

ENHANCING RESOURCE ACCESSIBILITY: A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF LIBRARY CONSORTIA AND COOPERATIVE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN BHOPAL'S ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of library consortia and cooperative collection development in Bhopal's libraries. It explores how these initiatives optimize resource sharing, improve access to diverse materials, and enhance cost-effectiveness. Challenges and strategies for implementation are discussed, shedding light on the role of collaboration in modern library management practices.

Keywords: Library Consortia, Cooperative Collection Development, Resource Sharing, Collaboration Bhopal

INTRODUCTION

In the landscape of modern library management, the role of collaboration and resource-sharing initiatives has become increasingly crucial. Libraries serve as vital hubs of knowledge dissemination, supporting education, research, and cultural enrichment within their communities. However, the traditional model of individual library acquisitions often faces limitations such as constrained budgets, space constraints, and the inability to provide a comprehensive collection that meets the diverse needs of users. In response to these challenges, library consortia and cooperative collection development initiatives have emerged as effective strategies to optimize resource utilization and enhance accessibility to information materials.

This paper focuses on examining the impact and benefits of library consortia and cooperative collection development in selected libraries within the city of Bhopal, India. Bhopal, a city known for its rich cultural heritage and academic institutions, provides a fertile ground for studying collaborative approaches to library resource management. By investigating the specific implementation and outcomes of these initiatives in Bhopal's libraries, this paper aims to shed light on the role of collaboration in addressing the challenges faced by libraries and maximizing the efficiency of collection development processes.

Through a combination of literature review, case studies, and empirical analysis, this paper seeks to elucidate the key objectives, methodologies, and collaborative efforts undertaken by libraries in Bhopal to optimize their collection development processes. It also explores the

various mechanisms through which library consortia facilitate resource sharing, including joint acquisitions, interlibrary loan services, and digital content licensing. Furthermore, the paper examines the impact of cooperative collection development on cost-effectiveness, improved access to specialized materials, and the promotion of interdisciplinary research within Bhopal's academic and cultural landscape.

Additionally, this paper considers the challenges and barriers faced by libraries in implementing library consortia and cooperative collection development initiatives in Bhopal. It examines issues such as varying institutional priorities, differing collection development policies, and the need for effective communication and coordination among participating libraries. By addressing these challenges and identifying successful strategies, this paper contributes to a deeper understanding of collaborative approaches to collection development in library management, with implications for enhancing resource accessibility and supporting the evolving information needs of library users in Bhopal and beyond.

LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

Access to electronic materials is often available in today's university libraries. Public access to massive electronic resources is replacing the old idea of individual ownership of scarce printed materials. Groups of libraries that collaborate on initiatives, exchange resources, and share expertise are called "consortia." The International Coalition of Library Consortia is a loose confederation of library cooperatives from all over the world.

The benefits of library consortia, especially for financially struggling libraries, are substantial. Services are often of a higher quality when libraries work together to pool their resources and focus on common goals.

The following considerations underscore the need of developing consortia for the administration of electronic resources:

1. First, libraries' funding has been cut or, at best, frozen, so they need creative solutions to consolidate electronic resources that can be accessed by people anywhere.
2. Due to the sheer volume of data that has to be managed, organized, and archived, a consortium is in a better position to tackle these issues than any one institution alone.
3. Third, libraries can't function independently because of limited funds, limited physical space, and insufficient personnel.
4. Most publishers have responded favourably to the call of consortia and are eager to deliver the best possible deals because of this strategy, which has helped to achieve appealing discounted rates.

