

Preservation of Books in University Libraries in Kerala: A Financial Analysis

by

Suresh Kumar .C

Technical Assistant,

University Library, University of Kerala

and

Dr. Sukumaran.C

Assistant Librarian,

University Library, University of Kerala

Abstract

University of Kerala alone has allocated fund for preservation purpose in the budget. . The highest amount of allocation was Rs.1.25 lakhs in the first three years (1999-2002) of the study periods, a small amount was utilized in four years and the remaining period no amount was utilized. The Mahatma Gandhi University and Calicut University meet the preservation expenditure from miscellaneous and office expenditure fund.

Key Words: University, Preservation, Finance,

Introduction

The collection and accumulation of books, magazines, journals and other study materials and their preservation and their fullest possible use should be considered as the primary function of modern university library. ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science defines preservation as, “The activities associated with maintaining library and archival materials for use either in their original form or in some other form” and conservation as “the use of chemical and physical procedures in treatment or storage to ensure the preservation of books, manuscripts, records and other documents” Very often the two terms ‘Preservation’ and ‘Conservation’ are used interchangeably but these two terms have different implication. Conservation may be oriented towards specific objects while preservation is a broader concept which includes protection, maintenance, restoration and conservation. Papers are increasingly fragile as a result of age, chemical instability, environmental conditions, handling, natural disasters and theft.

Damage to books is cumulative. The repeated incorrect handling and storage of books can quickly transform a new book into a worn or even an unusable one. Proper handling and storage in a stable, cool, clean, non-humid environment can prolong its life. Preservation is concerned with problems such as repair, dusting, fumigation, air conditioning, binding, storage etc. In ancient times herbs and natural products were used against the activity of bio organisms and these products were very effective and were apparently nontoxic to humans. Presently many modern materials are used and they are relatively drastic and toxic in nature. Fumigation, de-acidification, lamination, encapsulation are used in modern days to preserve the manuscripts. In the era of information technology microfilming and digitization are the best options available to safeguard and preserve the valuable collection for future generations. It is widely said “prevention is better than cure

In a common situation, special collections of library materials to be housed in old library buildings that are environmentally unsuited to their preservation, with wide fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity that accelerates deterioration. Unwanted materials should be disposed. The final outcome of selection is to reduce the multiple copies of one edition of the document.

Review of Literature

Ranjana vohra and Aarti sharma (2011) conducted a study in Panjab University, stated that university library is simply taking preventive measures like pest control management, fixing fire extinguisher, and covering manuscripts with cloth, air condition storage to safe guard the collection from deterioration factors. Binding and digitization facilities are available in the university library. The university library has so far digitized 16% of the total collection. Lack of funds and trained personnel is a big hindrance in completing the digitization of the manuscripts.¹

Rokade (2014) stated that 97.43% libraries were not preserving pamphlets, 12% libraries were displaying general and educational pamphlets on their notice boards. It was also found that the care of pamphlets had not been taken by libraries and the percentage is zero and 2.56% libraries have preserved the educational pamphlets but they were not properly preserved with classification and Cataloguing and in the form of binding and digitized in a yearly volume. 97%

general and 11% educational types of pamphlets are being received to the libraries and figure of general type pamphlets is more than educational. Pamphlets directly attract the users ².

Causes of deterioration of library printed materials

Library materials such as books, journals etc. are mainly made of paper, Paper easily deteriorates because of its cellulose fiber content which does not exist in natural state. The physical strength of paper is dependent on the quality of cellulose fiber and their bonding.

- a) Climatic factors/Environmental factors: Light, Heat, Humidity and Moisture, Pollutants:
- b) Biological Factors: Fungi, Termites, Cockroach, Silverfish and firebrat, Bookworms, moths and other minor insects, Mud Wasps
- c) Natural Hazards: Natural calamities include floods, fire, building collapse and earthquake
- d) Chemical Factors: Sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and ozone.
- e) Human Factors: Improper and rough handling of books, improper storage, mutilation

Methods of preservation

There are various methods of eliminating insects, fungi, etc., from the library. Fungi and bookworms can be totally removed from library materials by wiping with appropriate liquid chemicals. Termites can be destroyed by gammexane powder, white arsenic powder or DDT powder. The major preservation methods are fumigation, insecticides, mass deacidification, lamination, and temperature and humidity control. .

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to examine the year wise allocation of fund towards preservation of books and its utilization in university library.

Methodology

There are twelve established universities which impart education facilities in the State of Kerala. They are University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University, Calicut University, Kannur University, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kerala Agricultural University. Fisheries University, Law University, Medical

University, and Technical University. Out of which three traditional Universities, University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University and Calicut University are selected for this study. Among these three Universities, University of Kerala alone has allocated fund for preservation purpose in its budget. The other two universities meet the preservation expenditure from miscellaneous and office expenditure fund. Hence University of Kerala alone has taken for this study.

