

AQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF DIGITAL AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF ASSAM

With special reference to some selected college libraries of Sivasagar district, Assam

Abhijit Borpuzari

Librarian

Sibsagar Girls' College, Sivasagar, Assam, India.

Abstract:

The fifth law of library and information science, "Library is a growing organism," emphasises the importance of managing an organization's administrative processes in light of the ever-increasing amount of information. Because of the information explosion, the library environment is changing quickly. LIS experts are working hard to develop and apply new strategies in the area to avoid situations like this one where confusion reigns. The way that people utilise libraries to obtain knowledge is impacted by advances in science and technology. As a result, LIS professionals constantly use ICT tools to expand their skills and gather a variety of electronic resources and digital documents for ready, accurate, well-researched information. Since there are many different types of Digital and Electronic resources available, LIS professionals should gather the ones that are relevant to their organisation and useful for management. LIS professionals encounter challenges in gathering and organising information due to the prevalence of ICT-based resources in the market. Libraries now days are always attempting to obtain Digital and Electronic resources from diverse fields through a variety of consortiums. However, the challenge is in obtaining appropriate resources at a lower cost. This study provides a quick overview of the current state of ICT applications and administration in College libraries of Assam. For the sake of convenience, a few carefully picked college libraries in the Sivasagar district have been surveyed. The user has the choice of what kind of information to use. However, information and communication technology, or ICT, gives college library users access to knowledge and makes them aware of current developments in various fields of information and how it is distributed.

Index Terms – College Libraries, Consortia, Digital Library, E-Resources, ICT, LIS Professionals.

INTRODUCTION:

There are several needs for members of the college community or library users. They are particularly developed with the teaching staff, who require knowledge based on research to stay current in their disciplines and instruct the students, and the students themselves, who play a crucial role in it. Assam's and India's new education policies place a strong emphasis on educating college students through the use of cutting-edge technology. Most current college students are aware of about utilising a library's online resources. Students easily require current, relevant, and research-based material for their semester studies, seminar papers, and other assignments. Consequently, the college libraries in Assam have recently adopted a new setting for the collecting of information resources based on ICT.

College libraries of Assam are gradually attempting to keep up with the emerging trend of digital documents and e-resource collection, which is a significant step closer to digitization. These college library resources give rise to an additional library management system feature. It is true that some of the variables that aid in the conversion of the old college libraries into digital ones are time-saving, easy distribution, and space-related. Therefore, a variety of managerial challenges stand in the way of the appropriate gathering of Digital and Electronic resources and their practical and profitable application.

Inadequate technological knowledge, a dearth of well-thought-out policies, and the digital divide within society impede the acquisition and use of genuine resources. One of the well-established or effective channels for gathering quality Digital and Electronic resources is the N-LIST consortium. College libraries of Assam are enrolled with the N-LIST scheme in large numbers.

DIGITAL AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

An electronic document is a representation of pure data that is computer-readable but not editable; instead, it is designed to be processed automatically. A digital document, on the other hand, contains material that can be read by humans but is neither organised or readily processed by computers.

Digital and Electronic resources based on ICT and their importance. The idea of these resources based on information and communication technology (ICT) first surfaced in the 1980s, when they were first made available in CD-ROM formats. The World Wide Web and the internet also sped up the publication of electronic versions of print journals, which have been appearing more frequently.

A basic definition of an Digital and Electronic resource is any electronic product in any form that provides data collecting, text (including full text) references, e-journals, image collections, and other multimedia products that are numerical, graphical, or time-based. The creators provide those materials to the consumers in a variety of formats, both online and offline (such as CDs, DVDs, and the like), either for free or at a cost. E-Resource is defined in AACR2 II as material data or programme encoded for computer device manipulation.

Nowadays, it is thought that having access to resources is more significant than creating collections, particularly if that access is unrestricted. The consortium makes it possible for libraries to benefit from more extensive access to electronic materials at the best licencing terms and at a reasonable cost. Because college libraries have a very restricted budget for expansion, they employ consortium facilities to access information resources based on information technology. To access Digital and Electronic resources, college libraries join the N-LIST (National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content) consortium. In order to increase access to the chosen materials and to the colleges covered by section 12B of the UGC Act as well as non-aided colleges between 2010 and 2013, the MHRD supported the N-LIST programme under NME-ICT.

The work is being carried out in collaboration with the INFLIBNET Centre, the INDSET-AICTE Consortium at IIT Delhi, and the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. Through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre, the N-LIST project gives professors, researchers, and students from colleges and other beneficiary institutions access to E-Resources.

OBJECTIVES

The main goals of the current study project are as follows.

