

Status of Medical College and Research Hospital Library and Information Centres at Bangalore: A Study

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Abstract

Health Science libraries are prime reservoirs of health information, library plays a vital role to get necessary information for medical practitioners to update the medical knowledge. The purpose of the study is to investigate the status of 10 medical college and research hospital libraries at Bangalore. Study focus on the context of collection, physical infrastructure, usage of ICT tool, library services and problems. For this study survey method was used and distributed questionnaire to collect relevant data. The comparative analysis of 10 medical college libraries have been discussed and based on findings suitable suggestions given to improve medical college services.

Keyword: Library Status; Physical Infrastructure; Services; Usage of ICT Tools.

Introduction

The health care is a very important social service sector, which is essential for achieving the goal of sustainable human development in all the countries. Health is one area where information has played a major role in life saving. Health information is a vital component of public health management. There is a need for constructing a solid platform from which specific health information might flow in a more sustainable way.

Health information is a basic necessity which improves the health delivery system. Improved and standardized methods are also evolved with a view to assess the quality of health information. Health professionals need to maximize the potential benefit of the evolving information technologies as a means of improving public access to health information and care. Library plays a vital role to get necessary information for medical practitioners to update the medical knowledge for better teaching for students, identifying and preventing the disease and curing of those disorders. The first medical library was

established in India on 1966 by the Govt. of India it is located at Ansari Nagar, New Delhi. It aims to provide library and information services to the health science professionals in India. The Medical Council of India was established in 1934 under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, now repealed, with the main function of establishing uniform standards of higher qualifications in medicine and recognition of medical qualifications in India and abroad. The number of medical colleges had increased steadily during the years after Independence.

Today, medical college libraries status is no longer defined by the collection it housed; it is extended to include online and seamless access to information resources. The right amount of information at the right time has long since been an important factor. The greatest challenge for the medical library professional today is to create an organization that can share knowledge; they have more opportunities to expand from their traditional role to organize the digital content. In this regard present study aims to analyse the status of medical college's libraries at Bangalore.

Minimum Standards Requirements for Medical College Library in India

Medical Council of India has made minimum standards for medical college library in India. According MCI there shall be a Central Library (1200 Sqm) with seating arrangement for at least 150 students for reading and having good lighting and ventilation and space for stalking and display of books and journals. There shall be minimum one room

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for 150 students inside and one room for 75 students outside. It should have not less than 10000 text and reference books. In a new medical college the total number of books should be proportionately divided on yearly basis in five years. The number of journals shall be 100 out of which one-third shall be foreign journals and subscribed on continuous basis. The number of copies of textbooks in each subject of undergraduate teaching shall be ten. There shall be provision for –

- Staff reading room for 30 persons;
- Rooms for librarian and other staff;
- Room for daftaries and book binders;
- Microfilm reading room;
- Journal room;
- Room for copying facilities;
- Video and Cassette room (desirable)
- There shall be a Departmental library with at least 80-100 books; and
- Air-conditioned Computer room with Internet facility and Database access.

Review of Literature

Abu Waris 2013: A study attempts to identify the situation and infrastructure of medical council of India in Karnataka. The study evaluates the library services, collections and budget. The result of the study is satisfactory but there is a need to adopt new ICT

tools to develop libraries, manpower and library has to offer ICT based services to access required information to users.

Manoj K. Joshi July 2015: The study includes 12 university libraries of Haryana state with special reference of ICT tools. The Study attempts to identify the infrastructure, seating capacity, internet connectivity, manpower & collections. Most of the colleges have their own library building with very good collections and seating capacity. All libraries have separate digital section with high speed internet connection. Paper concluded that almost half of the libraries have more than 50 % of assistant Librarian vacant position. The university libraries have good ICT infrastructure with digital resources and offering ICT based services to users.

Objectives of the Study

The Study attempts to analyse the status of medical college and research hospital library and information centre at Bangalore. Aspects like infrastructure, services, staffs, members, budget, collection, IT services and problems.

Scope and Methodology

The Scope of the study was limited to know the status of medical college and research hospital libraries at Bangalore. As a part of the study survey method was used and a structured questionnaire was distributed & personal interviews has been made.

