

Library Extension Services in SKUAST-K Library System: A Case Survey

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Abstract: *The aim of the survey was to measure the awareness level among the users community of SKUAST-K Library system. It highlighted different problems faced by libraries while delivering these extension services in real sense. The study was performed via a questionnaire survey of the different libraries in SKUAST-K. . The paper showed that most of the identified extension services had not been practising in the SKUAST –K library system and also the awareness level was very pathetic among the user.*

Keywords: SKUAST-K Library System, Extension Services, users, Kashmir

Extension Services in General

Many extension professional have provided some useful insight and thoughts to define the extension services for a long time.

Extension is an effective education out of school system of education where young and adult people learn by doing. According to Thorat, Extension education deals with practical items of information which is useful people for people which solves their daily problems. Extension education is education for the betterment of people and for changing their behaviour i. e. knowledge, skill and attitude

Library Extension services

According to **Islam** (2004) described it as a learned institution equipped with treasures of knowledge maintained, organized, and managed by trained personnel to educate the children, men and women continuously and assist in their self-improvement through an effective and prompt dissemination of information embodied in the resources.

Omojuwa (1993) described the library as an enabling factor to obtain spiritual, inspirational, and recreational activities through reading, and therefore the opportunity of interacting with the society's wealth and accumulated knowledge.

The online Dictionary, Thesaurus and Encyclopaedia described the library as a place in which literary and artistic materials, such as books, periodicals newspapers, pamphlets, prints, records, and tapes, are kept for reading, reference, or lending. In a digital sense, a library may be more than a building that houses a collection of books and other materials as the Internet has opened up an avalanche of online and electronic resources for accessing documents on various fields of interest.

Online Glossary defined digital library as a collection of texts, images, etc, encoded so as to be stored, retrieved, and read by computer. Furthermore, a digital library is a collection

1. Introduction

The social role of library is highly complex and the responsibilities which society has placed upon it are stupendous. So in order to full fill it role there are different type of libraries 1. Public library 2. Special Library 3. National library.4 Academic Library.

Library extension services is an effort to increase the number of its users to make the maximum use of its resources. it is an attempt to return the library into a social centre which encourage reading. The primary aim of extension services is to convert non –reader into readers. The library cannot reach the illiterates masses thought its books delivery services they create different activities under extension services programmes. According to Adio (2004) information is power and libraries are places where information services are rendered to the users in different format, Alexander John defines knowledge is power which is stored in books the libraries are power house. To state this thought in the word libraries are the power plant where ideas in printed language are kept ready for the users.

According S R Ranganthan Library is regarded as an information centre and making them accessible to those who require the use of them.

Academic Library:-Academic library is library attached to an academic institution, it is engaged in teaching, research and imparting formal education to students. Ormation needs of its members.

Special Library is a library established, supported and administrated by a business firm, Private Corporation, association, government agency or other special interest group to meet the information needs of its members.

National Library keeps all documents of and about a nation under some legal provision.

University Library is expected to cater to the varied needs of courses offered in institution and collection is developed on bases of syllabus assigned them. It is a centre of learning & intellectual activity According to Hamlin there are three function of university library

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- 1) Conservation of knowledge
- 2) Extension of knowledge (Research)
- 3) Transmission of knowledge (teaching)

Thus University library is not merely a store house but it is dynamic agency to assists the scholars & researcher in carrying out their pursuits in the advancement of knowledge by making use of documents in library.

Need of Extension services in Library

In modern societies, every human activity is organized through institutions. Every major social task, whether economic performance or health care, education or research, business or industry is

Institutionalized. Libraries and other similar types of institutions are those that collect, stock, process, organize, disseminate and distribute information/knowledge recorded in documents. Since knowledge and information are so vital for all round human development, libraries and other institutions that handle and manage knowledge and information are indeed invaluable

The **first law** is that books are for use. It is imperative to ensure library patrons use the materials we select and purchase for them. Libraries are not just about storing books, they are about people having access to books. **The second law**, "every reader his or her book," means that we all have diverse interests and that there is a book out there to satisfy each of us. The core need is to fight for the right of users to information of all kinds, the consistent battle against censorship and inequality of access that has governed civilisation since its inception. Our duty is to help users find the information they require and ensure any blocks in the way are not blocks we have created. The extension services are to creates and stimulate the desire for good reading. This can be done by bring by informing about resources and services of library as well as its importance to them. An effort of a library to increase the number of its users to make the maximum use of library material is called extension services.

