

CHAPTER- 6
FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

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FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The present work consists of two stages. In the first stage an attempt is made to study the present status of the libraries of government and private medical and paramedical colleges in Assam affiliated to SSUHS with respect to their resources, services and facilities available. During the second stage, the user's needs and satisfaction level were traced out.

6.1 STATUS OF THE LIBRARIES OF MEDICAL AND PARAMEDICAL COLLEGES REGARDING THE RESOURCES, COLLECTION AND SERVICES

6.1.1 Library resources

The libraries of respondent Medical and Paramedical colleges have both printed and non-print media of information resources. The government Medical and Paramedical libraries mostly include the resources as books, periodicals, project and reports, government publications and non print resources consisting –videocassettes CDs, DVDs, online/offline databases whereas in private libraries mostly contains print media resources as book and few periodicals only. As mentioned earlier, there is a wide gap between the collection of libraries of government and private medical and private paramedical colleges.

i) Library collection

As per the norms of MCI, each medical college library should have not less than 10,000 text and reference books. It is reveals that the collection in 78.58% of libraries of government Medical and Paramedical College is upto 10000. On the other hand the

collection of private Medical and Paramedical college library is below 1000 in 72.73% libraries. Hence, the managements of these colleges should take necessary steps to improve the book collection as per the norms of Medical Council of India.

ii) Periodicals

The total number of periodical in the government libraries of Medical and Paramedical colleges affiliated to SSUHS ranges is from 1-140 periodicals (including national and International). On the other hand private libraries subscribe lesser number of periodicals (including national and International) which ranges between 1-20.

MCI has already laid down the standards for the libraries of running undergraduate and post-graduate courses, regarding area of library, number of books, and number of Indian and foreign journals to be subscribed. According to norm the number of journals shall be 100 out of which one-third shall be foreign journals and subscribed on continuous basis. It is found that most of the medical colleges are not fulfilling the norms. 64.28% of government libraries subscribe Indian journal below 60 and 64.30% libraries do not subscribe any foreign journal. Whereas, 81.81% private college libraries subscribe Indian journal below 20 and 63.63% do not subscribe any foreign periodical. Hence, the government of Assam and different councils i.e. Medical Council of India and Paramedical Council of India should insist on subscribing sufficient number of journals so that the users can get latest information in medicine.

iii) Bound Volumes

It is found that 71.42% (10) respondent libraries preserve bound volumes ranges from 1-450. Remaining libraries have not answered the question. 81% private Medical and Paramedical colleges are preserving, maintaining bound volumes collection ranges 1-350, which is very less.

6.2 NON PRINT COLLECTION

Medical and Paramedical colleges are having a very less collection of non-print materials. At present only 35.72% government libraries are subscribing online databases. No private library is subscribing any kind of database. 85.72 % government libraries and 90.91% private libraries are not subscribing any e-journals. Hence, necessary steps should be taken by the medical and paramedical libraries to shift gradually from print to e-journals to reduce the expenditure on the subscription of periodicals.

6.3 LIBRARY BUDGET

Finance is the crucial factor in developing the library resources, as well as infrastructure. As we all know that in Medical and Paramedical colleges budget matters a lot because medical books, journals or any document are very costly. All the government medical and paramedical college libraries are receiving budget from Government of Assam and all private medical and paramedical college libraries are receiving budget from their college managements.

6.4 LIBRARY BUILDING

Most of the libraries of government Medical and Paramedical colleges (78.57%) are located in the institutional building. 21.42% (3) institutes have a separate library building on campus. It is found that the 7 libraries have the area from 1000-2000 sq.ft and 2001-3000 sq.ft. in 2 libraries (14.28%). The area exceeds 6000 sq.ft. in 2 libraries (14.28%) whereas 14.28% (2) libraries having the sq.ft. area below 1000. 7 libraries (50%) have the range from 1001-2000 sq.ft. and 2001-3000 sq.ft. in 2 libraries (14.28%). It is found from the table 4.19 that FAAMC, Borpeta has highest number of reading room (05). Followed by AMC (Dibrugarh), JMC(Jorhat), SMC(Silchar).

