



## **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF TELANGANA: A CASE STUDY OF MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY**

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### **Abstract**

*This article examines the availability and accessibility of library resources in university libraries across Telangana, with a special focus on Mahatma Gandhi University as a case study. Drawing upon empirical research conducted across six major universities in the state, the study investigates the current state of print and electronic resource collections, the infrastructure supporting resource access, the challenges faced by library professionals, and the role of users in shaping resource availability and accessibility. The findings reveal significant variations in resource availability across institutions, with Osmania University holding the largest print collection of 557,007 books, while the University of Hyderabad leads in electronic resources with 10,216 e-books and 42 online databases. Mahatma Gandhi University, established in 2015, demonstrates commendable progress with approximately 39,000 books, a Digital Resource Centre with 15 computer terminals, and a modern library building covering 27,600 sq.ft. . The study identifies persistent challenges including inadequate and inequitable budget allocation, limited user participation, and the absence of formal collection development policies in many institutions. The research underscores the critical importance of accessibility mechanisms such as OPAC, remote access, consortia membership, and user training programs in ensuring that available resources are effectively utilized by the academic community.*

**Keywords:** Resource Availability, Resource Accessibility, University Libraries, Telangana, Mahatma Gandhi University, Print Resources, Electronic Resources, Digital Library, OPAC, Library Infrastructure

### **1. Introduction**

University libraries serve as the intellectual backbone of higher education institutions, providing the information resources essential for teaching, learning, and research. The effectiveness of a university library is fundamentally determined not only by the quality and quantity of its collections but also by the accessibility of these resources to the academic community. Resource availability refers to the presence of information materials—both print and electronic—within the library's collection, while resource accessibility encompasses the various mechanisms, infrastructure, and services that enable users to discover, access, and utilize these materials effectively. As Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's five laws of library science emphasize, books are for use, and every reader must find their book—principles that underscore the dual importance of both availability and accessibility.

The state of Telangana, established in 2014 following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, has witnessed significant developments in its higher education landscape. The state is home to several prominent central and state universities, each with unique historical legacies, institutional priorities, and library development trajectories. These include Osmania University (established 1918), the oldest university in the region; the University of Hyderabad (1974), a premier central university; Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (1972); Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (1964); the National Academy of Legal Studies and



Research (1998); and Maulana Azad National Urdu University (1998) . Each of these institutions maintains a university library that serves as a vital resource for students, research scholars, and faculty members.

Mahatma Gandhi University, established in 2015, represents a newer addition to this landscape. Located in Nalgonda town, approximately 90 kilometers from Hyderabad, the university is situated on a sprawling campus of 240 acres . The university library was established by merging the existing Arts college library and Science college library, and shifted to its present building that was inaugurated in February 2017 . The library building, covering a floor area of 27,600 sq.ft (2,566.3 sqm), is designed in a diagonal shape and situated in a peaceful area of the campus . Despite its relatively recent establishment, the university library has made significant strides in developing its collections and infrastructure to serve the needs of undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty members .

This article examines resource availability and accessibility in university libraries in Telangana, with special reference to Mahatma Gandhi University, exploring the current state of collections, the infrastructure supporting access, the challenges faced, and the best practices that can enhance library services in the region.

## **2. Need of the Study**

The study of resource availability and accessibility in university libraries in Telangana is necessitated by several compelling factors that have significant implications for higher education and research in the state.

First, university libraries operate within a rapidly changing information environment where the traditional model of building comprehensive print collections has given way to hybrid models incorporating electronic resources. Understanding how university libraries in Telangana navigate this transition is essential for identifying best practices and areas requiring improvement. Research has shown that the availability of electronic resources, including e-books and e-journals, has become increasingly important for supporting academic work . The shift toward electronic resources has been accelerated by initiatives such as the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) program, which provides nationwide access to international scholarly research for government-supported institutions .