- To assess the current state of a few chosen college libraries in the Sivasagar district of Assam's ICT-based information resource collections.
- To research the benefits and drawbacks of information resources based on ICT and their gathering.
- To ascertain the management state of the gathered Digital and Electronic resources among the district's chosen college libraries in Sivasagar.

AREA OF THE STUDY

The area of the study is limited. Due to the nature of the topic and short time period, a few aspects of the topic have been taken for the study. Total six college library of Sivasagar district have been taken for the study. The six college libraries are:-

- i. Central Library and Information Centre, Sibsagar Girls' College, Sivasagar.
- ii. Demow College Library, Demow College, Sivasagar.
- iii. Gargaon College Central Library, Gargaon College, Sivasagar.
- iv. H.C.D.G. College Central Library, H.C.D.G. College, Sivasagar.
- v. HironyaPrava Memorial Library & Museum, Sibsagar College, Sivasagar.
- vi. Nazira College Central Library, Nazira College, Sivasagar.

METHODS AND DATABASE:

Several approaches were used in the development of this research article. Survey techniques, such as questionnaires and in-person interviews, have been utilised to meet the study's goal. Lastly, statistical conclusions were used to examine and show the data that were gathered from the college libraries.

ANALYSIS:

Through personal interviews and questionnaires, data has been gathered. After thorough analysis and inspection, the data was put into the following tables along with explanations.

Table 1 : Information resources collected through electronic devices

Sl. No.	Name of the College Libraries	Number of Resource collection (CD/DVDs)
1	Central Library & Information Centre, Sibsagar Girls' College	144
2	Demow College Library	14

3	Gargaon College Central Library	142
4	H.C.D.G. College Central Library	39
5	Hironya Prava Library & Museum, Sibsagar College	110
6	Nazira College Central Library	204

As can be seen from the above table1, Nazira College Central Library has more electronic resources, such as CDs and DVDs, in its collection than any other library surveyed.

Table 2 : Status of N-LIST Programme

Sl. No.	Name of the College Libraries	Status	
		Active	Passive
1	Central Library & Information Centre, Sibsagar Girls' College	Active	
2	Demow College Library	Active	
3	Gargaon College Central Library	Active	
4	H.C.D.G. College Central Library	Active	
5	HironyaPrava Library & Museum, Sibsagar College	Active	
6	Nazira College Central Library	Active	

From the above table 2, we can see that all the college libraries are registered under N-LIST programme of INFLIBNET. All the college libraries are now actively collect E-Resources under N-LIST programme

Table 3 : E-Resources subscribed

Sl. No.	Name of the College Libraries	E-Resource opted from N-List	E-Resource subscribed from others
1	Central Library & Information Centre, Sibsagar Girls' College	Yes	Yes from SAGE and Astral Books Publications
2	Demow College Library	Yes	-
3	Gargaon College Central Library	Yes	Yes From SAGE Publication
4	H.C.D.G. College Central Library	Yes	-
5	HironyaPrava Library & Museum, Sibsagar College	Yes	-
6	Nazira College Central Library	Yes	Yes From DELNET

Three out of six college libraries—the Central Library and Information Center at Sibsagar Girls' College, Gargaon College, and

Nazira College Central Library—bought some e-resources from different sources, as can be seen in Table 3 above. However, every library evaluated uses E-Resources from the INFLIBNET N-LIST.

Table 4 : Digital Collection Management Software Used

Sl. No.	Name of the College Libraries	Digital Collection Management software used		Implementing year
		Purchased	Open Source	
1	Central Library & Information Centre, Sibsagar Girls' College	-	Dspace	2015
2	Demow College Library	-	-	-
3	Gargaon College Central Library	-	Dspace	2016
4	H.C.D.G. College Central Library	-	-	-
5	HironyaPrava Library & Museum, Sibsagar College	-	-	-
6	Nazira College Central Library	-	Dspace	2016

Table 4 above indicates that just three college libraries—the Nazira College Central Library, Sibsagar Girls' College, Gargaon College Central Library, and Central Library and Information Center—used Open Source Digital Collection Management software. Sibsagar Girls' College's Central Library and Information Center implemented it initially in 2015, followed by additional institutions in 2016. However, no library wants to buy any software to digitize their holdings.

Table 5 : Types of Documents Digitized

Sl. No.	Name of the College Libraries	Manuscripts and Rare Books	College Documents	Question Papers	Others
1	Central Library & Information Centre, Sibsagar Girls' College	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
2	Demow College Library	-	-	Yes	-
3	Gargaon College Central Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
4	H.C.D.G. College Central Library	-	Yes	Yes	-
5	HironyaPrava Library & Museum, Sibsagar College	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
6	Nazira College Central Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	-

Table 5 above shows that the following colleges have already digitized their manuscripts, college documents (such as newsletters and magazines), and question papers: Sibsagar Girls College, Gargaon College, Hironya Prava Library & Museum, Sibsagar

College, and Nazira College Central Libraries. In addition, the library at Gargaon College digitized exam papers and college records for their institutional repositories.

