

3<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL LIBRARY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM – 2019

**“Library, Information and Documentation  
in a Context of Transformation”**

**PROCEEDINGS**

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2019**



**National Library & Documentation Services Board**  
Ministry of Education



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In collaboration with



# Collection Development at University of Sri Jayewardenepura Library

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## ABSTRACT

Collection development is an important and continuous process for any kind of library. University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) library is no exception. The university library collection needs to develop to support teaching, learning, and research. In order to meet user requirements, the collection should be evaluated and updated continuously. This study examines the practices carried out at USJP library on books acquisitions and finds out whether the users are satisfied with the existing library collection. Data was collected by interviewing library users including both academics and students. The available library statistics were used as primary data. Simple descriptive statistics will be used.

Highest growth of collection of books is for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (31%). Highest amount has spent for the Faculty of Technology, which is 53% of the total expenditure for books. Majority of students (57%) has indicated that they are not satisfied with the collection of books, while majority of academic staff (53%) state that they are satisfied. This contradictory outcome about the satisfaction about the collection by academics and students needs to address. Library should give emphasis on making aware of students about availability of books, new additions and organization of collection. It is envisaged that regular library awareness programs for students conducted by the library may support this task. The library has given emphasis on building the collection on Humanities and Social Science area. It is a positive trend, because the library is considered as a laboratory for such subject streams. University of Sri Jayewardenepura has identified that new faculties should be given more emphasis by giving more allocation on newly established faculties of Technology and Engineering.

**Keywords:** Collection development, Academic Libraries, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

## **INTRODUCTION**

University of Sri Jayewardenepura had its origin at the 'Vidyodaya Pirivena'. It was granted university status in 1958 and came to be known as the 'Vidyodaya Campus'. Later with the drastic reforms in higher education, under university act No. 16 of 1978 it became the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. In keeping with the needs and changes of the country it has now gradually shed most of its monastic character and has become a fully-fledged center of higher learning.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) Library was named as Reverend Dr. Madagoda Sumanatissa Thero Memorial Library in 2017. With the changes in the parent organization, the university library shoulders greater responsibilities and faces greater challenges. The USJP library is gradually developing to meet diverse needs of its readers, by embracing the changing technological adaptations and finding ways to handle the ever increasing volume of information day by day. Being the largest university in Sri Lanka in terms of student number, it has taken the necessary steps to face the challenges in meeting the requirements of eight faculties; Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS), Applied Sciences (FAS), Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), Medical Sciences (FMS), Graduate Studies (FGS), Technology (FoT), Engineering (FoE) and Allied Health Sciences (FAHS). It has an academic staff of over 570 and its user community exceeds fifteen thousand in number.

Collection development is an important and continuous process for any kind of library. USJP library is no exception. The university library collection needs to be developed to support teaching, learning, and research. Collection development process of a university library includes reading material selection, acquiring and replacement of lost books, weeding of outdated or obsolete library resources, and developing an updated library collection by identifying the gaps. This study describes the practices carried out at the USJP library to develop its collection especially through books and to explore the views of the users about the existing collection. In order to meet user requirements, the collection should be evaluated and updated continuously.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

According to the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA, 2001), collection development concentrates on systematic and relevant themes that apply to acquisition of print and non-print library resources. In addition to fulfilling continuous resource acquisitions, deciding on quality and quantity of collection is also vital. This process includes decisions on selection, ordering and payment of information resources. Identification of a good selection policy, recognition of needs and fields of studies of users, choice of resources, resource sharing, and

maintenance of collection are the important aspects connected with the library collection development (Kaur & Gaur, 2017).

Reddy & Chandraiah (2017) have carried out a study on the collection development of the university libraries of the Dravidian universities from 2011 to 2016 and demonstrate details on collection development as subject-wise, school-wise and also department-wise of the university. This study has revealed the need of allocating more money to the university library to obtain more e-books and electronic databases for the professional and non-professional undergraduates of the Tamil University of Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh. Horawa (2010) discusses the rapid advances and the increased reliance on some of the key issues related to the collection management of academic libraries. Precisely, this article is well defined in terms of core values, skilled communication issues, acquisition procedures, access and delivery issues, and innovation. This study summarizes the conclusions with the idea of incorporating changes in these areas for a sustainable perspective on collection development.

