

LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES RENDERED BY LAW COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN VIDARBHA REGION

Dr. Abhay Bhakte

Librarian, Smt. Rajkamal B. Tidke, Mahavidyalaya Mouda.

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ABSTRACT

The passage of time, attempts were made to record the knowledge and information and manuscripts were written on tree bark i.e., Bhojpatra. With the advancement of Science and technology, printing technology came into existence and information were started to preserve permanently in the form of books. With the progress in printing technology, more and more literature was produced and the problem of their storage and retrieval on demand and at the need were aroused. Hence, libraries came into existence for storing, arrangement and retrieval of documents as and when required.

Broadly speaking, the libraries may be divided into four types- Academic, Public, Special and Private Libraries. In fact, the academic libraries are the libraries which really mould and form the foundation of the children's future and ultimate take part in determination of a nation's future. Academic libraries are further divided into school library, college library and university library. With the spread of literacy and higher education in India through the planning era, the importance of school, college and university libraries has gone up and the libraries have come to mean quite a different institution than they had been earlier, through the centuries.

Keywords: Law, Law Information, Legal Information, Law College.

Introduction

Today we are living in the age of information. A large amount of information is being generated every moment. However, the ability to collect, store and disseminate this large amount of information needs application of new technologies. Thanks to the advanced technology we have at our disposal, electronics, devices which could even re-arrange, select, marshal and transform enormous quantities of information at phenomenal speed. Information is dynamic and unending resource that affects all disciplines and all walks of life. In the present information enriched society access to Precise, pointed and reliable in information in scientific, technical, Commercial and managerial function at time to right in the mostly usable form, which can help in minimizing the wastage of resource. Further, the access to right information can trigger new direction in research development and managerial action. Thus helps in shaping socio-economic development of the community. But there is a spectacular increase in the volume and complexity of information.

Now a day the law college has become a unique indispensable educational institution in our society. The aim of the law college is to achieve the goals of law education. The educational ideas cannot be achieved without an effective and efficient library services. Thus librarians occupy a prominent place in the educational programmed of every nation. Recent technological advances in electronics have cast great impact upon modern society.

These advances have either provided capability previously not known or resulted in improved efficiency. Technologies, especially computer and telecommunication, have highly revolutionized the field of library and information services. They facilitate collection, storage, organization, processing. If the country is to develop, a qualitative growth of higher education, it requires comprehensive and economical access to global data and information, which can be provided only by information technology based regional law college library network.

Library is essentially a service institution. The traditional function of Library service involves a variety of activities on the part of the Library. To achieve its goals and realize its policies, a library undertakes various services. The academic libraries are no exception to this. The library routine can broadly be studied under two heads work behind the screen, and work with the readers. The former is an indirect service involving book acquisition, classification, and cataloguing, binding reproduction of documents etc. which are broadly called "Technical services". The latter is a direct job which involves circulation techniques, reference and bibliographical services, documentation and information services which are termed as "Readers services".

Review of Literature

Guruswamy Naidu (1990) reported that libraries are the tools of information dissemination, which render a basic service in information flow; it is an essential ingredient in social and economic

development of any nation. On the basis of results of his studies, he suggested that a National commission for libraries should be set up and the Government of India should act on the recommendations of this Commission for effective information dissipation.

Ghosh (2006) comprehend the present status of membership based library associations in India and the range of structural, political, cultural and financial challenges which they face through SWOT analysis together with a review of the literature, websites and ephemeral material such as minutes, annual reports, newsletters and memoranda. Authors recommended that carefully planned public relations programs should be carried out by leveraging convergence technologies which could guarantee the long-term success of library associations.

What is Law?

The discipline and profession concerned with the customs practice and rules of conduct at a community that are recognized as binding by the community enforcement of the body of rules in through a controlling authority.

Defination

According to Justinian, "Law is the king of all mortal and immortal affairs which ought to be the chief, the ruler and the leader of the noble and the base, and thus the standard of what is just and unjust, the commander to animals naturally social of what they should do, the forbidden of what they should not do."

Legal Information Needs

In terms of the development and delivery of collections of legal information, there is obviously more material which is changing in content more quickly. This has been made possible by electronic publishing and delivery. There is also a need to make access to legal materials available from a wider range of jurisdictions including regional and international organizations

Legal Information Systems and Services

Today, we are at there should of yet another revolution what is described as 'Information Revolution' Since the invention of printing, there has been a continues revolution in the generation, transfer and communication of information. However, the role of information has attained new proportions with the acceleration of research, mounting social and population pressure, changing technological environment and increasing needs planners, decision makers, boniness houses, executives, lawyers, doctors and even the common man.

Law College Libraries

A workable definition might be a collection of materials wholly or mainly containing legal information, including all most all-modern English language text of the law itself, is published in social or loose-leaf form. For many year Law College Libraries have been recognized albeit reluctantly as being "different".

It is not; therefore, the users at Law College Libraries that single them out from other libraries, so much as their contents. The law books themselves are different from all other subject, Literature not only in their subject matter, but also in their own innate forms. It is this knowledge that law books are somehow different and are therefore presumed on the part of general libraries to set aside their natural centralist tendencies and segregate law books and their users into separate or semiautonomous libraries.

Law College Libraries in Vidarbha Region

1: Governance of libraries in Law colleges

Governance	Frequency	Percentage
Management	12	57.1
Libraries committee	7	33.3
Principal/ Director	1	4.8
Librarian	1	4.8
Total	21	100

Subject wise Books Collection of Law College Libraries

2: Availability of books on following subjects at law college libraries.