5. Variety in user requirements: Web-based electronic resources meet consumers' expectations in this age of high-tech information provision.
6. Quick Access: Academic and Research users can now hope to have access to their learned journals article in electronic form as electronic access is comparatively cheaper.
7. Libraries are eager to add electronic resources to their collection and choose the consortia strategy because they believe that improved access to international e-databases and full-text resources will promote research productivity at all institutions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Tadasad and Talikothi (2000) conducted research about the popularity of the City Centre Library's collections and services in Gulbarga. Two hundred twenty-nine people filled out questionnaires for the research. Most library users had no need to be informed about the resources and services the library provided. Patron satisfaction with the library's collection, services, and physical facilities was high, according to the research. Some readers may be unfamiliar with the concept of interlibrary loans or other resources. The authors argued for continuous awareness efforts to guarantee that library resources were being utilized to their fullest potential.

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METHODOLOGY

Research is an organized look into an issue with the goal of identifying causal factors. Before commencing a study, it is important to develop a research framework. This section discusses the strategy and theoretical underpinnings of the study.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This research endeavour aims to answer the question, "A study of library system and services in colleges of Madhya Pradesh with special reference to the Bhopal division."

DEFINITION OF THE TERMS

1. STUDY

- The study is a noun word, used in different ways like examining and learning.
- Study means examining – The activity of examining a subject in detail to discover new information.
- Study means learning – The act of learning about a subject, usually at school or college/university.
- According to the Cambridge dictionary- Study means to learn about a subject, especially in an educational course or by reading books.

2. LIBRARY

The library is a term that refers to a systematically organized collection of resources (such as books, magazines, manuscripts, and digital files) for research and study. Below is how the word "library" appears in some other languages:-Foreign - Library French- Libraries

➤ Italian- Liberia Portuguese- Libraries

1) ACCORDING TO WEBSTER DICTIONARY

A library is a collection of books, periodicals, and other media that is open to the public for reading, research, and borrowing.

2) ACCORDING TO OXFORD DICTIONARY

A library can be anything from a public or private stockpile of books to the physical location where they are shelved; it can also refer to a comparable collection of films, recordings, computer programs, etc.

3) ACCORDING TO S.R.RANGANATHAN

When it comes to education and culture, "libraries are not mere storehouses; they are rich springs of knowledge from which knowledge flows to irrigate a broad field."

4) ACCORDING TO THE MULTILINGUAL FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA WIKTIONARY

A library is a facility that stores books and other media for use by the general public or authorized individuals. A library's ability to keep its collection in rooms of a building, lend things from that collection to members for free or for a fee, and provide additional services to its user community is typical, but not defining.

BHOPAL

Lake City is the nickname given to Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. The city is one of the greenest in the country because to its many man-made and natural lakes. Bhopal ranks as India's seventeenth-largest city and the thirteenth-largest in the whole globe. Hindus and Muslims have lived together in peace for many years in the same city. Bhopal's Bharat Bhawan is the city's crowning cultural achievement; it has an art gallery, amphitheater, tribal museum, Van Vihar, and National park.

HYPOTHESIS

The research process relies heavily on the use of hypothesis. This theory proposes a mechanism to account for the observed facts. It's a well-informed guess that can be put to the test. A hypothesis is a statement of speculation that can be verified. A hypothesis is a statement about the relationship between two variables that is tested in an experiment. Scientists and academics alike see this as a major turning point in the field. It's often referred to as "the answer" to the issue.

1. According to Oxford English Dictionary

A hypothesis can be defined as “A proposition or principles put forth or stated merely as a basis for reasoning or argument or as a premise from which to conclude a supposition.”

2. According to C.R. Kothari

The hypothesis can be defined as “A proposition or a set of propositions set forth as an explanation for the occurrence of some specified group of phenomena either asserted merely as a provisional conjecture to guide some investigation or occupied as highly probable in the light of facts.”

Based on the scope and objectives of the study the following hypothesis has been framed for the study: -

1. To identify the modern library system and service better than the traditional one.
2. Most of the libraries do not have any librarians.
3. The library building is not separate and has insufficient space according to the users of the library.
4. Most libraries are adopting traditional also systems for collection development and circulation of books.
5. Most colleges have library committees.
6. Most libraries do not have any automation system for libraries.

