

# Library Use Pattern of Undergraduate Students in Minority Degree Colleges in Andhra Pradesh

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## ABSTRACT

Library is considered an integral component of any efficient education system. It plays an important role in the improvement of the organisation. This study, which was conducted in minority aided degree colleges, reveals the nature and the extent of use of college libraries in Andhra Pradesh. It evaluates in detail the type of material, sources and the services used by the students. It also assesses the extent of student's satisfaction regarding collection, timings and library staff cooperation in finding the information.

**Keywords:** Minority colleges, Andhra Pradesh, libraries, libraries services

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Education aims to impart knowledge and make good citizens. Libraries are the repositories of knowledge and form an integral part of education. Education is the process by which people not only acquire knowledge, information, and skills, but also values and the ability to live and interact within and with social groups. Higher education contributes to human resource development in many ways. Institutions of higher education have the main responsibility of training students who participate in the development of the country. Libraries have a long history; starting with the chained and closed-access libraries of earlier times to the present hybrid, digital, and virtual libraries that use the latest technology for imparting information through various services. With the advent of information and communication technologies (ICTs) the nature of libraries has changed drastically. Computers are being used in libraries to process, store, retrieve, and disseminate information. As a result, the traditional concept of library is being redefined from a place to house books in print to one which provides access to information in the most advanced media including CD-ROM, Internet, and remote access to a wide range of resources. Libraries have now metamorphosed into hybrid institutions with a blend of print and digital information resources. Gone are the days when a library was judged by its quantitative resources. Today, libraries are surrounded by networked data that is connected to vast ocean of Internet-based

services. Moreover, electronic resources relevant to the profession are developing at an unprecedented pace. Academic libraries are considered to be the nerve centres of academic institutions and supporting teaching, research, and other academic programmes. The success of a library in meeting the information needs of its users play an important role. Technological advancements are also expected to alter drastically to improve the quality of the library services.

## 2. EARLIER STUDIES

Ojha, Dave and Sharma [1] studied the application of information technology (IT) in Indian libraries during the last decade of the 20th century. They attempted to visualise Indian librarianship in the 21st century in the light of the ever-changing IT. The use of computers in libraries, particularly for information management, emphasised the ways library professionals have to change from traditional to modern techniques. According to them, the impact of IT in library and information science is the most in the activities of networking, CD-ROM, Internet and multimedia.

Vyasamoorthy [2] emphasised how college librarians should start automation of their services in a simple way. He explained the benefits of automation with hardware and software details. Details of some Indian software packages were also given.

Murthy [3] explained the benefits of automation in academic libraries. Computerisation of the routine library activities like acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, etc., followed several advantages. Most importantly, it helps in managing resources like money, time, manpower, etc., properly and more efficiently cutting down the time and improving productivity. Computerisation also improves accuracy, speed of operation and freedom from boredom of having to do routine clerical and monotonous work. Librarians' connotation of automation or information technology should include all those technologies which libraries and information centres use for collection, processing, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of recorded information.

Minority college libraries are libraries attached to minority institutions where graduate and postgraduate programmes are offered in applied sciences and humanities and differ from minority professional colleges. These libraries should meet the educational objectives of their respective institution. To fulfill its functions satisfactorily the library must concentrate on providing good services to meet the informational and educational requirements of the users and see that staff and students exploit the whole range of library resources. The role of the library is very crucial to the development of the institution, and it is literally the hub around which all activities of study and research must concentrate. It has been observed in general that the majority of college libraries in India suffer from want of good resources, infrastructure, and managerial techniques. In the developed countries much emphasis is given to develop the library and its resources to meet users' needs. Most of the minority colleges in the UK or the US have automated their resources and have integrated with the network systems in operation. This study explores the library use patterns of students in undergraduate courses in minority colleges in AP. Results of this study will not only help in understanding the information needs of the students but also will help these libraries to restructure their resources, services and facilities to synchronise them with the requirements of their students.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

Survey method has been adopted to study the various aspects of all the 17 (aided) degree colleges of minority community in AP. Necessary data has been collected through structured questionnaires, which have been administered and collected back personally, supported by interview schedules, and observation and data from the registers/records of the libraries.

