

A Study about the space facilities provided to users of Nehru Branch Library: A Case Study

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Abstract: The paper deals with the space facilities provided to the users of Nehru Branch Library, Kanchipuram Tamilnadu. Here survey method was followed. The majority of the respondents indicated that the place for the users which are provided to access, read and to take reference is not enough, the seating facility is not enough, the chairs are not good, there is no water facility and the location where the library is situated is not appropriate for library.

Keywords: Public library, User Needs, Space facility, Location.

1. Introduction:

A public library is a library that is accessible by the general public and is generally funded from public sources, such as taxes. It is operated by librarians and library professionals, who are also civil servants. There are five fundamental characteristics shared by public libraries. The first is that they are generally supported by taxes (usually local, though any level of government can and may contribute); they are governed by a board to serve the public interest, they are open to all, and every community member can access the collection, they are entirely voluntary in that no one is ever forced to use the services provided; and public libraries provide basic services without charge.

Public library is largely regarded as the People's University. It has tremendous developments in India from the early period to till date at various stages. Most of the Indian states now have free public library services to develop the people of India at different levels. Public library is different from academic and special libraries. It is because we can't guess the users here. Students, house wives, youngsters, adults, retired people all are the users of the public library where else students, faculties, research scholars are the users of academic and special libraries.

The principle challenge for the architect is to design a learning and research environment that is transparent and sufficiently flexible to support this evolution in use. However, we must not design space that is so generic or anonymous that it lacks the distinctive quality that should be expected for such an important building. The charge to architects is to create libraries that, themselves, learn. One key concept is that the library as a place must be self-organizing—that is, sufficiently flexible to meet changing space needs. To accomplish this, library planners must be more entrepreneurial in outlook, periodically evaluating the effective use of space and assessing new placements of services and configurations of learning spaces in response to changes in user demand.

2. Review of the Literature:

Our success in building the virtual library makes it increasingly unnecessary for people to visit the physical library to meet most of their day-to-day information needs. Why, then, are public libraries and well-designed and well-maintained academic libraries as busy as ever, onsite and online? There are still more libraries than McDonald's restaurants in this country, and three times as many people visit libraries as go to the movies in a year (Weigand 2000). Libraries are among the most heavily used buildings on campus at many colleges. If this is so, then why are librarians on the defensive? Why do they sometimes fall into the trap of seeming to do anything they can to get people in the door?

Public libraries in India have been recognized for their potential to be local centres of information and learning for the deprived masses, their current state of disuse and neglect is a major point of concern (National Knowledge Commission, 2007; Ghosh, 2005; Seth, 2006; Dasgupta, 2000). In response to this issue one of the key recommendations from this working group is to encourage greater community participation in library management in order for libraries to become "community-based information systems." While this working group is providing general recommendations for implementation (which are sent to the Prime Minister and subsequently to state governments and civil society groups), the specifics of what a community-based information system might entail needs to be understood more fully.

Library planners must also acknowledge that availability of space, or lack of it, is not the sole reason for examining physical facilities. The need to improve energy efficiency and the condition of heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, to insure handicapped accessibility, to adapt to meet the electrical and telecommunications requirements to tomorrow's library technologies; and to assess the general effectiveness of the work flow are other suitable reasons for examining the structure that houses a local library. Changes in community demographics, social trends, and local economic factors may also infuse the discussion. What worked well for the community in the library's former plan of service may constrain the delivery of services today.

Public libraries exist in many countries across the world and are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population. Public libraries are distinct from research libraries, school libraries and other special libraries in that their mandate is to serve the general public's information needs (rather than the needs of a particular school, institution or research population). Public libraries also provide fee services such as preschool story times to encourage early literacy, quiet study and work areas for students and professionals, or book clubs to encourage appreciation of literature in adults. Public libraries typically allow users to take books and other materials off the premises temporarily, they also have non-circulating reference collections and provide computer and internet access to patrons.

