

A Study of Salar Jung Museum Library Hyderabad

Rajendra Pahade

Librarian, S.B. Jain Institute of Technology, Management and Research Nagpur

Abstract: *This paper presents an overview of Salar Jung museum Hyderabad, Telangana and its historical importance. This paper also gives a brief knowledge of library management system of Salar Jung museum library. The main purpose of this study is to find out the present status of Salar Jung museum library. This paper may be useful the research scholars in getting the knowledge about Salar Jung museum and its Library. This paper also helpful in improving its services and status in this Information age.*

Keywords: Museum, Hyderabad, Library, Information Age

1. Introduction

Historical records, Traditional, Cultural and objects conservative need of time. Museums play a very important role in this field and now the museum today is not merely a repository of objects. It is concerned with the acquisition of the object as an integral part of specific programme of scientific research, education, conservation and demonstration of national and cultural heritage.

Museums are among the most successful educational and entertainment institution of our time, if constant increase in attendance and in number of new museums being established is a reliable measure of success. Use of the word "museum" during the 19th and most of the 20th century represented a collection of cultural material to which the public had access. Later, the museum has been changed to represent the historic and artistic collection, open for public interest. With the invent use of ICT application, the museum is now being digitized.

2. The Importance of Museums

Museums provide a unique interactive experience of getting up close to things we usually only see in books, newspapers or on the television. Seeing the Mona Lisa for example, is a totally different experience to seeing one of the millions of printed versions; the perception you get of something from a second-hand source is often completely different to the one you get when you see something with your own eyes. Cities all over the world have museums dedicated to preserve the history through paintings, sculptures and elements of our history. But how important are museums to people living in the 21st century?

Some people claim that museums use up money which would be better spent on other thing. Keeping museums in perfect conditions as the time goes by has a really high cost and the price it is earned by the tickets is not as high as the money invested.

However, other people believe that if we understand how things happened in the past, we would be able to understand why we are today and lead better our own steps to get a future of we will not regret. The importance of make them a accessible to all ages people is seem as a good advantage instead of a lost of money. This is because Museums are a tourism motor and that money which is said to be wasted on

Museums is in fact recover through the tourism.

To sum up, it seems to me that Museums are a firm base of our education as well as a great ways to make researches that could increase our culture. They are not only incredible building to visit and delighting painting to look at but historical pieces of our own self as a countries and as a human beings without those we were incomplete and lost.

3. Definition of Museum

Museum, as we see it today, is the result of a growth of several centuries. Originally the term 'Museum' was applied to a place sacred to the 'Muses' with whom glorious events of the past, folk art, music and poetry, gaiety and harmony were associated. These 'Muses', nine in number, are the goddesses or inspirers of all learning and art.'

'UNESCO' in its publication 'Regional Seminar on the Educational Role of Museums' has defined museum thus : "A museum is a permanent establishment, administered in the general interest, for the purpose of preserving, studying enhancing by various means and in particular, of exhibiting to the public for its delegation and instructive groups of objects and specimens of cultural value; artistic, historical, scientific and technological collections, botanical and zoological gardens and aquarium etc."

According to ICOM (International Council Of Museums) considering this antiquity and this omnipresence, it is odd that the word "Museum" has been so hard to define. But there are so many different kinds of museums (like private and public) and they offer so many different kinds of services, that discovery of a single statement as a common denominator to describe all organizations that call themselves "museums" has proved nearly impossible.

According to AAM, "Museum is an organized and permanent non-profit institution essentially educational or aesthetic in purpose.



Salar Jung Museum Hyderabad

4. Salar Jung Museum Hyderabad

The Salar Jung Museum is an art museum located at Darushifa, on the southern bank of the river Musi in the city of Hyderabad, Telangana, India. The Salar Jung Museum proudly holds the coveted crown of being one of the 'largest one-man collections of the World'. The prized possessions of the Salar Jung Museum was opened to the public with an inaugural address from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on December 16, 1951. Through an act of parliament (act of 26 of 1961) the Salar Jung museum and its library was declared to be an institution of national importance. The administration was entrusted to an autonomous board of trustees with the government of Telangana as its Ex-Officio Chairman and ten other members representing the Government of India, The state of Telangana, Osmaniya University and one from the family of Salar Jungs

The Museum is a repository of the artistic achievements of divers European, Asian and Far Eastern countries of the world. The major portion of this collection was acquired by Nawab Mir Yousuf Ali Khan popularly known as Salar Jung III. The zeal for acquiring art objects continued as a family tradition for three generations of Salar Jungs. In 1914, Salar Jung III, after having relinquished the post of Prime Minister to H.E.H., the Nizam VII, Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan, devoted rest of his entire life in collecting and enriching the treasures of art and literature till he lived. The precious and rare art objects collected by him for a period of over forty years, find place in the portals of the Salar Jung Museum, as rare to very rare pieces of art.

