

Inception of Law Library Post Covid-19: Opportunities and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

Law is an integral part of any nation and society for smooth functioning of the government and for the rights of citizens. It provides a sense of security to the people of any country. It is very important to a society, because by making law and with the implementation of the same, citizens of any country or society can live with the assurance that there is something which can prevent them from any wrong or unethical action of any individual or society or government as well. Knowledge about the fundamental rights and duties is necessary for all people of society so that they may get aware about their rights as well as their duties. With the law implementation in the society citizens get the civic sense to live in the society. To understand the laws and how to implement them, there is provision in every nation, people get basic information or knowledge at the study levels. To become specialist in law or to get more knowledge about the law, people get professional education in law to be representative of their community or to help and support the persons who need justice. In India, legal education was in demand even before we got independence. Some of the freedom fighters had this legal background too and after 1947 when India got independence, basic legal education became necessary part of curriculum. Now there are so many universities offering Law courses.

According to Justice Krishna Iyer, 'Profession of law is a noble vocation and the members of the legal profession are of a very high Status 'Law is the pillar of every community and it produces abiding people, lawyers, scholars and aspiring judges. In India, legal education refers to the training of lawyers prior to their entry into practice. (1)

KEYWORDS: Legal Education, automation, school of Law, inception, opportunities, new library.

INTRODUCTION

Legal education is a major professional education and legal education provides opportunity to students to take up various jobs and role around. In today's world the scope for the law students is very good as they become policy makers, Defensive lawyers, Judges and also go for corporate law and administrative jobs. Legal education is also a vast area to learn to know and to understand laws. It is not only about the professional of law in courts but it is also teaching of law in schools or universities, various researches in law or in administration.

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Law, legal education and development have become interrelated concepts in modern developing societies which are struggling to develop into social welfare states and are seeking to ameliorate the socio economic condition of the people by peaceful means. The same is true for India.(2)

Purpose

The main objective of any article writing is to let the community know the pros and cons of any finding, any new development in their respective fields and to motivate the researchers or working colleagues to make a difference. One can share good suggestions, thoughts and, opinions with the reader or research community around. We can say the writing an articles are the good example of best practices and lesson learnt.

Here in this article main motive is to share the experience, opportunity and challenges were faced to set up new library for Law College at IILM in very short span of time, with very limited resources but with the versatile experience and the right guidance, so that further studies or work can be done as a continuation of mine. It will give an idea to the library professional community that some time you learn in work continuity which you realize later.

Law Libraries in Greater Noida

As every part of the country there are many colleges are there in Greater Noida. Many campuses have good libraries. Many of libraries were has been visited, their structure, resources were observed to get idea to develop new library for IILM law school.

Inception of School of Law at IILM University

School of Law has been established with IILM University Campus Greater Noida West after COVID19 Pandemic 2022. As libraries are an important part of any academic department, a separate dedicated library has been established for the school of Law at IILM University. The best part to establish this library is that it was proposed, planned and set up in a very short span of time with a good collection in it.

Strategy, plan and steps to inception of the library

Proposal of Library: Law school has been proposed by the IILM management and got approval for it. After getting approval question was arise to set up new library for the upcoming school of law. Thus library has been proposed and proposal was circulated among the concern authorities as without their consent it was not possible.

R&D to establish Law Library: Usually when we think to implement something new in our field, we have to refer the sources, collect the right information, and have to gain knowledge before working on the project.

In the same way when proposal to set up a new law library got approved, some researches were required. Librarian had to visit many law school websites, had to physically visit the law libraries around, had to make discussion with the law librarians to understand the process and to get the contacts to arrange resources. This R & D helped a lot in this new development because it gave way to go further, indicated the scope of improvement to the current working process and increased the efficiency level.

In this process guidance from the experienced and professional focal point was taken on regular basis. DEAN of the School of Law was the key person to guide to develop library structure.

Steps involved setting up new library

While setting up new library following process is required and need to understand. “Acquisition, Technical Processing, Reference, Periodicals, Maintenance, and Administration & Finance. Each Section performs specialized library activities” (3). In the context of IILM Law library below steps were taken and considered while establishing the new library.