3. About Nehru Branch Library:

Nehru Branch Library was started in 1962, under the Madras Public Library act. Its locality is prime area in Kanchipuram town. It has nearly 30,000 volumes of books, 25 dailies and nearly 75 magazines. The daily readers of Nehru Branch Library is nearly 120 and book issues gone upto 80 to 100. It is an active library.

4. Background of the Research:

I practiced apprenticeship in Nehru Branch Library. There I find many problems like no separate place to take reference, no separate place for kids, no protective place for personal belongings and no proper parking. Its my view about the library and I want to know the users view about. So I did the study.

5. Objectives:

- ❖ To identify the users of Nehru Branch Library.
- ❖ To identify the facilities in the Nehru Branch Library.
- ❖ To identify that the users expectations are fulfilled.

6. Methodology:

The study was about to know the basic facilities is fulfilled in the active Nehru Branch Library, Kanchipuram. A well structured questionnaire was prepared to collect the relevant data to the users of Nehru Branch Library, Kanchipuram. Totally 100 questionnaires were distributed and 68 was received. And the data response data is 68%.

7. Data Analysis and Findings:

The demographic information of the respondents is given in the table 1.

Table 1: Demographic Information of Respondents

S.No	Description		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Gender	Male	52	76.5
		Female	16	23.5
2	Frequency	Daily	29	42.6
		Fortnightly	05	07.4
		Monthly once	07	10.0
		Weekly once	27	40.0
3	Time spent in Library	1 hr	28	41.2
		Below 1 hr	14	20.6
		More than 1 hr	23	33.8
		Maximum time	3	04.4

Table 1 shows that 76.5% of the respondents are male and the 23.5% are female. The frequency of their visit to library daily are 42.6%, fortnightly are 7.4%, Monthly once are 10% and weekly once are 40%. And also found that the time spent in library for 1 hr are 41.2%, Below 1 hr are 20.6%, more than 1 hr are 33.8%, maximum time are 4.4%.

The demographic representation of library facilities:

The list of some facilities given below and the aim is to collect the data about the facilities provided to users and the expectations of the users.

Table:2 Users satisfaction level of facilities provided by Nehru Branch Library

S.No	Facility	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
1	Locality is silent	8	11.8	60	88.2
2	Separate place to read dailies and magazines	58	85.3	10	14.7
2	Separate place to take reference	13	19.1	55	80.9
3	Separate seat for children	19	27.9	49	72.1
4	Sufficient Chairs	58	85.3	10	14.7
5	Water facility	24	35.3	44	64.7
6	Toilet facility	41	60.3	27	39.7
7	Place to kept the personal belongings	26	38.2	42	61.8
8	Place for parking	25	36.8	43	63.2%



Table 2 shows that 11.8% of users says that the locality is silent where else 88.2 % says the locality is not silent. 85.3% of users are says that there is sufficient place to read dailies and magazines. 14.7% says no sufficient. 19.1% of users said that there is separate place to take reference and 80.9% are said no. 27.9% users are said that there are separate seat for children and 72.1% said no. 85.3% of users said that there is sufficient chairs to sit and 14.7% of users are said no. 35.3% of users are said that there is proper water facility and 64.7% are said no. 60.3% of users are said that toilet facility is good and 39.7% are said no. 38.2% of users said that there is protective place to kept personal belongings and 61.8% said no. 36.8% of users are said that there is place for parking and 63.2% are no.

8. Suggestions:

According to findings, suggestions to rectify the problems were given below,

- The locality where the library placed is not a silent place. The dust and noise are the major problems.
- Need separate place to take references from the books.
- Need to supply of drinking water .
- Need to develop toilet facility.

- Need to put separate chairs for children.
- Need a protective place to kept users personal belongings.
- Need a protective place for parking.

9. Conclusions:

Though library is considered as a important place to develop knowledge there is no proper maintenance. We are celebrating the 67th Independence of our country, but the basic amenities like water and toilet facilities are not fulfilled. Library is the back bone to create a knowledgeable society, it means have to develop the library facilities also, it makes readers to spend more time and read books in library. So Public libraries must be maintained.

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