

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN TELANGANA: A CASE STUDY OF MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

Collection development constitutes the cornerstone of academic librarianship, ensuring that university libraries acquire, organize, and maintain information resources that align with the teaching, learning, and research missions of their parent institutions. This article presents a comprehensive examination of collection development practices in university libraries across Telangana, with particular emphasis on Mahatma Gandhi University as a case study. The study investigates the current state of collection development, including budget allocation patterns, selection procedures, the role of library professionals, user participation, and challenges faced in managing both print and electronic resources. Drawing upon empirical research conducted across six major universities in Telangana—Osmania University, University of Hyderabad, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), and Maulana Azad National Urdu University—the study provides a detailed analysis of collection development practices in the region. The findings reveal significant variations in resource availability, budgetary allocations, and collection development policies across institutions. While university libraries possess substantial print collections, with Osmania University holding over 557,000 books, electronic resources have become increasingly dominant, though budget constraints and the absence of formal collection development policies remain persistent challenges. The study underscores the critical role of library professionals in navigating the transition from print-dominated collections to hybrid models, and emphasizes the importance of user participation in ensuring that library collections remain relevant and responsive to evolving academic needs.

Keywords: Collection Development, University Libraries, Telangana, Mahatma Gandhi University, Print Resources, Electronic Resources, Library Budget, User Participation, Collection Development Policy, Academic Libraries

1. Introduction

University libraries serve as the intellectual heart of higher education institutions, providing the information resources essential for teaching, learning, and research. The effectiveness of a university library is fundamentally determined by the quality and relevance of its collections. Collection development—the systematic process of identifying, evaluating, acquiring, and maintaining library materials—constitutes the most critical function of academic librarianship. As Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's five laws of library science imply, the importance of value-added services to users is guided by a well-defined collection development policy that provides a framework for stock acquisition, processing, and weeding out of collection .

The landscape of collection development in Indian university libraries has undergone profound transformation over the past two decades. The shift from print-dominated collections to hybrid models incorporating electronic resources, the impact of information and communication technologies, the growth of open access initiatives, and the establishment of consortia-based subscriptions have fundamentally altered how university libraries develop and manage their collections . These changes have brought both opportunities and challenges, requiring library

professionals to develop new competencies in electronic resource management, digital preservation, and data-driven collection analysis.

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 collection development practices. Understanding collection development in this context requires examining the interplay of institutional factors, technological change, budget constraints, and evolving user expectations.

Mahatma Gandhi University, established in 1983 and located on the Priyadarshini hills at Athirampuzha in Kottayam district, Kerala, serves as a compelling case study for understanding collection development practices in an evolving university context. Though geographically located in Kerala, the university's collection development practices reflect many of the trends and challenges observed across Indian universities—including the transition to automated systems, participation in national consortia, and the growing importance of electronic resources. The Mahatma Gandhi University Library, established in 1989, has emerged as a modern, technology-enabled institution. The library was among the first fifty universities under the UGC-Infonet Programme and currently participates in the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme initiated by the Government of India, providing access to over 13,000 journals from 30 publishers. The university was also the first Indian university to adopt open access to its doctoral research theses through its Online Theses Digital Library, launched in 2009, which won the State IT award in the e-learning category.

This article examines collection development practices in university libraries in Telangana, with special reference to Mahatma Gandhi University, exploring the processes, challenges, and best practices that characterize collection development in the contemporary academic environment.

2. Need of the Study

The study of collection development practices in university libraries in Telangana is necessitated by several compelling factors. First, university libraries operate within a rapidly changing information environment where the traditional model of building comprehensive print collections has given way to strategic collection development that balances print and electronic resources. Understanding how university libraries in Telangana navigate this transition is essential for identifying best practices and areas requiring improvement.

Second, budget constraints represent a persistent challenge for university libraries across India. A study of central university libraries in Delhi identified inadequate funds and challenges in publisher negotiations as the two most significant problems libraries face in accessing electronic resources. Similar challenges are likely to affect university libraries in Telangana, making it essential to understand how these institutions allocate limited budgets across competing priorities.

