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**Current Scenario of Library Resources and Services in the Private University Libraries of  
Assam, India**

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## **Abstract**

**Purpose:** *The study aims to find out the current scenario of library resources and services viz. collection including infrastructure, staff position, library services available in the private university libraries in the state of Assam, India*

**Methodology:** *Physical survey of all the five libraries has been conducted for which a questionnaire was designed.*

**Findings:** *With the increasing number of library users, there should be adequate number of library staff to maintain all the different collections and services of the library. Private university libraries e-books and e-journals facility is not sufficient to cater the increasing demands of the users.*

**Research Limitations:** *The study is applied to private university libraries within the geographical barrier within the state of Assam. It is applied only on the basic level library resources and services expected from a library*

**Practical Implications:** *It will provide an opportunity to the library authority to fill up the gap in providing their basic library services. The method and technique of the study may be applied to any other libraries where the libraries are managed by library science professional with proper library procedures.*

**Originality/ value:** *The study is itself a unique one as no such study was conducted in the area of private university libraries.*

**Keywords:** *Resources, Services, University Library, Private University, Assam*

**Introduction:** Due to the growth of population, the need of higher education is growing immensely. The existing provision of universities under both the central and the state government is not sufficient to meet the needs of the present day's situations because of proliferation of population. As a result, a good number of private universities have been established in India. After 2007, there was a growth in the number of private universities in Assam. The universities are considered the temples of knowledge where the role of Library and Information Centre is very important. Private universities which play an important role in providing value based education are also expected to manage their libraries with the proper library management procedures. The libraries of these institutions should provide a congenial environment to its clientele be in academic progression or research activities. To keep the users up-to-date in the knowledge domain, the libraries are expected to maintain sufficient information resources, staff, space as well as extend its smooth services. In other words, the information needs of the users are expected to be satisfied by the libraries either from its own managed resources or through its resource sharing resources. The private universities are also maintaining their libraries with the resources and services. However, it is observed in many cases that, private universities are not as per with the state or central government universities. Hence the study has been taken to see the existing situation of private universities with special reference to their libraries. Also, it is still an unknown answer that what are the different kinds of information resources are available in these libraries. Also, a need is observed for a study regarding the kind of library services provided by these universities. So, this study has been initiated for up to-date and a comprehensive overview of library resources and their services in the private university libraries of Assam, India.

**Literature Review:** Birandar and Kumbar (2013) in their article resources and services of the law college libraries affiliated to Karnataka state law university discussed about availability of library resources in 83 surveyed law college libraries under Karnataka state university. The study highlights about different library services that are provided to the users by these law college libraries. The study further concluded that the law college libraries provide good range of services to its library users with the resources available in their library. Singh and Arora (2015) have conducted a study on library resources and

services in the selected universities libraries of Haryana, India. The study reveals about the current status of resources (collection development, staff, library members, working hours, etc.) available in the university libraries. The study also describes about different types of services provided to the library users by these universities. The study further suggested various measures such as better infrastructure, in-service training to library staff for effective use of library resources and services in these university libraries.

**Objectives:** Following are the objectives which are framed for the study.

1. To know the present status of the available library resources in the private university libraries of Assam.
2. To identify the status of e-resources in the private university libraries of Assam.
3. To determine the types of services provided to its users by the private university libraries of Assam.
4. To suggest some measures for effective use of library resources and services in the private university libraries of Assam.

**Methodology:** The study is basically a survey research where survey method is applied. The case study of all these surveyed university libraries is properly examined through data collection by following the systematic sampling technique. In order to find out the result of the objectives, a questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the librarian of the respective universities. 100 percent responses were received from these libraries. Further the information received after data collections were properly tabulated and then data analysis treatments were applied to the tabulated data. Data interpretation was done from the analytical data and then certain conclusions were drawn to map the result of the study with the stated objectives of the study.

**Scope and limitation of the study:** The study surveys the condition of the private university libraries in terms of resources, staff, in-service training of library staff, library membership, e-resources subscribed, library automation, working hour, and services offered by these libraries. The findings of the study will establish a clear picture of the present status of library resources and the services that are available in these libraries.

The study also identifies the core areas of deficiency where these libraries needs to give due importance.

