Libraries of Higher Education in Gulbarga City: An Evaluative Study Based on Five Laws of Library Science

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Abstract: An attempt has been made to evaluate the college libraries of Gulbarga City in the light of five laws of library science with the respect to implication on staff, library building, location of a library, classification, cataloguing, book selection, shelf arrangement, reference service, ICT applications, innovative services and best practices, qualifications of librarian, accessibility, signage system, library guide, location of the library, special sequence of books, library marketing, extension of library building, storage and weeding policies. To achieve this, survey method of research was adopted and appropriate questionnaire was designed and distributed among college librarians and users of college libraries. Results found that maintenance of shelf list, way guides signage system need improvement. In order to increase the accessibility of books the libraries have to follow different approaches, including provision of services and user education program me. Use of IT and management technique need to be encouraged in the light of five laws. Many libraries also neglected in automating the library and considering the space problem. Overall the situation is not bad, but it is not good as well. It is high time for all the libraries of develop heir libraries in the light of five laws of library science for better visibility and sustainability.

Keywords: Five laws, Performance measurement, Library evaluation.

1. Introduction:

The five laws library science enunciated by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan in the year 1928 and published in 1931[1] are the first fundamental laws in the field of library science. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan called these normative principles because in the light of these laws it is possible to examine whether a particular progress or a practice in library and information science is helpful or unhelpful. These laws contain a philosophy of librarianship that harmonized with the concept of service to increase the utility of graphic records for the benefit of the society. The five laws of library science are found to be useful in providing logical interpretation of the present and future library practices and services. The five laws are,
1) Books are for use
2) Every reader his/her book
3) Every book its reader
4) Save the time of the reader
5) Library is a growing organism

Dr. Ranganathan gave comprehensive connotation, implication and important application of each law in his numerous articles in addition to the lengthy treatise "Five Laws of Library Science". Activities both theoretical and practical as performed in various types of libraries, were analyzed in the light of five laws justifying the validity of each law. These laws

also provide guidance in theory and practice of library and information science. Besides being useful in the teaching of the different aspects of library science, these laws have also made an impact on development of theory and practice. These serve as sources of inspiration and guidance in the direction of further improving and qualities of libraries.

Thus five laws have many implications on libraries, library services, personnel, users and every other concept concerned with libraries. Pauline A. Atherton (Cochrane) [2] has critically examined five laws of library science in her book entitled "Putting knowledge to work". According to her, the laws "offer me (and my students) the guidance and the rationale we need when we critically review how we follow the cataloguing practices which prevail, how to evaluate the libraries we use, or work in, and how we work to improve the practice we follow and the library services we manage".

2. Need for the study:

College education is the first stage towards achieving higher education. The libraries attached to these institution, play a significant role in fulfilling objectives of higher education. Education particular at higher levels has been ascribed as a process of learning than teaching. Hence there is a greater need to provide information to support higher education. In fact much work has been done on college libraries in the Indian context. Few piece- meal and isolated studies have been reported evaluating the college libraries, conducted by students as a part of Master's degree. But, there is a complete absence of literature on the evaluation of college libraries in the light of five laws in a wider geographic perspective. Hence, the present study is undertaken.

3. Objectives of the study:

The primary objective of the study is to evaluate the college libraries of Gulbarga City in the light of five laws of library science. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To evaluate library staff, library building, location of a library, library hours, book selection, shelf arrangement, reference service, user education and maintenance in the light of first law of library science.
2. To evaluate the extent of statutory provision to libraries by the Government, its implementation by the management of the college, and library staff, book selection, shelf arrangement cataloguing, maintenance, reference service, resource sharing, mode of access and responsibility of the uses in the light of second law of library science.
3. To evaluate book selection, shelf arrangement, cataloguing, reference service, accessibility, mode of access and extension service in the light of third law of library science.
4. To evaluate shelf arrangement, cataloguing, library services, qualifications of librarian, accessibility, signage system, library guide, location of library, special sequences of books, library publicity, use of Information technology, management of libraries in the light of fourth law of library science.
5. To evaluate the implications of growth on extension of library building, storage and weeding, choice of classification scheme, shelf arrangement, choice of catalogue code, physical form of a catalogue, reference service, user education, library orientation, and staff in the light of fifth law of library science.

4. Methodology:

A survey method of research was employed for the collection of data to evaluate the college libraries in the light of five laws of library science. For the purpose of the collection of data to know the situation of libraries in the light of five laws of library science in all the colleges of higher education on the City, Survey method of research was adopted and appropriate questionnaires was designed and distributed among college librarians and users of college libraries.

5. Scope and limitation:

The study is limited geographically to the Gulbarga City. It is restricted to the college libraries affiliated to the universities viz., Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Karnataka State Women's University, Vishweshwaraiah Technical University, Belgaum (VTU) and Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science, Bangalore (RGUHS). The scope of the study is confined to colleges offering under graduate courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, Education, Law, engineering and Health Sciences. The limitations of the methodologies adopted also apply to the study.

