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Education in the Current World :
Pedagogy, Research and Social Change

International Conference on Teaching and Learning (ICTL)

April 22-23, 2016

Conference Proceeding

HEQEP

Center for Pedagogy

IUB
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© Center for Pedagogy at IUB, published online on September 1, 2016
ISBN: 978-984-34-0780-1

Edited by
Mahbub Alam
A.S.M. Asaduzzaman
Obydullah Al Marjuk

Published by
Center for Pedagogy (CP)
Established under the Sub-project Titled
"Pedagogical Development at Undergraduate and Master's Level" (CP3357)
Independent Univeristy, Bangladesh (IUB)

Contact
cp@iub.edu.bd

Cover Design
Design Bank
01610510510

International Confernece on Teaching and Learning (ICTL)

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Value of Libraries to Research, Education and Society: Bangladesh Perspective

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The purpose of this paper is an attempt to describe the value of libraries to research, education and society in Bangladesh, and its objective is to explore the importance of establishing libraries in Bangladesh. Libraries continue to play a crucial role in the development of society providing contents, good knowledge, information on local communities, interests of common people, reading materials, research papers, space, better environment, technological facilities, scholarly communications, institutional repositories and connecting researchers & academics. This paper follows a mixed research approach and collects data from different organizations and receives comments from renowned personalities about value of libraries in Bangladesh. This study investigates how libraries are important to higher educational institutions, research organizations and societies in Bangladesh. It discusses how libraries help researchers, scholars, and societies in order to make a better shape of their working condition in their respective areas. It also focuses on the improved life style of general people in collecting, preserving, and disseminating information by libraries for the greater interest of common people and society in Bangladesh. This study finally shows how communities are benefited from library services.

Keywords: *Library, value, research, education, society, Bangladesh*.

Introduction

Library is an organized collection of print books, print journals, e-resources, online databases, or any other graphic or audio visual materials using ICT tools and technologies with professional staff members for managing, preserving, and disseminating these resources as are required to meet the informational, research, educational, or recreational needs of users and plays a significant role for the development of any developed nation as well as for a developing nation like Bangladesh. Libraries are treated as influential places for education, learning, research and treasure houses of knowledge. These are mainly service-oriented organizations and play a very vital role in the overall social, research and economic

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development of a nation. It is the connecting node in the process of information discovery and ends with delivery the right information to the right user at the right time. In the current information age, it is not possible to keep track of development activities in the absence of a good modern library in the country. Mostafa argued that "The developments of a country depend largely on its research output" (Mostafa & Bandyopadhyay, 2004). Libraries usually have a very important role to play in future development and socio-political, cultural, educational, and intellectual progress of the country (Uddin, 2012)

Literature Review

A careful review of literature reveals that till now no investigations have been carried out to study the value of libraries to research, education, and society based on Bangladesh perspective. On the basis of available literature, it is found that most of the investigated literatures are based on review articles but not related to Bangladesh.

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in 2010 published a report titled "The value of academic libraries". This report was intended to describe the current state of the research on community college, college, and university library value and suggest focus areas for future research. The report emphasizes library value within the context of overarching institutions. In recognition of this fact, this report includes significant research from other library types: school, public, and special (e.g., corporate, medical, law) libraries (Oakleaf, 2010).

Shaffer (2013) reviewed traditional library services, briefly describes the eScience and publishing landscape as it related to libraries, and explored possible library programs in support of research. Many of the new opportunities required new partnerships, both within the institution and externally (Shaffer, 2013).

Research Libraries UK (RLUK) and the Research Information Network (RIN) in 2010 developed a report titled "The value of libraries for research and researchers". This report presents the findings of a systematic study of the value of the services that libraries in the UK provide to researchers, and of the contributions that libraries from a wide range of institutions make to institutional research performance. The aim was to identify the key characteristics of library provision to support research in successful UK universities and departments (Research Libraries UK & Research Information Network, 2011).

Keyes evaluates techniques for determining the monetary value of special libraries and describes valuation by time-saved methods, relationships to productivity, and cost-benefit analyses (Keyes, 1995).

Portugal (2000) found the difficulty with measuring value that librarians and information processionals provide to an organization resides in the intangible nature of the assets created. As is often stated in the literature, it is easier to measure the cost of a library than measure the profit or benefits they help generate to a company or organisation. However, as Portugal states, the values of other intangibles are constantly measured in a quantitative manner in the corporate world. Intangibles such as copyrights, patents, customer relationships, electronic databases, goodwill, human capital, location and proprietary processes and knowledge, are all concepts that are regularly valued in monetary terms in the business world (Portugal, 2000).

