. No. of libraries – 11

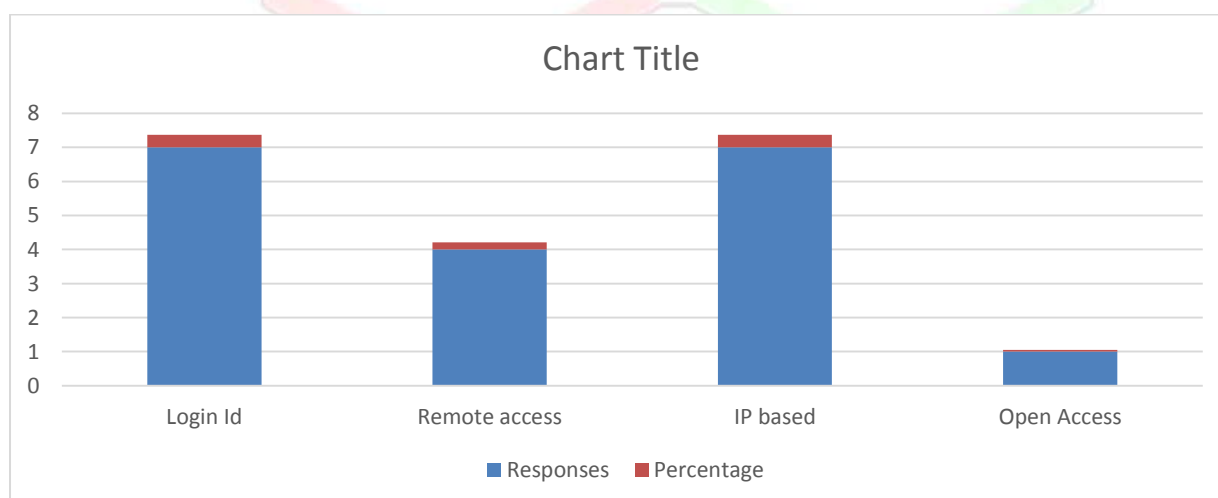
### Data Analysis:

Data analysis involves the systematic collection, recording, manipulation, and summarization of information gathered through questionnaires to address research questions. The collected data has been organized and presented using tables and pie charts. The goal of this analysis is to transform the data into a comprehensible and interpretable format, allowing for a thorough examination and testing of the relationships related to the research problem. The study is based on survey method and the technique is used by the researcher is structured questionnaire for data collection. The sample for the study was selected from western suburban of Mumbai and the sample size is 11 librarians of the engineering colleges.

### Objective 1. To identify the usage of digital collection of the library.

#### 1. Does the access is restricted or password protected?

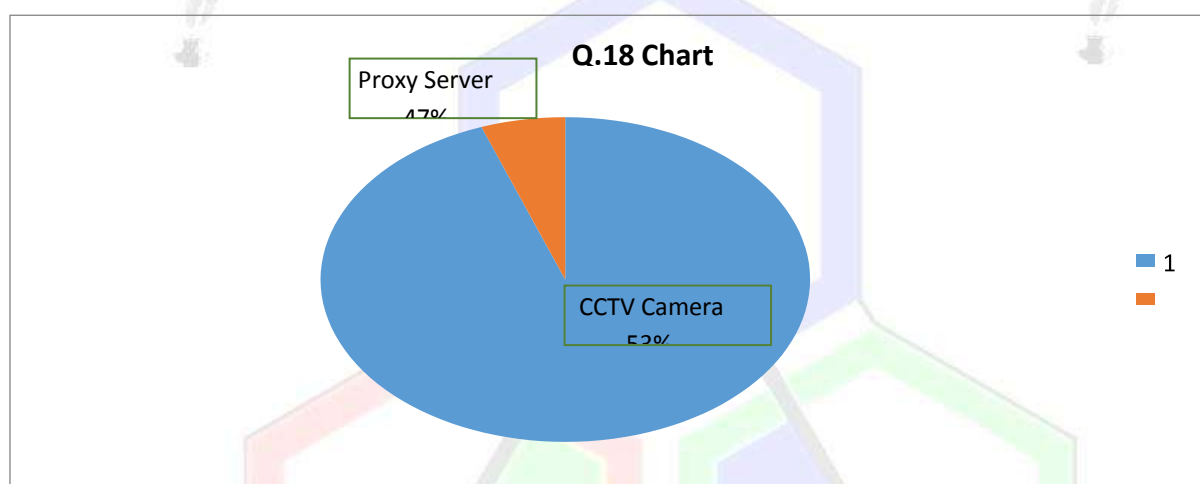
Options	Responses	Percentage
Login Id	7	37%
Remote access	4	21%
IP based	7	37%
Open Access	1	5%