Location, Space and structure: To set up a new library, good location was the concern as any good library requires a good and open space. The law library has been established on to a very vibrant and huge duplex space within the school. The Ground floor of the library building is fully ventilated with huge big windows around.



Fig-1, Law Library, IILM University

Library Specific Stationary: While developing the new library structure, some exclusive and specific library stationary is required. It includes Accession Register, Spine Slips, Due Date Slips, library Stamps. Generally, it takes some time to arrange these things for the library. In this case, as library inspection was due and had very short time to set up the library, all things were arranged very quickly with the help of management, support staff and the library colleagues.

Official documents made readily available, separate files including books procurement and bill file, database and journal subscription files, infrastructure development purchase files were prepared for future reference.

Information resources

Generally, the users come to the library to gather and collect the accurate information of their needs. Therefore every library has to keep various services to cater their users with the right information at the right time. Library has to provide relevant information materials to their users in a managed way. Thus to keep different kind of resources including physical and digital resources is the obligation for the library. Especially in the special libraries it is very important to have specialized type of resources to its users.

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Resources: To develop a good library good resources are very important. For the law library, resources were selected with the help of the DEAN of Law School. On the very urgent basis books were shortlisted; quotations were asked from the vendors and after comparison of the cost from various vendors, books were procured from 3 vendors. At the ground floor of the library, the Reference section, Periodical section, Book section, and fiction section is available there. AIR Manuals since 2012 to till date made available in the library. Supreme Court Cases were kept in the reference section of the library since 2015. Many hard copy journals were subscribed in the library including Journal of Indian Institute of Law.

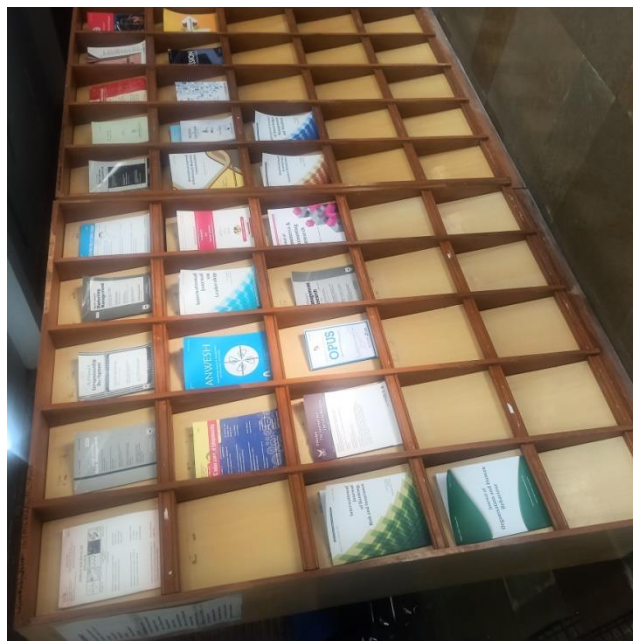


Fig-2, Journals subscribed

Processing and shelving of resources: No library can be maintained by collecting and procuring books and resources only. It needed proper processing and shelving to make them usable and accessible. On a routine or regular basis this takes time from the procurement to shelving but here in this library as mentioned due to lack of time all 700+ books were processed including accessioning, stamping, classified, cataloged within 3-4 days and shelved properly in the designated sections and racks, spine slips with the complete ascension number and call number has been put on each and every book.

Periodical section made separately and tagged with the proper title on the top of the section and the periodical register has been maintained.

E-Resources: Nowadays to grow and expand the level of information and fast influence of the internet and development of the different sources of information and knowledge, rapid transformation of media tools have extended the role of librarians. no library is completed without having e-resources and digital knowledge portals in it. To give a smart look to a library it is important to have a digital environment within it. Here at IILM, the law library is fully equipped with computers connected with good speed wi-fi. E database Manupatra, DELNET database has been subscribed for the law students. KOHA automation database is available for students.

