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## Information Resources in the Public Libraries of Pakistan: An Analytical Study

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## **Information Resources in the Public Libraries of Pakistan: An Analytical Study**

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### **Abstract**

**Purpose:** This study examined the printed and electronic information resources of public libraries of Pakistan, and to know the budget allocated by the libraries for the procurement of information resources.

**Methodology:** The study was quantitative in nature and the questionnaire-based survey was conducted to collect data from 119 public libraries of the country. The collected data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 23.

**Results:** It was found that the heads of the majority of libraries were LIS professionals; however significant number of libraries were being run by non-professional staff. The availability of information resources in libraries was inadequate, 40.5% of libraries had only up to 3,000 books, 87% of libraries did not subscribe any research journal, 32.1% of libraries were not procuring any magazine and very few libraries had collections of maps, reports, theses & dissertations and rare books. It was found that most of the libraries did not have electronic information resources and access to the HEC database. Most libraries were facing financial problems because significantly less or no amount was allocated books and periodicals.

**Implications:** The study's findings could be beneficial to the concerned authorities. The key points to be considered include 1) information resources should be procured both in printed and electronic formats, 2) seminars or workshops on open-access databases be organized for library staff and, 3) sufficient funds should be provided to libraries for the acquisition of information resources.

**Originality:** The study is unique because this is the first study in the country to study the information resources of public libraries. It will fill the literature gap and guide the researchers to study the other aspects of public libraries.

**Keywords:** Information Resources, Library Collection, Public Libraries, Pakistan

## **Introduction**

Information is power and we live in a world of information that does not have any boundaries. In this information world, libraries play an essential role, and among them, public libraries are considered a local gateway to knowledge that provides basic information to society. It is also considered a center for lifelong learning and the center of information available to its users. Public libraries meet the needs of all the members of the society that include all age groups, farmers to officers and housewives to researchers (Sasi, 2016; Scott, 2011).

The public library is a library that provides free services or charges the standard fee for its services. It is a local gateway to knowledge and provides a primary condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making, and cultural development of the individual and social groups (IFLA & UNESCO, 1994). Koontz and Gubbin (2010) said that the main aim of public library is to provide tools and programs that meet individuals' and groups' needs for their education, information and recreation. According to the ALA Glossary of Library & Information Science public library is “ a library that provides general library services without charge to all residents of a given community district or region. It is supported by public or private funds, the and makes its basic collection and services available to the population of its legal services area without charge to individual users (Levine-Clark & Carter, 2013).

Trombetta (2017) said that in the United States, there are more public libraries than Starbucks. Public libraries are book storage areas and community centers, which act as learning, professional development and health care centers. There are seven reasons why libraries are essential than ever; (1) they offer free educational resources to everyone, (2) these are safe refuges for the poor and underserved population, (3) these help to boost the local economy, (4) play a crucial role in English language learning, (5) these make the community healthier, (6) these preserve histories (7) and connect communities. It is a social institution that offers valuable resources and services to the community. It enhances learning, promotes education, preserves the culture of a society and nation, provides recreation facilities, and disseminates information to all sections and components of the society (Laila, 2010).

A library can meet the information needs of patrons by acquiring, organizing and making available the most relevant and latest information resources; these are the sources which the users come to read, borrow, or consult. Information resources can be categorized into printed and non-printed materials. The printed materials are those which are available on paper, such as

books, periodicals, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference materials (Iwhiwhu & Okorodudu, 2012). Non-printed materials are those “which are published in a format other than writing or print on paper, including microfiche and microfilm, slides, filmstrips, films, video recordings, audio recordings and information in digital formats such as machine-readable data files” (Reitz, 2014).

