The Use of Digital Resources by Public and Academic Libraries: A Comparative Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, libraries are among the most significant locations for individuals to visit in order to acquire new knowledge. Academic and popular libraries alike have a significant impact on a society's development. They are both social institutions because of the many ways in which they benefit society. Even while public libraries may make a big difference in education all around the globe, academic libraries are what really keep schools running. Evaluating the two requires doing comparative study, which is no easy task. Their respective aims, organizational styles, and service offerings may cause them to diverge from one another.

Since public libraries often struggle to stay open due to inadequate financing from the government or other groups, the basic premise is that they need particular assistance. However, historically, its very existence has been supported by the academic libraries of the institution that houses it. The research delves at the benefits and sustainability of public libraries compared to university libraries. The significance of public libraries to the expansion of human knowledge and the development of society will be discussed extensively.

Rapid expansion of public library systems is essential in northeastern India, especially in states like Assam. Public libraries play an essential role in places like Assam, and this research aims to raise awareness about that fact. Regardless, this goal is accomplished by using the scientific process consistently throughout the investigation. Surveys are being sent to library staff in the upper Assam area, including those working for public and university libraries. Data gathered from the two experiments will guide future research.

Keywords: Public Libraries, Academic Libraries, Educational Development, Assam

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INTRODUCTION

It is Traditional wisdom holds that "the pen is mightier than the sword." India is no longer a colony; it is a sovereign nation. The West was hesitant to establish diplomatic ties with India before the nation achieved independence. They wrote and posted articles online, educating people about faraway places like India. However, India was unable to regain its previous grandeur because it lacked the military might to mount a credible resistance. Intelligence agencies in India have been documenting their perspective on the country in response. People can also take to library strikes as a form of retaliation. This is because libraries play an essential role in safeguarding a nation's knowledge, heritage, and ideology. The British restored India's central library system in 1903 when they founded the Imperial Library of India. The Indians manage to fight back against the British to a certain degree.

To rephrase, the expansion of written communication has allowed libraries to amass more materials pertaining to Indian history, culture, and custom. The British did more than just make up a story about India; they also destroyed the cultural and theological foundations upon which the Indian people stood. One tactic used by the British to get an advantage in talks was to make fun of Indians. Proof of this may be found in postcolonial literature. As a rising country, India must ensure that its whole population has access to quality education.

Visiting the library is your only option under the current circumstances. Anyone hoping to make an impact in international politics would do well to broaden their horizons. It will need more than just constructing libraries and other services to achieve this objective. This goal can only be achieved by increasing public awareness of the importance of library usage and by increasing the number of individuals who financially support libraries. Some may argue that public libraries should be the primary sites of effort to address this issue.

Public, academic, special, and online libraries are just a few examples of the many varieties of library services available. All societies rely heavily on their libraries, whether public and academic, to disseminate information. Teens and young adults gain from libraries that are part of schools. Within a group, everything revolves around it. The academic library is a place where faculty, students, and staff may dream big, work hard, and achieve their goals. The expansion of academic fields has made self-study more vital than ever before. As a result, going to school to get any kind of knowledge has become trite. If you want to know more about the world, you should visit the library. The growing number of individuals using libraries as their primary source of knowledge is one factor contributing to this. The use of technology in libraries enables them to provide users with current and relevant information based on their specific requirements. This is why academic libraries have such a profound impact on the future of our youth.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Along with Because modern people are so passionate about and interested in so many different things, they are always trying to outdo one another. New fields of study may be better understood by delving into well-established ones. Nevertheless, understanding the history may be beneficial when breaking down ideas and coming up with fresh shapes for those concepts. For this reason, it is crucial that your research proposal include a literature evaluation of the relevant works. There is a heavy emphasis on researching the existing body of knowledge in the selected field. A reading comprehension and brief analysis of a given material is an essential component of any academic assignment. This ensures that the researcher has a thorough understanding of the relevant prior work and the study's rationale. In brief, a literature review introduces the researcher to the most current research on the subject at hand.