At present, the Internet is the most comprehensive and up-to-date source of information and its popularity is still increasing. Accordingly, in view of the main mission of libraries to address the information needs of users, today new models for library design are considered, among which digital libraries have a special place in the virtual environment of the Internet.(4)

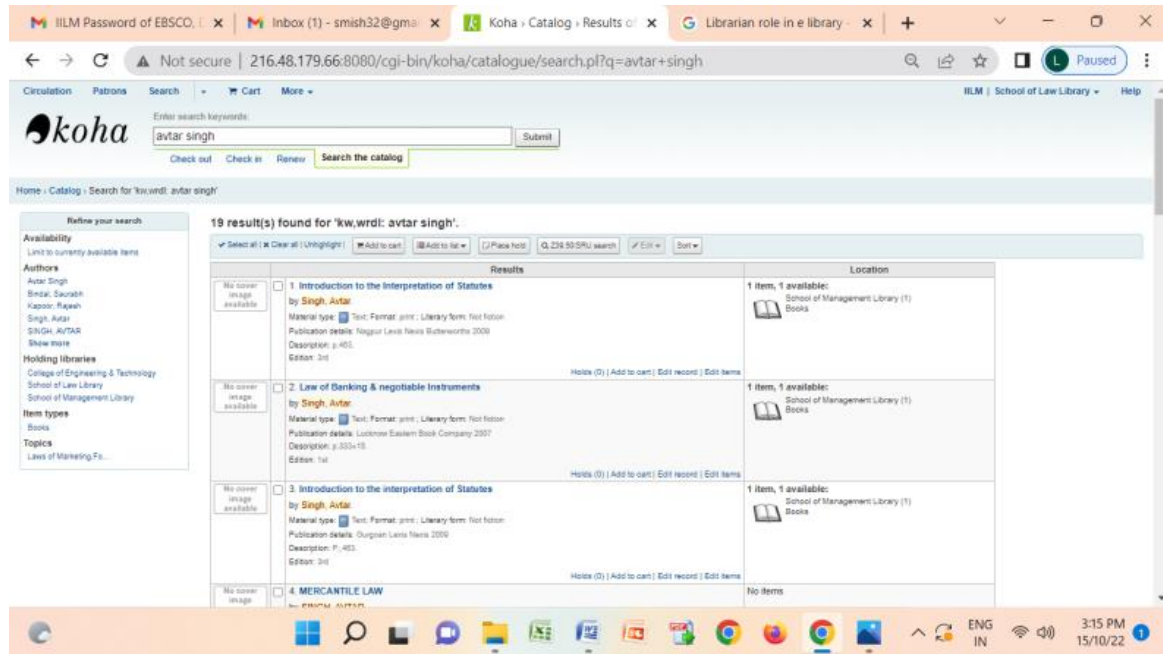


Fig-3, Koha database

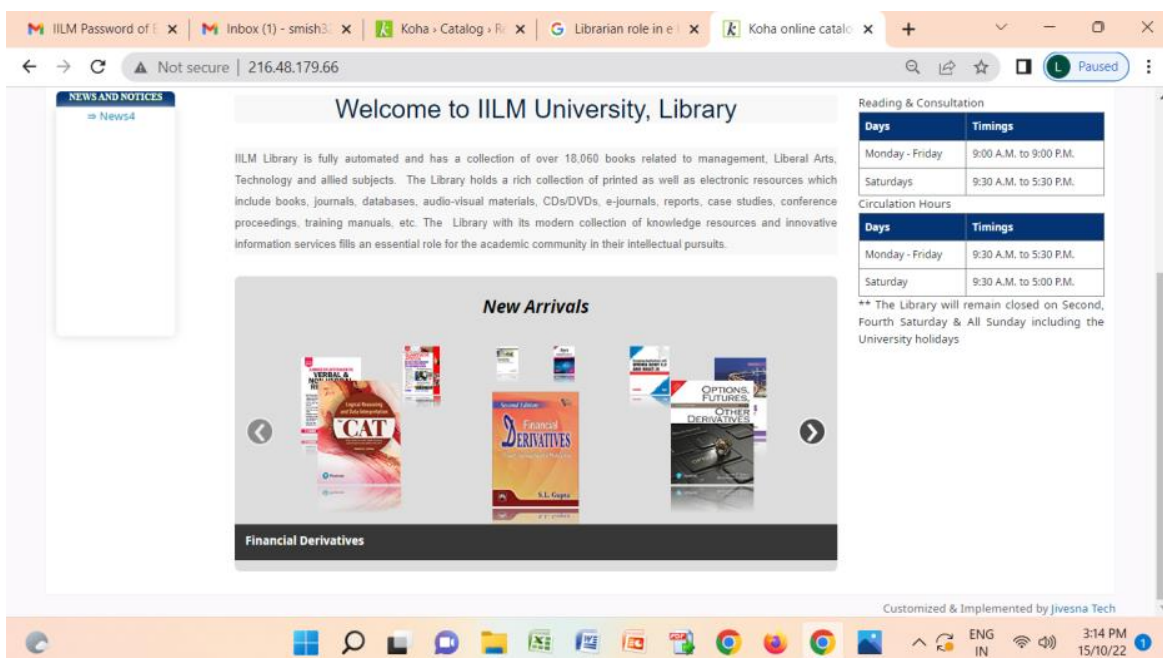


Fig-4, KOHA-OPAC

All new resources were cataloged in the KOHA OPAC system to get access to students as well for the circulation purpose. KOHA is open Access Catalogue database available for all the library users on any where any time basis.