Table 1: Name of responding medical libraries

| Name of the medical institution | Abbrev. | Running by, | Year |
|---|---------|---------------|------|
| National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Science | NIMHANS | Central Govt. | 1974 |
| Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science | RGUHS | State Govt. | 1996 |
| Kidwai Institute of Medical Oncology | KIMO | State Govt. | 1981 |
| Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology | JIC | State Govt. | 1972 |
| Rajarajeshwari Medical College and Hospital | RMCH | Private | 2006 |
| Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital & Research Centre | KIMS | Private | 1980 |
| Viyedia Institute of Medical Science & Research Centre | VIMS | Private | 2002 |
| The Oxford Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre | Oxford | Private | 2014 |
| Mahaver Jain Medical College & Research Hospital | MVJ | Private | 2001 |
| M.S. Ramaiah medical College and Hospital | MSR | Private | 1987 |

Given below are the analyses of data regarding the ten medical college libraries.

Table 1 Show that out of 10 medical colleges 6 medical colleges running by private management, 3 medical colleges comes under Karnataka state

government and NIMHANS is the only medical institution comes under Ministry of Health and family welfare, Govt. of India.

Analysis and interpretations of data

The data collected were tabulated and analysed in

Table 2: Library Staff Details

| Designation | NIMHANS | RGUHS | KIMO | RMCH | JIC | KIMS | VIMS | Oxford | MVJ | MSR |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Chief Librarian | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Dy. Librarian / Sr. Librarian | 1 | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Librarian | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Asst. Librarian | - | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Doc. Officer / Inf. Officer | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Library Assistant | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| FDC / LDC / Clerk | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Library Attender | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Total | 9 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 4 | 18 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 11 |

the Table 2. The comparative of professional staff strength among the medical college libraries is described in the Table 2.

Table 2 shows the library staff details of medical colleges, among 10 medical KIMS library have the

highest number of professionals staffs, data reveals that NIMHANS, RGUHS & KIMO have no Chief Librarian / University Librarian and RMHC library having 4 Deputy Librarians, 8 colleges appointed assistant librarian, 3 medical colleges have Document

Table 3: Library seating capacity

| Seating Capacity | NIMHANS | RGUHS | KIMO | RMCH | JIC | KIMS | VIMS | Oxford | MVJ | MSR |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reading hall | 120 | 50 | 30 | 550 | - | 80 | 800 | 150 | 600 | 450 |
| Periodical Section | 80 | - | 10 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 100 | 50 | 20 | 250 |
| Digital Library | 10 | - | 5 | 53 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 250 |
| Reference Section | 60 | - | - | 100 | - | 120 | 50 | 60 | 600 | 300 |
| Total | 270 | 50 | 45 | 733 | 50 | 250 | 1000 | 300 | 1270 | 1250 |

Officer position, most of the medical colleges appointed library assistants. In this regards all the libraries have qualified staff for routine operations of the library.

It is evident from the Table 4 that many libraries

have well infrastructural facilities along with good seating capacity in the library building, data reflects that 3 medical colleges have more than 1000 seating capacity, MVJ library has the highest number of seating capacity with 1270 no's. NIMHANS, RMCH,

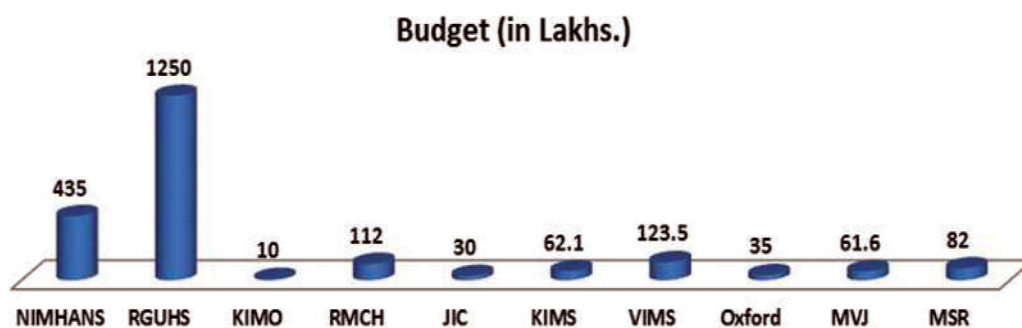


Fig. 1: Library annual budgets

KIMS and Oxford libraries have more than 250 seating capacity. It is observed from the table that RGUHS, KIMO and JIC have very less seating capacity which needs to be increase as per the MCI norms encourage the users.