It is evident that the treasures which the last Salar Jung inherited only added to the vast acquisitions which Salar Jung III made, that too with the zeal of a real collector. This went on for forty years till he passed away on 2nd March, 1949. The then Military Governor declared a public holiday as a mark of respect to this great man, who was a premier noble and Ex-Prime Minister of the old order. The Hyderabad Art Society convened a meeting and passed a resolution of condolence.

5. Main Attractions

- 1) **The Clock:** A visual delight is the musical clock Salar Jung bought from Cook and Kelvey of England. Every hour, a timekeeper emerges from the upper deck of the clock to strike a gong as many times as it is the hours of the day. It is an antique
- 2) **Galleries:** The museum building have 38 galleries. The exhibits on different subjects are displayed in separate galleries. Each galleries is huge and has many artifacts on display including ones dating back to the 4th century
- 3) **Collection:** Salar Jung collected 43000 artifacts and manuscripts. The Indian historical collection includes
 - a) The painting of legendary Raja Ravi Varma
 - b) Aurangzebs Sword
 - c) Jade crafted daggers of Emperor Jehangir, Noorjahan and Shah Jahan
 - d) A wardrobe of Tipu Sultan
 - e) A tiffin box made of gold and diamond
 - f) Quran collection from around the world.

Museum Library

Salar Jung Museum Library opened to the public in 1961 by an Act of Parliament. A well equipped library is an important attraction of this museum. The library is having total area 10400 sq.ft. out of which 2189 sq.ft is available for reading and 3840 sq. ft. for stack room Library building is constructed with good ventilation, including proper arrangement of lighting also. The library is well furnished air conditioning. The library is totally computerized having WIN- ISIS software. All the activities of library being through this software. All the library staff are aware IT services. IT awareness programmes were organized by the library for the faculty members.



(a)



(b)

Salar Jung Museum Library

Research scholars (both from India and abroad) regularly visit the Library apart from the staff of the Museum. On an average, ten persons a day use the library to enrich and expand the origins of their learning.

The manuscripts collection in the library, which possesses unique Specimens, is one of the richest in the world in terms of its quality. It contains many gems of calligraphic art and ornate embellishment; items with gorgeous decoration and an artistic blending of colours with a profuse use of gold, mineral colours that lavishly used for blue, pearl for white, shangraf for red and Zabarjad (emerald) for green. Calligraphers, artists and bookbinders all did their best in showing their respective arts and have thus paid their tributes to the written world.

Library Services / Facilities

Salar Jung Museum Library provides following services / facilities to their members

- Circulation of books for the members only.
- Circulation of periodicals for the members only
- CD-DVD based services.
- Reference and information services.
- Newspaper Clipping Service.
- Reprographic Services.
- Bibliographic Service.
- Internet Service.
- Selective Dissemination of Information.
- Current Awareness Service.
- Inter library loan services.
- Indexing and abstracting services.
- Online data based services.
- Subject database services.
- Lending
- Electronic document delivery services.
- Journals Services

Collection

The Salar Jung Museum Library is belonging 60000 collection of books and manuscripts acquired by the Salar Jung's family. The origin of some of the collection dates back to 1656 A.D. It was given the shape of a well-knit and full-fledged library by Nawab Mir Turab Ali Khan, Salar Jung I, which was further augmented and developed by his son Nawab Mir Laiq Ali Khan, Salar Jung II and finally by

Nawab Mir Yousuf Ali Khan, the Salar Jung III. The Library and the Manuscripts Sections are situated on the 2nd floor. The rich collection of the Library consists of 62,772 printed books of which 41,208 are in English, 13,027 in Urdu, 1108 in Hindi, 1105 in Telugu, 3,576 in Persian, 2,588 in Arabic and 160 in Turkish languages.

