COLLECTION EVALUATION: A ORGANIZATION FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: About the value of collection evaluations Design/methodology/approach – Three examples of collection evaluation methods (user-centered evaluation, physical assessment, and specific subject support) are explored. Many strategies are available for evaluating collections, regardless of the kind of library or size of the collection. Evaluation allows librarians a more thorough knowledge of what already exists, what may be needed, and whether collection development goals are being achieved. Meaningful collection evaluation is shared so that librarians may create an evaluation that will provide useful information to them in their library setting. Implications for successful future collection management, financial resource management, and effective format selection are discussed. Discussion that includes the "assessment of specific subject support" and "assessing and building subject collections" encourages librarians to recognize their major and minor collections, creatively assess those collection areas, and involve techniques or individuals who might guide them to Specific material subject.

Key Word: Collection evaluation, Collection development, Collection assessment

1.0 Introduction

Collection development is a very important branch of library management in modern institutions. The issue of collection development has been extensively examined by the scholars across the globe. Several papers are also presented in the national and international conferences on various dimensions of collection development by the information scientists. The modern libraries are required to acquire print and electronic resources which specifically benefit the users. Collection development is based on certain systematic parameters and practices. Users need, collection development policy, selection, acquisition, management-evaluation, weeding, storage and preservation of collection are the important areas of collection development in modern libraries.

2.0 Review of literature:

Feng (1979) assessed the written collection development policy of academic libraries. The study revealed that consistent, balanced growth of library resources and dynamic policy had influenced the collection development in academic libraries. The scholar found that collection development policy was based on the understanding of the needs of the user's community. The scholar suggested that collection development should be improved on the basis of actual needs of the users.

 Futas (1982) examined the issues in collection development in academic and public libraries. The study revealed that collection development was based on a guiding philosophy with goals and statements of objectives and timely consultation with the subject experts. The scholar observed that collection development was carried out on the basis of written collection development policy. The scholar suggested that collection development policy should be evaluated periodically to improve the status and prospects of collection development.

Gorman and Howes (1989) explored the collection development for libraries in modern times. The study revealed that collection development was concerned with the formulation of a systematic plan to build a library collection. The scholars found that collection development was based on the determination and coordination of selection policy, assessment of current and potential user needs, collection use studies, collection evaluation, identification of collection needs, selection of materials, planning of resource sharing, collection maintenance and weeding.

Osburn (1990) investigated the basic principles related to collection management such as value and demand, conservator and innovator. The study revealed that selections were a vital for collection development in modern libraries. The scholar pointed out that scientific criteria for selection was indeed pivotal to collection development policies. The scholar suggested that the plans of action such as budget justification and allocation should be designed on the basis of systematic assessment of the needs of users.

Taher and Kumar (1990) studied the collection development in American libraries. The study revealed that the managers of libraries had considered the use patterns and growth for the procurement of publications. The scholars reported that collection development and evaluation were pivotal in understanding the needs of the users and also to predict their future needs.

Bowman (1991) analyzed the format citation patterns and their implications for collection development in research libraries. The study revealed that collection development was undertaken on the basis of use of citation analysis of the scholarly literature. The scholar observed that publication formats were primarily considered for the acquisition of information resources in modern academic libraries. The scholar suggested that the needs of the library's clients should be examined for better collection development.

Cassell and Futas (1991) assessed the collection development policies in modern academic libraries. The study revealed that gathering of data, consultation of subject specialists and assessment of the requirements of users were the basis for collection development. The scholars noted that ideas had come from different people and different points of view for collection development. The scholars suggested that library professionals should gather right ideas and inputs from various sources to enrich the process of collection development.

Wiggins (1992) carried out a study on the collection development in modern academic libraries. The scholar remarked that modern academic science librarians had faced several challenges from collection development point of view. The scholar also examined the concepts and dilemmas with respect to collection development. The scholar suggested that collection development should be carried out in accordance with the changing environment of scientific and technical librarianship.

3.0 Objectives of the study:

1. To identify the methods used for mode of evaluation of collection
2. To criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents.
3. To Scientific evaluation practices for collection

4.0 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The present study is restricted to the challenges faced by librarians of law colleges while evaluation collection in their libraries. This study is limited to affiliated law colleges of Karnataka State Law University, Hubli.

5.0 Methodology and Plan of Work

The present investigation was carried out in Karnataka state on the basis of survey research methodology which is very popular in the field of Library and Information Science. Primary data were collected through structured, organized and standardized interview schedules which were administered to the professionals, non-professionals and users of law college libraries in Karnataka State. In addition to interview, informal discussions were also held with the authorities who directly dealt with content development. Before administering the interview schedule to the final respondents of the study, a pre-test was conducted in JSS Law College, Mysuru. Some law college library professionals, non-library professionals and users were invited for the purpose of conducting interview and filling the interview schedule. The contents of the interview schedule were subjected to suitable changes and modifications in order to avoid ambiguity and inconvenience in the light of pre-test. Besides survey method, non-participant observation, informal discussions and secondary data analysis were also followed by the researcher. The entire study was exploratory in nature. Several ideas which emerged during the course of discussion and consultation with the policy makers, library professionals, non-library professionals, academicians, researchers

and other stakeholders of academic libraries including law college libraries were suitably incorporated into the research design. Therefore, research methods were designed on the basis of flexibility, appropriateness, feasibility, adaptability, empirical evidences and professional considerations.

6.0 Primary Data Collection

Primary data was gathered by administering the questionnaire to the 1029 library professionals/ non-library professionals and users of law college libraries in Karnataka state. In the first phase, general information regarding the demographic features of the subjects of the study was gathered. In the second phase of the study, the standardized questionnaire which had different scales on the socio-economic status of respondents was administered to the subjects. The responses from about 1029 subjects were noted down by the researcher and a team of trained investigators after interacting with the subjects and explaining the aims and objectives of the study.