There are five private universities functioning in Assam. All the five universities are covered in the study. The present study is limited to examine the library resources and services of these five private university libraries of Assam. The open and distance learning universities are excluded from the purview of this study.

## Data Analysis and Interpretation

### A Brief Description of the surveyed Private Universities

**Table 1: Private Universities in Assam**

Sl. No.	Name of the Private University	Website Address	Abbreviation	Library Hours (Both Working and Exam Days)	Establishment Year
1	Assam Don Bosco University.	www.dbuniversity.ac.in	ADBUD	9am to 4:30 pm	2008
2	Royal Global University, Guwahati	www.rgu.ac	RGUG	9 am to 5:15 pm	2009
3	Assam Downtown University	www.adtu.in	ADTUG	9 am to 5:00 pm	2010
4	Assam Kaziranga University, Jorhat	www.kazirangauiversity.in	AKUJ	9 am to 5:00 pm(Working) 9 am to 9:00 pm (Exam)	2012
5	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya	www.mssv.co.in	MSSV	9am to 6:00 pm	2014

ADBUD is the first private university established in the state of Assam. ADBUD presently offers various technical and professional courses with an intake of approximately 3150 students under 7 departments.

Also the Royal Global University which was established under the umbrella of Royal Group of University offers various technical and professional courses with an approximate 3512 students under 38 departments.

The Assam Downtown University established under the Assam Private Universities Act is currently having 20 departments with an intake of 2521 students.

Similarly, Assam Kaziranga University established under the Assam Private University Act, covers 26 departments with an intake of 3136 students.

The Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya has 13 departments with 499 students.

Regarding the Library hours, MSSV library has the maximum working hours, of 9 hours duration. It is also observed that except AKUJ Library, none of other surveyed libraries have the provision of extended library hours during the examination days.

**Table 2: Status of collections of the surveyed libraries**

<b>Collections</b>	<b>ADBUG</b>	<b>RGUG</b>	<b>ADTUG</b>	<b>AKUJ</b>	<b>MSSV</b>
Text Books	25000	24376	21702	14000	14283
Reference Books	3000	1273	580	1570	2262
<b>Total</b>	<b>28000</b>	<b>25649</b>	<b>22282</b>	<b>15570</b>	<b>16545</b>

Table 2 reveals that ADBUG library has the maximum number of print materials which includes textbooks and reference books, followed by RGUG library, ADTUG library, MSSV library and AKUJ library respectively.

**Table 3: Journal Collections**

<b>Journal Collection</b>	<b>ADBUG</b>	<b>RGUG</b>	<b>ADTUG</b>	<b>AKUJ</b>	<b>MSSV</b>
Indian journal subscription	75	26	26	-	15
Foreign journal subscription	-	03	02	-	-
Bound Volumes	1500	-	500	104	183
<b>Total</b>	<b>1575</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>198</b>

Here (-) means Not Available

Table 3 shows about the printed journal collection in the private university libraries of Assam. ADBUG library has the maximum collection of print journals including Indian journals and bound volumes followed by ADTUG library, MSSV library and RGUG library respectively. AKUJ library has 104 bound volumes in its collection. Table 3 also

depicts that the subscription of foreign journal is not satisfactory in all the libraries under study.

**Table 4 Other Collection**

<b>Other Collections</b>	<b>ADBUG</b>	<b>RGUG</b>	<b>ADTUG</b>	<b>AKUJ</b>	<b>MSSV</b>
Thesis and Dissertations	630	1257	925	805	18
Magazines	30	26	15	11	10
Newspapers	05	06	05	11	6
Previous Questions Papers	1000	1575	1800	2000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1665</b>	<b>2864</b>	<b>2745</b>	<b>2827</b>	<b>34</b>

Here (-) means Not Available

Table 4 above shows that RGUG library has the highest number of other collection, followed by AKUJ library, ADTUG library, ADBUG library and MSSV library respectively. The above table also shows that all libraries under study subscribed newspapers and magazines for their library users.