#### **3.1 The Study Population**

There are 58 aided and unaided minority colleges in AP, distributed in Andhra, Telangana, and Rayalaseema regions. The scope of the study has been confined

numerically to 17 aided (by Government) degree colleges of the minority community at Andhra region (8), Telangana region (8), Rayalaseema region (1). These colleges are affiliated to the local universities.

#### **3.2 Sample**

The criterion for selection of these 17 degree colleges has been made in the chronological order, i.e., the establishment year of the colleges. The total admission capacity of these 17 colleges is approximately 8870 students in arts, commerce, and science streams.

#### **3.3 Method of Data Gathering**

Though the units are scattered and the size of the sample is very high a personal survey was conducted. However, the size of the sample is limited to 19.22 per cent, i.e., 1705 students. The criteria for selection of the samples and the distribution of the questionnaires have been followed as per the Stratified Simple and Systematic Sampling method (Table 1).

### **4. ANALYSIS OF DATA AND RESULTS**

The study has found a glaring difference among the homogeneous group of these minority college libraries as there is a lot of difference between certain libraries like St. Francis, Maris Stella, Loyola, St. Theresa, etc. (these libraries have been selected as 'colleges with potential for excellence') against certain libraries like Anwar-UI-Uloom, Mumtaz College, Islamia College, etc., in overall performance, administrative procedures, organisation of stock, or resources, attitude, etc. To find out the causative factors of difference and development, these libraries with their respective officials, have to visit personally or maintain scouting bodies to study and record the methodology, operational procedures, professional discipline, etc., of those good (CPE) libraries. Therefore, the librarians required not only the quality improving techniques, assessment skills, and training in person, but also conduct surveys of their sister libraries to see the difference by themselves, instead of serious and mathematical comparisons with those minority libraries that existed in the advanced countries.

#### **4.1 Profile of Libraries Under Study**

The minority colleges are integrated in the general system of higher education in AP. The majority of the colleges enjoy high reputation for their academic excellence discipline, and character formation, and therefore much sought after. The Christian colleges, which offer courses in arts commerce, science, etc., are more in number compared to the Muslim minority colleges though Muslims in AP have established several institutions especially for technical or engineering and other professional courses separately.

Table 1. Sample size

College name	No. of teachers	Sample size	No. of students	Sample size
Anwar-ul-Uloom College, Mallepally, Hyderabad	56	17	720	144
Muntaz College, Malakpet, Hyderabad	55	17	490	98
St. Francis women's College, Secunderabad	60	18	570	114
Urdu College, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad	10	3	120	24
Islamia College, Warangal	18	5	165	33
Loyola Academy College, Old Alwal	25	7	320	64
St. Anns Women's College, Mehidipatnam	70	21	940	188
Wesley Boys College, Secunderabad	50	15	430	86
A.C. College, Guntur	36	11	860	172
St. Theresa's College for Women, Eluru	65	18	684	137
Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada	60	17	522	104
St. Joseph's Degree College, Vizag	52	16	440	88
Mary Stella College for Women, Vijayawada	80	24	506	101
JMJ College for Women, Tenali	50	15	598	119
Noble College, Machilipatnam	45	12	424	84
Andhra Muslim College, Guntur	30	9	276	55
Loyola Degree College, Kadapa	60	15	805	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>8870</b>	<b>1705</b>

American Evangelical Lutheran Mission founded Andhra Christian College in Guntur in 1885 with an aim to provide "the highest quality of Christian education". College is affiliated to Andhra University. It started offering BA degrees in 1926, BSc degrees in 1934, and became co-educational in 1926. Its library has a seating capacity for 250 persons.

St. Theresa's College for Women was founded in 1938 by the sisters of St. Ann's. Its library had the seating capacity of 40 with 5920 titles with the budget allotment of Rs 4000. At present the library has a collection of 64, 000.

Andhra Loyola College was founded in 1954 with the aim to help catholic young men to pursue university studies. Library had the seating capacity of 150 with 26,150 titles and an annual budget of Rs 15000. At present the library has a separate library building with a collection of 60, 000 titles.