7. Most of the libraries do not have any trained staff.
8. Most of the libraries are showing ICT training staff. Space and finance are the main barriers to automation.
9. Most of the libraries remain open from 10: 30 a.m. To 5.30 p.m.
10. Most of the libraries receive a budget from the state government.

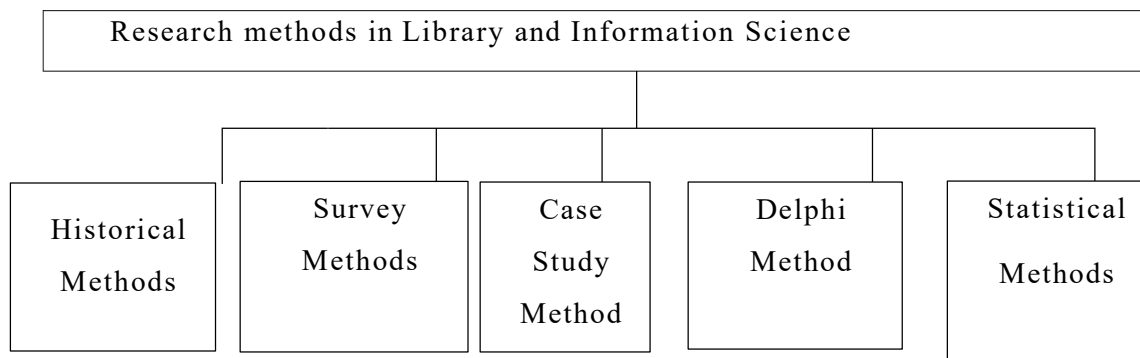
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objectives are the basic tools that underlie all planning and strategic activities. The series is the basis for creating policy and evaluating performance this study is a concerned with the following objectives- The study seeks to comprehensively examine the library's system and services, assess the advantages of integrating modern technology, analyze collection development strategies, evaluate resource utilization, investigate the information-seeking behavior of faculty members, particularly professors and assistant professors, and gather opinions on challenges faced by library professionals, all with the aim of enhancing library services and operations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is the totality of the procedures followed by the investigator to make it scientific and valid. It is very

FIGURE-1



1. HISTORICAL METHOD

For historians, "historical method" describes the practices and guidelines for gathering information and writing about the past using primary sources and other types of archaeological data. One definition of education is "the process of learning and understanding the history and development of a field of study or profession in order to provide insight into the culture of an organization, its current trends, and its potential future directions."

To do research using historical techniques, you must examine an account of past events in a methodical manner. When thinking about what to study for a history class, library and information science students have a wide variety of options to choose from.

2. SURVEY METHOD

In the field of Library and Information Science, surveys have been utilized extensively. It focuses primarily on the gathering, analyzing, and reporting of information about the current status of social, economic, and political activity. Personal interviews, postal questionnaires, telephone interviews, in-person discussions, online polls, and other similar methods all contribute to the survey technique. The following are some salient features of the survey technique: -

It is directly concerned with social life as it exists there and now. What is observed, described, collected, or a body of facts about the current situation and problem?

1. It focuses on a given locality or geographical area.
2. A large volume of information can be collected from a very large population.
3. The information generally collected through the survey is accurate.
4. A small area is selected as a sample and the results are generalized as a whole.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Data Interpretation Methods

Data interpretation methods are how analysts help people make sense of numerical data that has been collected, analyzed and presented. Data, when collected in raw form, may be difficult for the layman to understand, which is why analysts need to break down the information gathered so that others can make sense of it. For example, when founders are pitching to potential investors, they must interpret data (e.g. market size, growth rate, etc.) for better understanding. There are 2 main methods in which this can be done, namely; quantitative methods and qualitative methods.

