



Status of Five Oldest University Libraries in India: A Study

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Abstract

Indian Higher Education system is oldest system in the world. The History claims that in India during 427 AD first University called Nalanda was established (AICTE). This shows that Indians have given importance to higher education and they impart education not only to Indians and they have taught lessons to pupils from the entire south Asian countries. From the beginning of this University to yesterday established Universities in India has separate Libraries to inculcate reading habit among the teachers and students. In India before Independence there was only five Universities established namely Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Aligarh Muslim and Allahabad University. Three Universities namely Bombay, Madras and Calcutta have been established during 1857 whereas Aligarh Muslim and Allahabad Universities have been established during 1875. Each University have started separate Library at different intervals. This study was proposed by the author to present the status of five University Libraries upto 2016. The data from the individual University website was traced compiled and tabulated. From the tabulated data it was found that that total number of books and E-Journals availability in Aligarh Muslim University was found the highest among the other four University Libraries. Almost all the University Libraries have automated their Library with standard Library automation software. When the author compared the working hours it seems that Aligarh Muslim University Library was working for long hours upto 18hours in a day. Three institutions namely Mumbai, Madras and Calcutta are now classified as State Universities whereas Aligarh Muslim and Allahabad Universities are classified as Central Universities.

Keywords: Oldest University Libraries, Status, Books, E-Resources, Library automation software, Working hours.

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Introduction

The history of Modern Indian higher education system reveals that during British period five Universities have been established. During the year 1857 three Universities namely Bombay, Madras and Calcutta have been established. And in the year 1875 Aligarh Muslim and Allahabad Universities were established in India (News 18, 2014). These five Universities have crossed over 141-159 years from the inception. By taking role model of this five Universities Governments (both Central and State) and private/public have started Universities. As of now during the year 2017(AISHE, 2016-17) there are 864 universities established in India. Out of which 45 central, 363 state, 33 Deemed University Government, State Private University-233, Institution of national importance – 100, Deemed University – Government aided – 10, Deemed University Private-79 and one state private open university. The number of universities is increasing year on year to fulfill the demand expected from the society. Whether the old Universities established before Indian

Independence was growing in terms of infrastructure. This has to been given importance, because teaching never ends within class rooms, the learners have to experience the subject specific goals in labs and in Libraries. The students learn the subject of their choice in labs and Libraries which will help them to acquire knowledge by experiencing and learning. Learning makes the students understand the subject thoroughly thereby he/she gains knowledge and experiencing the methods gives confidence. Therefore the growth of Libraries must be given most importance in academic institutions. And the growth should be measured in intervals, to showcase the amount spent for acquisition of recently published primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information. This article has took an initiation to measure the growth of five important University Libraries which was established before Independence. To achieve this several published literatures have been review which was given below.

Review of Literature

Bhatt, R.K (2009), has taken an effort to narrate the history of academic libraries in India. In his article he has portrayed the genesis, growth and development of academic libraries in India from ancient to modern period. Ramakrishna Rao, K (1961), in his paper he has discussed about the Library development in India in

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general. He has emphasized in his article that Libraries should collect, preserve and record the worthy publications for future generations use. Seema (2007), in her article she has collected the data from the deemed universities of north India. Specifically physical facilities, budget, professional staff, etc, of the deemed universities have been collected. She suggested certain points for the betterment of the concerned Library. From the above review of literature certain inputs have been took to frame the objective for this study, to achieve formulated objective methodology also framed.

Objective

1. To list down number of University established during the year 1857 & 1875.
2. To find how many books have been purchased as on 2017 by five University Libraries.
3. To find how many e-resources five Universities are subscribing.
4. To know which Library software the university libraries have for automation work.

5. To compare how far the Library is working to fulfill the expectations of the users.

Methodology

The primary data for the present study was traced from the respective five University Library websites. The collected data was tabulated and the statistics like average method was adopted for this study and the ranking method was used to rank the institutions.

Findings

The reason for choosing only five Universities for this study was that these five Universities established before the formation of UGC contributed much for the growth and development of academic institutions in India. Therefore undergoing such type of study to know the status of five university libraries in India will reveal that how far they have been nurtured by the respective central/state governments shall be drawn. The collected data is tabulated below and the inference was drawn for each data.

Table 1
Books Purchased by Five Universities as on 2016

S No.	Institute Name	Year of Establishment	Total years crossed as on 2016	Books	Average Books added per year	Ranking of University according to the average books added per year
1	University of Mumbai Library	1857	159	751837	4728.53	4
2	University of Madras Library	1857	159	526625	3312.11	5
3	University of Calcutta Library	1857	159	1200000	7547.17	2
4	Aligarh Muslim University Library	1875	141	1800000	12765.96	1
5	Allahabad University Library	1875	141	685110	4858.94	3

Source: Data collected from respective University Library website.