Abdulsalami et al. (2004) examined the role of library in the promotion of knowledge societies in Nigeria. Libraries acquired a great importance in the knowledge society. Libraries which have been variously referred to as the purveyor of information, the custodian of knowledge, and the house of learning plays a

vital role in the development of any society by catering for the information needs of thousands of peoples within a particular community (Abdulsalami, Okezie, & Agbo, 2013).

Nuut (2004) explored that the libraries should pay more attention to the development trends of information society that would enable to adjust their development strategies to social information needs. For that reason it is important to see library as a part of social model of the society and its role in social development plans and strategies and in legislation (Nuut, 2004).

Singh & Nazim (2008) pointed out that Information Technology is currently taking center stage and transformed the whole world into a global village with a global economy, which is increasingly dependent on the creative management and distribution of information. The enormous advantages it has in easing the delivery of information around the world. The authors discussed the impact of information technology and role of libraries in the age of knowledge and information societies (Singh & Nazim, 2008).

Tenopir C et al. (2010) showed that the value of an academic library to its parent institution is difficult, but important, to measure. Many different methods have been used to measure value, including return on investment (ROI), contingent valuation, and other explicit and implicit measures. The authors found that library-provided access to scholarly journals supports faculty productivity and that faculty members value and use electronic resources to support their research, grant and publishing activities (Tenopir, King, Mays, Wu, & Baer, 2010).

Objectives of the Study

The present paper discovers an attempt to briefly describe the core values of different types of libraries for boosting up research, education and community development activities. The specific objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the definition and indicators of library value.
2. To explore the various types of libraries with their role, growth and development in the perspective of Bangladesh.
3. To explain the significance of libraries in education, culture and research.
4. To narrate the changing roles of libraries in the digital age.
5. To share the valuable comments from renowned personalities about value of libraries.

Library: Basic Concept

The word “Library” originates from the Latin term ‘liber’ which means ‘a book’. According to the Oxford Companion to the English Language – “Library is a collection of books, periodicals and/or other materials, primarily written and printed.”

Harrod’s Librarian’s Glossary and Reference Book defines ‘Library’ as (Prytherch, 2000):
(1) A collection of books and other literary material kept for reading, study and consultation.
(2) A place, building, room or rooms set apart for the keeping and use of a collection of books, etc.
(4) A collection of films, photographs and other non-book materials, plastic or metal tapes, disks and programs.

The Whole Library Handbook offers this definition (Heartsill, 1983; Marcum, 2003; Martin, 2003):
"A library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or

entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole."

Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science defines library as “From the Latin liber, meaning "book." In Greek and the Romance languages, the corresponding term is bibliotheca. A collection or group of collections of books and/or other print or nonprint materials organized and maintained for use (reading, consultation, study, research, etc.). Institutional libraries, organized to facilitate access by a specific clientele, are staffed by librarians and other personnel trained to provide services to meet user needs” (Reitz, 2016).

So it is well summarized according to Wikipedia, library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space, or both. A library's collection can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, e-books, audio books, databases, and other formats (Wikipedia, 2016).