**Table 5: Library Furniture**

<b>Furniture Items</b>	<b>ADBUG</b>	<b>RGUG</b>	<b>ADTUG</b>	<b>AKUJ</b>	<b>MSSV</b>
Tables	95	26	72	42	15
Chairs	180	107	190	206	57
Almirahs	05	14	07	08	21
Book racks	110	142	120	85	13
Pigeon hole Almirahs	10	5	3	1	1
Newspaper stand	8	2	3	3	2

Table 5 shows about the availability of furniture in the university libraries. Tables, Pigeon hole almirahs for displaying of journals and magazines and also the newspaper stand are highest in the ADBUG library. Seating chairs are maximum in AKUJ library. It is also found from the above Table that the MSSV library has highest number of almirahs and RGUG library has highest number of book racks.



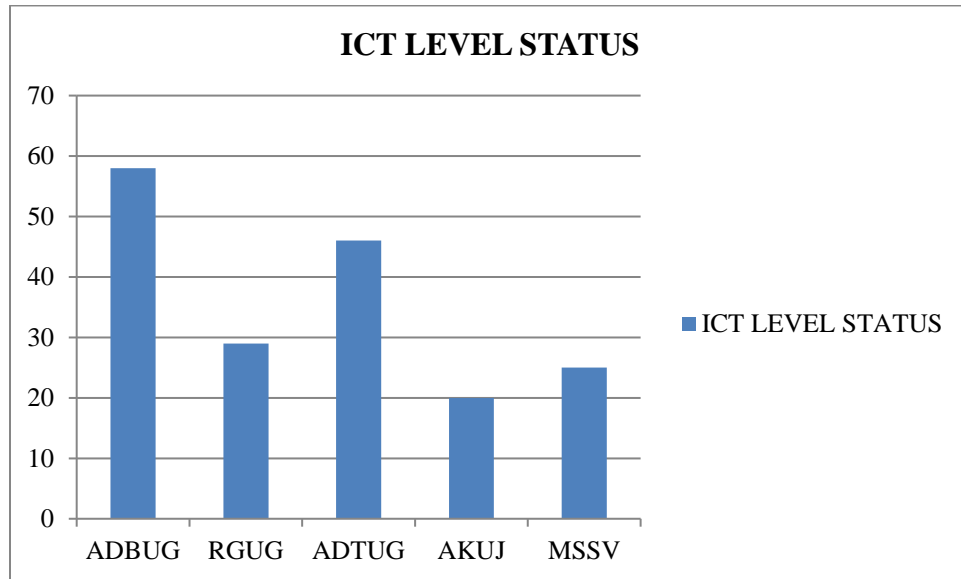
**Table 6: ICT Infrastructure**

Items	ADBUG	RGUG	ADTUG	AKUJ	MSSV
Desktop	40	16	16	6	15
UPS	8	4	1	4	2
Scanner	1	-	2	1	1
Printer	4	1	1	1	1
Xerox Machine	-	-	2	1	1
CCTV	5	8	24	7	5

Here (-) means Not Available

Table 6 describes about the availability of ICT infrastructure of private university libraries of Assam. The ADBUG library has the maximum numbers of desktop, UPS and Printers. ADTUG library has the highest number of scanners and CCTV cameras. In the overall status, the ICT infrastructure of ADBUG is found to be maximum among all the surveyed libraries followed by ADTUG, RGUG, MSSV and AKUJ library respectively.

**Fig 1: Graphical Representation of ICT level status of the surveyed libraries**



In the overall status, the ICT infrastructure of ADBUG is found to be maximum among all the surveyed libraries followed by ADTUG, RGUG, MSSV and AKUJ library respectively.

**Table 7: Status of Library Automation**

<b>Status</b>	<b>ADBUG</b>	<b>RGUG</b>	<b>ADTUG</b>	<b>AKUJ</b>	<b>MSSV</b>
Name of ILMS	KOHA	SOUL	PRAN	KOHA	KOHA
Is Fully automated	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
Is Partially automated	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
RFID facility	Yes	-	-	-	-

Here (-) means Not Available

Table 7 shows about the status of library automation of the surveyed university libraries of Assam. Library management software Koha is maximally used among the surveyed libraries i.e. in the ADBUG, AKUJ and MSSV libraries while SOUL is being used in the RGUG library. PRAN library management software developed by the university itself is being used in the ADTUG library.

