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An Effective Role of a Library in the Development of Faculty and Students: A Case Study of Quaid-i-Azam Library

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Abstract

A library is not only a collection of material, books, journals and other sources, but it is also responsible to educate its users with modern knowledge. A library plays a vital role in the development of society, faculty and students. It is basic essential to measure the role or development of a university through its libraries. Quaid-i-Azam Library is basically a group of 11 libraries that are working under the flagship of the University of Gujrat, Gujrat, Pakistan. It provides the access to its users of more than 134,000 books, 45,000 e-books, peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings and articles through 17 different online sources provided by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. This research analyzes the role of Quaid-i-Azam Library in the development of faculty and students. It provides the basic information to its user to understand the amazeballs role of this library. Especially, it acmes the role of the library during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords, Quaid-i-Azam, COVID-19 Pandemic, OPAC, Faculty and Students, Library and Society.

Introduction

A library plays a vital role in the promotion of knowledge and the development of human life. A library is an organized unit of collections that provides the facility of reference or borrowing to its user (Sandy & Freeland, 2016). It provides the access to physical and digital sources for research or the general purpose of reading. In recent times library considers as the gateway of knowledge and culture, especially in conventional societies. The resources and services of a library create an environment of learning and literacy (McLane, 2011).

A well-established library provides new avenues of thought to its reader which play a vivacious role in the development of a progressive society (Ahlfeld, 2019). Library also ensures a piece of authentic information and record, which is accumulated by past generations for the development of human society. In a world without libraries, it will be impossible to preserve knowledge and conduct an advance research for a develop human society (Chow & Tian, 2021). Libraries keenly maintain the balance between the needs and interests of their users (Baxter et al., 2021). They also ensure the copyrights and the credibility of an author. The services of the library guarantee the possibility of valuable research which easily can change human life and society (Brown & Sen, 2010).

The Quaid-i-Azam Library is meeting the needs of more than six faculties of the University of Gujrat. This library has given the name after the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He was the first Governor-General of Pakistan and hailed as "Quaid-i-Azam" (Great Leader) of the Muslims in 1937. He was a man of words and he defeated his opponents by the power of his indomitable will. His place in Pakistan Movement was as a lofty minaret among his contemporaries. He was the most powerful charismatic leader among Indian leaders of the 20th century and in recent history, he is regarded as the charismatic leader. He is also known as the 'charismatic leader' across the country(Hayat, 2008).

He is regarded as one of the influential persons of Asia who played a vital role in the attainment of a 'nation state' for his followers(Wolpert, 2012). His politics was far away from traditional politics and he is remembered for his constitutional methods in

Indian politics(Jalal, 2010). He was a well-educated Barrister who attained his law degree from Lincoln Inn, London(Bolitho, 2006).

He served in Mumbai High Court and in 1906, he emerged at the horizon of Indian politics. Due to his efforts of Hindu-Muslim unity, he was awarded the title, “Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity”(Niaz, 2016). He remained as a member of two future's rival parties, Congress and the Muslim League, simultaneously from 1913 to 1920. He was against unconstitutional methods and politics (Lal, 2013). In response to Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement, which was unconstitutional, he decided to resign from Congress and decided to serve the Muslims. Jinnah changed the course of Muslim politics, especially, after the Congress Ministries (Whaites, 1998).

He reorganized the Muslims League and set a new goal, a separate homeland, in front of the Muslims. After the Lahore Resolution, 1940, he became able to achieve a new homeland for the Muslims, just in seven years (Sohal, 2017). His undivided leadership and strong will had played a decisive role in the creation of Pakistan (Long, 2009). Apart from his rivalry, his opponents paid tribute to him in golden words. Jawaharlal Nehru, one of the main opponents of Jinnah, described him as 'one of the most extraordinary men in history(Lumbay, 1954). Many colleges, universities, libraries and buildings bearing his name in Pakistan.

