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Strategies to cope up the problems of university libraries in Lucknow: A Study

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyse the solutions of the problems of university libraries of Lucknow which have been adopted by them. Using a questionnaire as a research tool for data collection, this study explores the several aspects of solutions to the problems faced by the targeted group. The study reveals that appointment of trained LIS professionals, updated technical infrastructure, clear policies for book selection, acquisition & technical section and circulation section are enhancing the quality of the services provided by them to the users. As a result, the university libraries of Lucknow are able to support the academic programs by providing their users quick & efficient service. It has also helped them in the fulfilment of the library mission and to achieve academic excellence.

Keywords: Outcomes, Problems, Libraries, University, Lucknow.

1. Introduction

University libraries may be regarded as the heart of modern institutions as they are the integral part of educational institutions. The quality of university libraries is judged by the services it offers to its users not by an idle collection. The libraries has become meaningless if the supplier of the information commodity is inactive and not updated with the time. In the present digital era, it is the responsibility of the LIS professionals to promote the academic programs of the institutions and encourage the optimal use of library resources.

2. Problems and challenges faced by the University Libraries in different Sections:

In university libraries, there are different types of working sections which are divided into several areas like book selection, acquisition section, periodical section, technical section, circulation section, etc. For this purpose, researcher identify the most of the university librarians have to face many problems in different sections of the libraries such as they don't have clear written policy, insufficient trained professional library staff, infrastructure, also insufficient funds and so on. It is very challenging to quickly adopt new technologies for the librarians because in past decades they were not aware with the computers, internet facilities, but now in this modern era, time has been changed because of new technologies are introducing day by day for housekeeping activities and in the library to interchanged manual work into computerized form. It is very helpful to save the time of the library users and also library staffs to be providing library services smoothly and effectively.

3. Review of literature

Ameen (2005) carried out a study on Barriers in Collection Sharing among Libraries of Pakistan: University Library Managers' Viewpoint. The purpose of the study is to describe what issues and problems comes in the collection sharing of university libraries. Nok (2006) worked on The Challenges of Computerizing a University Library in Nigeria. This study is mainly focused on replacement of manual work into computerization. Ilo (2016) studied on Managing Stress Among Librarians in Selected University Libraries in Ogun State Nigeria. Wawire & Messah (2010) has conduct a study on Challenges faced in establishing university libraries in Kenya. The study explores the major challenges faced

in establishing University Libraries. Sithe (2009) has studied on international students and the library: problems, preferences, and proposed solutions. In this study the author describes library problems faced by the international students. Thornton (2000) has carried out the study on impact of electronic resources on collection development, the roles of librarians, and library Consortia discovers the impact of e-resources and discuss the changing role of the librarians.

4. Objectives of the study

- To know the outcomes of the problems of the university libraries of Lucknow.
- To explore the outcomes of the problems related to the different sections of university libraries of Lucknow.
- To identify the outcomes of the problems related to digitization process.
- To investigate the outcomes of the problems related to automation process.
- To identify the effect related to the financial problems of the university libraries of Lucknow.

5. Scope and Limitation of the study

This study focused on the possible solutions of the problems generally faced by the university librarians of Lucknow. It is limited to the libraries of the following universities.

- Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University;
- Dr. Ram Mahonar Lohiya Law University;
- Integral university;
- Lucknow University.

6. Methodology

In order to find out the solutions of the problems faced by the university librarians in their libraries, the descriptive survey method was adopted. For, this purpose, researcher chooses the online/offline, search method to collect more information to relate this study. Questionnaire was used as the research tool for data collection. It was distributed along four university libraries of Lucknow. The structured questionnaire covers several aspects of solutions of the problems faced by targeted group.

