Hong Kong International Journal of Research Studies, ISSN: 3078-4018
Volume 2, Issue 2, July December, 2024
Available online at: https://octopuspublication.com/index.php/hkijrs

A Comparative Study of Public and Academic Libraries in Digital Resource Utilization

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ABSTRACT

Libraries are among the most important places for people to go these days if they want to learn new things. A society's evolution is greatly influenced by libraries, whether they be academic or popular. They serve to enhance society in a variety of different ways, which is why they may both be classified as social institutions. Academic libraries are the lifeblood of educational institutions, even if public libraries may contribute significantly to the improvement of education across the world. Conducting comparative research that allows for the evaluation of the two is difficult. It is possible that the two differ from one other in terms of the goals that they seek, the structure that they use, and the services that they give.

The fundamental principle is that public libraries need to get special support since they often have difficulties in remaining open owing to insufficient funding from the government or other organizations. On the other hand, the academic libraries of the institution in which it is housed have traditionally served as the basis for its existence. The advantages and long-term viability of public libraries as opposed to libraries at universities are discussed in the study. It will go into great length on the important role that public libraries play in the growth of human knowledge and the progress of civilization.

Public libraries are very important in northeastern India, particularly in states like Assam, and must grow at a quick pace. As a result, the goal of this study is to increase awareness of how important public libraries are in states such as Assam. In any case, the use of the scientific method throughout the course of the study is how this objective is achieved. Library employees from both public and academic institutions located in the upper Assam region are being questioned and required to complete questionnaires. The two investigations conducted yielded information that will be used in further studies.

Keywords: Public Libraries, Academic Libraries, Educational Development, Assam

INTRODUCTION

There A proverb from days of old states that "the pen is mightier than the sword." India has achieved sovereign status after having previously been a colony. Before India gained its freedom, the Western countries were reluctant to engage in relations with the country. They produced and published stories on the internet, allowing everyone to learn about destinations such as India. Nevertheless, due to the fact that it did not have the military power necessary to put up an effective opposition and recover its former glory, India was unable to do so.

As a result, Indian intelligence has started to respond by recording their viewpoint on the nation. Library strikes are another method by which people might seek revenge. This is due to the fact that libraries preserve a nation's data, history, and philosophy. In 1903, the British established the Imperial Library of India, which marked the beginning of the restoration of India's central library system. To some extent, the Indians are able to resist the British. In other words, libraries have been able to increase their collection of Indian ideas, culture, and traditions thanks to the added possibility that writing has brought.

The British did not only invent an account of India; they also undermined the religious and cultural pillars upon which the Indian people depended. Making fun of Indians was a strategy used by the British in order to gain leverage in negotiations. Postcolonial literature provides evidence of this. India is a growing superpower, thus it is evident that education levels must be raised for all of its population. The only thing that you can do in this situation is go to the library. Individuals who expand their knowledge base will be better prepared to participate in politics on a global scale. Simply building libraries and other services will not be sufficient to accomplish this goal. In order to accomplish this aim, it is necessary to expand the number of people who support libraries and to make the significance of library use known to the general public. There are many who may think that focusing on this problem by way of public libraries is the most effective approach.

There are several different types of libraries, including public libraries, academic libraries, special libraries, and internet libraries, among others. The spread of knowledge in every given society is strongly dependent on its libraries, including both academic and public institutions. Libraries that are associated with educational institutions provide benefits to young people. Everything in a group orbits around it. The academic library is a location where students, instructors, and staff may strive to attain their objectives through hard work and can dream large. Self-study has never been more important than it is in the present day, given the growth of new subjects of study. Because of this, attending a classroom to learn anything at all has become cliché. Going to the library is an important part of broadening your understanding of the world. One aspect that plays a role in this is the increasing prevalence of libraries as locations where people go to acquire information. Libraries make use of machines in order to make it possible to supply its patrons with information that is both up-to-date and relevant to their needs. Because of this, academic libraries have a tremendous influence on the destiny of younger generations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

With People in the current world are always attempting to surpass one another as a result of their dedication and their interest in a diverse array of subjects. By researching established disciplines, we may get further knowledge about emerging areas of study. However, gaining an awareness of the past is often helpful in the dissection of ideas and the creation of new forms for those ideas. Integrating a review of the relevant literature into your study proposal is of utmost importance for this reason.

A significant amount of importance is placed on investigating the current collection of information in the chosen discipline. Every school undertaking requires the completion of a task that consists of reading a text and then writing a short evaluation of it. Based on this, the researcher has a comprehensive comprehension of the current literature on the issue and the reasoning for doing the study. To put it in a nutshell, a literature review acquaints the researcher with the most recent studies on their topic of interest.

