



ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION SOURCES, SERVICES IN DISTRICT CENTRAL LIBRARIES-A STUDY IN RAYALASEEMA REGION, A.P.



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ABSTRACT

The word 'community' has several meanings. It can be applied to a place made up of a number of communities definable by race, culture, social class or income group, employment, leisure interest, religion etc. It also means a number of people who share the same ideas, beliefs, or professional interests. This paper reports the findings of a study of organization and management of information source, services in District Central Libraries. The researcher adopted survey method and administered questionnaire for collection of data. Based on the findings some suggestions have been offered for the development of District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema.

KEYWORDS : Information sources, Services, District Central Libraries.

1. PUBLIC LIBRARY

The public is one that serves the entire population of a community. Every one in the community regardless of nationality, race, color, creed, age, sex, status, language has a claim to its services. It is generally established and maintained out of public funds under legislation. But there are libraries maintained by private agencies of registered societies which extend their facilities to the public are also called public libraries. Public library service is generally free of charge, but some libraries charge nominal fee. They are referred to as subscription libraries. In a broad sense public library is one which is open to public without distinction. The contention finds support of public library as approved by the

UNESCO and IFLA i.e., “public libraries which serve the population of the community or region free of charge or for a nominal fee”

The public library has a vital role to play in the contemporary society. Public libraries by their nature and scope are more widely concerned with the society at large. Again the political and social changes have influenced the nature, scope and role of public libraries in the society notably, urbanization, universal education, have added new dimension to the public library services. The modern society depends more and more on the efficiency of these services.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature is an important process in conducting a research. It is a process of reviewing the earlier research done on the topic, published in books, journal articles, conference proceedings, reports and dissertations. The main purpose of this is to bring together all relevant and important works done on the topic, which include the methodology used and findings of these studies. Review of literature also helps in avoiding the duplication of research and for the better understanding of the research problem.

Shah and Kumar (2016)¹ explored the status of district libraries of Lucknow and Sharanpur division of Uttar Pradesh. District libraries come under the category of public libraries and they perform all functions as performed by public libraries. District library is an apex body of the district and works as a central library of that particular district. Now the changing trend of the information communication technology libraries is absolute reducing their impotents because they are not up to date with the advancement of the technology. So it is necessary for the researchers to evaluate the performance of the district as well as the public libraries. A lovely quote says by Alvin Johnson in 1938 that “Public libraries are People’s Universities”. So it is the responsibility of everyone to maintain the performance of the libraries. The authors examined the status of library infrastructure, status of library staff, use of ICT application in libraries, status of ICT infrastructure, and explored the library collection over all.

Camille(2011)² described the fine arts collection management in urban public libraries. In addition to print, audio-visual, and electronic materials, many American public libraries own and manage museum-quality fine art collections. This descriptive study was designed to investigate collection-management practices employed by urban public libraries. For the purpose of this study, data were gathered from select library members of the Urban Libraries Council to investigate cataloguing and collection-management methods. Data about presenting collection images online, within in-house exhibitions, and in traveling exhibitions were also collected. The results of the research indicated that urban public libraries managing fine art objects generally were not employing industry best practices for handling museum-quality fine art objects. The results of the study are significant because extensive research on fine art collection management in urban public libraries has not been conducted to date.

Natalie (2000)³ examined the influence of librarians and the attitudes of elected members and library users on the availability of materials in public libraries in United Kingdom. The study was carried out in six British Library Authorities. The primary method of data collection was in-depth interview with 76 persons including 24 librarians, 10 elected council members and 42 library users. The interview data were supplemented by data generated by a questionnaire. The important findings of the study are: 1) A majority of the respondents agreed that stock management should be conducted according to a philosophy of intellectual freedom; 2) A majority of the respondents stated that stock management decisions should relate to local council policy; 3) In all six library authorities, librarians restrict access to materials that they believe, it might stimulate negative or unfavorable actions or attitudes; 4)

Seventeen librarians working in all authorities surveyed stated that they had restricted access to materials if their presence on the open shelves caused problems for them, or if materials of similar type had previously been problematic; 5) Five librarians observed that their stock management decision was influenced by their desire to avoid potentially negative media coverage; and 6) Twelve librarians cited lack of money as a barrier to conducting stock management in accordance with the principle of intellectual freedom.

3. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Libraries are the fundamental sources of information to its clients by providing various categories of knowledge of the users. Everybody needs some sort of information to quench his or her thirst for knowledge in one-way or the other. In this kind of act, public library presents various information needs to the society through its services to the community. Public libraries are of different in nature of functions and services, organization and structure. But, by and large public libraries are local centers of information, established to serve the society free of cost. Public libraries are considered basically significant from the point of view that they generate everlasting efforts continuously to meet the changing situations and problems in the society. Regarding the taking public libraries in India, they can be of various levels depending upon the organization and set up of the government. Nature and levels of public libraries may be different in the various states of India. But the nature of services provided is of the same of providing information to the community for the development in socio-cultural, education and other walks of life of the society.

The IFLA/UNESCO (1994)⁴ recognizing the significance of the public libraries through its Public Library Manifesto stated that “freedom, prosperity, and the development of society and of individual are fundamental human values. They will only be attained through the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic rights and to plan an active role in society. Constructive participation and the development of democracy depend on satisfactory education as well as on free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information. The public library, the local gateway of its knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural development of individual and social groups.” The IFLA/UNESCO (1994)⁵ also recognizes its role as “a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.” In the light of these roles of public libraries in a society, the significance of the present study is confirmed in terms of their dynamic part in the development of community life.

The present study is expected to help the library authorities to adopt the suitable strategies for improving their collection building and providing more efficient library services. It will assist librarians to assess whether the libraries fulfill their various objectives, and how far the libraries are lagging behind in providing satisfactory service to the community. It will remind the librarians of the expected role of public librarianship.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following are the major objectives of the Study:

1. To examine the infrastructural facilities available in the District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema.
2. To assess the strength of library collection in various District Central Libraries.
3. To identify various categories of professional, semi-professional and non-professional staff involved in organizing the District Central Libraries.
4. To study the library budget and types of grants provided to the District Central Libraries.

5. To survey the library automation and digitization process undertaken by the District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema and their progress.

5. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The basic research method adopted for the study was the survey method. As they are many tools used in survey methods to collect data like observation, interview and questionnaire, the present study used only questionnaire tool to collect data from the District Central Libraries located in Rayalaseema Region, A.P. The researcher has personally visited the four District Central Libraries viz., Ananthapuramu (ATP), Chittoor (CTR), Kurnool (KNL) and Y.S.R. Kadapa (KDP) and administered the questionnaire. The response rate is 100 percent.

6. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study has been restricted to four District Central Libraries located in the Rayalaseema Region. The survey has been conducted to get the current information from District Central Libraries of four specified Districts, namely Ananthapuramu, Chittoor, Kurnool and Y.S.R. Kadapa. The study does not include various public libraries in Rayalaseema Region viz., Branch libraries, Women libraries, Children libraries, Village libraries and Book Deposit Centers etc. due to constraints of money, manpower and time.

Table -1
Establishment of District Central Libraries

S.No	Library	Place	Year of Establishment
1	District Central Library	Ananthapuramu	1952
2	District Central Library	Chittoor	1952
3	District Central Library	Kurnool	1953
4	District Central Library	Y.S.R. Kadapa	1952

The establishment of District Central Libraries in A.P, especially Rayalaseema Region has a historical significance. Already existing libraries of importance in the principal cities of the districts were converted into District Central libraries after the enactment of APLA 1960. The above table shows the place and year establishment of District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema Region. Among the four District Central Libraries three libraries i.e District Central Library, Ananthapuramu, District Central Library, Chittoor and District Central Library, Kadapa were established in the year 1952. District Central library, Kurnool was established in the year 1953.

Table -2
Working hours and holidays of the District Central Libraries

S.No	Library	Working hours	Library Holidays
1	DCL, Ananthapuramu	8-00A.M to 8-00 P.M	Friday & State Govt. holidays
2	DCL, Chittoor	8-00A.M to 8-00 P.M	Friday & State Govt. holidays
3	DCL, Kurnool	8-00A.M to 8-00 P.M	Friday & State Govt. holidays
4	DCL, Y.S.R. Kadapa	8-00A.M to 8-00 P.M	Friday & State Govt. holidays

The library of today is no longer regarded as a store house of books and other study materials but has now become a dynamic social agency for effective dissemination of information, knowledge and ideas. The library can be defined as a communicable unit of knowledge. The flow of literature is so vast that in almost every field of knowledge one has come across innumerable sources of information.