Table 6 : Medium of Digital & Electronic resource collection

Sl. No.	Name of the College Libraries	Medium of E-Resource Collection				
		Purchase	Gift	Supplement with the books	Joining in the consortia	Using open access facility
1.	Central Library & Information Centre, Sibsagar Girls' College	√	-	√	√	√
2.	Demow College Library	-	-		√	√
3.	Gargaon College Central Library	√	-		√	√
4.	H.C.D.G. College Central Library	-	-	-	√	√
5.	HironyaPrava Library & Museum, Sibsagar College	-	-	-	√	√
6.	Nazira College Central Library	√	-	-	√	√

Table 6 above shows that three college libraries that were studied made purchases of Digital and Electronic resources from different sources. Aside from this, all libraries essentially use consortiums and open access to gather Digital and Electronic resources.

FINDINGS

- A good number of infrastructure tools for gathering Digital and Electronic resources are available in the college libraries that were evaluated. They have computers, automation software, printers, scanners, barcodes, and other equipment. H.C.D.G. College, however, has not included a scanner or barcode in its administrative goals.
- Every college library included in the poll has access to the internet. However, the biggest issue facing college libraries is inadequate connectivity. The main issue facing the Central Library of H.C.D.G. College is inadequate internet access.
- All college libraries were steadily moving towards the collection of electronic resources, and they were considering digitizing their materials for final and intended use using a good management software.
- The management and acquisition of Digital and Electronic resources present challenges for the college libraries examined. Some of the issues that library staff members encounter when managing and collecting Digital and Electronic resources include preservation, copyright, technical infrastructure, a shortage of professionals, and restricted library funds.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been made in light of the study's findings, and they will be beneficial for the entire process of gathering and managing Digital and Electronic resources. These suggestions will undoubtedly help the Sivasagar district college library and the other college libraries in Assam.

Gathering information from ICT-based resources is not the only way to go. It undoubtedly aids in solving the space issue. However, there are other issues at hand besides only clearing up the space problem. College libraries must develop a plan for the acquisition and administration of Digital and Electronic resources. It should just have a long-term objective. As the budgetary scope of libraries is, as we all know limited.

The traditional, outdated perception of libraries needs to be altered by LIS professionals. They ought to acknowledge the truth and engage fully in the contemporary library concept. The idea of the "digital divide" ought to be disproved. LIS professionals debate the issues surrounding the acquisition and administration of Digital and Electronic resources.

Finally, but just as importantly, complete backing from higher-ups and other college faculty and staff members is crucial to achieving the situation's potential and objective.

Conclusion:

Today's college libraries use advanced information and communication technology (ICT)- to meet user demands. Digital and Electronic resources and services are now an integral aspect of the transformation of traditional libraries into modern libraries. The College libraries of Assam' slow but steady progress towards gathering Digital and Electronic resources has been noted as encouraging. They subscribe to Digital and Electronic resources such as online databases, CD/DVD ROM databases, e-books, e-journals, and digital documents, among other consortia. However, a number of issues with the gathering and administration of Digital and Electronic resources arose. Library professionals need to keep their application and management of Digital and Electronic resources up to date.

References :

- Das, D. & Saikia, J. (2013).** Collection Development of E-Resources in Academic Libraries. In D. Das, B. Choudhury & P. Boruah (Eds.), Collection Development in IT Environment in the College Libraries of Assam: proceedings of INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmadabad, (pp. 25-31). ACLA: Guwahati.
- Haneefa K., Mohamed. (2007).** "Use of ICT based resources and services in special libraries in Kerala", Annals of Library and Information Studies. Vol.54 (1): (pp.23-31.) NISCAIR : New Delhi
- Lahkar, N. (2013).** E-Resource Management: challenges Before LIS Professionals. In D. Das, B. Choudhury & P. Boruah (Eds.), Collection Development in IT Environment in the College Libraries of Assam: proceedings of INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmadabad, (pp. 165-176). ACLA : Guwahati.
- Sinha, M.N. (2013).** Managing Copyrights and Digital Rights Management for Collection Development of Printed and Electronic Resources in Changing Environment: an Overview. In J. Kalita & R.M.D. Sarmah (Eds.), Grantha Prateeti (pp. 13-46). Nazira college, Nazira: Sivasagar

