A GLANCE OF INDIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED USERS

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Abstract: IFLA and UNESCO have outlined guidelines for libraries to offer services to all students, regardless of their physical abilities. Indian University Libraries provide a range of accommodations to support visually impaired users. These facilities include Braille materials, screen reading software, magnifiers, and specialized workstations equipped with assistive technology. Additionally, trained staff members are available to assist users in navigating the library and accessing resources. By prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity, Indian University Libraries strive to ensure that all users have equal opportunities to engage with knowledge and information and also the article states that students can take advantage of modern equipment such as braille printers, audio cassettes containing reading and reference materials. There is also provision of special studios for converting audio cassettes into text messages in Braille.

Keywords: Visually impaired, Blind, Resources, Library services, Brill writing, University libraries, Visually users

1.0 Introduction

Government of India and University Grant Commission have approved these guidelines. The main purpose behind this is "accessibility for all". In a school or university, the library is an important part of every school and unless the library is easily accessible, students will not be able to benefit from education. The word "access" refers not only to physical access, but also to the provision of tools and equipment and the availability of other services and services. This requires the development of many policies, plans and strategies. Raising awareness and promoting good human behavior is also a must and attention should be paid to all services. Although the services offered by academic libraries for the visually impaired are not sufficient, some Indian institutions have stepped forward and started to develop library services for the visually impaired.

2.0 Role of Indian University Libraries for the Visually Impaired:

University libraries in India provide their own library services for the visually impaired which are mentioned below

2.1 Bharathiar University Library:

Bharatiya University library names as Ariniya Anna Central Library was established in 1981 on the University Campus of the University of Madras with an area of 11,230 m2. ft. It currently has around 330 seats and collects more than 1,90,570 books covering all subjects. The library subscribes to 136 national and international journals and 10 specialized journals. Old issues include some going back to the 1880s. The library also provides information and facilities to visually impaired users.

- One of them is the Bharatihar University in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, which has started a "Pitchbook Library" with the help of the Rotary Club.
- There are 1,000 books on CD and cassette for the visually impaired.
- There are also suggestions to change the physical infrastructure of Bharatiyar University to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

2.2 Jammu University Library:

The Dhanvantri Central Library of the university is the hub of academic activities and provides education in arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, etc. It hosts a wide collection of educational programs in different fields. It is a four-story building with large reading rooms and gathering areas. The database contains resources for visually impaired users.

- Jammu University has launched a software called JAWS i.e. JAWS. It was established to convert hard copy into speech.
- A capacity room was also opened to meet the needs of the visually impaired.

2.3 Delhi University Library

DULS is smart and has achieved its goal of impacting education worldwide. We prioritize our online activities by providing subscriptions to quality electronic resources for teachers, students and researchers through the school network. Additionally, more information is available through the e-Shodh Shindhu Consortium. DULS also supports open access to energy resources. Our success depends on the use of Delhi University. DULS regularly conducts new Information Literacy Programs (ILP) for the benefit of students, researchers and teachers and strives to create community awareness about the use of the WWW. Our OPAC is also being strengthened. We strive to improve all our efforts to provide customers with correct information in a timely manner. Delhi University has established a multi-purpose facility.

- The existing Braille library has been expanded. The Central Reference Library has a Braille library.
- Provide braille equipment, audiobooks, electronic notebooks and other equipment.

2.3 JNU University Library:

Jinan University Library is the repository of the entire government. Publications and publications of some important international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the European Union, the United Nations and their affiliates are also taking steps to help visually impaired students. An independent unit called the "Helen Keller Unit" was established in the reading room. There are twenty computers and scanners equipped with screens, reading and speech software. This special room was designed to prevent visually impaired students from experiencing the problem of inadequate academic materials. Students now have access to 22 international online databases containing approximately 10,000 books in total. In addition, there are 4,500 e-journals from 25 publishers worldwide and it also provides the information resources and services to the visually impaired users.

2.4 Punjab University Library:

Named A C Joshi Library in memory of the vice-chancellor of the university, the Punjab University library was established by the American Club of Shimla in 1947, after the partition of the country. Panjab University began shifting its headquarters to Chandigarh, the new capital of Punjab, in 1955-56. In 1958, Dr. S. S. laid the foundation of the new library. Radhakrishnan, the then Vice President of India. The new library was opened in 1963 by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, then Prime Minister of India. This impressive five-storey library is built of red stone and concrete and follows modern architectural principles. Its modular and functional style suits the planning purpose of the library. All reading areas face north, but the staff area is to the south and the competition area is in the middle. The two main reading rooms overlook the Shivalik Hills and have magnificent views of the natural surroundings. The library is centrally air-conditioned and equipped with computers and telecommunications. In addition to the two main reading rooms, there is a temporary reading room with 650 readers, a book area, a newspaper area and an outdoor reading room for reading books. 90 locks are given to teachers and research scientists involved in major research. The library has more than 8 lac publications including books, monographs, theses, rare books, reports, government documents, newspaper originals and important manuscripts of 1492 manuscripts. Punjab University has also come under the ambit of these guidelines. A special library was created for the care of the visually impaired. On the other hand, special software is available to convert book contents into audio files.

2.5 University of Calcutta Library:

Although the University of Calcutta was founded in 1857, and it did not have a permanent building of its own, at least in its early days. It should be remembered that universities initially only had the authority to conduct examinations and award degrees. In the early stages of their development, libraries, museums, and other public spaces did not receive the attention they deserved. No attempt was made to build a library until 1872, when the school had its own permanent building. His foundation has a small gift of rupees. 5000 was written by Joykrishna Mukherjee, the pro-public Zamindar of Uttarpara. When donating money in 1869, he expressed his hope that the school would build a small library. At the same time, Esan Chandra Ghose donated a small book to the school. These efforts were a small but fruitful beginning for the establishment of the Calcutta University Library. The

National Association of the Blind has inaugurated a common "Digital Braille Library and Registration Workstation" for the visually impaired, where visually impaired people can use all modern learning tools.

2.6 Library of Lucknow University:

Tagore Library is the central research library of Lucknow University. It is here in education; Both the teacher and his students can find the food of knowledge. It is known as one of the oldest, best and richest libraries in India. With the development of information technology, the library is also changing its traditional format. Lucknow University Library Dr. Manohar Lohia Library is specially designed for visually impaired students. It can handle fifty students at a time. Much has been done, but there is still much to be done. A variety of accessibility tools are needed to make libraries more accessible to the visually impaired.

3.0 Facilities arranged by Indian University Libraries for visually impaired Users:

- Braille input device - A keyboard with eight keys used to type recorded information that makes up Braille characters.
- Braille Output Device - It is a computer terminal used to display Braille characters by raising the dots in them.
- Braille printer embosses Braille characters' line by line.
- Braille Translation • Used to convert text to Braille using a computer and a Braille embossing machine.
- Optical Character Reader (OCR) - This is a system that converts hard text into text and images into readable text.
- Speech Synthesizer - This system converts hard text into text. Computers can read words for speech.
- Four Channel Cassette Recorder - Can record single sound and play back single sound recorded on cassettes.
- Large printers can produce large fonts of any size.
- Screen magnification software – used to enlarge text on a computer screen.
- CCTV It is a television with a camera. Visually impaired people can use it to enlarge printed text.

4.0 Conclusion:

In Indian university libraries, university websites should be designed to be user-friendly for visually impaired visitors. In addition, academic libraries should establish a reading center that will provide access to all materials, including those that are not suitable for use in technology. The service provides users with timely and accurate information when needed. All these new measures have already helped more than 400 visually impaired students. Part of the installation is installing special software on your computer that can convert local books to Braille format.

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