The timings of library also impress these things; generally the timings of public library are in two section, morning and evening section.

The working hours of an organization reflect its use by the community of users/customers. Generally the public libraries work in the timings most convenient to the users. All the District Central Libraries are working during 8am to 8pm including on Sundays. Friday is weekly holiday to all public libraries in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Festival days and holidays fixed by the state government are declared closed by the District Central Libraries.

Table-3
Libraries under the District Central Libraries Jurisdiction

S.No	Type of libraries	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
1	Branch libraries	68	71	58	56
2	Aided libraries	-	-	-	-
3	Women libraries	-	1	-	1
4	Children libraries	1	2	1	1
5	Village libraries	9	-	3	10
6	Mobile libraries	-	-	-	-
7	Book Deposit Centers	65	99	170	101
8	Total	143	173	232	169

Rayalaseema province is demarked into 4 districts. There is one District Central Library in each district headquarters. Besides this, there are branch libraries, women libraries, children libraries, village libraries and book deposit centers are also located in each DCL jurisdiction. The above table clearly shows that the highest number of libraries (232) are functioning under the District Central Library, Kurnool. 173 libraries are functioning under the District Central Library, Chittoor, 169 libraries are functioning under the District Central Library, Kadapa and 143 libraries are functioning under the District Central Library, Ananthapuramu. The above table also explains that there are no aided libraries and mobile libraries maintained under the District Central Libraries jurisdiction in the Rayalaseema Region.

Table-4
Professional staff of the District Central Libraries

Professional Cadre	DCL, ATP			DCL, CTR			DCL, KNL			DCL, KDP		
	NPS	NPF	NPV	NPS	NPF	NPV	NPS	NPF	NPV	NPS	NPF	NPV
Chief Librarian	1	1	--	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
Deputy Librarian	1	1	--	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
Asst Librarian	1	1	--	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
Library Asst Gr-I	4	4	--	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Library Asst Gr-II	3	3	--	2	-	2	1	1	-	1	1	-
Total	10	10	-	7	5	2	4	4	-	4	4	-

NPS-Number of Posts Sanctioned, NPF-Number of Posts Filled, NPV-Number of Posts Vacant

The above table shows the details of the professional staff of the District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema. All the District Central Libraries there is a top order post of Chief Librarian/ Deputy Librarian/Asst Librarian and there are no any vacant positions in this cadre. The number of Library

AsstGr-I posts varies in different libraries. In District Central Library, Ananthapuramu 4 Library Asst. Gr-I is sanctioned and all the 4 are filled. In District Central Library, Chittoor 2 posts of Library Asst Gr-I are sanctioned and both are filled. In the remaining two District Central Libraries, there are no any Gr-I posts sanctioned. In the District Central Library, Chittoor post of AsstGr-II has not been filled in, when compared to those of other libraries.

Table-5
Semi-professional staff of the District Central Libraries

Semi-professional Cadre	DCL, ATP			DCL, CTR			DCL, KNL			DCL, KDP		
	NP S	NP F	NP V	NP S	NP F	NP V	NP S	NP F	NP V	NP S	NP F	NP V
Jr Supervisor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sr. Binders	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Jr Binders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Book keepers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Book cleaners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	-

NPS-Number of Posts Sanctioned, NPF-Number of Posts Filled, NPV-Number of Posts Vacant

Semi-professional staff extend assistance in the regular operations of the libraries. The above table shows the particulars of the library semi-professional staff of the District Central libraries in Rayalaseema. In this cadre Jr.Supervisor, Senior Binders, Jr.Bindings, book keepers, book cleaners are included. In District Central libraries, Ananthapuramu and Chittoor, there are no any semi-professional cadre posts sanctioned. In District Central Library, Kurnool there are only one Sr.Binderpost sanctioned which is vacant. In District Central Library, Kadapa there are 2 book cleaners sanctioned which are vacant. It can be inferred that there are no any semi-professional staff working in the stated libraries.