### **Literature Review**

Abdulahi, Yaya and Saidu (2020) assessed the status of information resources in public libraries in Katsina, Nigeria and found that the collection of libraries was consisted of books, journals, directories, newspapers, magazines, films and audio, while none of the libraries had e-books in their collection. It was suggested that sufficient funds should be allotted to acquire adequate and latest printed and e-resources. Rana and Bhatti (2020) found a scarcity of printed information resources and professional staff in public libraries of Punjab. Most of the libraries had no IT staff and there was the deplorable condition of ICT resources in the libraries. Rana and Bhatti (2020) assessed the resources and services of five public libraries in Punjab. It was reported that these libraries had information resources in various formats, including printed books, newspapers, periodicals and some e-book collections. These libraries also received a regular government budget and were financially stable. Taufiq, Rehman and Ashiq (2020) evaluated user satisfaction with public libraries' resources and services. The study reported that respondents were not satisfied with printed collection and with the catalogue of the libraries. It was recommended that the public libraries should subscribe the bibliographic database and procure digital content for their users.

Sharma and Chauhan (2019) studied the growth and development of public libraries in Punjab, India. The study mentioned the total number of books, newspapers and periodicals subscribed by libraries. The libraries adopted DDC (92.86 %) and CC (7.14%) classification systems for the organization of information resources, while they practiced AACR-II for cataloging. Ansari and Munshi (2018) examined the collection development, budget allocation and usage of public libraries of West Bengal, India. The library collection was consisted of books and non-books materials and available in Hindi, Urdu, Bangali, Arabic and English languages. Kaur and Walia (2015) studied the ICT infrastructure, human resources, collection management and the services delivered by the public libraries in Delhi, India. It was found that no library had adequate information resources to serve the population effectively and the

collection was consisted of books, serials and reference materials, whereas none of the libraries had electronic information resources.

Bashir, Soroya and Khanum (2018) examined user satisfaction with libraries' collection and collection development procedures. Most of the users were satisfied with the collection, quality and quantity of books available in the libraries; however, these were not satisfied with the unbalanced distribution of subjects in the collection. Warraich, Malik and Ameen (2018) reviewed the resources of public libraries in Punjab. Most libraries (71.5%) had no professional staff, 54% of libraries were small with a collection of up to 5000 books and 70% of libraries were acquiring newspapers. It was advised that one sate of the art library should be established in every division with an appropriate building, equipped with IT facilities, skilled staff and sufficient funds should be provided regularly.

Waheed, Rafique and Soroya (2017) surveyed 46 public libraries in Punjab and reported that libraries had traditional information resources such as printed books, periodicals and newspapers, while only four libraries had access to the digital library. Warraich, Haq and Ameen (2016) assessed public libraries' resources and identified eleven public libraries in Rawalpindi. The collection of two libraries was ranged from 10000-30000 and only four libraries had computers, but these were for the use of the library staff. It was recommended that the collection should be computerized and IT infrastructure should be developed in these libraries.

Ahmed, Subhpoto and Brohi (2015) investigated the resources of public libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The results show that most libraries had physical resources like seating arrangement, library furniture, air conditioners, staff offices and parking area. Information resources like manuscripts, e-resources, government publications and archival records were not encouraging in branch libraries. It was concluded that sufficient finance should be provided and skilled staff should be enrolled to improve the province's libraries' condition.

During the literature search it was found that significantly less literature on public libraries has been published from. These studies were conducted at the regional or provincial level to investigate public libraries' sources, services, and infrastructure. Moreover, no study has been conducted at the national level to assess any aspect of the country's public libraries. This research is conducted to examine the information resources of public libraries and also tried to fill the literature gap.

## **Objectives of the Study**

This research study was focused on the following objectives:

- To present demographic information of the public libraries of Pakistan.
- To see the administrative bodies of public libraries of Pakistan.
- To assess the printed collection of public libraries.
- To examine the availability of electronic information resources in public libraries.
- To Know about the budget allocated for the procurement of information resources.

## **Research Design and Methodology**

The study was quantitative in nature and survey research was used to achieve the stated objectives. It was appropriate because many researchers used this method in their studies (Hussain & Idrees, 2021; Rehman, Shafique, & Mahmood, 2011; Kumar & Kumar, 2010; Tyagi, 2011). The study population constituted the public libraries of Pakistan working under the administrative control of any directorate or department. A total of 124 such libraries were identified; therefore, the census-based approach was used and data was collected from the whole population. The data was gathered from the librarians or incharge of public libraries.