Third, the absence of formal collection development policies has been identified as a significant gap in many Indian academic libraries. A study of college libraries in Assam found that 90.63% of respondents had no collection development policy for print resources, while 93.75% lacked policies for electronic resources. Understanding whether university libraries in Telangana have

formal collection development policies, and how these policies guide selection decisions, is critical for assessing the effectiveness of collection development practices.

Fourth, the role of users in collection development 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 .

Fifth, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the shift toward digital resources, highlighting the importance of robust electronic collection development strategies . Understanding how university libraries in Telangana have responded to these changes can provide valuable insights for future collection development planning.

Finally, the study of Mahatma Gandhi University provides a focused case study that illuminates collection development practices in a university that has embraced technological innovation and open access, offering lessons applicable to other institutions in the region.

3. Background of the Study

3.1 Collection Development in University Libraries: Conceptual Framework

Collection development is defined as the planned purchase of materials in various formats to match the instructional and research needs of the campus within the current fiscal environment and resource sharing opportunities . It is a systematic process that involves assessing user needs, evaluating existing collections, selecting appropriate materials, acquiring them, and managing the collection over time to ensure its continued relevance and usefulness .

The collection development process typically encompasses the following activities: formulation of collection policies, selection of materials, acquisition of resources, evaluation and weeding of collections, and preservation and conservation of library materials . These activities are guided by the institutional mission, user needs, available resources, and the changing information environment.

3.2 Collection Development in Indian University Libraries

Indian university libraries have evolved significantly since independence, transitioning from predominantly print collections to the hybrid model that characterizes contemporary academic libraries. The establishment of the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 1956 and subsequent initiatives such as the UGC-Infonet Programme and the National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST) have played transformative roles in expanding access to electronic resources for university libraries across India .

The UGC-Infonet Programme, launched in 2003, provided universities with access to a wide range of electronic journals and databases, significantly enhancing the availability of scholarly resources . More recently, the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative, launched by the Government of India, has expanded access to over 13,000 journals from 30 publishers, representing a significant advancement in scholarly resource availability .

Despite these advancements, Indian university libraries face persistent challenges including inadequate budgets, inadequate ICT infrastructure, lack of trained personnel, and the absence of formal collection development policies . A study conducted across six university libraries in Telangana revealed significant variations in budget allocations, with the University of

Hyderabad allocating the highest budgets (ranging from 5.02 crore to 9.81 crore annually) compared to significantly lower allocations for other universities .

3.3 University Libraries in Telangana

Telangana is home to a diverse range of university libraries serving central universities, state universities, and specialized institutions. The university libraries included in this study represent a cross-section of this diversity:

Osmania University (OU): Established in 1918, OU is the oldest university in Telangana. Its library holds 557,007 books, 10,821 reference books, 284 current periodicals, 13,195 theses and dissertations, 12,709 government documents, and 6,825 manuscripts. It also has collections of microfilms, microfiches, and special collections including UN books. The library holds 15,000 electronic journals and 45,000 electronic reports or digital documents .

University of Hyderabad (UOH): 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 (JNTUH): 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 (PJTSAU): 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 (NALSAR): 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 (MANUU): Established in 1998, MANUU has 82,303 books, 4,529 reference books, and institutional repositories with 33 items .

3.4 Mahatma Gandhi University: A Case Study in Collection Development

Mahatma Gandhi University, located in Kottayam, Kerala, was established in 1983. The university library, established in 1989 under the supervision of a Special Officer, has developed a comprehensive collection development strategy aligned with modern library practices. The library system comprises the Central Library and the libraries of 21 schools and departments . Key features of Mahatma Gandhi University Library's collection development include:

Automation and Technology Integration: The library is fully automated using Koha, an open-source integrated library management system. This automation has enabled efficient management of collections, including cataloging, circulation, and acquisition processes .

Digital Library Initiatives: The university was the first Indian university to adopt open access for doctoral research theses, establishing the Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library (www.mgutheses.in). This initiative, launched in 2009, won the State IT award

in the e-learning category and has made the university's research output accessible to academics worldwide .