Second, budget constraints represent a persistent challenge for university libraries across India. Studies have identified inadequate funds and challenges in publisher negotiations as significant problems libraries face in accessing electronic resources . A comprehensive study of university libraries in Telangana revealed significant variations in budget allocation, with the University of Hyderabad allocating the highest budgets (ranging from 5.02 crore to 9.81 crore annually) while other universities received substantially lower allocations . Osmania University maintained a constant budget of Rs. 24,00,000 for books for five consecutive years with no budget for e-resources, while JNTUH allocated only Rs. 2,00,000 for books in 2018, with no allocation for the remaining three years .

Third, the absence of formal collection development policies has been identified as a significant gap in many Indian academic libraries. Studies have found that 90.63% of respondents had no collection development policy for print resources and 93.75% lacked policies for electronic resources. Understanding whether university libraries in Telangana have formal collection development policies, and how these policies guide resource selection and accessibility decisions, is critical for assessing the effectiveness of library services.

Fourth, the role of users in shaping library collections and accessing resources has become increasingly important in the digital age. Faculty members, research scholars, and students play varying roles in suggesting materials for library collections, and understanding the dynamics of user participation is essential for developing responsive collections. The study found that faculty members play a 'moderately' major role in suggesting library collections, while research scholars and students play a 'low' role, indicating a gap that needs to be addressed.

Fifth, resource accessibility—the mechanisms through which users discover and access library materials—has become as important as resource availability. The study examines various accessibility mechanisms including OPAC, Web OPAC, remote access, digital libraries, and user training programs. Understanding the effectiveness of these mechanisms is essential for ensuring that library resources are actually utilized by the academic community.

Finally, the study of Mahatma Gandhi University provides a focused case study that illuminates resource availability and accessibility practices in a relatively new university, offering lessons applicable to other institutions in the region and serving as a benchmark for evaluating collection development and access strategies.

### **3. Background of the Study**

#### **3.1 Resource Availability and Accessibility: Conceptual Framework**

Resource availability in library science refers to the presence of information materials within the library's collection. These materials can be categorized as print resources (books, journals, reference materials, theses, government documents, manuscripts) and electronic resources (e-books, e-journals, online databases, CD-ROMs, digital repositories). Resource availability is typically measured through collection size, breadth of subject coverage, currency of materials, and alignment with the academic programs offered by the institution.

Resource accessibility encompasses the mechanisms, infrastructure, and services that enable users to discover, access, and utilize library materials. Key accessibility factors include:

- Physical accessibility : Library infrastructure including reading areas, shelving, and facilities for differently-abled persons
- Technological accessibility : OPAC/Web OPAC systems, digital libraries, remote access, internet connectivity, and computer terminals
- Procedural accessibility : Library timings, borrowing privileges, interlibrary loan, document delivery, and user training
- Economic accessibility : Cost barriers to accessing electronic resources through subscriptions or pay-per-use models

The relationship between availability and accessibility is symbiotic—resources that are available but not accessible are effectively useless, while accessibility mechanisms cannot compensate for the absence of relevant resources.

### **3.2 University Libraries in Telangana: A Profile**

Telangana is home to a diverse range of university libraries, each with unique characteristics, collections, and service models. The following profile is based on research conducted across six major universities in the state :

Osmania University Library : Established in 1918, the OU library holds 557,007 books, 10,821 reference books, 284 current periodicals, 13,195 theses and dissertations, 12,709 government documents, 6,825 manuscripts, and special collections including UN books. The library also has 15,000 electronic journals and 45,000 electronic reports.

University of Hyderabad Library : A central university established in 1974, UOH has the highest collection of e-books (10,216), reference books (20,500), and online databases (42). The library has 326,966 books, 94,215 back volumes of periodicals, 12,126 theses and dissertations, and 10,000 CD-ROM databases. UOH has also developed an institutional repository with 497 items and holds 621 audio and video materials.

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad Library : Established in 1972, JNTUH has 92,000 books, 9,500 reference books, 220 current periodicals, and 15,355 electronic journals. The library has 1,200 e-theses and dissertations and 30 CD-ROM databases.

Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University Library : Established in 1964, PJTSAU has 87,774 books and subscribes to 126 current periodicals. The university has 10,632 theses and dissertations but subscribes to only 2 online databases.

