

## Comprehending the Print Books and E-Books Preferences: Comparing the Contrasts

Mamta Rani<sup>1</sup>, Rishabh Kumar Jain<sup>2</sup>, Shiva Kanaujia Sukula<sup>3</sup>,  
Nageswara Rao Kondamudi<sup>4</sup>, Pragati<sup>5</sup>

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### Abstract

The evolution of literature consumption has witnessed a paradigm shift between print books and e-books, shaping the reading landscape. This paper explores the coexistence and impact of both formats on readership habits and preferences. It scrutinizes the tangible allure of print books, emphasizing sensory experiences and nostalgic sentiments associated with physical copies. In contrast, the paper delves into the convenience and accessibility of e-books, analyzing the role of digital platforms in democratizing literature. The article intends to describe and shed light on the ongoing discourse between traditional and digital reading.

**Keywords:** Print books, E-books, Education, Researcher, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

## INTRODUCTION

In today's digital age, the choice between print books and e-books is a nuanced decision shaped by convenience, nostalgia, and technological advances. This analysis aims to compare the contrasting attributes of each format, from the tactile experience of print to the portability of e-books. By exploring factors like reading habits, psychological

impacts, and environmental considerations, we seek to understand the evolving preferences of readers across diverse demographics.

### *The contemporary status of print and e-books*

The contemporary status of print and e-books suggests a coexistence marked by diverse reader preferences and technological advancements. Print books continue to maintain a steady presence, particularly for those who appreciate the tactile experience, collection aesthetics, and the nostalgic charm of physical libraries and bookstores. On the other hand, e-books have gained substantial popularity, offering readers the convenience of portable digital libraries, adjustable font sizes, and instant access to a vast array of titles (Jones & Brown, 2011). E-books have also become integral to educational settings, providing interactive features and search functionalities. The publishing industry has adapted to this dual landscape, with many titles released in print and digital formats. However, it's

**Authors Affiliation:** <sup>1</sup>Assistant Librarian, <sup>3</sup>Deputy Librarian, <sup>2,5</sup>Professional Assistant, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067, India.

**Corresponding Author:** Nageswara Rao Kondamudi, Assistant Librarian, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067, India.

**E-mail:** [Nageswararao.kondamudi@gmail.com](mailto:Nageswararao.kondamudi@gmail.com)

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essential to note that the balance between print and e-books may have evolved as influenced by technological developments, societal trends, and reader preferences. As observed in various studies and research works (Erin, 2010; Hanho 2012; OECD, 2012; Spjeldnæs & Karlsen, 2022), the role of digital devices is found to transform reading habits. Roles of technology integration with reading intentions are observed as an accepted behavior (Yu-Zhou; Yue-Ming; Yu-Yang; Chao, 2021).

### *Value of print books*

Print books hold a unique and enduring value that transcends the digital age. Beyond their tangible presence, they carry a sense of nostalgia and tradition, embodying the centuries old practice of disseminating knowledge through the printed word (Piramanayagam & Seal, 2020). The tactile experience of flipping through pages, the distinctive scent of paper and ink, and the weight of a well bound book contribute to a sensory engagement that is irreplaceable. Print books also foster a connection to the past, as they often line the shelves of libraries and bookstores, creating a physical and visual testament to literary history. Moreover, print books encourage focused and immersive reading, free from the distractions of screens and notifications. As artifacts of culture and knowledge, print books not only provide information but also serve as cultural touchstones, preserving the written word in a tangible and cherished form.

### *Offerings from print books*

Print books offer a multitude of benefits that contribute to a rich and fulfilling reading experience. One of the primary advantages lies in the tactile engagement they provide, allowing readers to physically interact with the pages, and feeling the texture and weight of the book. This sensory connection enhances the overall enjoyment and immersion in the narrative. Print books also alleviate concerns related to screen time and digital eye strain, providing a respite from the pervasive use of electronic devices. Additionally, the permanence of print ensures that the content is not subject to technological obsolescence, offering a timeless quality that withstands the rapid changes in digital formats. Print books often become cherished possessions, creating a tangible and visible library that can be passed down through generations, fostering a love for literature and an appreciation for the enduring value of the written word.