7. DATA ANALYSIS

7.1 Book Selection

Outcomes of the problems	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
Written Policy should be clear	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
To manage Funds from the other sources	-	-	-	Yes	1	25%
Involvement of the faculty members in the book selection	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
E-books may be purchased through the consortia subscription	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	75%

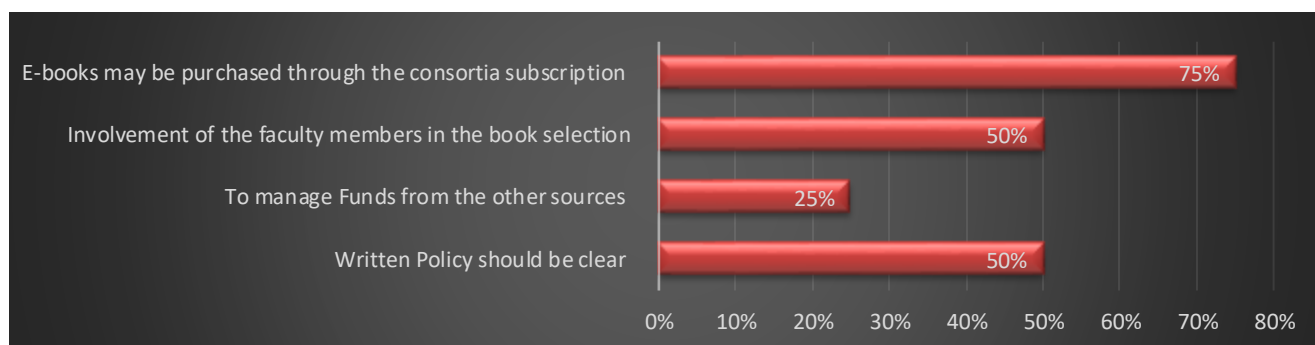


Fig: 1

Table 1, shows that 75% of librarians suggested that the e-books can be purchase through the consortia subscription as a solution of the book selection problems. 50% of the librarians recommended that the written policy for book selection should be clear.

7.2 Acquisition Section

Outcome of the problems	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
Policy should be clear	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	75%
Selection of the suitable supplier	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%

Penalty should fixed vendor/publisher for not delivery of book on time	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Payment on time	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Adaptation of automated system	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%

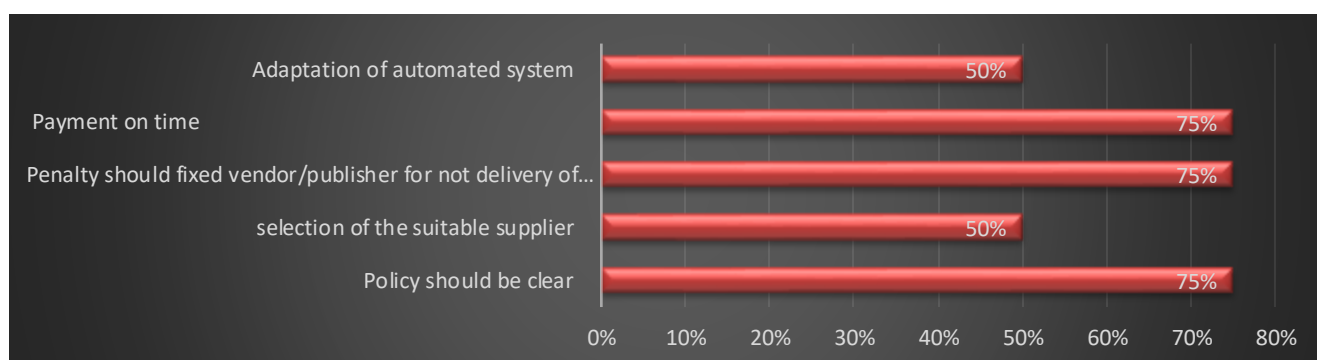


Fig: 2

Table 2, reveals that most of the librarians i.e. 75% suggested that clear policy of acquisition, fixed penalty fixed penalty for vendor/publisher for delay in delivering the books. Timely payments to them can help in reducing the problems of acquisition section. 50% of the libraries follow the selection of suitable suppliers.

