

## State University Libraries of Uttar Pradesh: Present Scenario

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### Abstract

This paper highlights the existence of state university libraries from several dimensions. It deals with the existence of Uttar Pradesh, location, population, universities and their development and finally the present status of university libraries in different terms.

**Keywords:** University Libraries; Uttar Pradesh.

### *The State of Uttar Pradesh*

Uttar Pradesh- U.P. in short, is the most populous state in India. In area, it is the fourth largest state of the country. It covers about nine percent of the total area of India. In the later Vedic age it was called Brahmarshi desa or Madhya desa. 'Varaha Purana' is associated with Mathura. Uttar Pradesh is said to have been the inspiration of Ramayana and the Mahabharata for Ramayana alludes to the royal family of Kosala and the Mahabharata refers to the royal family at Hastinapur, both in Uttar Pradesh. This is the land of the Taj Mahal, Ganga, Kumbh Mela, Vrindavan and Banaras, the Oudh of Wajid Shahs and Imambaras of Lucknow.[1]

In the sixth century B.C., Uttar Pradesh was associated with two new religions, Jainism and Buddhism. Mahavira, the founder of Jainism, is said to have breathed his last at Doora in Uttar Pradesh. It was at Sarnath, again in Uttar Pradesh, that the great Buddha preached his first Sermon and laid the foundation of his order. In the post-Buddhist period several centers in Uttar Pradesh, like Ayodhya, Prayag, Banaras and Mathura

became reputed centers of learning.

In the medieval period Uttar Pradesh passed under Muslim rule and led the way to a new synthesis of Hindu and Islamic cultures. Ramananda and his Muslim disciple Kabir, Tulsidas and Birbal, and many other intellectuals contributed to the growth of the vernacular languages, Hindi and Urdu. Urdu remains the perfect synthesis of Hindu and Muslim cultures.

### *Location*

A mix of Bengal province, Agra province, and others, this State was called United Province in 1935. After independence in January 1950, it was called Uttar Pradesh (Uttar=north, Pradesh=state).[2] Its boundaries are touched by the adjoining States Uttaranchal, Himachal, Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh and Nepal. It has a territory of 2,40,928 square Kilometers which is about nine percent of the country's total area.

### *Population*

U.P. is the most populous state in the country accounting for 16.4 percent of the country's population is also the fourth largest state in geographical area. The total population of the state was 8.8 crores in 1971. It increased to 11.1 crores in 1981 and then reported to be 13.9 crores in 1991. The increase, in population in these two decades was almost

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identical 25 percent. As against this, the national population shows a declining trend from 25 percent in 1971-81 to 23.8 percent 1981-91. Since 1971-81 the decadal variation of U.P. population in percentage forms has remained higher than that of the national.

As per the data (provisional) of 2011 census, the total population of U.P. is 19, 95, 81, 477 in which males are 10, 45, 96, 415 and females are 94, 985, 062. There are 908 females per 1,000 males in the state and the density of the population is 828 per square kilometers.[3]

An analysis of the population of the state shows that it has the largest population belonging to the Scheduled Castes in India both in obsolete figures and in percentage. The impact of this high number on the economy of the state, according to J. P. Chaturvedi "is reflected in the economic and social complexion of the state and.....in poor returns, poor health, low living conditions and low rate of literacy".

#### *State Universities of Uttar Pradesh*

A university is a community where scholars and teachers are head, students are the body and the library is the heart. The primary aim of university education is to cater to the needs of those who are interested in higher education and those who want to spread their knowledge in the interest of nation and society. A university mainly stands for higher learning and research.

In Uttar Pradesh, the break-up of conventional state universities is as under:

1. Bundelkhand University, Jhansi.
2. Chhatrapati Sahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur.
3. Choudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.
4. Deen Dayal Upadhyay University, Gorakhpur.
5. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Awadh University, Faizabad.
6. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Agra.
7. Lucknow University, Lucknow.

8. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University, Bareilly.
9. Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi.
10. Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi.
11. Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, Jaunpur.

#### *Development of University Libraries in U. P.*

Among major obstacles to university library development in some countries in general and in India in particular, the following seem to stand out prominently: lack of clearly defined university and library objectives; of co-operation and understanding from university authorities and faculties; of trained library personnel; of library resources in the university and in the country at large; severe import and currency restrictions; inadequate financial support; inadequate physical facilities; failure to appoint a university librarian, to give him authority commensurate with his important responsibilities, and to recognize the educational and professional of librarians; and unduly complex purchasing and other administrative regulations.[4]

Development of university libraries in Uttar Pradesh can be divided into two phases, one pre independence period and two post independence period. During pre independence period five universities namely University of Allahabad, Allahabad (1887), Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (1916), Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (1920), University of Lucknow, Lucknow (1921) and Agra University, Agra (1927) were established.

Allahabad is the oldest university of the state. The University of Allahabad founded on September 23, 1887. Its jurisdiction extends over an area within a radius of sixteen Kms. from the Senate Hall of the university. There are three university colleges which supplement instructions given by the university, eleven associated colleges providing degree courses and one constituent college maintained by Government which falls within the territorial

jurisdiction of the university.