The questionnaires of Mirza (2010) and Ahmed (2016) were modified as per the study's objectives. The modified questionnaire was distributed among the respondents, and 119 dully filled questionnaires were received with a response rate of 95.96%. The collected data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (version-23) and descriptive statistics were applied to analyze the data and interpret the results.

Furthermore, the paper's references are prepared and formatted in accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA 6th ed.). Moreover, EndNote x8, a citation management application, was used to manage and organize the references.

## **Data Analysis and Interpretations**

The collected data was analyzed according to the objectives of the study and the results are presented in tables with interpretation.

## **Demographic Information of the Respondents**

This section presents demographic information of the respondents in terms of designation, experience, and qualifications. Table1 demonstrates six categories of designation of

the libraries' heads. The designation of 5(4.2%) library heads were chief librarian/director; 7(5.9%) libraries were headed by the deputy chief librarians/additional directors. The senior librarians/deputy directors and librarians/assistant directors each headed 30 (25.2%) public libraries. There were 7(5.9%) libraries running by junior librarians, and 40 (33.6%) libraries were headed by "others," which includes cataloguer, library assistant, clerk, or other non-professional staff. The data also illustrates that the heads of 91 libraries had the educational background of library science while 27 were of other educational backgrounds. Only 1(.8%) library head holds a Ph.D. degree, 5(4.2%) librarians/incharge were M. Phil, 82(68.9%) libraries' heads possessed a degree of Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS), and 3(2.5%) libraries' heads had BLIS degree. It was fascinating to observe that 27 heads/incharge of libraries were non-professional with master (7.6%) ad bachelor's degrees (16%). The data also indicates that 44 (37%) respondents had up to 5 years experience, 41(34.5%) had 6 to 10 years experience, the experience of 22(18.5%) respondents ranged from 11-15 years, 3(2.5%) respondents had 16-20 years experiences and 9(7.6%) respondents with more than 20 years of experience.

Table 1

*Demographic Information of Respondents*

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Chief Librarian/Director	5	4.2
Deputy Chief Librarian /Additional Director	7	5.9
Senior / Deputy Librarian/Deputy Director	30	25.2
Librarian/Assistant Director	30	25.2
Junior Librarian	7	5.9
Others	40	33.6
<b>Qualifications</b>		
Ph. D	1	.8
M. Phil	5	4.2
MLIS	82	68.9
BLIS	3	2.5
Master	9	7.6
Bachelor's degree	19	16.0
<b>Experience</b>		
Up to 5 years	44	37.0
6-10 years	41	34.5
11-15 years	22	18.5
16-20 years	3	2.5
> 20 years	9	7.6

## **Administrative Bodies of Public Libraries**

There is no national library system in the country and therefore, public libraries' administrative bodies vary from province to province. As reveals in Table 2, there were 18 (15.1%) libraries that worked under the administrative control of “Directorate of Archives & Libraries, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,” 10(8.4%) libraries were in the administrative control of the Directorate of Public Libraries Punjab, and 28(23.5%) libraries were under the supervision of Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives Department, Sindh. The data demonstrate that Culture, Tourism and Archives Department, Baluchistan, administratively controlled 34(28.6%) libraries, 9(7.6%) libraries of capital territory (Islamabad) were working under the Department of Libraries. The 20 E-Public Libraries, Punjab, were administered by Punjab Information Technology Board and Youth Affairs, Sports, Archelogy & Tourism Department.

Table 2

### *Administrative bodies of Public Libraries*

<b>Administrative Bodies</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Directorate of Archives & Libraries Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)	18	15.1
Directorate of Public Libraries Punjab	10	8.4
Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives Department, Government of Sindh	28	23.5
Culture, Tourism and Archives Department, Baluchistan	34	28.6
Department of Libraries, Islamabad	9	7.6
Punjab Information Technology Board and Youth Affairs, Sports, Archelogy & Tourism Department	20	16.8

## **Information Resources of the Libraries**

According to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the public library should offer a wide variety of materials in different formats and appropriate quantities to meet the community's needs and desires. New formats and new ways of accessing material need to be kept up to date by public libraries. All information should be available as readily as possible, regardless of format (Koontz & Gubbin, 2010). This section gives statistics about the available printed, audiovisual and digital information resources.