6.3 Subscription of periodicals

Outcomes of the problem	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
Increased periodicals variety	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
E-journals may be subscribed through consortia to manage the increased cost	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	100%
Selection of the appropriate suppliers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	100%

Meeting with staff, publisher and vendor to resolve the such conflicts	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
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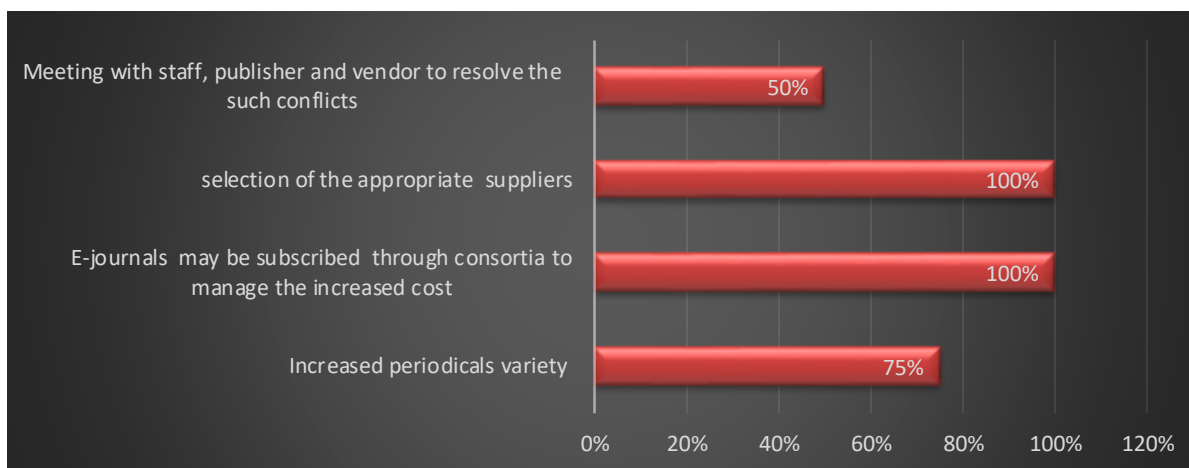


Fig 3

Table 3, shows that the 100% of libraries are choosing appropriate suppliers and subscribing E-journals through consortia to manage the increased cost and. Almost 75% of libraries have increased their periodicals variety for good collection.

6.4 Technical Section

Table 4: Outcomes related to Technical Section						
Outcomes of the problem	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
Utilization of online or offline DDC scheme for classifying books to subject wise.	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
Adaptation of manual system for Cataloguing	-	Yes	-	-	1	25%
Deployment of LIS professionals	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
Introduce LMS	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%

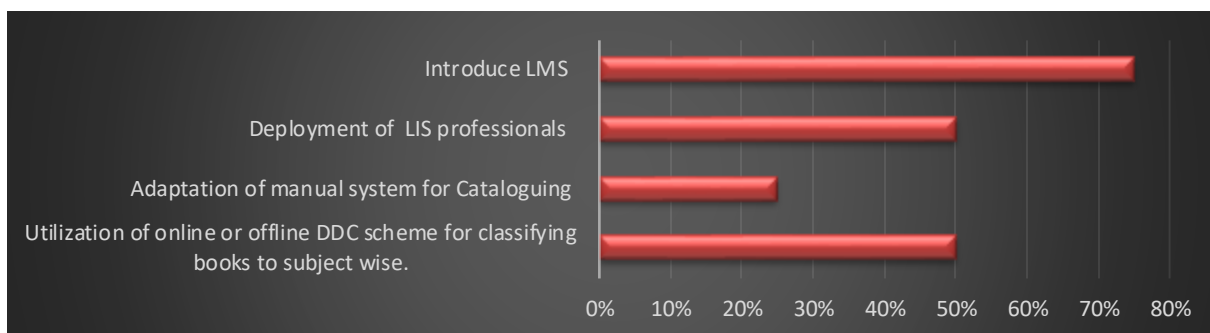


Fig 4

According to the results of Table 4, most of the libraries i.e. 75%, have introduced Library Management system (LMS to overcome the problem of technical section as it has reduces the chances of manual work error. 50% of libraries have deployed the LIS professionals. In addition to this, libraries have started the utilization of online or offline DDC scheme for classifying books to subject wise.

