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Rethinking Fine Art Libraries: Issues, Challenges and Status of the Libraries of the Institute of Fine Art in New Delhi, India

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Abstract:

Purpose and objectives of the study: This purpose of the paper is to explore the collection, services, challenges and prospects of the libraries of the institute of fine arts in New Delhi, India. Fine arts and performing arts library specialize in collecting items relating to any faction of the art including music, poetry, sculpture, painting, theatre, dance, film and recorded sound etc.

Scope: This study is confined to the libraries of the institute of the fine arts in Delhi, the capital city of India, which are approved and funded by the concerned government.

Methodology: The authors performed a case study to discover the current statues of the libraries of the institute of fine arts in Delhi.

Findings: The study finds that the libraries of the institute of fine arts in Delhi are enriched not only by the collection of printed and non-printed materials but also by art objects. The collection developments works of these libraries of the institute of fine arts are done mainly through purchase and receiving donated books. For development of the library collection they have book selection committee and book purchase committee. It is found that less numbers of libraries have wedding out policy. The study reveals that most of the libraries are doing re-binding for preservation. The interest in participating library network and consortium is found to be stronger.

Originality: This paper identifies weaknesses in current practices and offers some suggestions. This is about an original initiative undertaken to develop a set of core values.

INTRODUCTION:

Special libraries by their nature keep information in their appropriate field of interest. Special library which is focused on some specific objectives are not intended to serve the general user community like academic in the library and information environment. Many developments take place in these days in the library and information science and the progress is quite faster. Special libraries are the libraries which are attached to special type of organization like, research organizations, industrial and commercial undertakings, governments departments and special education institutions etc. They deals with one subject or a group of allied subjects but the form of their material can be varied such as periodicals standards and patents, specification, map, clipping, technical reports, microfilms, microfiches, disc and tapes, sound recording etc. Special libraries are "special" in their collections, users, and services. This study deals with the libraries of the institute of fine arts of India and is attempted to find out the collection, services and difficulties faced by these libraries in providing services efficiently.

Fine arts and performing arts library specialize in collecting items relating to any faction of the performing arts, including music, theatre, dance, film, and recorded sound. Generally, these libraries are open to the public, though patrons are only allowed to study these items within the library itself. The reason for this is because of how rare and fragile some of these resources are. This type of library is usually organized by divisions, each containing materials related to the aforementioned art forms such as photographs, programs, reviews, videotapes, newspaper articles, costume designs, posters, financial records, audio recordings (both music and non-music), sheet music, manuscripts, fine prints of portraits, and even printed materials like books and periodicals. As libraries are adapting to the digital age, the libraries of the institute of fine arts are also starting to include digital collection for patrons to get a small sample of what items are part of the library's physical collection, especially the more rare ones. The fine arts library is a vast resource of materials to be studied by students and professionals alike.

LIBRARIES OF THE INSTITUTES OF FINE ARTS IN NEW DELHI

The word "art" has been taken from the Latin word "arts", meaning skill. It is defined as a production or expressions of what is beautiful, appealing and more than significant. Fine arts are more sensible variety. Fine arts are said to have been, cultivated more for their own sake and for the intrinsic pleasure they afford the minds as emotions of those who experience them. The liberal arts have much to do with the freedom of expression in language, speech, and reasoning and with the understanding of the physical, social and cultural environment. Literature, music, painting, sculpture, architecture and some theatrical arts like acting, dancing are dubbed as fine arts. Fine arts have two main divisions:

(i)   Performing art
(ii)   Visual Art

The culture of India has visually been represented in fine arts. Tomar (1982) has rightly discussed about the rise and development of fine arts in India and west in detail in "A history of fine arts in India and the west".

India is a land of a rich cultural heritage of immense wealth of arts, crafts and architecture. The history of Indian art is interwoven in to the history of India's civilization, the amalgamation of diverse cultures and ethnic streams. Mukherjee (1984) reveals in "The culture and art of India" that the states, politics and conquest are far less significance in India than metaphysics, religion, myth and art as factors in social integration and it is these that have welded middle-east and south-east Asia for several centuries in to one spiritual community. When civilization progressed and people had more means and time at their disposal to make things beautiful and artistic, they produced many forms of art. In fact, art holds an honored place in every great civilization since beauty serves to enrich our souls with spiritual joy.