### **Printed Information Resources**

It includes information about the books, research journals, magazines, newspapers, maps, reports and miscellaneous printed resources.



### Books collection in libraries

Table 3 shows that the surveyed libraries have a huge difference in their printed collection of books. There were six (5%) libraries with up to 1,000 books, the number of books in 42 (35.3 %) libraries ranged from 1001 to 3,000, 27(22.7%) libraries with 6001-10,000 books and eight (6.7%) libraries had books ranging from 10001 to 15,000 books. Only 26(28.6%) libraries were found with up to/more than 20000 or more books, among these five (4.2%) libraries had books ranging from 15001-20000, four (3.4%) libraries had 20001-25000 books, five (4.2%) libraries owned up to 30000 books, two (1.7%) libraries had books ranging from 30001-40000 and 10(8.4%) libraries were found with more than 50000 printed collection of books.

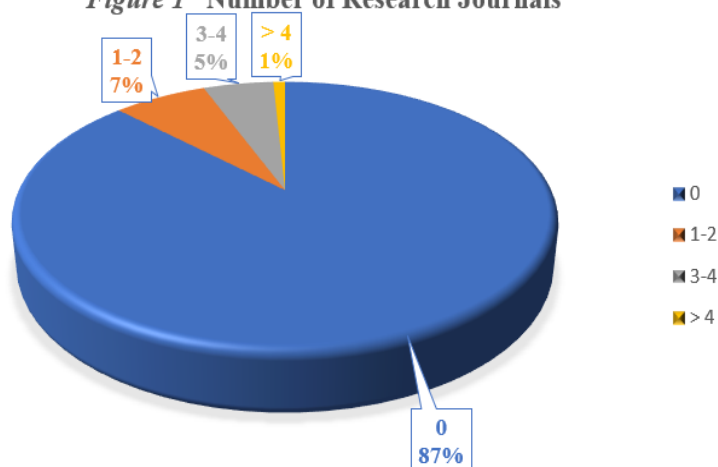
Table 3  
*Number of Printed Books*

<b>Number of Books</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1000	6	5.0
1001-3000	42	35.3
3001-6000	27	22.7
6001-10000	10	8.4
10001-15000	8	6.7
15001-20000	5	4.2
20001-25000	4	3.4
25001-30000	5	4.2
30001-40000	2	1.7
> 50000	10	8.4

### Number of Subscribed Research Journals

The details of the research journals subscribed by the libraries are shown in Figure 1. Only 15(13%) libraries were found to subscribe research journals from one to more than four journals. Out of these 15 libraries, eight (7%) libraries subscribed 1-2 journals, six (5%) libraries had subscribed up to four journals, while only one library had a subscription of more than four journals. There were 104 (87%) public libraries that did not subscribe any research journal.

**Figure 1 Number of Research Journals**



### **Newspapers Procured by the Libraries**

The Table specifies the number of newspapers procured by the libraries for their users. Data reflects that 23 (19.3%) libraries did not procure any newspaper, while the remaining (80.7%) acquired newspapers in varied numbers. Six (5%) libraries attained only one newspaper, 23(19.3%) libraries were purchasing 2-4 newspapers, 36(30.3%) libraries acquired 5-7 papers and nine (7.6%) were purchasing 8-10 newspapers. 11(9.2%) libraries were procuring 11-14 newspapers and another 11(9.2%) libraries did acquire more than 15 newspapers.