In private medical colleges the total library area is less in comparison to government Medical and Paramedical colleges. 18.18% (2) libraries having the sq.ft. area below 500. 5 libraries (45.45%) have the range from 500-1000 sq.ft. and 1001-1500 sq.ft. in 3 libraries (27.27%). The area exceeds 1500 sq.ft. in only 1 library (9.09%). It is found from the study that Downtown College of Allied Health Sciences (DTCAHS) has highest number of reading room (03). Followed by, CPMS (Guwahati) and RCO (Jorhat). The range of seating capacity in the libraries of Medical and Paramedical colleges is ranges from 10-50.

As per the MCI norm, the required library area for an admission of 200 students should be an air-conditioned Central Library (3200 Sq.m) with seating arrangement for at least 400 students for reading and having good lighting and ventilation and space for stocking and display of books and journals. There shall be one room for 200 students inside and one room for 200 students outside.

6.5 MANPOWER

In 9 respondent libraries (64.28%), total manpower is or below 3. Out of that 5 libraries are run by only one person. 2 libraries (14.28%) have the staff ranging from 4-5. In few libraries (3 i.e. 21.42%), the staff number is above 6. Out of 14 respondent libraries, maximum number of staff available in Guahati Medical College, Guwahati. But regarding the professional staff, Jorhat Medical College, Jorhat has highest number of professional staff. It is found that the librarian and Class IV categories are available in more in number as compared to remaining categories of the library staff.

On the other hand, manpower in private libraries is in the range of 1-5. It is also found that out of 11 private Medical and Paramedical college libraries, four libraries don't have professional librarian.

The staff members working in the libraries are not sufficient to run the library

effectively. The minimum staff members as per the norms of Medical Council of India in the library should be 12 members including professionals and non professionals. Out of five medical colleges no one is following MCI norms. Hence the Government and councils should take necessary steps to appoint more library staff members as per the norms.

6.6 LIBRARY TIMINGS

A major portion of libraries (42.85%) have less than 8 working hours. 3 libraries (21.42%) have normal working hours which are 8-9 hours. 4 libraries (28.57%) work for 10-12 hours per day. Whereas only 1 library (7.14%) library remain open for 13-15 hours. No library is opened during off timings i.e on weekends, holidays etc. Out of 11 private libraries, a major portion of libraries (45.45%) have 6-7 working hours. 4 libraries (36.36%) libraries have normal working hours which are 8-9 hours. It is found that, the present library timing does not suit medical and paramedical professionals as they have very tight academic schedule.

6.7 LIBRARY SERVICES

6.7.1 Circulation

It is found that 4 libraries (28.57%) are providing circulation service for less than 8 hours. Out of that 2 libraries have the library staff members ranging from 1-2 providing the service for 5-7.30 hours. Almost 8-9 hours service is provided by 3 libraries (21.43%), whereas 9-11 hours service by 4 libraries (28.57%). Above 11 hours service provided by only 1 library (7.14%). It is found that the range of circulation service is showing great variation from 6 hours- 14 hours daily.

It is found that the range of circulation service is showing great variation from 4 hours- 8 hours daily. It is found that 2 libraries (18.18%) are providing circulation service for less than 6 hours. Basic 6-7 hours service is provided by 5 libraries

(45.45%), whereas 8-9 hours service by 4 libraries (36.36%) libraries. No private library provides above 9 hours service.

ii) Library access system

In open access system, the users have the freedom to choose the books they like. The collection is well used in the open access system. The present study reveals that nearly one third of the medical college libraries are following closed access system. Hence, the authorities concerned should take necessary steps to follow open access system by the libraries.

(ii) Use of Document Transaction Scheme

It is found that 2 (28.14%) libraries use automatic system and one library using register as well as automatic system. Out of 14, 6 libraries (42.86%) use manual register for charging-discharging of documents. It is found that the libraries use automatic as well as manual systems mainly due to frequent power cuts, and lack of generator backups. Requirement of skilled staff is another reason behind the same.

A majority portion of private Medical and Paramedical colleges i.e. out of 11, 10(90.90%) libraries are maintaining document transaction through manual register. Only one (9.09%) library is using E-granthalaya software.

6.7.3 Library Statistics

All the libraries are maintaining library statistics. Out of that 3 libraries are using commercial library software. It is observed that the libraries using the commercial library software can easily maintained the required library statistics.