Anwar-ul-Uloom College was founded in 1955 for Muslim minority students in Mallepally, Hyderabad. Since its establishment, the library has not been able to cope with the present needs of the users till now.

The Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Tenali founded J.M.J. College in 1963 in Guntur. Its library had seating capacity of 20 and 1950 books. Annual book/periodical budget was Rs 4200. At present the library has a collection of 45, 000 books with a spacious separate library building with good furniture.

Maris Stella College was started in 1962. Its library was started in a small room with seating capacity for 25 persons and stocking capacity for 300 books. Library now has its own three storied building and a collection of 65, 000 books. Table 2 presents general information regarding 17 aided colleges in AP with their NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council)

grading. NAAC is an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country. There are six colleges exclusively for women and only one for men (Wesley Boys College, Secunderabad) while the rest are co-education colleges. Table 2 also presents the total user population in respective colleges out of which the sample population has been taken.

## 5. LIBRARY USE

This aspect shows the quality and quantity of the library and also its ability of the management.

### 5.1 Frequency of Library Visit

Figure 1 shows that 737 (43.2 per cent) students visit their respective libraries 'daily', while 467 (27.4 per cent)

Table 2. General data of minority aided degree colleges in AP

College name and place with NAAC grades	Estd. year	Courses offered	No. of students
Andhra Christian College, Guntur	1926 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	860
St. Theresa's Autonomous College for women Eluru– <b>A Grade</b>	1953 (Women)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	684
Andhra Loyola college, Vijayawada– <b>B+ Grade</b>	1954 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	522
St. Joseph's Degree College, Visakhapatnam– <b>B Grade</b>	1958 (Women)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	440
Maris Stella college for women, Vijayawada– <b>A Grade</b>	1962 (Women)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	506
JMJ College for women, Tenali– <b>B+ Grade</b>	1963 (Women)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	598
Noble College, Machilipatnam	1966 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	424
Andhra Muslim College, Guntur	1984 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	276
Loyola Degree College, Kadapa– <b>B Grade</b>	1979 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	805
Anwar-Ul-Uloom College, Mallepally, Hyderabad	1955 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	720
Mumtaz College, Malakpet, Hyderabad	1957 (Co-ed)	B.Com, B.Sc	490
St. Francis women's College Secunderabad– <b>A Grade</b>	1959 (Women)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	570
Urdu College, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad	1962 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com	120
Islamia College, Warangal	1973 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	165
Loyola Academy Degree and PG College, Old Alwal Secunderabad	1978 (Co-ed)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	320
St. Ann's College for Women Mehidipatnam, Hyderabad	1983 (Women)	B.A, B.Com, B.Sc	940
Wesley Boys College, Secunderabad.	1984 (Boys)	B.Com, B.Sc	430
<b>Total</b>			<b>8870</b>

visit 'once in a week', and 384 (22.5 per cent) visit 'more than once in a week', 50 (2.9 per cent) visit 'once in a fortnight', and 67 (3.9 per cent) visit their libraries 'once in a month'.

## 5.2 Satisfaction regarding Library Timings

Generally students use the library more when they are free. So library should be open before and after college hours. This aspect is important in the view of the users. Figure 2 shows that 1420 (83.3 per cent) students were satisfied with the present working hours of their respective libraries, while 285 (16.7 per cent) were not satisfied with the present working hours of their respective libraries. Out of 285 students who were not satisfied with the present library timings, 136 (47.7 per cent) felt it would be convenient if the libraries are opened after their classes, while 66 (23.2 percent) opted before the commencement of classes and 83 (29.1 percent) during vacation and holidays also.

One thousand five hundred and sixteen (88.9 per cent) students felt that the library staff was helpful and positive in their attitude. Only 189 (11.1 per cent) felt that staff was not helpful in offering any assistance. The remaining colleges were more or less drawn in criticism regarding helpful attitude of the library staff. Since the

calculated statistic value 2.16 is greater than the table value 1.96 of the test statistic at 5 per cent level of significance, one can reject the Null hypothesis, i.e., there is a significant difference in the proportion of satisfaction level of the students regarding convenience of working hours.