Consortia Membership: The library is a member of INFLIBNET Centre, an Inter-University Centre of the UGC, and an institutional member of DELNET (Developing Library Network, New Delhi). Through these networks, the library provides access to resources from other major libraries in the nation .

Collection Size: The University Library has a collection of 134,313 books, 8,076 e-books, 3,852 theses, and 9,356 bound volumes of journals .

Book Donations: The library actively encourages book donations to enhance its collections. A recent donation of more than 400 titles from the personal collection of Shri Rajendra Verma and his wife exemplifies this practice .

4. Review of Literature

4.1 Selection Tools and Methods

Research on selection tools and methods in Indian university libraries has revealed diverse practices. A study of six university libraries in Telangana found that publisher catalogues (66.67%), book quotations (66.67%), and book exhibitions (66.67%) were the most commonly used tools for selection . Bookseller catalogues were considered 'mostly used' by 66.67% of respondents, while Indian National Bibliography was 'moderately used' by 83.33% . Faculty members were found to play a 'moderately' major role in suggestions for library collections (66.67%), while scholars and students played a 'low' role (66.67%) .

4.2 User Participation in Collection Development

Studies have emphasized the importance of user participation in collection development. A user study at Mangalore University Library examined the adequacy of existing collections in meeting user needs, finding that understanding user requirements is essential for developing need-based, up-to-date, and balanced collections . Faculty recommendations and requests play an essential role in the collection development process, though librarians must take responsibility for identifying significant new works, letting faculty know about new publications, and ensuring that new courses and programs have adequate resources .

4.3 Electronic Resource Collection Development

The growing importance of electronic resources in university libraries has been widely documented. A study of the impact of ICT on collection management in university libraries of Telangana found that 66.67% of respondents agreed that ICT affects regular budgeting provisions, and 50% agreed that ICT takes a major share from the budget applied data analytics techniques to revamp collection development at IGDTUW, Delhi, finding that 23.05% of books were heavily used while 76.95% remained unused, highlighting the importance of data-driven collection analysis .

4.4 Resource Sharing and Consortia

Resource sharing and consortia have emerged as important mechanisms for expanding access to electronic resources. Studies have examined the role of library consortia in collection development, with libraries increasingly relying on consortia subscriptions to access electronic journals and databases . The Mahatma Gandhi University Library's membership in INFLIBNET and DELNET exemplifies this trend .

5. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To examine the current state of collection development in university libraries in Telangana.
2. To analyze the budget allocation patterns for print and electronic resources in university libraries in Telangana.
3. To assess the selection tools and methods used for collection development in university libraries.
4. To evaluate the role of library professionals in collection development.
5. To examine the role of users in collection development.
6. To identify the types of resources available in university libraries.
7. To analyze the merits and demerits of current collection development practices.
8. To assess the impact of ICT on collection development in university libraries.
9. To examine collection development practices at Mahatma Gandhi University Library.
10. To provide recommendations for improving collection development practices in university libraries.

6. Merits of Current Collection Development 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 .

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, while JNTUH subscribes to 15,355 electronic journals . Participation in consortia such as the UGC-Infonet Programme and the One Nation One Subscription initiative has further enhanced access, with Mahatma Gandhi University Library providing access to over 13,000 journals through ONOS .

6.3 Automation and Technology Integration

The automation of library operations using integrated library management systems has enhanced the efficiency of collection management. The Mahatma Gandhi University Library's adoption of Koha, an open-source system, has enabled efficient cataloging, circulation, and acquisition processes . Similarly, the Collection Development Division at IIT Delhi uses automation to manage fiscal records and process acquisitions .

6.4 Open Access Initiatives

Open access initiatives have enhanced the visibility and accessibility of research outputs. Mahatma Gandhi University's Online Theses Digital Library, the first of its kind in India, has made the university's doctoral research theses accessible to academics worldwide . Many university libraries in Telangana have also developed institutional repositories, with UOH holding 497 items and MANUU holding 33 items .

6.5 User Participation and Feedback

The involvement of faculty members, research scholars, and students in collection development ensures that library collections remain relevant to user needs. Faculty members play a 'moderately' major role in suggesting materials for library collections (66.67%), while suggestions from scholars and students, though limited, contribute to the development of user-responsive collections .