Regarding the status of Library Automation, the ADBUG and AKUJ library are fully automated while the RGUG, ADTUG and MSSV libraries are partially automated.

ADBUG library is the only library among the surveyed libraries where functional RFID technology is found.

**Table 8: E- resources available in the libraries**

<b>E-resources</b>	<b>ADBUG</b>	<b>RGUG</b>	<b>ADTUG</b>	<b>AKUJ</b>	<b>MSSV</b>
E-Journals	1500	16671	6000	-	4
E-Books	700	13009	-	-	-
Online Databases	02	04	01	-	-
CD	1000	300	509	578	15
Audio visual materials	09	12	02	-	-

Here (-) means Not Available

**Fig 2: E-resources available in the libraries**

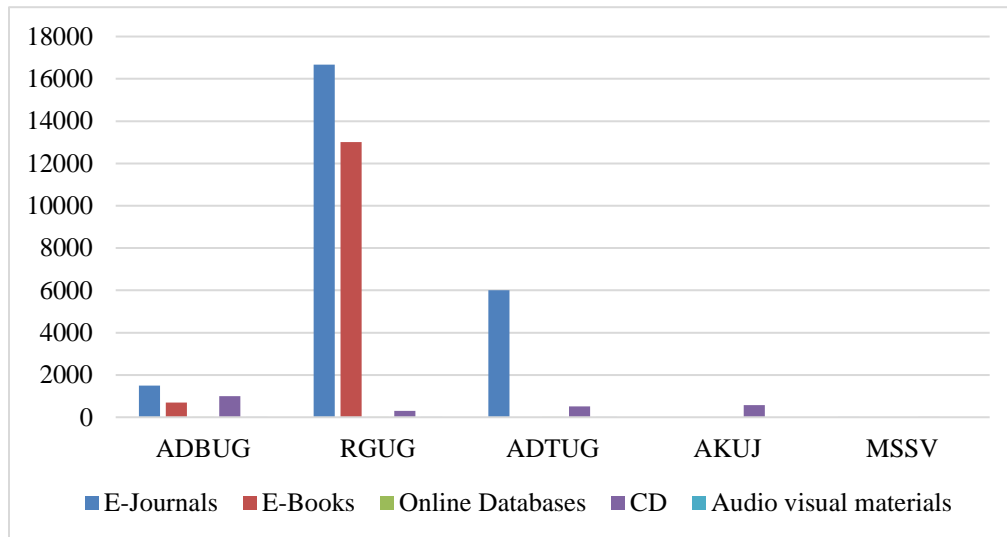


Fig. 2 above reveals about E-resources subscribed by the private university libraries of Assam

### **E-Journals**

In the field of e-journals, RGUG library has the highest collection of e-journals followed by ADTUG library and ADBUG library. The study also depicts that two libraries i.e. MSSV library is having only four e-journal subscription and AKUJ library has no any e-journal subscription in its credit.

### **E-Books**

In the field of e-books collection, The RGUG library has the highest number of e-books followed by ADBUG library. The above Table 8 further reveals that ADTUG, AKUJ and MSSV libraries do not have any e-books collection in their libraries.

### **Online Database**

In the field of online database collection, Table 8 reveals that RGUG library has 4 online databases followed by 2 in the ADBUG library and 1 in the ADTUG library. AKUJ and MSSV libraries do not have any online database collection in their libraries.

## CDs

ADBUG library has the highest collection of CDs followed by AKUJ library, ADTUG library, RGUG library and MSSV library respectively.