Table 4

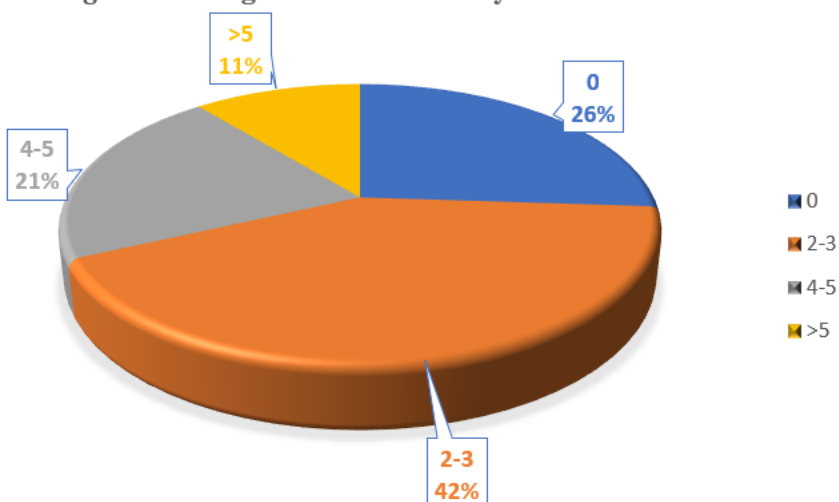
*Number of Newspapers Procured by Libraries*

<b>No. of Newspapers</b>	<b>Frequency (%)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
0	23	19.3
1	6	5.0
2-4	23	19.3
5-7	36	30.3
8-10	9	7.6
11-14	11	9.2
> 15	11	9.2

### **Magazines Procured by the Libraries**

The data in Figure 2 demonstrates that 31(26%) libraries were not procuring any magazine, 50(42%) libraries acquiring 2-3 magazines, 25(21%) libraries procured 4-5 magazines and only 13(11%) libraries were acquiring more than five magazines.

**Figure 2 Magazines Procured By Libraries**



### Miscellaneous Printed Resources

The information obtained from the surveyed libraries about the different printed information resources is recorded in Table 5. It is noted that very few libraries had these resources in varying amounts. Data reveals that 12 libraries had map collections, five libraries also had reports, seven libraries had theses & dissertations, four libraries had bound volumes of journals and four libraries with manuscripts and rare books collections

*Table 5*

*Miscellaneous Printed Resources in Libraries*

Name of Resources	Number of Printed Resources						
	0(Nil)	Up to 10	11-20	21-50	Up to 100	Up to 200	>1000
Maps	107	6	3	2	-	1	-
Reports	114	1	-	2	1	-	1
Theses & dissertations	112	3	1	1	1	-	1
Journals (Bound Volumes.)	115	1	-	1	-	-	2
Manuscript	115	-	-	-	2	1	1
Rare books	115	-	-	-	-	3	1

### Audio Visual and Microform Resources

This section of the study provides information on the audio-visual and microform collections available in public libraries, including audio cassettes, video cassettes, microfilms and microfiches.

Data in the Table 6 shows that out of 119 libraries, only nine (6.70 %) libraries had audio collections, of which one (0.8%) library had a collection of up to 50 audio recordings, three (2.5

%) libraries had 51-100 audio resources, three (2.5 %) libraries had audio recording ranging from 101-200, one (0.8%) had up to 300 audio items and one library had more than 300 audio recordings.

Similarly, there were only 11 public libraries out of 119 that had video collections; out of 11 libraries, one (0.8 %) library had up to 50 video recordings, three (2.5 %) had up to 100 video resources and another three (2.5%) had video items ranging from 101 to 200. Two libraries were identified with up to 300 video items and two (1.7%) libraries had more than 300 video resources. The data in Table 6 illustrates that only two (1.7 %) libraries were identified with a collection of microfilms and microfiches, which ranged from 201-300 and over 300, respectively.

Table 6

*Audio & Video Cassettes and Microform Collection*

Name of Resources	Audio Video Collection				
	50	51-100	101-200	201-300	>300
Audio Collection	1(.8%)	3(2.5%)	3(2.5%)	2(1.7%)	1(.8%)
Video Collection	1(.8%)	3(2.5%)	3(2.5%)	2(1.7%)	2(1.7%)
Microfilms	-	-	-	-	2(1.7%)
Microfiches	-	-	-	2(1.7%)	-

### Electronic Information Resources

Electronic information resources are the electronic representation of information; these are available in various forms like e-books, digital libraries, databases, e-journals, e-zines, theses, research reports and conference papers (Moyo, 2004; Nicholas, Huntington & Jamali, 2007; Thanuskodi & Ravi, 2011). This section provides information about the electronic information resources available in the public libraries.