(i) Daily Transaction of documents

It is found that the daily transactions of documents in the government colleges ranging from 15-250. In private college libraries no transaction is above 100. Comparatively

the transaction of documents in private college libraries is very less.

(ii) Daily internal visitors

In government colleges daily transaction varies from 15 - 250. In 2 libraries daily transaction is over 200.

Out of 11 private Medical and Paramedical college library, only 1 respondent library having daily internal visitors are more than 100, in 2 libraries (18.18%), the number of internal visitors is between 51-100. In 5 libraries (45.45%), the number of internal visitors is in the range of 10-50. No library is allowing outside users.

(iii) Classification and Cataloguing

It is found that for classification, out of 14, 7 (50%) government Medical and Paramedical college libraries are using DDC 22nd edition, 2(14.28%) libraries are using DDC 23rd edition and 5(35.71%) libraries do not have any classification scheme. For cataloguing, 5 (35.71%) libraries are having AACR-II cataloguing schemes and 9(64.28%) libraries do not have any cataloguing facilities. Whereas in private Medical and Paramedical college library, out of 11 libraries, 5 (45.45%) libraries are using DDC 22nd edition and 6 (54.54) libraries don't have any classification scheme. They have just arranged the documents subject wise. For cataloguing, one (9.09%) library is using MARC 21, another one (9.09%) is using AACR II and only one(9.09%) is having CCC system of cataloguing. Eight (72.72%) libraries do not have any cataloguing system.

6.7.4 Home Lending Service

In case of students, the loan period of books is in the range of 5-6 months. Only one library (7.14%) loaned the books for 5 days. Majority of libraries namely 11 libraries (78.57%) loaned the books to the students for a period of two weeks. Books are loaned for a long period to the faculty members in most of the

libraries as compared to students. Only one (7.14%) library viz. Gauhati Medical College library issue books to all users for 6 months i.e. one semester. As the CD's includes the current information on the topic, it has been observed that the CD's are issued for fewer periods (5-7 days) in the respondent Libraries, while 2(14.28%) libraries do not issue CD to users. (It is observed during the data collection that generally the libraries are not giving the journal/periodicals and the reference books for home lending purpose. Therefore the data regarding the home lending of those categories have not been collected.)

No research scholar is available in the private Medical and Paramedical colleges. Books are issued for 6 days only in one library (7.14%). In majority of libraries books are issued for 15 days i.e. two weeks. In three libraries books are issued for 30 days for faculty.

No private Medical and Paramedical college library issue CDs to students.

6.7.5 Over Due Charges

Out of 14 government libraries, 2 libraries charge as Rs. 1/- per day overdue above 15 days and another 1 library charge Rs.0.50 paisa after 7 days as overdue .

In private libraries, out of 11 libraries, 3 libraries charge Rs. 2/- per day as overdue and another 2 libraries charge Rs. 10/- as overdue.

6.7.6 Copy of Library rules

Majority of libraries (64.28%) have library rules and are circulating it among the library users. Only 21.42 % library does not have printed rules whereas 2 (14.28%) libraries did not respond.

Private Medical and Paramedical college libraries do not have library rules in printed form.

6.7.8 Types of Library Services

Out of 14 responded libraries of Medical and Paramedical colleges affiliated to SSUHS, only four libraries mentioned that they are providing SDI service to the users, mainly the faculty members related to their teaching subject and to the researchers for their research work. It is found that mostly the SDI is provided in anticipation. Still 10 respondent libraries are not providing SDI service to the users. It has been found that reference and circulation are the mostly used services in the respondent libraries of Medical and Paramedical colleges. The services such as bibliography and translation are not traced out.

Out of 11 responded libraries of private Medical and Paramedical colleges affiliated to SSUHS, Only one library provides user education. Three libraries mentioned that they are providing SDI service to the users. Still 8 respondent library are not providing SDI service to the users. It has been found that reference, photocopy and circulation are the mostly used services in the respondent libraries of Medical and Paramedical colleges. In private libraries also the services such as bibliography, abstracting, translation and online databases are not traced out.

Bibliographic service and translation service have a great role in research and medical education in the medical library. But due to lack of skilful person the service is not still provided in any government or private Medical and Paramedical colleges.