The Banaras Hindu University came into existence in the year 1916. It has power to maintain colleges and institutions within a radius of fifteen miles from the main temple of the university. The university may also found and maintain (within or beyond the aforesaid limits) special centers and laboratories for research in humanities, science and technology, education, medicine and other subjects and spheres of learning and knowledge. The university has two campuses (at Varanasi and Barkachha), three institutes, sixteen faculties, 140 departments and four advanced centers and four interdisciplinary schools under its jurisdiction.[5]

In 1920, Aligarh Muslim University was originated as a result of efforts made by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. The jurisdiction of the university extends over a radius of twenty five Kms. from the university mosque. The university has three campuses (at Aligarh, Malappuram and Murshidabad), twelve faculties, ninety five departments, five institutes and thirteen centers under its jurisdiction.[6]

Soon after the establishment of Aligarh Muslim University, The University of Lucknow came into existence in the year 1921 as a unitary, teaching and residential university. The then King George's Medical College, The Canning College and The Isabella Thoburn College formed the nucleus for establishment of the university. At that time its territorial jurisdiction extends over a radius of sixteen Kms. from the convocation hall of the university. Now there are seven departments and one hundred seven affiliated colleges.[7]

The foundation of Agra University was laid in the year 1927 at Agra to affiliate the colleges of seven districts of Agra Division. Three teaching institutions, namely K.M. Institute of Hindi Studies and Linguistics, Institute of Social Sciences and Institute of Home Science were established as university constituent centers. Now there are ten faculties, fifteen institutes and two hundred (approx.) affiliated colleges.[8]

Out of these five universities, University of Allahabad, Banaras Hindu University and Aligarh Muslim University are the central universities under the central government.

During post independence period, the Thomson College of Civil Engineering which was established in 1847 was raised to the status of a university in 1949 by Act No. IX of U. P. Govt. It is now known as University of Roorkee.[9] In the year 1957, University of Gorakhpur was established at Gorakhpur. At present there are 219 affiliated colleges in seven districts namely Gorakhpur, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Siddharth Nagar, Kushi Nagar, Maharajganj and Deoria.[10] In 1958, Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya was established at Varanasi by raising the erstwhile Government Sanskrit College, Banaras, into a full fledged university. The Vishwavidyalaya was renamed as Sampurnanad Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya by the U.P. State University Act in the year 1974.[11] In the year 1960, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology was established by Act No. XI-V, 1958 of U.P. Govt. The main campus lies at Pant Nagar (Udham Singh Nagar district) and others at Ranichauri (Tehri district), Majhera (Nainital district) and Lohaghat-Sui (Champavat district).[12] In the year 1966, two more universities (one at Kanpur and other at Meerut) were established. Later on the Kanpur University was renamed as Chhatrapati Sahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur. At present there are 598 affiliated colleges in fifteen districts.[13] Meerut University was also renamed as Choudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. There are 425 affiliated colleges in the districts of western Uttar Pradesh.[14] In 1973 Garhwal University was established at Srinagar (Pauri Garhwal district) by the U.P. govt. Later on it was renamed as Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and declared Central University in the year 2009. There are 180 colleges/ institutes affiliated to this university. [15] Kumaun University was established at Nainital in the year 1973. At present there are 89 colleges/ institutes affiliated to this university in Kumaun region.[16] In 1975,

Avadh University was established at Faizabad and renamed as Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University. The affiliated colleges to this university are spread over at Faizabad, Sultanpur, Barabanki, Ambedkar Nagar, Pratapgarh, Gonda, Bahraich, Balrampur and Lucknow.[17] Rohilkhand University was also established in the year 1975 at Bareilly and renamed as Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University. The no. of affiliated colleges is 189.[18] Bundelkhand University was also established at Jhansi in the year 1975 under the provision of State Universities Act. In 1975, two more agricultural universities, one at Kanpur known as Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology and other at Faizabad known as Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology were established by the U.P. govt. for undertaking teaching, research and extension programmes in agriculture and rural industry.

**Table 1: Financial Support by UGC**  
(Source:

| S. No. | Name of University  | Total Grant released in X Plan (Rupees. In Lakh) |
|--------|---------------------|--|
| 1      | BU, Jhansi          | 135.00   |
| 2      | CSJMU, Kanpur       | 120.90   |
| 3      | CCSU, Meerut        | 214.80   |
| 4      | DDU, Gorakhpur      | 70.80  |
| 5      | Dr. RMLAU, Faizabad | 56.40  |
| 6      | Dr. BRAU, Agra      | 62.40  |
| 7      | LU, Lucknow         | 258.60   |
| 8      | MJPRU, Bareilly     | 168.30   |
| 9      | MGKV, Varanasi      | 51.00  |
| 10     | SSV, Varanasi       | 80.00  |
| 11     | VBSPU, Jaunpur      | 135.00   |

**Table 2: Document Collection (Source: Universities Handbook)**

| Collections     | Number of Universities |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 Lakh - 2 Lakh | 5                      |
| 2 Lakh - 3 Lakh | 5                      |
| 4 Lakh - 5 Lakh | 1                      |

### Present Scenario

There are at present eleven state universities in U. P. The state is the largest state in the North Region with the largest number of universities. It is followed by Bihar, Rajasthan and Delhi. About 30 per cent of the total universities in the country have been established in this region, with about half of them coming up during the last twenty five years.