### *Wonderfull comforts from the milieu of print books*

Print books come with several advantages that contribute to their enduring appeal. Firstly, the tactile nature of print books provides a unique sensory experience, allowing readers to feel the paper, turn physical pages, and appreciate the weight and texture of the book. (P & Sunder, 2016) This tangible interaction fosters a deeper connection with the content and enhances the overall reading pleasure. Print books also offer a break from the screen centric world, reducing eye strain and the potential negative effects associated with prolonged digital device use. Moreover, print books are free from the vulnerabilities of electronic formats, ensuring that they remain accessible even without power or technological devices. The durability and longevity of print materials make them a reliable and lasting source of information and entertainment. Lastly, print books contribute to the aesthetic appeal of bookshelves, creating a visually pleasing and culturally significant presence in homes, libraries, and book stores.

### *Print books possibilities and suitabilities*

Print books remain an essential resource for researchers across various disciplines, offering a depth of information and a tangible, reliable source of knowledge. Despite the rise of digital platforms and online databases, many researchers continue to rely on print books for in-depth exploration and comprehensive literature reviews (Pandey & Sukula, 2019). Print books often provide a holistic view of a topic, offering historical context, nuanced perspectives, and a cohesive narrative that can be beneficial for a thorough understanding of a subject. Moreover, researchers appreciate the permanence and stability of print, as it eliminates concerns related to technological obsolescence and ensures consistent access to information over time. The act of physically engaging with print books, whether through annotations, bookmarks, or the tactile experience of flipping pages, facilitates a more immersive and focused reading experience for researchers as they delve into their academic inquiries.

### *Print books and eBooks Usage*

Print books and e-books each bring distinct advantages and considerations to the reading experience. Print books offer a tangible, sensory engagement that many readers find irreplaceable the feel of paper, the scent of ink, and the weight of the book contribute to a unique connection

with the content. Additionally, print books don't require electronic devices, reducing eye strain and eliminating concerns about battery life. On the other hand, e-books offer unparalleled convenience with their portability, adjustable fonts, and the ability to carry an entire library in a single device. E-books often come with search functionalities and interactive features, enhancing the reading experience for some. However, concerns related to screen time and potential technological obsolescence persist. The debate between print and e-books often boils down to personal preference, with some readers cherishing the traditional feel of print, while others embrace the digital evolution for its practicality and versatility. Ultimately, both formats coexist, offering readers a diverse range of choices to suit their preferences and needs.

The recent studies (Y. Zhang & Kudva, 2013; Kumbhar, 2018; Potnis, Deosthali, Zhu & Mc Cusker, 2018) have expressed the variations in the ebooks usage patterns, policies, and purchase preferences in context with print books. Multiple factors are responsible for ebook usage among various kinds of users. It is observed that interactive e-books (X. Zhang et al., 2021)) are popular among students.

According to studies, "e-book user experience (search and information seeking) from usage data and user tests" reflects (Walton; Zhang, Niu & Promann, 2017) the focus on specific pages, and specific information. Designing e-book features in the direction of supporting the users' reading strategies are significant aspect. There are certain advantages such as using smartphones as well as the availability of multilingual featured kinds of e-books have been instrumental in ebooks' multifarious demand. Based on industry reports and data from (<https://www.dotmordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/e-book-market>) the size of the e-book market is projected to reach USD 21.73 billion by 2029, from USD 17.20 billion in 2024. The main factors propelling the global e-book market are the advancements in technology and the sophistication of reading devices that offer an experience akin to that of reading a real book.