6.5 Circulation Work

Table 5: Outcomes related to Circulation Work						
Outcomes of the problem	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
Policy should be clear	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
Increased property counter space	-	-	-	Yes	1	25%
Arrangement of LIS professionals	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Utilization of Library Management Software for circulation Service	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%

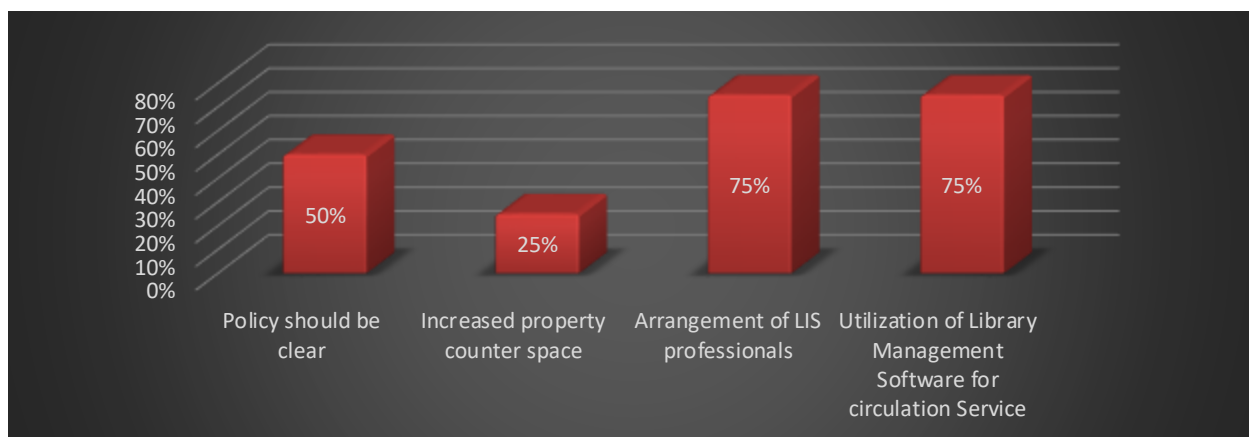


Fig 5

As per table 5, utilization of Library Management Software for circulation service by skilled LIS professionals is benefitting the performance of libraries. 50% of the libraries have clear their policies such as late fine, book damage/lost penalty, etc to eradicate issues of circulation section.

6.6 Digitization

Table 6: Outcomes related to Digitization						
Outcomes of the problem	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
Deployment of technical staff	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
To increase technical infrastructure	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
To manage available funds	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
To arrange adequate hardware	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Decision on Digital Library Software on the basis of feedback	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
To provide training to the library staff	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	100%
Incentive for usage of digital technology		Yes	Yes	Yes	3	75%

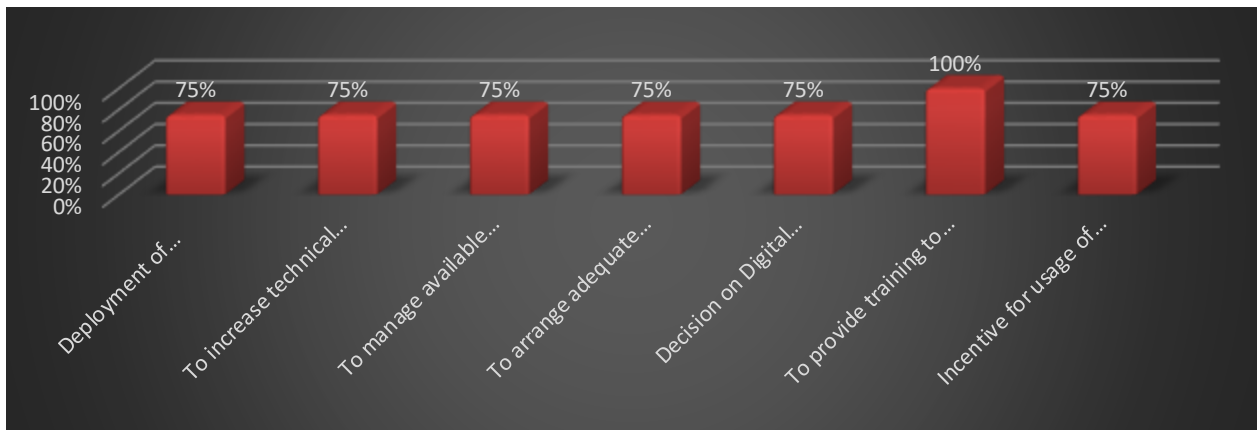


Fig 6

Results of table 6 reveal that all of the libraries are providing training to the library staff and 75% of them have also increased the technical infrastructure. To manage the available funds for the library infrastructure and good collection as well as arrange adequate hardware, take decision on Digital Library Software on the basis of feedback to improve the library work.

