



# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN MEDICAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE OF BIHAR

By

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**Abstract:** *The present study is primarily conducted to examine the substantial areas and factors that influence the library professionals to build an effective collection for its clientele. The population of the study is strictly peripheries with the selected medical college libraries of Bihar i.e. Patna Medical College Library and Darbhanga Medical College Library. The study reveals that the print collections of all the surveyed libraries are satisfactory in comparison to electronic resource collections. The automated housekeeping operations of the libraries are in progress as the libraries are not fully automated till the present.*

**Keywords:** *Collection development, Automation status, Medical College Library.*

## Introduction

Collection development happens to be an integral function of the library. It signifies the process of strengthening the library with resource building and its management to facilitate the users with required information. This, however, needs a consistent policy and principles in the library for a sound collection development. Walter E. Helmke has stressed upon the adoption of principle with regard to selection, acquisition, evaluation, and maintenance of information resources in electronic, print and non-print formats. The collection policy reflects the philosophies stated in the IPFW mission and the Walter E. Helmke Library mission and communicates the guiding principles for the collection to faculty, students, staff, and other interested persons while providing guidance to those responsible for developing the collection.

Further, collection evaluation, fundamental aspects of library operations needs to be a continuous process for

adhering to in the library for maintaining quality and need based collection development. Collection assessment, maintenance and weeding out are some of the integral parts of the process of collection evaluation. It is a process of assessing the effectiveness to a heave of collection to meet the identified information needs of the school community. A continuous process reflects changes in teaching/learning programs and user needs. Developing a balanced and usable collection is one of the important aspects of library services and objectives. Academic library collections are built specifically to meet research and information needs of the institution's academic programmes and the various curriculums are the frame upon which the library collection is built. All programmes must be covered to facilitate effective learning, teaching, research and community services. Collection evaluation, also called collection assessment/analysis is crucial to ensure efficient, effective, up-to-date and usable collections. Collection effectiveness is measured according to Lumande and Ojedokun by the extent to which a library collection can facilitate research activities and how much students can rely on it for project and assignments. Pausch and Popp maintained that accountability, outcomes measurement and assessment are the subject of discussion in higher education and coupled with the fact that libraries collections consume large portion of the budget, library must ensure that what is collected meets the expressed needs and Information expectations of the user's community. One way of ensuring such needs is collection evaluation

### **An introductory demographic sketch of the selected medical college libraries**

**Patna Medical College Central Library:** The Patna Medical College and Hospital was established in 1925 and originally known as Prince of Wales Medical College, is a medical college located in Patna, the state capital of Bihar, India. It is located on the Southern bank of the river Ganges and is now affiliated with Aryabhata Knowledge University. It has a library which has satisfied its users since its establishment. The librarian of this library Mr. Nylanjan Pathak. The library consists of Books, Reference books, Text books, Theses/Dissertations, CD's. The library has 1 Librarian, 1 Assistant Librarian, 1 Library Assistant and 6 Library Attendant. Various types of users like students, faculties visit their library.

**Darbhanga Medical College Central Library:** Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital is a government medical college having hospital facilities at Darbhanga, Bihar .DMCH was established in 1946. The College is currently affiliated with Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna. DMCH was constructed with the efforts of King Rameshwar Singh of Khandavala Dynasty who also built the beautiful Raj Nagar Palace in Madhubani. According to the incidence, the Prince of Wales, also called Edward VIII, came to Bihar in 1925. Darbhanga Maharaja Rameshwar Singh requested him to visit a medical school at Patna named 'Temple of Medical Learning'. The Prince, who subsequently became King Edward VIII, was very impressed by working of the medical school. On behalf of the British government, he offered to the Maharaja to upgrade the medical school into a new college for medicine. The older, 'Temple of Medical Learning' was decided to be shifted somewhere else in Bihar. According to old folks, the 'Temple of Medical Learning', was earlier decided to be transferred to, Muzaffarpur. The twist in the tale comes here! The maharaja accepted the shifting of medical school but proposed its setup at Darbhanga.

Eventually, his wish was fulfilled and, paved the way for the medical College in the city. The Raj family donated 300 acres of prime land in the middle, of the twin city of Darbhanga-Laheriasarai along with Rs 6 lakh for setting up and expansion the Medical College.