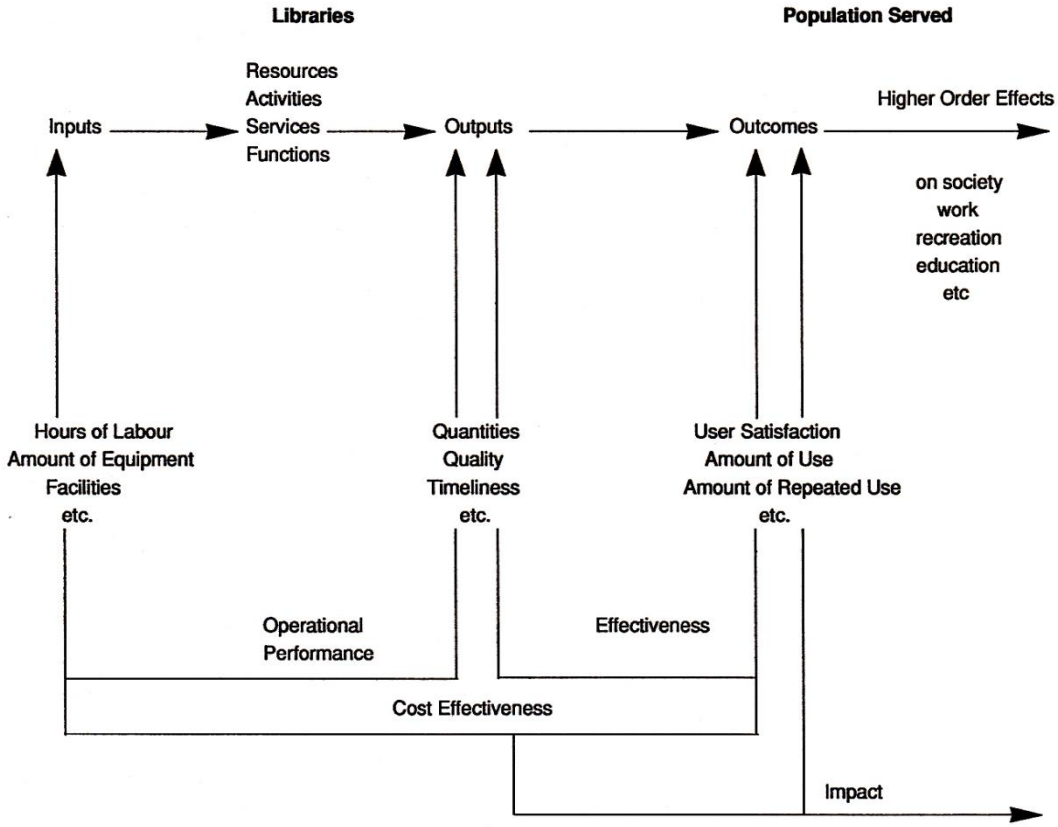
Library Value

Value can be defined in a variety of ways and viewed from numerous perspectives (Zeithaml, 1988), including use, return-on-investment, commodity production, impact, and alternative comparison (Oakleaf, 2010). It is very difficult to define library value in a single statement as it depends on various factors and of course, it varies from library to library. As for example in order to assess the value of a university library the following indicators should be taken into consideration (Yerbury, 1992):

- Infrastructure/ library building
- Plan
- Budget
- Staffing
- Collections or resources
- Facilities and systems
- Preservation
- Patrons/users
- Usage of resources
- Services

Griffiths JM developed the following conceptual framework in which he showed library value from three different perspectives and defined value as a combination of many different variables such as resources, activities, services, functions, quantities, user satisfaction and so on.

Figure-1
Conceptual Framework of Library Value



Source: (Griffiths, 1992)

Library Value from Management part

Higher management of any organization emphasizes library value on the following indicators:

- Users' demand
- Library services have never been stopped
- Library is a growing organism
- Good image of library
- Management values to professional staff members
- Continuous development takes in place for introducing modern IT based library facilities and services

Core Values of Library

It is evident from the below figure (2) that library core values encompass responsiveness to researchers, staff and management that is entirely called accountability. Another important value called 'Behavior'

which includes the indicators as leadership, learning adaptability, ethical behavior, understanding and reporting. The value 'Skills' also covers planning, self management, problem solving and result oriented and finally library value concludes with excellent customer services.

Figure-2

Library Core Values



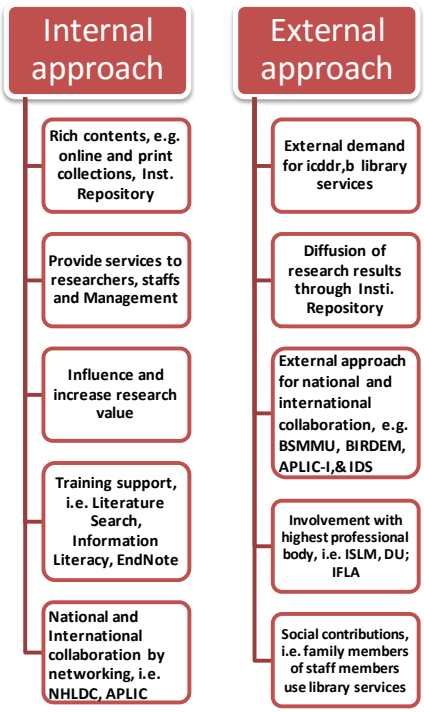
Internal and External Approach of Library Values of ICDDR,B

The figure 3 demonstrates a burning example of library value of icddr,b library. The major impetus behind the icddr,b library value can be attributed to Internal approach and External approach.