The English printed books include research journals, albums of rare photographs and valuable engravings. A paramount feature of this vast collection is that it covers a plethora of specialized fields of learning ranging from the fields of Art, Architecture, Archaeology, Physical, Biological and Social Sciences, Literature, History and Travel. It also includes collection of religious books on Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and other religions. The oldest book in the collection is an English volume printed in 1631 A.D. The library is constantly replenished with latest arrivals covering subjects like Art, Sculpture, Paintings, Ceramic Arts, Decorative Arts, Museology Tourism etc.

Manuscripts Collection

The collection of manuscripts includes various media like parchment, textile, palm leaf, paper, glass, wood, and stone, different languages such as Arabic, Persian, Urdu, a few of Turkish, Dakhni, Pushtu, Hindi, Sanskrit, Telugu and Oriya and addresses more than eighty four subjects. The collection also includes more than one thousand five hundreds calligraphic panels and albums of miniature paintings of different schools. The range of subjects is very wide and includes Medicine, Science, Logic, Agriculture, Calligraphy, Lexicography, Mathematics, Physics, Astronomy, Games, Art, Syntax, Music, History, Poetry, Biography, Rhetoric, Philosophy, Etymology, Ethics, Politics, Travels, Divinations, Ouranic sciences, Theology, Sufism, Law, Dictionaries, Magic Archery etc.

The manuscripts are related to an array of Indian religious including Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism etc. These manuscripts are in various shapes, sizes and forms. It may be noted that there are only two miniature manuscripts copies of the Holy Quran in the world, and while one of these is in the Iran, the other is in the Salar Jung Museum and its size is 2.4 cms. The museum also has a large Quran which measures 60x30 cms. Some calligraphic panels are incised on glass, and the Museum has manuscripts with excellent nail work. The other calligraphic works are in many scripts, like Kufi, Thulth, Naskh, Ta'liq, Nasta'aliq, Gubar, Raihan, Shikasta, Diwani, Riqa', Bahar, Tughra, Ma'akus and in styles differing from the bold and archaic to the minute

ARABIC Manuscripts

The library has a collection of more than 2,500 manuscripts in Arabic, its highlight being that rare work on mathematics entitled Sharhu Mukhlasar al Mukhlasar on Algebra (847 AD). In astronomy, the earliest work is on the preparation and use of globe (16th cent). In the field of Medicine, the library boasts of manuscripts of Kilabul Qanun by Avicenna (Ibn Sina). In natural history the noted works are Hayalul Haiwan. In the field of Philosophy, an encyclopedia work in the library is Rasiialkhwanus Safa (16th cent). AI Tajrid fil

Mantiq is well known work on logic written by Nasiruddin Tusi (1628 AD) and manuscripts of Ala Sharhil Malali is a copy from the imperial library of Emperor Jahangir. Manuscripts 01) Islamic theology that deal with Adiyah (Prayers) of Shiites and Sunnites, jurisprudence and Sufism also form a part of the collection. Ta'arruf li Madhabil Tasawwuf is a rare work on introduction to the Principles of Sufism (Delhi-1675 AD). The earliest codex of lexicon is Sahah by Abu Nasr (1218 AD). Jaiul Qawayed is a rare codex in the subject of Syntex (1576 AD) and on the subject of etymology a commentary on As Shafia written during the period of Nizam II in one of the prized possessions of library.

PERSIAN Manuscripts

There are about 4,700 Persian language manuscripts. The most outstanding of these is Raudalul Muhibbin, which contains twenty illustrations belonging to the Bukhara tradition and' was transcribed by the famous calligrapher Mir Ali Harvi. The oldest manuscript on Sunnite commentary is A'l Basair fil Wujuh wan Nazir, written in 1207 AD, in Arabic Naskh. On Tasawwuf, the most valuable and useful treatise is attributed to Bayazid Bustami, who transcribed it in 1588AD. There are manuscripts on the subjects of art, science, divination, astrology, magic and archery. There is one codex on agriculture and a number of codices on precious and semi-precious stones. On the art of calligraphy the Museum has a number of manuscripts, in cookery there are two manuscripts entitled Oaslur-e-Pukhlan-el Alamaah written for Shahjahan. There is a codex on the preparation of perfumestoo In medicine the oldest Arabic translation in Persian is Tarjuma-e-Minhajul Mayan written for Shahjahan by Muhammad ar-Radi. The Museum also has the oldest medical encyclopedia transcribed in India. In veterinary sciences, the codex Mualaja-e-Janwaran is the earliest available manuscripts on the treatment of animals and is dedicated to Firuz Shah (1281 AD).