With the help of above question the researcher identified that 37% of library's access is restricted through login Id, 21% for remote access, 37% IP based and 5% access is restricted through open access. Thus more number of libraries access is restricted or protected through IP based and remote access.

**2. Which security devices are used in your library to secure your E-Resources collection?**

Options	Responses	Percentage
CCTV Camera	9	53%
Proxy server	8	47%
Any other	0	0

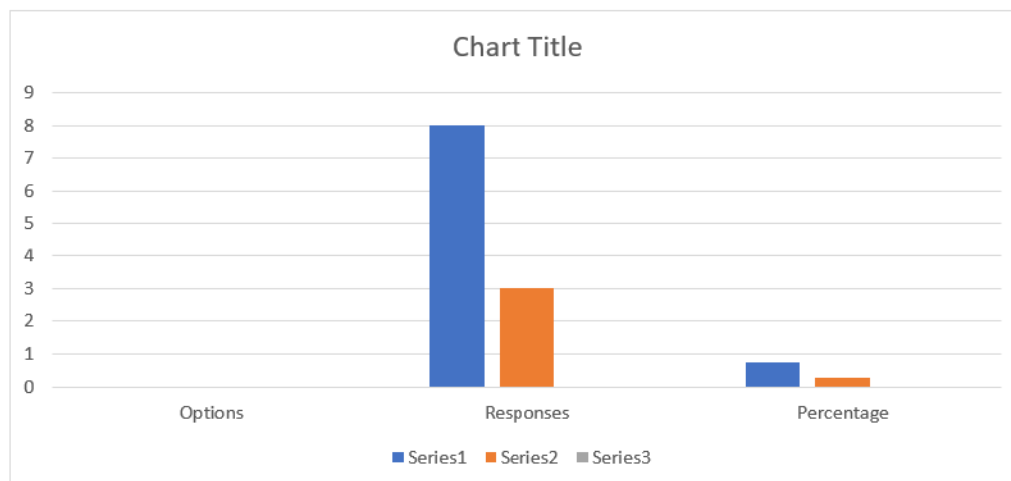


With the help of above questions, the researcher found that 53% of library's used CCTV Camera in library to secure the E-Resources in the library and remaining 47% library's used Proxy server to secure the library resources. thus more number of libraries using CCTV camera.

**Objective 2. To identify the ICT infrastructure for collection development in digital era.**

**1. Do you have separate library space for digital section?**

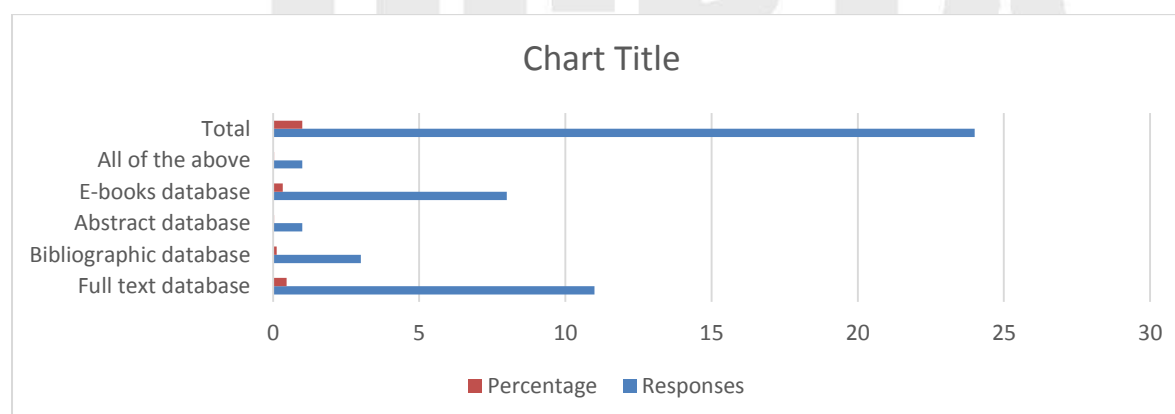
Options	Responses	Percentage
Yes	8	73%
No	3	27%



With the help of above question the researcher found that shows that only 73% of libraries have separate space for digital section and remaining 27% of libraries does not have separate space for digital section. Thus, from the direct interview, the researcher found that few libraries thinking for separate space for digital collection but due to some own hurdles and problems they are not implementing.