### Financial Support

UGC provides Development (Plan Grants) and Maintenance (Non-Plan Grants) to university and college level institutions. As of now, the UGC provides development as well as maintenance grants to 120 State Universities of the country. The X Plan Allocation to the 11 state universities of U. P. may be seen in the table 1.

**Table 3: Classification/Cataloguing Systems Used in Libraries (Source: Questionnaire)**

| S. No. | University          | Classification Scheme followed | Cataloguing Systems followed |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1.     | BU, Jhansi          | DDC                            | AACR-2                       |
| 2.     | CSJMU, Kanpur       | DDC                            | AACR-2                       |
| 3.     | CCSU, Meerut        | DDC                            | AACR-2                       |
| 4.     | DDU, Gorakhpur      | DDC                            | AACR-2                       |
| 5.     | Dr. RMLAU, Faizabad | DDC                            | AACR-2                       |
| 6.     | Dr. BRAU, Agra      | DDC                            | CCC                          |
| 7.     | LU, Lucknow         | DDC                            | AACR-2                       |
| 8.     | MJPRU, Bareilly     | DDC                            | AACR-2                       |
| 9.     | MGKV, Varanasi      | CC                             | CCC                          |
| 10.    | SSV, Varanasi       | CC                             | CCC                          |
| 11.    | VBSPU, Jaunpur      | DDC                            | AACR-2                       |

**Table 4: Position of Vacant/Filled Posts of the Libraries (Source Questionnaire)**

| Sr. No. | University          | Assistant Librarian      | Deputy Librarian         | Librarian                |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.      | BU, Jhansi          | -                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | -                        |
| 2.      | CSJMU, Kanpur       | <input type="checkbox"/> | -                        | -                        |
| 3.      | CCSU, Meerut        | -                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | -                        |
| 4.      | DDU, Gorakhpur      | -                        | -                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.      | Dr. RMLAU, Faizabad | -                        | -                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6.      | Dr. BRAU, Agra      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -                        |
| 7.      | LU, Lucknow         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -                        |
| 8.      | MJPRU, Bareilly     | <input type="checkbox"/> | -                        | -                        |
| 9.      | MGKV, Varanasi      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.     | SSV, Varanasi       | <input type="checkbox"/> | -                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11.     | VBSPU, Jaunpur      | -                        | -                        | -                        |

From table 1 we see that MGKV, Varanasi got lowest grant and LU, Lucknow got highest grant from the UGC in X plan allocation.

#### *Document Collection*

Document collection is considered as the foundation of any library. A university library cannot respond to the rising needs of its numerically increasing users unless it has the materials required by them. For supporting education and research programmes of the university, its library must develop a well-balanced and rich document collection.

From the table 2 it is found that the collection of ten universities is up to 3 Lakh and only one university's collection is up to 5 Lakh.

#### *Classification/Cataloguing of Documents*

In about all the libraries attached to the universities, the document collection is classified by one system of classification or the other. However, it is experienced that in many of them there remains considerable backlog of unclassified books. The various cataloguing systems also followed in the university libraries.

It is clear from the table 3 that Dewey Decimal Classification for the classification purpose and Anglo American Cataloguing Rules-2 for the cataloguing purpose are preferred by the Indian library professionals as they consider them simpler than the Indian systems.

#### *Library Manpower*

The library manpower plays the key role in making the library resources available to the users. There has been wide discussion on the need to accord them the academic status. Long back, the Calcutta University Commission (1917-19) recommended for the first time that the university should have the services of a Librarian who "should have salary and status of a Professor..." Later, all the Commissions and Committees put forward similar recommendations so that "the status and salary scale of library staff should be the same as that of teaching and research staff." At present there is parity in the salary scales of the University Librarian with that of the Professor. The University Librarians now possess high academic and professional qualifications that enable them to beat par with the teaching faculty.

From the table 4 we see the current figure of library cadre in the university libraries.

From the table 4 it is found that mostly universities are not interested to fill up the posts of assistant librarian/deputy librarian/librarian. These posts are vacant since a long time. Nearly 40 per cent posts are filled. It gives a bad impression for the library.

### *Summing Up*

In the university libraries of Uttar Pradesh there has been a practice of Honorary Librarianship. Except three or four university libraries, there is no full fledged university librarian. University libraries are headed by one of the university professors in the capacity of honorary librarian. In Uttar Pradesh, people are not library minded and after the establishment of the university, much attention is not given to its library and to the appointment of the university librarian, deputy librarian and assistant librarian. The professional organizations must take initiative in this direction also.

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