Budgets plays a vital role in any organizations,

budget allocation is a most important factor for medical college libraries in context of collection, infrastructure, ICT tools and other services. Data reveals that 3 libraries i.e. KIMO, JIC & Oxford have received less than 40 lakhs respectively for procurement of books, journals and others annually.

Table 4: Library statistics

| Collection | NIMHANS | RGUHS | KIMO | RMCH | JIC | KIMS | VIMS | Oxford | MVJ | MSR |
|---------------|---------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Books | 29545 | 3000 | 4413 | 21598 | 2500 | 27000 | 21000 | 4138 | 13974 | 18000 |
| Journals | 33 | 250 | 20 | 169 | 32 | 120 | 250 | 42 | 132 | 156 |
| Bound Volumes | 19705 | 800 | 7182 | 1480 | 7500 | 7000 | 1980 | - | 950 | 7920 |
| E Books | 500 | 5198 | - | 1500 | 1000 | - | 3836 | 5128 | - | 700 |
| E Journals | 4000 | 323 | - | 293 | 250 | 90 | 297 | 328 | 359 | 296 |
| CD / DVD | 116 | 2 | - | 523 | 100 | 300 | 1237 | 178 | 920 | 400 |
| E-Database | 10 | - | - | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | - | - | - |

NIMHANS, RGUHS, RMCH & VIMS libraries have more than crores of annual budget for library collection and infrastructural development. It is observed from the table that KIMS, MVJ and MSR libraries having less than crores.

Medical Libraries are expected to provide efficient service to its users on demand as well as in anticipation, different libraries having various types

of documents in the format of print and electronic resources like books, journals, reports, CD-ROMs, etc. NIMHANS library possess the large number of collection as shown in the table 2 with more than 29545 books, 19, 705 bound volumes and 4000 journals from more than 10 electronic databases. KIMS library having more than 27,000 books, 7,000 journals and 90 E Journals from 2 electronic databases.

Table 5: ICT Tools

| ICT Tools | NIMHANS | RGUHS | KIMO | RMCH | JIC | KIMS | VIMS | Oxford | MVJ | MSR |
|---------------------|---------|-------|------|------|-----|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| Barcode printer | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Computers | 20 | 12 | 19 | 53 | 22 | 30 | 53 | 42 | 50 | 67 |
| Printer | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Reprography Machine | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Scanner | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Projector | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |

RGUHS, KIMO, JIC and Oxford medical colleges have below 5,000 books. Four college libraries have a total collection of print journals below 50 it shows that E-journals are more popular compare to print in context of cost, maintenance and archival facilities.

Good ICT infrastructure leads Medical libraries to enhance the effectiveness of Information services, above table indicates the availability of ICT tools in the library, out of 10 medical colleges 9 colleges have bar code printer except KIMO, all the medical colleges

Library access Type



Fig. 2: Library access

have computers, Printer, reprography and scanner for user access and 6 medical colleges have projector for special function/induction program at library.

Table 6: Classification System

| Classification Scheme | NIMHANS | RGUHS | KIMO | RMCH | JIC | KIMS | VIMS | Oxford | MVJ | MSR |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|------|------|-----|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| Classification | DDC & NLM | DDC | DDC | NLM | DDC | DDC | DDC | DDC | DDC | NLM |

Data reflects that Medical libraries have to occupied with well ICT based resources and services to satisfy the diverse information needs of the users.

Figure 2 shows that among 10 except MSR medical

college library rest of all libraries have open to access books.

To enable easy information retrieval systems

Table 7: Status of automation

| Library Classification Scheme | NIMHANS | RGUHS | KIMO | RMCH | JIC | KIMS | VIMS | Oxford | MVJ | MSR |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|------|------|-----|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| Classification | YES | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

different libraries adopts different classification system, NLM and DDC are most used classification system, Out of 10 medical colleges NIMHANS library practice both NLM and DDC classification, RMCH

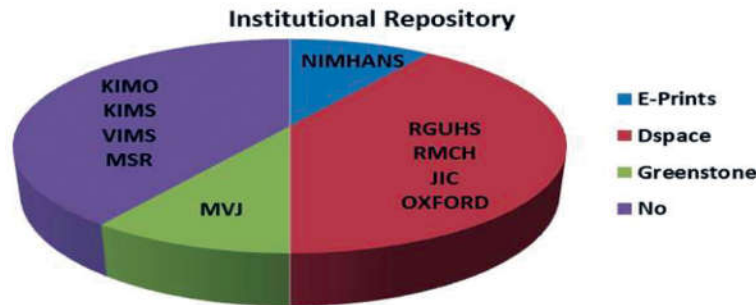


Fig. 3: Institutional repositories

and MSR libraries practice NLM classification and rest of the libraries practice DDC classification scheme. The Table 7 shows the status of library automation; among 10 medical college libraries all the libraries have automated the library management activities except KIMO library.