## Audio Visual Materials

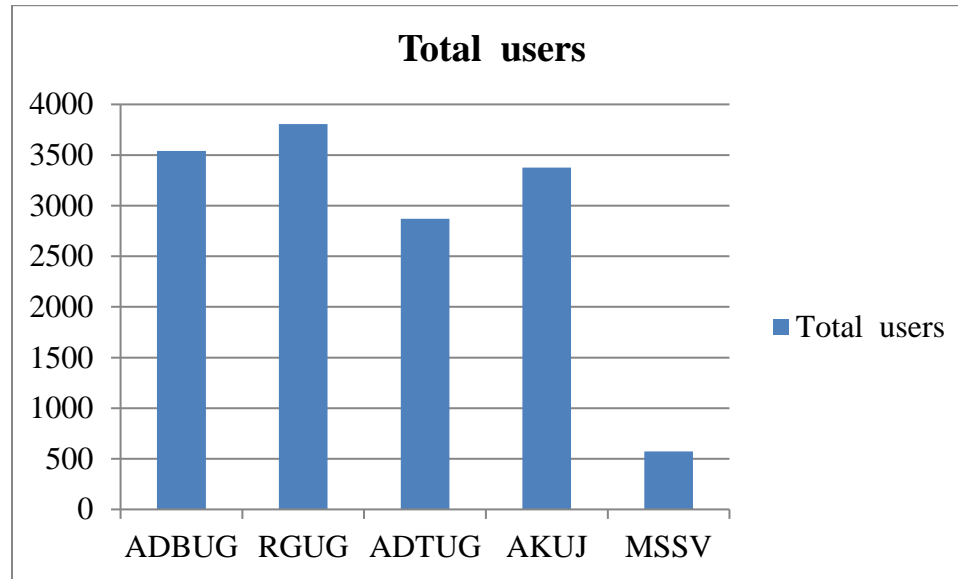
RGUG library has highest collection of audio visual materials. AKUJ and MSSV libraries do not have any audio visual materials among all the libraries under study.

**Table 9: Library Membership**

Category of members	ADBUG	RGUG	ADTUG	AKUJ	MSSV
Faculties	269	250	300	140	52
Research scholars	150	26	21	36	83
Students PG+UG	3000	3486	2500	3100	416
Non-Teaching Staffs	120	45	50	100	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>3539</b>	<b>3807</b>	<b>2871</b>	<b>3376</b>	<b>573</b>

Table 9 reveals about library membership of the private universities. The RGUG library has the highest number of library membership i.e. 3807 including faculties, research scholars, students (both PG and UG) and non-teaching staff which is followed by 3539 memberships in the ADBUG library, 3376 memberships in the AKUJ library, 2871 membership in the ADTUG library and the lowest i.e. 573 membership in the MSSV library.

**Fig 3: Graphical Representation of Library Membership in the surveyed libraries**



**Table 10: Library Staff**

Designation	ADBUG	RGUG	ADTUG	AKUJ	MSSV
Librarian	1	-	-	-	-
Deputy Librarian	-	-	-	-	-
Assistant Librarian	1	1	1	1	1
Professional Assistant	-	-	2	2	1
Library Assistant	2	1	-	1	-
Library Attendant	-	1	2	-	1
Other	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

Here (-) means Not Available

Table 10 reveals that most of the private university libraries do not have the post of librarian except one i.e. ADBUG. The post of deputy librarian is also not there in any of the private university libraries. In view of the quantum of the services provided by these university libraries, the technical and supporting staffs are found to be very less in most of the private university libraries.

**Table 11: In-service Training of Staff**

University Name	Designation of Staff	Kinds of Training (In-service)	Duration of the Training
<b>ADBUG</b>	Librarian	Koha	1 day
<b>RGUG</b>	-	-	-
<b>ADTUG</b>	-	-	-
<b>AKUJ</b>	-	-	-
<b>MSSV</b>	Assistant Librarian	Koha	4 Days

Here (-) means Not Available

Table 11 reveals about in-service training of library staff in private universities. It is found that only two universities i.e., ADBUG and MSSV have sent their library staff for in-service training. The other three universities i.e., RGUG, ADTUG and AKUJ have not made any attempt to make in-service training to its library staff.