Table-6
Non-professional Staff of the District Central Libraries

Non-professional Cadre	DCL, ATP			DCL, CTR			DCL, KNL			DCL, KDP		
	NP S	NP F	NP V	NP S	NP F	NP V	NP S	NP F	NP V	NP S	NP F	NP V
Superintendent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Asst	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
Junior Asst	2	2	-	1	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	-
Typist	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-
Gate keepers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-

Sergeant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office subordinate	4	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	4	-	4
Sweepers	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scavengers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Night watchman/ Chowkidar	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	9	6	3	8	4	4	7	3	4	10	5	5

NPS-Number of Posts Sanctioned, NPF-Number of Posts Filled, NPV-Number of Posts Vacant

As shown in the above table-6 there are altogether 9 sanctioned positions in the District Central Library, Ananthapuramu out of which 6 posts of filled. The sanctioned posts include Senior Assistant (1), Typist (1), Jr Assistants (2), Office sub-ordinates (4) and Chowkhidar (1). There are at present 3 vacancies of non-professional staff in the District Central Library, Ananthapuramu. In District Central Library Chittoor there are 8 sanctioned posts which include Senior Assistant (1), Jr Assistant (1), Office sub-ordinates (3), sweepers (1) and Chowkhidar (1). There are at present 4 vacancies of non-professional staff. In the District Central Library, Kurnool there are 7 sanctioned positions including Senior Assistant (1), Jr. Assistants (2), Typist (1) and Office sub-ordinates (3). There are at present 4 vacancies of non-professional staff. In the District Central Library, Kadapa there are 10 sanctioned positions including Senior Assistant (1), Jr. Assistant (1), Typist (1), gate keepers (2), Office sub-ordinates (4) and Chowkhidar (1). There are at present 5 vacancies of non-professional staff. The table also explains that there is not any superintendent, sergeant, scavengers posts sanctioned in the respective libraries.

It can be inferred that half of the semi-professional staff posts are vacant in the stated libraries.

Table-7
Abstract of Library Staff position in the District Central Libraries

S.No	Name of the DCL	No of Posts Sanctioned	No of Posts Filled	No of Posts Vacant
1	DCL, ATP	19(100)	16(84.21)	3(15.78)
2	DCL, CTR	15(100)	9(60.00)	6(40.00)
3	DCL, KNL	12(100)	7(58.33)	5(41.66)
4	DCL, KDP	16(100)	11(68.75)	5(31.25)
5	Total	62(100)	43(69.35)	19(30.64)

The well qualified and trained library professionals serve to bridge the gap between readers and their required documents. Modern society is taking more and more complex shape day by day. Consequently, the librarianship in modern times is also undergoing significant changes in outlook, functions, range and types of services and in methods and techniques.

The above table-7 presents the staff position in the District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema. In total, there are 62 posts sanctioned by the State government of which 69.35% are filled-in, while 30.64% are vacant, which is very unfavorable for District Central Libraries. However, District wise analysis shows a different picture. In case of the District Central Library, Ananthapuramu it is relatively in a better position compared to those of all other three Districts as 84.21% posts are filled-in and only 15.78% are vacant. On the other hand the regarding positions in the District Central Library, Chittoor, 60.00% are filled and 40.00% are vacant. In the District Central Library, Kurnool there are 58.33% vacancies filled-in and 41.66% are vacant. In the District Central Library, Kadapa there are 68.75% are filled-in and 31.25% are vacant.