Objectives of Extension Services: working objectives of extension services are as follows

- 1) To bring about desirable changes in the human behaviour which includes change in knowledge, skill and
- 2) To convert a library into asocial cultural and intellectual centre this encourages reading
- 3) Its aim is convert non readers into readers
- 4) To create and stimulate the desire for good reading
- 5) To inform reader of all facilities offered by the library this in turn maximum the use of library resources
- 6) To create image of the library among the public and government.

Pre requisites for Extension Services

- 1) The library should have a good collection to support all extension activities.
- 2) The trained and experienced staff is obligatory.
- 3) The library should have a lecture hall, an exhibition hall for holding meeting of different groups.
- 4) The library should possess audio-video equipment i. e. LCD projector, slide projector and mike arrangement.

- 5) The librarian should be a good organizer, should understand the needs of the different categories of the community and be knowledgeable about the collection of the library.

Forms of Extension Services: The Library extension services may be of internal or external type. The internal extension service includes orientation programmes and the external extension service includes the mobile library service, publicity programmes etc. Some of the main forms of extension services are as follows

- 1) **Library Orientation / Library Tour:** Many potential library patrons do not know how to use a library effectively. This can be due to the lack of early exposure, shyness, or anxiety and fear of displaying ignorance. These problems led to the emergence of the library instruction movement, which advocated library user education. Libraries inform the public of what materials are available in their collections and how to access that information. The reference staff may orient the user either in formal way or informally into the library system.
- 2) **Reading Circle, Study Circle:** Persons with common interest may be bought together by the library to a reading circle. Each reading circle should be given necessary facilities regarding the materials and a suitable place to hold the meeting.
- 3) **Forming Friends of the Library Group:** The Library can also think of forming "Friends of the Library Group"; such group can assist the library through fund raising, volunteering, and advocacy. They also hold book sales at the library.
- 4) **Reading to Illiterates:** Reading hours for adults who cannot read should be arranged by public libraries. Once they become neo-literates the public library then should take upon itself to see to it that they do not lapse into illiteracy again.
- 5) **Meeting, Public Lectures and Talks:** A library should organize public lectures and talks by eminent persons and also by library staff.

Scope and limitation

The study was limited to the extension services provided by SKUAST-K library system. It revealed only the extension activities performed by the libraries of skuast-k. Respectively

Research Methodology

In the present study the questionnaire was selected as the source for collecting the comprehensive & relevant dates. A list of questions was formulated keeping in view the objective of the study for collecting relevant information pertaining to the subject.

Population of the study

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaire

Particulars	Faculty Members		Students	
	No	%	No	%
Number of Questionnaire Distributed	50		100	
Number of Questionnaire Received	41	82.00	98	98.00

Table 1:-Total of one hundred fifty questionnaires were distributed among the student and faculty member where 139 questionnaires were received back from the respondent.

Table 2: Availability of Extension services

Extension Services	Central library	Faculty of FVSC&AH Library	Faculty of fisheries Library	Faculty of Agriculture Library	Faculty of Forestry Library	Sericulture Library
Reading Circle/Study circle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Library Orientation/Library Tour	✓	✓	✓			
Translation Service						
Exhibition	✓					
Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reading /study Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Book Display	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Festivity of Festival						
Mobile library service						
Library Talk/Public lecture	✓	✓	✓			
Display of new topics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quiz Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reference & Information services						
Inter library loan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total (14)	10 (71.43%)	09 (64.29%)	09 (64.29%)	07 (50%)	07 (50%)	07 (50%)

Table 2: show the SKUAST-k library system are trying to attract the user community by delivering different extension service like organising library orientation, book exhibition, display of new arrival, quiz programmes providing inter

library loan facility to user. Moreover these libraries have not practiced some imp't extension services such as translation service, festival and mobile service.