A study of Mir (2016) discusses the collection development activities of the GDC Baramulla Library and since its inception, the library has considered developing books and periodicals and it highlights the essential factors such as reading material acquisition, budget allocation, and user participation in vendor competitiveness. It is a notable fact that emphasizing on user participation in collection development. Kavitha (2009) describes various trends in the development of collections in the digital environment, as well as changes in the acquisition, retrieval and storage of information due to technological advances. This study discusses the limitations, restrictions and problems faced by librarians and readers through their intimate experiences. Further it has illustrated how these developments have affected the academic environment and how to change the role of the librarian in terms of issues of discussion and analysis.

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

This study examines the practices carried out at USJP library on acquisition of books and finds out whether the users are satisfied with the existing library collection. Based on the outcome, suggestions are made to provide an information rich collection to the university community.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In this study, the data were collected by interviewing library users including both academics and students representing 06 faculties out of all 08 faculties of the USJP. Faculty of Graduate Studies and recently established Faculty of Allied Health Sciences were excluded from this study. Since this study is limited to undergraduates

and academics, the exclusion of Faculty of Graduate Studies is justified. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences was a part of the Faculty of Medical Sciences until very recently. Thus, it is presumed that representation of Faculty of Allied Health was covered by getting respondents from the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The available library statistics were used as primary data which was obtained from acquisition section of the library. Hence, both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in analyzing data. Applying convenience sampling method, 5 academics and 5 students from each faculty were interviewed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the required information and data were collected from the existing library annual records and by interviewing both academics and students. A questionnaire was used for collecting information through interviews in order to obtain user feedback on library book collection. An open ended question was included to get respondents recommendations and suggestions on collection development.

### *Satisfaction of the academic staff towards existing collections*

The academic staff needs to support the process of selecting books for the library. They have a sound knowledge about the new developments in their subjects and related publications. Therefore it is essential to find out whether the existing collection is sufficient enough to fulfill their needs. In the following paragraphs, we have detailed the satisfaction of the academic staff about the collection of books in the library of University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Table - 01 Satisfaction of the academic staff towards existing library collections

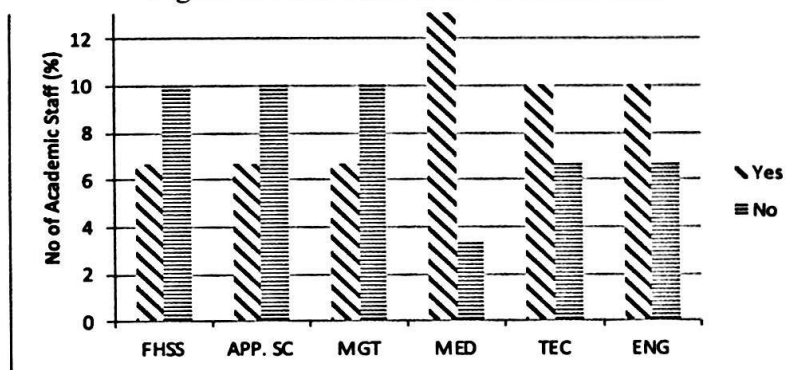
Responses	No. of Academic Staff	Response percentage
Yes	16	53.33%
No	14	46.67%
Total	30	100

Source: Survey Data, (2019)

According to the Table 01, it shows that the majority of academic staff (53%) is satisfied with the existing collection in the library, while 47% of them have shown dissatisfaction about the collection. Even though the gap is very low between the number of satisfied and not satisfied, it is important to find out ways to make more of them satisfied. When it is analyzed according to faculties, the majority of Medical Science, Technology and Engineering faculty academics have shown that they are satisfied with the collection (Figure 01).

Academic staff of other 3 faculties; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Applied Science and Management Studies and Commerce have given their response as they are not satisfied with the library collection. The reason behind this division may be due to comparatively new faculties had special funding projects in building their collections. Further, all these 3 faculties; Faculty of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Technology, and Faculty of Engineering have faculty libraries due to their location in other premises outside the main campus. Comparatively old other 3 faculties; Humanities and Social Sciences, Applied Science and Management Studies and Commerce, mainly rely on annual allocation for acquiring books. The user community is also high in number for these old faculties than that of new faculties.

Figure 01: Satisfaction of Academic Staff



Source: Survey Data, (2019)

Thirteen percent of the academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine and 10% of the academic staff of the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Technology have expressed their satisfaction with the collection of books.

### ***Satisfaction of Students towards the existing library collection***

In contrast to the academics, the majority of students (57%) have shown their dissatisfaction on the existing collection of books in the library (Table 02).