### Subscription of HEC Databases

Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has institutional access to a wide range of online resources, which is further distributed to many institutions in Pakistan. This service is named as HEC digital library. Information was obtained from the public libraries on the accessibility of the HEC digital library. According to Table 7, 31(26.1%) public libraries had subscribed the HEC databases, two (3.4%) of which had access up to five databases, nine (5.9%)

libraries subscribed 6-7 databases and 20 (16.8%) libraries subscribed 8-9 databases, 88(73.9%) libraries had no access to the databases of HEC digital library.

Table 7

*Number of HEC Databases Subscribed by Libraries*

<b>No. of Databases</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Up to 5	2	3.4
6-7	9	5.9
8-9	20	16.8
No Access	88	73.9

**E-books' Collection in the Public Libraries**

Table 8 demonstrates detail about the collection of e-books in public libraries. According to the data, there were no e-book collections in 84(70.6%) libraries, while only 35(29.4%) libraries had e-books in different numbers. One library had up to 1000 e-books, five (4.2%) libraries had e-books ranging from 1000-2000, two (1.7%) libraries with 2000-3000 e-books, seven (5.9%) libraries possessed up to 5000 e-books and 20(16.8%) public libraries with a collection of over 10,000 e-books.

Table 8

*E-books Collections in the Public Libraries*

<b>No. of e-books</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
0	84	70.6
up to 1000	1	.8
1001-2000	5	4.2
2001-3000	2	1.7
3001-5000	7	5.9
>10000	20	16.8

Moreover, there were 20 public libraries with access to databases such as newspapers in English and Urdu, e-zines, Nobel lectures, e-dictionaries, e-encyclopedia, audio databases, Pakistan Academy Research Journals and a children's digital library. These libraries also had open access resources, including e-books, e-theses, e-newspapers and e-archives.

### Miscellaneous E-resources

The data collected from the public libraries regarding the availability of various e-resources have been enumerated in the Table 9. The data specifies that electronic resources like CD ROM database, DVD databases and electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) were not found in any public libraries.

Table 9  
*Miscellaneous E-resources*

E-resources	Number	Percentage (%)
CD ROM Database	0	100
DVD Databases	0	100
Electronic Theses & Dissertations (ETDs)	0	100

### Budget allocation for the Procurement of Information Resources

Finance is the lifeline of any organization. It is a means to procure other resources; hence, it is more important than any other resource. Nwafor (2002) urged that each library has three legs, a building, a collection and staff, but money is the only thing that holds those legs and joins them together. Information was sought from the heads of public libraries regarding the budget allocation for books and periodicals (B&P); the five-year statistical data is displayed in Table 10. It is apparent from the data that a very meager amount of funds was allocated in the head of books and periodicals; even some libraries were found with no allocation of funds in the head.

Table 10

*Budget allocation for the Procurement of Information Resources*

F.Year	N	A	F (%) 0	F (%) ≤ 50K	F (%) 51K-1Lac	F (%) 1- 1.5Lac	F (%) 1.51- 2Lac	F (%) 2.1-2.5Lac	F (%) 2.51- 3Lac	F (%) >3Lac
2015	58		6(10.3)	4(6.9)	16(27.6)	3(5.2)	4(6.9)	5(8.6)	8(13.8)	12(20.7)
2016	61		6(9.8)	4(6.6)	16(26.2)	3(4.9)	4(6.6)	5(8.2)	6(9.8)	17(27.9)
2017	61		6(9.8)	4(6.6)	9(14.8)	9(14.8)	5(8.2)	6(9.8)	5(8.2)	17(27.9)
2018	66		8(12.1)	6(9.1)	11(16.7)	1(1.5)	11(16.7)	10(15.2)	2(3)	17(25.8)
2019	68		8(11.8)	4(5.9)	18(26.5)	1(1.5)	9(13.2)	11(16.2)	2(2.9)	15(22.1)

Note: F. Year=Financial Year, F= Frequency, A=Amount, K=Thousand, the budget is given in Pakistani Rupees PK