6.7 Automation process

Table 7: Outcomes related to Automation process						
Outcomes of the problem	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
Manage the financial resources	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Adapt proper guidelines and planning	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Arrange adequate computers	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Increase well qualified and trained personnel	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Adequate networking infrastructure	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Use appropriate Library Management software	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Understand the Management interest	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%

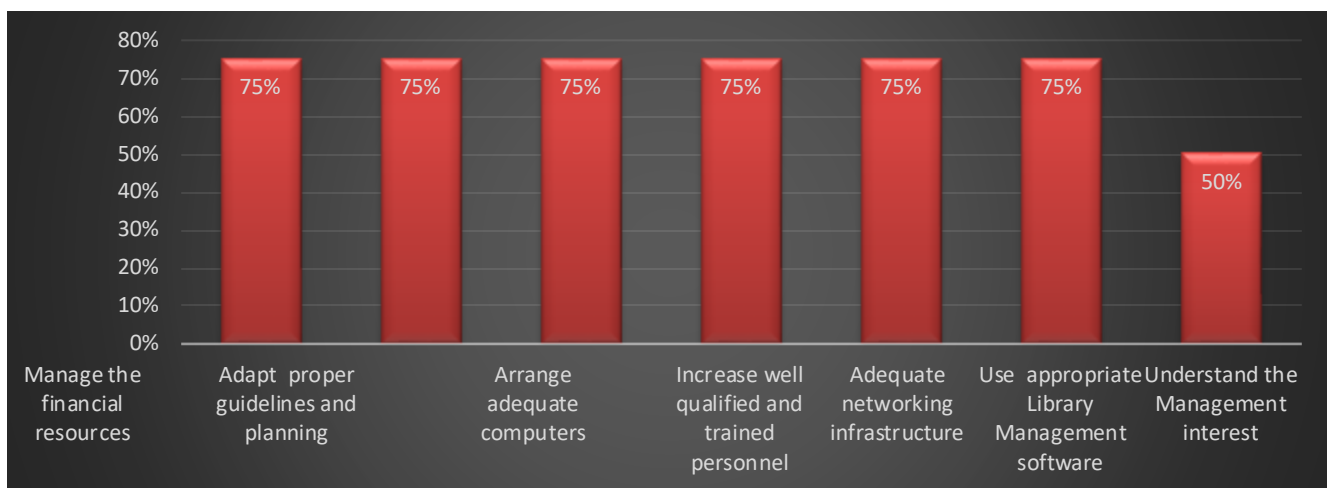


Fig 7

Table7, declared that most of the libraries (i.e. 75%) have managed the financial resources, adapted proper guidelines and planning, increased well qualified and trained personnel, updated their libraries with adequate networking infrastructure to solve the issues related to automation of libraries.50% of libraries have done the implementation of Library Management Software.

6.8 Stack Area

Table 8: Outcomes related to Stack Area						
Outcomes of the problem	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
Increase library space	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Arrange adequate infrastructure such as book shelves etc.	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
General guide in the form of a map to give a view of the layout of the stacks	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
Arrange proper cleaning and dusting of the documents	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Rearrangement of the books as per their subjects	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
Arrange pest control for the documents and furniture	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
Identify books for repair or binding	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%

date other records of the library	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Keep the library catalogue and other stock control records up-to-date	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
Write off outdated or unserviceable Upbooks/documents	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Stock verification as per GFR	-	Yes	-		1	25%

