

# **Library Building and Space Management: A Case Study of NRN Memorial National Law Library of NLSIU**

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**Abstract:** *Good and quality library building and internal and external space management is most vital part to provide very congenial atmosphere for longer reading and frequency of visit to library and information center. Due to the technological development and its positive impact on libraries and information centers the LIS professionals need to think of re-design and restructure the library space to provide innovative and emerging library services blending with techno-savvy and traditional library and information services. In this context the NLSIU library, Bangalore created a user friendly atmosphere to access both print and electronic/online collections. In this article authors provides the brief background of the library, its building and internal space management with environment eco-friendly and information of commons area to enrich the social, academic binding among the user community.*

**Keywords:** Library space, Library building, NLSIU library

## **1. Introduction:**

National Law School of India University's (NLSIU) new library is situated on the University main campus, primarily offering library services to NLSIU students, scholars and faculty members on a 24 hour, 7 days a week. The library is the 'heart' of any academic institution and plays an important role in all academic activities and, the more so, in law institutions. The present library named as Sri Narayana Rao Memorial National Law Library, it was constructed generously assisted through the munificence of Mrs. Sudha Narayanamurthy of INFOSYS and started operating this new building since 2005. The building has been designed to provide a high quality educational space adding value to the academic learning experience. It has been located in the middle of the university's campus.

The library building has been designed over three floors with the ground floor housing all the reporters and journals and the upper two floors are dedicated to housing of books and student activities with open access method storage and reading halls. The total built in area

of the library building is 30,000sq.ft.with ample space for storage of books, other documents, administration, reading and research cubicles area etc. The library has been planned keeping in view the aims and objectives of the Law School, and is being operated by a team of professionally qualified library staff guided by the Library Council. It has a collection of over 50,000 volumes covering a wide range of general and special subjects, comprising of text books, reference books, back volumes of journals and reports etc., apart from current legal periodicals. The Library functions from 8.30 A.M till 3.00 A.M. on all days of the week, but closing hours will vary during vacations.

The library follows open access system to facilitate readers to have easy access to the library resources. The NLSIU Library has also established links with other important libraries in and around Bangalore in order to provide inter-library access for the benefit of students and teachers of the Law School. To assist the students and Research Scholars in locating literature as well as information in their areas of research, general reference, current awareness and computerized catalogues have been introduced. An orientation programme is also organised for new students to help them to acquaint themselves with the library system and services and for enabling maximum utilisation of the available resources.



**Picture of the Narayan Rao Memorial National Law Library**

The Law School is fully computerised both housekeeping as well as information search and retrieval. Since dedicated leased line connection to the internet, it is possible to have easy access to information directly from all available computerized databases all over the world, not only in the field of law but also in other disciplines.

## 2. Online Databases

Keeping in mind the vision to create an E-Law School, the University subscribes to many international online databases like WESTLAW, JSTOR, WTO, SPRINGERLINK, LEXIS-NEXIS, JSTOR, HEINONLINE, KLUWER-ARBITRATION, etc. which contain enormous resources like International Case Reporters, Statutes, and Articles from Law Journals, constituting an invaluable resource to a law school student. MANUPATRA.COM, INDLAW.COM, SCC Online and similar Indian databases have also been made available for both students and faculty. NLSIU is among the first of the legal educational institutions in India to subscribe to these online databases.

The Library has CD-ROMs search facilities and it has also acquired important CD-ROM databases such as SCC-Online and AIR etc. With a computerised library system it is the aim of the library to establish a network of law libraries in India and also to establish a National Legal Information Centre, which will act as a clearing house of information in the field of law. The Library has all state-of-the-art gadgets with Wi-Fi internet connection and highly modernized Audio-Visual equipments with tele-conferencing facility. Special arrangements have also been made for the physically challenged persons to access the library.

The library has adopted an open access system so as to facilitate readers to have easy access to the library resources. The library has also established links with other important libraries in and around Bangalore in order to provide inter-library access for the benefit of students and teachers of NLSIU. To assist the students and research scholars in locating literature as well as information in their areas of research, general reference, current awareness and computerized catalogue have been introduced. An orientation programme for new students is also organized to help them acquaint themselves with the library system and services for maximum utilization of the available resources.

The library has introduced computerized facilities for both housekeeping as well as information retrieval. Since the library has a broad band width leased line connection to the internet it is possible to have easy access to information directly from all available computerized data bases all over the world, not only in the field of law but also in other disciplines. Keeping in mind the vision to create an E-Law School, the University subscribes to many international online databases.

## 3. Objectives of the Library:

- ❖ To serve the academic and research community for the furtherance of the vision, mission and activities of NLSIU.
- ❖ To provide innovative, effective and efficient Information Service.
- ❖ To develop a state-of-the-art technology and other infrastructure to create good learning environment within the library as well as in the university campus.
- ❖ To computerize and digitize all Legal Information in terms if facilitate – search, Retrieval and Dissemination of required information.
- ❖ To connect other libraries and information centers through resources and participating in networking for greater exchange of information products and services.

- ❖ To develop an interactive web portal provide access and management of all types of electronic and online sources.

