

PRIVATE BUSINESS SCHOOL LIBRARIES A STUDY

Rajeev Prasher*

ABSTRACT

The study investigates the present status of the libraries of the private business schools of northern India with regard to their collections, reading space, working and services. The extent of computerization, availability of professional and supporting staff and use has also been probed. All the B-schools have their libraries managed by professional staff. But there are wide variations among the libraries with respect to their collections, professional staff, computerization, networking, etc. A considerable improvement in the state of these libraries is urgently needed so that they may efficiently and effectively support their academic programmes.

KEYWORDS

Management institutes libraries-India; Business School Libraries

INTRODUCTION

Library is an intellectual apparatus without which teaching and learning process is not possible. It supplements the class-room teaching and provides sources of information to all who want to make use of them. Teachers make use of these sources to keep themselves abreast with the latest development in their fields of specialization.

* Asst. Professor ; Chandigarh Business School, Landran, Mohali

Their quality of teaching depends on how much they are aware of the latest development in their subject. Students supplement what they have learnt in the class, from a wide range of documents on the subject available in their library. The learning resources are appearing in various physical forms— books, periodicals, reports, dissertations & theses, standards, patents, audios, visuals, A-Vs, microforms, computer storage devices, etc. By locating, procuring, organizing, recording of the reading material, a functional library provides right information to right user at right time, irrespective of the physical form of the source. The primary job of the library is to keep the users informed with the retrospective as well as the latest information of their interest.

PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVES

The present study is an attempt to explore the existing conditions of the libraries of private Business schools and assess their adequacy in fulfilling mission of making learning resources available to students, scholars and faculty available for pursuing their academic programmes. The following objectives have been set forth for realization:

- I) To investigate the state of library services in the private B-Schools of northern India as it exists.
- II) To suggest the measures to improve library services in the private B- schools based on the findings of investigation.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The scope of this study is restricted to Northern India, consisting of J&K, Himachal Pradesh., Uttaranchal, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, North West Uttar Pradesh, and North West Madhya Pradesh. This investigation is based on survey method, involving primary and

secondary sources. The primary data was collected through questionnaires and personal interviews. As regards the secondary sources the information about the libraries of the B-schools under investigation was taken from their respective *information bulletins*, *placement bulletins*, *leaflets*, etc. It was also based on the latest websites of the B-schools and personal visits of the investigator to a number of B-schools from 2004 to 2006.

B-SCHOOL LIBRARIES: AN OVERVIEW

As per AICTE latest website (in 2006) there were 192 B-schools out of which 45 belong to either Govt. or University sector whereas 147 are privately managed. Out of 147, 49 are taken in the sample. The state-wise scatter of the private B-schools indicates the range from 1-12. B-schools are scattered in 23 cities. One B-school in each from 14 cities, two each from 5 cities, 3 from one city. Delhi, Indore and Ghaziabad accounts for 7, 8 and 7 B-schools respectively.

Brief data about the libraries under investigation is appended as Appendix- A.

DISCUSSION

All the B-schools have libraries attached to them. Some of them are well-equipped, fully-computerized, multimedia facilities, reference and research material in the print, A-V and electronic formats. Some B-schools have small conventional libraries having multi-copies of a few titles. They hardly subscribe to even important periodicals in Business Management. Based on the quantitative and qualitative strength of the collection, professional and supporting staff, space available and services offered, the libraries are categorized into A, B, and C. Libraries at IMT, Ghaziabad; LBSIM, New Delhi; IILM, New Delhi; FSM, New Delhi; Asia-Pacific-IM, New Delhi are rated as *Very Good* as regards their resources and services. Their functioning is supported by computer applications. The libraries at CMD, Modinagar; PIMR, Indore; APJ IMT, Jalandha; New Delhi IM; JIM,

New Delhi; ITS, Ghaziabad; IMS, Ghaziabad and some others rank next. But half of the libraries belong to C category. Table 1 provides brief information about the collection, reading space, and services of libraries of B-schools under investigation. This data is based on the respondents' response to our questionnaire. The information has also been supplemented by personal visits.