Out of 38 libraries only 11 libraries are providing CAS service by display new journal, books alert service only. **Medline** service is available only in 5 medical libraries. The library authorities should take necessary steps to create awareness among the users

about the importance of different services through user education programmes , namely , lecture method ,library tour , audio-visual method and printed booklet.

6.8 LIBRARY AUTOMATION

It is necessary to computerise the various operations in the library for retrieving information accurately and speedily. It is found from the present study that out of 14, only three (21.42%) libraries are using the computers in the library. In case of private college libraries only one library is automated. This situation has to be improved very soon. It would be better if all medical college libraries use one software package for uniformity and networking of the libraries. The library staff members should be deputed to attend refresher courses, workshops, seminars and conferences relating to the computer applications in libraries. Hence, the college authorities should take initiative to computerize the various operations in their libraries . Government of Assam and Medical and Paramedical council of India also should insist that the college authorities should computerize their libraries for quick retrieval of information at the time of inspection.

6.9 LIBRARY SERVICES AND USER SATISFACTION

User satisfaction is the key component for assessing the library services. The more the users are satisfied, more the library will be effective is the basic premise. Assessing the user satisfaction of Medical and Paramedical libraries came necessary to ascertain the effectiveness of the services. 537 users of thirty eight colleges belong to faculty (14.53%), students (73.93%) research scholars (0.55%) and other staff members (10.99%). Users were categorised into two different discipline namely medical

(55.31%) and paramedical (44.69%). Majority of users are young and in the age group of 21-30 (37.24%). This is very obvious because maximum users are students. Almost 17.13% of them are up to age of forty and 61.08% of them are males. Library seems to be important to almost all of them (92.92%) but all of them do not seem to be satisfied with the library (70.76%). Users visit the library for consulting library staff, using library computers or browsing the shelves. Looking for a book or journal article is also a reason for visiting library very often as only 34.26% users visit library every day. Majority of them visit the library at least once a month.

Majority of users have identified the importance of various library collections, newspapers & magazines, online databases, journals, books and reference collection emerge as extremely important to users. In contrast, users show very low satisfaction levels on all the items of library collection. Hardly anyone is extremely satisfied with journal, reference collections, special collections, CBT packages and online databases/internet. Only 32.78% users say that college library is extremely important to them. Other extremely important source of information is internet/web sources and departmental & institutional libraries. Out of thirteen already identified services provided by the Medical and Paramedical college libraries satisfy only marginal or very few users. Specialised services like CAS, online databases and document delivery services show very less satisfaction levels.

For the purpose of this study, thirteen facilities are identified. Users report that all of the facilities are extremely important to them but they are least satisfied with any of the facility provided by the librarians of Medical and Paramedical colleges. Out of this 62.08% users show importance of PC and computer terminals whereas only 1.39% of

them are extremely satisfied with what library is provided. This indicates that there needs a lot to be done in order to enhance the facilities to the expectation levels of users. Users also desire the library to be open especially during evenings and weekends and holidays. During these timings they want computer access, photocopying services, access to library collection and a place to study in the library. In addition to this, respondents would like to use information technology for the purpose to keeping current or up-to-date in their discipline and finding citations to journal articles. Users have given suggestion for improving the existing library services for upcoming days, they want that the number of books and journals should be increased, increase library hours, add more computers, provide library consultation for researches, preserve library materials from deterioration, improve infrastructure, provide quieter study/work areas in libraries, computerization of the whole library, provide unlimited access to internet sources, provide trained and efficient staff. Majority of users say that all the above-mentioned priorities are extremely important to them.

Overall satisfaction has been categorised into, i.e., overall satisfaction of library services, overall satisfaction of library collections and overall library satisfaction. Most of them seem to be satisfied on above three variables.

Three variables of overall library satisfaction are highly positively correlated. This shows, higher the satisfaction of library services and collections, higher will be overall library satisfaction.

The results of the present study indicate that the existing library services of Medical and Paramedical libraries are not up to the requisite standard. There is a wide gap in the service required to the user and service provided by the Medical and Paramedical

colleges.