National Academy of Legal Studies and Research Library : A specialized law university established in 1998, NALSAR has 50,245 books, 4,980 reference books, 76 current periodicals, and 6,311 e-books. The library subscribes to 28 online databases.

Maulana Azad National Urdu University Library : Established in 1998, MANUU has 82,303 books, 4,529 reference books, and institutional repositories with 33 items.

### **3.3 Mahatma Gandhi University: A Case Study**

Mahatma Gandhi University, established in 2015, represents a newer addition to the university landscape of Telangana. Located in Nalgonda town, approximately 90 kilometers from Hyderabad, the university is situated on a sprawling campus of 240 acres . The university library was established by merging the existing Arts college library and Science college library, and shifted to its present building that was inaugurated by Shri Kadiyam Srihari, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Education of Telangana State on 12th February 2017 .

Library Infrastructure : The building covers a floor area of 27,600 sq.ft (2,566.3 sqm) and is designed in a diagonal shape . The library serves the four University Colleges located on campus and is divided into a number of sections: Text Book Section, Journals & Periodicals Section, Reference Section, Processing Section, Newspapers Section, Back Volumes, Dissertations &

Thesis Section, and a Competitive Examinations Reference Library (CERL) . A conference hall with 300 seating capacity is also available to conduct seminars and conferences, and a separate reading area is allocated to physically disabled persons .

**Collection** : The library holds approximately 39,000 books and subscribes to 55 National and International journals . Other sources indicate a collection of 31,005 volumes and 8,794 titles, with 69 National Journals, 1 International Journal, and 13 SAGE e-Journals . The library has sections including Textbook Section, Journals & Periodicals Section, Reference Section, Processing Section, Newspapers Section, Back Volumes, Dissertations & Thesis Section, and a Competitive Examinations Reference Library.

**Digital Infrastructure** : The Digital Resource Centre (DRC) is equipped with 15 computer terminals providing internet access to users . The library also provides e-resources access and interlibrary loan (ILL) services. The library is kept open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on all working days .

**Services** : The library provides reference service, selective dissemination of information, documentation, and bibliographical assistance to its users . It brings out a monthly list of additions and conducts Book Exhibitions on appropriate occasions such as National Library Week and Literacy Day. The Competitive Examinations Reference Section caters to candidates preparing for various competitive exams.

#### **4. Review of Literature**

##### **4.1 Resource Availability in Indian University Libraries**

Studies on resource availability in Indian university libraries have revealed significant variations in collection size and composition across institutions. A comprehensive study of six university libraries in Telangana found that Osmania University has the largest print collection with 557,007 books, followed by the University of Hyderabad with 326,966 books . The study also revealed that the University of Hyderabad leads in electronic resources with 10,216 e-books and 42 online databases, while JNTUH subscribes to the highest number of electronic journals (15,355). Overall, it was found that university libraries have an adequate and rich collection of various types of print and electronic materials that can support research and academic work .

##### **4.2 Resource Accessibility and Library Infrastructure**

Research on library infrastructure in Telangana universities reveals varying levels of technological readiness. The study found that the majority of the university libraries (93.33%) are providing Circulation Service, Bibliographic service, Interlibrary Loan, CD-ROM search service, Reference Service, Referral Service, Current Awareness Service (CAS), SDI service, Newspaper Clipping Service, Reprographic Service, E-Resources service, Internet Service, and OPAC/WebOPAC service . The provision of services is generally consistent across libraries with few variations .

##### **4.3 Collection Development Policies and Selection Practices**

The study found that almost all the six respondents (100%) indicated that the 'library committee' and 'librarian' play the dominant role in the book selection process . The majority of respondents (66.67%) said faculty played a 'moderately' major role in suggestions for the library collection,

while scholars and students played a 'low' role (66.67%) . Selection tools most commonly used include publisher catalogues (66.67% 'mostly used'), book quotations (66.67% 'mostly used'), and book exhibitions (66.67% 'moderately used') . Almost all respondents (100%) said 'Quotations' and 'Consortia' are the procedures for book ordering .