7.0 Statistical Analysis

The primary data were analyzed on the basis of certain standardized statistical tests which include – percentage analysis, graphical representation, cross tabulation, descriptive procedure and Chi-square test. All the statistical methods were carried out through the SPSS for Windows (version 16.0). A brief discussion of these statistical tests is as follows.

8.0 Result and Discussion:

Table No: 1. Statement: The law college library has professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents.

Professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents 'measuring the effectiveness of collection development policy', etc. 'subject relevance', currency' and 'language, relevance of materials for curriculum' 'relevance of materials for faculty /research' appealing as an option for evaluating documents. Information so sought is analysed and presented in Table 1

Variables	Sub variable		Responses			Total	Test statistics
			Agree	No Response	Disagree		
Gender	Male	F	15	-	06	21	CC=0.748 P=.030
		%	71.43	-	28.57	100	
	Female	F	39	-	09	48	
		%	81.25	-	18.75	100	
Education	Graduates	F	34	-	07	41	CC=0.523 P=.049
		%	82.93	-	17.07	100	
	Post Graduates	F	20	-	08	28	
		%	71.43	-	28.57	100	
Total		F	54	-	15	69	χ2=0.534 P=.045
		%	78.26	-	21.74	100	

Table No.1 provides the opinion of the respondents about the statement - 'The law college library has professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents'. A majority of the male (71.43%) and female professionals and non-professionals (81.25%) have stated that law college library had professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents. There is significant association (CC=0.748;P=.030) between the gender group and perception of the respondents about the adoption of professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents.

A majority of the professionals and non-professionals with graduation background (82.93%) and post graduation background (71.43%) have stated that law college library had professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents. There is significant association (CC=0.523;P=.049) between the respondents' educational status and perception of the respondents about the adoption of professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents.

A majority of the professionals and non-professionals (78.26%) regardless of gender and education have stated that law college library had professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents. There is significant

association (χ^2=0.534;P=.045) between the demographic features and perception of the respondents about the adoption of professional criteria for evaluation of resources/ documents.

Table No: 2. Statement: The law college library has scientific evaluation practices.

Scientific evaluation practice adopted in evaluating scope, minimal information level, basic information level, study or instructional support level, research level and comprehensive level. The librarians were questioned whether they employed the results of collection evaluation studies for 'understanding the scope, depth and utility of the collection', 'further basis for collection development. Information so sought is analysed and presented in Table 2.

Variables	Sub variable		Responses			Total	Test statistics
			Agree	No Response	Disagree		
Gender	Male	F	06	-	15	21	CC=.112; P=.038
		%	28.57		71.43	100	
	Female	F	10	-	38	48	
		%	20.83		79.17	100	
Education	Graduates	F	08	-	33	41	CC=.153; P=.047
		%	19.51		80.49	100	
	Post Graduates	F	08	-	20	28	
		%	28.57	-	71.43	100	
Total		F	16	-	53	69	χ^2=0.896 P=.039
		%	23.19	-	76.81	100	

Table No.2 provides the opinion of the respondents about the statement - 'The law college library has scientific evaluation practices'. A majority of the male (71.43%) and female professionals and non-professionals (79.17%) have stated that law college library had not adopted scientific evaluation practices. There is significant association (CC=0.112;P=.038) between the gender group and perception of the respondents about the absence of scientific evaluation practices.

A majority of the professionals and non-professionals with graduation background (80.49%) and post graduation background (71.43%) have stated that law college library had not adopted scientific evaluation practices. There is significant association (CC=0.153;P=.047) between the respondents' educational status and perception of the respondents about the absence of scientific evaluation practices.

A majority of the professionals and non-professionals (76.81%) regardless of gender and education have stated that law college library had not adopted scientific evaluation practices. There is significant association (χ^2=0.896;P=.039) between the demographic features and perception of the respondents about the absence of scientific evaluation practices.

9.0 Implication of the study:

9.1 Evaluation of Law College Library Collection Development

Evaluation is an important component of management of law college libraries. These libraries should know and describe the target group   to exactly plan and implement the programmes in a fruitful manner. The policy makers and professionals should use the insights and research methods of psychology and other behavioral sciences in order to make use of more refined, sophisticated, subtle and crafty methods of virtual corporate library management. The services should be constantly evaluated by the experts. Scientific evaluation is a missing link in the process of law college library management. Hence, the policy makers should make necessary arrangements to evaluate the law college library resources and services and make meaningful changes and modifications in the processes of collection development and resources management.

10.0 Conclusion:

Collection development is based on certain systematic parameters and practices. Users need, collection development policy, selection, acquisition, management-evaluation, weeding, storage and preservation of collection are the important areas of collection development in modern libraries. The collection evaluations three examples of collection evaluation methods (user-centered evaluation, physical assessment, and specific subject support) are explored. Many strategies are available for evaluating collections, regardless of the kind of library or size of the collection. Evaluation allows librarians a more thorough knowledge of what already exists, what may be needed, and

whether collection development goals are being achieved. A collection development policy deals with the nature and scope of collection, sets priorities, calls for commitment to organizational goals, provides inclusion and exclusion guides, eliminates personal biases of selection, helps to maintain consistency by orienting new staff and controlling old staff, aids is resolving complaints, weeding and evaluation of collection, collection development program and serves as a public relations and accountability tool. The scholar suggest that community college library staff should give great importance to collection management programmes. There should be an ongoing examination of the existing material for continued usefulness. The library system should develop a methodical collection evaluation process for balancing the needs of printed and non- printed collections.

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