Printed Books Collection

English Section

The English Section. consists of nearly 40,000 books and is also having rare book collections. It covers a variety of subjects ranging History, Philosophy, Engineering, Biology,

Literature and Biography. The oldest book in the library is : " General history of the Turkes" by Richard Knolles, 1631 A.D. There are certain autographed titles in the collection. One of them is a book presented to Sir Salar Jung I by Queen Victoria titled" Leaves from the journal of our life in the Highlands from 1848 to 1861". The library also has a biography of Guru Nanak "Janam Sakhi" The collection also has translations of important literary works For example, "The Ocean of Stories" is an English translation of "Katha Sarit Sagara" The library has a huge collection of books on history of the entire world

Oriental Section

This section contains around 19,000 printed books. Around 13,000 are in Urdu, 2,500 in Arabic, 3,500 in Persian and 160 in Turkish. It covers a wide range of books on subjects including Islam, Literature, History, Medicine from different countries like Iran, Iraq, Syria, India, Pakistan etc. Many books are available on the history of the Deccan. Literary works of the classical poets of Urdu are available in the library in this section.

Research and Publication

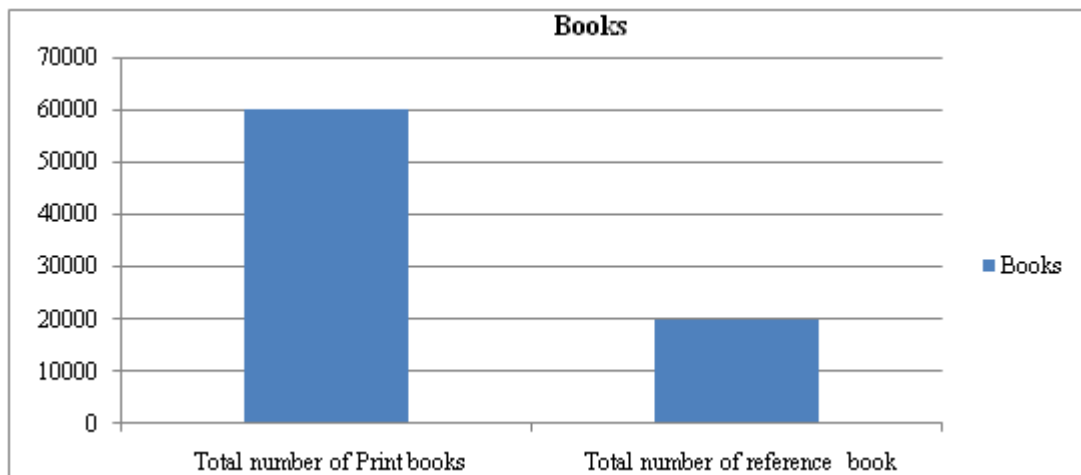
Salar Jung Museum has published 19 descriptive catalogues of manuscript details, each having title, author, chronology, illustrations, seals and autographs. The Museum has also published a rare copy of the Holy Quran which consists of only 30 folios with each line beginning with the first alphabet of Arabic, the alif. research on parchment is also being conducted by the Museum's Manuscripts section. The short details of the library as under for user reference.

Library Staff : In Salar Jung museum library six library staff are appointed for handling all the daily library activities which of them one is professional ,two are semi professional ,one is non professional and other two library staff are available for

Library Collection

A. Books

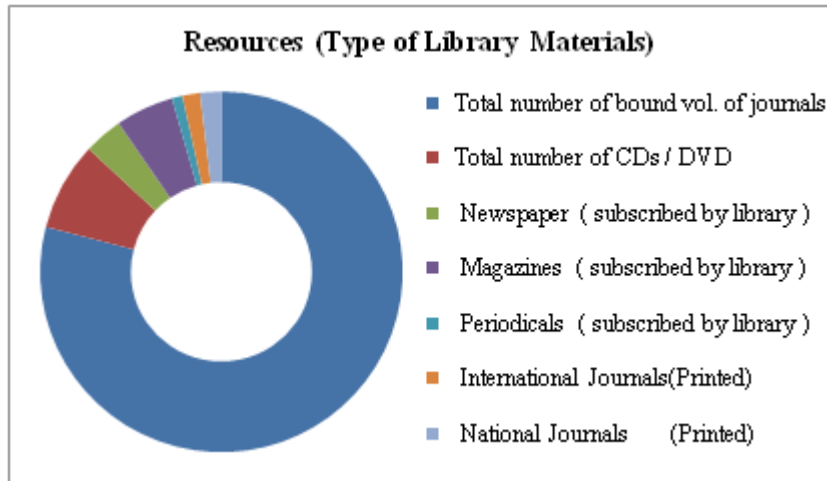
| Sr. No. | Resources (Type of Library Materials) | Total |
|---------|---|-------|
| 01 | Total number of Print books | 60000 |
| 02 | Total number of reference book | 20000 |



