

Collection Development Policy for Electronic Resources with Special Reference to University Libraries

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Abstract

Collection development in university libraries is developed to achieve certain objectives. In which curriculum studies, academic objectives, cooperation in research, etc. are important aspects. In such a situation, the collection development policy has special importance in the collection of text material in university libraries. Currently, the library is working as an information and e-learning center. Today, the collection, storage, processing, and distribution of information in libraries are being done through digital formats. Traditional documents and text content in print and non-print formats are available at university libraries in the form of e-books, e-journals, e-reports, CDs/DVDs, and online databases. The increased use of e-resources in university libraries has given a new shape to the collection and collection development policies. The job of the librarian has altered in the modern era along with changes in collection growth. Providing the desired information to the users with the balance of electronic and print text material within the available budget poses a challenge to the librarians.

Keywords: Dual Print, Information Communication Technologies, E-resources, Collection development, E-books, E-journals, University Libraries, Selection, and Evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries' main goal is to conserve knowledge that is present in any recorded form. To make sure the user is happy using it, the scope has been expanded. The purpose of document acquisition by university libraries is to supply them with material to meet the evolving demands of students, faculty, and researchers.[1] Academic libraries now strive to provide information that will fully satisfy users rather than only preserve knowledge. Collection development refers to all strategies developed for the methodical and logical construction of a collection.[2]

When compared to 10 or twenty years ago, the library collections have changed. This is because it is possible to send information electronically to consumers who are located far away, but doing so necessitates significant adjustments to service delivery, staffing, funding, and planning. Academic

libraries now are very different from what they were even just a few decades ago, in the 1980s, due to changes in technology, as well as in higher education's teaching and learning methodologies and societal expectations. [3] At a period, in which materials budget provides less purchasing power than in earlier decades, academic libraries are using modern technology to adapt to user requests. [4] If not in actual rupees, then at least in terms of what may be bought and the proportion of needed resources that have been acquired, due to many economic issues like:

1. Inflation
2. The weak rupee abroad

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3. Increased publishing cost
4. Student demographics
5. Student utilities
6. Staff benefits, etc.

The need for academicians and researchers to publish more to receive university promotions and fulfill tenure requirements has made the situation more difficult. [5] Universities are under pressure from the economy to raise money so they can support themselves and make more money. As a result, new specialties are created and existing ones are expanded through the merging of more recent cross-disciplinary study fields. All of this is encouraging more publications in a wider range of forms. [6] Moreover, scholarly publications' annual cost rises of roughly 9–10% have a disastrous impact on print collections. Hence, eliminating inherent challenges to making effective use of increasingly significant electronic technology is a fundamental task for libraries today.[7]

Objectives of the study

The diversity of the collection is what makes university libraries successful. For this, the university library's collection has been developed and managed. Determining the collection development operations forms the study's basis. The study's major goal is to understand how university libraries manage their collections and build their E-Resources collections. The following are the other goals:

1. to be aware of how to acquire print and digital documents for collection development.
2. to learn the rationale behind the acquisition of print and digital documents for collection development.
3. to analyse the various standards used to choose print and digital documents for collection development.
4. must be aware of the budget's usage for both print and digital materials.
5. to investigate the collection development policy.

The study's limitations and scope

The study's focus is solely on the growth of university libraries' electronic resource collections. There is selection of print and electronic documents in university libraries. The study focuses mainly on E-Resources collection development policies, Selection and evaluation of electronic resources, and Dual Print and Electronic Environments in Today's application of Information Communication Technology (ICT).

SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

In the case of traditional library items, the selector makes the decision to purchase an item after only little discussion with other departments in accordance with predetermined rules and regulations. There are several challenges with using electronic resources that do not exist with traditional library reading materials.[8] In addition to the rules that apply to analogue materials, electronic publications also pose considerable challenges in terms of licencing, access, networking, pricing, ownership, and the rapidly changing technology and standards. When it comes to purchasing electronic resources, the selector cannot make that decision alone and must work closely with other library departments to determine whether a resource is appropriate before making the purchase. [9] Normally, it is necessary to consult with staff members in charge of purchasing, contracting and licencing, resource discovery (cataloguing and access), technical systems and services, and service delivery. It is best practice to set precise rules and procedures for the selection of electronic resources to maintain consistency of approach. These could include creating a checklist for selection and evaluation, establishing clear roles and lines of responsibility, consulting, and creating an evaluation panel for electronic resources that could be made up of representatives from the institution's various departments who have an interest in using electronic resources. The library may think about strategies to get user feedback on electronic resources to involve users in collection development.[10]

