

Precision in Practice: Assessing the Tools and Techniques Shaping Collection Development in Medical College Libraries

Mamta Goswami, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science, OPJS University, Rajasthan

Abstract

Libraries play a vital part in selecting and administering materials that provide current and timely materials in the ever-changing field of medical education and research. This study explores the complex field of building collections in healthcare institution libraries, assessing the accuracy and usefulness of the instruments and methods used in this specialised field. The research paper examines the wide range of instruments used in collection development, spanning conventional techniques to cutting-edge technologies. It looks into how services with subscriptions, online systems, or statistical analysis can best manage and choose medical resources. The evaluation takes into account factors including financial limitations, user requirements, and the changing environment of medical education and research. The research paper also conducts a critical analysis of how various instruments and methods affect the accuracy of collection development. It evaluates how successfully libraries match the particular requirements of medical educators, researchers, and learners with the resources they acquire. The research attempts to offer conclusions regarding the efficacy of present procedures and recommends possible areas for development by assessing the importance, timely currency, or usability of the obtained materials.

Keywords: Library Collection Development, Collection Development Tools & Techniques, Library Digital Collection, Medical College Libraries.

1. Introduction

The function of library in medical colleges has transformed dramatically in response to the ever-evolving needs of instructors, learners, and healthcare workers in the ever-evolving field of health-related studies and instruction. Encouraging an atmosphere of learning that supports accuracy and quality in medical procedures requires effective curation and easy access to pertinent material. This article explores the various tools and procedures used in university medical libraries to assure the accuracy of materials offered accessible to the learning and working community, delving into the complex world of collection creation. The need for current and specialised knowledge is more than ever as the medical field develops and adopts new technologies, procedures, and interdisciplinary methods. The libraries of medical colleges serve as essential centres for the exchange of knowledge and have a significant impact on the teaching of future health care providers. Librarians and information professionals are increasingly using cutting-edge tools and procedures to improve the accuracy and relevance of their collections in order to satisfy these changing needs. By examining the state of collection development at medical college libraries, this paper hopes to shine insight into the methods used to sift through the deluge of healthcare writing, databases in addition and online resources. The examination of these tools and techniques illustrates the intricate process of customising library holdings to the unique requirements faced by medical professionals, investigators, and pupils. These include employing of customer-focused methodologies and the blending of sophisticated information analytics. We will also examine the difficulties medical college libraries have in keeping their holdings accurate, particularly problems with funding limits, shifting requirements for curricula, and the quick speed at which technology is developing. By recognising these difficulties, the paper hopes to stimulate discussion on optimal methods and the sharing of opinions and knowledge among industry experts.

2. Review of related literature

Collection development in medical college libraries involves the assessment of tools and techniques to ensure precision in practice. It is important to consider factors such as policies, principles, techniques, and procedures in developing a qualitative collection that meets the needs of users (Kardo, 2020). Additionally, the evaluation of collections in electronic

environments is crucial to assess their usefulness (Sanjay, 2016). Academic libraries have employed various assessment tools and techniques to demonstrate the value of library services, spaces, and collections (Shamatonova, 2018). Collection development also plays a role in promoting efficient use of library resources by considering societal analysis, policy, acquisition options, stock evaluation, and disposal of unrelated resources (Amanulla, 2019). Quantitative assessment, such as data mining models, can aid librarians in making decisions regarding the acquisition or disposal of bibliographic material based on indicators like number of volumes and usage (Abu, 2014). Modern tools and techniques for the library acquisition process include the use of ICTs for efficient and effective information acquisition, processing, storage, and dissemination (Chandrashekhar, 2018). Libraries are urged to automate their services and utilize the Internet platform to provide access to open-source materials, operate information commons, and use web 2.0 tools for enhanced information generation, processing, dissemination, and access (Ekoja, 2011). Computer technologies are also applied in the preparation and use of electronic models for the thematic-typological acquisition plan, which optimizes the constituent operations of acquiring literature for library collections (Pavlova, 2021). Additionally, knowledge acquisition tools and techniques are analysed and reviewed to improve efficiency in the acquisition process (Gnanamalar, 2013). Library automation software is another important tool that automates the processes of acquisition, cataloguing, and circulation, enabling better service to customers and efficient management of library collections

3. Objective of the Study

Government College libraries have undergone a transformation from conventional to modern thanks to the application of contemporary digital technologies, with a focus on collection development. This is the primary goal of the current study, along with the following secondary goals.