In the library collection (books) under study, It is observed that over 60,000 printed books are available for the esteemed members of Salar Jung museum library. They also have more than 20,000 reference books by famous authors.

B. Others

| Sr. No. | Resources (Type of Library Materials) | Total |
|---------|--|-------|
| 01 | Total number of bound vol. of journals | 500 |
| 02 | Total number of CDs / DVD | 50 |
| 03 | Newspaper (subscribed by library) | 22 |
| 04 | Magazines (subscribed by library) | 33 |
| 05 | Periodicals (subscribed by library) | 06 |
| 06 | International Journals(Printed) | 10 |
| 07 | National Journals (Printed) | 12 |

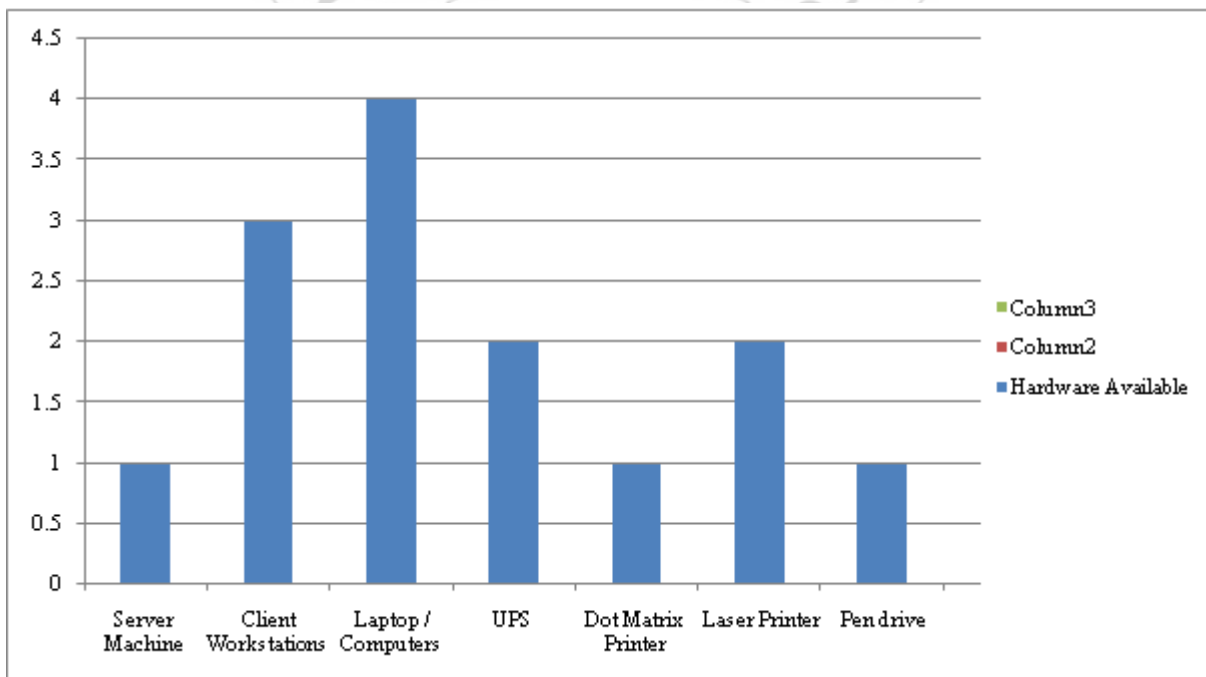


It has been observed that the well known journals subscribing more than five hundred. More than fifty CDs & DVDs are also available for the users. More than twenty two newspapers are available for readers. The library also subscribing more than thirty three well known magazines for their members. In one year more than six periodicals are subscribed for the library. Twelve national and ten international journals are also subscribed for the valuable readers as well as museum library