## 6. LIBRARY SERVICES

Library services play an important role in the management of the libraries. Better services can attract more users.

### 6.1 Satisfaction Regarding Library Services

Seventy seven per cent of students (1321) were satisfied with the present services against 22.5 per cent students (384) who were not satisfied with the present services of their libraries.

### 6.2 Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Library Services

Table 3 shows the priority of reasons for dissatisfaction vis-à-vis availability of only 'book lending service' was 45.1 percent (173); 'lack of open access' 50 per cent (192); 'no proper arrangement of books' 39.6 per

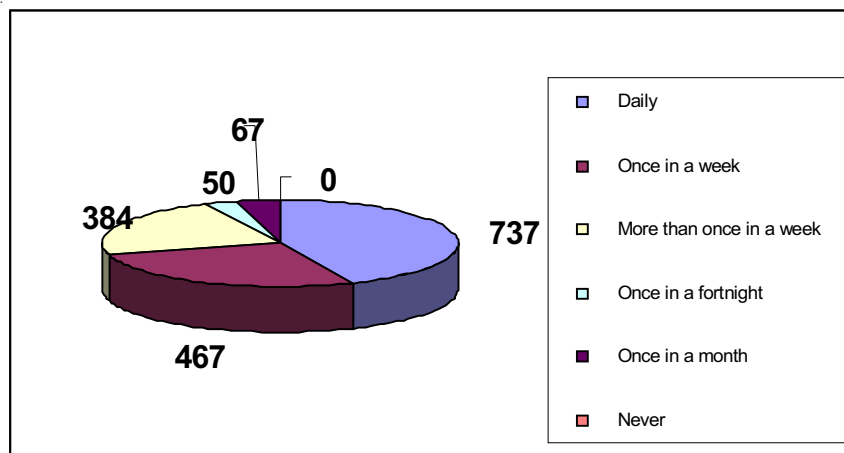


Figure 1. Library use.

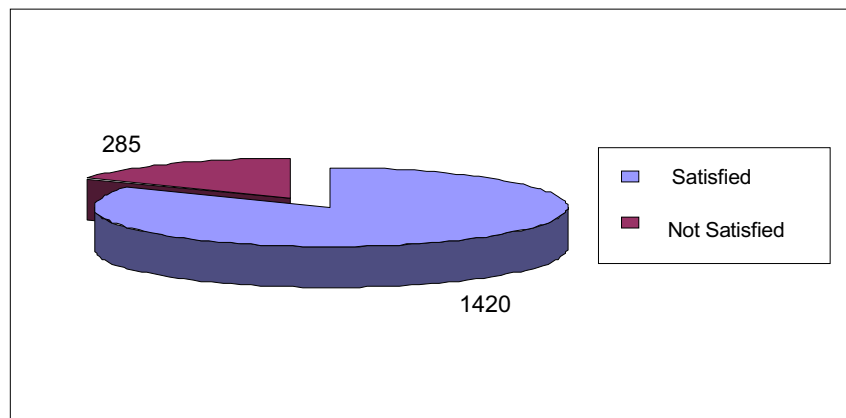


Figure 2. Satisfaction regarding library timings.

cent (152); 'lack of full fledged catalogue' 40.9 per cent (157); and 'lack of photocopying' was 58.8 per cent (226).

### 6.3 Most Frequently Used Services

Table 4 shows the order of preferences regarding services used by students vis-à-vis 'lending service' as 60 per cent (1.34); 'reference service' 48.4 per cent (826); 'periodical and news paper services' 30.5 per cent (652); and 'bibliographic and indexing' as 42.9 per cent (731).

The calculated value of Chi-Square (3596.4) is greater than the critical value (table value) 16.9 at 5 per cent level of significance at 9 degrees of freedom. Therefore, one can reject the Null hypothesis that they are independent, i.e., the services used by the students vary depending on the individual libraries.