#### **4.4 Budget Allocation and Resource Development**

Budget constraints represent a persistent challenge for collection development in Indian university libraries. In Telangana, budget allocations vary significantly among institutions, with the University of Hyderabad allocating the highest budgets (5.02 crore to 9.81 crore annually) compared to much lower allocations for other universities . The majority of respondents (66.67%) agree that operational costs are exceeding year by year . ICT expenditures increasingly dominate library budgets, with 50% of respondents agreeing that ICT takes a major share from the budget . Osmania University has allocated a constant Rs. 24,00,000 for books for five consecutive years with no budget for e-resources, while JNTUH allocated only Rs. 2,00,000 for books in 2018 with no allocation for the remaining three years .

#### **4.5 Electronic Resource Accessibility and Challenges**

The growing importance of electronic resources in university libraries has been widely documented, along with the challenges of ensuring equitable access. The study found that half of the respondents (50%) strongly agree with changes in access models (subscription, pay-per-use, open access), 33.33% strongly agree with format compatibility, 33.33% strongly agree with preservation problems, 50% strongly agree with space constraints for print collections, and 33.33% strongly agree with technical issues (server downtime, network connectivity, software bugs) . The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative, launched by the Government of India, has been recognized as a major step toward democratizing access to scholarly research, providing thousands of institutions with access to publications from more than 30 major international publishers .

### **5. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To examine the current state of resource availability in university libraries in Telangana, including print and electronic collections.
2. To assess the infrastructure and mechanisms supporting resource accessibility in university libraries.
3. To analyze the budget allocation patterns for print and electronic resources in university libraries.
4. To identify the challenges faced by library professionals in ensuring resource availability and accessibility.
5. To examine the role of users in shaping resource availability and accessibility.
6. To evaluate the accessibility mechanisms including OPAC, digital libraries, remote access, and user training programs.
7. To identify best practices in resource availability and accessibility at Mahatma Gandhi University Library.

8. To provide recommendations for improving resource availability and accessibility in university libraries.

## **6. Merits of Current Practices**

### **6.1 Rich and Diverse Print Collections**

University libraries in Telangana have developed substantial print collections that support teaching and research across diverse disciplines. Osmania University Library, with 557,007 books and 13,195 theses and dissertations, represents the largest collection, followed by the University of Hyderabad with 326,966 books and 12,126 theses and dissertations. These collections provide a solid foundation for academic work, with reference collections, government documents, manuscripts, and special collections adding depth and breadth. Mahatma Gandhi University, despite its recent establishment, has developed a collection of approximately 39,000 books and subscribes to 55 National and International journals.

### **6.2 Growing Electronic Resource Access**

The adoption of electronic resources has significantly expanded access to scholarly content. The University of Hyderabad has 10,216 e-books, 15,355 electronic journals, and 42 online databases. Participation in consortia such as INFLIBNET and the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative has further enhanced access. The ONOS initiative, launched by the Government of India, provides thousands of institutions with access to publications from more than 30 major international publishers. Mahatma Gandhi University Library provides access to e-resources through its Digital Resource Centre and participates in e-ShodhSindhu and other consortia.

### **6.3 Library Automation and Technology Integration**

The automation of library operations using integrated library management systems has enhanced the efficiency of resource management. The study found that 66.67% of respondents agreed with enhanced efficiency through automation. OPAC/WebOPAC services are provided by 93.33% of university libraries. JNTUH College of Engineering Library, for example, is automated using New Genlib version 3.1.2, with modules for Acquisition, Cataloguing, Circulation, Serial, OPAC, and Technical Processing systems.

### **6.4 Infrastructure Development**

University libraries have invested in infrastructure to support resource accessibility. Mahatma Gandhi University Library features a modern building with dedicated sections, a conference hall with 300 seating capacity, and a Digital Resource Centre with 15 computer terminals. The library also provides separate reading areas for physically disabled persons. JNTUH College of Engineering Library has a total seating capacity of 350, a digital library with 25 computers, 50 Mbps internet connectivity, and WiFi connectivity. Recent infrastructure development at MGU includes a Rs 37 crore investment in new buildings and CC roads, along with a book donation of Rs 10 lakh from the Komatireddy Pratheek Foundation.