The remarkable sculptures, paintings and architectural expressions, which had blossomed forth in different phases in our country in the past, have been deemed as objects of great wonder in all parts of the world till today. Ganguly (1979) expressed in "Fine arts in ancient India" that the ancient heritage of India is glorious. An attempt has been made in this book to trace out a brief outline of the diversified sphere of fine arts and aesthetics in ancient India.

The growing need for specialized information further development and research came to play a vital role in the expansion of special libraries. Now special libraries are shifted to knowledge centre. Christianson (1988) reveals in "Special libraries: putting knowledge to work" the facts and scenario of the libraries of 18th and 19th century. The author said that during 20th century with the development of industrial, technological and scientific advances the concept of special libraries came in to existence.

The poor infrastructures facilities, outdated mindsets and lack of exposure among professionals to the latest developments have been bottlenecks against progress in Indian special libraries for a long time. Webb (1995) expresses in "Pursuing quality in special libraries" that quality is seen as something which is made up of processes, procedures, standard and resultant performance which these bring about. He further says that although the idea of monitoring and measuring performance in libraries is not new, the need of new thinking on what and how to deliver in terms of service provision, as well as changes in management methods in pursuit of greater efficiency and effectiveness, have led to a review of procedures in services of all kinds. Singh (2006) also has revealed same facts about special libraries and its growth and development in India in "Special libraries in India: some current trends".

There are more than hundreds of art library in India including museums, archives and other cultural forums that are playing significant role. Some of them are highly concerned with the heritage of the entire country and try to cover as much as artistic areas as possible. They have established themselves as the most popular and prominent ones that provide maximum information about the rich artistic heritage of the country. The following are the libraries of the institute of fine arts across New Delhi considered for the study:

Table: 1 Selected libraries of the institute of fine arts, New Delhi

SL No	Name of the Institute	Year of Estab.	Location	Website
1	National Museum (NM)	1949	New Delhi	www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in
2	Sangeet Natak Akademi(SNA)	1953	New Delhi, Delhi	www.www.sangeetnatak.gov.in
3	Sahitya Akademi (SA)	1954	New Delhi,	www.sahitya-akedemi.gov.in

			Delhi	
4	Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA)	1954	New Delhi, Delhi	www.lalikala.gov.in
5	National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)	1954	New Delhi, Delhi	www.ngmaindia.gov.in
6	National School of Drama (NSD)	1959	New Delhi, Delhi	www.nsd.gov.in
7	Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)	1985	New Delhi, Delhi	www.ignca.nic.in

The National Museum (NM) library collects books and journals relating to the fields of history, art and culture of the world for specialized research and references. It covers a variety of themes such as anthropology, archaeology, conservation, decorative art, history, literature, museum studies, painting, philosophy and religion. The library has been the proud recipient of several prestigious personal book collections such as the Elwin collection, Satyam Bhai collection, Dr. L.P. Sihare collection, Desikacharya collection and the Heeramanek collection. The library is open for use by bonafide research scholars, university students, professors, teachers and fellowship holders.

The library of Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) is a multilingual reference Library extensively used by the students, researchers, scholars and artistes in the field of performing arts. It is one of the few specialized libraries of its kind in the country, and is enriched with books, journals, newspaper clippings, printed documents of Akademi Awardees and other performing artists, photographic and audio-visual resources, etc. Over the last sixty four years, the library has grown to be the centre for quality research, attracting Indian and foreign scholars, musicians, musicologists, film producers, theatre directors, choreographers, actors, folklorists, puppeteers, journalists and students from all over the country as also from other countries . It has been acknowledged in a considerable amount of published research in music, dance and drama. Over the years, the library has acquired specialized collection of books on the performing arts.

The Library of Sahitya Akademy (SA) is one of the most important multi-lingual libraries in India with a rich collection of books on literature and allied subjects in 24 languages recognised by the Sahitya Akademi. The Library is also well-known for its huge collection of books on literary theories and criticism, women's studies, cultural histories and translation studies. The specialized collections of this library include publications on and by Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo and Mahatma Gandhi. It also includes enriched reference books focusing mainly on Indian and World literature, philosophy, religion, art and culture.