Internal approach comprises of Rich contents, e.g. online and print collections, Institutional Repository; Provide services to researchers, staffs and Management; Influence and increase research value; Training support, i.e. Literature Search, Information Literacy, EndNote; and to maintain National and International collaboration by networking, i.e. National Health Library and Documentation Centre (NHLDC), Association for Population/Family Planning Libraries and Information Centers - International (APLIC-I).

Eternal approach is based on External demand for icddr,b library services; Diffusion of research results through Institutional Repository; Maintain national and international collaboration, e.g. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM), APLIC-I,& Institute of Development Studies (IDS); Make good relation with the department of Information Science and Library Management of Dhaka and Rajshahi university; and also contribute to society by delivering basic health related information to vulnerable people through Dhaka Hospital.

Figure-3
Internal and External Approach of Library Values of ICDDR,B



Value of Libraries in Bangladesh:

Libraries are treated as gateway of knowledge of higher education and research institutions and play a crucial role for overall socio-economic development in Bangladesh. Almost all the higher educational and research institutions have got their own libraries. It is mandatory for higher educational academies and research organizations to maintain and develop libraries to support their mission and central activities. Universities, colleges, research organizations, and various national and international organizations in the country have their own libraries (Chowdhury & Khan, 2011). There are mainly four types of libraries in Bangladesh:

1. Academic Library
2. Special Library
3. National Library
4. Public Library

Academic Libraries

Academic library is like the heart of an educational institution. Academic library is the library which is attached to academic institutions like schools, colleges and universities. An academic library serves more specifically the students, research scholars, teachers, faculties, and staff of the academic institution.

School Libraries

A school library is a learning laboratory, providing a variety of instructional media, essential for optimum support of the education programme. The function of the school library is to help the students in the process of their self-discovery, to adopt high ideals in life, improve scholastic efficiency through self study and to develop the capacity for critical thinking. The Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission of 1974 made the most favorable recommendations for establishing and running libraries in Bangladesh to improve educational quality in the country, and to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge by the public (Chowdhury & Khan, 2011). The Commission recommended libraries for all schools. Unfortunately, the administrative reform commission known as the "Enam Commission" in 1982 cut the position of school librarians. However, as time progressed, the M. Moniruzzaman Miah National Education Commission of 2003 (Munshi, 2005) and Kabir Chowdhury National Education Commission, 2009 again emphasized the importance of libraries at all levels of academia.

College Libraries

College performs an important function in educational process. A college without a library is like a tree with no roots. Thus, the basic function of a college library is to assist its parent body to carry out its programmes. The colleges in Bangladesh are administered and managed both by the government and private bodies. Majority of the colleges are managed privately (Hakim, 2001). There are a total number of colleges (general) in Bangladesh is 3985 (Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, 2015) up to 2014.

University Libraries

University libraries are essential part of university education and research. The historical development of university libraries has been influenced by the contexts in which the parent organisations operate. The vision, mission and strategies which are selected by universities as a guide for meeting the core functions of teaching, learning, research and providing community service form the foundation on which the role of the university library is based (Wolpert, 1998).

Value of University Libraries

The University Library underpins the critical business of the University in terms of teaching, learning and research, providing excellent access to digital, physical and spatial resources and specialist support. The University Library facilitates the creation of knowledge and the advance of understanding by:

a. Shaping the student experience through the provision of a welcoming environment and a gateway to services and information
b. Supporting teaching and learning by the provision of information and support at any time of the day, in any part of the world, through any device
c. Equipping students with the skills that they need and the confidence to apply them
d. Expanding the e-book collection and developing patron driven services for provision
e. Continuing to engage with students to understand their information and Library needs
f. Strengthening existing partnerships and build new collaborations
g. Monitoring and responding to changes in the external environment e.g. copyright, Open Access, technology, responding where necessary
h. Supporting the university's mission of financial, environmental and social sustainability

The history of the universities in Bangladesh goes back to the establishment of the Dhaka University in 1921. The second university in this region was started in 1953 in Rajshahi. During Pakistan period five universities were established raising the number to 6 in 1970. The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh has listed three types of universities in Bangladesh: public - 37 (University Grants Commission

of Bangladesh, 2016c), private - 91 (University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, 2016b), and international - 3 (University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, 2016a), on UGC website. Some public universities, such as the University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET), Shah Jalal Science and Technology University, and Khulna University have independent large buildings for their central library.

According to the Wikipedia, a private university is a university that is run with the individual entity. In Bangladesh, the UGC serves as the regulatory body of all the public (government-funded) and private universities of Bangladesh. The Private University Act of 1992 paved the way for vigorous sprouting of private universities (Uddin, 2012).