Table 3: Organizing Special Programmes

SNO	Programmes	Central Library	Faculty of FVSC&AH Library	Faculty of fisheries Library	Faculty of Agriculture Library	Faculty of Forestry Library	Sericulture Library
1	Book Index Express	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Current Awareness Service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Digital and Virtual Libraries	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Institutional Repositories	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5	Dual Library System	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6	Digital Interlibrary Loan	✓	✓	✓	✓		
7	Library as career Guidance & Information Centres	✓	✓	✓	✓		
8	Outreach and Homebound services						
9	Postal Membership						
10	Purchase Xpress	✓	✓	✓	✓		
11	Reciprocal Faculty borrowing Program	✓	✓	✓	✓		
12	Virtual Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Total (12)	10 (83.33%)	10 (83.33%)	10 (83.33%)	10 (83.33%)	03 (25%)	03 (25%)

Table 3: In Table 3 the SKUAST-K library system organized non conventional methods like as book index express, current awareness services virtual libraries,

institutional repositories, purchase xpress etc to attract the users and also to increase the reading habits among of knowledge society

Table 4: Library, s Social Awareness Programme

S. No	programmes	Central Library	Faculty of FVSC&AH Library	Faculty of fisheries Library	Faculty of Agriculture Library	Faculty of Forestry Library	Sericulture Library
1	Public Awareness programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Environmental Programme						
3	Health Programme	✓	✓				
4	Cultural Programme			✓	✓		
5	National Festival	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6	Competitive Exam Guidance Cell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Literary programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Total (07)	05 (71.43%)	05 (71.43%)	05 (71.43%)	04 (57.14%)	02 (28.57%)	02 (28.57%)

Table 4:-depict that SKUAST library system have organized various social awareness programmes. Such programmes are able to attract users' attention and interest. Users get benefit from the ongoing programme.

Table 5: Overall Users Feedback about the different Extension Service

SNO	Programmes	Good	Satisfactory	poor
1	Reading Circle	80%	15%	5%
2	Book Exhibition	30	20%	50%
3	Book Display	70%	20%	10%
4	Meetings	20%	30%	50%
5	Virtual Services	40%	30%	30%
6	Quiz Programmes	20%	50%	30%
7	Display of new arrivals	94%	6%	0%

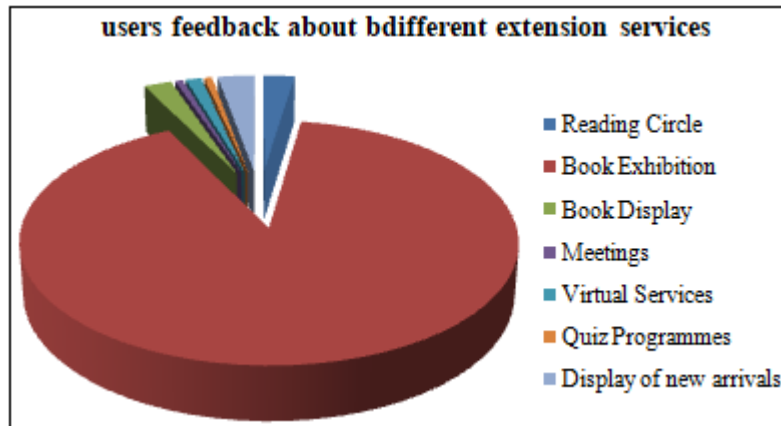


Figure 1: Users Feedback about different Extension Services

In this study the popularity of libraries extension services among the users mixes.94% benefit by display of new arrival.80% users define best reading facility. While as 70%

readers are benefitted by book display. While as meeting, quiz and book exhibition are less practicing yet.

