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An ICT based collection development model for engineering college's libraries: Challenges and problems

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Abstract

The paper highlights the current issues in acquisition and procurement of printed and digital resources in order to find out challenges and problems in Collection development in the ICT Environment in Engineering College Libraries. Collection Development in the ICT environment is still more challenges are increased due to the extensive information generated in print and digital form in engineering and technology area. There is need to integrate both print and electronic resources and also making changes in collection development practices in Engineering College Libraries. The main key issues are identified for redefining a collection development policy (CDP) include issues like balancing Ownership verses Access and Cooperative efforts and Evaluation.

The main aim of the collection development is to acquire and procurement of print and digital resources in order to provide integrated access to print and e-resources to the users in single window.

Keywords: Engineering college's libraries, challenges and problems, acquisition

Introductions

We live in an information age. It is estimated that the amount of information is doubling every year due to the information explosion. The amount of published information in different formats especially digital and print affects of availability of data. The problem of managing the information becomes more difficult, which can lead to information overload. So librarians asked one of the questions for which an answer should be sought: What does the future hold for collection development in libraries and information handling organizations? At this connection, it would be appropriate to recall the functions that relate to collection development specifically selection, acquisition, preservation, policy- making, collection evaluation, etc. one can see that while collection development is perceived as a concept more appropriate to earlier times of expansion in higher education and engineering college libraries and implies building and growing, dealing with selection and acquisition of library materials. Collection management now is a more demanding concept which goes beyond a policy of acquiring materials, to policies on housing, preservation, storage, weeding and discard of stock. Rather than selection and acquisition, collection management emphasizes the systematic maintenance and management of the library's existing collection. Collection development is the process of planning and acquiring a balanced collection of library materials in a variety of formats such as books, periodicals and digital resources. Collection Development becomes more complex due to new technologies and formats. Collection development in print and digital resources is based on good combinations of Selection and acquisition of e-resources, type of e-resources, tool used to select e-resources, criteria for selection of e-sources, methods to acquire e-resources, user needs from e-resources,

Why Need for ICT based Collection Development?

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is a parent organization of engineering college libraries in India and also developed norms and guidelines for print collection and e-library. AICTE has recommended up to 66% the total number of titles and volumes may be in the form of e-books in the present collection of libraries and also suggests that e-resources are to be subscribed through e-shodhSindhu.

It provides support in negotiating the prices of e-resources to AICTE approved Engineering college libraries. E-shodhSindhu is also made available of e-resources, especially e-books and e-journals packages. The existing rules, print policies and traditional practices are not appropriate and suit to the changing practices and hence majority of the Academic libraries in the developed countries have formulated Collection Development models and Policies to build proper and useful collection in the libraries which support to the user needs. So there is a need to practice of collection development of e-resources in the ICT environment.

Literature Review

From the survey of different studies conducted in academic libraries and also published from journals, books and other e-databases

Sieben and Pei (2023) ^[14] have explained the challenges raised by hybrid collection (print and digital) for their policies; platforms and tools are new and constantly changing. The some issues are important to be considered during subscription of e-resources like storage, access and preservation policy.

Bitherman and Frempong-Kore (2022) ^[7] the case study was conducted for understand the role of Collection Development Policy in the Development of Ghana Communication Technology University Library. The study found that university library has Collection Development Policy (CDP) which is reviewed twice a year. It was recommended that management of library should make a effort to use the policy to guideline for how to integrated print and Digital resources to subscribe.

Kumar and Ram (2022) ^[8] the study focuses on challenges and problems for management of collection Development in Digital form. These include Collection Development policy. Selection criteria for e-resources, difficulties and administration for subscription of e-resources and their access policies

Mohd Khalid and Samsuddin (2022) ^[10] the study reveals that there is limited fund for purchase Books and Journals, lack of access to e-resources and inadequate manpower hinder the efficiency of Collection Development Policy in Africa.

Khan and Bhatti (2021) ^[6] the study define the policy is a formal written statement of the policies guiding a library for selection and acquisition of resources including criteria used in selection and de-selection decision.

Ameyaw (2020) ^[1] study reveals that librarian faced challenges due to absence of CDP; there is no regular training for library staff and technical assistance for librarian.

Kumar and Gaur (2018) ^[9] The study focuses mainly on collection Development Policies, Library Committee and library budget, acquisition, selection methods of documents and also evaluation methods. Scope of the study is limited to examining the collection development management libraries, and print and electronic documents, there is selection of print electronic documents in libraries of management institute.

Kaur and Gaur (2017) ^[5] in his article discuss need of collection Development policy in digital environment it include selection criteria for e-resources like e-journals, e-books and also state the briefly advantages and disadvantages of e-resources.