Details of Library Automation

A. Hardware Available

| Sr. No. | Hardware Items Available | Total |
|---------|--------------------------|-------|
| i | Server Machine | 01 |
| ii | Client Workstations | 03 |
| iii | Laptop / Computers | 04 |
| iv | UPS | 02 |
| v | Dot Matrix Printer | 01 |
| vi | Laser Printer | 02 |
| vii | Pen drive | 01 |



It has been observed that four computers are available in the library for handling the daily activities of library. Three client workstations are available in the library and attached it to main severer. Two UPS are supported to the computers for breakdown of electric. Two laser printer are attached to the computers for essential printing documents. One server machine is attached to three clients and all data of library saved in this server machine. . One dot matrix computer is also available for printing. One pen-drive is used in library for carry the necessary data transformation.

B. Software Available

| Sr. No. | Name of the Software | Available | Available Product Name |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| i | Network Operating System\ | Yes | |
| ii | Library Management Software | Yes | WIN-ISIS |
| iii | Digital Library Software | Yes | |

Objectives

The main objective of this study is to find out the present status of the library and give some suitable suggestions for its further improvement in the collection and services for the benefits of the library

Some other objectives are:

- 1) To study the use of collection and services of Museum Library
- 2) To identify the status of present staff.
- 3) To identify the actual strengths & weakness of library resources & services.
- 4) To identify the kinds of users and their needs.
- 5) To identify the limitations or problems.

Scope of the study

The scope of the study was limited to the, Salar Jung Museum library ,Hyderabad

6. Methodology

Questionnaire was prepared for the librarian of Salar Jung Museum library for this study. In this study, primary data have been collected through questionnaire and secondary data from the records of the library, books and journals etc The collected necessary data was analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in the form of tables and figures.

7. Conclusion

The library has procured the software for computerization but there is no any technical staff working on it. Due to lack of funds and staff, the library is not able to improve the IT services . A lot of things, which should be considered by the government and appropriate steps, should be taken for its further improvement in order to provide the best services to the users. As it is the very oldest library, therefore, it should be maintained by the government in the proper way so that the library could attract number of users and plays a vital role in their research work.

8. Suggestions

The following suggestions/recommendations are set forth on different aspects of research library of Salar Jung Museum library ,Hyderabad, on the basis of the study. These recommendations, if implemented, are likely to solve the existing problems and make the system more effective in future

- 1) There should be digitization of available manuscripts and rare books. So, that these valuable sources not only become the showcase item of the library but also become approachable information source also.
- 2) There should be given a chance to research scholars for becoming the member of this library. So, that they can also borrow the books.
- 3) There should be a website of this library & museum also. So that people from all over the world can be able to aware about its rare collection and able to utilize it.
- 4) Library management should take the guidance and support of advisory body for the Institute of Museum and Library Services
- 5) Donated books also should be displayed properly. So that everyone can use them too.

References

- [1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museum> (Accessed on 16.06.2016)
- [2] <http://museumplanner.org/museum-definition> (Accessed on 16.06.2016)
- [3] <http://www.india-travel.com/uttar-pradesh/museum.htm> (Accessed on 16.06.2016)
- [4] <http://www.hyderabadmuseum.org> (Accessed on 17.06.2016)
- [5] <http://www.salarjungmuseum.in> (Accessed on 17.06.2016)

Bibliography

- [6] Esdaile, A., *The British Museum Library*. London: George Allen and Unwin 1946
- [7] Gupta, K.R., *Directory of libraries in India*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publisher and Distributors, 2001.
- [8] Gupta, S.P., *Cultural tourism in India: Museum, Monuments and Art*. New Delhi : D.K. Print world, 2002.
- [9] Harris, P.R., *A History of the British Museum Library 1733-1973*.
- [10] Kaul, H.K., *Library Resource Sharing and Networks*. New Delhi: Virgo Publication 1989.
- [11] Kenyon, Frederic., *Libraries and Museums/Frederic Kenyo* London: Ernest Benn, 1930
- [12] Sivaramamurti, *Directory of Museums in India*, New Delhi: Ministry of Scientific Research and Sharma, R.C. (1976). *Mathura Museum and Art*. (2nd ed.).
- [13] Mathura: Govt. Museum. International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology | July-September 2013 | Vol. 3 | Issue 3 229