**Table 12: Library Services offered by the libraries**

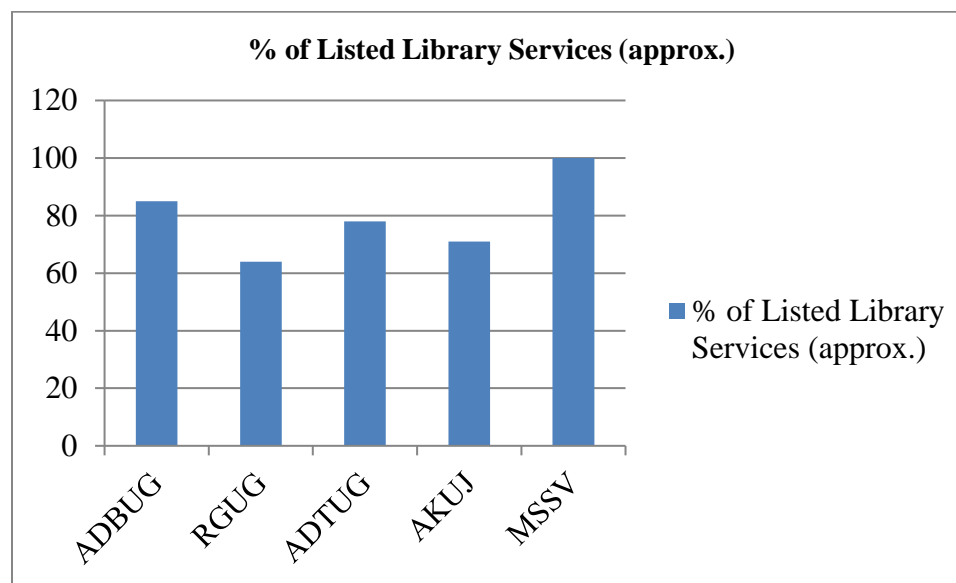
Services Offer	ADBUG	RGUG	ADTUG	AKUJ	MSSV
Circulation Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Current Awareness Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Selective Dissemination of Information	Y	-	Y	-	Y
Library Orientation Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Reference Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Document Delivery Service	Y	Y	-	Y	Y
Bibliographic Service	-	-	-	-	Y
Internet Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Reservation of Books	-	Y	Y	-	Y
Newspaper Clipping	Y	-	Y	Y	Y
OPAC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Inter Library Loan	Y	-	Y	-	Y
Reprographic Service	Y	-	Y	Y	Y
Reading Room Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>% of Listed Library Services (approx.)</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>

Here (Y) means Yes and (-) means Not Available

Table 12 reveals that out of fourteen library services selected for the study, MSSV library provides all the listed library services, i.e. 100 percent followed by ADBUG library, ADTUG library, AKUJ and RGUG library respectively.

**Fig 4: Graphical Representation of the library services of the surveyed libraries**



**Table 13: Plagiarism Software used by the university library**

University	Plagiarism Software
<b>ADBUG</b>	-
<b>RGUG</b>	URKUND
<b>ADTUG</b>	URKUND
<b>AKUJ</b>	-

MSSV	URKUND
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Here (-) means Not Available

Table 13 shows about the use of plagiarism software by the libraries under study. Plagiarism software URKUND is used in the RGUG, ADTUG and MSSV libraries. ADBUG library and AKUJ library do not have any plagiarism software.

**Table 14: Institution wise summary of the Different Parameters of the study**

Name of Parameters	Position				
	1	2	3	4	5
Books	ADBUG	RGUG	ADTUG	MSSV	AKUJ
Journals	ADBUG	ADTUG	MSSV	AKUJ	RGUG
Other collection	RGUG	AKUJ	ADTUG	ADBUG	MSSV
Library Furniture	ADBUG	ADTUG	AKUJ	RGUG	MSSV
ICT Infrastructure	ADBUG	ADTUG	RGUG	MSSV	AKUJ
Library Automation	ADBUG	AKUJ	RGUG	MSSV	ADTUG
E- resources	RGUG	ADTUG	ADBUG	AKUJ	MSSV
Library membership	RGUG	ADBUG	AKUJ	ADTUG	MSSV
Library Staff	AKUJ	ADTUG	ADBUG	MSSV	RGUG
Library Services	MSSV	ADBUG	ADTUG	AKUJ	RGUG

Table 14 depicts that among the entire surveyed libraries ADBUG library is first in position in maintaining the Books, Print Journals, Library Furniture, ICT infrastructure, Library Automation. It is also found that RGUG library is first in row in maintaining the other collections, E-Resources, Library Users. Moreover, AKUJ Library maintains the highest number of library staff and MSSV library provides maximum services among all the surveyed libraries. Also the study depicts that RGUG library is last in row in maintaining the Print Journals, Library staff and the Library services. Similarly, MSSV library maintains least number of Other collections, Library Furniture, E-resources and the Library users. AKUJ Library maintains least number of Print Books and ICT infrastructures. Similarly, ADTUG library automation system is found in last row as compared to other surveyed libraries.