### **6.5 Comprehensive Range of Library Services**

University libraries provide a comprehensive range of services including circulation, bibliographic, interlibrary loan, reference, current awareness, SDI, reprographic, e-resources,

internet, and OPAC/WebOPAC services . The study found that 93.33% of university libraries provide these core services . Mahatma Gandhi University Library provides reference service, selective dissemination of information, documentation, and bibliographical assistance to its users, and brings out a monthly list of additions .

### **6.6 User-Focused Initiatives**

Library initiatives focused on user needs have been implemented. Mahatma Gandhi University Library conducts Book Exhibitions on occasions such as National Library Week and Literacy Day, and has added a Competitive Examinations Reference Section to cater to candidates preparing for various competitive exams . The university has also received book donations worth Rs 10 lakh from the Komatireddy Pratheek Foundation to enhance the library's collection .

## **7. Demerits of Current Practices**

### **7.1 Inadequate and Inequitable Budget Allocation**

Budget allocation for libraries and resources is neither uniform nor sufficient across university libraries in Telangana. The University of Hyderabad allocates budgets ranging from 5.02 crore to 9.81 crore annually, while Osmania University maintains a constant budget of Rs. 24,00,000 for books for five consecutive years with no budget for e-resources. JNTUH allocated only Rs. 2,00,000 for books in 2018, with no allocation for the remaining three years. This inequitable distribution creates significant disparities in resource availability across institutions.

### **7.2 Limited Electronic Resource Budgets**

Electronic resource budgets are inadequate in many university libraries. While ICT expenditures are increasing, 50% of respondents agree that ICT takes a major share from the budget, and 66.67% agree that operational costs are exceeding year by year. Some universities have no budget allocation for e-resources, limiting access to electronic content. Osmania University, despite having the largest print collection, has no budget for e-resources.

### **7.3 Absence of Formal Collection Development Policies**

The widespread absence of formal collection development policies undermines systematic collection building. In university libraries in Telangana, selection decisions are primarily made by the library committee and librarian (100% of respondents), with limited formal guidance. The lack of formal policies can lead to ad-hoc selection decisions and inefficient resource allocation.

### **7.4 Limited User Participation**

While faculty members play a 'moderately' major role in suggesting library collections (66.67%), research scholars and students play a 'low' role (66.67%), and administration plays a 'low' role (66.67%) . This limited user participation can result in collections that do not adequately reflect the diverse information needs of all user categories.

### **7.5 Challenges in Managing Hybrid Collections**

The transition from print-dominated to hybrid collections presents challenges in managing both formats. Print collections require physical space, preservation efforts, and cataloging, while electronic resources require ICT infrastructure, digital preservation, and license management. The

study found that 50% of respondents strongly agree with space constraints for print collections and 33.33% strongly agree with preservation problems for digital resources .

### **7.6 Accessibility Barriers**

Several accessibility barriers persist including technical issues (server downtime, network connectivity, software bugs), preservation problems, and limited user awareness . Half of the respondents (50%) strongly agree with changes in access models including subscription, pay-per-use, and open access, indicating ongoing transition challenges . The study found that 33.33% of respondents strongly agree with technical issues affecting accessibility .

### **7.7 Staffing and Professional Development Challenges**

The study found that the majority of library staff in selected universities are non-professionals (50.81%), limiting the capacity for specialized services . The majority of university librarians are over 51 years of age (83.33%) and have more than 20 years of working experience (66.67%), indicating an aging workforce and potential challenges in adapting to new technologies . Additionally, 100% of university librarians were male, highlighting gender diversity challenges in the profession .

### **7.8 Awareness Gaps for E-Resources**

Studies have identified significant challenges in awareness and use of digital e-resources. A literature-based comparative study of NDLI and N-LIST resources found low awareness and use in poorly represented institutions . The study recommends institutional research regarding implementation of digital e-resources and awareness and training programs .

## **8. Role of Library Professionals in Resource Availability and Accessibility**

Library professionals play a central role in ensuring both resource availability and accessibility. Their responsibilities encompass strategic planning, selection, acquisition, infrastructure development, and user engagement.