Fig: 2
Abstract of Library Staff Position in the District Central Libraries

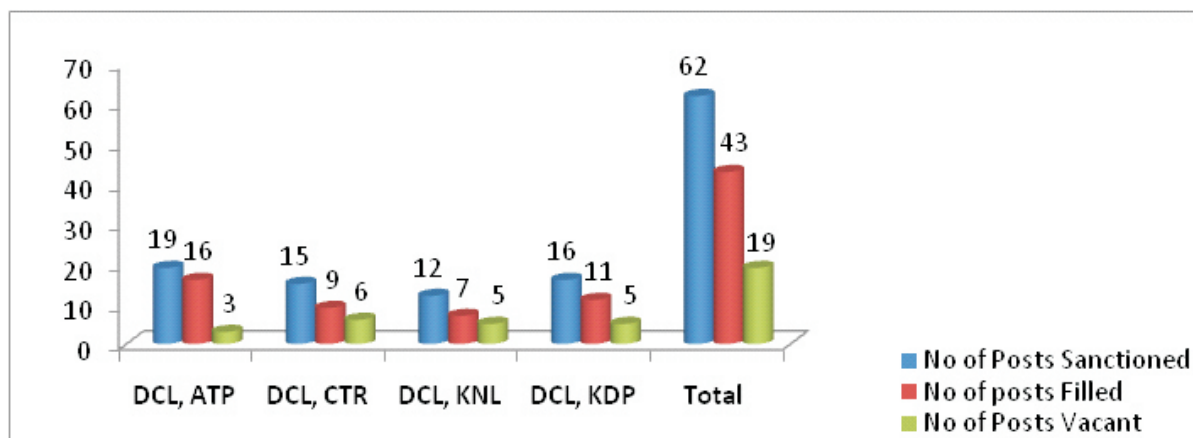


Table-8
Facilities in the District Central Libraries

S.No	Facilities	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
1	Drinking water	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Furniture & equipment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Ventilation/ lighting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Reading area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Lavatory	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6	Seminar room/ meeting hall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Security for personal belongings	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
8	Communication (telephone)	No	No	No	No
9	Medical facility (First-aid)	No	No	No	No
10	Parking area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Cleanliness	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	Generator	No	No	No	No

For the convenience of library users in the District Central Libraries, various amenities are identified by the researcher in Rayalaseema. It is evident from the above table that all the District Central Libraries are providing facilities like drinking water, furniture & equipment, ventilation/lighting, reading area, seminar room/meeting hall, parking area and cleanliness to the users. All the District Central Libraries provide the lavatory facility except the District Central Library, Kadapa. It is also clear from the above table that all the libraries are not providing the communication (telephone), first-aid, and generator facility to the users.

Table-9
Sections in District Central Libraries

S.No	Sections	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
1	Acquisition section	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Technical section	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Reference section	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Periodical section	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Circulation section	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Computer section	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
7	Children section	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
8	Reprographic section	No	No	Yes	No
9	Binding section	No	Yes	Yes	No
10	Office section	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Chairman chamber	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	Secretary chamber	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

For the convenience of library operations and management, the District Central Libraries form various sections through which services to the users can be offered. The above table shows that the District Central Library, Kurnool is maintaining all the sections. The District Central Library, Ananthapuramu is not maintaining the reprographic section and binding section. The District Central Library, Chittoor is not maintaining the reprographic section. The District Central Library, Kadapa is not maintaining the computer section, children section, reprographic section, and binding section.

It can be inferred that the District Central Library, Kurnool is maintaining cent percent of all sections when compared to the other libraries.

Table-10
Comparison of Collection in the District Central Libraries

A.	General Collection	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
1	Text Books	2806	1587	20011	1173
2	Journals/Magazines	26	145	62	192
3	Newspapers	11	15	16	11
4	Fiction/Novels	16097	6080	16600	27166
5	Competitive books	11821	9574	6200	9547
6	Total	30761	17401	42889	38089
B.	Reference collection				
7	ZGS Administrative reports	-	-	-	50
8	Citation lists	68	-	-	-
9	Dictionaries	425	200	50	226
10	Encyclopedias	137	50	-	159
11	Yearbooks	96	50	20	25
12	Directories	52	-	-	-
13	Almanacs	-	-	-	-
14	Biographies	310	169	150	68
15	Bibliographies	73	210	-	-
16	Indexes	12	-	-	-
17	Abstracts	5	-	-	-
18	Handbooks	46	-	-	-

19	Standards & Reports	6	-	-	-
20	Patents	-	-	-	-
21	Govt.Publications	24	-	-	-
22	Total	1254	679	220	528
C.	Non-print materials			-	
23	Atlases	14	5	-	3
24	Maps	8	-	-	5
25	Charts	9	-	-	--
26	Globes	4	-	-	1
27	Audio/video materials	17	-	-	15
28	CD/DVDs	276	200	-	50
29	Floppies	-	-	-	-
30	Micro films/ Micro strips	-	-		-
31	Magnetic tapes	-	-	-	-
32	Slides	-	-		-
33	Total	328	205	-	74
34	Grand Total (A+B+C)	32343	18285	43109	38691

Public library may function as a regular support for informal, non-formal as well as formal systems of learning. Public library should function as the people's university, a community information centre and a nucleus of community's intellectual life. Existing institutional formal system of learning prevalent in India is not in order to reach out to every individual and satisfy the total educational needs of the individual as well as the society. The collection of library should be of requisite size, scope and quality which should meet the needs of people in the society. Multiple copies of necessary books and copies of collateral reading materials should be acquired. In the public library reference and bibliographical tools, journals and serials and latest works in different disciplines should be procured to assist the people in their needs

