



Norms, standards and services of a degree level technical institute library

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Abstract

A library in a technical education institute or engineering college and university can be classed as a special library. There has been a considerable development of technical education in India during the last 30 yrs. There are now over 5,000 special libraries in India in engineering colleges and institutes of technology which provide specialized services. According to the information and assessment made by the Govt. of India, the country is now in a position to meet the technical manpower requirements during the tenth five year plan. The major purpose of the norms and standards relate to the proper planning of institutions the promotion of institutional building processes and the preparation of proposals for new programmes and institutions. If all these suggested norms, guidelines standards and services are put into practice and the library is maintained in a good condition by an adequate annual expenditure on books and manned by the desired quality of staff, it will win support in the college.

Keywords: technical education institute, INFLIBNET, e-resources

Introduction

Whilst the industrial economy of the 20th century was defined by the ideology- cal contests between the capitalist west and the communist eastern blocks, the knowledge economy of the 21st century is defined by the new technology-based innovations, which are centred on knowledge, information efficiencies, and literacy's. Information and Communication Technology is significant to the libraries to achieve its goals for management of information, effective services and extension of boundaries from the four walls to the globe. A library in a technical education institute or engineering college and university can be classed as a special library. In this information era when the scientific and technological advancements are very high the reference and personal services to students and members of teaching faculty is the backbone of a technical education institute library. Reference services in an engineering institution library must go beyond the stage of 'informal personal aid and provide advanced information to persons engaged in technical education and research projects.

Before independence, engineering education was imparted only in 36 engineering colleges and other similar institutions. For rapid industrialization of the country more engineers and technologist were needed to implement the development plans. As a result by the end of 20th century, there are more than 1000 Industrial Training Institutes run by the Govt. and private bodies. There has been a considerable development of technical education in India during the last 30 yrs. There are now over 5,000 special libraries in India in engineering colleges and institutes of technology which provide specialized services. The IIT libraries are managed by qualified and experienced persons at top levels but, there is still a dearth of professionals with scientific background at the lower level. There has also been good development of technical education in UP after establishment of the Uttar

Pradesh Technical University. There are now over 700 engineering colleges or institutes and universities in UP. Under govt. and autonomous umbrella of government, there are two IIT, one NIT, three technical universities and thirteen engineering institutions /Colleges are functioning among them. According to the information and assessment made by the Govt. of India, the country is now in a position to meet the technical manpower requirements during the tenth five year plan. This may, therefore, be given a very special consideration when we are planning the developments of the libraries.

Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)

One of the most remarkable and identifiable development in the history of higher education and libraries was the foundation of the INFLIBNET in 1991. It is an autonomous Inter-University Centre of The UGC of India. It is involved in modernizing university libraries in India and connects them through a nation-wide high-speed data network. Almost all academic libraries, especially university libraries, are members of Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET). Besides INFLIBNET, a number of other national networks and various library networks have also been developed including NICNET (National Informatics Center's network), INDONET, ERNET (Education and Research Network), CALIBNET (Calcutta Library Network), DELNET (Developing Library Network), etc. ADINET is associated with INFLIBNET, DELNET with NIC and MALIBNET with CFTRI. A number of educational institutions are members of such networks. These networks, especially DELNET (which has 752 member libraries including 742 from India and 10 from outside), are engaged in compiling union catalogs, creating various databases of experts, providing training to library staff, ILL, online facilities, reference service, assistance in retrospective conversion, etc. Considering the

requirements of academic libraries for library automation, the SOUL (Software for University Libraries), state-of-the-art library management software has been designed and developed by the INFLIBNET centre.

Indian library consortia scenario for e-resources

Consortia are basically, evolving a form of cooperation among the libraries which come together to share resources electronically. It has gained momentum even in developing countries like India. There are two very important consortia; UGC-INFONET and INDEST-AICTE Consortium are proving to be a boon for the academic users. These revolutionary steps are providing scholarly resources including peer reviewed journals, databases, abstracts; proceedings etc. These efforts will definitely boost the higher education system of our country. Apart from the above mentioned consortia, there have been efforts to setup similar kind of consortia by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), ICSSR & other governmental agencies to provide and access to e-resources.

UGC-INFONET

UGC-INFONET E-Journals consortium initiative was undertaken by the UGC to facilitate free access to scholarly e-journals and databases in all fields and disciplines by the research and academic community across the country through joint partnership of UGC, INFLIBNET & ERNET. This includes interlinking universities and colleges in the country electronically with a view to achieving maximum efficiency through internet enable teaching, learning and governance. This effort has had a noticeable impact on the research and academic community.

Indest- Aicte Consortium

INDEST Consortium was set-up in 2003 by The Ministry of

Human Resources Development (MHRD). 38 centrally funded Govt. institution including IITs, IISc, NITs and some other institutions are the core members of the INDEST AICTE Consortium. The Ministry provides funds required for providing access to electronic resources to the core members through consortium headquarters setup at the IIT Delhi. The consortium subscribes to over 6500 electronic journals from a number of publishers and aggregators.

Norms Standard and Services

The major purpose of the norms and standards relate to the proper planning of institutions the promotion of institutional building processes and the preparation of proposals for new programmes and institutions. Norms are also essential for the co-ordination of programmes. In addition norms would enable identification of problems by institutions and Governments. Variation from the prescribed norms and the reason thereof would enable corrective action could be the basis for resource allocation, planning of staff development, reviewing of curricular structures, etc. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has now been established by an act of parliament, "council of all India technical education 1987" for proper planning and co-ordinated development, regulation and maintenance of norms and standards in the Technical Education System throughout the country.