### **8.1 Collection Development and Management**

**Selection** : The librarian and library committee play the dominant role in book selection, with 100% of respondents identifying these as the key decision-makers . Library professionals employ various tools for selection including publisher catalogues (66.67% 'mostly used'), book quotations (66.67% 'mostly used'), and book exhibitions (66.67% 'moderately used') . Mahatma Gandhi University Library's monthly list of additions and book exhibitions exemplify these practices .

**Acquisition** : Library professionals manage the acquisition process, including ordering from publishers (83.33%), online purchases (66.67%), and consortia (100%) . Almost all respondents (100%) said 'Quotations' and 'Consortia' are the procedures for book ordering . Library professionals are responsible for maintaining fiscal records and allocating funds across departments and resource types.

**Budget Management** : Library professionals manage library budgets, balancing print and electronic resource expenditures. The study found that ICT increasingly dominates budget allocations, requiring professionals to negotiate with publishers and manage subscription costs . The majority of respondents (66.67%) agree that operational costs are exceeding year by year .

## 8.2 Accessibility Infrastructure

**Technology Implementation** : Library professionals are responsible for implementing and maintaining technology infrastructure including OPAC, digital libraries, and remote access systems. The study found that 93.33% of university libraries provide OPAC/WebOPAC services . Mahatma Gandhi University Library's Digital Resource Centre with 15 computer terminals exemplifies this role . JNTUH College of Engineering Library provides WiFi connectivity, digital library with 25 computers, and 50 Mbps internet connectivity .

**User Training** : Library professionals conduct orientation programs, user training, and promotional activities to enhance user awareness. Mahatma Gandhi University Library conducts Book Exhibitions on National Library Week and Literacy Day . The study found that 93.33% of university libraries provide orientation programs .

**Service Development** : Library professionals develop and maintain services including circulation, reference, CAS, SDI, and interlibrary loan. The study found that 93.33% of university libraries provide these services . Mahatma Gandhi University Library provides reference service, selective dissemination of information, documentation, and bibliographical assistance to its users.

## 8.3 Professional Development and Advocacy

Library professionals must pursue continuous professional development to keep pace with changing technologies and practices. The ONOS initiative and other national schemes have expanded access to scholarly resources, requiring librarians to develop competencies in electronic resource management, digital preservation, and data-driven collection analysis . Library professionals also play a vital role in advocating for adequate budget allocation and promoting awareness of available resources .

## 8.4 Challenges for Library Professionals

Library professionals face several challenges in their roles. Budget constraints limit the ability to acquire resources and maintain infrastructure . Technical challenges including server downtime, network connectivity problems, and software bugs affect accessibility . Staffing constraints, with the majority of library staff being non-professionals (50.81%), limit the capacity for specialized services . Professional development is essential but often constrained by limited resources and time.

## 9. Role of Users in Resource Availability and Accessibility

User participation is essential for developing collections that meet the information needs of the academic community and ensuring that accessibility mechanisms are responsive to user requirements.

### 9.1 Faculty Participation

Faculty members play the most significant role among users in resource availability, with 66.67% of respondents indicating that faculty play a 'moderately' major role in suggesting materials for library collections . Faculty recommendations are essential because faculty members possess subject expertise and understand the research and teaching needs of their departments.

Methods of Faculty Participation : Faculty members participate through direct recommendations and requests, membership on library committees, participation in collection evaluation and weeding, and feedback on resource accessibility and service quality . The majority of respondents (66.67%) said the 'library committee' and 'librarian' play the dominant role in book selection, indicating that faculty participation is channeled through formal committee structures .

### **9.2 Research Scholar and Student Participation**

Research scholars and students play a 'low' role in suggesting materials for library collections (66.67%), indicating limited participation in shaping resource availability . This limited participation suggests that students' information needs may not be adequately represented in collection development decisions.

Potential for Enhanced Participation : Methods to enhance student participation include library orientation programs (provided by 93.33% of libraries), suggestion mechanisms and feedback forms, student representation on library committees, usage analysis to identify student needs, and training in effective library use . Mahatma Gandhi University Library's Competitive Examinations Reference Section caters specifically to student needs for competitive exam preparation .