Table-1

Areas of Library Value and Potential Surrogates

Student Enrollment	• Recruitment of prospective students • Matriculation of admitted students • Recommendation of current students
Student Retention & Graduation	• Fall-to-fall retention • Graduation rates
Student Success	• Internship success • Job placement • Job salaries • Professional/graduate school acceptance • Marketable skills
Student Achievement	• GPA • Professional/educational test scores
Student Learning	• Learning assessments • Faculty judgments
Student Experience, Attitude, & Perception of Quality	• Self-report engagement studies • Senior/alumni studies • Help surveys • Alumni donations
Faculty Research Productivity	• Number of publications, number of patents, value of technology transfer • Tenure/promotion judgments
Faculty Grants	• Number of grant proposals (funded or unfunded) • Value of grants funded
Faculty Teaching	• Integration of library resources and services into course syllabi, websites, lectures, labs, texts, reserve readings, etc. • Faculty/librarian collaborations; cooperative curriculum, assignment, or assessment design
Institutional Reputation & Prestige	• Faculty recruitment • Institutional rankings • Community engagement

Source: (Oakleaf, 2010)

Special Libraries

Special library became popular since the beginning of 20th century. A special library is "one which serves a particular group of people, such as the employees of a firm of government department, or the staff members of a professional or research organization. Such a library deals essentially in information" (Kumar, 1987). Special library may be defined as a library established, supported and administered by a business firm, private corporation, association, government agency or other special interest group or agency to meet the information needs of its members or staff in pursuing the goals of the organization. For example: National Library of Medicine, Libraries of government and non-government organizations like Parliament Library, medical libraries like icddr,b library, etc.

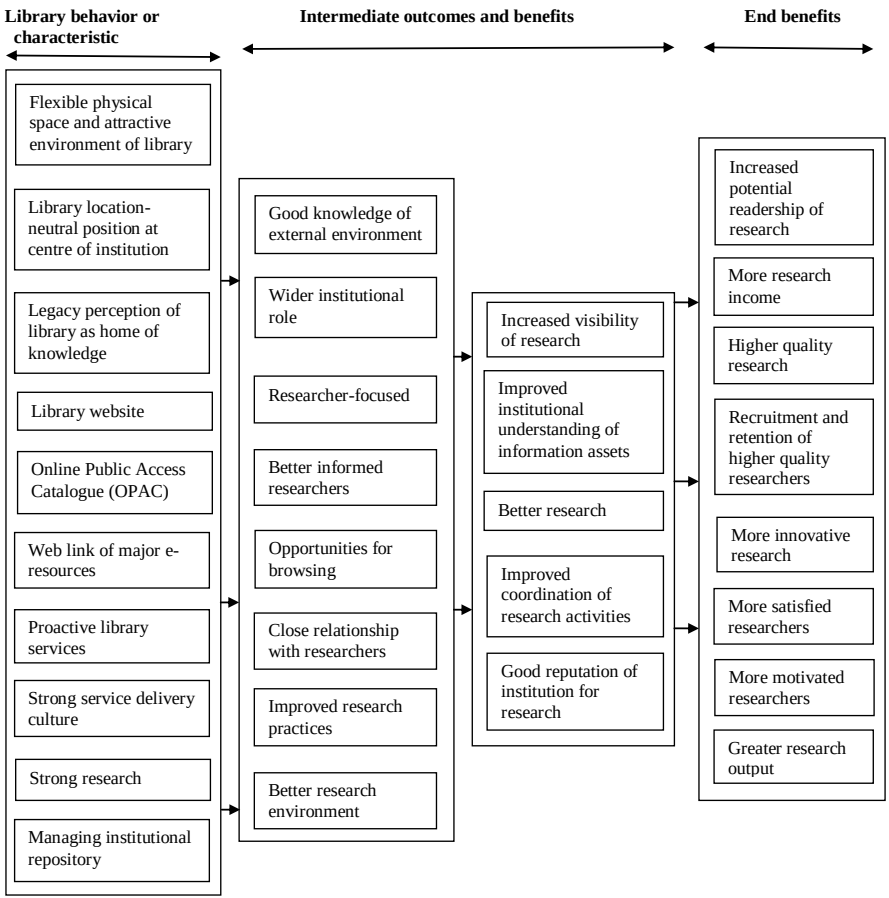
Value of Special Libraries

The core values of special library are highlighted below (Research Libraries UK & Research Information Network, 2011):

a. Good libraries help institutions to recruit and retain top researchers
b. Libraries help researchers win research grants and contracts
c. Libraries promote and exploit new technologies and new models of scholarly communications
d. Repositories increase the visibility of the institution and raise its research profile
e. Outward-facing libraries contribute to institution-wide initiatives
f. Connecting with researchers enhances the value of the library's services and libraries are a physical manifestation of the values of the academy and of scholarship
g. Dedicated spaces provide a better work environment for researchers
h. Easy access to high-quality content is a key foundation for good research

