

Resource Sharing In technical Education Libraries : A Need.

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In order to bring the various activities pertaining to Technical Education, at all levels under one roof, Department of Tech. Education was established in the Maharashtra state in the year 1948. This department controls Engg. colleges, Polytechnics, Technical Institutions, I.T.I.'s Technical schools etc. In addition to this the responsibility of post graduate courses & Research was also shouldered by this deptt. There are 32 Govt. & 94 Non-Govt. unaided polytechnics catering for Engg. Diploma. The total intake capacity in all these institutions is 7,000/- (app.). In the year 1969 a scheme of correspondence course has been introduced by Govt to provide opportunities for persons working in Technical capacity in the industries for persons working in the Technical capacity in the industry, part time diploma courses have been started & about 380 students are being benefited. There are four Govt. Engineering & four more Non Govt. aided Colleges, four Pharmacy colleges, two in Bombay, one Pune & Nasik & one Govt. College at Karad. Architectural colleges are also controlled by this Deptt. Technical Education in P.G. Courses at Bombay, Pune, Sangli, Nanded & Nagpur are available & about 180 students are being benefited. Technical University for meeting the need of technical personnel is being planned. About one lakh students appeared for various Diploma Exams. conducted by Board of Tech. Education the year 1988-89. & app. 16,350 students appeared for various degree

Exams. All these technical institutions in the state are having separate independent library. Every library purchase books periodicals etc. for their library & huge amount is spent by individual institutions & some times unnecessary duplication is done. To avoid this the concept of Resource Sharing in Technical Education Deptt in the Maharashtra state has been discussed in this paper.

The term Library Resources in the context of resource sharing principle includes any & all of materials functions & services that constitute a modern library system. The materials includes both Macro & nascent & all forms of traditional & non traditional items including audio-visual & reprographic aids used for communicating ideas across the state. The functions covers the activities concerning the selection, purchase, Technical processing & similar other operations. Service is broad term covering old & new technique activities & procedures employed to establish contacts between the technical literatures & its users, reference services, documentation information storage & retrieval systems all fall under this category. Resources also include personnel, their labour & funds. The library resources is a collective term used to designate selection, acquisition, processing services, men & their services & funds, which strive to fulfill the aims & objectives of a technical Library.

Resources sharing is a need based concept founded on sound principle of give & take

policy. In other words it says "Share with me and I share with you". Librarians and Information personnel in the Technical Education should be willing to share their resources for mutual benefits.

Library is a social institution and as such it is most primary duty of Librarians to meet the need for intellectual requirements of each and every potential reader visiting the library. Dr. Rangnathan's second Law of Library science "Every Reader his or her book" also points in the same direction. However, in the present time when frontiers of knowledges are expanding all-over the world, almost daily as well as facts that varied are tastes of readers, it is almost impossible for any library howsoever it may be self sufficient to cater to all the needs of its clientele. Moreover the third law of Library science. "Library is a Growing Organisation" ties down the hands of the libraries in books selection and problems such as limitations of funds, storage, space, library personnel needed for upkeeping books forces him to leave the acquisition of materials not in frequent demand in the library and occasionally required by certain readers. The only solution to the problem of meeting the needs of occasional potential readers of the library and doing full justice to second law is "Sharing of library resources at local, district state and national level.

Need :

The sharing of resources among libraries have become a necessity today on account of growing mutual interdependence to face the situation created by explosion of knowledge and ever accelerating technology. No single library can have all technical literature re-

quired by its users.

The inflationary trend has hit all the libraries very badly. The libraries are facing financial stringency. The inflationary trend is evident from as prices of books and journals are increasing at an alarming rate. To-day an average Indian book costs Rs. 50/- but in case of technical books the average is much more say app. 70-80 while domestic journals it is Rs. 175/-, in case of foreign journals, it is about ten times. Postage is also a factor, as increasing the postal rates so no library can be self sufficient in acquiring the materials in this specific field of interest also. The aim of building huge collection which can provide every thing is a thing of past & that sharing of resources of group of libraries is the only way to provide adequately the needs of its users on the basis of principle of Co-Operation. In the words of Dr. Kent "It obviously to make the greatest amount of best information available to the most users at the most reasonable cost possible"

The Resources Sharing process :

The fundamental steps towards resource sharing in libraries is to understand basic resource that a library has to share reading materials. Before considering what can be shared however it is necessary to consider what cannot be shared. A book owned by a library is needed frequently by users of that library is not fair game for sharing.

1) Books which are easily available at local centres should not be shared.

2) **Frequency** of need book which are often required by the library should not be made available on resource sharing. Resources

sharing requires access to circulation. The documents/materials should be made available needy reader or library. For effectiveness of resource sharing the libraries should be aware of the holdings of other libraries. The resources to be shared should also be useful to several institutions. There should be willingness to share the resource as well as develop necessary bibliographical apparatus.

