

Acquisition of Indian Journals in Engineering Colleges: Problems and Solutions

L. Ushadevi

Assistant University Librarian
Bangalore University, Bangalore- 56
e-mail: dr.nchowdappa@gmail.com

Dr. C.P. Ramasesh

Former University Librarian .
University of Mysore,
Mysore- 570006
e-mail: cpramasesh@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Paper deals with various problems faced by the librarians while acquiring Indian journals in engineering colleges in the state of Karnataka. Highlighting the responses of the librarians, problems and solutions are tabulated and interpreted in the study. Aspects covered are the budgetary constraints, endorsing recommendations, mode of acquisition, behind schedule publications, non-receipt and late receipt of journals, refund of subscription, constraints in postal delivery and subscription to online version of journals. Paper also covers difficulties in answering audit observations.

Key words: Indian Journals, Acquisition; Acquisition, Periodicals ; Acquisition, Engineering College Libraries

Introduction:

Primary journals form an important component of a library. A large slice of the library budget is allotted for acquisition of journals. Due care has to be therefore exercised in their selection, acquisition and organization. Journal selection is an art, it is a skilled performance, depends primarily on the exercise of trained, informed judgment. Due to the proliferation of journals and their increased cost, libraries need to undertake judicious selection in order to subscribe the most useful titles within the limited financial resources. Users participation in selection of journals is very much essential and helps the librarian in acquisition of useful titles. Thus, selection of journals is governed by various factors like financial position of the library, existing collection, scope of the library and demand of the users.

Periodicals literature is an important source of information for latest developments in the area of research. About 70% to 80% of the total budget is spent on periodicals alone in most of the research libraries (Dalai et.al., 1995). Research libraries in India are almost fully dependent upon costly foreign periodical for resource building. But non-receipt of these costly items is the main obstacle for smooth functioning of the library services. An attempt has been in this paper to study Problems and solutions while acquisition of Indian journals in engineering college libraries in Karnataka

Review of Literature:

Venkatesan, and Usha (1979). Explore the dissimilarities in the acquisition procedures of books & periodicals have been brought out. The advantages and disadvantages of acquisition through agents, & STC and direct from publisher have been analyzed and it has been concluded that though direct acquisition of periodicals involves some extra cost, still this method is better than all others. The creation of a body for exchange of duplicate issues to help libraries in filling up the gaps of the incomplete volumes has been suggested.

Ramaiah and Reddy (1993) observed that periodicals are an important component of University library collections. However, the periodicals are expensive and need to be continued year after year. This decline of serials collections in the Universities is affecting the academic excellence of teaching and research.

Dalai et.al., (1994) Acquisition of periodicals in the library of the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India and outlines methods of direct acquisition from publishers and indirect acquisition through agents and compares data on receipt and non receipt of journals from publishers and through agents discussed by Dalai and others

Aldi and Tadasad (2010). In this paper an attempt has been made to study the collection development of scientific serials in the University libraries of Karnataka state and data collected from the six general university libraries of Karnataka state i.e. 1) University of Mysore; 2) Karnataka University, Dharwar; 3) Bangalore University, Bangalore; 4) Gulbarga University, Gulbarga; 5) Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri and 6) Kuvempu University, Shankarghatta. Over the last few years there has been a rapid rise in the scientific serials prices. The University Libraries in Karnataka are still to evolve a policy of collection development, organization and management as they are multifaceted and complex processes. The collection of data is made from Kardex and Serials' maintenance Register maintained by University libraries. In this paper coverage is of year wise and subject-wise subscription of social science subject serials for the period 2004-2008.

Objectives:

- To know the adequacy of budget for subscription to journals
- To know whether the libraries effect subscription in time
- To understand the extent of delay in publishing Indian journals.
- To identify the extent of inadvertent delivery of journals by postal department
- To understand whether libraries discontinue print journals when online version is available
- To suggest measures to overcome problems of non-supply and gaps in the collection.