6.6 Resource Sharing Through Consortia

Membership in library networks and consortia has expanded access to resources beyond individual institutional holdings. The Mahatma Gandhi University Library's membership in INFLIBNET and DELNET provides access to resources from other major libraries in the nation . Similarly, university libraries in Telangana benefit from consortia-based subscriptions to electronic journals and databases .

7. Demerits of Current Collection Development Practices

7.1 Absence of Formal Collection Development Policies

A significant demerit of collection development in university libraries is the widespread absence of formal collection development policies. A study of college libraries in Assam found that 90.63% had no collection development policy for print resources . Similarly, a study of arts and science colleges affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, found that most libraries were not following collection development policies . This absence of formal policies can lead to ad-hoc selection decisions, inconsistent collection building, and inefficient resource allocation.

7.2 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 the highest budgets (ranging from 5.02 crore to 9.81 crore annually), while Osmania University has allocated a constant Rs. 24,00,000 for books for five consecutive years with no budget for e-resources. JNTUH allocated Rs. 2,00,000 for books in 2018-19 and 2019-20, with no allocation for the remaining three years . This inequitable distribution of resources creates significant disparities in resource availability across institutions.

7.3 Insufficient Electronic Resource Budgets

Electronic resource budgets are inadequate in many university libraries. While ICT expenditures are increasing, 66.67% of respondents agreed that ICT takes a major share from the budget, and operational costs are exceeding year by year . Negotiating with publishers and managing subscription costs remain persistent challenges . Some universities, like Osmania University, have no budget allocation for e-resources, limiting access to electronic content .

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 of university libraries in Telangana found that 50% of respondents agreed that print collections require more space, and 50% agreed with preservation problems for digital resources .

7.6 Lack of Data-Driven Collection Management

The application of data analytics for collection development is limited in most university libraries. While a study at IGDTUW, Delhi, demonstrated the potential of data analytics in identifying unused materials (76.95% of books remained unused) and developing evidence-based collection policies , similar practices are not widely adopted in university libraries in Telangana.

7.7 Staffing Challenges

The majority of university librarians in Telangana are over 51 years of age (83.33%), and 66.67% have more than 20 years of working experience . While this experience is valuable, the aging workforce may indicate limited opportunities for younger professionals. Additionally, the absence of female librarians in any of the six university libraries studied suggests gender diversity challenges in the profession.

8. Role of Library Professionals in Collection Development

Library professionals play a central role in all aspects of collection development, from policy formulation to acquisition, organization, and evaluation of library collections. Their responsibilities encompass strategic planning, selection, acquisition, budget management, and user engagement.

8.1 Leadership in Collection Development

The librarian and library committee play the dominant role in book selection, with 100% of respondents identifying the library committee and librarian as the key decision-makers . Library professionals are responsible for developing collection development policies, assessing user needs, evaluating collections, and making strategic decisions about resource allocation.

8.2 Selection and Acquisition

Library professionals employ various tools and methods for selecting materials, including publisher catalogues (66.67%), book quotations (66.67%), and book exhibitions (66.67%) . They are responsible for identifying significant new works, letting faculty know about new publications, and ensuring that new courses and programs have adequate resources . At Mahatma Gandhi University Library, automation using Koha has streamlined the acquisition process.

8.3 Budget Management

Library professionals manage library budgets, maintaining fiscal records and allocating funds across departments and resource types . The Collection Development Division at IIT Delhi is responsible for maintaining fiscal records of allocation of library funds for departments, centres, and schools . In university libraries in Telangana, budget management involves

balancing print and electronic resource expenditures, with ICT increasingly dominating budget allocations .

8.4 User Engagement and Liaison

Library professionals serve as liaisons with faculty, research scholars, and students, facilitating user participation in collection development. The librarian liaison at Haverford College works with faculty to understand their research and teaching needs, selecting materials geared toward those requirements . Similarly, library professionals in university libraries in Telangana interact with users to gather suggestions and assess needs, though faculty play a 'moderately' major role while scholars and students play a 'low' role .