A study of the fundamental texts in the field brings to light the differences between the roles of academic libraries and public libraries. Essentially, the ways in which libraries get money seem to be diverse and appear to have a substantial effect on their growth. A perusal of books written on the topic may provide us with an understanding of why it is that university libraries in Assam get more financing than public libraries in the state. It is possible that findings from an investigation into the ways in which public libraries in other states operate, as well as the results of a survey conducted at universities located outside of Assam, might provide insight into the purpose of this article and emphasize the urgent need of financial assistance for public libraries in Assam.

3. ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The A "library" is a place where people may go to get knowledge. This is the most common definition for the term. In the past, all it signified was a straightforward bookcase. Libraries, on the other hand, have changed throughout time from being mere repositories for books to becoming centers for a diverse selection of print and non-print resources. The notion that a library is a place where a wide variety of information may be stored is outdated. This category includes books, encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, gazetteers, directories, question papers, theses, dissertations, institutional reports, CDs, DVDs, e-books, e-periodicals, and a wide variety of other forms of media.

In this context, a library is just an idea whose purpose is to make information accessible to all people. As a consequence of this, the process of globalization is expedited. The English term "library" has one Latin origin, which is the word "liber," and it means "a book." The Latin term "liber" has the same meaning as the Greek term "bibliotheca" in this context. A library, then, may be defined as an organization or structure whose common objective is to gather, organize, and make a variety of information available to the people who are in search of it, with the end aim of turning all persons into customers of the library.

Though Despite the fact that a thorough explanation of the operations of a library would be hard to offer since various kinds of libraries have distinct processes, it is feasible to present a broad sketch of how libraries usually work. The management team of the library comprises members who represent a diverse array of human resources departments. This is the reason for that decision. Management encompasses a wide range of responsibilities, including employee supervision, tracking expenditures, overseeing furnishings, and maintaining library resources. Positions are filled by people who are really competent, which is the polar opposite of what would be expected.

After the process of selecting materials is completed, a significant amount of cleaning and organizing is required. After books have been selected and categorized, the classificationists who work in the acquisitions section of the library assign them to topic groups according to the classification system. After this, the books are put on the proper shelves, and the catalogers provide the relevant remarks. Another facet of cleaning is the maintenance of cleanliness throughout the course of time. Preservation and cleaning are also performed in order to prolong the lifespan of the components. This is the typical method in the majority of libraries because of this. In order to address all possible scenarios, the study finishes up by examining the optimal methods for organizing library collections.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Data While the analysis and interpretation of data are important for every research, they are of the highest relevance in domains that use surveys. Before you mention "data," be sure you specify what you mean by that term. When it comes to information that is innately random, the name "data" is acceptable. These materials have been obtained from a variety of sources in their raw form. Data has the potential to become knowledge if it is organized according to the appropriate type of logic. It is vital to assess and interpret data in order to get knowledge that is meaningful. Therefore, the process of data analysis consists of an examination of raw data via the use of a variety of methods. At the same time, data interpretation provides a way to understand the results of data analysis.

The foundations of every research activity are data analysis and interpretation, since they expose hidden ideas and convert unprocessed data into knowledge that can be acted upon. It really assists the researcher in picturing the work they have done and assessing whether or not the hypothesis that they have offered for the study is appropriate. In simple terms, the professionals have reached the stage where they are making an effort to come at a conclusion.

When working with data, both quantitative and qualitative techniques are beneficial. The study utilizes both inductive and subjective qualities. Quantitative analysis, on the other hand, is logical and based on scientific principles. Data analysis may be accomplished with the use of a number of different tools, including histograms, pie charts, and tables, among others. The word "statistics" refers to these sorts of analysis in general. After the findings have been shown by the analysis, it is possible to get further information about these findings by applying theory or understanding. Frequently, the process of analyzing data produces beneficial discoveries that provide support for ideas that have been suggested in the past.

The majority of this chapter is concerned with the interpretation and analysis of the unprocessed data that was obtained via interviews, questionnaires, and face-to-face interactions with users and employees of the library. Essentially, the data is shown in a table format, and each table is accompanied by a series of analysis and descriptions. The tables that accompany the study might provide solutions to questions that both users and libraries have about the dissertation. In order to provide a better illustration and clarification of their results on the library's physical organization, the author additionally makes use of a number of images that were taken throughout the investigation. The next parts will address the results and their presentation.

A. A PROFILE OF THE SURVEYED LIBRARIES

The The northeastern region of India consists of eight states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Since India gained its independence, the quality of higher education in Assam has been gradually rising, causing a lot of people to assume that the state has the greatest level of education out of all of them. The percentage of the population that can read and write is also rising at a quick pace. Assam is divided into two main geographical regions: Upper Assam and Lower Assam.