The Library of Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) included books and journals on art, it now grown to become, one could say, the finest library catering to the subject of art. This reference library now includes books on painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, graphic art, architecture to cater to the various needs of its readers. A fabulous collection of art reproductions is also available. Having internet access, the OPAC system and photocopying facilities further helps the readers. Records of all the events of Akademi can be accessed from the well-maintained Archives division. Available materials include photographs, catalogues, annual reports, seminar papers, newspaper clippings, CDs and other audio-visual material. Documentaries on renowned artists and their work is also a part of the collection of the archive.

The Art Reference Library of the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) comprises books on painting, sculpture, graphics, architecture and other minor arts in order to cater to the needs of various academic disciplines such as history of art, art criticism and art appreciation. ll exhibits borrowed by the National Gallery of Modern Art for the Special Exhibitions arranged from time to time are photographed in black and white. These photographs are also available for study and research at the Documentation Centre. To augment the potential of our Documentation Centre, the National Gallery of Modern Art permanently maintains a full-fledged Photo Studio.

The Library of National School of Drama (NSD) is one of the country's most specialized libraries in the field of theatre and drama. The National School of Drama Library acquires whatever material is available on dramatics in the Delhi market. Efforts are also made to procure plays and their criticism from outside Delhi and abroad. Research students in Literature dealing with dramatics, whether in English or Hindi, frequently make use of the Library. These research students come not only from Delhi but from other States also.

The reference library of Indira Gamdhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has a rich multilingual collection of research and reference material in the field of art and culture. he collection comprises of updated reference books, bibliographies, monographs, conference proceedings, translations, catalogues of unpublished manuscripts of Indic and Asian origin, biographies and autobiographies, among other reference material. The library is fully automated, providing easy access to its resources through Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) terminals, and has been organized scientifically as per internationally accepted standards. While the majority of material held in the library is in English, it also allows access to books in a range of other Indian languages, such as Hindi, Bengali, Assamese, Malayalam, Oriya etc. as well as to certain foreign languages such as Chinese, German, Russian, French and Japanese.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

This descriptive and analytical study has the following objectives:

  i.   To study the management system of the libraries of the institute of fine arts in New Delhi.
 ii.   To study automation status and application of ICT in the libraries under study.
iii.   To find out the level of participation in library networking and consortium by the libraries under study.
 iv.   To present some suggestions regarding proper management of the libraries based on the problems observed in the study.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

To meet the identified aim and objectives of the study, a combination of the quantitative and qualitative research methodologies along with a comprehensive literature review have been employed. The selection of the libraries of the institute of fine arts in India for the pilot study is selected by *purposive sampling* method which is a non-probability sampling. This study is carried out through *survey method* to bring out all required information. Before visiting the selected libraries, the librarians were informed. As per their convenience the timing was selected.

Scheduled method is used in order to attain objectives more clearly and accurately. Survey schedules and observation schedules are used as per requirements. During this schedule method for collection of data questions were asked by the researcher and the answers were recorded. A *questionnaire* has been developed to get the required information. It is the most

extensively used method for data collection. This questionnaire is a necessary tool for the data collection process. Two number of questionnaire were designed to conduct the survey. The main questionnaires were filled by the librarian. While a good numbers of questionnaires were distributed to the user. *Personal interview* and *telephonic interview* methods are also applied as per requirement. Personal interview of collecting data involves presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral-verbal responses. *Observation method* is also applied to know the current happenings in the library without interviewing the respondents. This is done in own observation after visiting different section of the libraries.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Library Collection:

Library professional working in fine arts libraries are trying to put printed materials and art object together to make the library larger in collection. The detail pictures about the collection of the libraries of the institute of fine arts have been mentioned in the following table.

Table: 2 Analysis of the Library Collection

Sl.No.	Collection	No. of respondent	Percentage
		Books	
1	5000-10000	1	14.28
2	10000-30000	2	28.57
3	30000-50000	1	14.28
4	50000-75000	1	14.28
5	Above 75000	2	28.57
	Total	**7**	**100**
		Journal	
1	1-100	3	50
2	100-200	3	50
	Total	**6**	**100**
		Newspaper	
1	1-10	1	14.28

2	10-20	2	28.57
3	20-30	4	57.15
	Total	**7**	**100**

Donated Books

1	1000-5000	1	25
2	5000-10000	2	50
3	Above 10000	1	25
	Total	4	**100**

CD/DVD

1	1-5000	3	60
2	5000-10000	1	20
3	Above 10000	1	20
	Total	5	**100**

Music Files

1	1-5000	1	33.33
2	5000-10000	1	33.33
3	Above 10000	1	33.33
	Total	3	**100**

Painting

1	1-100000	1	50
5	Above 100000	1	50
	TOTAL	2	**100**

Photographs

1	1-100000	1	50
2	Above 100000	1	50
	Total	2	**100**

(SA-Sahitya Akademy SNA-Sangit Natak Akademy LKA-Lalit Kala Akademy NM-National Museum NSD-National School of Drama NGMA-National Gallery of Modern Art IGNCA-Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.)