Academic libraries and public libraries serve different purposes, as may be shown from an examination of the foundational works in the subject. Generally speaking, libraries tend to acquire funding from a variety of sources, and these sources seem to significantly impact their expansion. Reading up on the subject can help us figure out why Assam university libraries get more funding than public libraries in the state. Further research into the operations of public libraries in other states and a survey of universities outside of Assam could shed light on the article's goals and highlight the critical need for financial support for Assam's public libraries.

3. SCHOLARLY AND PUBLIC REFERENCE WORKS

A "library" is an establishment that provides access to information. To put it simply, this is how the phrase is most often used. It used to mean little more than a simple bookcase. Instead of being only places to store books, libraries have evolved into gathering places for all kinds of information, both printed and digital. It is no longer true that a library can house any kind of information. Books, encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, gazetteers, directories, examination papers, theses, dissertations, institutional reports, compact discs, digital video, electronic books, electronic periodicals, and many more types of media fall under this category. Here, a library is only a concept whose goal is to ensure that everyone has access to knowledge. That is why globalization is happening so much faster now. The English word "library" comes from a single Latin word, "liber," which meaning "a book." "Liber" in Latin and "bibliotheca" in Greek both signify the same thing here. A library, therefore, is a group or establishment whose primary goal is to collect, catalog, and make accessible a wide range of knowledge to those who seek it, with the ultimate goal of converting every individual into a library patron.

Despite this Although it would be difficult to provide a comprehensive description of how a library works since different types of libraries have different procedures, it is possible to provide a general outline of how libraries typically function. This choice was made since the library's management team includes people from several different HR departments. Supervising employees, keeping tabs on expenses, vetting furniture, and preserving library materials are all part of management's vast array of duties. People who are really capable are appointed to positions, which goes against the grain of expectations. A lot of cleaning and organization has to be done when the materials selection process is over. Classificationists employed by the library's acquisitions department organise books into subject categories based on the classification system after they have been chosen and classified. The volumes are then placed on their correct shelves and the catalogers make any necessary notes. Cleaning also includes making sure things stay clean over time. In order to make the components last longer, preservation and cleaning are also carried out. For this reason, this is the standard procedure used by most libraries. In order to cover every eventuality, the research concludes by looking at the best ways to organize library collections.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND   INTERPRETATION

Data Although data analysis and interpretation are important in all fields of study, they are more pertinent in survey-based fields. Make sure you define "data" before you use the word. The term "data" is suitable for information that is inherently random. A wide range of raw materials have been sourced for these items. If data is structured using the right logic, it may be transformed into knowledge. In order to gain useful information, it is critical to evaluate and understand data. Data

analysis, then, involves looking at raw data using a bunch of different techniques. Also, the outcomes of data analysis may be better understood via data interpretation.

Because they reveal previously unknown concepts and transform raw data into actionable information, data analysis and interpretation form the backbone of all research endeavors. As a result, the researcher is better able to visualize their work and determine whether their study hypothesis was valid. To put it simply, the experts are now trying to form a conclusion. Quantitative and qualitative methods complement one another when dealing with data. Both inductive and subjective aspects are used in the investigation. Contrarily, quantitative analysis is scientifically grounded and rational. Many tools are available for data analysis, some of which include tables, pie charts, and histograms. For all purposes, the term "statistics" encompasses these analyses. Applying theory or knowledge may provide extra information about the results after they have been presented by the study. Beneficial findings that lend credence to previously proposed concepts are often the result of data analysis.

Analyzing and interpreting the raw data collected from in-person interviews, surveys, and other sources with library patrons and staff occupies the bulk of this chapter. The data is presented in a tabular manner with descriptive and analytical notes for each table. If users and libraries have any issues about the dissertation, the tables that come with the research could answer them. The author also makes use of many photographs captured throughout the research to further illustrate and explain their findings on the physical arrangement of the library. The findings and their presentation will be covered in the sections that follow.

A. **ANALYSIS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS:**

The The investigator took a few photographs of the libraries that he was inspecting while he was undergoing his inspection. The images depict a diverse selection of library sceneries and atmospheres. The collage that was put together using the images that were taken may be seen below, along with some short comments.