The researcher has analyzed the data collected of the collection development in the District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema Region. The total collection of documents exceeds 30000 in three libraries viz. Ananthapuramu, Kurnool and Kadapa. The table indicates that the District Central Library, Kurnool has been on the top with 20011 text book collection, followed by library Kadapa with 1173 which is the lowest text book collection. The District Central Library, Kadapa has the highest 27166fiction/ novel collection, followed by the library of Chittoor with 6080 of the lowest fiction/ novel collection. Competitivebooks are very essential for the job aspirants, who are the serious readers in the libraries, all the District Central Libraries have the competitive book collection

The above table also explains that majority of the libraries donothaving the reference collection viz. directories, almanacs, indexes, abstracts, handbooks, standard & reports, govt. publications etc. It clearly shows there is only small collection of non-print materials in the libraries. The District Central Library, Ananthapuramu has a good number of non-print materials (328), while the District Central Library, Chittoor (205), the District Central Library, Kadapa(74) have relatively less number of those. The District Central Library, Kurnool has not any non-print materials.

Table-11
Provision of Different Services in the District Central Libraries

S.No	Type of Services	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
A	Conventional Services				
1	Current Awareness Service	No	No	No	Yes
2	New Additions/Accession list	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Periodical service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Reference Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Newspaper clipping service	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
6	Reservation of books	No	No	Yes	No
7	Inter-library loan	No	Yes	Yes	No
8	Table of content of journal/Magazine publisher	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
B	I.T.Services				
9	Internet services	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
10	E-mail Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
11	Digital library services	No	No	Yes	No
C	Other services				
12	Photocopying service	Yes	No	Yes	No
13	T.V/Film shows	No	Yes	Yes	No

The response of librarians with regard to the provision of different services in their libraries are presented in the above table-11. New additions, periodical service, reference service are provided by all the libraries. It is also evident from the above table that current awareness service is provided only by the District Central Library Kadapa, whereas reservation of books service is offered by the District Central Library, Kurnool. Interlibrary loan and T.V/Film shows are provided by the District Central Libraries of Chittoor and Kurnool. Table of contents of journal/magazine publisher, Internet service, e-mail services are provided by all the libraries except District Central Library, Kadapa. None of the libraries is providing the digital library service to the users.

Table-12
Financial Resources of the District Central Libraries for the last five years (2009-2014)

S.No	Category	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
1	Salary Grant	127844000	102736000	113312400	97070000
2	Library Cess	73156252	119827320	89790251	72889219
3	Membership fee	418760	105224	75010	371533
4	Maintenance Grant	-	-	-	-
5	Book Grant	-	-	18600000	-
6	Building Grant	300000	500000	-	-
7	Donations from individuals/institutions	-	-	-	-
8	CERU Scheme	900000	--	-	-
9	Special Component Plan(SCP)	52500	-	-	-
10	Overdue Charges	386	1821	-	704
11	Old papers auctions	21196	499544	26885	400458
12	Sales of weeded books	295	5134	-	-
13	Internet charges	76572	648360	44204	-
14	M.L.A /M.L.C/M.P/Z.P grants	45000	-	-	-
15	RRRLF	1225000	356000	1460000	-
16	Foreign aid	-	-	-	-
17	Any other please specify	-	-	-	437830
18	Total	204039961	224679409	223308750	171169744

Finance which is a vital aspect plays a significant role in the management of the District Central Libraries. Books, periodicals and other information sources need to be acquired by the libraries apart from maintaining and strengthening the infrastructure. Every source of revenue has to be tapped to mobilize the required funds for library activity. A library should be assured of regular and adequate supply of finance. In the absence of such finance, libraries fail to discharge their social obligations. The above table refers to source-wise revenue of the District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema Region. Of the different sources, the salary grant, library cess forms 90% of total revenue. The District Central Library, Chittoor has the highest financial sources compared to other libraries for the last five years. The libraries are not getting maintenance grant for the last five years from the government.

