

Course-III (A): University and College Library System

Unit 1: University Libraries and Their Development

ROLE OF UGC IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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Introduction

- Library is a heart and soul of any academic programme. It is an asset to the Institution to which it is attached, particularly to run research programmes.
- **The development of academic libraries** is linked to the progress of higher education and it is therefore necessary to look into the progress of colleges and universities in brief.
- The Indian Government gave top priority to higher education after Independence.

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

- University Grants Commission has played a significant role in the development of academic libraries since its inception.
- The UGC is an autonomous statutory organisation established by the Government under an act of Parliament in **1956**, for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education.
- The UGC is the apex body for higher education in the country, responsible for shaping the academic activities of colleges and universities.

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- The UGC has done much to improve the conditions of libraries through many grants for buildings, collections and even staff.
 - Before proceeding towards the Role of UGC in the development of academic libraries let us have a glimpse of the functions of the University and College libraries.
 - The Library of the University is referred to as the 'Heart' of the University around which teaching and research revolve.

FUNCTIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

- The prime function of the university library is to provide facilities for study and research for the members of its own institution.
- According to Hamlin, there are three main functions of the University library:
Conservation of Knowledge
Extension of Knowledge (Research) and
Transmission of Knowledge (Teaching).

IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- ❖ **Orientation of Student**: During orientation the freshmen are given an introduction to the library usually through a lecture combined with a tour of library.
- ❖ **Promotion/Stimulation of Reading**: The most significant step the library can take in fostering reading habits among students is to provide freedom of access to collections.
- ❖ **Courses of Instruction**: The University is a tool for instruction, and such instructions can be offered at three levels- Undergraduate, graduate and professional.

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- ❖ **Reference/Information services:** The reference function of the university library includes:
 - Building up reference collections
 - Maintaining a clipping and pamphlet file
 - Exhibiting materials for publicity or for public information
 - Compiling special bibliographies, and making annotations and abstracts when necessary
 - Preserving university ephemera
 - Reviewing books

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- Providing a translation service
- Borrowing and lending material on loan
- Helping the students in locating documents, citations, quotations, proverbs and providing informational and bibliographical advice
- Compiling list of faculty publications
- Giving instruction to the users in the most effective methods of using library materials and facilities by conducting classes etc.

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- **Extension Services:** Universities offer extension services by supplying large quantities of printed materials to numerous individuals and groups.
- **The functions of the university library** make it clear that it is the **soul of a university**, the sun around which & teaching & research revolve. Therefore for the effective and proper teaching & research work the universities should provide great libraries on their campuses with great scholars to direct them.

COLLEGE LIBRARY

- The library in the college is the pulsing heart which is to quicken every activity which goes on upon the campus.
- The three main functions of the college library includes: **Service** to the college community, **Duty** towards the Alumnus, **positive influence** in society for the expansion of knowledge and helping men and women in their quest after truth.

IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF THE COLLEGE

LIBRARY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Service to the college community.
- Providing materials to the college community.
- Making material easily accessible physically through open shelves.
- Giving formal and informal instruction in the use of the library.
- Providing adequate and comfortable physical facilities for studying to the users.
- Extending the hours of service to meet the needs of the users.

Development of University Libraries: (Role of UGC)

- The UGC has propagated library consciousness in academic community to a long way.
- **In 1957, the UGC** had appointed a Library Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan to survey the academic libraries in India.
- The committee found that the condition of university libraries was far from satisfactory & made recommendations which included standards for buildings, collections, staff, services & furniture, etc. The committee added that “the status and the salary of the library staff should be the same as that of the teaching and research staff”

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- **In 1964, the Kothari Commission** also made many recommendations.
 - **Committee for the Development of University and College Libraries', (1965)** reviewed the library services in their totality & made recommendations for UGC grants, library funds, book selection, promotion of reading habit, weeding out the loss of books, documentation, departmental collection, library staff, Depts. of library Sciences & library buildings, fittings, furniture etc. & for the systematic development of university & college libraries in the country.

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- **In 1965, The Sidhanta Committee** submitted its report to the UGC on ‘the standards of University Education’ and recommended that “encouragement should be given to students to go to library, select books and read for themselves”.
- **In 1977, Review Committee on University Grants Commission (RCUGC)** expressed that the “Use of a library is itself a technique and unless students are trained to use libraries they may not derive any benefit, the matter needs attention, the main emphasis should be put to improvement of library facilities”.

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- **In 1981, Review of Social Works Education in India (RSWEI)** Report analyzed the scenario of libraries and find necessary for the department of a college or university to have its own specialized collections.
- **In 1987, Review Committee on Central Universities; University of Hyderabad Report**
It indicated the need for computer based information retrieval and library management.

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- **Eighth Plan Provision for Library Facilities** laid emphasis on the upgradation of library facilities and services. '**Mass literacy movement**' is the main thought for Eight Plan to promote Adult Education.
 - **UGC and Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans:** The ninth plan policy imperatives focused on: **Access** and equity, **Relevance** and quality of education, **Universities** and social change, **Funding** which constitutes the necessary resources underpinning for development.

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- In addition to giving regular grants to the University libraries for books, periodicals, equipment and library buildings, the UGC is creating a few ‘Regional Library Centers’ as a part of the existing university libraries.

DEVELOPMENT OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES: **(Role of UGC)**

The UGC has played a great part in the development of college libraries since 1953 by giving grants for books, equipment, staff and library buildings and has even been instrumental in salary improvement of the college librarians.

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- **Review Committee on Social Works Education (RCSWE) (1981)** of UGC recommended that the library is a vital aspect of an Educational Institution. It has recommended that a new college must start with a minimum of 1500 volume in the library.
- **In Eighth plan development proposals guidelines for colleges**, UGC has stressed mainly on four aims which are as follows:
 - Improvement of standards and quality of education.

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- Removal of disparities and regional imbalances in higher educational facilities.
- Restructuring and diversification of courses.
- Granting of autonomous status to deserving colleges.

Under it UGC will provide assistance to eligible Colleges to meet their basic needs of books and journals including strengthening of **Book Banks** and **Technical Staff** etc.

FUNDING BY UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

- Funds have key position in the implementation of the policies. The UGC, since its inception (1956) is being arranging substantial grants for building up university libraries.
- It pays development Grants both to the Central Universities and State Universities. The maintenance grant to Central universities is paid by the UGC and to the State Universities by the State Government. The college which fulfills the UGC guidelines also receives grants.

The Financial supports are of two types which are as follows:

- **Recurring Grants**: These are generally for the purchase of books & journals, maintenance of regular services & anticipated expenditure to meet the salary of the staff.
- **Non-Recurring Grants**: These are provided for specific purpose i.e. for construction of library building, purchase of furniture and other equipments and ad hoc grants to meet special requirements. Under non-recurring grants UGC has been giving grants to Universities for construction of new library buildings as well as for renovation or extension of library buildings.

Conclusion

- The aim of the UGC is to assist the university and college libraries to function more effectively in raising academic standards and encouraging research.
- Atlast we can conclude that the birth of University Grants Commission in 1953 was a turning point in the development of academic libraries of India.

THANKS