After the analysing the data, problems faced by the users can be summarized as follows:

1. Users do not have proper services available in their respective Medical and Paramedical college libraries.
2. Latest journals/periodicals, newly published research reports and other important materials are not available in the library.
3. All the libraries are facing financial constraints specially homeopathic and paramedical colleges, which do not allow them to grow in the proper direction.
4. All libraries are not having sufficient number of professionally qualified staff, which would have helped in providing proper library services.
5. Timings of the library also do not suit most of the medical professionals.

It is very evident from the above discussion that Medical and Paramedical college libraries are facing many problems. Services provided by them are very poor and access to the latest periodicals and other materials is unthinkable due to paucity of adequate finances. State Government is not concerned about the status of library staff and on developing infrastructure facilities in the libraries. Many libraries are manned by only under graduate and half of them have no computer and internet available in the library. Keeping this scenario in view, there is a need for resource sharing among all the Medical and Paramedical college libraries under Srimanta Shankardev University of Health Sciences(SSUHS) and national library cooperation. Resource sharing means when two or more libraries are sharing their resources for the benefit of all participating libraries. It is the only realistic means of providing full range of resources needed for scholarly research so the sharing of resources among the libraries is increasingly

accepted. Now a days, the concept of resource sharing does not remain confined to inter library loan and document supply. It includes sharing of materials, functions, services and expertise.

6.10 NEED FOR RESOURCE SHARING

- Due to exponential growth in the Medical and Paramedical science, it is impossible to acquire and store all documents within its four walls.
- In order to satisfy the needs of its users and to improve the existing library services of Medical and Paramedical colleges, it may have to depend on other libraries.
- The library budgets are decreasing and costs of medical science documents like journals, books etc. are increasing with the result the number of documents being added to the libraries is decreasing.
- More emphasis on avoidance of unnecessary duplication of library sources and services.

The stress for resource sharing due to the devaluation of rupee, rising cost of published materials and limited financial aid resulted in switching over automation in libraries.

6.11 AHSLIBNET

There is a need for Medical and Paramedical library network in Assam given the paucity of modern, up-to-date Medical and Paramedical information available to professionals as well as problems involved in providing such services because of poor

communication infrastructure. The solution had to come from networking the libraries in all the colleges under Srimanta Shankaradeva University of Health Sciences and consciously promoting a culture of cooperative procurement and resource sharing. This network provides gateway to the internet, enabling the user to exchange e-mail with any internet address and access off line library and information services available over the internet. UNESCO defines information network as “Information network is a set of interrelated information systems associated with communication facilities which are cooperating through more or less formal agreements, in order to implement information handling operations, with a view pooling their resources and better serving the users, They generally follow identical or compatible rules and procedures. In modern practice many information systems are in fact based upon networks and the two terms are often used interchangeably.”

Therefore, AHSLIBNET (Assam Health Sciences Library Network) is proposed in this study.

6.12 VISION

The vision will be to create a network of resources with local service interface forming part of national medical information. AHSLIBNET will conceive as the consortium of all the Medical and Paramedical college and institute libraries affiliated to the Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences in Assam through network, which will accept the need to explore cooperation and collaboration by consensus as a response to the educational, training and needs of the country.