## Major Findings

The major findings of the study are as under:-

- The data was collected from 119 public libraries of the country which were administratively controlled by six bodies named as i) Directorate of Archives & Libraries, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ii) Directorate of Public Libraries, Punjab iii) Information Technology Board and Youth Affairs & Tourism Department, iv) the Department of Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives, Sindh, v) Department of Libraries, Islamabad, and vi) the Tourism and Archives Department, Balochistan.
- Most libraries' heads (68.9%) hold degrees of Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS), 5% of libraries' heads had research degrees (M. Phil/Ph. D) and the heads of 23.6% libraries were non-professional with master's and bachelor's degrees in other than LIS discipline.
- The heads of 91(76.4%) libraries were LIS professional, while 28(23.6%) libraries were being run by non-professional staff.
- It was found that 37% of heads of libraries had up to 5 years' experience, 34.5% had 6 to 10 years, and 7.6% of librarians were having more than 20 years of experience.
- There were 47 (40.5%) libraries with up to 3,000 books, 27(22.7%) libraries with 6001-10,000 books and eight (6.7%) libraries had books ranging from 10001 to 15,000 books and only 26(28.6%) libraries were found with up to 20000 or more book.
- There were 104 (87%) public libraries that did not subscribe any research journal for their users while 15(12.5%) libraries subscribed one to more than four journals.
- It was explored that 23 (19.3%) libraries did not procure any newspaper while the remaining (80.7%) libraries acquiring newspapers in varied numbers.
- The results show that 31(26.1%) libraries were not procuring any magazine, 50(42%) libraries acquiring 2-3 magazines, 25(21%) libraries 4-5 magazine and only 13(10.9%) libraries were acquiring more than five magazines for their libraries.
- It was observed that only only10 libraries had map collections, five libraries had collection of reports, seven libraries had theses and dissertations, four libraries had bound volumes of journals and four libraries with manuscripts and rare books' collections.

- It was noted that only ten (8.3 %) libraries had audio collections, 11 (9.2%) libraries had video collections and only two (1.7 %) libraries were identified with a collection of microfilms and microfiches.
- It was found that only 31(26.1%) libraries had the facility to access the digital resource (databases) of the HEC.
- There were 20 public libraries with access to databases such as newspapers in English and Urdu, e-zines, Nobel lectures, e-dictionaries, e-encyclopedia, audio databases, Pakistan Academy Research Journals and a children's digital library.
- It was strange to know that there was no e-book collection in 84(70.6%) libraries, while only 35(29.4%) libraries had e-books in different numbers from 1000 to more than 10,000 e-books.
- It was also discovered that electronic resources like CD ROM database, DVD databases and electronic theses & dissertations (ETDs) were not found in any public libraries.
- The majority of libraries were facing financial problems. It was observed that more than two-thirds of the total library budget was allocated to human resources. A significantly less or no amount was allocated for books and periodicals.

### **Recommendations**

The following suggestions are given, based on the findings of the study, to improve the conditions of information resources in public libraries of Pakistan:-

- There should be a single administrative body and all public libraries should work under its supervision to ensure an equal distribution of resources to each library and to ensure consistency in libraries' operations.
- New and well equipped public libraries should be established at districts and tehsil levels to meet the people's information and recreation needs.
- The staff in the libraries also need much improvement, therefore LIS professional staff must be recruited , Also, the head/in-charge of each library must have professional degree of library and information science.
- Collection of libraries should be extended through the acquisition of the latest and new book editions. The journals may also be subscribed to provide users and researchers with the latest and scholarly information.



- The information resources such as magazines, maps and reports are very poor in the libraries and these should also be acquired.
- Electronic information resources such as e-books, e-journals and ETDs, should be procured by libraries. All libraries should have the HEC digital library subscription to give library users opportunities to access the world's scholarly literature.
- Seminars or workshops on open-access databases should be organized for library staff to raise awareness of these databases. The libraries can then develop their e-book and e-journal collection.
- Sufficient fund should be provided to all public libraries for the acquisition of additional information resources, such as books, research journals and periodicals (newspapers, magazines). Librarians/ incharge should have the power and freedom to spend the budget based on the needs of the users.

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