
**COURT LIBRARIANSHIP WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO THE SERVICES AND BUDGET ALLOTMENTS IN HIGH COURT JUDGES
LIBRARIES (HCJLS) OF INDIA**

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Abstract

High Court librarianship, i.e. the librarianship in judicial institutions at apex level in a state is different from librarianship in any other discipline. This aspect is more appropriately explained by Prof. Igor I. Kavass, when he says that "the reason for court libraries being different from other types of libraries is that they serve a profession which is literally unable to exercise its work without the use of books." A high court librarian has to furnish the desired informative services at once because the case is being argued in the state apex Court and desired information is needed in the course of the argument. Because of this reason, the high court libraries have to suffice with sufficient budgets so that they must develop their tools and expertise to provide the desired services instantly

KEYWORDS :

India court libraries, court librarianship, High Court judges' libraries.

INTRODUCTION:

The demand for access to legal information has grown tremendously in the 20th and 21st century. In the present day, legal information has now come to be regarded as the core of democracy. The present legal system therefore needs to have a strong legal information support so as to make a significant contribution in bringing about law and order in a democratic society.

Legal information disseminated by the government agencies and other institutions comes in a variety of formats – from leather bound documents to microfilm to CDs & DVDs. No matter how it is recorded, it's a vital resource for the democratic set up and needs to be preserved to ensure sustainable access.

Judith (2004), Prager (2004) believe that the judicial libraries, are the main caretakers of legal information and have become the most potent instruments for guarding social, cultural and human endeavors, besides being specifically concerned with their primary constituencies – the law faculty, law students, law practitioners (advocates), judges, legislative members etc.

Ever since their inception, these libraries have been playing a significant role. Beginning with conservative services, these gradually adopted the democratic role of becoming the source for the dissemination of justice. Kaula (1963) observes that in order to conserve the power of the legal professional and to add efficiency to his work, all relevant rules, and acts relevant case laws should be picked and promptly pinpointed by a diligent and effective literature search in judicial libraries.

The main aim of law library is to help a man defend his property; his rights and his very own

person, besides helping him extend and deepen his legal knowledge. Since the development of law is taking place at a very fast pace, its impact on the society is far reaching. Thus a law library needs to manage the multiplication of legal literature by the effective means of documentation techniques so as to act as a linking mechanism between the user and information. Mahr (1990), Chander (1998a), Hemrajata (2004) and Sheikh (2005) observe that the very type of law library depends upon its parent organization and the users it serves. On this very basis law libraries have been mainly categorized into academic, (university and college), legislative (parliament, state assemblies, law department of state & central government) and the judicial (Court libraries-Supreme Court, High Court, and District Court). Our concern here is the HCLs, which serves as the custodians of nation's legal collection. These libraries have played an important role in the creation, development and dissemination of legal information and have since long been serving the elite class of the society.

In this modern age of information explosion, globalization and competition, information management has become an essential requirement, especially for the HCLs. The phenomenon has put a lot of pressure, especially on the HCLs to provide modern organization set up & services to its users and to increase their collection in the emerging fields of law (due to the changing concepts of law and society). This has marked in a significant shift in the role of High Court Judges Libraries from the traditional ones to the IT based.

Turner (2002) observe that information available today in electronic and digital formats have great capacity for storage as for the well as transmission of text, audio, graphics and videos. The emergence of this technology (where in information is available at the press of a button –finger touch application) has greatly revolutionized the scene and forced HCLs to embrace ICT. Thomas (1986), Taylor, Mann and Munro (1988) are of the opinion that the effective and efficient ICT applications have greatly enhanced the services in court libraries, thus totally changing the concept. These changes have brought in both challenges and opportunities for the Court libraries and their librarians.

However, Chander and Jain (1985) are of the view that the pace of development of HCLs in India has been very slow, making no significant development; the collection of most of the High court libraries being not even sufficient enough to meet the local needs. Mahr (1990) points out that the High Court Libraries in India still execute the traditional services and operations, and modern technology is yet to form a part of the libraries because of lack of adequate finances. This phenomenon has marked a typical contrast between India and the developed world. Contrary to this Chander (1998), points that High court libraries are trying to move on the rails of advancement. He further claims that these libraries will take some more time to get fully acquainted with the modern technology.

