Collection in High Court Libraries of India: A Survey (2005 to 2009)

Prof S.M. Shafi[1]   Kamran Khan[2*]
1.HOD Library and Information Science University of Kashmir (India)
2. Library Assistant, Islamic University of Science and Technology Kashmir
Kamran25@rediffmail.com

Abastract
With the ever increasing cost of the publications, the collection development in High court libraries of India has been markedly effected. This paper tries to find out that due to changing environment, has the collection increased ,decreased or remain stagnant .

INTRODUCTION

The demand for access to legal information has grown tremendously in the 20th and 21st century .In the present day , legal information has now come to be regarded as the core of democracy. The present legal system therefore needs to have a strong legal information support so as to make a significant contribution in bringing about law and order in a democratic society.

Legal information disseminated by the government agencies and other institutions comes in a variety of formats – from leather bound documents to microfilm to CD's & DVD's. No matter how it is recorded, it's a vital resource for the democratic set up and needs to be preserved to ensure sustainable access.

(Kaula (1963) observes that in order to conserve the power of the legal professional and to add efficiency and expediency to his work, all relevant rules, acts   relevant case laws should be picked and promptly pinpointed by a diligent and effective literature search in these law libraries.

The main aim of law library is to help a man defend his property, his rights and his very own person, besides helping him extend and deepen his legal knowledge. Since the development of law is taking place at a very fast pace ,it's impact on the society is far reaching .Thus a law library needs to manage the multiplication of legal literature by the effective means of documentation techniques so as to act as a linking mechanism between the user and information .These libraries have played an important role in the creation, development and dissemination of legal information and have since long been serving the elite class of the society.

In this modern age of information explosion, globalization and competition, information management has become an essential requirement , especially for the HCLs .The phenomenon has put a lot of pressure, especially on the HCLs to provide modern services to its users and to increase their collection in the emerging fields of law (due to the changing concepts of law and society) .This has marked in a significant shift in the role of HCLs from the traditional ones to the IT based.

Thomas, (1986); Taylor & Minro (1989) are of the opinion that the effective and efficient ICT applications have greatly enhanced the services in court libraries ,thus totally changing the concept .These changes have brought in both challenges and opportunities for the Court libraries and their librarians. However, **Chander & Jain (1985)** are of the view that the pace of development of HCLs in India has been   very slow ,making no significant development ;the collection of most of the HCL's being not even sufficient enough to meet the local needs.

Mahr (1990) points out that the HCLs in India still execute the traditional services and operations, and modern technology is yet to form a part of the libraries. This marks a typical contrast between India and the developed world While the number of issues that need to be addressed in our country seems endless, a strategic framework needs to be developed to focus on the most essential requirements over the next decade. This would enhance the position of the HCLs to a more central place in the parent organization .The same can be achieved through proper, allocations of collection to upgrade the present library infrastructure, keeping it abreast with the changing times.

OBJECTIVE. The objectives of the survey inquired whether collection were increasing, decreasing or staying constant from 2005 to 2009

SCOPE The proposed study has undertaken a introspection of the six High Court Judges libraries in six states of India which includes the High Court Judges libraries of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab & Haryana and Uttranchal**.**

METHODOLOGY .A survey was conducted in all the six High Court Libraries of India The accurate information, Data was collected by designing a schedule supplemented by interview method. **.**The data which had been collected, was tabulated analyzed and interpreted to reveal findings in accordance with the laid down objectives. The investigator visited physically to all the six states .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT (2005-2009)

The collection development of the HCLs of India shows disparity at different stages of time which is portrayed in table 1. The table indicates that the documents added during 2005 - 2009 in HCJLs are in the range of **2030 to 28200**. The maximum documents are added in Uttar Pradesh and the lowest in Uttaranchal library. Most of documents added during (2007-2008) are 7000 (U.P) and the lowest 286 (H.P) during the same time period. The percentage growth rate of collection records the highest 27.94 % (Delhi) and the lowest 3.98 %(Himachal Pradesh) during 2005-2008 .The other libraries show the growth rate between 7.68 to 13.9 %

Table 1: Growth in collection in HCJLs.(2OO5-2009)

