M.Phil/ Ph.D Course Work Unit-1

History and Development of Academic Libraries in UK

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INTRODUCTION

The Historical Study and development of libraries in UK is very significant as these countries are trend setters and serve as world models in the development of libraries. They also are innovators in developing library techniques, technologies and services.

Introduction

Academic libraries in UK, include school, college, university and research libraries. They have developed individual growth patterns. The Harvard University Library represents the largest of the privately supported institutions, whose collections and inter-institutional responsibilities have grown in geometric progression. Notable among the other university libraries are Berkeley, Stanford, Columbia, Chicago, Princeton and Yale. A number of others have also contributed very greatly to resource development and a host of library and information services.

DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY

According to Sahai. 'Academic libraries include school, college, university and research libraries. All these cater to the needs of academic community for supplementing the study and research programs of the institution and help conserve and disseminate knowledge. Although these academic libraries share certain common features and characteristics, they differ enormously in the value and content from one another.' Academic libraries do not exist by themselves; they exist to serve the objectives of the education system of which they form a part.

Definition of Academic Library

An 'academic library' is a library which serves an institution of higher learning, such as a college or a university— libraries in secondary and primary schools are called school libraries. These libraries serve two complementary purposes: to support the school's curriculum, and to support the research of the university faculty and students.

Major Development of Academic Libraries in UK

YEAR	LANDMARK
19th Century	Establishment of universities and their libraries
20th Century	UGC published a report in 1921, which made one of the most supportive and appreciative statements about libraries.
1967	Emergence of the Parry Report. person involve in the report was Mr. Thomas Parry
1975	Atkinson Report
1992	Follet Report. Person involve in the report was Sir Brian Follet.
1994	Anderson Report. Person involve in the report was Prof. Michael Anderson.
2001	Establishment of the Research Support Libraries Group By Sir Brian Follet

LIBRARIES IN UK BEFORE 1850

i. **Monastic Libraries**

Religion played a major role in the transformation of the political and social life of Europe. The church had played the dominant role in the Europe during the middle and later centuries. The spread of Christianity brought with it a class of spiritual people who established monasteries: Monastic .life demanded the reading of scriptures and the copying of manuscripts. This led to the establishment of monastic libraries

ii. Subscription and Circulating Libraries

Before the end of the 17th century, there came about a marked change in British society: Education was advancing by 1700 A.D. There were more than 500 grammar schools and 460 charity schools. Newspapers started appearing and circulation increased rapidly when government censorship was removed in 1694. Another feature was that the coffee houses, where the intelligentsia used to meet and discuss things, became important centres for the dissemination of news. In London; public lectures on science made a modest beginning by the end of the 17th century.

Subscription libraries can be categorized under three classes: (1) private subscription library, (2) book clubs, and (3) commercial circulating libraries.

Libraries in UK Before 1850

iii.   Mechanics Institutes

The Industrial Revolution in England created a middle class engaged mainly in industries. Persons employed in industries were called mechanics. These mechanics formed their own groups for various reasons and they were called "mechanics institutes". These institutes have played a major role in the education of the masses.

From 1823 onwards a rapid expansion took place and by 1863 there were nearly a thousand institutes in active operation throughout the country. The conditions in individual institutes varied; in some, the library would be the main feature and in others lectures might be the chief concern. The major collections of books were mainly scientific. The libraries attached to these institutes later formed a nucleus of public library stock in their respective places.

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN UK 20TH CENTURY

i.   Institutions were continuing to expand their student numbers and to compete for recognition of research excellence.

ii.   Increasing IT capabilities.

iii.   International collaboration was becoming more significant.

iv.   The issue of lifelong learning also started to have an impact on academic libraries.

Adam Report, 1915

Libraries have, in a number of cases, been provided, involving a scale of expenditure on upkeep which left insufficient means for the main purpose and object of the library.... Buildings in several instances costing £10,000 or even larger sums have been erected, the upkeep of which absorbed the greater part of the income from the ld. rate; leaving a mere pittance and in some cases not even that, for the purchase of books. In certain instances, where there had previously been a library on smaller premises, the gift of the larger building has ultimately involved a reduction in the expenditure on books. In many cases there is not an adequate income to provide a librarian worthy of the building and competent to create the true library."

Adam Report

The Adam report had its effect. It paved the way for new legislation. Several Libraries and Associations were working to amend the previous Public Libraries Act, 1919. This Act was rapidly adopted by many county councils and by 1927, 96% of the Population was covered by the new Public Libraries Act.

Mitchell and Kenyon Report, 1924

The Board of Education in 1924, appointed Sir Frederic Kenyon "to enquire into the adequacy of the library provision already made under the Public Libraries Act and the means of extending and completing such provision throughout England and Wales". This report submitted in 1927 was popularly known as Kenyon Report.