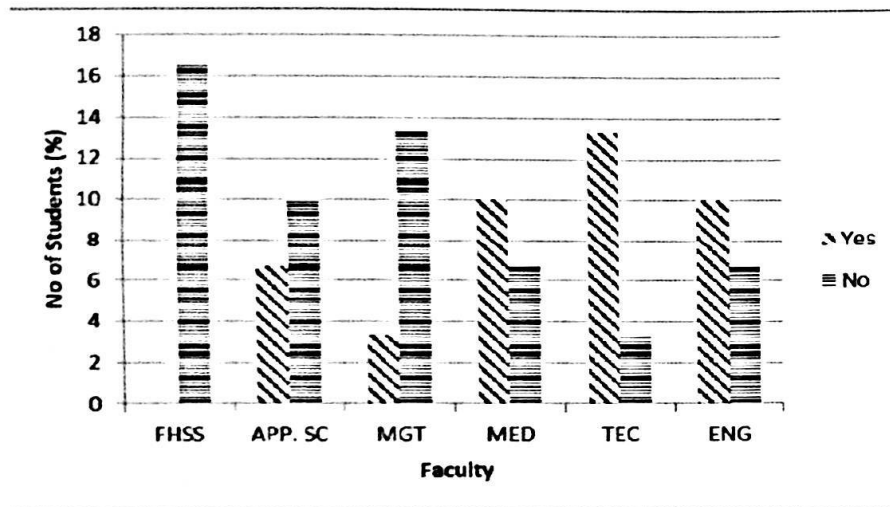
Table - 02 Satisfactions of students towards existing library collection

Responses	No. of Students	Response percentage
Yes	13	43.33%
No	17	56.67%
Total	30	100

Source: Survey Data, (2019)

A similar pattern has been shown by the academics and students when analyzing the satisfaction towards the existing collection, faculty-wise (Figure 02). In addition to the facts discussed with the results of the academics, the students of new faculties may be satisfied as they have ample copies of their textbooks and also with current titles. In catering a high volume of users in the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Applied Sciences and Management Studies and Commerce, the library should have more funds to fulfill the needs of these students with more resources and with more copies of the same title. As a solution, with the recommendations of the library, authorities of the university have given more attention on subscribing e-books.

Figure 02: Satisfaction of Students towards the existing library collections



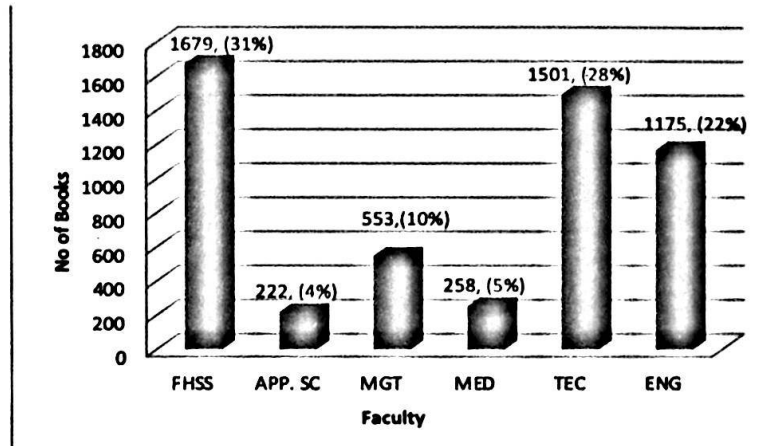
Source: Survey Data, (2019)

### *Acquisition of books*

According to S.R. Ranganathan's 5 laws, 'Library is a growing organism'. This phrase describes the growth of the collection of material in the library very precisely. The growth of a collection depends on many factors. Purchasing of materials and receiving donations are the two main streams that librarians acquire books to their collections. In order to retrospect the pattern of acquisition of books at USJP library, the data pertaining to each faculty for the period of 3 years, from 2016-2018 were studied. The number of books contains the total number including copies of books that acquired.



Figure 03: Acquisition of books



Source: Survey Data, (2019)

The graph drawn according to the data gathered Figure 03, shows that the highest number of books was acquired for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, whereas the least number of books was acquired for the Faculty of Applied Sciences. A considerable high amounts have been added to the Technology and Engineering faculties. The highest number which is 31% of the total books are for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences due to the reason that most of them are local publications. Purchasing of local publications is quicker and cheaper when compared with foreign publications. Certain books authored by our own staff members are donated to the library showing their gesture towards their own library and with the anticipation that their own students will be benefited by using those books. The growth of the collection of books in Faculty of Technology and Faculty of Engineering during 2016-2018 is 28% and 22% respectively. Since these two faculties were established recently, there was a need of building the collection to meet at least the minimum requirements. Therefore more funds were allocated in fulfilling those minimum requirements.