DATA INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

Figure-2

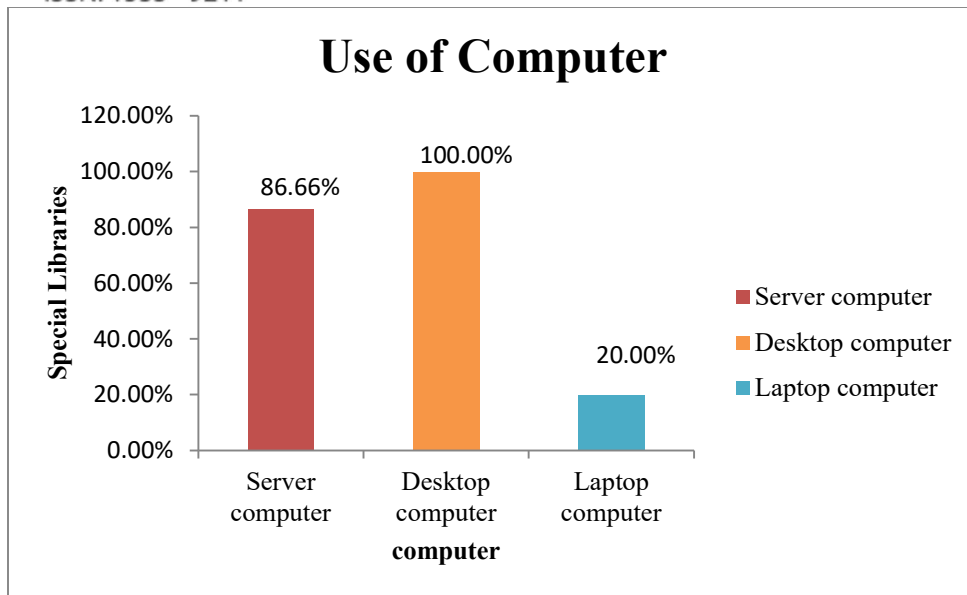