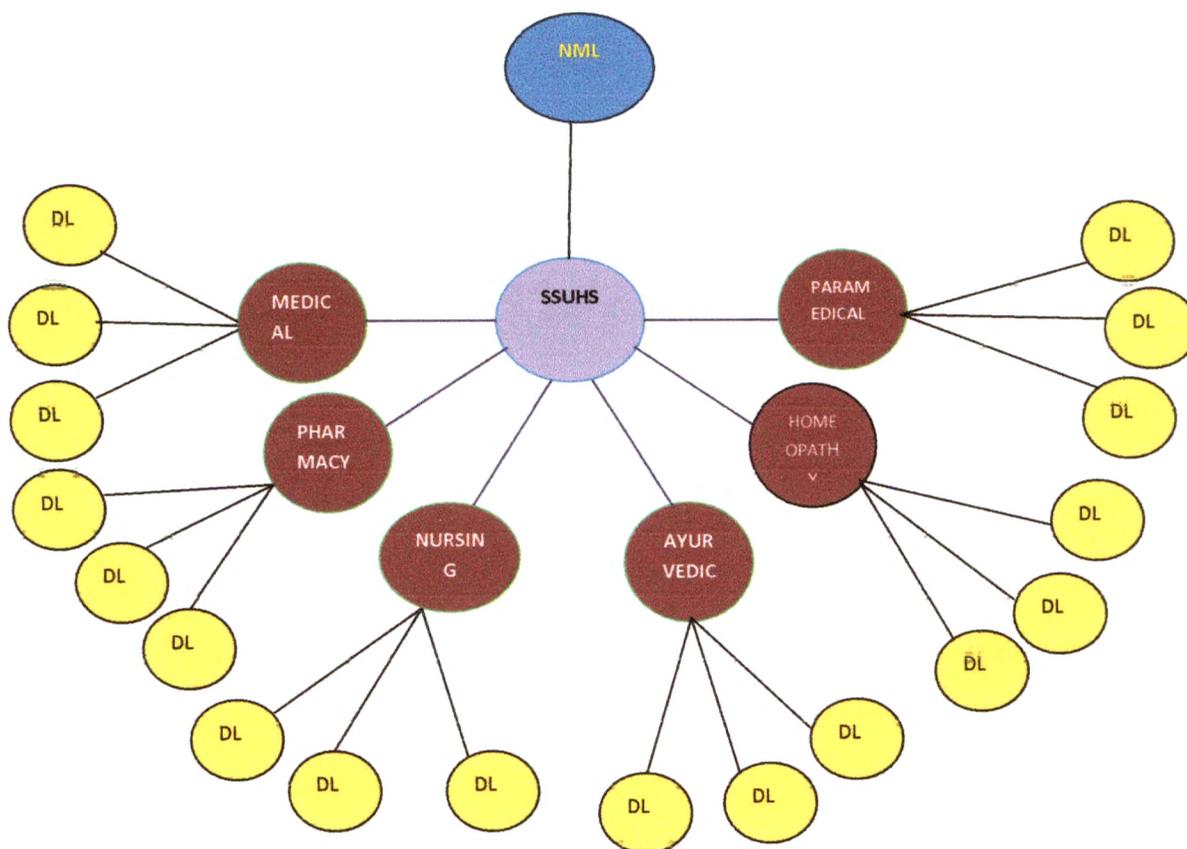
6.13 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the AHSLIBNET are:

- To develop a state-wide network of health science libraries for an optimum utilization of health information resources;
- To generate new services and to improve the efficiency of existing one;
- To facilitate access to internet through shared computer systems and networks.
- Twenty four hours access to information.
- To standardize the health science libraries & information centres.
- To provide access to document collection of all health science libraries in the state as well as National Medical Library (NML).
- To optimize utilization of funds by minimizing duplication in all spheres

6.14 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The model of organisational structure of AHSLIBNET is given below:



Note: NML- National Medical Library, New Delhi, SSUHS- Srimanta Shankardev University of Health Sciences, Guwahati, , MEDICAL- Medical Colleges of Assam, PARAMEDICAL- Institutes of Paramedical Sciences, PHARMACY-Institutes of Pharmacy, NURSING-Nursing Colleges of Assam, AYURVEDIC-Ayurvedic College of Assam , HOMEOPATHIC- Homeopathic Colleges of Assam DL – Departmental Library.

Every library will be networked with its departmental/Seminar library. The topology of the network will be line and star topology, distributed network. Each of the libraries will be interconnected and all the libraries will be networked in Srimanta Sankardeva University of Health Sciences (SSUHS). The SSUHS will act as a regional focal point of the AHSNLIBET. **Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences**, Guwahati, Assam, India established in 2009. It is the only Health University in the North Eastern Region with its jurisdiction to the whole of Assam. It has the mission like : to create, uphold and develop an intellectual, philosophical, academic and physical environment which shall be conducive to free flow of ideas and exchange of information amongst various faculty members of the university, and to develop collaborative as well as autonomous institutions or research and higher learning, between this university and other centres of excellence in the country and abroad like WHO, UNICEF and World Bank, thereby opening a window to the world for the health professionals, health planners, health managers, health policy makers, bio-medical and social scientists, educators and academicians in Health Sciences of the country. SSUHS will be connected to the National Medical Library (NML), New Delhi and NML will act as a national focal point for collecting ,processing and supplying biomedical information .