### **9.3 Usage Patterns and Accessibility**

Adequacy Perceptions : Overall, it was found that university libraries have an adequate and rich collection of various types of print and electronic materials that can support research and academic work . However, studies have identified low awareness and use of e-resources in poorly represented institutions . A literature-based comparative study of NDLI and N-LIST resources found that both digital e-resources face challenges in infrastructure and user behavior, suggesting low awareness and use in poorly represented institutions .

Access Points : The majority of university libraries (93.33%) provide OPAC/WebOPAC services, enabling users to search library holdings, check availability, and locate materials . Mahatma Gandhi University Library provides internet-based services including access to e-resources through its Digital Resource Centre with 15 computer terminals .

### **9.4 User Training and Awareness**

User training is essential for enhancing resource accessibility. Mahatma Gandhi University Library brings out a monthly list of additions and conducts Book Exhibitions to celebrate appropriate occasions such as National Library Week and Literacy Day . The study recommends institutional research regarding implementation of digital e-resources and or awareness and training programs to maximize the benefit of online resources .

## **10. Types of Resources in University Libraries**

### **10.1 Print Resources**

Books : University libraries hold extensive book collections. Osmania University Library has 557,007 books, the largest collection among the universities studied . Mahatma Gandhi University has approximately 39,000 books , while other sources indicate a collection of 31,005 volumes and 8,794 titles . JNTUH College of Engineering Library has 26,013 volumes and 4,028 titles .

Reference Books : Reference collections are well-developed, with the University of Hyderabad holding 20,500 reference books . Mahatma Gandhi University Library has dedicated Reference and Text Book Sections .

Periodicals : Current periodical subscriptions vary, with Osmania University subscribing to 284 titles while the University of Hyderabad subscribes to only 24 . Mahatma Gandhi University subscribes to 55 National and International journals , while other sources indicate 69 National Journals, 1 International Journal . JNTUH College of Engineering Library subscribes to 23 journals and 15 magazines .

Theses and Dissertations : Osmania University has 13,195 theses and dissertations, the largest collection . Mahatma Gandhi University Library has a dedicated Dissertations & Thesis Section .

Government Documents and Manuscripts : These specialized collections are found primarily in older universities. Osmania University holds 12,709 government documents and 6,825 manuscripts . Mahatma Gandhi University Library includes Government Documents and Patents in its collections .

Special Collections : Osmania University holds 12,400 special collections of UN books . Mahatma Gandhi University Library includes a Competitive Examinations Reference Library (CERL) to cater to candidates preparing for various competitive exams . JNTUH College of Engineering Library includes competitive books for GATE, IES, GRE, TOEFL, and book bank for SC students .

### **10.2 Electronic Resources**

E-books : The University of Hyderabad holds 10,216 e-books, the largest collection . Mahatma Gandhi University subscribes to 13 SAGE e-Journals . JNTUH College of Engineering Library provides access to e-books through various platforms including McGraw-Hill, Elsevier, Pearson, Taylor & Francis, and CBS e-Text Book Collection .

Electronic Journals : JNTUH subscribes to 15,355 electronic journals, the highest number . Mahatma Gandhi University subscribes to 13 SAGE e-Journals . JNTUH College of Engineering Library subscribes to e-journals from ASCE, ASME, ACM Digital Library, IEEE Xplore, Springer Link, Nature, and J-GATE .

Online Databases : The University of Hyderabad subscribes to 42 online databases . JNTUH College of Engineering Library provides access to multiple databases including IEEE Xplore, ACM Digital Library, EBSCO Business Source Elite, Indian Citation Index, JCCC, ISID Database, Shodhganga, DELNET, National Digital Library of India, and World e-Book Library .

CD-ROM Databases : The University of Hyderabad has 10,000 CD-ROM databases . JNTUH College of Engineering Library provides CD-ROM databases .

Institutional Repositories : University of Hyderabad has 497 items in its institutional repository, while MANUU has 33 . JNTUH College of Engineering Library provides access to Shodhganga@INFLIBNET Centre, a digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations.