### ***Purchase procedure of print books***

The purchase process for print books typically involves a series of steps that cater to the preferences of individual readers. At Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Central Library, JNU The faculty members and students can suggest books and other publications for acquisition at the central library. Students, researchers, faculty members, and other library users regularly suggest books in the management

library (Kumar & Gaur, 2019). They stay informed about current trends in literature, academic disciplines, and popular genres, ensuring that the collection reflects a broad spectrum of knowledge and interests. The list of books requested by the Faculty for purchase in each School/Centre should always be passed on to the respective Deans/Chairpersons by the Faculty. The requisitions of students can be approved by the concerned faculty and Dean/Chairperson. The list of recommended books would be placed before the Library Advisory Committee for its review after checking for duplication. Some very urgent requirements of books forwarded by the Deans/Chairpersons of respective Schools/Centres may be purchased with the approval of the Library Advisory Committee or by circulation to LAC members. Regardless of the avenue chosen, the process of acquiring print books is a journey that allows readers to immerse themselves in the world of literature, from the initial discovery to the satisfaction of holding a physical book in their hands.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To understand the print books Mechanism.
- To Find out the growth and development of the last five years of Print books.
- To Observe the comparison of the Print books purchased among various disciplines and different Centres.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

Table 1 reveals that the majority of books i.e. 199 procured by the School of Engineering in the financial year 2018-19 and the least i.e. 1 in the financial year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 by the School of Engineering and Special Centre for Nano-sciences. The table also shows that not any book procured by Special Centre for Molecular Medicine in the financial year 2021-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

Table 2, It was observed that 652 maximum no. of books purchased by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management & Entrepreneurship in the financial year 2019-2020 and minimum no. of books procured in the financial year 2019-20 and 2021-22 by Special Centre for Disaster Research and Special Centre for the Study of North East India.

According to table 3, it was observed that SIS has procured the majority of books in the financial year

2020-2021 and the minimum no. of books in the financial year 2021-2022.

Table 4 indicates that 383 maximum no. of books purchased by the CIL in the financial year 2021-22 and the least books i.e. 2 by CAAS and CCSEAS in the financial year 2021-2022.

Table 5 reveals that the School of Social Sciences has procured the majority of books in the financial year 2022-2023 and the minimum no. of books in the financial year 2019-2020.

Table 6: Book procured for the SIS, SLL&CS, and SSS from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

**Table 1:** Book procured for the Science Schools from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

Name of the School/Centre	Total No. of Books 2018-19	Total No. of Books 2019-20	Total No. of Books 2020-21	Total No. of Books 2021-22	Total No. of Books 2022-23
School of Engineering	199	1	162	3	42
School of Biotechnology	10	6	0	18	20
Special Centre for Molecular Medicine	8	6	0	0	0
Special Centre for Nano-science	10	0	1	2	0
School of Computational and Integrative Sciences	9	5	0	44	28
School of Computer and Systems Sciences	18	139	3	0	0
School of Environmental Sciences	12	15	7	5	34
School of Life Sciences	10	0	15	0	4
School of Physical Sciences	52	18	0	90	18

**Table 2:** Book procured for the Special Centre/Schools from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

Name of the School/Centre	Total No. of Books 2018-19	Total No. of Books 2019-20	Total No. of Books 2020-21	Total No. of Books 2021-22	Total No. of Books 2022-23
Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management & Entrepreneurship	NA	652	354	20	52
School of E-Learning	NA	NA	NA	NA	8
School of Arts & Aesthetics	49	18	33	11	34
Special Centre for the Study of North East India	17	14	12	1	28
Special Centre for National Security Studies	00	0	3	8	5
Centre for the Study of Law and Governance	12	8	00	0	8
School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies	162	00	307	152	51
Special Centre for Disaster Research	6	1	3	3	15

**Table 3:** Book procured for the School of International Studies from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

Name of the School/Centre	Total No. of Books 2018-19	Total No. of Books 2019-20	Total No. of Books 2020-21	Total No. of Books 2021-22	Total No. of Books 2022-23
<b>School of international Studies</b>					
CAS	7	7	3	00	6
CEAS	6	8	3	00	27
CES	13	10	6	7	1

*Table cont....*

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CIAS	5	3	13	00	8
CILS	5	1	2	00	00
CIPOD	18	8	00	1	1
CIPS	10	8	00	00	1
CITD	00	00	00	00	8
CCPPT	3	17	2	00	12
CSAS	3	7	7	00	1
CCULAS	8	3	22	00	00
CWAS	19	22	50	20	11
CRCAS	17	9	22	4	11
ESP/HRS	9	00	00	00	00
	123	103	130	32	87

Table 6 reveals that the School of International Studies procured maximum number of books in 2020-2021 i.e. 130 and in 2021-22 least number of book i.e. 32. School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies procured 715 books in the financial year 2022-23 and least number of books 64 in the financial year 2019-2020. School of Social Sciences procured maximum books in the financial year

2022-23 i.e. 399 and the least books procured in 2019-20 i.e. 194.