While the number of issues that need to be addressed in our country seems endless, a strategic framework needs to be developed to focus on the most essential requirements over the next decade. This would enhance the position of the High Court Judges Libraries to a more central place in the parent organization. The same may be achieved by providing proper budget allocations so that they can maximize their services and upgrade the present infrastructure, keeping it abreast with the changing times and enabling professional manpower for its management etc.

1.2 OBJECTIVE.

The objective of the study is to find out the Court Librarianship in India with Special Reference to services provided and budget allocations in the High Court judges libraries.

1.3 SCOPE

The proposed study has undertaken a introspection of the six High Court Judges libraries in six states of India which includes the High Court Judges libraries of Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab & Haryana and Uttranchal

1.4 Statement of problem:-

High Court judges libraries are universally recognized and accepted as vital institutions for the progress and prosperity of justice. Naturally, there is a need to study their existing budgets and services.

The information will pave the way to further their foundations to suit the present social, political, and legal environment in which they are required to operate..

1.5 METHODOLOGY.

A survey was conducted in all the six High Court Libraries of India .The accurate information, Data was collected by designing a schedule supplemented by interview method. .The data which had been collected was tabulated analyzed and interpreted to reveal findings in accordance with the laid down objectives. The investigator visited physically to all the six states.

1.6 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The data which was collected from High Court Judges Libraries of Northern India through various data collection techniques has been analyzed, tabulated, consolidate, interpreted, correlated & compared with other studies wherever necessary and inferences are drawn by using various statistical techniques. In the light of above data, useful findings, suggestions and conclusions have been derived.

1.7 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The various information sources which have been used in due course of research were primary resources like journals, conference proceedings, newsletters, bulletins. Secondary resources like textbooks & handbooks, and the tertiary resources like dictionaries, encyclopedias and bibliographies available in print and electronic formats.

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LITERATURE SURVEY

Prior to instigate the study, a review of previous studies was undertaken. The purpose is to understand the existing trends, outcomes and inadequacies, the problems related to these institutions, the remedial measures for the same. These studies have provided an insight view of law libraries across the globe. The search is made for relevant and related resource literature in various journals and books. The findings of their observations are summarized as:-

Sheikh (2005) categorizes law libraries into three types as private government and academic law libraries. According to Chandar and Jain (1985) law libraries are of three different types as Academic, Judicial, and Government law libraries. Chandar (1998) further finds division of judicial libraries into Supreme Court, High Court and Lower Court law libraries.. Pragar (2004) discovered that law libraries are playing an important role in supporting the work of legal scholars. Shrivastava (2008) shows that Law librarianship is especially the librarianship in judicial institutions, and is different from librarianship in any other discipline. He further reports that Librarians in other organizations may convince their users to give them some time for catering to their information requirements, contrary to this a court librarian has to furnish the desired information at once because the case is being argued in the Court and desired information is needed in the course of the argument .Kaula (1963) speaking about services of Court libraries suggest that in order to provide services to lawyers and judges and to conserve there powers and also to add efficiency in judicial matters the relevant acts, relevant rules of interpretation and relevant case laws should be picked promptly and pin pointedly. Shirley (2002) surveyed Nevada Supreme Court law library and found that it provide services not only to Supreme Court but to the legislature and other executive branch agencies , as well as local Bar library and general public Maheshwari (1992) suggest that documentation of case laws and law reports should be one of the important services in Indian Court libraries. Kaula (1963) explains library service and its scope in relation of law and describes need for developing externalized memory in law role of law libraries emphasizes the utility of documentation in law especially in the field of case law.

According to Murley (2009) examines definitions of technology and reviews some of the early technological issues that law libraries addressed. She also provides an overview of some of the ways technology has been used by libraries to better serve their users. She concludes by encouraging law librarians to be willing to try new technology in order to increase or improve law library services. Advances in the technology innovations have expanded and stretched the role of law libraries and its staff. Many law libraries now offer email reference and various other references via web, responding to patrons queries electronically.

Byrne (1992) found that online service provide to Court libraries for seeking information is necessary for improving their collections and services. Knobil, Leary and Perotta (1981) stress the need to providing computer terminals to all attorneys that will provide rapid access to a wide variety of databases search services and legal forms and keep with the pace of transformation. Thomas (1986) is of the view that the use of new technology will improve the law profession and the impact of technology could lead to the development of electronic court libraries in the United States.