Norms for library staff

Library should be provided with the necessary staff to enable it to be available to the faculty and students for at least 12 hours in a day. It is suggested that the library should consist of one librarian, two assistant librarian, four library assistants and two library attendants for each institute college. There shall also be the provision of one clerk, one photocopy machine operator and one peon.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifying in the NET by UGC. M.L.I.Sc with at least 55% of the marks. Consistently good academic record, Computerisation of library. 	<p>LIBRARIAN {15600-39100 (6000)} Planning & developing of the Library (Responsible to the Director/Principal)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General administration Budgeting Books/Periodicals selection & acquisition Supervising of cataloguing/ classification & indexing Arranging for repairs
<p>One ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN {9300-34800 (4200)} Look after E-Library etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree in Library & Information Sc. with 5 Yrs Experience Responsible to the Librarian Assisting librarian in his work Cataloguing/ classification/ indexing of books & periodicals 	<p>One ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN {9300-14800 (4200)} Look after other routine jobs</p>
<p>One LIBRARY ASSISTANT {5200-20200 (2800)} Attached with Reading Section</p>	<p>One LIBRARY ASSISTANT {5200-20200 (2800)} Attached with Journals/Periodicals Section with E-journal section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree in Library & Information Sc. Responsible to the Assistant Librarian/Librarian Issue & Receiving of books Restoring the books & periodicals 	<p>Two LIBRARY ASSISTANT {5200-9000 (2800)} Attached with Issue/Return Section</p>

<p>One LIBRARY ATTENDANT {4440-7440 (1300)} Attached with Gate checking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible to the Librarian • Both may replaced another after 3-4 hours • Checking at the entrance • Maintaining & upkeep of library • Labelling & pasting, Repair of books 	<p>One LIBRARY ATTENDANT {4440-7440 (1300)} Attached with Book Binding</p>
<p>One XEROX MACHINE OPERATOR {5200-20200 (1900)} Attached with Reprographic/Print section (collect money & maintain the records) (Responsible to the Librarian)</p>	<p>One PEON {4440-7440 (1300)} Attached with Librarian</p>	<p>One LIBRARY CLERK {5200-20200 (1900)} Attached with Administrative Office (Maintain files and other records send reminders, collect Fines, etc.) (Responsible to the Librarian)</p>

Norms for space, books and journals

The library of an engineering college requires a Reading hall, a Stack room, a Reference room, a Current periodical room, Issue counters, Reprographic section, Offices and Stores. The central library for an admission of 240 students per year will have a carpet area of 400 sq.m.

Initial stock of books and journals

1. Initial stock of books for three branches in institutions 5000
2. Each branch of engineering 1000
3. Each branch of engineering 12 (6 national + 6 international)
4. E-Journals are mandatory for all the branches available in the institute. Apart from that there are two e-journals databases DELNET and National Digital Library (NDL) are mandatory for all institution.

Yearly addition of books and journals

Books: 400 volumes of the books per branch
Journals: Each branch of engineering 12 (6 national + 6 international)

Guidelines

The policy makers of college education in each state should specify the basic guidelines for college libraries regarding accommodation, library staff, essential services, librarian’s responsibility and functions, collections, Finance, other services and educational objectives. These guidelines should be followed at planning, setting up stage and providing effective services to users of the library.

Users, Materials and Services

The users of a technical education institute library are students of various departments such as B.Tech, B.Arch, B Pharma etc., research scholars and their faculty members. They are wanted to provide him relevant reading material on demand and on anticipation. It means libraries should manage their information unit very up-to-date and well organized.

A technical education institute library must provide the following materials to the faculty members and students.

1. The provision of reference Books, required as background reading to the course provided in the College. The provision of journals/periodicals/Research reports, conference proceedings, necessary for the students,

research scholars and faculty members to keep abreast of developments within their own fields.

2. The provisions of an active information services, such as selective dissemination of information (SDI) and current awareness services (CAS) should be maintained.
3. The provision of fully automated library services, Audio-visual Aids, networking facilities and equipments to use them.
4. The provision of reprographic and photocopying facilities.
5. Lost but not least, a well qualified staff, adequate seating, attractive reading and study room, best reading environment should be provided.

In a technical education institute library, the journal / periodical/ serials are the carriers of current information in the field of science and technology. They are vitally and directly related to the development of sciences & technology. Journal form the heart of advanced scientific findings and constitute the basis of any specialized collection. Moreover, they form the base of the most of the books in science & technology, in later years to follow.

Conclusion

If all these suggested norms, guidelines standards and services are put into practice and the library is maintained in a good condition by an adequate annual expenditure on books and manned by the desired quality of staff, it will win support in the college. Such a library will become the field of global experience of the students in an engineering college. It will hum like a beehive where each student will feel the inner urge to have intellectual growth within the period of his/her stay in the college. It will also then become an intellectual workshop of the academic community, both the student and the members of the teaching faculty. In that event the goal of the college education “equal to an active global experimental, creative and socialising process which requires library work at college,” envisioned by Dr. Ranganathan will be achieved.

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