The Quaid-i-Azam Library has a total covered area of 77,750 square feet, which is fulfilling the requirements of its patron. The library is completely equipped with the state of the art conveniences. This library is fully fortified with modern equipment and technology. Moreover, this library equally meeting the needs of all disciplines of the university and the students are satisfied with the present collections. The administration of the library is playing a vital role in the promotion of research culture in the university. The structure of the library is divided as,

- Group discussion rooms
- Faculty reading lounge
- Researcher’s corner
- Periodical section

- Exhibition halls
- Security System
- Jinnah auditorium with a seating capacity of 210 persons(Library, 2021).

The library provides the services twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Now during the COVID-19 pandemic, the circulations of the library have some changes, like, services for only five days a week from 08:45 AM to 04:30 PM. The coronavirus pandemic in the ongoing global calamity which has been affecting the human at all spheres of life(Liebowitz, 2020). As of 27 August 27, 2021, more than 214 million cases and 4.4 million deaths have been reported from all around the world.

This making it the deadliest pandemic in the history of mankind(Mishra, 2021). Apart from the pandemic situation the library constantly serving the needs of its users. Although, the physical circulation of the library is limited, but it offers online sources to meet the needs of faculty and students. The library provides the access to books, e-books, periodicals, journals, magazines, newspapers, e-sources, thesis and dissertations, physical resources and bibliographical databases. The main library is linked with the other eleven sub-libraries, especially, city campuses libraries, departmental libraries and sub-campus libraries.

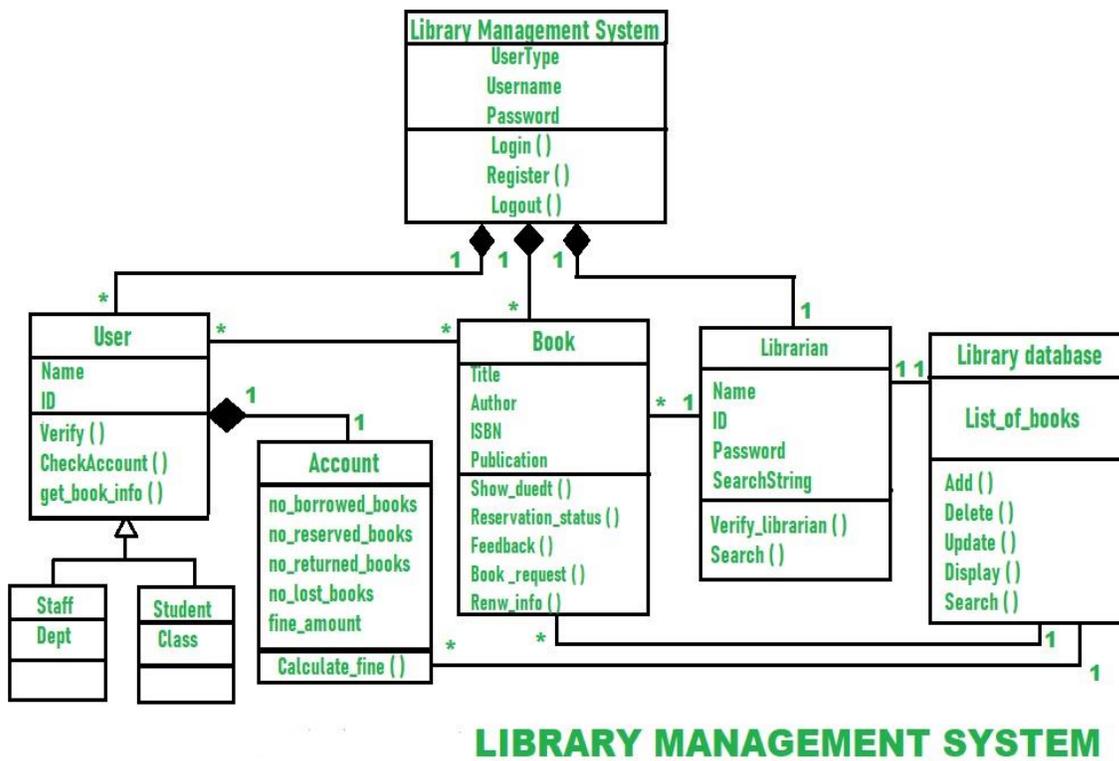
Quaid-i-Azam Library and Its Working

The Quaid-i-Azam Library is also known among the faculty and students as the ‘main library’. Which have a group of 11 libraries connected through the Library Management System. It also helps the library administration to maintain the whole record(C.K. Sharma, 2005). The library has a proper mechanism like it contains the record of the books, the number of books issued or returning or renewing and or any book that has late fine charges.