### 6.4 Need for Library Orientation

This aspect is more important in library management. This is the service provided by the library staff to the users in order to make use of the library efficiently. Fifteen hundred sixty-five students (91.8 per cent) felt that library orientation is necessary to know about the library and the services. Only 140 (8.2 per cent) students felt that library orientation is not necessary. Majority of the students felt that library orientation is necessary for the better use of the library. Only few students felt that the orientation is not necessary for proper usage of library services.

## 7. INFORMATION SOURCES

This is the important area where each library should concentrate. This aspect helps the libraries to develop their sources.

### 7.1 Purpose of the Usage with the Library

Table 5 shows the priority-wise purpose of the usage of the library. Students gave first priority to 'preparation of notes' with 62.5 per cent (1066); second to 'preparation of project reports' with 32.5 per cent (554); and third to 'preparation for competitive exams' with 35.8 per cent (610), respectively, and the fourth to 'general knowledge' with 32.8 per cent (546).

The calculated value of Chi-Square 1696.16 is greater than the critical value (table value) 16.9 at 5 per cent level of significance at 9 degrees of freedom. Therefore, one can reject the Null hypothesis that is the different purposes for which the students used the libraries varied depending on the individual libraries.

### 7.2 Most Used Information Sources

This aspect shows that type of sources being used more and the area where the library can improve their collection development. Table 6 shows the priority-wise usage of information sources in the library. Students gave first preference to 'books' with 53.7 per cent (915); second

Table 3. Reasons for dissatisfaction with services

Priorities	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Only book lending service	173 (45.1)	81 (21.1)	67 (17.4)	43 (11.2)	20 (5.2)	384
Lack of open access	83 (21.6)	192 (50.0)	65 (16.9)	33 (8.6)	11 (2.9)	384
Lack of proper arrangement	36 (9.4)	117 (30.4)	152 (39.6)	49 (12.8)	30 (7.8)	384
Lack of proper and full fledged catalogue	33 (8.67)	65 (16.9)	49 (12.8)	157 (40.9)	80 (20.8)	384
Lack of photo copying facility	51 (13.3)	17 (4.43)	25 (6.5)	65 (16.9)	226 (58.8)	384

(Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage against the total)

Table 4. Most frequently used services

Priorities	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	X <sup>2</sup> value
Lending service	1034 (60.6)	451 (26.4)	149 (8.7)	71 (4.1)	1705	
Reference service	744 (43.6)	826 (48.4)	108 (6.3)	27 (1.5)	1705	
Periodicals and newspapers services	581 (34.1)	279 (16.3)	652 (30.5)	193 (11.3)	1705	
Bibliographic and indexing, etc, services	62 (34.1)	114 (66.9)	798 (46.8)	731 (42.9)	1705	

to 'reference books' with 36.1 per cent (615); third to 'magazines and journals' with 35.7 per cent (609); and the fourth to 'newspapers' with 33.9 per cent (579). The calculated value of Chi-Square 1276.02 is greater than the critical value (table value) 16.9 at 5 per cent level of significance at 9 degrees of freedom. Therefore, one can reject the Null hypothesis. That is the different sources for which the students used the libraries varied depending on the individual libraries.

### 7.3 Sources for Finding Required Information

Library users are using different ways for finding information according to their needs. This aspect helps the library staff to know the needs of the users. This also helps the library staff to develop various ways of sources of finding information.

Table 7 shows the usage of sources for finding the required information. The first preference 36.5 per cent (622) was given to 'consultation of library catalogue'; second 31.9 per cent (545) to 'consulting librarian', third 24.9 per cent (425) to 'browsing all the document collection' at the racks; fourth 26.6 per cent (454) to 'inter-personal communication'; and the fifth preference 32.3 per cent (550) was given to 'faculty members'. The calculated value of Chi-Square 1341.43 is greater than the critical value (table value) 26.3 at 5 per cent level of significance at 16 degrees of freedom. Therefore, one can

reject the Null hypothesis that is that the methods followed by the students to find the required information in the libraries vary depending on the individual libraries.