## **Findings of the study**

1. Textbook and reference books is found to be available in all the surveyed libraries.(From table 2)
2. Out of the five surveyed libraries, the current print Indian journal subscription and the bound volume collection is found to be available in the four libraries. Similarly, the current print foreign journal subscription is found to be available in only two libraries (From table 3).
3. All the surveyed libraries are found to have other different collections of Thesis and Dissertations, Magazines, Newspapers.(From table 4)
4. All the different kinds of Library furniture (Tables, Chairs, Almirah, Book Racks, Pigeon hole Almirah and Newspapers stand) are available in almost all the surveyed libraries (From table 5).
5. The ICT infrastructure basically the Desktop, UPS, Printers, CCTV is found to be available in four surveyed libraries. Out of the five surveyed libraries, the Xerox machine is found to be available in three surveyed libraries and the scanner is not found in one surveyed library (From table 6).
6. Regarding the Library Automation which is very important for any library in today's context, it is found that the surveyed libraries are using different software package viz., KOHA, SOUL and PRAN (develop by the institution itself) to automate their library. Among the five surveyed libraries, two libraries are fully automated and remaining three is partially automated. The study also found that one library has presently implemented the RFID technology (From table 7).
7. Today, the role of e-resources is very important in universities to have a good academic progress and research and the study found that out of the five surveyed libraries (From table 8).
  - a. E-journal facility, online database and audio visual material is available only in three libraries and still the status of remaining two libraries on these facilities is not found to be sufficient and satisfactory.

- b. E-books facility is available only in two libraries and still the status of remaining three libraries on e-books facility is not found to be sufficient and satisfactory.
  - c. The CDs collection is found to be available in all the surveyed libraries.
- 8. The study also found that none of the surveyed libraries are having all the different hierarchy of library staff. Further, none of the libraries under study have the post of librarian and deputy librarian except the one library where there is a filled post of librarian. (From table 10)
- 9. It is also found that out of the fourteen different library services selected for the purpose of the study, seven categories of different library services viz., circulation, current awareness service, library orientation service, reference service, internet service, OPAC, reading room service is found to be available in all the surveyed libraries. Three categories of services, viz., the document delivery services, newspaper clipping service and the reprographic services are available in four libraries. Similarly, three another categories of library services i.e., the SDI service, book reservation service, inter library loan services are found to be available in three libraries. Bibliographic service is provided by only one libraries among the surveyed ones (From table 12 )
- 10. Three surveyed libraries are using URKUND plagiarism software to detect plagiarized documents submitted by the students and research scholars. (From table 13)
- 11. The study also depicts that the library which has the highest number of library users among all the surveyed libraries are found to have least numbers of library staff as compared to all the other surveyed libraries (From table 14). It is also found from the study that the same library is also in last row in providing the library services among the surveyed libraries (From table 14). This indicates that due to shortage of library staff, no library can provide maximum services to its users.

**Suggestions:** The following suggestions are put forth in order to develop and maximise the use of library resources and services in the private university libraries of Assam.

1. The subscription of both print current Indian and Foreign journals should be subscribed by the libraries.
2. The libraries which are still partially automated should automate their library with standard ILMS along with RFID.
3. Both e-Journal and e-Book should be subscribed in sufficient quantity by the deficiency libraries.
4. Problem of shortage of library staff is common among all the respondent libraries. The higher authority of the university should recruit more professional staffs in order to provide better library services.
5. In-service training should be provided to the library staff. Since many of the students' needs instruction from library staff in order to use library resources and services.

## **Conclusion**

The data collected from five private university libraries are analysed to explore the status of resources and services provided to the users. To conclude, it can be said that the sufficient library resources and library staff plays a vital role in providing better library services in an academic institution. Private universities of Assam need to take proper care in recruiting all the categories of the library staff in their library. In order to provide a research culture in the universities, the private universities of Assam need to subscribed more and more research based materials (both printed and online). In a nutshell, the private universities of Assam need further professional care in maintaining and managing their library and its services.

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