Bunnage (1989) found that the computer-aided instructions in law libraries have made development and advancement in teaching basic aspect of legal research in libraries. Lerdal (2006) finds that the law librarians who sound out empirical research in their day to day services and operational decisions leads to increase their credibility in the eyes of those who fund and use their libraries According to Chander (1998) shows that in India the explosion of legal literature necessitated the Supreme Court judges and High Court judges' library to introduce the application of computer in its services to judges like JUDIS, COURTNIC etc. Dupont (1983) studied the value added CD-ROM products and defines the potentially of CD-ROM technology in legal research.

. Maheshwari (1992) finds that due to the meager budgets of the court libraries, most of the advocates in India are spending considerable amount of their earnings in purchasing basic legal materials. Mahr (1990) in his research on Indian law libraries found that the Bar Council of India has created a charitable trust to develop law libraries throughout India. The main objective of the trust is to assist the development of law libraries in High courts and lower courts. The trust selects the deserving Bar Association every year and provides grant for its library development. Cihak (2005) suggests that law librarians should adopt a few approaches in order to maximize a library's impact and resources.

Utilize library collections effectively
Exploit library personnel efficiently.
Lead technological advances

Shrivastava, Rakesh .K(2008) further adds that a law librarian has to be a very alert professional and must develop his or her own tools and expertise to provide the desired information instantly. Maheswari (1992) attributes the lack of dismal conditions, organization and services in law libraries to the inefficiency of libraries and their lack of professionally qualified staff. She suggests that professional manpower development is the urgent need hour in court libraries in India..

Hemerajata (2004) found that due to the limited resources, the law libraries are not in a position to support and supplement the information needs of their members to a maximum limits Sherly (2004) suggests that law libraries should be provided with maximum funds so that they can fulfill the information needs of its users. According to Hemarajata (2004) the law libraries need moral and financial support from the concerned government agencies to fulfill the needs of its users Milunovich (2000) discussed that the significant factor contributing to shrinking acquisitions resources, changes in legal publishing, and preservation is a clear trend of price increases that has existed since the late 1970s.

Japhet and Graham (2000) suggests that the various kinds of problems faced by lawyers in Court libraries while accessing legal information could be reduced by maximizing the availability of legal information in the country by setting their own law library on a cooperative basis. Dehlmans (as cited in Gupta, Guha, Rajan and Satyanarayana, 1985) found that law library planning has played minor rules in the development of law libraries in India. Derham (1984) suggests that the library schools should include in their curriculum sum lectures on law libraries. Dyer (2004) reported the closure of several public law libraries and government law libraries in USA due to the lack of finance. It is suggested that law library associations should play positive role in such situation. According to Mahr (1990) the main problem related to law libraries are due to lack of awareness for a need of law librarianship training program. Emily (2004) suggests that there is a need of professional association to promote the robust development of law librarianship. Jain (1972) suggests that a separate institution should be started to impart training in the law librarianship.

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3.1 LAW LIBRARIES IN INDIA

A Law Library is an institution containing legal information for use. Legal institution today has been recognized as a humanitarian investment all over the world. It has become the most potent instrument for guarding social, cultural and human endeavors. It is difficult to think of law without a law library. It is designated to assist law students, attorneys, judges, lawyers, their clerks in finding the legal resources necessary to correctly determine the state of law.

Maheshwari (1992) defines law library as a “truly vital factor in the administration of justice, an institution of extraordinary social significance in free society”.

Elizabeth (1976) comments that “law library is a collection of materials wholly or mainly containing legal information for use”.

Thus we can define the law libraries as those institutions which are called upon to manage an evolving collection of law books, serials, monographs, databases and other legal documents. Law library plays a vital role in overall development of legal system .A well equipped and a well managed law library is the foundation of modern legal structure.

We know access to justice is a fundamental right of every citizen. Legal information is an essential element of this right. Law libraries are integral to the administration of justice as providers of legal resources. Each High court library holds its resources to ensure that legal information is available to all its users.

