

Role of Library Science in Agriculture College: A Case Study

R. Karthikeyan¹; N. Indianraj²; L. Vishnu³

Assistant Librarian¹; Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy²; Assistant Professor,
Department of Horticulture³; Roever Agricultural College (TRIARD), Perambalur,
Tamil Nadu, India^{1,2,3}

karthi76dmk@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Agricultural College libraries play a significant role in the transformation of agricultural education to assist sustainable development in India. Agriculture in India has been given eminence among the sectors of the economy. Agricultural institutions were established to accommodate for agricultural education research and extension lead of rural agriculture. Knowledge about the users and their demands is indispensable to make library and information services operative and user oriented. Agricultural College libraries offers information services to farmers, agricultural business organizations, students, livestock producers, research workers subject specialist teachers, this is in expectancy to encounter the challenge of man, food and deprivation and to make for a sustainable development. It reviews the trends in agriculture and information delivery and the implications of these trends for users and for the relationship between information professional and user. It suggests roles which librarians and information professionals can assume in order to meet agriculturists' information needs.

KEYWORDS: Agriculture, Transformation, Farmer, Economy, Government, Education, Education research.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has been a part of human life for many thousands of years; the need for agricultural, information is probably almost all old. Agriculture is the mainstay of India's economy. It supports directly and indirectly 60% of the population of India for their subsistence and provides raw materials for major industries like cotton, textile and sugar as well as several medium and small scale industries. During pre-independence period, agrarian economy in India was almost in shambles, when the whole country was in the hands of the native kings, they were more interested in wars with one another to expand their territory, than in the economic development of the people they ruled. Later the British who established their political supremacy in India, treated India to be a very good source of raw material to feed their mercantile interests and they exploited this position ruthlessly for their industrial growth.

This article examines the users of agricultural information-their information-seeking habits, their information needs, and their responses to library services. The term user is employed to mean an agriculturist-i.e., a scientist, a farmer,

an extension agent, or any individual involved in agriculture or its products. Every information professional in the agricultural sciences should be concerned with the user who is responsible for the application of information to the practice of agriculture or science.

An agricultural university library is the one, which primarily renders service to the specialists, researchers, teachers and students in agriculture and allied subjects and farmers. The Indo-American Agricultural Survey and Study Team, in its final report on Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes and Agricultural University Libraries (1969), recommended that every agricultural library is a special library, which must be oriented to the service of agriculture.

A special library is a planned collection of books, periodicals, reports and other records to meet the study and research needs of a specific clientele. The functioning of special libraries is motivated not merely responding to requests, but answering them before they are asked. This again, is closely linked to the idea of library and information services, where anticipation is considered a key to these services.

CURRENT STATUS

In early 1991, for strengthening the information management culture using modern information technology within the Indian National Agricultural Research System, the ICAR initiated a project called Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS). For implementation of ARIS, funds were provided by Government of India and the World Bank. The specific objectives of ARIS are:

- To bring agricultural information closer to managers and scientists.
- To improve the capacity of research organizations.
- To organize, store, and retrieve information relevant to their mandates.
- To develop regular procedures and mechanism for these organizations to share information.
- To improve the capacity of these organizations to plan, monitor and evaluate their research programs.

Library plays an important role in all academic and research activities. It is therefore, absolutely essential that library facility in all agri-institutions be well developed. Agricultural Research Library Information System (ARLIS) is one of the modules of ARIS for Library Improvement and Networking (LIN) and has been developed under Information System Development (ISO) scheme. ARLIS envisages that the library services should be improved by means of modern network facilities, using computers and satellite communications technology, so that the resources at one place can be utilized at multiple places under conditions of scarcity of funds. Thus, information generated at national and international levels can be made available online to the agricultural scientists and the gap of information/literature be identified and filled up.

OBJECTIVES

To know the role of agricultural libraries in the networked digital era and to study the support of ICAR for strengthening and development of agricultural libraries. Also to know the major constraints for role of agricultural libraries and librarians professionals to work smoothly in the networked digital environment.

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY IN INDIA

Indian Council of Agricultural Research is a big network for agricultural education, research and extension in agriculture and allied subjects. In this network under ICAR umbrella more than two hundred libraries are working i.e. 4 Deemed University Library as National library, 3 Central University Library, 64 State Agricultural, Horticulture and Veterinary University Library, 65 central Institute Library, 13 Project Directorate Library, 14 National Research Centre Library and 6 Bureau Library are smoothly working in different places of India. More than two hundred college libraries in field of agriculture, horticulture, agricultural engineering, Veterinary and animal husbandry, fisheries are providing library services are also in country. In which forty three libraries are working only Chhattisgarh.

Services of Agricultural Libraries

1. Loan Privilege: Books, References, Periodicals, Thesis, reports and reading materials
2. Documentation Services Abstracting Services, Indexing Services, Bibliography Services, Translation Services, Reprint Photocopy services etc., Current Awareness Services through Email, Selective Dissemination Information Services
3. Internet Browsing: a) Web Browsing for study Purpose b) For Research c) For Recreation
4. E- Services a) E- Journals Through CeRA b) Through Open Access sites c) Though subscribed resources e-Books, e-Resources e-Journals, online journals Database Access, Elsevier, CABI etc
5. Web OPAC: Networked OPAC Show Everywhere
6. Library services 24X7 and available on Mobile App, email alert, new arrivals etc.
7. Circulation check anywhere, RFID,
8. E-Services through CeRA
9. Krishikosh Repository
10. In-house Local Repository
11. Provide E- Course Krishi Siksha MOOC
12. Video Conferencing, Wi-Fi facility
13. LIB PGS Course
14. Resource Sharing, Data sharing, Information sharing through network
15. Internet Based Library Information Services, Collection send on workstation
16. Remote Access E Zproxy Remote (OCLC) Resource available in remote places
17. Guidance and Counseling, Awareness and Orientation/ training Program
18. Competitive Corner

Role of Agricultural Libraries

Agricultural libraries are playing an important role in education, research and extension activities.

1. The main role of agricultural library is to increases uses of agricultural resources in agriculture teaching, research and extension services.
2. Support to improve the quality of education, research and extension services of the agricultural institutions.

3. To provide Current Awareness Service (CAS) and Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) services in hard and soft copy form to agricultural scientists, research worker, professor, students, farmers and who involved in agriculture sector.
4. To increase the cooperation with other agricultural institutions to use the information resources.
5. Agricultural library should organize awareness programme, exhibition, display of latest agricultural research, varieties related publications for farmers in rural areas.

CONCLUSION

It is precise apparent from the discussion that agricultural libraries are lagging behind predominantly in providing explicit information to the users. Facilities provided by library are average and access to the newest journals and other e-databases use by Information Technologies are unexpected because of inadequacy of inadequate support.

The study publicized that there is a strong relationship among the user orientation and use of information resources, predominantly the digital resources. To resolve problem were confronted limited books, e-databases, journals, latest resources etc. Infrastructure amenities are ordinary in some of the libraries. Specific of the Libraries have not digital library. This condition has to be enhanced and libraries should make efforts to fascinate them. The recommendation is made by the users are effective and this is the right time to take those recommendations earnestly.

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