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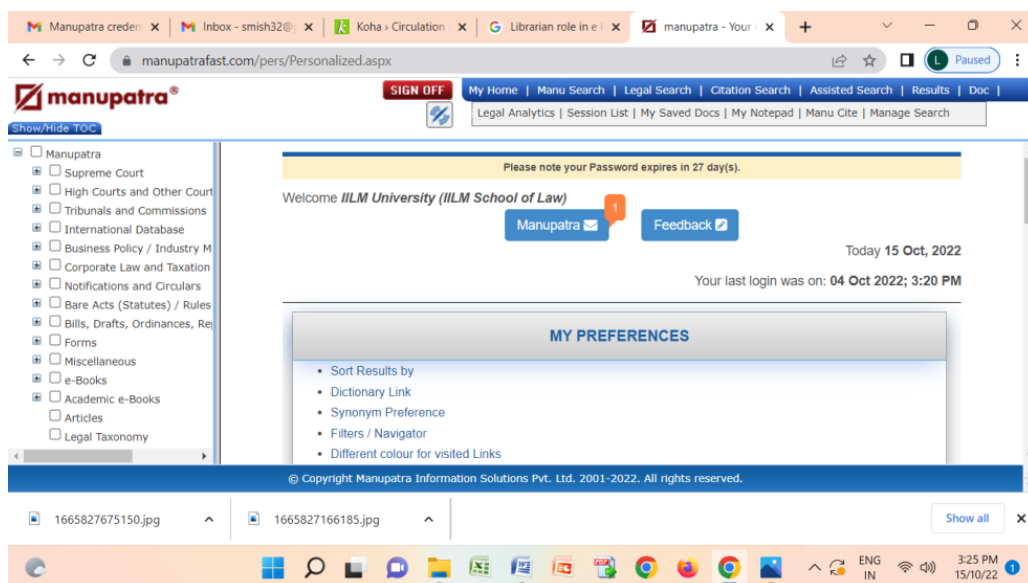


Fig-5, Manupatra Database

Manupatra database at IILM Law School; The Manupatra is a online database for legal research and it has been subscribed at IIL law library for the students and faculty members to facilitate their researches and course work. It is useful to refer different case studies, status and the articles. It is the biggest and largest repository of law related relevant data.

Notice Boards

At the entry gate of the library, notice board has been placed to display the new and upcoming information about the library services and activities.