The above tables show that these libraries have a collection of printed materials, e-resources as well as art objects. The libraries of Sahitya Akademi and IGNCA have been found larger in case of printed collection. While the libraries of Sangit Natak Akademi and National School of Drama has most number of art objects. On the other hand the libraries of National Museum and National Gallery of Modern Art have very less number of e-resources. A special mention and credit should be given that the donated books are highly organized and acknowledged.

Human Resources:

It is a pleasure to discuss that that professionalism of the library professional working in the libraries of the institute of fine arts in Delhi is flawless. The study shows that IGNCA have most number of professional staff, followed by Sahitya Akademi. On the other hand Lalit Kala Akademi and National Gallery of Modern Art have less number of professional staff. While, IGNCA have one Archivist and Sahitya Akademy have one data entry operator.

Services offered:

Special libraries are found to be special not only in collection but also in services they are offering too. The following diagram will show the different services provided by the libraries of the institute of fine arts in New Delhi, India.
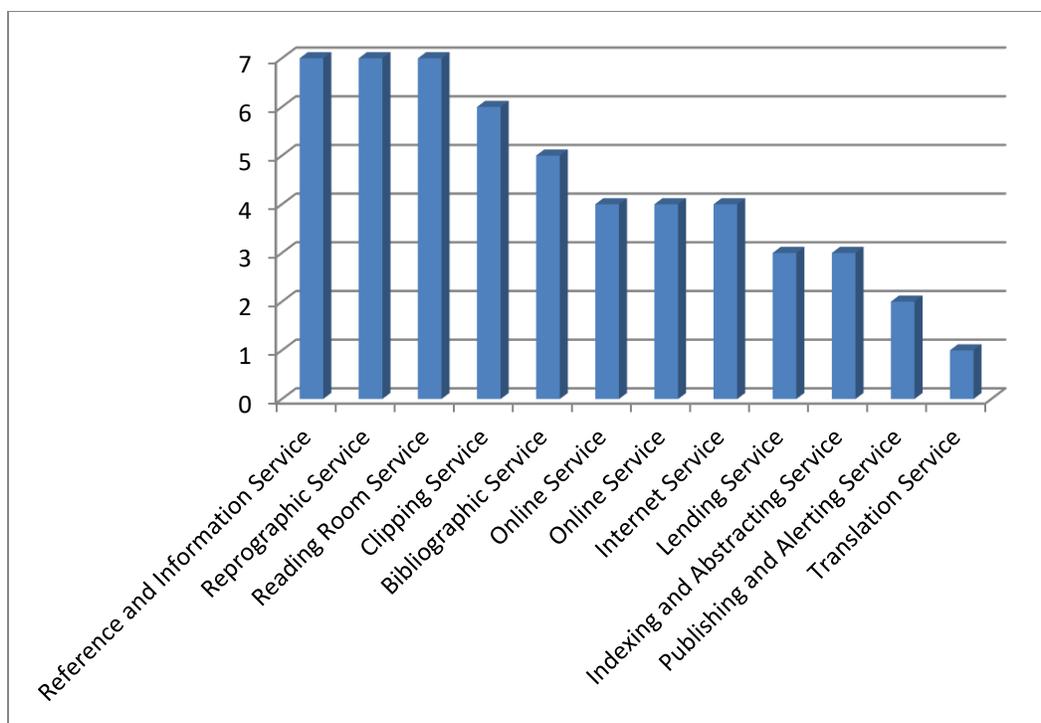
Charts 1: Services of the Libraries of the Institute Fine Arts

The study says that all the libraries are providing reference and information service, reprographic service and reading room service. While, only three libraries are providing indexing and abstracting service, and lending service. Other hand only the library of Sahitya Akademi is providing translation service.

Collection Development Policy:

The collection developments works of these libraries of the institute of fine arts are done mainly through purchase and receiving donated books. For development of the library collection they have book selection committee and book purchase committee. Even all the libraries have the policy of receiving donated books. The following table will show it clearly.