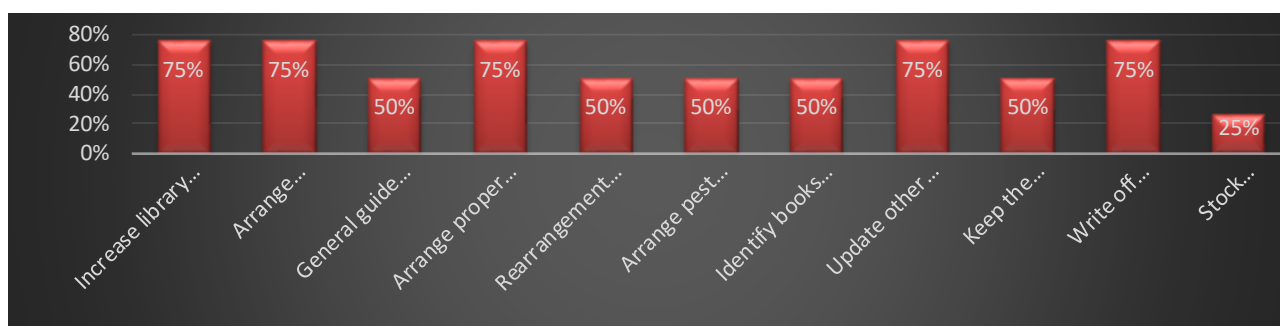


Fig 8

Table 8, shows that the problems related to stock area were solved up to a certain limit by increasing library space, arranging adequate infrastructure such as book shelves for the good collection, proper cleanliness, record updation & writing off outdated or unserviceable books/documents. Stock verification according to GFR is done by only 25% of the libraries.

6.9 Financial Area

Outcome	BBAU	Dr. RMLNU	IU	LU	Total	Percentage
The authority should allocate budget for library	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
Flexibility in utilization of the budget	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%
The budget should be allocated for reading material and infrastructure Separately	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	75%
Utilized allocated funds on particular purpose	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3	75%

Fund may be Allocating as an when needed	-	Yes	-	Yes	2	50%
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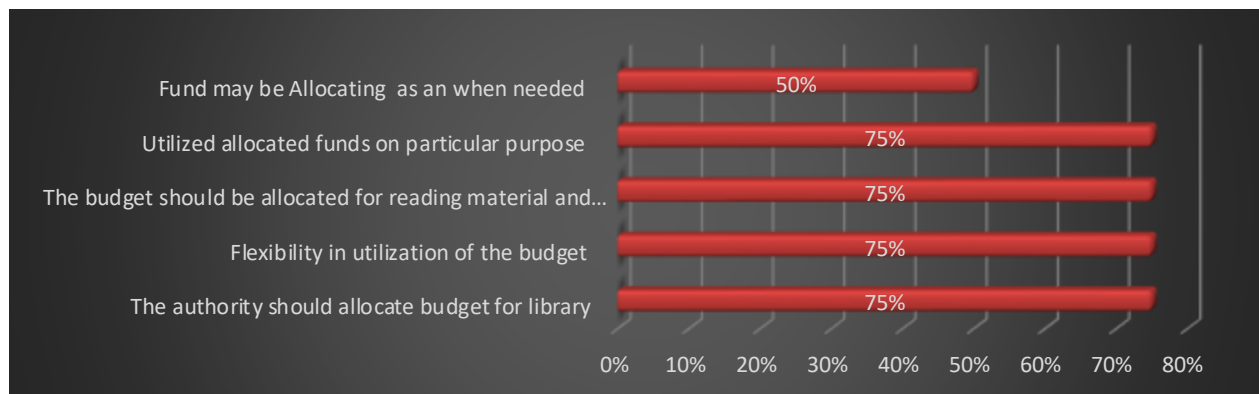


Fig 9

Table9, shows that 75% of the librarian have suggested that the allocation of budget for library and flexibility in utilization of the budget has reduced the financial issues. The budget should be allocated for reading material and infrastructure separately. According to them, funds may be available or allocated as and when needed for unexpected demand of library with time.

Conclusion:

With the emerging digital paradigm, libraries of Lucknow are trying to maintain the pace by implementation of digitization and automation facility along with appointment of trained LIS professionals. University libraries efforts to get the possible solutions of the problems related to the budget, acquisition & technical section, etc., have actually given the positive results and also upgraded their performance level. These libraries are still exploring, planning and implementing all the possible facilities and services they can provide to the users to fulfil the library mission & achieve the academic excellence.

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