Feedback on both existing resources and proposed new resources may be included in this. Together with new information and services, the library should also alert patrons about any potential transient issues with using electronic resources. Detailed information about the object is needed to decide whether it is appropriate for the library's collection and to help calculate the true and hidden costs associated with acquisition, storage, upkeep, preservation, and other issues. The development policy for the library's electronic resource collection must be compared to this information.[11]

Libraries may find it useful in some situations to develop an e-resource selection and assessment checklist that includes a comprehensive set of inquiries that the selector must address as part of the selection and evaluation process. To give selectors of e-resources who might be available on numerous platforms via various providers extra guidance, such a checklist might include particular guidelines for the ranking of platforms or providers.[12]

Dual Print and Electronic Environment Today

University libraries today must strike a balance between purchasing "serials" and "monographs" as well as "paper" and "electronic" materials. The "access versus ownership" issue rages on in the context of scholarly communication, evolving technology, the Internet, serial pricing, and resource sharing. The goal now is to include access into our collection development efforts to optimize our purchasing power and provide the greatest service to our customers, not to replace ownership with access. An analysis of an electronic database's cost-effectiveness may show that costs are not always decreased but instead may simply be shifted when services are provided, such as towards infrastructure construction, personnel training, etc. Most university libraries today operate in a hybrid print/electronic setting. The two biggest issues facing libraries in the near future are:

1. Successful combining of print and digital materials.
2. Education of the users

Application of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to Collection Development:

Every facet of human activity has been touched by the development of information and communication technologies, which has resulted in a significant shift in how companies carry out their duties and functions. Since university libraries are not exempt from this expanding tendency, every part of their daily operations is likewise impacted. Because the library cannot fulfill its functions without the collection, whether it is a collection of printed materials or non-print materials, collection growth is a crucial part of the library function. ICT can be used for this crucial library function. The collection, handling, archiving, and broadcasting of local, visual, textual, and numerical information using information communication technology Combining computation and communications on an electronic basis (Omotosho, 2012). Given its potential, ICT has a very bright future in the development of library collections. ICT can be applied in a variety of ways when building the library's collections. They consist of:

1. **Online Search:** Through an online search, librarians will discover information materials that are published and available for acquisition. Libraries no longer wait for publishers to bring their catalogues to the library before they know what is available.
2. **Ordering and subscription:** ICT tools like mobile phones, the internet, e-mail, publishers or vendors, websites, etc. can be used for ordering and subscription information items.
3. **Resource networking and sharing:** Collaboration between libraries and exchange are two strategies for collection development. Since no library is self-sufficient, libraries frequently rely on one another to give successful services to their patrons. The usage of ICT can make this easier.
4. **Database creation:** With a computer, a database may be made that can store and be accessible with data like booksellers, publishers, bibliographic descriptions of the books ordered, pricing, files for presents, desiderata files (books the library wants to buy), financial records, or library budgets.
5. **Avoid repetition:** Most of the libraries' collection development tasks are monotonous. As a result, it is possible that the same material will be ordered again or that several payments will be made at once. These issues can be resolved by utilizing ICT.

ICT use for collection development is not without its difficulties. They include, among others, a lack of managerial support, inexperienced Librarians, inadequate infrastructure, a lack of information policy formulation, and inadequate funding.

CONCLUSION

The university library makes extensive use of its collections. The balance of collection between faculty, researchers, students, and other users must be achieved. For the development of library collections, print and electronic document collections have been made. Users of the university library can subscribe to full-text article databases. There is a continuous process of acquiring, organizing, and protecting print and electronic documents in an academic library. Technology-based services are made available to university libraries' users, including local and online OPACs, online databases, full-text electronic journals, reference tools, online document ordering, online interlibrary loans, and a library that is electronically equipped. The university library has completed the collection development and collection management processes in order to choose, organise, safeguard, and transmit print and electronic content.

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