In Instead of being located in its own dedicated area, the H.P.B. College Library is attached to the building where the office is located (see Figure 4.17). The library may not be very large, but it is well-stocked and is administered by a librarian who is quite knowledgeable. The library has shelves, chairs, an ILMS, a property counter, and other equipment that is essential for information and communication technology. It just takes three people to ensure that a library is kept clean and organized. Additionally, the library offers its customers the ability to utilize a significant number of computers and other internet-based services. The library also has the ability to house up to sixty people at one time.

The The northeastern region of India consists of eight states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Since India gained its independence, the quality of higher education in Assam has been gradually rising, causing a lot of people to assume that the state has the greatest level of education out of all of them. The percentage of the population that can read and write is also rising at a quick pace. Assam is divided into two main geographical regions: Upper Assam and Lower Assam. There are eleven libraries located in four distinct areas of upper Assam that are being taken into consideration for this project. In the table below, you will be able to see information about the library's name, parent school, year of establishment, and website. The following facts are followed by thorough information on the librarians of each library, including their names, qualifications, and work histories. A skilled librarian could be an advantage to the success of the school, especially if they are a leader who offers outstanding service to library clients and pushes for the development of the library.

5. OUTCOME AND DETERMINATIONS

A Important advances can be ushered in by the findings of a research. In this part of the show, the investigator goes over the results of the survey. The first step in finding the problems is for the investigator to make a list of everything that can't be done at the site under investigation. The study's aims and the results of the survey were considered in reaching the final verdict.

The Examining the current situation in Assam's public and university libraries was the primary goal of the research. Eleven libraries were polled in pursuit of this objective; among them were six public library and five university libraries. All available data and expert opinion point to public libraries being in the worst imaginable state. Whether it's in terms of attracting more users or automating operations, they are falling behind the trends. Conversely, the increasing use of bar codes and ILMS has been very beneficial to university libraries. Furthermore, academic libraries may engage with their users via a variety of channels, including library websites, social media, and more. For instance, public libraries operate on the exact opposite principle.

The The second objective was to compare and contrast the marketing strategies used by public and academic libraries in order to attract new users. College libraries have many goals, including spreading the word about their services and getting students to use them. They accomplish this through various means, such as reading clubs and engaging with users on social media platforms like Facebook, email, and WhatsApp. Furthermore, navigational assistance is provided to users often. The public library, however, does not have these resources. Even though these objects beg for their attention, it seems like they aren't giving it any. The Assam public library administrators are completely failing in their duties.

CONCLUSION

In order to build a community, the library is the most crucial institution. The library will still play an important role as the site of many courses, research groups, and academic organizations for the time being. The main objective is to ensure that individuals have access to information whenever they need it by making it accessible to them. It shouldn't be hard for anybody using the library, especially kids, to locate the materials they need. As a result of breakthroughs in technology and an increased emphasis on the patron, library services are booming right now. Library expansion in India has lagged below projections, despite the availability of information and communication technology (3G).

Ranganathan created the fifth rule of library science, which states, "The library is an ever-evolving living thing." Libraries, therefore, need to be flexible in order to adapt to their ever-shifting environments. However, library expansion in India has been sluggish overall and particularly in the state of Assam. This is the case for several reasons. With the help of funds provided by the University Grants Committee (UGC) and the main school, many academic libraries are expanding their collections. Contrarily, Assam's public libraries have lagged behind for a long time. The research set out to determine whether parts of Assam are seeing a decrease in library services, particularly at the public library level, and what variables are causing this trend. Up on that screen, you may notice the results of the researcher's thorough examination.

After reviewing the facts, the research concludes that public libraries aren't nearly as good as university libraries. Similarly, academic libraries may benefit from a plethora of improvements. Here we'll have a look at a few ideas and proposals for the betterment of Assam's public and academic libraries. If libraries want to remain around in the future, they need to start making moves and expanding their services with the needs of their patrons in mind right now.

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