Table: 3 Collection Development Policies

Library	Yes/No	Collection Development Policy	Remark
SA	Yes	As per book purchase committee	Receives donated books

			also
SNA	Yes	As per book selection committee	
LKA	Yes	As per book selection committee	
IGNCA	Yes	As per book selection committee	Receives donated books also
NGMA	Yes	As per book selection committee	Receives donated books also
NSD	Yes	As per book selection committee and library committee	
NM	Yes	As per book selection committee	Receives donated books also

(SA-Sahitya Akademy SNA-Sangit Natak Akademy LKA-Lalit Kala Akademy NM-National Museum NSD-National School of Drama NGMA-National Gallery of Modern Art IGNCA-Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.)

Wedding out Policy:

Wedding out of documents or reading materials from a library is a job generally performed at academic library. Special library like to preserve documents for long. The study found that only three libraries have wedding out policy. The remaining libraries are not willing to go for wedding out of documents. Sahitya Akademi is the only institute which has a separate wedding out committee for this work.

Library Automation:

It is pleasure to note that the libraries of the institute of fine arts have started automation and providing computerized services to a good extent. While the technology permitted information professionals to add some more value, it also greatly increased expenses. The new technology tend to established direct links among information use, resources expense, associated staff, time and skill level. This has a dramatic impact on the fine art libraries and library management.

The study shows that all the libraries have started library automation. IGNCA is found to be the oldest one that started automation in 1991 and they have also installed Koha in 2017. They are working with both. On the other hand the library of NGMA has started the automation lately.

The study also shows that library professionals are somehow lacking interest in performing acquisition job in software. All the libraries are using the cataloguing, circulation and OPAC modules. Most of the libraries are not interested to the administration module.

Charts 2: Status of Library Automation
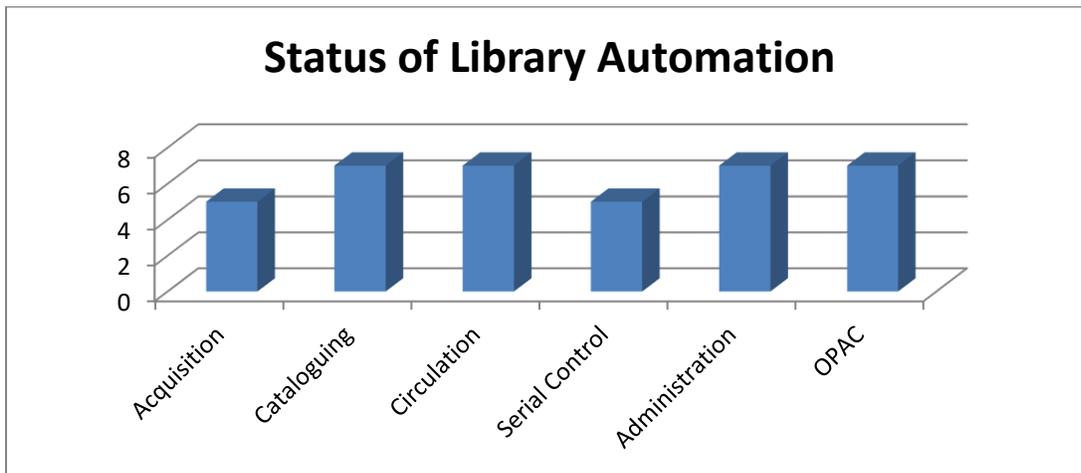

Charts 3: Use of Library Software
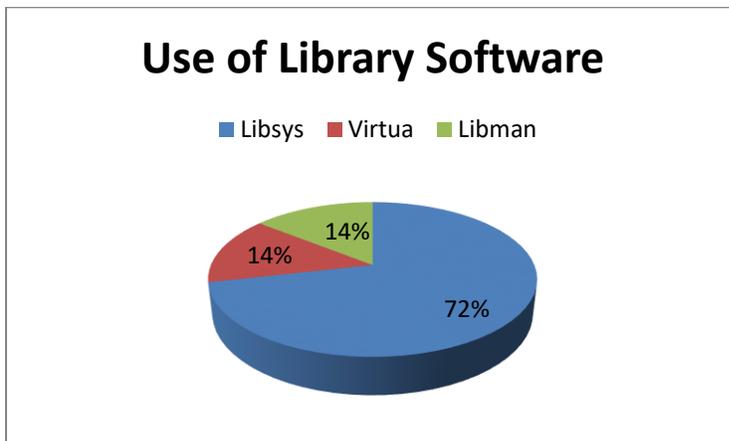
Participation in Library Networking:

The participation in library networking obviously brings some collaborative joy for the librarian. Networking is a joint effort taken up by two or more organizations to improve their resources

and to provide better facilities and services to the members. The increasing popularity of information networking has brought about drastic and qualitative changes in the services of the libraries by promoting grater accessibility to information.