3.2 High court libraries of India

India which is the largest democratic country in the world has a chain of 21 High Courts .All these High Courts are well versed with libraries which provide services of varying degrees to its users. The libraries in these courts are of following three types

3.2.1 High Court Judges Libraries (HCJLs)

Paramount among the judicial libraries in the Indian High Courts are the HCJLs. These are those libraries which are present in the premises of High Court, and are being financed by their respective states governments. These libraries are meant for the judges working in the high courts of India . The oldest one are located at Kolkatta, Mumbai and Chennai. These libraries have richest and largest collection of legal materials. The twenty one (21) High Courts in the country do have fairly good book collection although no survey has ever been made on these libraries. Unlike conventional law libraries, the HCJLs are specialized libraries looking after the requirements of judiciary .While discussing the issue of HCLs with Lata (personal communication,2010) librarian of Punjab/Haryana HCJL at Chandigarh , recalls that HCJLs like other libraries have been undergoing significant restructuring both in operations and collections and services . There is constant change going around in HCJLs of India. The pace in the last decade has been more intense unrelentingly rapid .The present HCJLs are providing on line services like Supreme Court Cases on line (SCC), All India Reporter (AIR) and Judgment Today etc. Lata (personal communication,2007) further adds that the HCJLs are throbbing heart of the Indian High Court System without which dispensation of justice is not feasible. The maximum number HCJLs in India are very alive and alert in its services and in organization of documents.

Provision of services by the HCJLs include journal collection, reference collection, interlibrary loan service, reference service, CAS, SDI ,including both answers to factual question and literature researches, internet services, on line full text legal database service, notifications of recently published materials on specific laws, information on recent judgments and amendments of laws etc.

Bhatti (personal communication,2010), Assistant Registrar of Delhi HCJL points out that HCJL Delhi provides Judges residential libraries with journals like All India Reporter (AIR) and Delhi Law Times (DLT). They are also provided with CDs of AIR (All India Reporter) journal, containing judgment of the Supreme Court Cases (w.e.f 1950) and Criminal Laws Journal (CLJ) of all the High Courts containing judgment (w.e.f 1991) .The same procedure takes place in other HCJLs also. In addition to this Bhatti (personal communication,2010), further adds that in the majority of HCJLs computers are playing prominent role in various online legal databases like LEXIS, INCODIS (Indian Code

Information System) JUDIS (Judgment Information System), Manupatra etc. Internet services are provided both to HCJLs as well as in the chambers of Judges. Automation has been started in various HCJLs where as in majority of AGLs and HCBALs, the automation is still a dream to come true.

The Indian HCLs are expanding their mission of library services to the selected fields outside law subjects. As law is touching on almost every conceivable discipline so document selection committee of HCLs are taking other approaches to provide total information services to its users.

3.2.2 High Court Bar Association Libraries (HCBALs)

With rapid expansion of legal literature in all branches of law there was need for more information resources to the private lawyers so that they could keep themselves abreast of the current legal information, but on individual basis it is difficult for an individual to procure and maintain such huge amount of increasing legal knowledge. To solve such problem of information needs of private lawyers, the BCI in association with the Bar Council of the every state formulated the Bar Association Libraries in the premises of every High Court. Committing about the HCBALs in India. Rajni (personnel communication, 2010) verbalize that the Indian HCBALs provides working collection for the needs of member lawyers. These HCBALs are usually financed privately by BCI and local membership subscription. Mainly they are meant for reference services and some of them also provide lending service to its members. The librarians at these libraries are essentially care takers, major decision involving book purchase are usually made by a committee of library trustees who are typically members of the Bar Association. The available collection in most of these libraries is either uncataloged or accessed by book catalogs.

The majority of HCBALs in India do not have professional staff. The collection is maintained by non professionals who have learned on the job. The peculiar aspect of these libraries is that the services rendered are not satisfying most of needs of its users. The lacks of organization of documents in these libraries, a good portion of documents remain inaccessible to the legal fraternity. It is the meager budget allocations which hinders the proper development of these libraries. The problem of budget allocations is not unique to the India only. In this context Jacobstein (1962), states meager budgets has effected drastically the law libraries. He reports that the law library is the heart of law institution, but when the pressure of budget is on; the law library is treated more like an appendix and is the first item to cut.