Methodology:

Keeping in mind the objectives and design of the study, it is clear that the 185 Government, Aided and Private Engineering Colleges in Karnataka. Questionnaire were distributed to 182 engineering college librarians, only 147 has responded and the response rate were 79.45%. Responses were mainly with regard to various problems faced by the librarians while acquiring journals. The librarians have responded based on their practical experience over the years.

Data Analysis:

Data compiled through questionnaire shall be arranged into order of tabulation in number and percentage and tabulation analysis followed by graphical presentation shall be the part of research finding. Besides this statistical tabulation detailed shall be noted separately in sequence theme based on the interview, remark and other observation.

Table 1: Category-wise distribution of engineering colleges

Sl. No	Category of Engineering Colleges in Karnataka	Number of Colleges	Questionnaires Distributed	Responses Received	Percentage of Response
1	Government Colleges	14 7.56%	14 7.69%	14 9.52%	100%
2	Aided Colleges	12 6.48%	12 6.59%	10 6.80%	83.33%
3	Private Colleges	159 85.94%	156 85.71%	123 83.67%	77.35%
Total		185 100%	182 100%	147 100%	79.45%

The above table 1 depicts the number of engineering colleges covered in the study. There are altogether 185 engineering colleges established as of 2012-13. The researcher has been able to distribute questionnaires to 182 colleges which constitute the 14 government colleges, the librarians of all the government colleges have responded. Further, among the 12 aided colleges, the librarians 10 colleges representing 83.33% have responded and among 156 private colleges, librarians of 123 colleges have responded which accounted for 77.35% of response. Among 147 engineering colleges, 146 possess qualified professional librarians. In one of the private colleges, the library functions and services are managed by a faculty with the designation lecturer.

Table 2: Inadequate budgetary provision for subscription to journals

Responses	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
Positive	1 7.1%	1 10.0%	30 24.4%	32 21.8%
Negative	13 92.9%	9 90.0%	93 75.6%	115 78.2%
Total	14 100.0%	10 100.0%	123 100.0%	147 100.0%
CC=0.143, P=0.216				

Table 2 shows whether the budget made available for subscription to journals is inadequate. The responses of the librarians indicate that in 115 (78.2%) of the colleges the budget for subscription to journals is adequate. Only in 32 (21.8%) of the colleges there is inadequacy of budget for journals. Among the colleges, 13 (92.9%) government and 9 (90.0%) aided colleges have opined there is adequate budgetary provision. However, in 30 (24.4%) private colleges there is inadequacy of budget for journals subscription.

Table 3: Effecting subscription to journals in time.

Timely Renewal	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
Yes, all the time	6 42.8%	9 90.0%	67 54.5%	82 55.8%
Yes, sometimes	6 42.8%	1 10.0%	42 34.1%	49 33.3%
Never, all the time	2 14.4%	0 00.0%	14 11.4%	16 10.9%
Total	14 100.0%	10 100.0%	123 100.0%	147 100.0%
$X^2=5.86, p=0.209$				

Table 3 furnishes responses of librarians regarding timely renewal of subscription to journals. Among the respondents, 82 (55.8%) state that they effect payment of subscription in time. Further, 49 (33.3%) librarians as respondents opine that sometimes they effect payment in time but sometimes not on account of various administrative constraints. Yet another segment of respondents consisting of 16 (10.9%) librarians hold the negative view. According to them, the subscription to journals is not effected in time because of various administrative constrains. It is encouraging here to note that a majority of the libraries effect subscription in time expecting timely arrival of journals as well as avoiding missing issues of journals due to belated payment of subscription. Another significant point is that 9 (90.0%) of the aided engineering colleges effect payment in time. Untimely payment of submission is noticed in 2 (14.4%) of the government and 14 (11.4%) of the private engineering colleges. Untimely payment affects regular arrival of journal issues as well as, results in missing of issues of journals and subsequently permanent gaps in the collection.