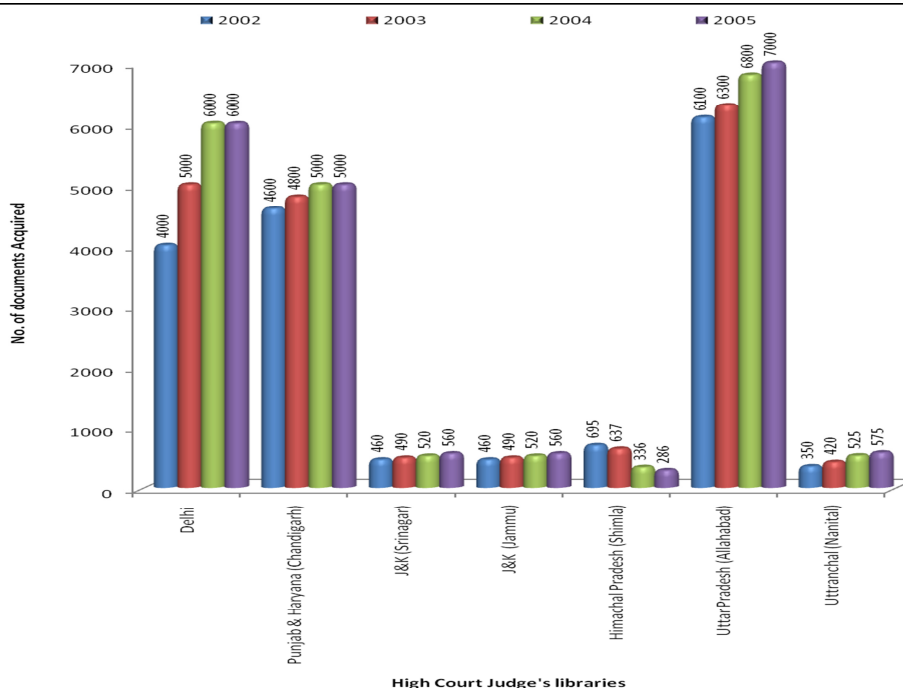| Territory	Total collection during 2004-2005	Year wise growth in collection				Total % age growth	Total Increase in collection	Total collection during
		05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	05-08	05-09	08-09
Addition of collection in HCJLs								
Delhi	**23700**	1500	2100	2700	3500		9800	32700
Punjab & Haryana (Chandigarh)	**1,30,600+4000**	4600 (3.5|%)	4800 (3.5%)	5000 (3.5%)	5000 (3.4%)	**13.9 %**	19400+5000	1,50000
J&K (Srinagar)	**14,170+500**	460 (3.2%)	490 (3.3%)	520 (3.4%)	560 (3.5%)	**13.4 %**	2030+400	16,200
J&K (Jammu)	**13,870+500**	460 (3.3%)	490 (3.4 %)	520 (3.50%)	560 (3.6%)	**13.8 %**	2030+400	15,900
Himachal Pradesh (shimla)	**43,045+600**	695 (1.6 %)	637 (.99%)	336 (.75%)	287. (64%)	**3.98%**	1955+200	45,000
Uttar Pradesh (Allahabad)	**2,88,800+5500**	6100 (2.1%)	6300 (2.1 %)	6800 (2.25%)	7000 (2.27%)	**8.72 %**	28200	3,15,000
Uttaranchal (Nanital)	**23,130+300**	350 (1.5%)	420 (1.78 %)	525 (2.1 %)	575 (2.3%)	**7.68 %**	2030	25,000

Fig   Addition of collection in HCJLs

The **AALL (American Association of Law Libraries) Executive board (2005)** has drawn certain standards for collection development like

- Written policies for collection development should be formulated by the head law librarian in consultation with staff and customers and approved by the library's governing entity.

- The head law librarian should have the authority to build collection

Dehlamanns (1985) reports that the law library planning in India has played a minor role in the development of law library resources. He suggests that in order to serve the users of these libraries comprehensively the policies need to be amended and augmented as early as possible. Japhnet & Graham (2000) also finds out the similar results in his study on law libraries of Kenya wherein he reports that law librarian do not have any role to play in library planning. Judith (2004) is of the suggestion that in order to serve the full range of research and information needs of its patrons, and to develop law libraries in full swing, these libraries need to develop an outstanding collection which can be achieved only by adopting matured collection development policies. AALL (American Association of Law Libraries) (2005) is also of the same opinion and suggests that courts' library collection could be developed by making concrete as well as flexible collection development policies in order to meet the changing demands of future.

Thus we can say that the present economic climate in these libraries demands to maintain a balance between the current needs of the users and the responsibilities of the library ,therefore to full fill such needs and responsibilities ,collection development policies alone cannot play an imperative role in building collection but also needs the support of financial allocation in forming comprehensive collection.

Findings

The results show that all the HCLs have registered an increase with healthy figures in their collection over period of 4 years. It further reveals that the addition of collection in HCJLs ranges from 1288 to 28800 volumes.

SUGGESTION

The present economic climate of the libraries demands maintaince of balance between the current needs of the users and the responsibilities of the library. To full fill such needs and responsibilities, collection development policies alone cannot play an imperative role in building collection but it also needs the support of financial allocation in forming comprehensive collection.

CONCLUSION

HCLs are deeply human institutions. The goal of HCLs, to ensure excellence in providing legal information to all the stake holders can only be achieved through continous improvement in the quality of library process. There is a dire need of maintaince of legal knowledge through conscious and consistent updation and upgradation to provide support to judiciary in facing the ever increasing challenge. Fervent measures need to be taken

In the HCJLs, collection is colossally supportive in the dispensation of justice, the document selection committee should opt for economically viable options, in both print and non print formats, besides re-organizing their subscription policies. Further-more, they need to implement procedures to fabricate, develop and increase the production of audio-visual and digital resources. HCLs also need to develop collection of other subjects, because the subject law has now come to touch almost every other field, on one way or the other.

In reality how best the collection is available in these libraries to satisfy the needs of users depends upon the dynamism and support they receive from their parent organization (High Courts) at regular intervals of time.

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