There are eleven libraries located in four distinct areas of upper Assam that are being taken into consideration for this project. In the table below, you will be able to see information about the library's name, parent school, year of establishment, and website. The following facts are followed by thorough information on the librarians of each library, including their names, qualifications, and work histories. A skilled librarian could be an advantage to the success of the school, especially if they are a leader who offers outstanding service to library clients and pushes for the development of the library.

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Volume 2, Issue 2, July December, 2024
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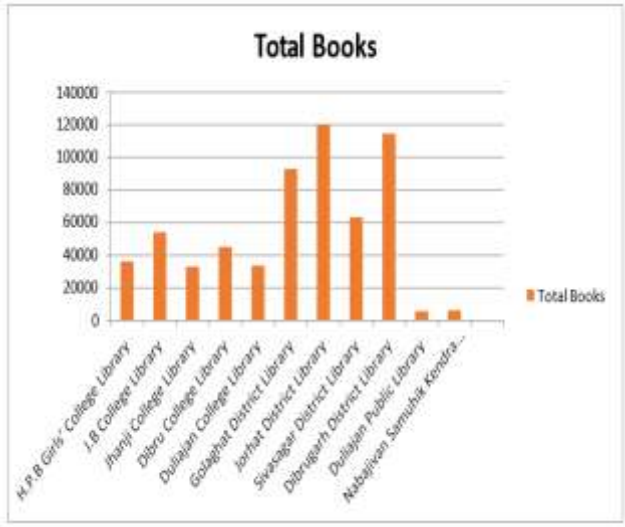


Fig: Total no. of books (Source: Primary Data)

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

A A study's results may lead to significant developments. The findings of the questionnaire are discussed by the investigator in this portion of the episode. In order to identify the concerns, an investigator must compile a list of all the activities that are not possible to accomplish in the location that is being studied. The conclusions that have been formed take into consideration the goals of the study as well as the findings of the survey.

The The main objective of the study was to conduct an evaluation of the existing state of affairs in the public and university libraries of Assam. In order to achieve this goal, a total of eleven libraries were surveyed, including five academic libraries and six public libraries. Public libraries are in the worst possible condition that one could think of, according to every piece of evidence and opinion collected. They are not keeping up with the times, whether it is via drawing more users or automating procedures. University libraries, on the other hand, are prospering as a result of the growing use of bar codes and integrated library management systems (ILMS). In addition, academic libraries have a wide range of avenues available to them to interact with their users, such as social networking sites, library websites, and other platforms. The converse is true for public libraries, as an example.

The The second goal was to examine the similarities and differences between the techniques employed by academic and public libraries to promote their services and recruit customers. Getting the word out about their services and encouraging students to attend are two of the numerous objectives that college libraries are achieving via means that include the establishment of reading clubs and the interaction with users on a variety of social media platforms, such as Facebook, email, and WhatsApp. In addition, users get navigational aid on a regular basis. These materials, on the other hand, are not able to be found in public libraries. It would seem as if they are paying no mind to these things, despite the fact that they demand their attention. The people who are in charge of the public library in Assam are not meeting their responsibilities in any way.

CONCLUSION

The When it comes to developing a community, the library is the most important organization. For the foreseeable future, the library will continue to function as the location where numerous academic organizations, research projects, and classrooms meet and gather. The major goal is to make informational material available to people so that they may access it whenever it is necessary for them to do so. It should not be difficult for anybody who is making use of the library, particularly children, to find the resources that they are looking for. Library services are presently operating at an all-time high thanks to major technical developments and a greater focus on the user. Although Indian libraries have access to information and communication technology (ICT), the growth of these libraries has been slower than what was anticipated.

According to the fifth rule of library science proposed by Ranganathan, "The library is an ever-evolving living thing." Libraries must thus make quick adjustments in order to accommodate their changing surroundings. The spread of libraries in India, on the other hand, has been slow, especially in the state of Assam. There are a lot of reasons why this is the case.

Some academic libraries are growing their holdings thanks to financial support from the University Grants Committee (UGC) and the parent institution. The public libraries in Assam, on the other hand, have not progressed in quite some time. The goal of the study was to discover which regions in Assam are seeing a decline in library services, with a special focus on public libraries, and to identify the factors contributing to this trend. You may see the findings of the researcher's exhaustive investigation up on that screen.

The study comes to the conclusion that university libraries are much better than public libraries after summarizing the data. In the same way, there is a vast list of ways that academic libraries might improve. The following section explores some suggestions and plans for the enhancement of both academic and popular libraries in Assam. Libraries must begin to immediately make progress and extend their operations with an emphasis on the needs of their users if they want to continue to operate in the future.

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