Table 4: Responses regarding whether inordinate delay is noticed in publishing and supplying Indian journals

Responses	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
Positive	11 78.6%	6 60.0%	102 82.9%	119 81.0%
Negative	3 21.4%	4 40.0%	21 17.1%	28 19.0%
Total	14 100.0%	10 100.0%	123 100.0%	147 100.0%
CC=0.146, P=0.201				

Table 4 furnishes whether there is inordinate delay in publishing Indian Journals and supplying them to the libraries. Among 147 librarians as respondents, 119 of them have offered positive response which accounted for 81.0%. While considering college-wise responses, 11 (78.6%) government and 102 (82.9%) private college librarians representing a large percentage have offered positive response. This indicates that a large percentage of librarians opine the Indian journals are behind schedule in publications and there is inordinate delay in bringing out the journals and supplying them to the libraries.

Table 5: Percentage of Indian journals being published and supplied late

Percentage of journals	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
25%	9 81.8%	6 100.0%	75 73.5%	90 75.6%
50%	2 18.2%	0 0.0%	23 22.5%	25 21.0%
75%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	4 3.9%	4 3.4%
Total	11 100.0%	6 100.0%	102 100.0%	119 100.0%
CC=0.148, P=0.614				

Table 5 depicts percentage of Indian journals being published and supplied late to the libraries. A large majority of the engineering college librarians representing 90 libraries (75.6%) hold the view that there is inordinate delay in publishing and supplying 25% of Indian journals. However, 25 (21.0%) librarians have expressed that there is inordinate delay in publishing and supplying 50% of the Indian journals. Finally, 4 (3.9%) of the private college librarian opine that there is inordinate delay in publishing and supplying 75% of Indian journals. Thus, it is inferred that there is inordinate delay in publishing and supplying 25% of the engineering journals published from India. This opinion is expressed by a large majority of the librarians representing 75.6% among 147 librarians.

Table 6: Extent of delay in supplying behind schedule Indian journals

Delay by Months	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
3 to 6 Months	11 100.0%	6 100.0%	96 94.1%	113 95.0%
6 to 9 Months	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	5 4.9%	5 4.2%
10 to 12 Months	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 1.0%	1 0.8%
Total	11 100.0%	6 100.0%	102 100.0%	119 100.0%
CC=0.094, P=0.591				

Table 6 shows extent of delay in supplying behind schedule Indian journals. Among the respondent librarians, a large majority comprising 113 (95.0%) opine that there is delay in the supply of Indian journals by 3 to 6 months. Further, 5 (4.2%) librarians have expressed that the delay is by 7 to 9 months and only one of the private college librarians representing 0.8% has indicated that the delay in the supply is to the extent of 10-12 months. A large majority has opined that the delay noticed in the supply of Indian journals is by 3 to 6 months. Finally, it can be inferred from the data that the opinion of large percentage of respondent librarians is that 25% of Indian journals are behind schedule publications and as such there is delay in the supply by 3 to 6 months.

Table 7: Inadvertent delivery of journals by postal department

Responses	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
Positive	3 21.4%	4 40.0%	42 34.1%	49 33.3%
Negative	11 78.6%	6 60.0%	81 65.9%	98 66.7%
Total	14 100.0%	10 100.0%	123 100.0%	147 100.0%
CC=0.087, P=0.569				

Table-7 shows responses of librarians regarding inadvertent delivery of journals issues by postal authorities. Among the respondent, 49 (33.3%) positive opinion against post department, 98 (66.7%) respondents have Negative opinion against postal department. This particular problem is more in case of libraries in Bangalore, where the chance of getting confused is more.