Initially, DMCH was located, inside today's police hospital situated near Lohia Chowk of the city. Before a start, the king had to deposit an amount of Rs 25,000 to the British to shift the medical college. After the king, his son Kameshwar Singh upgraded and renamed the 'Temple of Medical Learning' to Darbhanga Medical College in 1946

## Review of Literature:

Literature concerning collection development reveals a vast range of ideas concerning its philosophy, history and gradual trend of its practice. The initial phase of this concept reveals the different aspects of collection development like budget all location & its formulae, selection, evaluation and the like and the seared reflected in many primary and secondary sources of information like journals, books, encyclopedia, conference proceedings, and Internet resources.

Dr. S R Ranganathan's ideas on different facets of collection development are note worthy. In fact, his "Five Laws of Library Science" are the basic guidelines for preparation of policies on collection development. Along with it, the insufficient nature of collection helps the library staff thinks of inter-library loan system - as exemplified by the third law of library science "Depend on inter-library loan for books in occasional demand".

1. **Horava** (2009) explained some of major issue concerning collection development in academic libraries in digital environment. The present study concluded with ideas for incorporating shift from manual collection to sustainable and forward looking approach to collection management.
2. **Ahmad and Satija** (2002) discussed the procedures for acquiring, organizing and preserving documents to dissemination of information. Rashid and Amine (1998) examined the library automation operations, collection organization, services, finance and staffing.
3. **Mukherjee, A. K.** (1974) in his book "*selection: principles, practices & tools*" opined that an e-selection makes a library of valuable books, a living source of culture. This selection must be in relation to reader requirements and not only a collection of good books.
4. **Seetharama, S.**(1997) in the paper "*Collection Development/Management*" in *an information technology-based environment: current initiatives and issues*" discussed impact of information technology on collection development and collection management. He also examined about the changing role of libraries and librarians in manipulation traditional as well as electronic resources.
5. **Mahapatra, P. K.** (1999) in his book "*Collection Management in Libraries*" stated that collection management is not just book selection, acquisition, building the collection and even collection development. During last few

decades the library situations have been affected by social, economic, cultural and academic changes, the declining financial resources, technological innovations, changing needs and requirements of the user groups and access to wider resource base.

6. **Kumar and Ahmad** (2002) examined the status of collection, facilities, manpower and services. Khan (1993) analyzed the collection in terms of growth in size, growth of users and compares with the growth of budget.

7. **Wittenbach, Stefanie** (2005) described the restructuring of collection development the University of California Riverside University Libraries. In this article, author has presented a new system that has created more accountability for the resource budget. The findings of result showed that users are more aware about resources purchased in their own area.

## Objectives of the study

The main trust of the present study is to determine the state of collection development of the two libraries of PMCH and DMCH is based on the following objectives: -

To know the total collection of the libraries.

To find out the budget available for better collection development in the library.

To know what policy is being used for collection development.

To find out what type of services library provides to its users.

To find out whether the collection of library is automated.

To provide necessary suggestions for the development of the collection.

## Methodology

Methodology is a way to systematically solve a problem and research methodology means a way to solve the research problem. Research in common direct refers to a search for knowledge. In fact research is a scientific investigation. It can be defined as a scientific and systematic search for gaining information and knowledge on a specific topic or phenomenon. There are several techniques available for collecting data such as:-

### Questionnaire Method:-

This method of data collection is quite popular. In this method a questionnaire is prepared and distributed to the person concerned with a request to answer the question and return the questionnaire consists of a list of questions printed in a definite order on form/forms. The questionnaire is personally distributed or mailed to the respondents who are expected to understand the writing in relevant space provided for the purpose itself.

Questionnaires are of two types

**Open Questionnaire-** Open-ended questions are designed i.e. no answer are given against, to permit response from the subject rather than one limit to certain state alternative. In this type of questionnaire, the respondent is given opportunity to answer in his own terms and in his frame of reference.

**Closed Questionnaire-** Closed questionnaires are those in which there are definite, concrete and pre-ordered questions with additional questions limited to those necessary to clarify in adequate answer or to elicit more detailed responses. The questionnaire that calls short check -mate responses are known as closed form type.

**Observation Method:-**

The observation method is the most commonly used method specially in studies measuring, testing, characterizing relating to behavioral sciences. Under this method, the information is sought by way of investigators own direct observation without asking from the respondent. In other words "the primary research instrument would seem to be observing human intelligence trying to make sense out of human experience".

**Interview Method:-**

The interview is a sense an oral questionnaire. Instead of writing the response, the interview gives the necessary information orally and face to face. The interview method is more direct and has greater flexibility. This method is unique because the collection of data is through direct interaction between individuals.

**Personal Interview:-**

This method of collecting data involves presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral-verbal responses. In this method the investigator follows a rigid procedure and seeks answer to a pre-conceived questions though personal interviews. The method is carried out in a structured way where output depends upon the ability of the interviewer to a large extent. Such interview involves the use of a set of pre-determined questions and of highly standardized techniques of recording.