Table 1 Libraries of B-schools —Collections, Reading Space, and Services

	Categorization					
	A	%	B	%	C	%
Collection	6	(12)	19	38	25	50
Reading Space	8	16	20	40	22	44
Service	5	10	16	32	29	58

A= Very Good, B= Good, C=Average

It is clear that all the B-schools have a library to support their academic programmes. The collections of libraries of 12% of the B-schools are very good, those of 38% are good, and of 50% are rated as Average. The adequacy of the reading space is very good of the libraries of 16%, good of 40%, and it is average of 44% B-schools. As regards efficiency in giving library services, only 10% libraries of B-schools can be classified as very good, those of 32% of the B-schools are good, and library services are average in as many as 58% of B-schools.

The collections of the libraries of B-schools need strengthening and library services need further improvement as is evident from Table 1.

The information about the computerization, network membership, professional management of libraries, and the rate of growth is portrayed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Computerization, Networking, Management and Growth of Libraries of B-schools

Variables	Libraries	%	Fast	%	Normal	%	Slow	%
Computerization	24	48						
Member of Network	18	36						
Run by Professionals	42	84						
Rate of Growth*	-	-	6	12	28	56	16	32

**If the annual growth of the collection is up to 2000 volumes, it is taken as fast, if it is up to 1000, it is normal, and if the growth of collection is up to or less than 500 in a year it is taken as slow. It is as per AICTE rules, though these are always changing.*

It shows that 36% of B-schools are members of some networks, including DELNET. As many as 84% have professional staff to manage their libraries. The rate of growth of the libraries is fast in 12% of B-schools, in 56% it is *normal* and in 32% the rate of growth of their libraries is reported slow.

The libraries today do not exist in isolation. They extend and receive cooperation from other libraries. In this electronic age it is possible only if they join some network, to avail of the resources of other libraries on the net. A special attention needs be given to this aspect.

Secondly, the rate of growth of a library, where it is slow, needs be brought up to normal.

The extent of use of libraries by the faculty and students based on the questionnaire and the data collected through the personal visits of the investigator is shown in table 3.

Table 3 Use of the Libraries by Faculty and Students

Use	Normal	%
Very Good	11	22
Good	23	46
Average	12	24
No response	4	8

It reveals that the libraries in 22% of B-schools are being used extensively and rated as *very good*. The use of libraries in 46% of B-Schools is normal and are classified as *Good*. In 24% the use of the libraries is not as much as it should be. 8% of the B-schools have not responded regarding their use. The libraries, where their use is *Average* need improvement in their resources and staff so that they may support the academic activities of their respective B-schools. Clubbing *Very good* and *good* together, the use of libraries in 68% of the B-schools turns *satisfactory*, while 32% of the libraries need to struggle to reach to satisfactory level.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

The inferences are based on the secondary data, primary data collected through questionnaire, personal observation of the investigator during the visits to the B-schools and the discussion above. A few suggestions flow out of these to improve the working and services of the libraries of B-schools.

➤ **Collection**

All the B-schools have the libraries. Some are well-equipped, fully-computerized and possess multi-media collection. A majority are small conventional libraries with multiple copies of a few titles. These hardly subscribe to any periodical in Management and its related disciplines. 12% of the libraries have *Very Good* and 38% *Good* collection. A majority of them (16% + 40%) provide adequate reading space. A small number provide satisfactory (10% *Very Good* + 32% *Good*) library and information services. These need to develop a collection development policy for evolving them to best learning resource centers for providing best services and products to future Management Gurus.

➤ **Professional Management**

84% of the libraries are run by the professionally qualified librarians. The human resource need to be upgraded to make them face new challenges in fulfilling demands of their clients.

➤ **IT Application**

The computerization and networking of libraries is not satisfactory. 36% of the libraries are members of some networks. The libraries are adopting different softwares for automation and no work is ahead in developing digital libraries. Thus, they require a serious attention to evolve new breed of libraries in these institutions.

➤ **Growth Rate**

The rate of growth of 32% of libraries is found to be slow. As the proliferation of knowledge is growing fast, to cope up with it, the rate of growth of libraries need be brought up to a standard level.

➤ **Use of Libraries**

The use of 22% of libraries is reported *Very Good*, of 46% it is *Good*. The use of the remaining 32% of libraries needs improvements. The necessary measures need to be taken for making better use of resources.