Table 8: Extent of inadvertent delivery of journals by postal department

Extent	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
Higher	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.4%)	1 (2.0%)
Moderate	3 (100.0%)	2 (50.0%)	11 (26.2%)	16 (32.7%)
Lower	0 (0.0%)	2 (50.0%)	30 (71.4%)	32 (65.3%)
Total	3 (100.0%)	4 (100.0%)	42 (100.0%)	49 (100.0%)
CC=0.366, P=0.108				

Table 8 depicts the extent of inadvertent delivery of journal issues by postal authorities. Among 147 respondent librarians, only one of the private college librarians hold the view that the extent is high which accounted for just 2.0% in the entire population of respondents who have offered positive response. Further, 16 (32.7%) out of 49 librarians state that the extent of inadvertent delivery is to a moderate extent. Another segment of respondents comprising 32 (65.3%) librarians hold the view that the extent is only to a little extent. College- wise responses depict that 71.4% of private colleges face the problem of inadvertent delivery only to a little extent. However, postal authorities need to take steps to overcome this problem of journals becoming wet or damaged. Here, librarians need to alert the postal authorities in writing.

Table 9: Responses regarding whether agents/publishers refund subscription amount promptly in case of non-receipt and suspended publications.

Responses	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
Positive	10 (71.4%)	7 (70.0%)	75 (61.0%)	92 (62.6%)
Negative	2 (14.3%)	1 (10.0%)	35 (28.4%)	38 (25.8%)
Can't say	2 (14.3%)	2 (0.0%)	13 (10.6%)	17 (11.6%)
Total	14 (100.0%)	10 (100.0%)	123 (100.0%)	147 (100.0%)
$\chi^2=3.143, P=0.534$				

Table 9 shows whether the agents / publishers refund subscription amount promptly. 92 (62.6%) librarians have offered positive response stating that the agents / publishers do refund promptly. However, 38 (25.8%) respondents feel that the agents / publishers usually do not refund. In fact they wait till the revival of the journal, Many of the agents and publishers according to them maintain silence as there is every chance of revival of journal in the near future. Some of the respondents representing 17 (11.6%) librarians remained

neutral without exercising their options. Libraries face difficulties in getting the subscription refunded especially in case of suspended publications. As there is chance of revival of the journal in the future, the agents prefer to withhold the subscription and adjust towards the subscription of fresh journal issues when revived.

Table 10: Responses regarding whether libraries discontinue subscription to Indian journals which are accessible online

Responses	Govt. Colleges	Aided Colleges	Private Colleges	Total
Yes, all journals	8 57.1%	6 60.0%	63 51.2%	77 52.4%
No	2 14.3%	4 40.0%	37 30.1%	43 29.3%
Yes, some journals	4 28.6%	0 0.0%	23 18.7%	27 18.4%
Total	14 100.0%	10 100.0%	123 100.0%	147 100.0%
CC=0.169, P=0.362				

Table 10 depicts responses regarding whether libraries discontinue subscription to Indian journals which are also accessible online. Among the librarians, 77 representing 52.4% state that they always discontinue print journals when they are available online. However, 43 (29.4%) librarians offered negative reply stating that they do not discontinue. These libraries prefer to procure hard copies of Indian journals through available online. The subscription price of Indian journals is not exorbitant and electronic version can be procured as supplementary to the hard copies available in the library. Another segment of 27 librarians representing 18.4% feel that they subscribe to some of the hard copies of Indian journals though they are available online. Noticing the importance of these journals and the extent of demand by the users, libraries continue to procure hard copies of some of the journals though they are available online.

Table 11: Measures suggested to overcome the problems of non-supply and gaps in collection

Responses	Govt. Colleges (N=14)	Aided Colleges (N=10)	Private Colleges (N=123)	Total (N=147)
Prefer online version of journals	6 42.85%	8 80%	101 82.11%	115 78.23%
Alert subscription agents in time	8 57.14%	6 60%	63 51.21%	77 52.38%
Purchase journals and fill up the gaps	1 7.14%	0 0%	18 14.63	19 12.92
$X^2=3.637, p=0.457$				

Table 11 depicts various measures suggested to overcome the problems of non-supply and gaps in collection. 118 respondents representing 78.23% prefer online version of journals to solve the problems of non-supply and gaps in collection. Further, 77 librarians representing 52.38% suggested that in time alert message can be sent to subscription agents. However, 19 respondents representing 12.92% prefer to purchase journals and fill up the gaps. All the three measures have to be adopted to overcome the problem of non-supply and gaps in collection.