6. Review of Literature:

Battacharya[3] furnishes an interpretative explanation of empirical facts of experience pertaining to the newly emerged concepts of "Networks of Libraries and Information centers", in the light of Ranganathnan's five laws of library science. Weerasooriya [4] discusses the integral nature of Ranganathan's five laws of library science and develops the implication of five laws to library networking and delineates a programme of action for the network. Emphasizes that five laws are of immense potential in many fields besides in library and information science. Nikhil Kumar [5] defines user education and describes its objectives and components. How users are being debarred from using library resources and facilities due to lack of people user education programme. Justifies how user education is relevant for the fulfillment of the spirit of five laws of library science. Satija [6] discusses the implications of the five laws of library science of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan in the fast changing information society, and studied the inadequacies of the existing laws in the virtual library situation.

Khode and Dhar [7] described how information technology tools such as Internet, networking and electronic publishing are helpful in successful implementation of the five laws of library science. Sen [8] feels that among the five laws of library science enumerated by Ranganathan, first and fifth are axioms and the remaining three are slogans. Kurronen and Pekkarian [9] interprets Ranganathan's five laws of library science in the context of modern information technologies and their implications in society, more specifically in the context of the virtual library states the application of the five laws of library science and their interpretation in the virtual library environment.

Ching [10] provides an explanation of the 'five laws of library science'. Discusses mainly the 3rd and 4th laws, which when applied to the cataloguing of Chinese materials, are seen to suggest the standardization of all Chinese subject heading. Sharma and Ranganathan [11] contribute his 'Five laws of library science' seen as guidelines for practice in all areas of

library and information services, by professionals in many countries. Foskett [12] contribute Dr. S. R. Ranganathan his 'Five laws of library science' place the user as the focus of library and information service and emphasis the need to understand the user.

7. **Data Analysis and Interpretation:**
   - Characteristics of the study population

Table-1: Year of Establishment of Colleges

Year of Establishment	No.	Percentage
1957-1980	13	37.14
1981-2000	11	31.43
2000-	11	31.43
Total	**35**	**100.00**

Table-1 indicates there are number of colleges established in last few years. During 1957-1980 13(37.14%) colleges were established, 1981-2000 11 (31.43%) colleges were established and 2000 to till colleges were established.

Table-2: University Affiliation of Colleges

University affiliation to	No.	Percentage
G.U.G.	19	54.28
R.G.H.S.C.	07	20.02
K.S.W.U.B.	04	11.42
V.T.U	05	14.28
Total	**35**	**100.00**

Table-2 shows the most of the colleges in the city are affiliation to Gulbarga University Gulbarga (GUG) 19 (54.28%) colleges were affiliated to the GUG, 07 (20.02%) to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka State Women's University (KSWUB) 04 (11.42%), and 05 (14.28%) colleges are affiliated to Vishweshwaraiah Technical University (VTU).

Table-3: Category of the Colleges

Category of the College	No.	Percentage
First Grade	13	37.15
Education	07	22.85
Law	02	2.86
Engineering	05	14.28
Medical Science	08	22.86
Total	**35**	**100.00**

Table-4 shows that a majority of the colleges in the city are first grade colleges, followed by medical sciences and education colleges. There are five engineering colleges and two law colleges.

Table-4: Type of Management

Type of Management	No.	Percentage
Government	03	8.57
Private Aided	11	31.43
Private Unaided	21	60.00
Total	**35**	**100.00**

Table-4 shows the colleges belongs to different types management. There are 03 (8.51%) are Govt. colleges, 11 (31.43%) private aided colleges and 21 (60%) colleges are private unaided.

Table-5: Details of Professional Librarian

Professional Librarian	No.	Percentage
Qualification:		
BLISc	03	8.83
BLISC + Other Courses	03	8.83
MLISC	15	44.11
MLISC+Other Courses	11	32.35
M.Phil+Ph.D.	02	05.88
Designation:		
(Sr.Grade) Librarian	03	8.83
Assistant Librarian	01	2.94
Librarian	30	88.23
Pay Scale:		
U.G.C.	10	35.72
State Government	11	39.28
Consolidated	02	25.00

Table-5 provides detailed information about professional. More than 40% of the Librarian have masters degree LIS. Nearly 32% have studied other diploma course in addition to MLISC. There are only two people with Ph.D and three weak only BLISc and three with BLISc and other courses.

The second group emphasis on the designation of professionals. It is found that 3 (8.83%) are librarian (Sr. Grade), 1 (2.94%) is an assistant librarian and 30 (88.23%) are having the designation of 'Librarian'.