Dhawle (2012) ^[3] conducted survey on A Study of Collection Development and Delivery Services of Engineering College Libraries in Digital Environment among Pune City. He collected data from 46 engineering colleges and it was observed that engineering college's libraries are having good collection in print and digital forms and majority of libraries were framed print collection development policies which are based on traditional practices and AICTE guidelines and not yet formed policies for e-resources.

Pradhan (2011, 221) ^[12] conducted a survey on "Developing a Model of Information Audit for Engineering College Libraries Affiliated to University of Pune." She collected data from 45 engineering College libraries under jurisdiction of University of Pune has been analyzed and observed that most of the libraries have print collection development policies and not yet formed policies for e-resources. She strongly suggested that the librarian should take initiative to develop the Collection Development Policies in consultation with the authorities. It will help them to achieve consistently in the library functioning.

Jalal (2009) ^[4] the paper highlight some important features of collection Development such as acquisition of printed and digital resources in order to find out the present trends in Collection Development. The paper also discuss some of the important issues and challenges faced during digitization process like Technical process, manpower, copyright, acceptability, quality assurance, infrastructure etc.

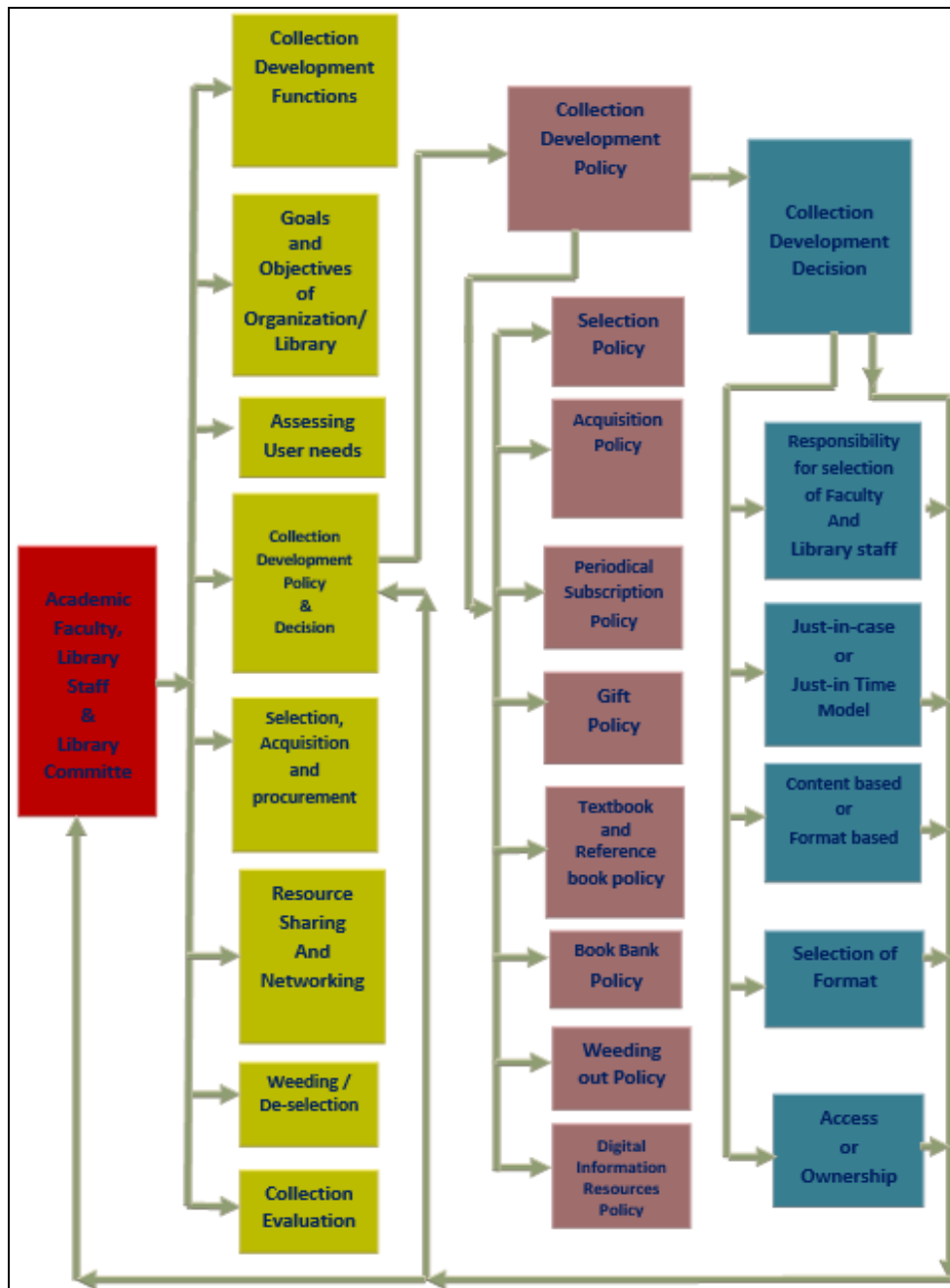
Patil (2009) ^[11] in his study which was carried out on "Organization of Collection and services of College Libraries affiliated to the North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon: With special reference to Assessment by NAAC" after study presented a model for library collection, services etc. he recommended norms for college libraries.