Appendix-A

Jammu & Kashmir

1. Institute of Management Sciences, Jammu Tawi

I. Small space

II. Collection: Books (1,500 vols).

Uttaranchal

2. Academy of Management Studies, Dehradun

I. Small space II. Collection: Books and journals, documents of reputed management institutes, annual corporate reports, etc.

3. Institute of Management Studies, Dehradun

I. Adequate space II. Collection: Books (12,000 vols) and journals, Videos and CD_ROMS etc III. Automation using Lib Sys

Haryana

4. Shri Atmanand Jain Institute of Management & Technology, Ambala City

I. Collection: 4,000 books and periodicals

5. Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management & Technology, Jagadhri

I. Collection: Books, journals, govt. and corporate reports

6. Tilak Raj Chadha Institute of Management and Technology, Yamunanagar

I.Collection: Two thousand titles, and over fifty journals and periodicals, along with video cassettes available in the library.

7. Dronacharya Institute of Management & Technology, Kurukshetra.

I. Collection: 834 books, representing 274 titles. Receives 12 Indian journals and only one foreign periodical (*Harvard Business Review*)

8. Hindu Institute of Management, Sonapat.

I. Collection: 5000 volumes supplemented with 50 Indian and foreign periodicals.

9. DAV Institute of Management, Faridabad.

I. Collection: Augmented with management books and periodicals.

Punjab

10. Centre of Management Technology & Research, Mohali, Chandigarh

I. Collection: More than 3000 books and over 55 journals

11. Gian Jyoti Institute of Management & Technology, Mohali, Chandigarh

I. Collection: 2,619 titles and 5,718 volumes. Subscribe to 45 periodicals, 39 business and computer magazines and 8 national general and financial newspapers.

12. Apeejay Institute of Management & Technology, Jalandhar

I. Collection: More than 9000 books, 65 journals and 15 newspapers.

13. CT Institute of Management & IT, Jalandhar

I. Collection: Three thousand books. Subscribes to 37 national and international journals. Audio and video CD's form part of the collection.

14. Lovely Institute of Management, Phagwara

I. Collection: Text and reference books of Indian and foreign authors, professional journals, newspapers, magazines, etc. supplemented with a separate CD library providing Internet facility. II. Automation using *Library Management Software* (LMS).

15. Guru Nanak Institute of Management and Technology, Ludhiana

I. Collection: 6,000 volumes including 3,000 management books & 3,000 books. Subscribe to 37 journals & newsletters

16. Punjab College of Technical Education, Ludhiana.

I. Collection: 6,500 books and 36 Indian and foreign journals.

17. Punjab Institute of Management & Technology, Mandi Gobindgarh

I. Collection: More than 7,000 volumes with subscription to various national and international journals.

18. Regional Institute of Management & Technology, Mandi Gobindgarh

I. Collection: Subscribes to 54 important journals and magazines.

Delhi

19. Asia-Pacific Institute of Management, New Delhi.

I. Collection: 12,225 books, representing 5,083 titles. Subscribes to 121 learned periodicals (102 Indian and 19

foreign). Besides, there are 847 CDs/Videos, and online database (CMIE).

20. FORE School of Management, New Delhi

I. Collection: 17,000 documents, including 15,378 books, 1,000 reference books, 108 project reports, 111 case studies, 300 FORE research reports. Subscribes to 208 periodicals (133 Indian and 75 foreign).

21. Fortune Institute of International Business, New Delhi

I. Collection: 7,500 books. Subscribes 50 national periodicals and over 30 statistical data sources. Holds project reports done in about 200 major companies. An audio-visual corner.

22. Institute of Integrated Learning in Management, New Delhi

I. Collection: 20,000 documents. 125 Indian and foreign periodicals, both on subscription and on gratis basis are subscribed. Subscribes to 8 newspapers from Delhi and several business and news magazines.

23. Jagan Institute of Management, New Delhi

I. Collection: 10,000 books, 100 periodicals (Both national and international).

24. Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, New Delhi

I. Collection: 22,000 books and subscribes to over 250 national and international journals and magazines. Non-book materials like CDs and Audio Visual materials available.