Fig. 1 indicates the maximum no. of books purchased in the financial year 2018-19 followed by the 2020-2021, 2019-2020 and 2021-2022.

Fig. 2 reveals the Maximum no. of books purchased in the financial year 2019-20 and least books purchased in the year 2022-23.

**Table 4:** Book procured for the School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

Name of the School/Centre	Total No. of Books 2018-19	Total No. of Books 2019-20	Total No. of Books 2020-21	Total No. of Books 2021-22	Total No. of Books 2022-23
<b>School of Language, Literature &amp; Culture Studies</b>					
CAAS	358	12	35	2	342
CCSEAS	9	6	2	2	6
CENG	7	00	12	24	7
CFFS	6	00	00	00	00
CGS	00	00	00	21	20
CIL	184	16	5	383	326
CJS	00	00	00	00	00
CKS	00	10	00	00	00
CL	45	20	34	10	6
CPCAS	3	00	26	00	8
CRS	4	00	00	2	00
CSPILAS	0	0	5	65	0
GPLLAB	00	00	00	00	00

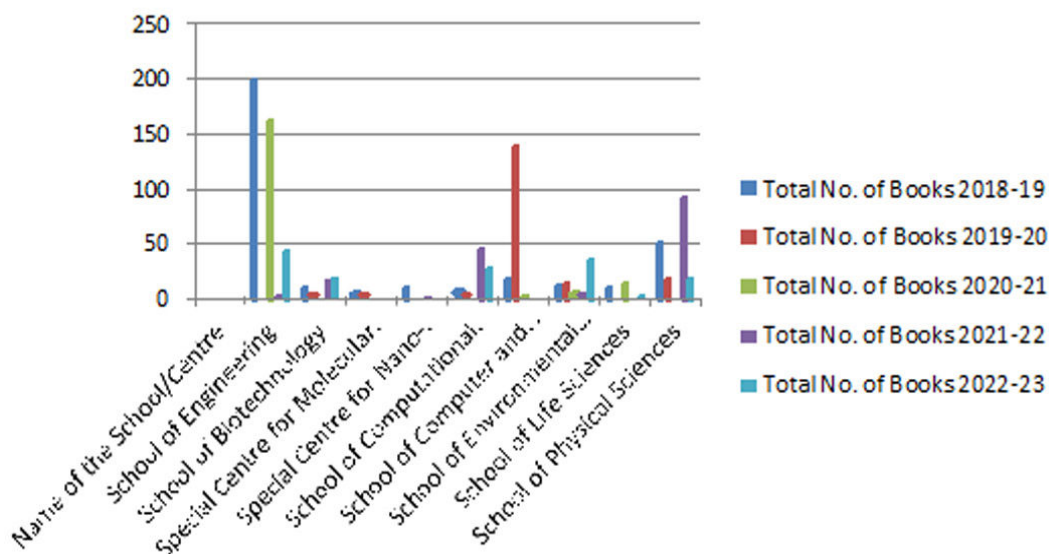


**Table 5:** Book procured for the School of Social Science from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

Name of the School/Centre	Total No. of Books 2018-19	Total No. of Books 2019-20	Total No. of Books 2020-21	Total No. of Books 2021-22	Total No. of Books 2022-23
<b>School of Social Sciences</b>					
CESP	18	4	54	33	55
CHS	103	44	108	41	39
CISLS	4	5	38	18	29
CMS	2	00	28	19	12
CPHL	30	7	4	1	46
CPS	43	27	24	31	54
CSDE/ CSSEIP	21	6	39	24	14
CSRD	40	29	34	36	42
CSSP	6	10	3	00	4
CSSS	7	30	9	19	33
CWS	5	3	1	00	00
GAE	1	6	00	00	00
CSMCH	9	12	14	00	26
ZHCES	20	11	37	19	45
Dr. BRACL	4	00	5	4	00
	313	194	398	227	399