Deshpande and Varghese (2004) ^[2] have explained the importance of the book selection principles of Drury and Melvil Dewey in their paper "Collection Development Policy concerning Jayakar Library, University of Pune" and stated the CDP for print media and challenges faced by library professionals in digital collection and opined the need for revision in CDP based on E-purchasing.

Seetharama (1997) ^[13] pointed out an important function in this research article that discusses the Collection Analysis, Materials Selection, Collection Maintenance, Fiscal Management, User Liaison, Resource Sharing and Program Evaluation.

An ICT- based Collection Development Model for (Print and Digital Resources) Engineering Colleges Libraries Collection Development Policy

In an ICT era the entire perspective and principles of collection development needs to be changed as simply acquisition of resource, in traditional practices evolved for print materials in the ICT environment does not seem responsive to current needs. Despite of that collection development practices whether it is in print or digital form, still it would require policies that would govern the selection and acquisition of both electronic and print resources. In this situation more challenges and problems are increased to how to integrate both print and electronic resources based on a survey on the extensive literature generated on changing collection development practices, the main key issues are identified for redefining a collection development policy include (a) Balancing ownership and access, (b) Cooperative efforts and Evaluation



The Researcher has developed and suggested an ICT based Collection Development Model for (Print and Digital Resources) Engineering Colleges Libraries

(a). Balancing Ownership and Access: The ICT environment there is a need to the shift from the library as a storehouse of knowledge to an information gateway so that collection development policies should cover the issue of balancing ownership and access to e-resources because nowadays many libraries provide access to electronic and print materials from many sources, both local and remote has been achieved widespread popularity in engineering and technology users.

Library professionals have been debating and foregoing discussion it becomes obvious that while there are merits and demerits both in ownership and access, a sensible approach would be to redefine collection development policy which ensures on-the-spot access (through ownership) to current material and remote access to older material. In addition, it should indicate the strategies to be adopted for the selection and acquisition of resources in

print, electronic and other formats. Another important component of the collection development policy statement that should form part of it relates to weeding and stock relegation which is believed as a positive and desirable method of improving service to readers. Guidelines or criteria for weeding and the persons who should be made responsible for weeding need to be outlined. Collection development methods as well as methods of evaluation for traditional and electronic sources need to be indicated in the collection development policy document.

(b). Cooperative efforts and Evaluation

As library professionals we have been listening true phrase “No Library is an Island” This opinion is based on that LIS best practices and working experience the meaning is simple that ‘no library can stand on its own and pretend to be self sufficient. So there is a need to develop resource sharing is

more important among the engineering college libraries because the individual engineering college library is not capable of satisfying all the information needs of its users. So that In addition, collection development policies should cover the issue of cooperative efforts and evaluation. Collection development policy provides a clear-cut guide line to the librarian to suggest the planning for a resource-sharing mechanism among participating engineering college's libraries that would facilitate remote access to the library users.

Collection Development Functions

The engineering college administration and faculty have the responsibility to examine the educational program from time to time in light of the goals and objectives of the college. Librarians share this responsibility by seeking ways to provide collections and services which support those goals and purposes. Successful fulfillment of this shared responsibility can best be attained when a clear and explicit statement of library mission and goals is prepared and promoted so that all members of the college community can understand and evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the library program.

By developing these missions and goals the library should seek in a formal or structured way advice and guidance from faculty and students, and the college administration, in particular those officers responsible for academic programs and policies.

The selection of reading material is driven by the needs of faculty and students. The faculty suggests books in a prescribed Performa and submits them to the library either directly or through HOD. Students can also submit their suggestions for purchasing books through concerned faculty/course teachers. Books are selected by the faculty and the library. The library also subscribes to print journals, several e-journals, e-books, databases and multimedia products. The entire request for addition and/or deselection of such sources is reviewed by the Library Committee every year before renewal of the subscription. Serial publications are received against standing orders. The order titles are reviewed periodically in consultation with the department and appropriate additions/deletion is affected before renewing the standing orders.