LMS is a software that helps to maintain a database that is useful to enter new books or borrow books by the users. LMS is an ERP software that is planned to manage all the in-house activities of a library (Kouis & Agiorgitis, 2020). This sole software completely automates the circulations and activates in the library. This software considers as the best

software among other competitors and it provides help to manage library sources accurately(Andrikopoulou, Rowley, & Walton, 2021). Moreover, it also provides a rapid response about the information of issue and reissue books. It also reduces the manual record maintenance burden of the librarian (Leith, 2021).

The LMS provides instantaneous and accurate information about library management and sources. This system is highly integrated and user friendly. It is effective in the computerization of in-house resources and their management (Lee, Lee, & Liu, 2021). The LMS is efficient, reliable, intuitive and compliant to established a world-class library (Nyitray & Reijerkerk, 2021).



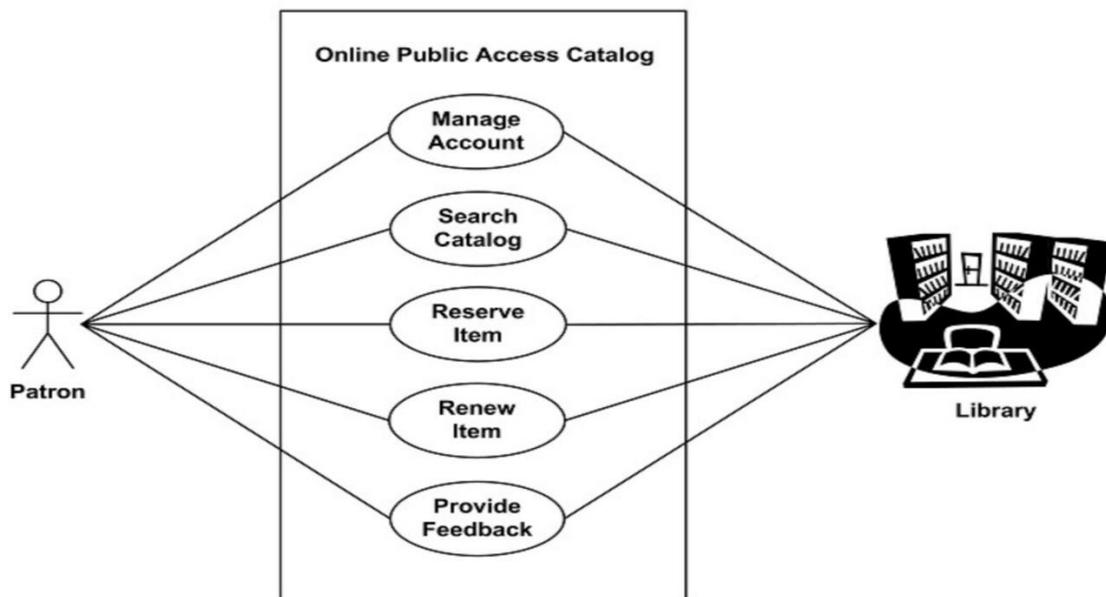
1.1 This chart helps to understand the LMS software and its mechanism(Geek, 2021).

This system is the most proficient and easy to use for managing all records and processes which involved in the circulation of the library(Stephen Bales, 2020). It reduces paperwork and provides a piece of accurate information about all stocks (Quah & Ng,

2021). The Quaid-i-Azam Library has the following prominent sub-libraries working under its flagship.

1.1 Departmental Libraries

There are a total of three prominent departmental libraries and all have unique collections. First, the Library of the School of Art, Design & Architecture (SADA) was established in 2013. Which have fully automated services and according to the world standers. This library has 2700 books in the collection. This library is fully operational through LMS and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). In America, a number of the different systems went through experiments in the 1960s (Smidt, 2021). Finally, the first large scale online catalogue system was developed by the Ohio State University in 1975 (Fayen, 1983). Through this system, it became possible for the consortium of libraries and a user can search the catalogues of different libraries through one web page (Husain R, 2006).