Figure-4

Value of Special Libraries



Source: (Research Libraries UK & Research Information Network, 2011)

A survey of special libraries by BANBEIS in 1990 showed that there are as many as 665 special libraries in Bangladesh (S.M. Mannan & Begum, 2002). Some of these libraries have good collections and provide modern information services. International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (icddrb) library has an immense influence in the country for its up-to date resources on medicine, health, nutrition, demography, and modern services. The icddrb library, in fact, led the library profession of the country in implementing the computerization of libraries in Bangladesh.

Among other important modern special libraries include: libraries of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center, Center of Integrated Rural Development in Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Bangladesh Institute of Research Rehabilitation of Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM), Bangladesh Bank, Agricultural Information Centre, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD), Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BIISS), Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Bangla Academy, etc.

National Library and National Archives

A National Library is a library specifically established by the government of a country to serve as the pre-eminent repository of information for that country. It acts as the central library of the country. Its mission is to protect national heritage preserved in the form of handwritten, printed, electronic, recorded sound and audiovisual documents. The primary task of the National Library is to acquire, store and permanently archive the intellectual output of Poles, whether the works of citizens, the most important foreign works, or publications related to the country and published abroad.

The National Library of Bangladesh and the National Archives of Bangladesh are run under the administrative control and management of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries, Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The National Library of Bangladesh (NLB) is the legal depository of all new books and other printed materials published in Bangladesh under the copyright law of Bangladesh (Directorate of Archives and Libraries-Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2016b).

Values of Bangladesh National Library

- To distribute ISBNs to the publishers of the country and publishes the National Bibliography of Bangladesh.
- To buildup the data warehouse with the accumulation of intellectual publications of nation.
- Collecting and preserving the records of the historical importance.
- To increase institutional reformation and ability.
- Implementation of right to information.
- To create new innovation motives for the nation.
- To develop the national collection in order to provide upgraded services to the readers and scholars.
- To compile, publish and distribute the National Bibliography to provide OPAC by building and strengthening capacity.
- To aware, attract and to development the services rendered to the users.

The Government promulgated a National Archives Ordinance in 1983 (Presently National Archives Act 2013) in order to establish National Archives and operate and regulate as per act. The National Archives of

Bangladesh extends research and reference facilities to researchers from within the country and abroad. The research scholars are given all the facilities of research and reference on the materials available in the National Archives (Directorate of Archives and Libraries-Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2016a).

Public Libraries

Public library is popularly called the cultural centre of a nation. Its role in universal diffusion of knowledge is great. Public library is an institution which provides equal opportunity to every citizen irrespective of age, profession, or religion for acquiring knowledge. Public library service is largely responsible for intellectual and moral advancement of a nation. The public library is often called the 'People's University' (Alvin Johnson) for its universal character. The basic characteristic, which differs public library from others, is that it is freely open to all, irrespective of age, profession, race, sex, color or creed and in it there is free access to any literature required.

UNESCO (1949) defines public libraries as, "those, which serve the population of a community or region free of charge or for a nominal fee. They may serve the general public or special categories of the public such as children, members of the armed forces, hospital patients, prisoners, workers, and employees".

According to the ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science, public library means: “Any library which provides general library services without charge to all residents of a given community, district, or region, supported by public or private funds. The public library makes its basic collections and basic services available to the population of its legal service area without charges to individual users, but may impose charges of uses outside its legal service area, a library accessible to all residents of a given community..." (Heartsill, 1983).

So public library is the most dominant social institution that facilitates the multifarious progress of the society. It is the agency that supports formal education and facilitates the self-education of the masses. It provides information to every citizen of the state promotes cultural activities and provides scope for the healthy utilization of leisure time.