### 7.4 Advantages of Computerisation

Advances in IT changed the information needs very fast. Automation of libraries is now a necessity for effective library management. Table 8 shows the priority-wise advantages of computerisation of libraries as perceived by the users. 'Quick access to data' with 15.8 per cent (i.e. 271) was quoted as the first benefit; 'time saving' with 10.9 per cent (i.e.186) as the second, 'easy browsing of data' with 13.2 per cent (i.e. 225) as the third, 'access to wide range of information' with 10.1 per cent (i.e. 171) as fourth, and 'quality of services' with 7.8 per cent (i.e.133) the fifth.

### 7.5 Purpose of Net Browsing

Internet has become an important source of retrieving information from the primary sources, and helps users in finding latest information for various purposes. Table 9 shows the priority-wise purpose of net browsing of only those who had the facility of net surfing. First priority, 10.5 per cent (179), was given to 'academic purpose'; second, 5.2 per cent (88), to 'entertainment and recreation'; third, 11.4 per cent (194), to 'e-mail'; and the fourth to 'gain general knowledge' 7.6 per cent (131).

Table 5. Purpose of using the library

Priorities	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	X <sup>2</sup> value
Preparation of notes	1066 (62.5)	158 (9.2)	157 (9.2)	324 (19.0)	1705	
Preparation of project reports	335 (19.6)	554 (32.5)	540 (31.7)	276 (16.1)	1705	
Preparation to competitive exams	189 (11.0)	551 (32.3)	610 (35.8)	355 (20.8)	1705	
For gen. Knowledge & up-to-date Information	264 (15.9)	464 (27.2)	431 (25.3)	546 (32.8)	1705	

(Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage against the total)

Table 6. Mostly used information sources

Priorities	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	X <sup>2</sup> value
Books	915 (53.7)	364 (21.3)	137 (8.0)	289 (16.9)	1705	
Reference Books	411 (24.1)	615 (36.1)	329 (19.2)	350 (20.5)	1705	
Magazines & Journals	262 (15.3)	338 (19.8)	609 (35.7)	496 (29.1)	1705	
Newspapers	159 (9.3)	381 (22.3)	586 (34.4)	579 (33.9)	1705	

**Table 7. Sources used for finding required information**

Priorities	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total	X <sup>2</sup> value
Library catalogue	622 (36.5)	436 (25.6)	368 (21.5)	177 (10.3)	102 (5.9)	1705	
Consulting librarian	298 (17.4)	545 (31.9)	523 (30.7)	293 (17.1)	46 (2.6)	1705	
Browsing all the document collection at racks	286 (17.4)	268 (15.7)	525 (30.8)	423 (24.8)	203 (11.9)	1705	
Inter personal communication	356 (20.9)	328 (19.2)	302 (17.7)	454 (26.6)	265 (15.5)	1705	
Through faculty members	250 (14.7)	240 (14.1)	300 (17.6)	365 (21.4)	550 (32.3)	1705	

**Table 8. Advantages of computerisation**

Priorities	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	No response	Total
Quick access to data	271 (15.8)	173 (10.2)	107 (6.3)	110 (6.6)	118 (6.9)	926 (54.3)	1705
Easy for browsing	138 (8.1)	149 (8.7)	225 (13.2)	132 (7.74)	135 (7.9)	926 (54.3)	1705
Access to wide range	167 (9.7)	147 (8.6)	197 (11.5)	171 (10.1)	97 (5.6)	926 (54.3)	1705
Quality services	145 (8.5)	157 (9.2)	181 (10.6)	163 (9.7)	133 (7.8)	926 (54.3)	1705
Time saving	241 (14.2)	186 (10.9)	124 (7.8)	96 (5.6)	132 (7.7)	926 (54.3)	1705