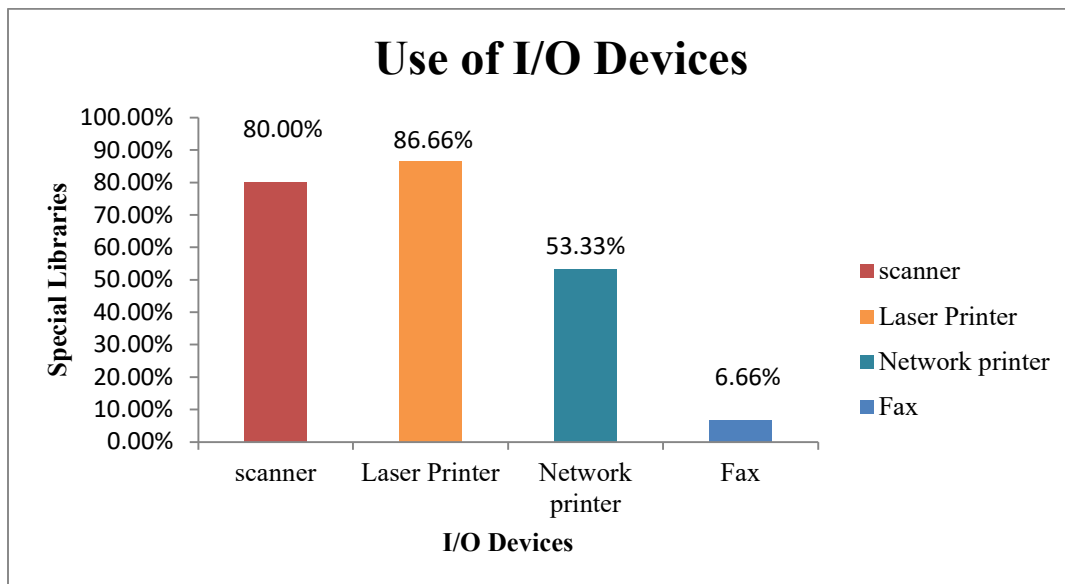
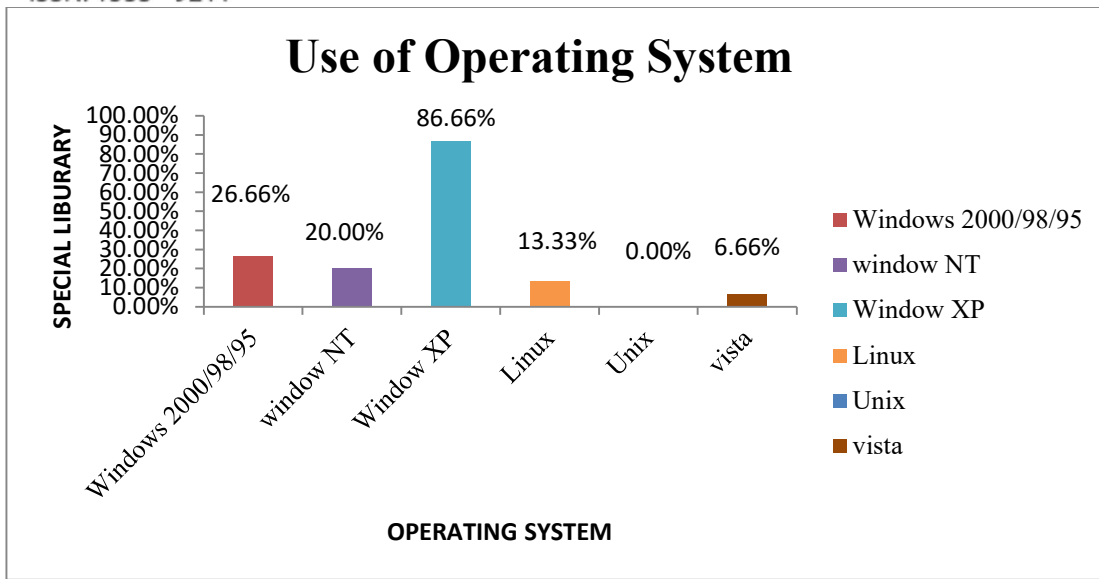