Value of Public Library in Society

Public library and society are inter-linked and inter-dependent. Society without libraries has no significance, and libraries without society have no origin. To serve as a vehicle of social progress, the library plays a vital role:

a. To build a collection of book stock reflecting all the present and potential needs of the community;
b. To provide free access to all its resources free of charge and free from any physical barriers or from interference from political or religious authority;
c. To draw people of all ages and invite them to make the most profitable use of the library for information, recreation and research;
d. To supply to any reader, or group of readers, the books and related material for which they may ask;
e. To satisfy and also promote the desire for books;
f. To afford facilities for research, make the library a center of individual culture;
g. To adopt of a well-balanced public library system based on the ideal of bringing the right book to the right reader at the right time;
h. To assist to extra-mural departments of universities;

i. To organize of cultural exhibitions, lectures, discussion group, symposia of vocational interests, art programs, books weeks etc.

Table-2
Establishment of Government Public Libraries

Decades	Number of Libraries
Before 1960	1
1960-1969	3
1970-1979	0
1980-1989	57
1990-1999	5
2000 and onward	2

Source: (Sarker, 2005)

At present the Department of Public Libraries is composed of with the following 70 public libraries in Bangladesh.

Table-3
Total Number of Public Libraries in Bangladesh

Sl. No.	Name of the library	Nos.
1.	Bangladesh Central Public Library (Now Sufia Kamal National Public Library)	01
2.	Divisional Govt. Public Library	05
3.	District Govt. Public Libraries	58
4.	Upazila Govt. Public Libraries (Dewangonj and Bakshigonj, Jmalpur)	02
5.	Branch Govt. Public Libraries (2 in the Dhaka city),Rajshahi-1 (Sonadighipar), Mymensingh-1 (Bangladesh Agricultural University).	04
	Total=	70

Source: (Majed, Sarker, & Ahammed, 2016)

According to the Directory of non-Government Public libraries published by the National Book Center in 2014 traced the existence of as many as 1024 non-government public libraries in Bangladesh. These libraries are situated in both rural and urban areas of the country.

Changing Value of Library in ICT Based Society

ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) presents an opportunity to provide value - added information services and access to a wide variety of digital based information resources to their clients. Academic libraries are also using modern ICTs to automate their core functions, implement efficient and effective library cooperation and resource sharing networks, implement

management information systems, develop institutional repositories of digital local contents, and digital libraries: and initiate ICT based capacity building programmes for library users.

Since 1995, Internet has become the primary platform for libraries in Bangladesh to build and deliver information resources, services, and instructions. In this digital age, the great advances made by modern science and technology have accelerated information exchange and information distribution. The Internet and Web search engines assist users to obtain large amount of information with great speed. Therefore, modern library user information services have the following features (Uddin, 2013):

- Web-based – current library user services are built on the basis of the Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW).
- On-site/off-site – current library users services cover on-site and offsite user services.
- 24 X 7 – Current library user information resources and services are accessible without any geographic and time limitations.

The most notable modern library services available to researchers may include:

- Online database service
- E-books and E-journals service
- OPAC
- Library 2.0 services (RSS feeds, Wiki, instant messaging, podcast, vodcast, etc.)
- WiFi service
- RFID technology based service
- MyAthens Service
- Virtual Reference service
- Institutional Repository service
- Open access for scholarly publications
- Mobile based service
- E-mail based information retrieval service
- Reference Management service
- Online Information literacy service
- Impact Factor analysis service
- E-learning and information literacy service

Value of Open Access (OA) to Library

The concept of OA movement in Bangladesh is being developed based on reducing the huge pressure of library budget for subscription to journals. A few libraries in Bangladesh subscribe journals for their respective libraries. OA movement in Bangladesh is very slow and rate of progress of OA is very low. Golden route is where the author or author's institution can pay a fee to the publisher at publication time, the publisher thereafter making the material available 'free' at the point of access (the 'gold' route) to journal articles. Green route is where the author can self-archive at the time of submission of the publication (the 'green' route) whether the publication is grey literature (usually internal non-peer-reviewed), a peer-reviewed journal publication, a peer-reviewed conference proceedings paper or a monograph. Institutional repository of icddr,b and Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition (JHPN) can be referred as green route and gold route respectively (Uddin, Koehlmoos, & Hossain, 2014).

Value of Research4Life in Library: Closing the Knowledge Gap and (SDG)

Research4Life is a public-private partnership of the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations environment Programme (UNEP), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell and Yale Universities and the International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers. Working together with technology partner Microsoft, the partnership's goal is to help attain six of the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015, reducing the scientific knowledge gap between industrialized countries and the developing world. HINARI (Health Internetwork Access to Research Initiative) programme was initiated and developed by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations, at the UN Millennium Summit in the year 2000. He is the person who took initiative in order to reduce the gap of research information between developed and developing nations. HINARI was launched in January 2002, in order to provide free or low cost online access to the major journals in biomedical and related social sciences to local, not-for-profit institutions in developing countries.