The above table shows the total number of books purchased and added in the Library Stack as on 2016 by five Universities is presented. The total number of books available in University Library of five University data was collected from the respective University Library websites. Among the five Universities first three universities have crossed 159 years and fourth & fifth University completed 141 years. Therefore the author took the number of years crossed by the Universities from the established date to the survey date

2016 as the benchmark and calculated the average books likely to be added every year. From this data the average number of books added in the stack section is arrived, which is given in the above table. From the above table it is inferred that among the five Universities took for this study Aligarh Muslim University Library has eighteen lakhs volumes of books which occupies the first position in ranking among the five Universities, this reveals that 12765 volumes of books have been purchased/added every year. Followed by this University of Calcutta

Library holds twelve lakhs volumes of books and on an average 7547 volumes of books was purchased every year for the Library and this University occupies the second rank in book purchase. Allahabad University Library has 685110 volumes of books as on 2016 and on an average 4858 volumes of books found to be added every year for its Inception this University holds the third place in ranking. As on 2016 University of Mumbai Library holds 751837 volumes of books this shows that on an average 4728 volumes of books were included every year, this University occupies the fourth rank.

University of Madras Library has 526625 and average per year addition of books comes to 3312 volumes of books. This University occupies the fifth rank among the five Universities took for comparison. By comparing the data shown in the above table it is concluded that minimum of 3312 volumes and maximum of 12765 volumes of books was added by all the five Universities. And it was found that this was the range in between that only the Universities choose for this study purchase books for the help of their faculties and students.

Table 2
E-Resources Subscribed

S. No.	Institute Name	On-line journals	Rank	Databases	Rank
1	University of Mumbai Library	4453	4	5	3
2	University of Madras Library	4500	3	10	2
3	University of Calcutta Library	4000	5	--	
4	Aligarh Muslim University Library	43000	1	1	4
5	Allahabad University Library	11223	2	16	1

Source: 2016 data retrieved from five University Library websites.

Table 2 shows that the number of E-Journals and Databases subscribed by the Individual University Library. The five oldest Universities in India compete with the young Universities in terms of subscribing the E-Resources for Library. Among five Universities Aligarh Muslim University Library subscribes forty three thousand E-Journals, this shows that the officials, faculty and Librarians of this University is showing much interest in providing maximum number of E-Journals to enhance research and extension work in the campus. This University occupies the first rank in terms of subscription of highest number of E-Journals among the five Universities. Allahabad University Library subscribes 11223 numbers of E-Journals, which holds second position in ranking. Next this University of Madras Library subscribes 4500 E-Journals related to various university departments. This University was ranked at third place. By comparing the total number of E-Journals subscribed by University of Mumbai Library with other Universities, it was inferred that this University subscribes 4453 numbers of E-Journals. Therefore, this University was placed in fourth rank. From the table it was found that University of Calcutta

Library subscribes 4000 E-Journals and this University occupies the fifth rank among the five Universities. When the author compared the number of database subscribed among five universities, Allahabad University Library – sixteen – First position, University of Madras Library – 10 database – Second rank, University of Mumbai – 5 database – third rank, Aligarh Muslim University Library subscribes only one database – fourth rank. Finally it was found that University of Calcutta Library didn't subscribed any database.

From the above table it was found that even though most of the Universities have crossed 140 to 159 years the University Library adopts new technology and they are providing electronic resources to their clients in addition to the traditional primary resources. Finally the author tries to conclude that Universities which are subscribing more number of databases will feed the clients with more number of e-journals. Because databases especially full text include more number of journals in a specific subject and allied subject coverage, which fulfills the academicians and research scholars' expectations.

Table 3
Library automation software

S. No.	Institute Name	Library Automation Software
1	University of Mumbai Library	SOUL
2	University of Madras Library	SOUL
3	University of Calcutta Library	SOUL
4	Aligarh Muslim University Library	LIBSYS-7.0
5	Allahabad University Library	LIBSYS-4

Table 3 shows that all the five University Libraries have automated their Libraries with Software's. Based on this the Universities are grouped into two categories. First category Universities mentioned in the S.no. 1 to 3 above have automated their Libraries using SOUL software designed by INFLIBNET. In second category Aligarh Muslim University & Allahabad University Libraries have purchased LIBSYS

commercial software to automate their Library operations. Therefore, it was found from the table that almost all the five Universities have automated their Libraries with software's. This shows that even though these universities are oldest they try to adopt the new features to serve the academic community with utmost care.

Table 4
Library Working Hours

S. No.	Institute Name	Working hours	How many hours	Rank
1	University of Mumbai Library	8a.m to 10.00p.m	14	2
2	University of Madras Library	8a.m to 8.00p.m	12	4
3	University of Calcutta Library	09.00a.m to 8.00 p.m	11	5
4	Aligarh Muslim University Library	8.00a.m to 2.00a.m	18	1
5	Allahabad University Library	8.00a.m to 9.00p.m	13	3

Conclusion

From the above findings it is understood that among the five Universities three namely Mumbai, Madras and Calcutta Universities are managed by the respective state governments hence these institutions are classified as state universities according to UGC. Two Universities Aligarh Muslim and Allahabad are coming

under Central university category. This study found that the central funded Aligarh Muslim University has highest volume of books when compared to other Universities. By comparing the overall status of five Universities it was concluded that the Aligarh Muslim University Library is good rather than the other four Libraries.

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