Suggestions:

1. Procurement of scholarly journals in print and online is a necessity. Therefore, adequate budget has to be provided for acquisition of journals and to meet the expectations of the library user communities.
2. Engineering college libraries have to make it a point to renew subscription to journals in time. However, in the present study 16 (10.9%) libraries never effected payment in time which in fact results in the non-receipt of earlier issues of journals. Eventually, belated payments results in the creation of gaps in the holdings of journals.
3. Occasionally, journals are delivered in damp condition and also sometimes in damaged condition by the postal department. It is also the fact that in large cities, journals are inadvertently delivered to other local libraries by over sight. In such of these conditions, the librarians have to write to the postal authorities requesting them to take suitable measures to avoid inadvertent delivery. To overcome the problem of wrong delivery, libraries can have the post box numbers.
4. It is advisable to discontinue subscription to print journals which are of moderate use when the library is getting access to titles available online on open access platform. The process is said to be economical unless the user community likes both the versions of the same journals to be procured by the library

Conclusion:

Many academicians and researchers would like the institution libraries to subscribe to hard copies of journals which are popular and frequently referred. However, they would also like the institution libraries to subscribe to online version as well. Here, online journals act as supplementary to the hard copies of journals available in the libraries. This trend may gradually get reduced and eventually online journals will serve the purpose and found to be economical. Indian journals are also vital for research and are sought most by the scholars and academicians as they carry case studies carried out in Indian situation. There is dire need of publishing Indian journals in electronic version so as to facilitate access to a large number of users. More of online Indian journals will resolve the issue of non-receipts and gaps in the collection of back volumes. More than anything, the electronic version of Indian journals facilitates resources sharing ventures among the engineering college libraries in the country.

References:

1. Biswas, B. C., Chatterjee, K., & Sen, B. K. (2003). Cost-Benefit Analysis of Subscribing Indian Periodicals: A Case Study of BCKV Central Library, Kalyani, West Bengal. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 50, 115-123.
2. Dalai, BK, Ramesh DB, and Sahu JR (1994). Acquisition of Periodicals: An Experience, *IASLIC Bulletin*, 39(3), 129-30.
3. Dalai, BK, Ramesh DB, and Sahu JR (1995). Trends in increase in subscription rates of periodicals in a special library" A case study. *IASLIC Bulletin*, 40(3), 117
4. Kapoor, A.L (1979). Acquisition of foreign periodicals in India: Some problems. *ILA Bulletin*, Vol. 15 (3-4): 67-76
5. Khemanna V. Aldi and P.GTadasad (2010). Collection Development of Social Science Serials in University Libraries of Karnataka State (2004-2008): A Study. *Indian Journal of Information Science and Services*, 4(1), 54-60.

6. Raina, R. (1996). Library resource sharing among IIMS : Periodicals as the thrust areas. *Annals of Library Science and Documentation*, 43(4), 140-152.
7. Ramaiah L.S. and Reddy J.Y. (1993). Inelastic Budgets and the Decline of Serials Collections in the University Libraries in India, *Proceedings of the 19th All India Conference of IASLIC*, Calcutta, India, Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), 26-29 December 1993, pp.93-7.
8. Sammi Reddy, R and Sitaramaiah, T (1994). Optimum acquisition of books and periodicals- A case study. *IASLIC Bulletin*, Vol. 39 (1): 33-37.
9. Sharma, U.C, Das, Prangya and Das, Ranjit Kumar(2008). Collection management of engineering college libraries of Orissa: An evaluative study. *IASLIC Bulletin*, Vol. 53 (2): 89-107
10. Singh, A. (2001). Problems in subscription of periodicals in NCERT library: An evaluation. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 48(1), 39-43.
11. Venkatesan, P. (1979). Acquisition of periodicals- Methods and problems. *Annals of Library Science Documentation*, 26(1-4), 38-41.
12. Venkatesan, P. Krishnan, Usha (1979). Acquisition of periodicals-Methods & problems. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 26(1-4), 38-41