Agreements :

There should be mutual agreement amongst the participant libraries, to share owned materials, with its limitations priorities etc. The agreement should provide for an independent administration of resource sharing. The all Technical Libraries should form a separate independent unit for resource sharing.

2) Acquisition policy :

The acquisition policy should be co-operative. There should be a centralized acquisition under the control of Directorate of Technical Education and all technical books and indian as well as foreign periodicals should be subscribed and distributed amongst all the Technical Libraries in the state.

3) Bibliographical Approach :

There should be a Union catalogue of periodicals books, reference books, of each and every library in the state to enable the library and reader to locate the materials, through bibliographic tools.

Areas for effective Resource Sharing :

1) Co-Operative acquisition : All the libraries should purchase the books and periodicals through co-operative basis.

2) Co-Operative Processing :

This includes technical work of libraries viz.

classification, documentation, indexing, Abstracting of technical journals which should be done through centralised processing unit, established in the Directorate of Technical Education, Maharashtra state.

3) Co-Operative storage :

Now-a-days in big cities, space problem is frightening the library. The next books are changed periodically. The system also change viz. F.P.S. to MKS to S.I. etc. and obviously the books are to be kept aside. Such books are rarely required. Such type of collection should be built on Co-Operative basis.

4) Inter library Loan :

The books/documents should be made available on inter library loan basis by the libraries. This will avoid the duplication and costly and very rarely or old books will be made available on this Inter library loan basis.

5) Development of specialised collection :

The libraries can concentrate on development of specialised collection of their interest field e.g. College of Engineering Pune should concentrate on civil Engg books and periodicals College of Engg., Aurangabad should concentrate on Mechanical Engineering collection and so on. Thus sources of libraries can be best utilised by other libraries on "Resource Sharing Basis"

Publication :

There should be a regular publication of Technical Education Deptt. bringing the importance of Technical sharing. The list of participating libraries there holdings etc. should be published by the Directorate. Union catalogue of periodicals and back volumes should be published and update e.g. I.I.T.

libraries in the country have published Union catalogue of periodicals. D.R.T.C., Bangalore has also published the various journals subscribed in Bangalore city.

The modern and sophisticated equipments are playing vital role in the resource sharing process.

1) XEROX COPYING MACHINE :

Generally the part of book/topic or some pages from periodical are required for reference for research scholars etc and instead of lending the complete book/journal required pages are xeroxed and sent to the reader. Thus now a days Xerox copying machine is much more in vogue and an effective tool for resource sharing.

2) COMPUTER :

Computer stores and retrieves information in disc, drum, floppys, magnetic tapes etc. and information contents in such devices can be made available on Inter Library Loan basis on Line information with network of computers plays very important role in Resource sharing.

3) VIDEO TAPE :

Video-Tape contains audio visual information. Nowadays information are covered on Video-tape and such tapes are available in the technical libraries and these can also be made available on Inter Library Loan basis. Thus such resources can be shared amongst the libraries under the control of technical Education Departments.

Telex, Teletype, Fiberoptics, on line data based, teletexts and Videotext are the modern sophisticated equipments contain much more technical information. All the libraries should be linked by telex, teletype,

Fiberoptics for resource sharing.

The concept of resource sharing is a healthy direction as it is almost universally accepted by libraries and the only realistic means of meeting future demands.

It is obviously clear that concept can not be materialised without the co-operative efforts by libraries. The focus now is on providing library users with ready access to resources of libraries. It is time for resource sharing rather than self sufficiency.

MEDLARS, CAS (Chemical Abstract service), BIOSIS, COMPENDEX, ISI are some of the databases and covers resource sharing concept in promoting easy accessibility to literature/documents. Department of Science and Technology adopted a plan entitled "NISSAT" establish a network of information centres in the field of Science and Technology to promote resource sharing IASLIC (Indian Association of specialised libraries and Information centres) has adopted a code for Inter Library Loan. The National Science Library of INSDOC have also plans to set up dormitories. I.I.T. libraries have brought out Union Catalogue of periodicals and on the similar lines Director of Technical Education should bring out such publication.

LIBRARIAN'S ROLE :

The librarian has to play a vital role in the development of Resource sharing. The need to adopt new services that are feasible. Here it is a question of libraries continuing to keep abreast of developments in modern information services. Resource sharing typically entails the application of process and Technology which exceed the financial means of single libraries it can be implemented only by group of libraries and probably through state level

Not working the control of Directorate of Technical Education Department Maharashtra state.

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EXCELLENCE

Excellence does not lie in buildings, equipment and financial reasources. It represents an attitude of mind. The creation of centres of the highest calibre calls for an environment in which human beings stretch them selves to the limits of their abilities. The outstanding teacher attracts the finest students and generates an overall intellectual atmosphere in which there is team spirit, with individuals pushed to the very limits of their intellectual capability and also each deriving strength from the other in a resonant and supportive manner. It is this that we should aim at creating in the country.

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