Figure-3



This table showed that the status of use of Information & communication technology like computer hardware (Input/ Output devices) in special libraries of Bhopal. The data showed that Server computer 13(86.66%), desktop computer 15(100%) and laptop computer 3(20%). Only 3 (20%) special libraries are using all type of computers. Input devices, scanner 12(80%), laser printer 13 (86.66%), network printer 08(53.33%) and Fax 1 (6.66%). Only 1 (6.66%) special libraries are using all types or I/O devices.

Figure-4



In this table the status of use of operating system by special libraries of Bhopal. After analyzing the data, researcher can say that Windows 2000/98/95 (26.66%), Window NT (20%), Window XP (86.66%), Linux (13.33%), Vista (6.66%) and no any library using Unix O/S.

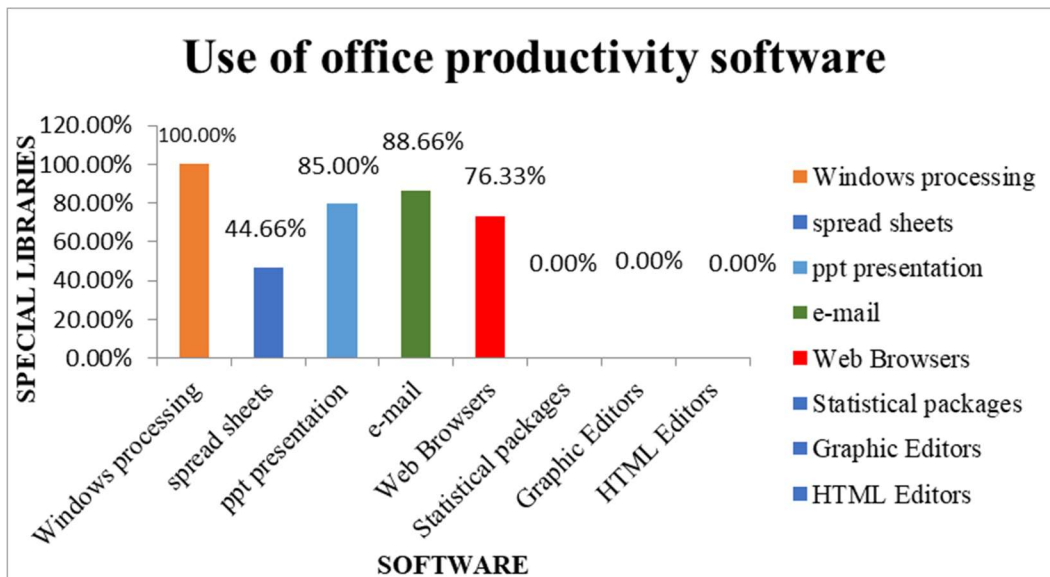


Figure-5

After analyzing the status of uses of office productivity software in special libraries of Bhopal, researcher can say that and no any library using statistical packages, graphic editor and HTML editors.

The present research is "A study of library system and services in the colleges of M.P. With special reference to Bhopal division" In any research, it is very difficult to find out any conclusion because it depends on the respondent. The researcher on the basis of respondents

and analysis of data tries to generalize the result very sincerely. The last part of the research is known as the conclusion. It is usually containing a summing up of the points and a statement of opinion. Finally we can say conclusion means a final decision or judgment taken during the research. The researcher completed his research, takes some decisions, and find out some best opinions. These opinions are suggested by the researcher and are known as suggestions. During this research, suggestions are received through a questionnaire (responded by librarians and users) and some suggestions are given by the researcher.

The study reveals several significant findings regarding the educational landscape and library infrastructure in the Bhopal region. Firstly, it was observed that Govt. Hamidiya Arts and Science Colleges, established in 1946, stands as the oldest college in the area, indicating a long-standing commitment to higher education. Secondly, a surge in college openings between 1981 and 1990 suggests a period of increased governmental focus on higher education, with 23 colleges established during this golden period. Moreover, the opening of 7 colleges in Sehore district between 2011 and 2015 reflects efforts to meet growing student demands, especially in underserved areas. Additionally, the study highlights a notable concentration of autonomous colleges in Bhopal, particularly all-girls institutions, with only three such colleges identified across the district. Furthermore, the predominance of co-educational institutions (43 out of 46 colleges) underscores the accessibility of education across genders, with every district, except Rajgarh, hosting at least one girls' college. The distribution of specialized colleges, such as Sanskrit and law colleges, primarily in Bhopal, suggests a strategic allocation of educational resources. Moreover, the study indicates a substantial proportion of colleges offering both undergraduate and postgraduate education (20 out of 50), catering to diverse academic needs. Regarding library staffing, a notable percentage (46%) of librarian positions are filled by permanent staff, with the Bhopal district exhibiting a higher rate of permanent appointments (91.67%). However, the study reveals critical gaps in library infrastructure, with a significant majority (78%) of college libraries lacking dedicated buildings for optimal service delivery. Furthermore, a concerning finding highlights that 10% of college libraries operate without essential support staff, such as book lifters and peons, potentially impeding effective library operations and services.

CONCLUSION

Based on this study, it is evident that Hamidiya Arts and Commerce College, Bhopal, established in 1946, lacks a permanent librarian and library automation, highlighting critical gaps in infrastructure and staffing. The study underscores the importance of filling librarian positions and implementing advanced technological infrastructure, including computer operators specialized in Library Science. Moreover, it emphasizes the need for expansive library resources management to ensure accessibility for all users. The study's objective is to enhance library systems and services, advocating for separate library buildings with adequate seating and future expansion provisions. It suggests that librarians adapt strategies to meet users' evolving needs in the digital era, leveraging user studies as a tool for continuous improvement. Encouraging periodic user studies within academic communities is recommended to gauge demands and implement innovative technologies effectively. Users' feedback emphasizes the

necessity of computer access, diverse book collections, and journal availability for knowledge enhancement. Lastly, library automation is deemed crucial for keeping pace with contemporary advancements in the field.

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