## 2. Which type of E- Resources are subscribed in your college library?

Options	Responses	Percentage
Full text database	11	46%
Bibliographic database	3	13%
Abstract database	1	4%
E-books database	8	33%
All of the above	1	4%
Total	24	100%

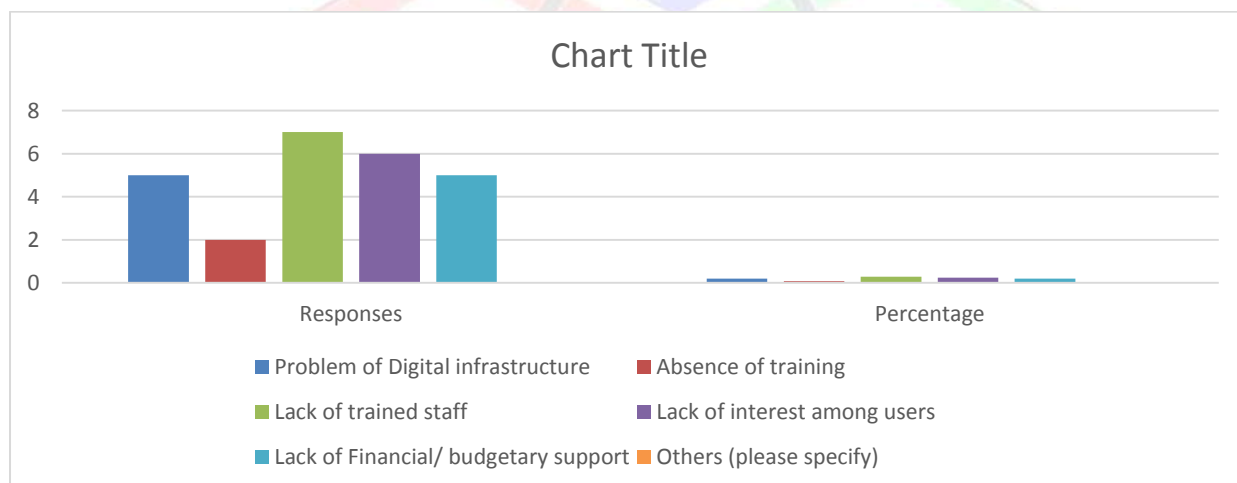


With the help of above question the researcher identified that 46% of library's used full text database subscribing in the college library, 13% for bibliographic database, 4% for abstract database, 33% for E- books database and 4% for all of this number of libraries subscribe full text database e-Resources in the college library.

### **Objective 3. To identify the challenges faced by librarians for digital collection**

#### **1. According to you what constraints in setting up and managing the E-resources in the digital libraries?**

Options	Responses	Percentage
Problem of Digital infrastructure	5	20%
Absence of training	2	8%
Lack of trained staff	7	28%
Lack of interest among users	6	24%
Lack of Financial/ budgetary support	5	20%
Others (please specify)	-	-