The third group points out on the pay scale of the librarian. 10 (35.72%) professionals are getting the payment according to UGC, 11 (39.28%) are getting from state government and 7 (25.00%) are getting consolidated payment.

8. Summary and findings and suggestions:

8.1. Summary of Findings:

It is found that more than thirty percent college were established in less time in the year 2000, more than fifty percent of the colleges are affiliated to GUG, rather than other universities, nearly sixty percent of the colleges offers UG courses, more than thirty five percent of the colleges belongs to first grade, the colleges belongs to different types of management, eight percent of the colleges belongs to Govt. thirty one percent colleges are private aided and majority of the colleges are unaided. Almost all the colleges have library, maximum number of ninety one percent of the colleges maintained by full time professional librarian.

Maximum qualification of Librarian's are MLISC and eighty eight percent of the librarians designated in the librarians post an more than thirty nine percent getting salary from state government.

More than fifty percent of the college have good working environment, where as fifty percent of the colleges working aspects is also same, while sixty percent are attached to the college building, seventy one percent of the library buildings are well planned, majority of the twenty seven percent libraries of colleges have attractive buildings, nearly ninety percent library building is easily accessible, and the maximum respondents are satisfied that building is suitable for library purpose, nearly seventy percent respondents are satisfied with good lighting facilities.

Nearly eighty eight percent of the libraries collections are text books, reference books, general books and periodicals. Seventy seven percent of the books are selected on the basis of the syllabus. Ninety one percent libraries can provide the circulation of library documents.

Forty eight percent of the libraries are maintained cataloguing using main entry and nearly seven percent of the libraries are not spare their resources with other libraries. Majority of the libraries nearly fifty percent are provide open access system, almost all libraries provide library rules and eighty two percent of the users are followed these rules, and ninety percent of the users are return books on time.

It is found that nearly fifty four percent libraries are using DDC (Dewey Decimal classification) scheme for classification and forty percent are using AACR-II for cataloguing majority of the libraries, fifth eight percent are maintained physical form of catalogue otherwise forty two percent are using computerized form of cards.

The summary of finding clearly indicates that there is not even a single library that completely satisfies the implication of five laws.

As for as working environment library staff, composition qualification, designation and pay scale a majority of the libraries do satisfy the implication. Location of library, planning of library building, accessibility, suitability, lighting and ventilation are few other points where in a good number of libraries do satisfy the implication. The libraries have neglected the five laws with regard to working hours and book selection; shelf-arrangement is in accordance with the laws. But libraries services and preservation methods need to improve in the light of the laws.

As far as library collection is concerned, there is a lot to improve. The technical processing is concerned, the situation is too bad and these have totally neglected the five laws. The college libraries are also not handling damages to book properly in the context of the laws. In the real sense resource sharing is not being practiced. A significant proportion to libraries still follows closed access which is in violation of the laws.

Though all the libraries have rules, these needs to be implemented appropriately. Maintenance of shelf lists, way guides signage system need improvement. In order to increase the accessibility of books the libraries have to follow different approaches, including provision of services and user education programme. Use of IT and management technique need to be encouraged in the light of five laws. Many libraries also have neglected in automating the library and considering the space problem. Overall the situation is not bad, but it is not good as well. It is high line for all the libraries of develop their libraries in the light of five laws of library science.

8.2. Suggestions:

1. The libraries should not appoint non-professionals as libraries. On the other hand, they must recruit educationally qualified person as librarian, with eligible pay scale.
2. The college authorities must recruit semi-professionals and non-professional staff, as suggested by Ranganathan Committee.
3. The college authority's must ensure a healthy working environment for its staff and extend career promotion.
4. The authorities must ensure that the college library should get an independent and well planned library, which should be attractive and easily accessible, suitable for library purposes, shall suffice for a longer duration and the building must be functional for future expansion, with good lighting and ventilation, and comfortable furniture.
5. The college libraries must remain open for a longer period, including Sundays, holidays and vacations.
6. The selection of books should be done on scientific basis. The achieve this, these have to frame Collection Development Polices (CDP) and the selection has to be done based on CDP only.
7. The librarian has to take all the measures to ensure that book is arranged properly and that shelf-list, way guide, proper signage system is followed. Further the arrangement should be such that it meets readers expressed/ unexpressed interest.
8. The libraries have to provide various library services particularly reference service.
9. The librarian must ensure that proper preservation methods are followed to keep the books in good condition.
10. The college libraries have to expand their base to include alumni common citizen, instauration and industries.
11. The collage libraries also have to expand their base of sources of finance.
12. User studies need to be conducted regularly and their implications have to be incorporated in CDP and other policies.
13. Libraries have applied management techniques to solve day to day routine.
14. Libraries have to use IT application for providing quality services.
15. Libraries must automate their activities is a phased manner.
16. Libraries must find alternative ways to meet space problems.
17. Libraries must implement all such practice that is prescribed under the five laws.

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