Tables 6: Users options on extension services

S.No	Question	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree	Neutral
1	Librarian conduct extension services on a regular basis	30%	20%	25%	25%
2	Extension activity encourages the reader to frequently visit the library	60%	15%	10%	5%
3	Extension services utilize the library resources	40%	25%	5%	30%
4	Extension services encourage the reading habit	55%	10%	10%	25%
5	Extension activity enables the reader to understand the library services	45%	20%	30%	5%
6	Staff 's approach in imparting extension services	60%	10%	5%	25%
7	Users become self in depend in consulting library.	50%	30%	10%	10%

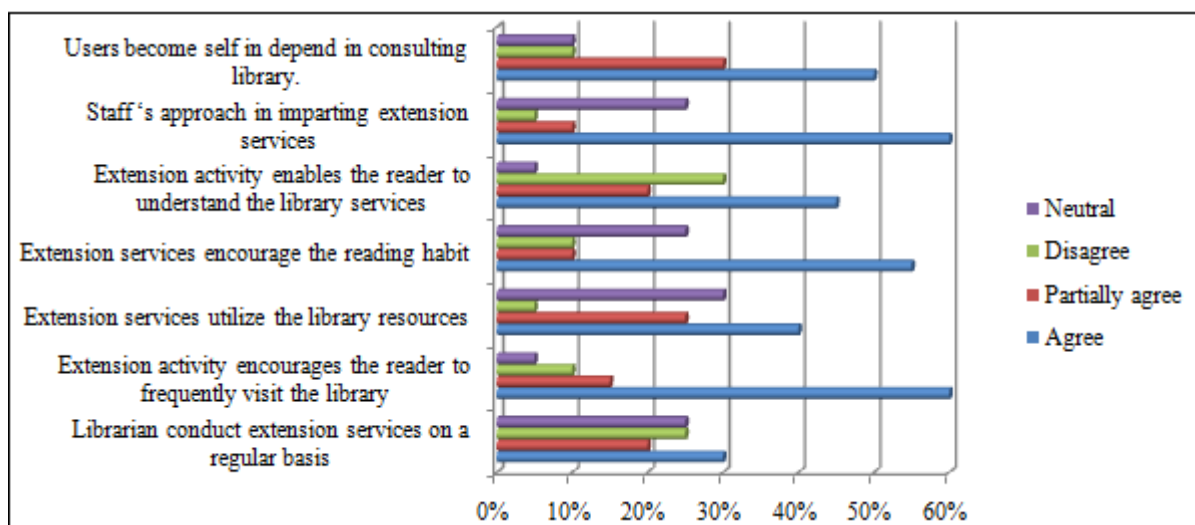


Figure 2: User's options on extension services

In Table 6 users' feedback regarding different extension services delivered by the skuast of Kashmir is satisfactory. Some measures of extension service encourage users are frequently visit of library, staff approach in imparting

extension services and such services enhance users visit to library. To some extend use of library resource helps users in understanding extension services delivered by library.

Librarian responsibilities towards conducting such programme are not sufficient enough.

Problems with delivering Extension Services

- The libraries have not got adequate funds to spend on extension programmes in a wide manner. Lack of interest in authority is the main reason behind it.
- Staff strength of the libraries is very poor and thus proper delivery of such extension services cannot be possible.
- Lack of publicity and lack of awareness about extension services among users
- Lack of internet facilities also creates problem in advertising extension programme.

2. Suggestion

- Social media helps in quick spread of information about extension services & activities
- Social media leads to enhanced communication between librarian and students
- Leads to engagement and feedback of library users about the extension services provided by the libraries.
- Government should implement some useful plans so that libraries can get the utmost importance from the grass-root level.
- To attract more user libraries should have to change from their traditional system to an cooperative ICT environment.

3. Conclusion

Libraries play a special role in the modern society. The aim of modern libraries today is to provide services not only to registrated users but also to every member of society. Library extension service is best tool of marketing about library services, resources and dissemination of information. The extension service is a standout amongst other devices of promoting about library and library administration. it amplifies client fulfilment and to give administration to the remotely found individuals who don't have office of open library.

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