**Table 6:** Book procured for the SIS, SLL&CS, and SSS from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

Name of the School/Centre	Total No. of Books 2018-19	Total No. of Books 2019-20	Total No. of Books 2020-21	Total No. of Books 2021-22	Total No. of Books 2022-23
School of International Studies	123	103	130	32	87
School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies	616	64	119	509	715
School of Social Science	309	194	393	241	399



**Fig. 1:** Book procured for the Science Schools from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

In Fig.3 it was observed that the maximum no. of books purchased by the School of International Studies in the financial year 2020-2021 followed by 2018-2019, 2019-20, 2022-23, and 2021-2022.

Fig. 4 indicates that the School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies procured the majority

of books in the financial year 2022-23 and the least in 2019-2020.

Fig. 5 shows the maximum no. of books procured in the financial year 2022-2023 and the minimum in the year 2019-2020.

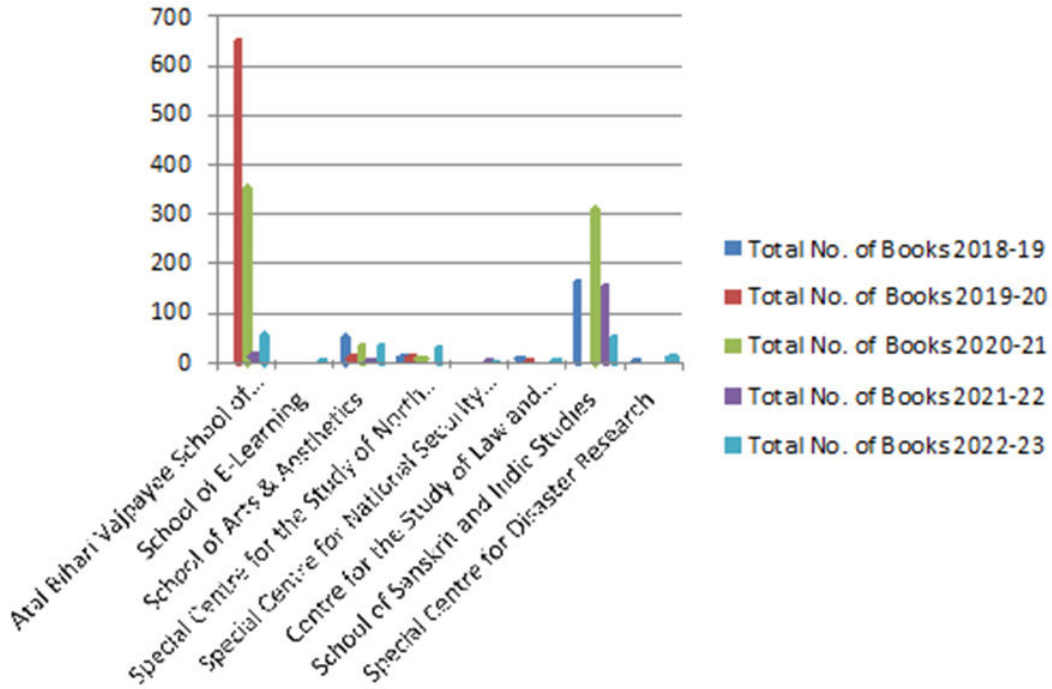


Fig. 2: Book procured for the Special Centre/Schools from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23



Fig. 3: Book procured for the School of International Studies from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

## FINDINGS

- The majority of books procured by the School of Engineering in the financial year 2018-2019 and the least books purchased by the Special Centre for Nano Science in the financial year 2021-22.
- The study found that among all the Special centres, the School of E-Learning procured the least no. of books.
- Maximum No. of books procured by the School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies in the financial year 2022-23 followed by 2018-19, 2021-22, 2020-2021, and 2019-2020.

