

Sikkim University Library

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Abstract

It is discussed how different steps have been initiated for developing the library of Sikkim university which is a newly established one. Number of scholars has donated their personal collection to the library and the collection is growing in the library sufficiently. Moreover, at the initiative of the library authority, a good number of online publications including the databases are also subscribed besides the printed one, the article discussed. It is evident from the article; different initiatives are taken by the library in spite all the odds for extending library services to the university community.

Keywords: Sikkim University, Library services, Online sources, Collection development

Introduction

The Central Library started growing since February 2008 in a rented premises having floor area of about 1000 sq. ft. Presently, it occupies more than 9000 sq. ft. capable of accommodating about 70,000 books. University right from its inception has a priority to build up a good university library. University library is considered as the heart as well as index of all academic activities of the institution. The mandate to strengthen the collection and improve the services is one of the important agendas of the university. Though, being a newly established library of only about 8 years old, housed in a rented building, functioning with minimum staff strength of 6 persons is comparable to any other old university library of the country so far as modernization and infrastructure facilities are concerned. The concept of modern library implies the adoption of new technologies to multiply and simplify the services to the utmost satisfaction of the users which the Library has successfully achieved.

It provides web-enabled accessibility to its resources within the campus as well as outside. Up-to-date Online Public Catalogue is

web-enabled with the facilities of self-check-out and check-in, on-line reservation, renewal of issued books, recommendations for purchase of books, daily notification of new arrival of books. All collection is RFID tagged to facilitate users to be independent in returning and issue of books. A whole library premise is Wi-Fi enabled with good speed of connectivity. For security purpose, all the floors of the library are fitted with CCTV with electronic exit gate which prevents any unauthorized document to be taken from the library.

Collection Initiatives

The first priority of a new University library is to develop a good library collection meeting the information needs of its 29 academic departments. At present, library has achieved the target of 45,000 books. It subscribes to more than 240 journals in addition to the e-resources available under UGC consortium. The Library also has a small collection of 1178 Braille books. This was in addition to e-resources available under UGC-Infonet which provides access to over 7000 e-resources. To supplement these resources, the Library also subscribes to *IndiaStat* database, *Economic Outlook* (CMIE) and *DelCON* (database of Department of Biotechnology, Library Consortium), IEEE database on Computer applications. Library has a proposal to subscribe more e-resources during the year 2016-17. Library also has been getting free trial access to various e-books and other e-resources from time to time for evaluation and to assess the usability of these resources. Library organized book exhibition during the month of May, 2015 in which many publishers participated. The selection was made mainly from the publications of Academic Press, Taylor and Francis, Springers, Oxford University Press, etc. The costs of the recommended books come to over Rs. 2 Cr.

Special Collection and Donated Books

Prof A.C. Sinha, former Professor of Sociology, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, has donated his whole collection which includes rich collection on North-East including Nepal and Bhutan. The collection also includes PhD theses submitted in various Universities. Some of the rare documents on Sikkim and Himalayan studies are being digitized to strengthen the digital resources on North East. Prof. Mahendra P. Lama former VC of this University and the present VC Prof T B Subba also has donated good number of books to the library. Similar efforts are being made to enrich the collection from other

donors. Library received 317 books as gratis from other sources during 2014-15. Library has also developed special collection on **North East India** in print as well as in digital format.

Opening of the Departmental Libraries

Since departments are located distantly from one another as well as from the Central Library, therefore the need to establish departmental libraries was felt. University already has a **science** library to serve science faculty and students located at one place. About 12 departmental libraries were opened during the year, some of them will be opened during 2015-16 so that textbook collections are easily available to the students at departmental level.

Services

During the beginning of the academic session every year, library organizes users awareness programme to familiarize students with the functioning and services of the library. The main course contents of the programme are - how to make best use of library and internet resources, what are the different search strategies being followed by search engines, publishers and others producers of the information products, to identify and introduce e-resources to each department according to their needs.

Library caters to the information needs of more than 2000 students and over 120 faculty members. It also offers consultation services to the students and faculty members of all affiliated colleges of Sikkim University.

New on-line service - **Current Contents of Journals'** on DSpace platform was initiated to promote the usage of journals being subscribed by the library. All issues of the journals available in the library are being digitized for archival as well as future use. Library signage was developed during the year to make library self-explanatory and user friendly.

Institutional Repository

Library started digitization work after acquiring all equipment and infrastructure. It plans to develop Institutional Repository with all institutional publications, archival of open access e-books and e-journals, administrative documents and other resources useful to the University. The creation of databases on Eastern Himalayas and North East is the priority areas.