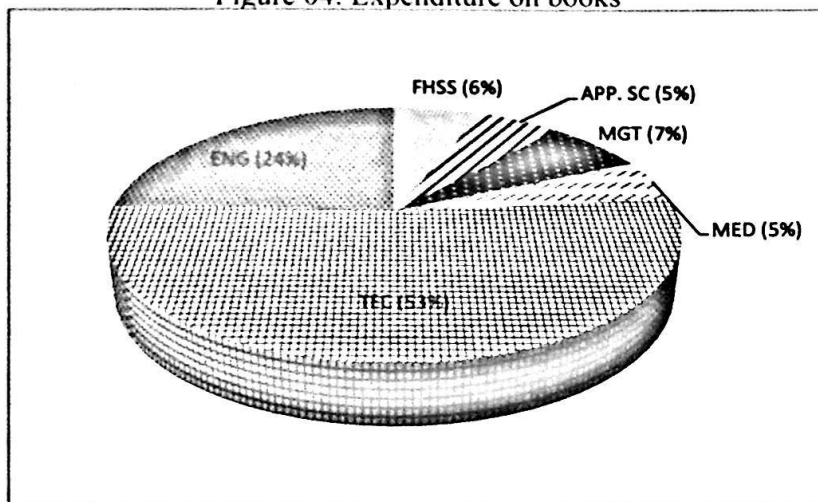
The low numbers for the faculties of Applied Sciences, Management Studies and Commerce and Medical Science may be due to the trend in using electronic material. At present there is a high demand for e-books especially from the faculties of Management Studies and Commerce and Medical Science. In addition, library subscribes to full text databases such as JSTOR and Research4life and citation database Scopus. The full-text databases subscribed by the CONSAL (Consortium of Sri Lankan Academic Libraries) are accessible to our user community. Providing Wi-Fi facility throughout the library building, expanding the opening hours of the library from 5.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., allowing users to bring in their own techno gadgets and lending laptops to those who do not have the facility may have enhanced

the usage of electronic material rather than print versions.

### ***Expenditure on books***

Each year, the annual allocation of the library is divided among all the faculties to purchase the recommended books and other library resources for the library.

Figure 04: Expenditure on books



Source: Survey Data, (2019)

For acquiring of books, highest amount has spent for the Faculty of Technology, which is 53% of the total expenditure for books. Twenty four percent out of the total has spent for the Faculty of Engineering. Five percent each of the total expenditure on books was spent for Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Medical Sciences. Also, 6% and 7% have been spent for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce during past hree years respectively.

Library is an energetic part of the teaching, learning and research process of an academic institute. The quality of teaching, learning and research depends on the quality of the information services provided by the library to its user community. This can be made possible on the quality of the library book collection. Therefore, the acquisition section of the USJP library is also taking various measures to develop the library collection in accordance with the present and future information needs of its users.

### ***Collection Development strategies in USJP library***

In each year, the annual allocation of the library is divided among all the faculties equally, after deducting expenditure for databases subscribed by the library.

Then to get the recommendations for books, letters of requests are sent to each academic department of the faculties in the university. Any member can request recommendations through the respective head of the departments. All the recommendations along with number of copies needed must be sent in the first quarter of the current year for enabling early process. Apart from that, if a need arises, users have the facility of sending recommendations throughout the year. This message is also given by the representatives of the library who attend the faculty board meetings. The library committee, which is held monthly, requests to submit the recommendations from each faculty for the current year and reminders are sent to the departments which were not sent the recommendations on time.

The recommended book lists are arranged according to the priority order. Then those items are checked with the online public access catalog of the library to avoid duplication. It enables the staff to check whether the purchasing of new copies is needed and whether any new editions are requested. This process leads to the development and updating of the collection according to the user requirements.

Branch libraries have been set up for the Faculty of Medical Science and two newly established faculties, Faculty of Engineering and Faculty Technology. Since these new collections need rapid expansion, arrangements were taken to purchase more books for those libraries. Apart from that, the library is responsible for developing and expanding the Sri Lanka collection. The Sri Lanka collection consists of government publications, books written by Sri Lankan authors and books written about Sri Lanka, certain manuscripts from aristocratic families, postgraduate theses submitted to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and theses submitted by academic staff members to other universities. Library has started a project on conservation and preservation of nation's cultural heritage for the use of future generations. This collection consists of palm leaf manuscripts donated by generous citizens around the island. The palm leaf collection is conserved and housed in a separate unit for research purposes. Donations from individuals and organizations are encouraged, but only in accordance with our donation policy.