**Telephone Interview:-**

Telephone interview method of collecting information involves contacting the respondents on telephone itself This is not a very widely used method but it plays an important role in industrial surveys in developed regions particularly, when the survey has to be accomplished in a very limited time..

**Tools used for the study:-**

The study used questionnaire method to collect the data from both the libraries. The present study is conducted on a sample of two libraries of PMCH and DMCH. Responses were obtained from the librarian of both the libraries and data was used for further analysis.

**Pilot Survey:-**

A survey preceding the main study usually to check the viability of the study design is known as pilot study or survey. A pilot survey was undertaken to ensure that the questionnaire was meaningful and to decide which questions were relevant for the purpose of the study. So a pilot survey was undertaken which was useful in modifying the questionnaire.

**Data Collection Procedure:-**

To conduct the present study a questionnaire was prepared consisting of questions pertaining to such aspect as: Library budget, library collection, selection of study materials, selection tools, e-journals subscription, library automation and recourse sharing. Because the

questionnaire was aimed to collect the relevant data from Library, PMCH and Library, DMCH, so it was personally taken to the librarian. The included data was into different tables to find out:

1. Library collection.
2. Library budget.
3. Selection of study materials.
4. Selection tools.
5. E-journals subscription.
6. Library automations.
7. Resource sharing.
9. Data analysis. The data collected through questionnaires were organized and tabulated by using statistical methods, tables and percentage.

In order to carry out this study, survey (questionnaire, interview and observation) method is adopted for the collection of primary data. A pre-structured questionnaire has been designed and distributed among the librarians of medical college libraries under the study followed by the interactions with the librarians. Analysis has been made as per the responses sought in filled in questionnaire.

**Discussion:** The nature of the collection development pattern of the libraries reflects the courses of fared and research under taken within the institution. The up to date collection of the library helps the users to update with the recent information. This plays a very important role in academic development of the students. The libraries should build a balanced collection of consisting of a wide variety of learning and teaching materials to satisfy varied curricular and extracurricular activities of both students and teachers. The collection should be selected and developed on the basis of the objective of the institution, size and nature of the student body, size of the faculty and their needs for research materials. The library collection of the surveyed libraries comprises of both print as well as electronic resources are displayed in the below tables.

### **Analysis by Category of Respondent**

Respondents are the users of the university which include students, research scholars, faculties and others. However, the scholar took initiatives to serve the questionnaire belonging to three categories such as students, research scholars and faculties. Questionnaires received from these three categories from the different department of both the colleges such as, PMCH and DMCH has been placed below in Table-1 for analysis.

**Table-1:** Category of Respondents

Respondents	PMCH	Total Respondents	%	DMHU	Total Respondents	%
Students	36	34	94	50	50	100
Research Scholars	17	17	100	3	3	100
Faculty	8	6	75	6	5	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>98</b>

Analysis of the Table-1 shows that, the scholar distributed 61 questionnaires to all the categories of different department, PMCH and 59 in DMCH thus, coming to 120 in total out of which, 115 filled in questionnaires were received from all the respondents which constitute 96% in total. Out of three (3) categories of the department of the college under study, the total respondents of PMCH were 57 while the total respondents of DMCH are 58 which constitute 93% and 98% respectively. Again, while analyzing, the research scholar of both the colleges have responded 100%, followed by the students of DMCH who responded again 100%. The students of PMCH have responded 34 in total out of 36 which constitute 94%. The response rate of the faculties are 5 out of 6 i.e., 83% in DMCH while 6 out of 8 in PMCH which formed 75%. It is observed that as a whole, the response rates of both the colleges are good.

**Table 2:** Conventional resources in the selected libraries

## Collection types

## Name of the institutes

	PMCH	DMCH
<b>Textbooks</b>	21302	7000
<b>Reference books</b>	18485	1800
<b>Theses/Dissertations</b>	2446	1200
<b>CD's</b>	450	249
<b>Newspapers</b>	5	4
<b>Back Volume Journals</b>	250	185
<b>Magazines</b>	25	20

**Table 3:** Availability of Electronic resources in the libraries

Name of the libraries	E-resources			
	E-books	E-journals	E-databases	Any other
PMCH	N	Y	N	N
DMCH	N	Y	N	N

**Table-2** reveals that the library of PMCH has the highest number of collection in terms of all kinds of resources followed by DMCH. Regarding the availability of e-resources, only E-journals have been facilitated by the respective medical college libraries.