The concept of Research4Life is simple: research in health, agriculture and the environment is better informed when it is based on the most recent, high quality and relevant scientific knowledge. Research4Life applies this, delivering knowledge to the world's poorest countries. Research4Life is empowering universities, colleges, research institutes and government ministries as well as non-governmental agencies and hospitals, with access to scientific knowledge.

Research4Life programme has been categorized into two groups based on three factors, GNI per capita (World Bank figures), United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDCs) List and Human Development Index (HDI). This Research4Life programme is totally free for Bangladesh, since the country is located in developing country. Bangladesh falls in group A. There are more than 300 organizations from Bangladesh have been benefited using Research4Life programme. This programme is considered as a diamond mine of Bangladesh for researchers. At present, this programme will be continued up to 2020 in order to keep pace with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (Uddin, 2013).

Library Consortium and Networking of Bangladesh

Library cooperation, networking and resource sharing are synonymous with cooperation and collaborative activities of library and information centre (S. M. Mannan & Bose, 1998). At present, there are four consortia and networking running in Bangladesh, i.e.

1. Library Consortium of Bangladesh (LiCOB)
2. University Digital Library (UDL)
3. United Nations Information Network (UNIC)
4. Research4Life Network (HINARI, AGORA, OARE, ARDI)

It may be noted that many initiatives were taken to form the library network in Bangladesh by different categories of institutions. Some of these networks are as follows:

- National Agricultural Information System (NAIS)
- Social Science Research Network (SSRN)
- Heath Literature, Library and Information Science Network (HELLIS)
- Development Information Network on South Asia (DEVINSA)
- National Science and Technology Information Policy (NASTIP)
- Bangladesh University Libraries Network (BULN)
- Bangladesh National Scientific and Library Information Network (BANSLINK)

Currently the above mentioned networks are no more in existence due to several constraints (Rahman, Nahar, & Akter, 2006).

Comments

The various comments of renowned persons in the world are given below:

On 17 October 2012 in the national conference of the Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB), Hon'ble Prime Minister Shaikh Hasina said that "Libraries and information professionals play an important role in providing fastest information services to readers in building innovative and knowledge-based society in Bangladesh."

"Library is the heart of the educational institution. Modern library is not only the collection of books, but also it is playing a crucial role for collecting, processing, and disseminating information based on users demands. Information scientists like librarians are doing a great job for creating an information society."

— Nurul Islam Nahid, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Education

"Library services are very much important for creating knowledge-based society in the country. The department of Information Science and Library Management is performing great efforts to upgrade the quality of library services."

— Begum Khaleda Zia, Former Prime Minister of Bangladesh

"In modern society, any nation can't expect development without knowledge practice and proper utilization of information. Using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), library provides knowledge and information which are treated as the main driving forces of the advancement of the society to all the levels of the society smoothly."

— Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka

"Libraries are more important to the education system then the institutions such as schools, colleges, and universities."

— Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore

Let us be enlightened using library

— Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Bishwa Sahitya Kendra (BSK)

[Note: All the above statements are converted from Bengali to English]

"Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open."

— Laura Bush, Former First lady of USA

Conclusion

Library and information services are key actors in providing unhindered access to essential resources for economic, education, research and cultural advance. In doing so, they contribute effectively to the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom, safeguarding democratic and research values and universal civil rights (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (International

Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), 2003). Libraries in Bangladesh have an important role to play in the development and maintenance of an academic and research based society. They provide the conditions by which people achieve free access to information and knowledge. They provide opportunities to participate actively in the country's further development into a democratic society. The strengths of libraries in developing countries are considered as the most efficient weapon in reducing the gap of digital divide among rich and poor countries. It is well documented that, library is treated as a neglected sector in Bangladesh; the Govt. must take proper initiatives for the overall development of libraries in order to fulfill the goal of "Digital Bangladesh".

Acknowledgement: This research study was funded by core donors which provide unrestricted support to icddr,b for its operations and research. Current donors providing unrestricted support include: Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Global Affairs Canada (GAC); Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Department for International Development (UK Aid). We gratefully acknowledge these donors for their support and commitment to icddr,b's research efforts.

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