Table 8: Subscription of E-resource

| Abbrev. | Subscribed E-Resources |
|---------|---|
| NIMHANS | Ebsco Host, Elsevier, Proquest, Psychiatry Online, Wiley, John Wiley, Springer Ovid, Mcgraw Hill, Sage, Thieme, Oxford University Press and other psychiatry and neuro science related databases. |
| RGUHS | Ebsco, MD Consult |
| KIMO | Pubmed, MD Consult, Medline Plus |
| RMCH | Pubmed, Ebsco, MD Consult, Proquest, Delnet |
| JIC | Ebsco, Proquest |
| KIMS | PubMed, MD Consult, Medline Plus |
| VIMS | Ebsco, Proquest |
| Oxford | Pubmed, Ebsco, MD Consult, Medline Plus, Proquest |
| MVJ | Ebsco, MD Consult |
| MSR | Ebsco, Medline Plus, Proquest. MD Consult, Pubmed |

Digital library services are provided by only 6 medical colleges and among 6 medical colleges RGUHS, RMCH, JIC, Oxford libraries are using D-Space, NIMHANS using E-prints and MVJ library adopted Green Stone Institutional Repository software. KIMO, KIMS, VIMS and MSR libraries are not having institutional repository software.

Table 9: Consortium membership

| Consortium Membership | NIMHANS | RGUHS | KIMO | RMCH | JIC | KIMS | VIMS | Oxford | MVJ | MSR |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Consortium | No | HELINET | HELINET | HELINET | HELINET | HELINET | HELINET | HELINET | HELINET | HELINET |

Medical college libraries having various electronic database related to health practice, NIMHANS library have access to Ebsco Host, Elsevier, Proquest, Psychiatry Online, Wiley, John Wiley, Springer Ovid,

Table 10: Services

| Library Services | NIMHANS | RGUHS | KIMO | RMCH | JIC | KIMS | VIMS | Oxford | MVJ | MSR |
|----------------------|---------|-------|------|------|-----|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| Reference Services | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Discussion Room | No | - | - | Yes | - | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Internet Services | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| ILL Services | No | - | Yes | Yes | Yes | - | Yes | - | Yes | Yes |
| Reprography Services | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | - | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Orientation Program | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Mcgraw Hill, Sage, Thieme, Oxford University Press and other psychiatry and Neuro science related databases.

Table 9 shows the consortium membership, except NIMHANS 9 no of medical college libraries have HELNEAT consortium members for web resource access.

All libraries endeavour to provide maximum possible services to their users. In the present study all the libraries are providing reference, internet and orientation program to users. Discussion room and inter library loan services provided by 6 out of the 10 libraries. 9 libraries are provided reprography services to users.

No 11 Advisory Committees

All medical college libraries have advisory committees for library development.

Findings & Suggestions

- Most of the libraries have the main problem of insufficient staffs, majority of the libraries have no librarian and professional staffs.
- VIMS, MVJ & MSR have good seating capacity in the library, Govt. medical libraries like RGUHS, KIMO & JIC libraries have very less seating capacity.
- Lack of budget & trained manpower especially in ICT tools.
- The management should give important to modernize the information service system with ICT facilities.
- It should expand the facilities and recruit trained / qualified staffs to provide better services.
- Study recommendations management should support and reserve adequate funds for the development of library especially automation and ICT facilities.
- It is recommended that the medical libraries should be built need based services / Collection.

Conclusion

Present study was restricted only of medical colleges and research hospital at Bangalore. A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. Now a day's most of

libraries are concentration on web access for books and journals. Unfortunately most of the medical college are facing problem to get sufficient funds for library management. Three govt medical college libraries are facing problem without professional librarian as head. Most of the medical colleges are not following MCI norms practically and also not maintained staffs hierarchy as per qualification and also not paying salary as per Govt. /MCI norms. The respective management have to concentrate on these issues seriously because information is a vital role for medical practitioners to get up-to-date information for preventing and curing the diseases.

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