McColvin Report, 1942

McColvin major recommendations:

i. Establishment of a central authority for the promotion and maintenance of nation -wide library service.

ii. The department would examine the proposals for building and loans, formulate standards concerning supply of books, and fix the qualifications and salaries of staff.

iii. The grants allocated to libraries would be the same as in the case of higher education.

Robert Report,1957

In England and Wales the question of library area was reopened and in 1957, the Minister of Education appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dry, S.S. Robert to consider the structure of public library services, and to advise what changes, if any, should be made in the administrative arrangement in relation to public and other libraries.

Robert Report,1957

Major recommendations:

- Counties, county boroughs, metropolitan boroughs and the city of London and the City of London, should continue to be library authorities.

- Parishes should be ceased to be library authorities.

- Other existing library authorities should be entitled to apply for a continuance of power subject to a minimum annual expenditure on books of $5000 or 2 shilling per head of population whichever was the greater.

- Non- county boroughs and urban districts not at present library authorities should be eligible to apply for recognition subject to the same criterion of expenditure and subject also to a minimum population of 50,000.

- Improvement of staffing and for statutory systems of inters-library cooperation.

Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964

The Minister of Education, after consulting the local authorities, accepted most of the Roberts Committee recommendations. He also set up two working parties of libraries and other local authority representative the technical implication of (a) the basic requirements for an efficient public library services and (b) the recommendations concerning inter-library cooperation.

Thomas Parry Report 1967

The character and efficiency of a university may be gauged by its treatment of its central organ- the library. We regard the fullest provision for library maintenance as the primary and most vital need in the equipment of a university.

Thomas Parry Report 1967

i.   Key Recommendations:

ii. Influenced by the new thinking about academic libraries which had been brought about by the creation of new universities

iii. The library had been regarded as symbolic to the universities themselves, and was placed centrally on the campus

iv. Recognized that the libraries are expensive to build and maintain, and recommended that universities should devote a minimum of around 6% of their revenue expenditure to the library

v.   Introduced library cooperation.

Other Committee/Commission

Atkinson Report, 1975

i. Propose the concept of a "self- renewing" library.

ii. Recommended new space norms for libraries.

iii. Urged greater cooperation and reliance on interlibrary loan.

Anderson report (1994)

i. Supporting access to major library holdings

ii. Collaborative collection management projects

iii. Research support for humanities and social science collections

iv. Targeted retrospective conversion of catalogues

Follet Report 1992

-Recommendations:

i. Information strategies

ii. Library expenditure

iii. Performance indicators

iv. Staffing and staff management

v. Purchasing

vi. Quality assessment and quality audit

vii. Space and space management

viii. Library cooperation in support of reading

ix. Library provisions and the needs of researchers

x. Information technology

GROWTH AND FUTURE TRENDS IN ACADEMIC LIBRAIRES

Libraries and information centres have developed and grown in different dimensions in the UK. The British Library (BL), as stated earlier was formed in 1973, following the recommendations of the Dainton Report and the passing of the British Library Act 1972, amalgamating the former British Museum Library, the National Central Library and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology and the British National Bibliography.

The B L now offers library services in the humanities and social sciences, science, technology and industry.

i.   The funds available for library development are gradually getting reduced in real terms, the trend having commenced about 20 years ago and is likely to be more pronounced in the years to come.

ii.   Management of information is likely to be a key concern in most organizations and it has already begun to give a new shape to structural reorganization. The strategy of most libraries would emphasize access to information over holdings, and budgetary constraints would shift to allow money to move from the purchase of books to the purchase of information.

GROWTH AND FUTURE TRENDS …

iii. Local libraries may become a switching centre rather than a resource, and a provider of documentation services and offer training.

iv. End users will themselves become more active in database searching and other activities such as direct document ordering and receipt, operating through their personal workstations.

v. Networks will develop rapidly, as well as campus-wide systems in higher education. Private sector equivalents will grow and meet consumer resistance to the pricing for information.

vi. The national library system will find it progressively harder to maintain service because of falling support and funding, and will be obliged to seek full cost recovery for services provided.

ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

i. In the UK, the British Library Association, (LAUK) was established in 1877 and the Association for Information Management (ASLIB) came up in 1926 (known formally as the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux).

ii. These professional bodies have endeavored to promote library and information services in their countries, and strive to protect the interests of professionals, developed professional practices through standards, guidelines, codes, manuals and other types of publications, published journals to reflect professional developments, conducted professional courses and training programs to enable skill development, established national and international contacts to be in tune with international thinking and practices and done similar other things.

Thanks

Any Questions ?