**Library Automation:** The automation of library collection allows the library to be more flexible when it comes to an increase in demand at the peak time. Automation is also a way of preparing the collection to become sustainable with the ever increasing shift to a technology-based service provision, in terms of information dissemination paired with the ever decreasing amount of funding for library.

**Table-4:** Automation status of the libraries

Name of institutes	Fully automated	Partially automated	Proposed
PMCH	N	Y	N
DMCH	N	Y	N

**Table-5:** ILS used for Library automation

Name of the institute	KOHA	SOUL	LYBSYS	Any other
PMCH	Y	N	N	N
DMCH	Y	N	N	N

**Table-6:**

Automated modules of housekeeping operations

Name of the institutes	Circulation	Cataloguing	Serial Control	OPAC
PMCH	Y	Y	Y	Y
DMCH	N	Y	N	N

N

ILMS modules being used



**Table-5** shows that automation status of the libraries is not up to the mark. Libraries of PMCH and DMCH are partially automated. KOHA open source ILMs has been used for the automation purpose of housekeeping operation of the libraries (Table- 5). Almost all the enlisted modules of housekeeping have used in PMCH library through KOHA (Table-5).

## Suggestions

In the given chapter the researcher is making a suggestion after due analysis of the data obtained through the questionnaire, interacting with the users and the top management as well as observing the services of the two colleges libraries.

- Cooperative conservation and preservation initiative need to be started for both the college libraries to create a restoration centers. As the resources to do such work are costly in terms of materials and staff management, it would really benefit both the college libraries under study and not only that, it would be a blessing for all academic institutional libraries of Bihar.
- For effective collection building, efforts should be taken by the libraries of PMCH and DMCH by organizing feedback or suggestion annually from their potential users. This would really benefit them in filling the gap of the collection.
- Both the college libraries needed to evolve a sound policy on collection development, acquisition and book selection as well as criteria for evaluating a collection. They are doing a great job in collection development without having a written policies and it would still be for their advantage if they could have a written policies on that.
- An annual review of the works and progress made by the university library by the library committee and the college authority is highly suggested to ensure user's satisfaction and to see that the financial aids provided by UGC for the development of library are put into good use.
- Initiative on user's awareness regarding the use of copyrighted materials on print as well as non-print materials like e-journals should be undertaken to promote the rights of the copyright holder and measure needs to be taken to prevent plagiarism and duplication of research works.
- Libraries are established to serve the information needs of the potential and future user. It is more a business centre and should learn from the corporate world about customer care and satisfaction.
- It is suggested that being a customer centric institution, the top management staff should be well conversant about human resource management and organization of management to create a hospitable working environment and customer care services.

## Conclusion

Colleges are mandated to extend the frontiers of knowledge through research, dissemination of knowledge, teaching, and public service. The college library has an important role to play in these mandates. The library is a gateway to information resources, and can enhance learning, teaching and research in a prompt, cost-effective and

straight forward manner. This can be achieved only if the library collection is not at conflict with the curriculum of the institutions. One of the ways to ensure that the collection is in harmony with the curriculum is to seek the views of faculty about the collection, through regular assessment of faculty opinion about library collections and services. Much talk about collection development, especially in developing countries, focuses on input rather than output, which is why libraries have achieved little even with so much input. Libraries are more committed to meticulous observance of the rules than appreciation of their services by the people served. Usable library collections are known by the outcomes. Moreover, studies have shown that collection efficiency and effectiveness depend on the extent to which it can facilitate research, and by how much students can rely on it for projects and assignments. Effectiveness requires responsiveness to clients, for which collection and staff should be committed and motivated.

The importance of collection and use of library resources evaluation is to ensure that users' needs are met. This study sought the opinions of the target users of PMCH Library and DMCH Library. It has shown that the opinions of academic staff are needed in identifying and meeting their expectations. Collection development in both the colleges should consider, in consultation with academic colleagues, what the library can and should provide, and how this balance will relate to teaching, learning, and research needs of users. Efforts should be made to involve library users, especially academic staff, in collection analysis and evaluation.

The Clientele of library judge a collection by the extent to which it can meet their teaching, learning, leisure and research requirements. This judgment might be more critical in an environment where they have no means of expressing their opinions.

A high rate of failure to find relevant information in the collection should be an indication of the mismatch in the process of satisfying curricular objectives. This mismatch can be identified by seeking the opinions of users. If both the academic libraries are to be seen as relevant to their communities, they must ensure that their collections are not at variance with the curriculum. One of the ways to accomplish this is to seek the opinions of academic staff users in developing and evaluating the collections.

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