Diagram 4: Participation in Library Networking

No of Participants

DELNET NVLI Others
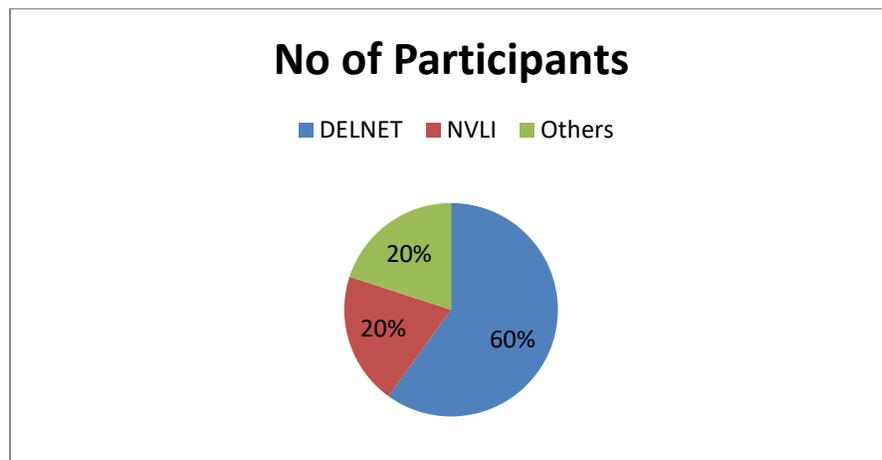
The figure shows that the libraries of Sahitya Akademi, IGNCA and Lalit Kala Akademi are active members of Delnet. The library of Sangit Natak Akademi is the only library which has membership at National Virtual Library of India (NVLI). On the otherhand the library of National School of Drama have inter-library loan facility with Sahitya Akademi library.

Preservation:

Preservation is the process of maintaining something in its original state or maintaining safety from damage and keeping the things in natural condition. The study reveals that libraries are paying attention in re-binding of documents and spraying it most frequently in preservation work. The library of IGNCA is the only one which has preserved rare documents in microfilm and microfiche. Fumigation and lamination techniques are used by very less number of libraries.

Table 4: Preservation and conservation techniques

Libraries	Fumigation	Spraying	Micro-Filming/Micro-Fishe	Re-binding	Lamination	Others (If any)
NM	√	√	X	√	√	
SNA	X	√	X	√	X	
SA	X	√	X	√	√	

|					
LKA	X	√	X	√	X
NGMA	X	√	X	√	X
NSD	X	√	X	√	X
IGNCA	X	√	√	√	X

(√ Yes X No)

Digitization

This is a matter of unfortunate that most of the libraries of the institute of fine arts are not interested towards digitization. The study shows that only two libraries are moving towards digitization. The library of Sahitya Akademi is using D-space software and the library of Sangit Natak Akademi is using SNA clip software which is developed by their own expert. Most of the librarian belief that digitization cannot increase the number of library user in fine arts libraries. According to them, fine arts libraries are far differ from academic library in case of users.

PROBLEMS FACED BY THE LIBRARIES:

Despite proper funding, these libraries are facing some difficulties. Lack of sufficient spaces, shortage of well trained manpower and lack of well designed infrastructures are some of the problems faced by these libraries.