3.2.3 Advocate General Libraries (AGLS)

All the High Courts of India possess an Advocate General for each state, appointed by the Governor who holds office during the pleasure of the Governor. His duty is to give advice to the state government upon such legal matters and to perform such another duties of legal character as may be referred or assigned to him by the Governor, although not a part of the Court system, the office of the Advocate General are associated with the judicial branch of the state government. The Advocate General represents the interests of the state in civil litigations. His duty is to give advice to the state government upon such legal matters and to perform such another duties of legal character as may be referred or assigned to him by the Governor. The office of the Advocate General is located in the premises of High Court which has a well maintained library known as Advocate General Library. The library provides services to the Government Advocates of the High Court including Advocate General. Government Advocates also attend to litigation in the courts in the state on behalf of the State, its agencies and the central government if they are required to do so. Qadri (Personal communication, 2009) states that Advocate General service can be utilized by the state government regarding enactment of the laws, its implementation and also discharge of plannery powers of the government. He is being the first law officer of the state government pending in any court of law. He is the head of department of the office of Advocate General as per classification of the officers made in the CSR (Civil Service Regulation) as such requires and has a good, rich and voluminous library in order to discharge above functions which may be assigned to him. The budgetary provision for such library is provided by the state government.

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The analysis deals with the data collected from different types of High court judges libraries (HCJLs) located in six Northern states India (J&K, Delhi, UP, H.P, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttranchal). The nomenclature of libraries with their location is given below:

- 1 High Court Judges' library New Delhi
- 2 * High Court Judges' library Jammu & Kashmir at Srinagar (Indian administrated kashmir)
- 3 * High Court Judges' library Jammu & Kashmir at Jammu (Indian administrated kashmir)
- 4** High Court Judges' library Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh
- 5 High Court Judges' library Himachal Pradesh at Shimla
- 6 High Court Judges' library Uttar Pradesh at Allahabad
- 7 High Court Judges' library Uttranchal at Nanital

The data is analyzed under following sections, supported with tables and charts wherever narrated

1. Budget Allotment
2. Services

*The High Court of J & K functions six (6) months in the summer capital Srinagar and six months in the winter capital Jammu. Therefore two HCJLs are established, one for the summer capital and another for the winter capital, and same holds true with bar and Advocate General libraries

**The state of Punjab and Haryana shares a common High Court, and has common High Court Judges library and High Court Bar library

4.1 SERVICES IN HCJLs

The broad spectrum of library services are similar but the range and variety that Court Libraries provide, reveal their individuality. This aspect is more appropriately explained by Kavass, in Shrivastava (2008) where he says that "the reason for law libraries being different from other types of libraries is that they serve a profession which is literally unable to exercise its work without the use of books." HCJLs provide standard library services primarily in the area of judiciary. These services include provision of legal journals, collection related to legal reference, interlibrary loan service, sophisticated services like reference, CAS, SDI, Clip Board services, newsletter (including scans of Table of contents, notification of recently published legal materials, legal amendments and formulation of new laws), on-line legal database service, case law retrieval by CD-ROM databases, information retrieval via intranet, OPAC facilities, registration to outside members, Document delivery service, bibliographic compilations, Services to other law departments of the state etc. These libraries also provide services to its clientele via telephone.

We have found that the last few decades have witnessed a high degree of specialization in the field of law. The proliferation of legal literature in all branches has been tremendous in recent past. Therefore problem of acquiring, storing and disseminating the information has posed a poser, and same

is the case with the nature of services. In order to overcome such constraints AALL (2009) has laid down certain standards for the Law Library services which are given below

The library should augment its resources through interlibrary loans, cooperative agreements, networks, in-house and remote online electronic resources

The website should be designed either independently or in conjunction with library's governing entity to provide information about library and its information services.

The library should also serve local government officials, prosecutor, and public defender office staff, general public and jail inmates.

The library should provide access to information in most appropriate format print, non-print and electronic based on economic, technical, environmental, and customer considerations.

The nature of different services provided by the HCJLs of Northern India is given below in more exhaustive way.