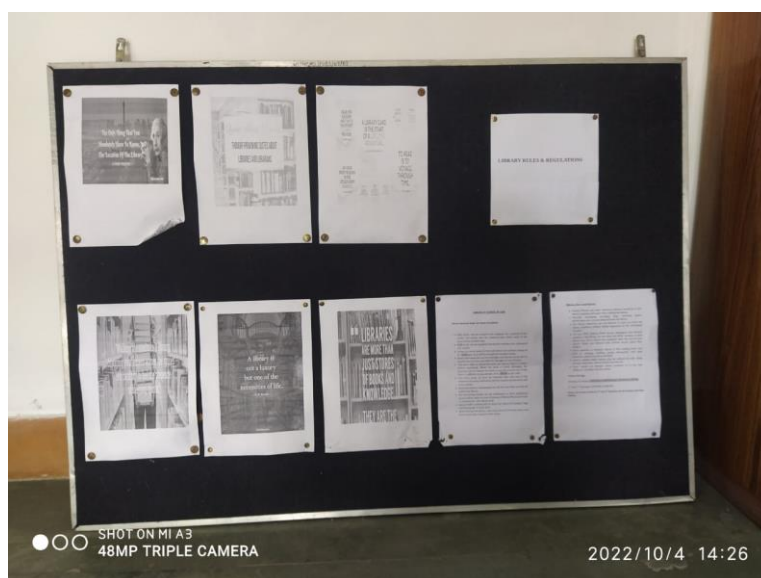


Fig-6, Notice Board

Opportunities during the inception of new library

Creation or development of anything is an opportunity itself, whether you are making any statue, developing any habit or creating something with the help of technology is opportunity to learn. When someone initiates on a project to develop something new gives new learning at every step. Since the planning to implementation professional can

learn the pattern, theory, ethics, understand the technicalities and also the strategy to complete the task in short span of time as well.

Professional can learn time management while doing such new assignment, it gives confidence to their work style, give them exposure in different fields.

As same, inception of new Law library was an opportunity to learn time management, vendor management, how to be focused to develop library, understand resources in the short span of time, make good use of limited resources to have a library with rich collection. It gave opportunity to a professional to utilize all his/her physical and digital skills to set up new library by thinking beyond the boundaries. It gives confidence that with the limited resources, good guidance, exposure/networking and experience, a professional can develop and set up big library as law library at IILM University.

Challenges and obstacles

While developing or creating any new venture if there are opportunities are available then for sure one has to face many challenges and obstacles as well. First of all to develop new infrastructure on a very in a limited time frame, itself is a big challenge where professional has to think quickly to make strategy simultaneously that how to proceed and how to go further, they have to analyze that how to manage within the available budget and resources. Even if budget is available then need to coordinate with the various vendors, authorities and the heads of the concern departments.

The major challenge was faced while developing the Law Library at IILM was to handle physical and digital resource together in short period of time. Vendor management and the coordination between the vendors and the authorities at university was also a big challenge as at every step approvals were important. From the collecting list of books to subscribe the databases approvals required which took lots of extra time. Decision on the Library automation software and the subscription of the databases for the law students was also a big challenge, because installation of LMS and to put all the resources there is not one day task. Subscription of physical journals and the online database was also a concern for the professional because it all needed to be done before the council inspection or visit.

User's satisfaction is the main objective of the library or the library professional and to meet their needs librarians have to analyze the utility of the resources as per user community and in the short period of time it was the challenge to understand user requirements and the needs of users.

Infrastructure management was also a challenge because as per library rules place should be open quiet and appropriate in area, how digital knowledge portal made available to students within the library was another challenge.

CONCLUSION

In the country like India, legal education is on high demand. In fact we can say that in India we have good number or huge population is lawyers. There are various opportunities available for the law graduates in the country and to provide them the better guidance.

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There are many law institutes are available in India with good and fully automated libraries with in it. The law library is specialized type of library where most of the resources should be area or subject specific. Therefore as per the author's observation, the librarian who got chance to develop new law or any specialized library in limited time may get a very good exposure and learning through the process. It will boost the personality and the confidence and provide recognition as a good librarian.

This article will inspire the readers and professionals while they will think to develop new library.

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