

**USERS EDUCATION AND LIBRARY ORIENTATION IN ASSAM AGRICULTURAL
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INTRODUCTION

One of the basic objectives of library service is to increase the ability of users of library to acquire his information in his own way. Due to the proliferation of knowledge as well as the subsequent growth of literature is facing a great challenge to provide its services to the users. We cannot deny the universal truth of the laws of library science that books are for use and every reader must find his/her books and vice-versa. If these objectives are to be fulfilled, we are to organise our library or information centres in a more scientific way by which every book can be utilised for extracting the information that it contains. The enormous resources of the library will be a wastage if we do not educate the users in finding out their informational needs. The right information at the right time to the right readers must be provided in order to generate new ideas. From reader's point of view also they must get the correct information out of the resources of the library without losing much time and energy. User education should be aimed at to provide knowledge and skills for using the library resources by the readers themselves. This will also stimulate the habit of self-learning.

NEED FOR USER EDUCATION

The need for user education arises mainly due to the inefficient and casual use of the library materials. Many of the readers find it difficult to collect references, use indexes, locate appropriate information that they need. It is seen from practical experiences that most of the readers are not aware of the services offered by the library whose main objective is to help them in their study. As a result of this, their idea of library remains as primitive one when library was regarded as a mere store house of books. This idea of store house must be removed from minds of people by introducing the regular courses of library education in the academic institution at least from high school to university level. Hence user education has become essential for:

- (1) Acquainting the user with the technique of library usages and to introduce the readers to the various service available in the library.
- (2) The user should be provided with the idea of physical facilities of the library and the procedures for using the units for pinpointed information that may be required by them.
- (3) To introduce the user to the various sections of the library so that they can approach the specific section for their specific queries and needs.



(4) A necessity is also felt that the users should be introduced to the library policy of the parent organisation and to provide them with library rules such as issue and return of books, over due charges, inter library loan rules, proper care to the reading materials etc.

(5) To attract the user to the library and use its resources.

(6) Necessity has also felt to give an idea of organisation of different section along with the co-operative attitude of all concerned.

(7) Through the users education efforts should be made to create an educative, helpfulness and co-operative attitude of all concerned.

These essential factors have necessitated the introduction of user education specially in academic library where programmes like teaching, research and extension are undertaken. Every year a large number of fresh students are entering the higher education. Besides these fresh students, an institution of higher education such as University, College or research institution both technical and non-technical consists of Post-Graduate, research scholars as well as extension workers. The academic library are to serve these different groups of clientele.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION

Another important aspect of user education is the introduction of bibliographic instruction. The nature of clientele indicates that mere introduction of library orientation as a form of user education of library orientation as a form of user education is not sufficient to serve the very purpose of the library. The information needs of research workers are of special type. Hence the provision of bibliographic instruction may be introduced to help the research workers and post-graduate students. Through the bibliographic instruction the reader must be acquainted with the available information resources in particular discipline in which he is working. The bibliographic instruction should be designed in such a way that it increases the skill of reader in finding his research needs. This will increase the ability of the research worker to search the resources of the literary on his own way.

The objectives of bibliographic program generally includes the objectives of library orientation. These includes introduction of readers to the library as discussed above. The second objective of the program is to provide the reader with the knowledge of library resources and services and to give them the idea of library facilities, location of library materials etc. Thirdly the use of reference materials. In this objective readers should be acquainted how to use reference books that are required by a given reader. This will also provide him the skill for using indexes, reference collection etc.

Another factor of objectivity of bibliographic instruction program is the use of information. The information to be collected must be relevant to the topic. Readers should know the technique of bibliographic citation, compilation of bibliography, record keeping etc.

We can sum up with the above discussion that library user's education is highly essential and lead to realisation that library use is an important source of information and



complete utilization of library resources can be achieved through library orientation and instruction.

Library Orientation In Arts and College College, Mayani Library (ACCML.)

Among the Arts and College College , Mayani Library is the only one institution where Teaching, research and extension activities on traditional education is carried out. The main clientele of this institution consists of teachers, both under graduate and extension workers. These different educational information users require different kind of information to suit their individual and collective needs for research Works. The findings of the results of the research are practically experimented and finally reaches the hands of society.

The information needs of these various categories of clientele are to be provided by the libraries under ACCML situated at one campuses Mayani region. So the high responsibility entrusted to the library must be carried out with the full co-operation of teachers, students, library staff and administration. The tremendous growth of educational collection throughout the world is so vast that it has become a challenge to the traditional Education for collection, storing and retrieving this literature. The Specialization of these subjects have compelled the libraries to change the concept of library from mere store house of books to the dynamic information generating centre.

The library provides orientation classes to the freshers who are admitted after passing the 10+2 system of education. The courses includes a brief account of Classification and cataloguing system followed in the library. Some idea of library administration are also provided to the students. As the library follows Dewey Decimal Classification system and AACR II an elaborate idea of these two systems are given. Besides these some guidance for correct use of reference materials. collection of references, different reference sources etc, are given. Students are also acquainted with documentation, reprographic Circulation services etc. including the physical set up of different sections of the library.

From the Orientation Classes it has been found that most of the students realises the library's importance for their study. They use the catalogue Cards and find their reading materials without the help of library staff. They collect the references themselves and uses different sections of the library whenever need arises.

Suggestions:

Considering the importance of the library Orientation and the interest shown by the users the following suggestions may be made for its further improvement.

- (1) Users education which consists of Library orientation, biblio- graphic instruction and assistance to readers should be introduced fully in a spirit of making the reader library minded and inspire them for self-education which is a life long process.
- (2) Library orientation course should be made credit course system as against the prevailing non-credit course system.



(3) The librarians of academic institution like University, College should take great initiative as U.G.C. has equated them at par with teachers.

(4) At least one-month regular library orientation classes should be undertaken as against one day Orientation available in the ACCM Library.

(5) Besides lectures; seminar, library tours should be arranged for educating the reader.

Conclusion:

The above discussion have no doubt shows the importance of library users education in utilizing the library resources. Through the orientation to the students at the beginning of the session a proper understanding of the library operation can be given to the users. It also provided the facility of refining and developing the library services in the educational system of a country.

For the interest of the profession the need of the hour is to introduce the user education in the university library of the state and to help the teachers, research workers and students in their pursuit of knowledge.

References:

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