1. To find out about current tools and techniques used by medical college libraries in collection development process
2. To study strategies of collection development of medical college libraries
3. To find out which innovative technologies used by medical college libraries in acquisition process
4. To find challenges and obstacles faced by medical college libraries in the process of collection development

4. Research Methodology

Surveys were used to collect the data needed for this investigation. For this purpose, a well-structured questionnaire containing both nominal and ordinal data was developed. The basic random sample strategy was the sampling technique or procedure employed in the current investigation or study, highlighting the idea that every value or fraction had an equal chance of being chosen for the sampling objective. The online survey was distributed to users in person and by email. Both SPSS 21.0 and Microsoft Excel were used to process the data.

5. Sample Size

For the current investigation 70 medical college libraries were selected randomly in the area of Delhi NCR so that a concluded statement about the study can be accomplished.

6. Coverage

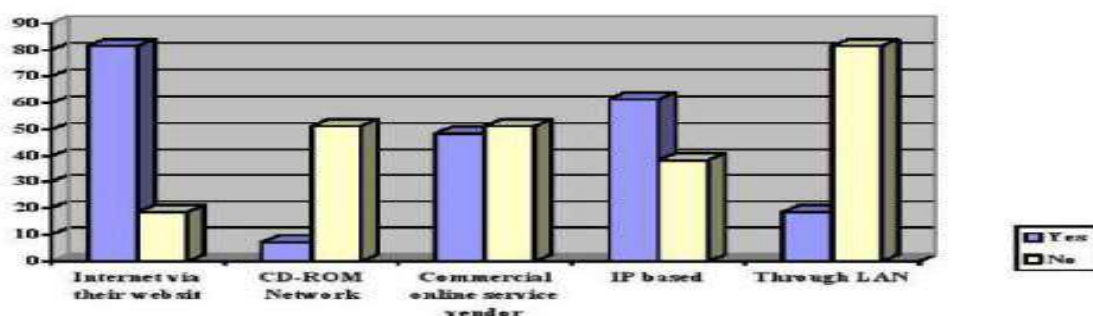
This study's main focus is on assessing the tools and techniques shaping collection development in medical college libraries. Only government medical college libraries in the Delhi NCR region are covered by the study; private medical college libraries were left out.

7. Finding/Result

Access to E-Resources

In today digital environment e-resources are playing vital role in accomplish the need and requirement of users of medical college libraries. The graph's statistics demonstrate the many

ways in which users can access electronic resources from medical college libraries. With 81.42 percent of views coming from their website, the internet is the most popular medium. Second, 61.42 percent of libraries provide IP-based access; third, 48.57 percent of libraries make these materials available through commercial online vendors. In addition, 18.57 percent of libraries have local area networks where patrons can access e-resources, and 7.14 percent of libraries have CD-ROM networks where patrons can access electronic materials. The following bar graph presents a comparative analysis of the different types of networks that are available for e-resource access.



Type of E-Resources

Medical College libraries in today digital environment are being subscribed various e-resources through various model of subscription which developed over the period of time by various consortium which helped library users in various modes. The data presented in the below table indicates that 67.14 percent of medical college libraries in Delhi NCR have full text resources subscribed, followed by abstracts in 12.85 percent of libraries, bibliographic resources in 15.71 percent of libraries, numerical resources in 4.28 percent of libraries, graphic resources in 10% of libraries, and other types of e-resources in 20% of medical college libraries.