Audio and Video Materials : The University of Hyderabad holds 621 audio and video materials, JNTUH College of Engineering Library provides digital library with NPTEL videos .

### **10.3 E-Resource Initiatives**

One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) : The Government of India's ONOS initiative provides nationwide access to international scholarly research for government-supported institutions, including access to publications from more than 30 major international publishers . The initiative has been recognized as a major step toward democratizing access to scholarly research, empowering students, faculty, and researchers across India with high-quality academic resources.

N-LIST and NDLI : The INFLIBNET's N-LIST programme and the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) provide access to learning resources for learners and faculty . NDLI is noted for its open access and multi-lingual free resource content and wider coverage of educational resources, while N-LIST provides free access to premium learning resources by subscription .

### **10.4 Adequacy of Resources**

The study found that overall, university libraries have an adequate and rich collection of various types of print and electronic materials that can support research and academic work . However, the adequacy of collections must be evaluated in the context of budget constraints, usage patterns, and evolving user needs. A literature-based comparative study found that both digital e-resources face challenges in infrastructure and user behavior, suggesting low awareness and use in poorly represented institutions .

## **11. Conclusion**

This study has examined resource availability and accessibility in university libraries in Telangana, with special reference to Mahatma Gandhi University, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of library resources and access mechanisms in the region. The findings reveal significant strengths, including rich and diverse print collections, growing electronic resource access, library automation, infrastructure development, and a comprehensive range of user services.

University libraries in Telangana have developed substantial collections that support teaching and research. Osmania University, with 557,007 books, represents the largest print collection, while the University of Hyderabad leads in electronic resources with 10,216 e-books and 42 online databases . Mahatma Gandhi University, despite being established only in 2015, has made commendable progress with approximately 39,000 books, a modern library building covering 27,600 sq.ft, a Digital Resource Centre with 15 computer terminals, and a Competitive Examinations Reference Library .

However, significant challenges persist. Inadequate and inequitable budget allocation creates disparities in resource availability, with the University of Hyderabad allocating up to 9.81 crore annually while some universities have no budget for e-resources . The absence of formal collection development policies undermines systematic collection building, and limited user participation—particularly by students and research scholars—may result in collections that do not adequately

reflect user needs. Accessibility barriers including technical issues, preservation problems, and limited user awareness further constrain resource utilization.

The role of library professionals is central to addressing these challenges. Librarians must advocate for adequate budget allocation, develop formal collection development policies, implement robust accessibility infrastructure, and engage users more effectively in collection development and resource evaluation. Professional development in electronic resource management, digital preservation, and data-driven collection analysis is essential for librarians to navigate the rapidly changing information environment.

The role of users is equally critical. While faculty members play a significant role in collection development (66.67% 'moderately' major role), greater participation by research scholars and students (currently 'low' role at 66.67%) is needed to ensure that collections reflect diverse information needs. Methods to enhance user participation include improved library orientation, suggestion mechanisms, and representation on library committees.

The study of Mahatma Gandhi University provides valuable insights for other institutions in the region. The university's modern library infrastructure, dedicated sections, regular promotional activities, and digital resource centre represent best practices that other universities can emulate. Recent developments including the Rs 37 crore infrastructure investment and the Rs 10 lakh book donation from the Komatireddy Pratheek Foundation demonstrate the university's commitment to enhancing library resources. At the same time, the university's relatively limited collection and electronic resource subscriptions highlight challenges that need to be addressed through increased budget allocation and consortia participation.

The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative and other national schemes offer opportunities for expanding access to scholarly resources. However, awareness and use of these resources remain challenges in many institutions. Libraries must invest in user training and awareness programs to ensure that available resources are effectively utilized.

In conclusion, resource availability and accessibility in university libraries in Telangana is at a critical juncture. The dual challenges of budget constraints and technological change require innovative approaches, strategic planning, and collaborative efforts. By adopting formal collection development policies, investing in infrastructure, engaging users, and embracing technological innovations, university libraries can ensure that resources are both available and accessible to the academic communities they serve.

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