### School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies

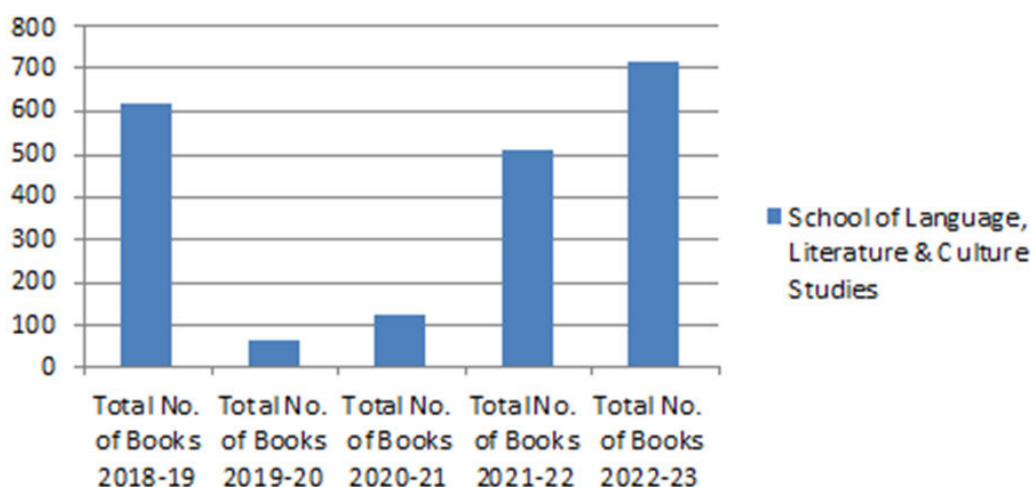


Fig. 4: Book procured for the School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23

### School of Social Science

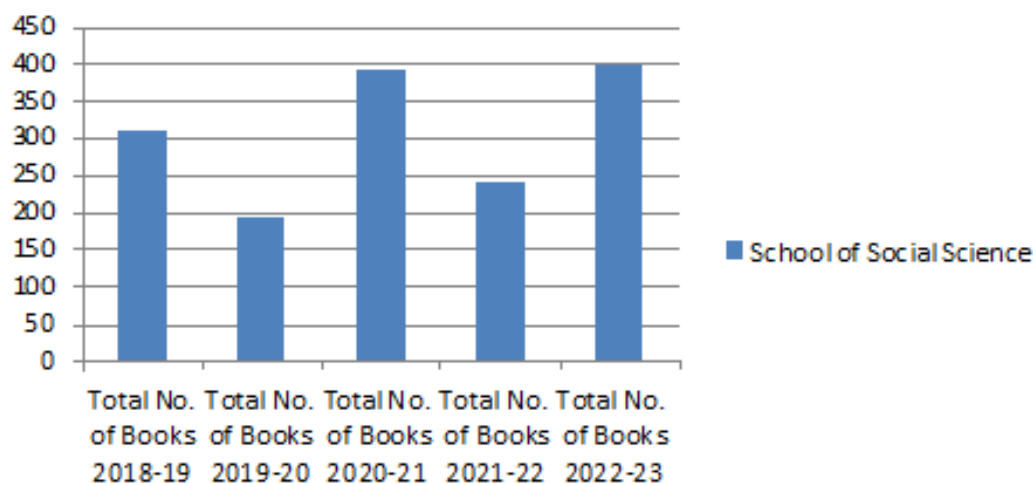


Fig. 5: Book procured for the School of Social Sciences from the Financial Year 2018-19 to 2022-23



- This study shows the maximum no. of books procured by the School of Social Sciences in the financial year 2022-2023 and the minimum no. of books in the year 2019-2020.

## CONCLUSION

The collection development of print books is a strategic and dynamic process undertaken by libraries and bookstores to curate a diverse and relevant assortment of titles. Librarians and collection development specialists assess the needs and interests of their community or target audience, considering demographics, educational requirements, and cultural preferences. Budget constraints, available shelf space, and circulation data are also taken into account during the selection process. Acquisitions may involve purchasing newly released books, replacing worn-out copies, or responding to specific requests from patrons. The goal is to create a well-rounded and inclusive collection that serves the community's informational, educational, and recreational needs. Regular evaluation and, if necessary, weeding out outdated or underutilized materials contribute to maintaining a vibrant and relevant print book collection over time.

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