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ The objectives of any library can be realised through the satisfaction levels of its users as well as availability of the documents. Though around 80 per cent students were satisfied yet the remaining 20 per cent dissatisfied cannot be ignored. The libraries of these colleges should therefore take care of these students.
- ❖ Very few of these libraries (5 out of 17) have been allotted a separate building exclusively for having sufficient room for provision of stack rooms, reference section, and periodical section, etc. Of all the libraries, the environmental and physical conditions at Anwar-UI-Uloom and Mumtaz College libraries are very poor and have neither a separate building nor even sufficient space to accommodate the necessary material and equipment even though they started long back of all the colleges. Every minority college library must be provided with a separate library building with good ventilation, furniture (as per ergonomics) with reading halls and stock rooms keeping in mind the future development of the library also.
- ❖ Regarding book selection and criteria, management should see that some efficient and scientific methods should be adopted for allocation of grants to different branches based on the peculiar needs of the local

area and requirements of a particular subject. Ample time and scope should be given to all the concerned teachers and the student representatives to participate in the selection of books. It was found that few courses like commerce and computer science have only few books at some libraries; steps should be taken to improve this situation.

- ❖ The growth rate of document collection at these colleges, especially at Andhra Muslim where 46 books were added in five years and 288 in Urdu college, was very low. Not only document collection but also the periodical strength at these colleges were very low and needs to be increased, especially at Wesley, Loyola Degree College and Islamia College. It is recommended that these colleges try to provide latest editions of the books, journals, and periodicals. These libraries should also procure competitive examination books and career guidance books in order to fulfill the requirements of the students.
- ❖ Library orientation, user education are essential activities of the non-academic professional to enable the users to understand the system of classification, arrangement of stock, tapping of different sources, and resources, etc. (92 per cent among the students felt the need for orientation). To enable the non-professionals to understand the importance of the



Table 9. Purpose of net browsing

Priorities	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Not Responded	Total
Academic Information	179 (10.5)	87 (5.1)	100 (5.8)	80 (4.6)	1259 (73.8)	1705
General knowledge	158 (9.3)	85 (4.9)	72 (4.2)	131 (7.6)	1259 (73.8)	1705
Entertainment & recreation	171 (10.1)	88 (5.2)	100 (5.8)	87 (5.10)	1259 (73.8)	1705
To use E-mail	78 (4.6)	79 (4.6)	194 (11.4)	95 (5.6)	1259 (73.8)	1705

library and have positive attitude towards attempts for quality and variety of services, information literacy programmes needs to be organised.

- ❖ The library should establish, promote, maintain and evaluate a range of quality services that support the college's mission and goals. It should provide competent and prompt assistance to its users. Time to visit library should be reasonable and convenient for its users. Reference and other special assistance should be available at times when the college's primary users most need them. When academic programmes are offered at off-campus sites, library services should be provided in accordance with the local standards.
- ❖ Majority of the students are demanding automated services and Internet facility in the libraries. Proper training should be given to the users while providing these services, as many of the users are not much aware of these.
- ❖ Only eight libraries out of 17 were found automated. As the NAAC makes it compulsory that all the libraries should be automated, it is compulsory for all the colleges to go for NAAC accreditation. Librarians has to adhere to managerial techniques like PERT, CPM while computerising their libraries.
- ❖ The staff strength should be adequate, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The library should broaden the capabilities of its personnel to meet changing needs and improve expertise through training and continuing education. The staff should be trained on current developments through refreshers courses or other continuing education programmes

However, the following problems are common to majority of the libraries: (a) complete automation of library; (b) separate library building; (c) lack of computer training to library staff; (d) low budget, (e) requisition of new editions and uptodate collection in great number; (f)

lack of good number of journals; (g) provision of free access to books; and (h) acquisition of more systems. Therefore, the managements of these colleges should try to provide these facilities to the libraries to cope up with the increase information demands. These libraries should try to implement new technologies like automation, e-journals, barcode technology, OPAC, which are essential in the present day environment. The information mostly used by the clients is reference and periodicals which have to be procured by almost all the libraries. However, the study reveals that the periodical collection is inadequate in majority of libraries. With the outpouring of UGC grants to those libraries that got Excellence Awards the condition of subscription to many journal titles may recuperate the situation.

## 9. CONCLUSION

This study has given a clear picture of the use of college libraries in AP by undergraduate students. The utilisation of college libraries in this state can be enhanced by adopting the modern formats like audio-visual materials and electronic resources such as CD, DVDs and the Internet. Automation of libraries according to new technologies is very essential to cope up with the present scenario.

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