Sr. no.	Subjects	Frequency	Percentage
1	Labour law (LL)	19	90.5
2	Co-Operative Law (Co-Op L)	19	90.5
3	Intellectual property (IP)	18	85.7

4	Constitutional law (CL)	18	85.7
5	Environmental Law (EL)	18	85.7
6	Business Law (BL)	16	76.2
7	Human Rights (HR)	19	90.5
8	Cyber Law (CyL)	20	95.2
9	Trots (TT)	19	90.5
10	Hindu Law (HL)	20	95.2
11	Muslim Law (ML)	20	95.2
12	Legal Language and legal writing (LeLW)	19	90.5
13	Contract (CTR)	19	90.5
14	Code of Civil Procedure (CCP)	17	81.0
15	Code of Criminal Procedure (CCrP)	19	90.5
16	Consumer protection Law (CPL)	20	95.2
17	Jurisprudence (JP)	21	100.0
18	Professional Ethics (PE)	19	90.5
19	Evidence (EVI)	20	95.2
20	Public international Law (PIL)	20	95.2
21	Transfer of Property (TP)	18	85.7
22	Land Law (LdL)	18	85.7
23	Taxation (TAX)	19	90.5
24	Trust (TRU)	20	95.2
25	Banking (BNK)	21	100.0
26	Administrative (ADM)	21	100.0
27	Interpretation of status (IS)	21	100.0
28	Drafting Pleading and Conveyencing (DPC)	21	100.0
29	Moot Court (MC)	16	76.2
30	Collection of general reading books (CGR)	21	100.0
31	Marathi general reading book (MGR)	19	90.5
32	English general reading book (EGR)	20	95.2
33	Hindi General reading book (HGR)	20	95.2

Hypotheses Testing

On the basis of results from the Table 2, which shows that majority of subject related books and periodicals were available at Law College Libraries in Vidarbha region, hence the hypothesis, which states that 'all Law college libraries in Vidarbha Region rendered legal information services to users' is accepted.

Role of Legal Profession

Knowledge is essential to be able to put forward an argument. Information in law is important not only in the advancement of litigation. It is also important to prevent useless litigation by convincing your client that he will be wasting his time and money in bringing or resisting an action.

There are many career opportunities available to law graduates in India. Some of fields open to them are as follows:

Corporate world	Defense Forces
NGOs	Judiciary
Govt. & PSUs	Law Firms
Banking Sector	Litigation
Teaching/Academics in Law Colleges	Freelance Journalism

Law Libraries-

A law library is a library designed to assist law students, attorneys, judges, and their law clerks and anyone else who finds it necessary to correctly determine the state of the law and functions to provide each offender access to legal materials for the preparation of legal documents.

Characteristics of law college libraries

1. The more important Legal texts are in serial form another is the.
2. No law book, however old is useless merely by reason of its age the fact that some thirteenth – century legislation and legal principles enunciated in some of the medieval law reports are still valid today neatly combines these two themes.
3. There are many subject areas in which periodical literature plays an important part, but the degree of use of Legal serials dozens or even hundreds of years after publication is unique.
4. Law College Library have a vital need to keep up to date, while it is no longer true that a clients life depends on the preparation of a case by his Legal representatives, it is still true that their reliance on superheated precedents could lose an otherwise good case.

Nature of Law College Libraries

1. A Law College Library is different from other in the sense that by its nature. It has to be a reference library; a reader may have to consult a number of books simultaneously to solve one problem. Thus, it is necessary that the books should be in the library and it is also desirable that the books should be properly shelved everyday- every time so that they may be found immediately when required.

2. The Law College Library is the most important part of any school. The student's tools are the books of the law.

Arrangement of Material in the Law Libraries

A Law college library can be divided into four major divisions

1. Legislative material.
2. The Judicial Material including periodicals and
3. Text Books.
4. Reports.

Scope of the Study

The present study was limited to Vidarbha region including ten districts in Vidarbha region i.e. Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Amravati, Washim, Akola and Buldhana. In all a total of 21 law college libraries out of 25 law colleges provided data for this study (sample size 21).

Conclusion

The data was collected regarding the functions of law college libraries.

- From the statistical analysis of data (Table 1) regarding governance of law libraries, it was found that 57.1% of the law libraries in Vidarbha region were governed by College Management.
- It was found (Table 2) that law related subject books were not available at majority of law college libraries.
- It was found that law college libraries in Vidarbha region were well equipped with basic equipments required for the library but still there was some scope regarding the incorporation of some facilities like microfilm, slide projectors, audio visual aids and Photostat machine etc.
- From the statistical analysis of data regarding availability of Journal of Indian Law Institute, The Indian Law Journal, it was found that it was not available at 71.4% of law libraries in Vidarbha region.

Suggestions

- It is expected that law college library should contain all law books related to the subject in adequate numbers. It was observed that law related subject books were not available in majority of law college libraries in Vidarbha region. For fulfilling this requirement law college managements and Universities should provide adequate fund for purchasing all law related subjects books to law college libraries
- It was suggested that law colleges, law college managements or the universities to which the colleges are affiliated should increase the amount of funds provided to law libraries for purchasing reading material related to the law so that they can purchase the sufficient law material required in sufficient proportion to the number of students using law libraries.

- Online databases are important tools in the law college libraries it was observed that in majority of law college libraries in Vidarbha region, on line databases are not available. It is suggested that for improving library sources law college management should pay attention on this area with prime importance.

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