#### **4. PHYSICAL LAYOUT:**

##### **4.1 Natural Sun Light and Nature Views:**

The emphasis for natural sun light and nature views was our primary concern while constructing our new library building in the year 2005. Glass wall which will be of 20' by 20', A floor-to-ceiling plays important role in achieving the goal of creating a much more open, connected feeling within the library. Sun light bring natural light to all the three levels. Racks have been moved to the center, opening up spaces for study along the periphery. Now all the floors offer bright reading rooms with views of a “natural corridor” (i.e., trees and garden), as well as other campus buildings. A new glass entry displays library activity to those in the main road and parking lot. A glass wall and a sun light disperse natural light throughout the interior. The library draws students and staff into a more welcoming building and library setting with plenty of natural light, a beautiful view of the campus with greenaries.

##### **4.2 The Ground Floor Contains:**







**Picture of Ground Floor**

All Back volumes of Journals and Reporters are housed here. The current Journals / Reports which are being subscribed in the library are displayed. A big reading hall with two computers are kept here for the purpose of using OPAC and CD-Rom databases.

There are six reading rooms which are being used exclusively for the purpose of moot activities.

#### **4.3 The First Floor Has :**

-  An entrance to the library
-  Property counter
-  Six OPAC & Database search Computers
-  Circulation Counter



**Picture of First Floor & Main Entrance**

#### **First Floor has Specialised Centers Collection like:**

-  Intellectual Property Rights
-  Subrata Roy Choudhury International Law Collection
-  Guna Pai Vasanth Pai Foundation Collection
-  Shri Vaidyanathan's Collection
-  Wadhwa and Co. Collection
-  Some Ready Reference Materials

The above mentioned centers' collections are all received as gratis to our library by the respective Trusts / Foundations. Along with this collection some of the reference materials are also housed here for easy access to the users. Big reading hall

#### 4.5 The Second Floor has:



Text books and other reference books are housed here.  
 Two computers are placed here for the purpose of using OPAC and CD-Rom databases.  
 A Big Reading Hall  
 A Photocopier

#### 4.6 The Following Services Being Offered by the Library:

- 📖 Lending of Books
- 📖 Reference
- 📖 Referral
- 📖 Articles Index Service
- 📖 News Paper Clipping Service
- 📖 Inter-Library Loan
- 📖 CD-Rom & Online Databases Search
- 📖 Internet Search Etc.,

#### 4.7 Brief Statistics of the Library:

📖 Books	-	-	-	-	30,000
📖 Back Volumes of Journals & Subscription	-	-	-	-	20,000
📖 Current Journals	-	-	-	-	140
📖 General Magazines	-	-	-	-	9
📖 News Papers	-	-	-	-	8
📖 Computers	-	-	-	-	16+20 (Computer Lab)
📖 Photocopying Machines	-	-	-	-	3
📖 Staff	-	-	-	-	14

## **5. Innovative and Low-Impact Design Features of the Building:**

The library building has been designed in similar with the best practice using such method that do not harm the environment standards aiming to minimize its impact upon, and where possible enhance, the local and wider environment. A place was selected in the middle of the University campus with excellent landscape provision, and access to local communities like hostels, cafeteria and auditorium. Furthermore, the library has low ecological value and the opportunity has been given to significantly enhance the local ecology and biodiversity through landscaping and the construction of a green campus.

All construction materials, for the building, furniture and landscaping, were carefully selected to ensure there is very low environmental impact over the full life cycle of the building. Further to this, and to help ensure a healthy internal environment, internal finishes and fittings that adhere to low emission standards for more dangerous situation have been specifically chosen. The building is sufficiently equipped with public safety measures and equipped with a fire suppression system.

Resource efficiency is a prime concern for the university and adopted low-impact design approach. The building has been provided with facilities to support effective waste management, including organic waste composting. Water efficiency is supported through this installation of low use fittings and a rainwater harvesting system servicing the water flushing demands. The library and entire campus is put up a special cell, replete with library facilities, for the differently abled and also to made structural changes in the buildings on the campus to ensure that all areas are accessible to those with physical disabilities.

## **6. Conclusion**

The University Library as place holds a unique position on campus. In National Law School of India University no other building can so symbolically and physically represent the academic heart of an institution. If Information Resource Centre as it popularly called to remain as turbulent life force, however, it has to be supported by the academic community in several ways. It must flexibly accommodate the development of dynamic information technologies and their usage as well as become a “laboratory” for new ways of teaching and learning in a wired or wireless environment. At the same time, the library also, by its accommodative feature of architectural expression and sitting, must continue to reflect the unique legacy and traditions of the institution of which it is part. It must include all the modern ICT technology that “learn” as well as traditional reading rooms that inspire readers to use for teaching and research. By embracing these distinct functions, the library as a place can enhance the excitement and adventure of the academic experience, foster a sense of community, and advance the institution into the future. The library of the future remains irreplaceable.

## **References:**

**National Law School of India University Library Homepage - [www.nls.ac.in/library](http://www.nls.ac.in/library) (Last Retrieved on 25th July, 2014)**