2.1. This diagram helps in understanding the OPAC system(UML-Diagrams, 2021).

This library has a collection of Fine Arts, Architecture, Communication Design, Multimedia Arts, Ceramic Design, Textile and Product Design. Second, the Engineering Library was established in 2009 and operating through state-of-the-art technology. The

main aim of this library is to encourage research and academic activities among the faculty and the students. The library has 6462 books on different fields like Chemical, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. This library has a book bank with 611 books of coursework, especially, borrowed for needy students. Third, the Nawaz Sharif Medical College Library was established in 2009 and it has a collection of 7935 books. NSMC Library is one of the unique libraries of UOG which has the RF Book anti-theft system. This library consists of the following collection on Biochemistry, Forensic Medicine, Community Medicine, Behavioral Sciences, Anatomy, Pathology and Urology etc.

1.2. City Campuses Libraries

These libraries consist of five units and are linked with the main library through OPAC. First, the Railway Road Campus Library was established in 1963 under the Sir Syed College. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan is known as the founding father of modern education for Indian Muslims. He is also regarded as the father of 'Two Nation Theory which later on became the prime element of the Freedom Movement of Pakistan(Hayat, 2016). Later on, it merged in Govt. Zamindar College in 2003.

Now, this is part of the UOG Sub-campus, known as Railway Road Campus Library and has a collection of 8306 books. The main collection comprises History, Politics, International Relations, Economics, Computer Sciences, Urdu, English Literature, Islamic Studies and Earth Sciences etc. Second, the GT Road Campus Library was established in 1972 under the Sir Syed College. Later on, renamed as the GT Road Campus in 2004 and merged in UOG. This library has more than 22000 books on different fields like, History, Law, Islamic History and Culture, Political Science, Economics, Accounting and Business Administration. Third, the Fatima Jinnah Campus Library, considered one of the old libraries, was established in 1949 under the Fatima Jinnah Girls College.

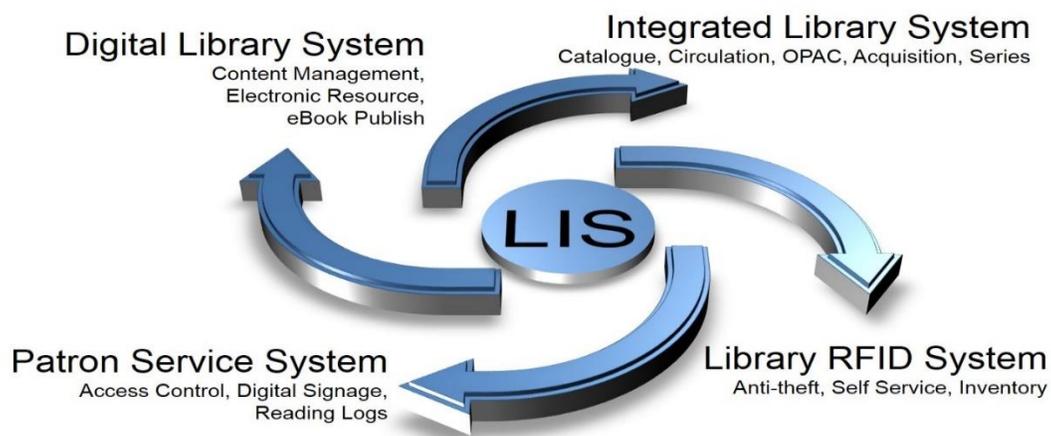
Later on, this was upgraded to Govt. Degree College for Women in 1949. This college was associated with the name of Fatima Jinnah, who was the youngest sister of Father of the Nation, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Due to his political services in the Freedom Movement of Pakistan, she is widely known as "Mother of the Nation"(Pirbhai, 2017). This library is also known as one of the oldest libraries of Punjab.

This library has a prominent collection of 24000 books on different topics like, History, Politics and Culture, Political Science, Islamic History, Pakistan Movement, Economics and Sciences etc.

