Needs and Challenges of Collection Development at Government Degree College Libraries in India: an exploratory case study

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Abstract

In any organization, libraries are an essential core entity that contributes towards achieving their objectives. Library Collection Development is an essential part of their management process. It is an indicator of the quality of any library. This paper presents an attempt to find and map the needs and challenges of collection development in two-state government degree colleges situated in two different language-speaking Indian states, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. To understand the needs and challenges, we have followed an exploratory case study type of research design. The research design involves four main steps. The First Step was to select libraries, corresponding observers, and external experts. In the second step, observers and experts built a knowledge base on the best practices, issues, and challenges of collection development by reviewing the published literature. The third step involved brainstorming and noting down our observations and experiences during the collection development and management process for the last year. Then, a comparative analysis was performed in the fourth step to assess where these libraries stand in terms of SWOT quadrants. This whole process led us to identify problems related to these libraries. We found that two problems of limited space and lack of funding still persist in these libraries. Further, the language barrier in both the Indian states checks the accessibility to standard literature and e-resources because these are primarily available in the English language. As a result, students are discouraged from exploring these resources on their own. Simultaneously, we found topical solutions implemented by various academic libraries worldwide, which need to be adopted at our libraries also.