The National Medical Library, as apex body of the network, was made responsible for developing bibliographic control tools, providing leadership to medical libraries, conducting training programmes/ courses for professional development of libraries, formulating standards for medical libraries besides coordination of activities of regional focal point and other nodal libraries of the network. The regional focal point will form

an important linkage between NML and nodal libraries and provide library services to all Medical and Paramedical as well as health science professionals in Assam.

All the Medical and Paramedical colleges affiliated to the Srimanta Shankaradeva University may be the members of the AHSLIBNET.

6.15 PROPOSED SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS

The establishment of AHSLIBNET would enable the Medical and Paramedical students and professionals to get better and improved library services to satisfy their information needs. The proposed services are as below:

6.15.1 Document Delivery Service

Document Delivery Service (DDS) is an important aspect of library service. The requested material for DDS may be articles from journals, papers from conference proceedings, any other materials required for academic and research purposes, depending on the availability. Modern computer and telecommunication technology made it possible to transfer the electronic text of the document to long distances at extremely fast speed.

The need for DDS felt due to ever increasing subscription cost of learned journal that leads to a situation where no library can hold every item required to meet the needs of its user. So, this service will be provided into the following ways:

- (i) Through the interlibrary loan system among the libraries of AHSLIBNET and

- (ii) Reprography, Microfilms and Photocopy services through electronic transmission.

6.15.2 Bibliographic Services

Searches on MEDLARS/ MEDLINE and other databases are to be provided to the users. Now a days electronic networks are serving as important focal points for developments associated with electronic document delivery, electronic journals and a variety of web-based facilities which provide access to a wide range of other databases and information resources.

6.16 Benefits of AHSLIBNET Consortium

The following are the benefits of network in enhancing academic and research pursuits for the Medical and Paramedical community:

1. **Resource Sharing** : Unlike print where a single issue of a journal /resource caters the need of an individual at one time , online content of journals offer unlimited access to multi-users cost-effectively with ease at their computer system by a click. The search techniques are also being refined constantly to facilitate the researchers / faculty members/ students enabling them to add value to their study/research.
2. **Accessibility to Content**: As the budgets of libraries are limited and the need for content is ever increasing. To meet this growing need, consortia is the most viable answer for the libraries, researchers/faculty/students to get access to content being subscribed across participating libraries in the consortia. It will

not only provides access to current content online but also back files of the subscribed content.

3. The consortium enables access to electronic information resources at highly discounted rates of subscription.
4. It facilitates convenience of desktop access to high quality e-resources to students and researchers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.
5. It facilitates better management of information resources in electronic environment and saves user from the hassles of print resources and their management.

6.17 DEVELOPMENTS OF TOOLS FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION

In order to make successful resource sharing network, the cooperative effort i.e. means, methods and tools must be made available. Such tools include the sources of information on the resources available in libraries of the network with compatibility with the administrative procedures and regulations of the participating libraries and also in establishing efficient lines of communication among all the libraries of network. The activities of AHSLIBNET should be:

- (i) Preparation of computerized databases of serials and other holding of all participating libraries.
- (ii) Pooling of national and international databases on subject related to Medical and Paramedical sciences for common use among participating libraries under the network.

- (iii) Development of standards procedures for Medical and Paramedical libraries of AHSLIBNET for uniform functioning.
- (iv) Organisation of users surveys to access the information needs of Medical and Paramedical profession in the region.
- (v) Organisation of user education programmes for efficient use of the resources like a booklet entitled 'Library Services through AHSLIBNET and other Sources' etc.

6.18 Improving the network skills of AHSLIBNET Library Professionals

It is very important to improve the skills of the library professionals working in the networking. In the networking, it is very essential to develop curriculum for training programmes for the professional working under the network. The courses and workshops are to be conducted both at the regional and national levels to train the library professionals in new developments.

6.19 INTRODUCTION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Participating libraries should keep abreast with the latest technology for efficient functioning of the AHSLIBNET should draw its recommendations from time to time to keep trace with new developments and also to see that such recommendations are also implemented.

6.20 FUNDING, MAINTENANCE

To implement the **AHSLIBNET** programme, the authority should approach to North Eastern Council (NEC) or Government of India for adequate funding. On the other hand, all the government as well as private colleges may be approached to Assam State Government to provide financial assistance for implementation and maintenance of the network. It is true that, most of the networking initiatives are supported by donor agencies and this support is not very feasible. However, organisations like national and international NGOs could be contacted to extend their cooperation in the present network for the purpose.