Fourth, the Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Teaching Hospital Library has been serving the necessities of the medical faculty and students. This library is associated with the name of martyred Major Aziz Bhatti, who had sacrificed his life in the defense of his motherland during the Indo-Pak War of 1965. In the acknowledgement of his gallantry, he had awarded with the highest military award "Nishan-a-Haider", Emblem of the Lion,(Bajwa, 2013). This library has a limited collection on Urology, Pathology, Physiology, Anatomy and Community Medicine etc. Fifth, the Marghazar Campus CS & IT Library was established in 2015 and previously, it was known as the Govt. Marghazar College for Women. This library has a unique collection of 10000 books on the subjects of CS & IT, like, JavaScript, C, C++, PHP, Net, C++ etc.

1.2 Sub-Campuses Libraries

The UOG has two Sub-Campuses, like, Lahore Campus and Rawalpindi Campus. The Lahore Campus became part of UOG under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement in 2013. The library of this campus has a collection of 5000 books which are easily accessible through the Library Information Management System (LIMS).



3.1. A diagram to understand library management(LibBest, 2021).

Moreover, the LIMS has been providing access to more than 2000 books online through a digital library program (Wirtz, Müller, & Weyerer, 2021). The Rawalpindi Sub-Campus Library has also a limited collection on multiple subjects, like, History, Political Science, Islamic History, Earth Sciences, Geography and Economics etc.

Quaid-i-Azam Library and Its Resource During COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many prominent publishers provided free access to their contents for the library which are freely available for the faculty and students (Ali, Naeem, & Bhatti, 2021). Definitely, this move will be quite helpful for the research of the faculty and students. These are the prominent publishers which have granted free access to the library, like, Annual Review, BOA Journals, DUKE University Press, GeoScience World, University of California Press Journal, CORE E-sources, DOAB E-sources, ETHOS provided the access to its 500,000 sources, Internet Archives provided the access to 1.4 million books, HEC PRR, Repository and Project Gutenberg has provided the access to its 60,000 sources(Libraries, 2021).

Quaid-i-Azam Library is playing a vital role in the academic and research uplift of the University of Gujrat. The easily accessible sources and information of the library changing the dynamic of research culture among the faculty and students. This library provides a quiet space for research students of BS, M.Phil. and PhD etc. There is a separate quiet space that is associated with faculty as the 'study room'. During the COVID-19 this hall is open for faculty with proper SOPs and the library's administration is strictly practising these SOPs to avoid the threats of COVID-19. The circulation of the resources is also open for faculty and the library also offers the e-sources to reduces the threat of the Coronavirus. Furthermore, the library also welcomes the research students and scholars to utilize the available sources by adopting precautionary measures. Apart from the pandemic, the library administration adopted suitable measures to deal with the requirement of the users. Now the library has a rich collection of e-sources which would be helpful for a distance learning student or who can't visit the library. The librarian and his team are trying their level best to get more and more access to online available journals and sources. It is

their effort that now libraries have a long list of such rich online resources which can easily meet the need of a student, scholar and faculty member.

Conclusion

No doubt, it is a fact that the library plays a vital role in the development of society. The educational institutions without libraries cannot promote true knowledge between the faculty and students. An organized and well-managed library is known as the true representative of an institution. If the library of any institution is not according to the requirements of modern times, definitely, it means the institution is in its decline. Quaid-i-Azam Library is a state of the art library that is fully equipped with all modern needs. It is fact that its circulation has suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the online services of the library did not disappoint its users.

Although, physical entry into the library was prohibited for the students, but the faculty was fully allowed to use the library services. Moreover, the Quaid-i-Azam Library is rich in its sources which make a library as an outstanding destination for researchers. This library is fully functional through OPAC and LMS systems. Anyone can enjoy open access through OPAC to its catalogues across the world. But, full access is allowed only for the members who can enjoy its unlimited sources.

Furthermore, the digitalization of important sources has enhanced the importance of Quaid-i-Azam Library among its users. Now faculty and students can easily access the relevant source and perform their research easily. The administration of the library is fully optimistic that they will be able to digitalize the major portion of important sources in upcoming few months.

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