8.5 Preservation and Conservation

Library professionals are responsible for preservation and conservation of both print and electronic collections. The Collection Development Division at IIT Delhi manages various collection types including general, reference, textbook, and theses collections . In university libraries in Telangana, preservation challenges include space constraints for print collections and technical issues for electronic resources .

8.6 Weeding and Deselection

Library professionals make decisions about weeding and deselection of materials no longer needed. Data analytics can assist in this process, as demonstrated by the study at IGDTUW, Delhi, which identified that 76.95% of books remained unused, helping develop policies for removing books . In the absence of formal policies, however, weeding practices may be inconsistent.

8.7 Professional Development

Continuous professional development is essential for library professionals to keep pace with changing technologies and practices. Training in electronic resource management, data analytics, and digital preservation is needed to effectively manage hybrid collections .

9. Role of Users in Collection Development

User participation is essential for developing collections that meet the information needs of the academic community. Users—faculty members, research scholars, and students—play varying roles in suggesting, selecting, and evaluating library materials.

9.1 Faculty Participation

Faculty members play the most significant role among users in collection development, 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. In the United States, faculty recommendations and requests play an essential role in the collection development process, with librarians working collaboratively with faculty to identify and order materials .

However, a study at IGDTUW, Delhi, found that only 30.7% of faculty-recommended books were borrowed, indicating a gap between faculty recommendations and student needs . This finding suggests that while faculty participation is valuable, collection development should also consider student needs and usage patterns.

9.2 Research Scholar and Student Participation

Research scholars and students play a 'low' role in suggesting materials for library collections (66.67%) . This limited participation suggests that students' information needs may not be adequately represented in collection development decisions. Student input could be enhanced through library orientation programs, suggestion mechanisms, and representation on library committees.

At Mangalore University Library, a user study examined the adequacy of existing collections in meeting user needs, recognizing that understanding user requirements is essential for developing need-based, up-to-date, and balanced collections. Similarly, at Haverford College, the librarian looks at senior thesis topics to glean what materials students might need for their capstone projects.

9.3 Methods of User Participation

Several mechanisms facilitate user participation in collection development:

- Suggestions and Recommendations: Users can suggest materials for purchase, though the effectiveness of this mechanism depends on user awareness and the responsiveness of library staff.
- Library Committees: Library committees, which include faculty members, are responsible for book selection decisions.
- Library Orientation Programs: These programs can educate users about collection development processes and encourage participation. Methods include library orientation (100%), user manuals, library website, and instructional videos.
- Usage Analysis: Usage data can reveal which materials are actually being used, informing collection development decisions. Data analytics has emerged as a powerful tool for understanding usage patterns and identifying unused materials.

9.4 Challenges in User Participation

Challenges in user participation include limited awareness of collection development processes, time constraints, and the dominance of faculty preferences over student needs. The gap between faculty recommendations and student usage highlights the need for a more balanced approach that considers diverse user perspectives.

10. Types of Resources in University Libraries

University libraries in Telangana maintain diverse collections of print and electronic resources to support teaching, learning, and research. The composition of these collections varies significantly across institutions, reflecting differences in institutional priorities, budgets, and user needs.

10.1 Print Resources

Books: University libraries hold substantial book collections. Osmania University Library has 557,007 books, followed by University of Hyderabad with 326,966, JNTUH with 92,000, PJTSAU with 87,774, MANUU with 82,303, and NALSAR with 50,245.

Reference Books: Reference collections are well-developed in all university libraries. University of Hyderabad has the highest collection of reference books (20,500), followed by Osmania University (10,821), JNTUH (9,500), NALSAR (4,980), MANUU (4,529), and PJTSAU (2,202) .

Current Periodicals: The number of current periodical subscriptions varies significantly. Osmania University subscribes to 284 titles, JNTUH to 220, PJTSAU to 126, MANUU to 105, NALSAR to 76, and University of Hyderabad to 24 titles.

Back Volumes of Periodicals: University of Hyderabad holds the largest collection of back volumes (94,215), followed by MANUU with 391.