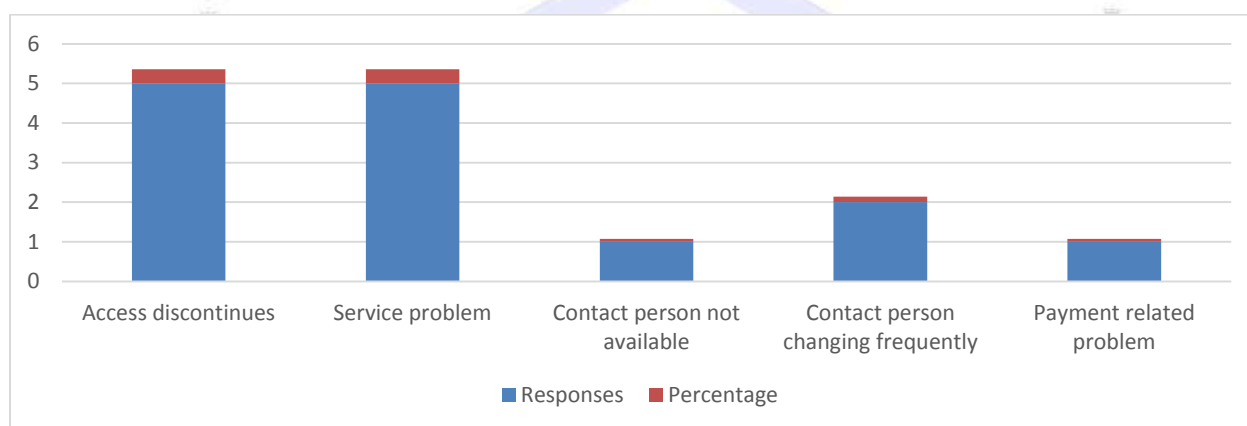


With the help of above questions, the researcher identified that 20% librarians respond that is they face the problem of digital infrastructure in setting up and managing the E- resources in the digital libraries, 8% libraries faced absence of training, 28% libraries faced lack of trained staff, 24% libraries faced lack of interest among users and 20% libraries faced lack of financial or budgetary support.



## 2. Do you face any vendor related problems for E- resources collection?

Options	Responses	Percentage
Access discontinues	5	36%
Service problem	5	36%
Contact person not available	1	7%
Contact person changing frequently	2	14%
Payment related problem	1	7%



### Findings:

The researcher 2nd objective, to identify the usage of digital collection of the library, after the data collection the researcher has found that 45% users are satisfied, 37% users are very satisfied, 9% users are extremely satisfied and very few users are not satisfied that is 9%. The researcher has also found that as compare to E-resources the manual resources are more preferred by the users. The weeding out policy followed by engineering college libraries are 64% are followed and 36% are not followed.

### Conclusion & Recommendation:

#### Conclusion:

Collection development in libraries is a crucial activity, where selection policies and practices play a fundamental role in building a robust collection that effectively meets user needs. To enhance the usability of library resources, user involvement in the collection development process is essential. Libraries encourage suggestions, recommendations, and requisitions from patrons, recognizing that collection development is a continuous endeavor. A well-considered long-term policy is necessary to systematically achieve collection development goals, allowing for more effective use of limited funds and resulting in stronger collections.

The emergence of digital libraries in the early twenty-first century has introduced various challenges, including the need for appropriate technologies, storage solutions, and rights management issues. While digital libraries and their associated technologies are still in the early stages of development, there are few fully established examples globally. Librarians must

understand the purpose and policies of collection development, as well as the availability of the latest documents in both print and digital formats across various subjects.

Effective organization and maintenance of reading materials are crucial, as they can impact the library's reputation and increase the usage of its resources. Librarians need to be computer literate and comfortable working in a networked environment to facilitate resource sharing and cooperative collection management. Efficient library services can attract more users, and resources should be evaluated for future reference.

In summary, collection development should primarily focus on identifying the needs of readers. To be effective, collection development staff must be responsive to the broader community's needs, not just those of the most active users. Engaging in participatory approaches, such as organizing exhibitions and involving both internal and external library members in book selection, can help achieve these objectives.

### **Recommendation:**

- Financial ads for e-resources need to be increased for better services among the members.
- The library should conduct regular evaluations and assessment to determine the effectiveness of the electronic resources in meeting the user's information needs.
- Awareness should be created to use online Journals to obtain current information.
- Hands-on training sessions should be organized from time to time for different e-resources.
- Usage of e-resources should be included in MIS of every month.
- Some competitions and quiz should be organized on use of e-resources.
- Assignments should be designed and included in the course curriculum which requires using e-resources.
- Proper collection development policy in the library should be followed.
- Weeding out should also be followed by the library which impact on good and proper maintenance of weeding in the library.
- While subscribing Electronic Resources in the library, the library has to subscribe those resources which is more required as well as more demanded
- The library ha to update the subscription of E- resources like monthly, yearly, or as per the agreement which made between the vendor.

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