Collection Development Decisions

The Library Committee is an advisory body in the institution to recommends to the Management Executive body for final decision. The role of the library committee regarding library is to develop the collection, frame policies and make decisions for improvement. The policies approved by the institutions should be implemented by librarians. The decision-making relates to the formats in which information will be provided and to what extent traditional and digital media will be mingled in what is likely to be a hybrid collection for some decades to come. Issues of access or ownership of information must also be resolved if adequate planning is to be done to build relevant and valuable collections. Possibly a combination of the two will have to be adopted.

It is very important to make crucial decisions on which materials to preserve, weed, replace, and store to serve current and future needs. Active participation in acquiring a materials budget and allocating it effectively. Interaction with all types of library users and formal study of library

users and their patterns. Establishing cooperation and communication with other local, national, and international libraries for resource sharing. Evaluating Collection Management plans, policies, procedures, and personal by use and user studies to revise plans and policy documents for Collection

Challenges and Problems of Collection Development in an ICT

The researcher pointed out some problems in collection development issues like Allocation of budget, Lack of proper selection of books and other resources, Growth of documents, Foreign publications, Variable discount rates, Duplication of reading materials, Grants, and Purchase of multiple copies of textbooks etc. He concluded that engineering college libraries are formed based line traditional Collection Development Policies (print media) like acquisition policies, selection policies, weeding out policies, Library committees; library circulation rules etc. but CDP for e-resources are not framed. Therefore libraries are facing problems regarding the purchase of e-resources, the expensive nature of the e-resources, Decisions regarding the responsibility of section of e-resources, Just-in-case or just in time model, Content- based or format-based, Access or ownership and Selection of formats, Underutilization of resources, hardware and software maintenance, internet speed, delay in downloading are the main problems with e-resource collection and digital library so that there is need to be develop An "ICT based Collection Development Model for Engineering Colleges Libraries" to fulfill the aim and objective of the organization.

Problems: The following problems arise with print and electronic resources associated with access

- Integration of electronic resources with traditional forms.
- Costs of Acquisition vs. Access and User Liaison
- Critical problem of determining what collection development means an electronic environment.
- Electronic resources are not adequately controlled bibliographically, they are not easy to identify, and they are not well reviewed.
- Non-availability of selection tools.
- Developed system is not there for publication and distribution of electronic resources.
- It is very difficult to find out what is available, evaluating the sources available, and Acquiring and servicing the sources required.

Conclusion

Collection development in engineering college libraries is a complex and important part of providing an infrastructure in which academics and researchers can acquire the information they need. This requires the formulation of a collection development policy and Action plan for collection development and must be in keeping with the goals and mission of the library and college as a whole. The ultimate responsibility for collection development lies with the library committee, Librarian and academic faculty who are assisted in their decision-making by academics. Engineering college libraries have good collections in print and digital forms and the majority of libraries have framed print collection development policies which are based on traditional practices and AICTE guidelines and have not yet

formed policies for e-resources. There are needed to take the initiative to develop the Collection Development model for Print and Digital Collection (hybrid collection). Due to the applications of ICT, the Procurement of e-resources made revolutionary changes in library practices including collection development. The framed rules, print policies and traditional practices are not appropriate and suit to the changing practices and hence majority of the academic libraries in the developed countries have formulated Collection Development Policies and guidelines to build proper and useful collections in the libraries which support to the user needs. The two important aspects in the Collection Development model for the collection of just-in-case and just-in-time strategies. Each has its merit. Libraries need to make decisions suitable in their present circumstances. (Figure). Other issues that require decision-making relate to the formats in which information will be provided and to what extent traditional and digital media will be mingled in what is likely to be a hybrid collection for some decades to come. Issues of access or ownership of information must also be resolved if adequate planning is to be done to build relevant and valuable collections. Possibly a combination of the two will have to be adopted. The ALA, ACRL, IFLA, AICTE, UGC and LC has already developed policies, norms and standards over the year that can serve as general guidelines against which to evaluate research collections. Trends in collection development and management are changing. This is mainly due to the changing formats in which information is presented, changes in scholarly communication, increases in the prices of serials and books and diminishing funding provided for the acquisitions of information resources in libraries. Librarians have to adapt to these changes as well as to more sophisticated user needs because these needs are a determining element for collection development policies, guidelines and standards. Collections have to become seamless mergers between traditional and digital media. This poses many challenges and opportunities for engineering college libraries. Finally, it is concluded that the "Collection Development Model in ICT for print and digital collection provides the right direction for collection development in engineering college libraries in the ICT environment.

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