The USJP library has taken actions to acquire general reading materials too in order to fulfill the entertainment needs and attitude development of users. These books are selected by a committee comprised of the librarian or a nominee and senior academic staff members representing all faculties. This helps to support the needs of recreation facility. Table 03 shows the number of general reading books acquired by the library and total cost for purchasing general reading books for the years 2016-2018.

Table 03 - Acquisition of General Reading Books

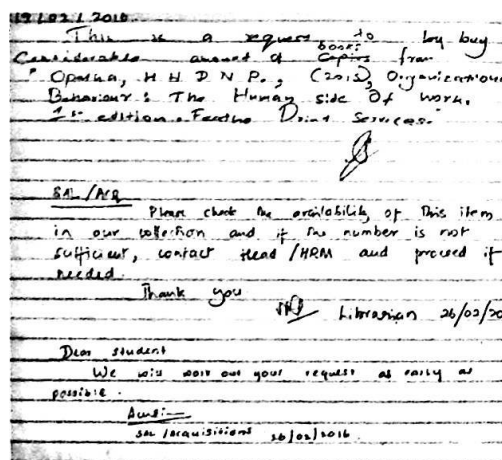
Year	No. of books	Amount (Rs.)
2016	467	288,570.50
2017	223	128,955.00
2018	140	70,291.00

Source: Survey Data, (2019)

Number of books obtained in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were 467, 223 and 140 respectively. Since this facility was started in 2016, library had to spend comparatively a higher amount in 2016 than that of the other two years as the initial requirement to fill the gap was huge. Gradually the allocated money for updating the collection of general reading books was decreased as the requirement is only for new publications.

A box is kept at the inquiry desk of the library for lodging suggestions. Certain recommendations for requesting books are also found in it. In addition, the suggestion book is also used by some users to request books. Fulfillment of these requests is verified with the relevant departments and actions are taken to process them. A sample of such request is given in Figure 05. This is another way of getting user requirements to develop the existing library collection.

Figure 05: Extract Copy from Suggestion Book



The responsibility of the library is to concentrate the information needed by the university population for their learning, teaching processes and research activities efficiently. Inter-Library-Loan (ILL) service run by a dedicated team in the library fulfills the requests made by our users with the support of other library networks globally.

In addition, the document delivery service provided through CONSAL helps our library to obtain chapters of books and journal articles which are not available with us from the British Library Document Delivery Service (BLDDS). Apart from the main existing collection, the books that were not used for over 30 years are kept in a separate collection called 'Depository Collection'. It adds not only a fresh look to the existing collections, but helps researchers to do historical studies.

## **CONCLUSION**

The results of the study show that the majority of academic staff is satisfied with the existing textbooks at the library and also with new titles. In catering a high volume of users in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, the library should have more resources and infrastructure facilities to fulfill the user needs of these faculties. According to the data gathered, showed that the highest number of books was acquired for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the least number of books was acquired for the Faculty of Applied Sciences. In contrast to the academics, the majority of students are dissatisfied on the existing collection of books in the library. Further, the satisfaction of students of Faculty of Technology and Faculty of Engineering may be due to having ample copies of their textbooks, since these two faculties were newly established and funds were given directly. A trend to use electronic resources has been recognized in some faculties. In conclusion, the study identified that the collection should be evaluated and updated continuously to fulfill the user requirements.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

One recommendation draw from the above conclusions is that since the USJP University community has a mixed feeling about their library book collection, the library should identify the gaps in the collection to make the whole user community satisfied. Further, it is a positive trend to find out that the library has given emphasis on building the collection on Humanities and Social Science area. Library is considered as a laboratory for such subject streams and authorities should be made aware to maintain or develop such collections. On the other hand it is vital to identify the fact that new faculties need more resources by spending a high percentage of allocation. University of Sri Jayewardenepura has identified that precisely by giving more allocation on newly established faculties of Technology and Engineering and it is recommended to continue the practice of allocating more funds at least until they become fully established faculties. The contradictory outcome about the satisfaction about the collection by academics and students needs to address. Library needs to give emphasis on making aware of students about availability of books, new additions and organization of collection. It is envisaged that regular

library awareness programs for students conducted by the library may support this task and the collection should be continually re-evaluated to meet user requirements of teaching, learning and research activities of the user community.

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