Theses and Dissertations: Osmania University has the highest collection of theses and dissertations (13,195), followed by University of Hyderabad (12,126), PJTSAU (10,632), JNTUH (3,940), MANUU (676), and NALSAR (177).

Government Documents: Osmania University holds 12,709 government documents, while PJTSAU holds only 10.

Manuscripts: Only two universities have manuscript collections: Osmania University (6,825) and MANUU (392).

Microforms: University of Hyderabad holds 497 microfilms and microfiches, Osmania University holds 273, and JNTUH holds 200.

Other Collections: Osmania University holds 12,400 special collections of UN books, NALSAR holds 3,539, and MANUU holds 497.

10.2 Electronic Resources

E-books: University of Hyderabad has the highest collection of e-books (10,216), followed by NALSAR (6,311), JNTUH (2,498), MANUU (1,447), PJTSAU (1,380), and Osmania University (83).

Electronic Journals: JNTUH subscribes to the highest number of electronic journals (15,355), followed by Osmania University (15,000), NALSAR (13,000), PJTSAU (93), University of Hyderabad (42), and MANUU subscribes to none.

E-theses and Dissertations: University of Hyderabad holds the highest collection (12,126), followed by Osmania University (12,050), PJTSAU (8,900), JNTUH (1,200), MANUU (676), and NALSAR (177).

Online Databases: University of Hyderabad subscribes to 42 online databases, followed by NALSAR (28), MANUU (14), Osmania University (8), JNTUH (3), and PJTSAU (2).

CD-ROM Databases: University of Hyderabad holds 10,000 CD-ROM databases, followed by MANUU (352), NALSAR (150), JNTUH (30), and Osmania University (12).

Electronic Reports/Digital Documents: Osmania University holds 45,000 electronic reports or digital documents, followed by NALSAR (97) and University of Hyderabad (45).

Institutional Repositories (IRs): University of Hyderabad has 497 IR collections, while MANUU has 33.

Audio and Video Materials: University of Hyderabad holds 621 audio and video materials, followed by MANUU (456), Osmania University (204), JNTUH (40), and NALSAR (20).

10.3 Resource Adequacy

The study found that almost all respondents (100%) said that the existing collection of electronic resources is adequate to meet the needs of users. However, the adequacy of collections must be evaluated in the context of budget constraints, usage patterns, and evolving user needs.

11. Conclusion

This study has examined collection development practices in university libraries in Telangana, with special reference to Mahatma Gandhi University, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of collection development in the region. The findings reveal significant strengths, including rich and diverse print collections, growing electronic resource access, automation of library operations, open access initiatives, user participation, and resource sharing through consortia. These strengths position university libraries to effectively support teaching, learning, and research across diverse disciplines.

However, significant challenges persist. The widespread absence of formal collection development policies undermines systematic collection building, while inadequate and inequitable budget allocation creates disparities in resource availability. Insufficient electronic resource budgets, limited user participation, challenges in managing hybrid collections, lack of data-driven collection management, and staffing challenges further constrain the effectiveness of collection development.

Mahatma Gandhi University Library exemplifies many of the best practices in collection development, including automation using Koha, open access initiatives through its Online Theses Digital Library, consortia membership in INFLIBNET and DELNET, and encouragement of book donations. These practices offer valuable lessons for other university libraries in the region.

The role of library professionals is central to addressing these challenges. Librarians must develop formal collection development policies, advocate for adequate budget allocation, engage users more effectively in collection development, apply data analytics to collection management, and pursue continuous professional development. The role of users—particularly faculty members—is also critical, though greater participation by research scholars and students is needed.

The transition from print-dominated to hybrid collections will continue to shape collection development practices. University libraries must balance investment in print and electronic resources, manage preservation challenges, and ensure equitable access to information resources. The One Nation One Subscription initiative and other national schemes offer opportunities for expanding access, but sustained advocacy and strategic planning are needed to ensure that all university libraries have the resources they need to fulfill their mission.

In conclusion, collection development 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, leveraging data analytics, engaging users, and embracing technological innovations, university libraries can develop collections that meet the evolving needs of their academic communities.

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