4.1.1 Reference and Information services

The Reference service, CAS, Shelf guide assistance and Document delivery service are offered by all the HCJLs, while as reprographic service, SDI and electronic service in the form of online legal databases and Internet are provided by most of these libraries. However, Clip board service is provided by one library. No inter lending service nor has the website of any library been created in any type of HCJL. Besides, Punjab & Haryana HCJL permits membership registration to the employees of law department of civil secretariat of Punjab and Haryana states (Table 1)

Table 1: Services provided by HCJLs

Territory	Delhi	J&K (Srinagar)	J&K (Jammu)	Punjab & Haryana (Chandigarh)	Himachal Pradesh (Shimla)	Uttar Pradesh (Allahabad)	Uttaranchal (Nanital)
Reference service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reprographic Service	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
ILL	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
CAS	CBS(Newspaper clipping.)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
	Display of Latest Arrival	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SDI	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shelf guide assistance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Registration to out side members	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Service to departments/users	-	-	-	Law deptt of civil secretariat	-	-	-
Electronic service in the form of databases and internet	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Type of electronic service	JUDIS, SCC, Manupatra, Lexis-Nexis (Legal databases), internet	JUDIS (Legal database), Internet	JUDIS (legal database), Internet	JUDIS (Legal databases), Internet	-	JUDIS, INCODIS, Legal pundit (Legal databases), Internet	JUDIS, (Legal database), Internet
Library's own website	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Document delivery	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Library website	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

JUDIS Judgment information system INCODIS Indian code information system
 SCC Supreme Court Case ILL = Interlibrary Loan CBS = Clip Board Service CAS
 Current Awareness Service SDI = Selective Dissemination of information

The findings /observations show that HCJLs are trying to outfit themselves with the contemporary services. These libraries are trying their level best to satisfy international law library standards aimed at providing better services.

Therefore, it is pertinent to infer in this context that the in order to improve the services originated due to the crisis of inadequate financial allocations and meager professional manpower, the HCLs should try to orient themselves towards other economical alternatives. Furthermore, the court management should make efforts to provide opportunities for library staff in educating them in various modern library operations and services Hemrajata (2004) finds that in restricted economic resources, law libraries are not in a position to support and supplement with adequate services .He further suggests that libraries need moral and financial support from the Government as well as the professional associations so that they can serve the parent organization in a prominent way..

4.2 BUDGET ALLOTMENT IN HCJLs

As we know that the library budget is wholly dependent upon the finance, provided by the Administrative department .Any financial deficit on part of the concerned authorities will have an adverse effect on the library budget, which in turn results in the mal functioning of the library. Therefore the vital factor that determines the effectiveness and efficiency inside a library is its budget. It is obvious that unless we can afford to spend more funds for the establishment, maintenance and development of HCLs, we can hardly expect a developed High Court library system.

The standards put down by AALL (2009) for the budget allotment in law libraries is given below

Budget of the law library should be separate and distinct from the budgets of other operations of its governing entity.

The budget should accurately reflect all costs associated with the operation of the law library, including personnel and technological changes

The librarian should prepare, justify and manage the law library budget

The library's budget should be defended vigorously by the governing entity

The annual budget allotment in HCJLs libraries varies from 5 lacs in (Uttranchal) to 34 lacs in (Delhi) during the financial year 2009-10. The budget allotment of other HCJLs during the same period varies between 6 to 29 lacs. The highest growth of budget among all these libraries during the span of 4 years is of Delhi HCJL and least in Uttranchal HCJL. (Table 2)

The observations shows that all the HCJLs, show proliferation in their budget allotments in each financial year It also shows that the funding agency of HCJL is their respective state governments, except HCJL Delhi which is centrally financed.

Hemerajata (2004) is of the opinion that that law libraries need financial support from the concerned government and agencies to full fill maximum possible needs of users in the present information technology atmosphere. Davidson (2004) shares similar opinion that law libraries should be provided with maximum funds so that they can fulfill maximum possible information needs of its users.

Therefore, if the library Administrations are not able recognize the challenges posed by the condensed budgets, the survival of HCJLs will be jeopardized. Supporting to it ,Dyer (2004) reports that the closure of several public law libraries and government law libraries in U.S.A was because of lack of finance for its staff and for the development of library

It has been found in this study that budget allotments in almost all the HCJLs seems to be better. With this unmanageable increase in the prices of library materials, especially serials and online services, libraries have been forced to look at manageable cost and to utilize various alternatives to maintain the

library as a going concern. Therefore working with such constraints have has effected court libraries drastically. To overcome such situations, the indispensable need of the hour is to nurture these libraries with such an amount wherein they can satisfy the promising services to some extent. Also a comprehensive pattern should be followed for drafting the budget, reviving library policy related to various issues. Last but not the least; the librarian should be taken into confidence while framing the budget for the library.