Diagram 5: Problems Faced By the Libraries
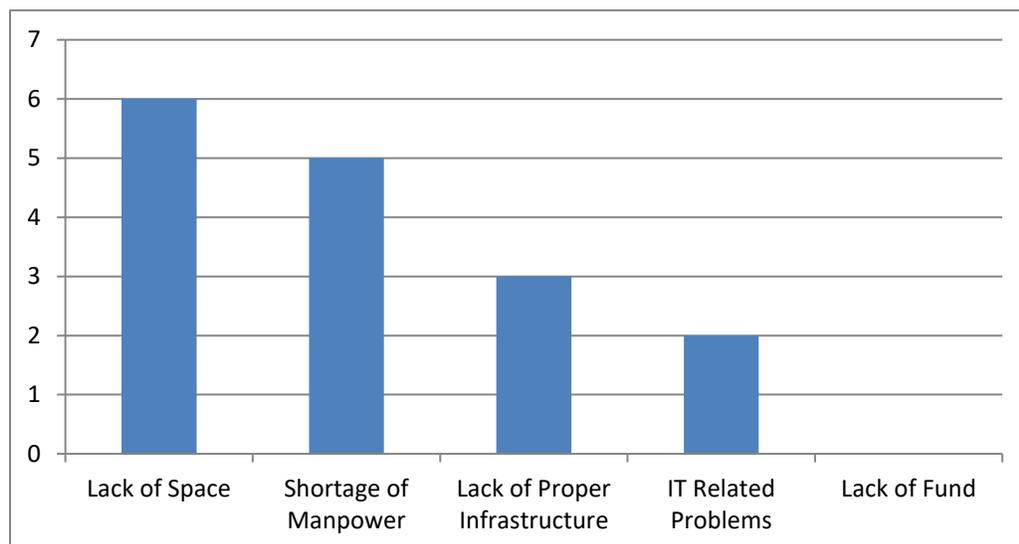
The study shows that except the library of IGNCA, all others have the problem of space. Shortage of well trained manpower is another main problem faced by these libraries. On the other hand, the libraries of IGNCA and NGMA have some software related problems. As mentioned earlier, IGNCA have been working with both Libsys and Koha, is getting some difficulties in Koha. They had installed Koha to get some better service. But as far their experience is concerned the number of heat document is found very less in compared to Libsys in searching. The library of NGMA, on the other side is getting problem with LIBMAN software. They are not getting support service. The working librarian who has recently joined is not highly familiar with the software.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:

The study brings and witnessed with some bright prospects despite some drawbacks. For a better and sound development, some suggestions and recommendations have been offered.

- ➤ Libraries should have state-of-the-art infrastructure including hardware, software and human ware. It is a well established fact that a library, which has balanced resources performs better. The software should be an integrated version with OPAC/Web OPAC facilities. Librarians should try to update their skill to evaluate software, which will enable them to identify the appropriate one.
- ➤ The study has seriously considered the causalities of library staff in performing acquisition job in library software. They should try to perform the acquisition job in automated environment without hesitation. If they are not confident enough to perform it they should attend some software training program.
- ➤ The collection developments works of these libraries of the institute of fine arts are done mainly through purchase and receiving donated books. For development of the library collection they have book selection committee and book purchase committee. So a significant effort and continuous up gradation of knowledge is required to the members of these committees.
- ➤ Special library like to preserve documents for long. The study finds that three libraries have wedding out policy. The remaining libraries are not willing to go for wedding out of

documents. Sahitya Akademi is the only institute which has a separate wedding out committee for this work. Librarian and the other member of the wedding out committee need to review their policies as per demand of time and the needs of library user.

➢ The study reveals that most of the libraries are doing re-binding for preservation. The library of IGNCA is the only one which has preserved rare documents in microfilm and microfiche. Majority of the library professionals have inadequate knowledge about library preservation. A separated budget is urgently required and should be allocated for training regarding preservation techniques.

➢ Digital devide or developing a digital library draws the attention worldwide in current times. The study shows that only two libraries are moving towards digitization. The library of Sahitya Akademi is using D-space software and the library of Sangit Natak Akademi is using SNA clip software developed by their own expert. Realizing the importance and potential of digital libraries, it is suggested that the other fine art library of Delhi should also take initiative in planning and implementing digitization.

➢ The consortia-based subscription has been found successfully deployed to meet the pressures such as diminishing budget, increased users demand and rising costs of electronic resources. The collective strength of consortia facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and at the best terms and conditions. The fine art libraries in Delhi are participating in library networking and consortium positively and it is suggested that they should be make it at the most possible extent in future too.

The future of the libraries of the institute of fine arts in Delhi is certainly bright, but they have a long road ahead and many steps have to be taken. Hopefully, with the recent development in the library infrastructure and services, it can be said that some steps have already been taken. The study clearly shows that most of the libraries are trying to adopt and expand policies to make them relevant to the changing and progressive world.

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