25. New Delhi Institute of Management, New Delhi.

I. Collection: 10,176 volumes of books, journals, annual reports from various companies, company profiles, product profiles, project reports, etc. Subscribes to 137 Indian and foreign

periodicals. II. Automation through LsEase, an offshoot of *Libsys*.

Uttar Pradesh

26. Advance Institute of Management, Ghaziabad

I. Collection: 10,000 volumes of books.

27. BLS Institute of Management, Ghaziabad

I. Collection: Over 8,000 books and 5,000 titles. Subscribes to 65 international journals. An audio-video library.

28. Institute of Management & Research, Ghaziabad.

I. Collection: Subscribes to 29 periodicals both of national & international scope.

29. Institute of Management Education, Ghaziabad

I. Collection: Large number of the latest text books, reference books and audio-video. Subscribes to foreign Indian periodicals.

30. Institute of Management Studies, Ghaziabad

I. Collection: More than 25,000 books. Subscribes 160 Indian and foreign journals.

31. Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad

I. Collection: 28,000 documents including 2,625 bound-volume periodicals. Subscribes to over 250 periodicals. 1,500 project reports, and a number of audio/video cassettes. 1,523 CDROM.

32. Institute of Professional Excellence & Management, Ghaziabad

I. Collection: A good collection of books and the latest foreign periodicals.

33. Institute of Technology & Sciences, Ghaziabad

- I. Collection: 16,000 books, 1,000 video/audio cassettes and CD's, 1,000 project reports as well as industry and company information sources. Subscribes 130 journals, including 50 foreign periodicals.
- II. Automated using "Alice for Windows" software.

34. Integrated Academy of Management and Technology, Ghaziabad

- I. Collection: Thousand of books and publications. Subscribes important Indian and international periodicals.

35. AMITY, Noida.

- I. Collection: More than 30,000 books and magazines, national and international periodicals, a separate section for audio & video CDs.

36. Centre for Management Development, Modinagar.

- I. Collection: Over 20,000 volumes. *Electronics Journal Server* (EJS) for 460 online journals and 116 management journals. II. *Automation Software for University Libraries* (SOUL).

37. Nice Management College, Meerut

- I. Collection: Wide range of books on Information Technology, Computer Applications, Management, etc. Leading journals, Indian and foreign)
- II. Uses *Library Management Software* for automation.

Madhya Pradesh

38. Institute of Professional Education and Research, Bhopal

- I. Collection: A large number of books and journals. II. Computerization in process.

39. Technocrats Institute of Technology, Bhopal

I. Collection: 3,900 books and about 35 Indian and foreign journals are subscribed.

II. Computerized using *LIBTECH* Software.

40. VNS Institute of Management, Bhopal

I. Collection: About 2000 books, periodicals, CDs and project reports. Subscribes to 55 current journals and magazines.

41. Prestige Institute of Management, Dewas

I. Collection: Around 3,500 books, 5,000 project and research reports. Various magazines, journals and periodicals.

42. Prestige Institute of Management, Gwalior

I. Collection: More than 9,000 books and reports. Subscribes to 38 research journals including 5 foreign .

43. Govindram Seksaria Institute of Management & Research, Indore

I. Collection: Books on various facets of Management. Leading Newspapers, business and economics journals.

44. Institute of Business Management & Research, IPS Academy, Indore

I. Collection: Over 20,000 books. Various magazines and more than 100 Indian and foreign periodicals .

45. Maharaja Ranjit Singh College of Professional Sciences, Indore

I. Collection: 950 volumes, consisting of about 350 titles. Subscribes to only 3 Indian journals.

46. Pioneer Institute of Professional Studies, Indore

I. Collection: More than 8000 books, around 50 journals including foreign ones Audio and video cassettes.

47. Prestige Institute of Management and Research, Indore

I. Collection: Around 19,043 books and reports/monographs. Subscribes over 136 journals, including 23 foreign journals..

II. Awarded the *Best Library Rolling Shield* for the year 2001-02 by Indore Division Library Association.

48. Shri R.G.P. Gujarati Professional Institute, Indore

I. Collection: Subscribes to 54 important journals and magazines.

49. Shri Vaishnav Institute of Management, Indore

I. Collection: About 15000 publications + 45 periodicals.