It is also clear from the above table-12 that the District Central library, Ananthapuram alone has received the CERU scheme, Special Component Plan and M.L.A. grants. The remaining libraries have not received such grants. Adequate allocation of book grant and building grant becomes necessary. Such grants have not been received in amounts over a period of five years. All libraries collected the overdue charges except the District Central Library, Kurnool for the period of last five years. Internet charges are received by the all libraries except the District Central Library, Kadapa because they have not provided the computer/internet facility to the users till now. RRRLF provides financial and technical assistance to the public libraries and all the libraries received the amount for the last five years except the District Central Library, Kadapa.

The contribution of donations from individual/institution towards revenue mobilization is zero. No library has received any foreign aid for the last five years. Philanthropists could be made to come forward and contribute towards the promotion of library service by appropriate measures. The central government may take the initiative that the amounts donated to public libraries shall be exempted from income tax so that several of the elite of the society would come forward to donate for the public libraries.

Table-13
Expenditure Details of the District Central Libraries for the last five years (2009-2014)

S.No	Category	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
1	Books	3421336	3058239	4599414	4957334
2	Periodicals	5553770	6666651	269000	3690281
3	Reference collection	-	-	795420	-
4	Non-print materials	-	-	-	-
5	Computer hardware & software	458284	378000	266574	-
6	Networking (Internet)	142206	146798	42000	-
7	Furniture and Equipments	869250	1097290	99800	-
8	Salaries and wages	140702632	94379452	60019075	122154590
9	Rents, construction and repair of buildings	12189457	18247396	1373876	2941601
10	Chairman Honorarium	150000	150000	150000	141750
11	Printing/Binding charges	204036	9485	99000	-
12	Electrical charges	686942	1026640	679869	660686
13	Transport charges	1565278	125983	-	-
14	ZGS Programme expenses	610056	363312	90000	287537
15	Cremation charges	120000	105000	-	170000
16	Miscellaneous	-	218459	-	9818028

Investment on libraries is as important as investment in human resource development.

Libraries in general and public libraries in particular have a pivotal role to play in the development of a nation. They play a vital role in spreading the knowledge and advancement in agriculture, industry, economic, planning and national integration. The greatest contribution of public libraries lies in improving the quality of knowledge of the people.

The above table-13 explains that salaries and wages account for the bulk of expenditure in the stated libraries. All the libraries have inadequate allotment of budget to facilitate meaningful expenditure on reference collection and non-print materials. The District Central Libraries of Ananthapuramu, Chittoor and Kurnool are providing the internet facility to the users with a charge on hours basis. They have been incurring expenditure on hardware & software, networking but the District Central Library, Kadapa has not spent the amount in this regard because it has not introduced the internet service till now. Except the library of Kurnool, the rest of the libraries are paying cremation charges to the families of the deceased employees.

Table-14
Provision of Community Information Services in the District Central Libraries

S.No	Community information	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
1	Family planning	No	Yes	No	Yes
2	Women health	No	Yes	No	Yes
3	Child care	No	Yes	No	Yes
4	Pulse polio	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Nutrition programmes	No	Yes	No	Yes
6	Dwacra	No	Yes	No	No
7	Employment opportunities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Adult education	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
9	Distance education	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
10	Saving schemes	No	Yes	No	No
11	Agriculture information	No	Yes	No	Yes
12	Medical information	No	Yes	No	No
13	Legal information	No	Yes	No	No
14	Industrial information	No	Yes	No	Yes
15	Govt. schemes information	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Information is the basic resource for individual and national development. The public library has a vital function in collection of books, organization of books and other materials, and providing access to a broad choice of knowledge possessions to convene the assorted requirements of the people. Thus the public library can act as a community information centre. The above table-14 clearly shows that the District Central Library, Ananthapuramu has provided the employment opportunities, adult education, and distance education information only. Remaining community information is not provided to the users. The District Central Library, Chittoor has provided the cent percent of community information to its users. The District Central Library, Kurnool has provided the pulse polio, employment opportunities, adult education, Govt. schemes information, but the remaining information services are not provided to the users. The District Central Library, Kadapa has provided the majority of community information services viz., family planning, women health, child care, pulse polio, nutrition programme, employment opportunities, distance education, agriculture information, industrial information and Govt. information.

It can be inferred finally that the libraries of Ananthapuramu and Kurnool have not provided the majority community information services compared to the other libraries.