With the rapid Development of Medical and Paramedical sciences there have been an explosion of information regarding various aspects of medical diagnosis, treatment and research. For all academic institutions it is vitally essential to have all these information readily available and easily accessible. Therefore, **AHSLIBNET** if implemented as per suggestions and then the model would be in a position to meet the information needs of the Medical and Paramedical professionals in the region. With the help of this **AHSLIBNET**, a Medical or Paramedical professional would be in a position to access the resources from all nodal libraries as well as regional focal point or national focal point for the required information just sitting in his/her respective departmental library. Today it is evident that, pathology system in the hospital interconnecting with a medical professional computer in the remote location, direct access to Medical libraries and full text transmission or journal articles, X-ray images transferred across the country or the transfer of data from one district medical professional's lap top computer

to a colleague in another region (Kleeberg,1993). This network would be active such for objectives of remote as well as local information access even at global level.

The above suggestion executes **objective no.4 i.e., suggest ways and means to improve the existing library services of Medical and Paramedical colleges of the region.**

6.21 RECOMMANDATIONS

Most of the recommendations furnished below are intended to improve the existing library services of Medical and Paramedical library, a few suggestions on personal communication with the Medical and Paramedical professionals and experiences have also been included.

1. There is a wide scope for the Medical and Paramedical colleges affiliated to SSUHS to create consortia at local level.
2. The authorities of SSUHS can arrange two-three days orientation programs exclusively for “librarians” & library staff of the colleges, which can enlighten them in the application of the new aspects of technology & assist in overall improvement of the library services of the colleges.
3. Further a forum for the “Librarians of Medical and Paramedical colleges” can be formed. It can provide a common platform for the Medical and Paramedical colleges librarian in sharing their views, problems they are facing and further can be used for conducting consortia activities.
4. Medical council of India and Paramedical Council of India should give proper instructions for appointing professional library staff.

5. The Libraries should offer services like CAS, SDI, Translation service, compilation of subject bibliographies, information analysis and consolidation products, such as abstracting, and state of art reports.
6. The adaption of blogs in the service profile of a medical or paramedical college library can be used to inform the users about the resources and services, such as new arrivals, library timings, borrowing information, fine / loan details etc. . Blog can also be used an interactive tool for professionals as well as feedback medium.
7. Paramedical libraries be organised properly and estimates worked out as to what equipment, tools and staff need to be provided.
8. Management /Authority should depute librarians to do various workshop training at state /national/ international level. It should motivate the library staff in improving their educational level so that library staff can respond to the users efficiently.

A college library is the best place to acquire knowledge and spend valuable time for the users. However, it is found from the study that a good number of students spend not more than one or two hours a day in the libraries. This situation has to be improved and libraries should take some measures which would attract the users more and more. The suggestions made by the students are valid and the right time to take those suggestions seriously, where the world is becoming flat and global work-culture is the order of the day.

CONCLUSION

The Medical and Paramedical colleges which were under the academic jurisdiction of traditional universities like Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University and Assam University etc. Now with the emergence of Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences (SSUHS) in the year 2009, the scenario has been radically changed. It is desire that this new university even though it is in the infant stage, has taken the problems of Medical and Paramedical colleges of Assam and along with its libraries for its further development and proper benefit of the users. The Libraries are now almost found to be in the traditional system. But one can expect the libraries are upgraded and sophisticated then the result will be definitely quite encouraging. So, along with the improvement of the Medical and Paramedical colleges proper attention for the development and functioning of the libraries should get upper hand and necessary fund should be released by the authority to make the library user oriented. This will bring some concrete results for the benefit of the teachers as well as students in their pursuit of career and knowledge. New ideas and concepts which are emerging as the new components of the health hazards need to be made known to the faculty members as well as the students who are studying in this Medical and Paramedical colleges. Thereby society itself will be benefitted and this can be provided by the libraries alone. So, the libraries are not only helping the students in acquiring excellence in their respective profession and career but also they would in return be a good participant in the health system in the province. This is the significant contribution to the medical profession in supplementing and complementing the class room instructional programme in different Medical and Paramedical colleges.

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