Table:1 Type of E-Resources

SI. No.	Type of collection	Yes	%	No	%
1.	Full text	47	67.14	23	32.85
2.	Abstract	9	12.85	61	87.14
3.	Bibliographic	11	15.71	59	84.28
4.	Numeric	3	4.28	67	95.71
5.	Graphic	7	10.00	63	90.00
6.	Others	14	20.00	56	80.00

Selection Criteria

Selection of any material to acquire in the library is vary crucial because funds are limited and users' needs and demand are dynamic so medical college libraries are adopted various selection criteria. Among the several criteria used to pick e-resources, 100% of libraries place "Subject relevance" first, followed by "Quality to meet users' needs" with 62.85% of medical college libraries placing "Quality to meet users' needs" second. After-sale maintenance is ranked third among the factors examined by 61.42 percent of libraries when purchasing e-resources. 55.71 percent of libraries consider cost effectiveness, 59.28 percent consider correctness of information, 24.28 percent consider back issue facility.

Table:2 Selection Criteria

SI. No.	Selection Criteria	No. of Libraries	% Of Libraries
1	Quality to meet user need	44	62.85

2	Subject relevance	70	100
3	Cost effectiveness	39	55.71
4	After sale maintenance	43	61.42
5.	Correctness of information Back issues facility	3817	54.28
6.			24.28
7.	Distributed access	14	20

Collection Development Policy Elements

A number of considerations go into the creation of the library collection, such as usefulness, longevity, and accessibility. Are these features upheld in the libraries of medical colleges? The data in the below table demonstrates that the majority of libraries' collection development policies include both short- and long-term goals as a crucial element. In 94.28 percent of libraries, this feature is rated second; in contrast, 61.42 percent of medical college libraries prioritise the need for evaluation and user needs. Levels of collection (collection is targeted to suit whomever demands) is the third most important policy feature, regarded as such by 52.05 percent of libraries. 15.71 percent of libraries consider security and authentication to be elements of collection development policy; 5.71 percent of libraries consider acquisition procedure; 4.28 percent of libraries consider selection responsibility; and 20 libraries consider other elements of collection development policy.

Table:3 Collection Development Policy Elements

Sl. No.	Element of Policy	Yes	%	No	%
1.	Short and Long objectives	66	94.28	4	5.71
2.	Selection Responsibility	3	4.28	67	95.71
3.	Need Assessment & user's requirement	43	61.42	17	24.28
4.	Levels of collections	37	52.85	33	47.14
5.	Acquisition Procedures	4	5.71	66	94.28
6.	Security Authentication	11	15.71	59	84.28
7.	Balance Between print & e-collection	14	24.28	53	75.71
8.	Others	14	20	56	80

8. Discussion

One noteworthy aspect of the text is its emphasis on the expansion of collections. Libraries were once real places to store books and journals. However, since the development of the internet, libraries have become more important suppliers of electronic resources, multilingual content, and interactive online content. The study highlights this shift and examines how government medical college libraries are adapting their goals for collection development to better serve the diverse learning and research demands of its users. The use of technology in the process of creating collections is one important subject the paper addresses. Digitising resources not only increases accessibility but also enables effective handling and organisation of massive volumes of data. The article probably examines how libraries are utilising

innovation to handle electronic databases, provide users with remote access to resources, and facilitate information retrieval.

9. Conclusion

In conclusion, the research "Precision in Practice: Assessing the Tools and Techniques Shaping Collection Development in Medical College Libraries" presents a thorough examination of the evolving landscape of medical college libraries. The insights provided shed light on the intricate nature of modernization occurring within these organisations and emphasise the critical role collection development plays in this revolutionary process. The report emphasises the steady shift from print-focused, traditional holdings to a dynamic blend of digital assets, online databases, and multimedia material. In addition to demonstrating how digitization may increase accessibility and allow for more efficient management and structuring of an ever-increasing volume of data, the essay emphasises the significance of using new technology. Furthermore, a crucial element of modernization is the emphasis on collaboration and networking among libraries. Knowing how interconnected the globe is allows for the pooling of resources and the development of a collaborative environment, which significantly raises the bar for research support and teaching.

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