Table-15
Automation Process in the District Central Libraries

S.No	Information	DCL, ATP	DCL, CTR	DCL, KNL	DCL, KDP
1	Automation	-	-	Yes	-
2	Activities are automated	-	-	Acquisition	-
3	Professional staff show interest to undergo IT training	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
4	Impact of IT will decrease job positions	No	No	No	No

Computerization of public libraries has not been thought as a need for quite a long time in India, especially in A.P. Now the public libraries are gearing up and made some headway in the matter of public library automation. The researcher has tried to gather information about the process of library automation in District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema Region. The above table-15 shows that only District Central Library, Kurnool has started computerization in acquisition section. All the professional staff in the libraries showed interest to undergo information technology training except the District Central Library, Kadapa. All the librarians felt that the impact of I.T will not decrease job positions in the public library system.

7. MAJOR FINDINGS:

- 1.All the District Central Libraries were established in 1952, except District Central Library, Kurnool which was established in 1953.
- 2.All the District Central Libraries are kept open for six days per week, working from 8AM to 8 PM including Sundays, Friday is the weekly holiday.
- 3.In District Central Libraries, Rayalaseema all three cadres of library staff are professional staff, semi-professional staff, non-professional staff are working. The professional cadres are more in District Central Library, Ananthapuramu (10), professional staff (2) are still vacant in District Central Library, Chittoor. Library Assistant Gr-I posts are not sanctioned in District Central Libraries, Kurnool and Kadapa.
- 4.Semi-professional cadres are working in District Central Library, Kurnool only. In majority of the libraries, half of the sanctioned posts are still vacant in Non-professional cadre.
- 5.Facilities of lavatory and security for personal belongings are not provided to the users in the District Central Library, Kadapa.
- 6.All the libraries are maintaining majority of the sections and have sufficient furniture and equipment in the different sections.
- 7.The District Central Library, Kurnool is rich in general collection with 42889, followed by District Central Library, Kadapa (38089) and District Central Library, Ananthapuramu (30761). District Central Library, Chittoor has least number of general collections with 17401.
- 8.The District Central Library, Ananthapuramu is rich in reference collection with 1254, followed by District Central Library, Chittoor (679) and District Central Library, Kadapa (528). District Central Library, Kurnool has least number of reference collection with 220.
- 9.The District Central Library, Ananthapuramu has a good number of non-print collection with 328, followed by District Central Library, Chittoor (205) and the DCL, Kadapa with the least number of non-print materials (74). District Central Library, Kurnool has not maintained the non-print materials.
- 10.Among the four District Central Libraries, only DCL Kurnool has started the automation process. The

process has been progress with in the acquisition section only.

8. SUGGESTIONS:

Based on the findings of the study the following suggestions have been made for the improvement of District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema, Region. A.P.

- 1.All the vacant positions, professional, semi professional and non-professional cadres shall be filled in immediately so as to provide uninterrupted services to the users. The staff formula suggested by Dr. S.R.Ranganathan shall be adopted in order to have scientific management in the District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema, Region.
- 2.Majority of the libraries are not maintaining the reference collection viz., directories, almanacs, bibliographies, indexes, abstracts, handbooks, standards & reports, patents, Govt.Publications etc. The respective managements of these libraries should take necessary action to improve the reference collection in the libraries for better utilization of the library resources by its users.
- 3.In this internet era, users consult the various media for the information needs.Majority of the District Central Libraries are maintaining very less number of non-print materials.It indicates that libraries are not in tune with the present internet era. The library committeesshould be recommended to purchase the non-print materials as per the demand and requirements of the users.
- 4.Current Awareness Service, reservation of books, inter-library loan, digital library service, photo copying service and T.V. film shows are very poor in the study area. The library management should take effective steps to provide efficient library services in this regard.
- 5.All the librarians are not satisfied with the financial receipts from the governments, state and central. Thus cent percent collection of library cess from the local bodies is required and the state government must continue more contributions, RRRLF Matching Scheme and the amount may also be increased so that libraries in the state may receive more reading materials including Audio-Visual through this scheme. Public libraries need a permanent source of finance both from the State and Central Governments. Donations and endowments are also helpful in this regard. More library budget will facilitate in developing a good collection of reading material for all categories of users in the community.
- 6.Libraries need to be automated to meet the challenges of an information society with necessary hardware and software. Each library should create its own local database and provide effective and efficient computerized library and information services. Library staff, both professional and semi-professional need to be fully oriented towards application of ICT. The authorities should organize such kind of regular training programs to equip the staff with latest developments in the field.

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