The given below information elucidates the budget allotments of HCLs from 2006 to 2010

Table 2: Shows Budgetary allocations during 2006-10 in HCJLs for the Collection Development and Infrastructure

Territory	Financial year				Total increase in budget during 4 years	Funding agency
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10		
HCJLs						
Delhi	23 lacs	25 lacs,	27 lac,	34 Lacs,	109 lacs	Central Govt
J&K (Srinagar)	22.5 lacs	24 lacs ,	26 lacs,	29 lacs	101.5 lacs	State Govt
J&K (Jammu)	22.5 lacs	24 Lacs,	26lacs	29 lacs	101.5 lacs	State Govt.
Punjab & Haryana (Chandigarh)	17 lacs	18 lacs	19 lacs	20 lacs	74 lacs	State Govt.
Himachal Pradesh (Shimla)	5 lacs	6 lacs	6 lacs	6.5 lacs	23.5 lacs	State Govt.
Uttar Pradesh (Allahabad)	15 lacs	20 lacs	21 lacs	23 lacs	69 lacs	State Govt.
Uttaranchal (Nanital)	3.50 lacs	4 lacs	4.50 lacs	5 lacs	17 lacs	State Govt.

* 10 lac = 1 million

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FINDINGS

Services

The findings show that most of the HCJLs are providing basic services to its users and are also keen to provide additional services like the formation of website so that users can have remote access and also service to outside members so that they can also took the advantage of these libraries in the present times .The efforts are on to catch up with the pace.

Budget Allotments

The observations show that all the HCJLs, show increase in their budget allotments in each financial year. It further shows that increase in budget allotments does not take place steadily with the

passage of time. Furthermore, the data displays that the funding agency of all HCJL is their respective state governments, except HCJL Delhi which is centrally financed.

SUGGESTIONS

Services

In order to maximize the services, appropriate financial allocations and professional manpower is needed, the High court judges libraries should try to reorient themselves to meet the current demands. Libraries should as such introduce reservation of documents, & make inter library loan possible. Reprographic services should be made compulsory for all the libraries, for they reduce chances of the loss and wear out of a document.

Audio visual and electronic database services should also be made available in all the libraries. Libraries should create their own website apart from the court websites, so as to make users aware about their services. Librarians ought to put in efforts to educate themselves and their staff in various library operations. Services to other law departments should be provided. Loan period for a document should be regularized in all the HCJLs. It should be reduced in HCJLs from unlimited loan period to a few months.

Budget Allotments

It is a well known fact that the budget allotments have not kept up the changing times and as the cost of library materials have immensely gone up. Thus it is mandatory that libraries be managed within the allocations for the time being and to make and alternative sources be looked for to maintain the library as a going concern. Also a comprehensive outline should be followed for drafting the budget of the HCJLs. Last but not the least; the librarian should be taken into confidence while framing the budget for the library.

CONCLUSION

The goal of HCJLs is to ensure excellence in providing legal information to all the stake holders can only be achieved through continuous improvement in the quality of library process and through enrichment of manpower. Further there is a dire need of creation and maintenance of legal knowledge through conscious and consistent updation and upgradation of information & knowledge management to provide support to judiciary in facing the ever increasing challenge.

In order to achieve the desired goal, HCJLs must have considerable autonomy in their functioning. The infrastructure should be designed in such a way that it meets the future expansion needs in different orientations. Simultaneously fervent measures need to be taken to outfit the HCJLs with modern technology so that their working environment is transformed from traditional one to ICT. As such Automation should be adopted in all HCJLs with an open access system.

Since the HCJL collection is colossally supportive in the dispensation of justice, the document selection committee should opt for economically viable options, in both print and non print formats, besides re-organizing their subscription policies. There is also a need to create an e-law library page for easy access to important legal information besides providing links to national and international legal databases which contain judgments, world constitutions legal journals and e-law books. HCJLs also need to develop collection of other subjects, because the subject law has now come to touch almost every other field, in one way or the other.

In reality how best they will serve in future, depends on the dynamism and support they receive from their parent organization (High Courts) at regular intervals of time.