The study is basically on analytical. A number of published and unpublished source were consulted. The official published source included university budget papers, annual reports etc, published in various years, besides a number of unpublished records cash book, acquisition Register. The study period is fifteen years from 1999-2014.

Importance of Finance

Adequate finance is vital for satisfactory working of any library, no matter how perfect the system of organization and its management, and no matter how efficient and how qualified the staffs are. For efficient and smooth functioning of library services, the library budget has to be a balanced one. As far as possible, the proportion of expenditure among reading material, staff salaries and miscellaneous items should be in the ratio of 50:40:10. In an age of rising prices and inflation, financial inflexibility leads to highly undesirable results which should be avoided. Funds play important role in improving the collection and in the maintenance of the collection.

Year-wise allocation of fund towards Preservation Expenditure in Non-Plan in the University of Kerala Library

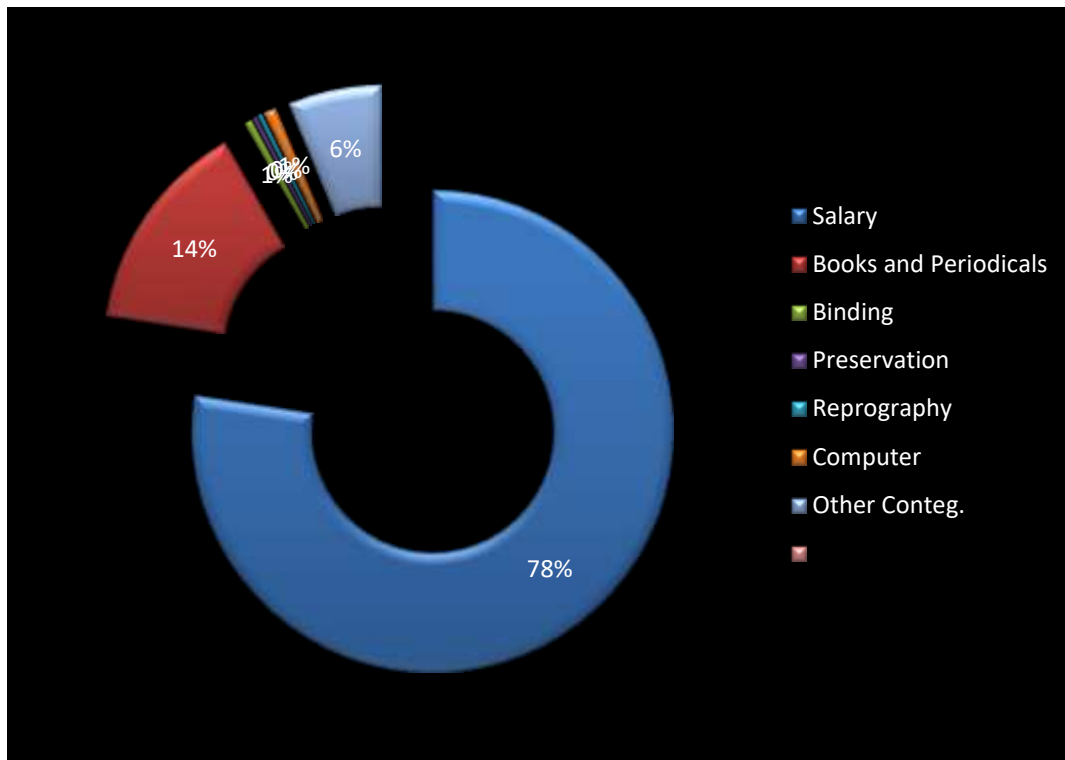
Year	University of Kerala Central Library			University of Kerala Campus Library		
	Amount	%	Total	Amount	%	Total
1999-2000	1.25	0.94	133.33	0.05	0.29	17.41
2000-2001	1.25	0.79	158.27	0.05	0.29	17.53
2001-2002	1.25	0.73	171.59	0.05	0.24	20.81
2002-2003	1.00	0.55	181.79	0.05	0.22	23.25
2003-2004	0.10	0.05	184.54	0.05	0.19	25.98
2004-2005	0.10	0.05	183.98	0.04	0.15	27.41

2005-2006	0.10	0.06	180.85	0.04	0.12	32.91
2006-2007	0.10	0.05	217.61	0.04	0.09	43.65
2007-2008	0.88	0.36	247.79	0.05	0.14	36.08
2008-2009	0.50	0.20	247.90	0.05	0.13	37.16
2009-2010	0.50	0.19	267.31	0.05	0.11	43.92
2010-2011	0.05	0.02	284.38	0.05	0.11	46.93
2011-2012	0.02	0.01	384.12	0.05	0.08	64.09
2012-2013	0.25	0.06	418.4	0.05	0.07	67.81
2013-2014	0.25	0.05	498.46	0.05	0.05	94.15
2014-2015	0.25	0.04	565.06	0.05	0.05	98.64
Average	0.49	0.26	270.34	0.05	0.15	43.61

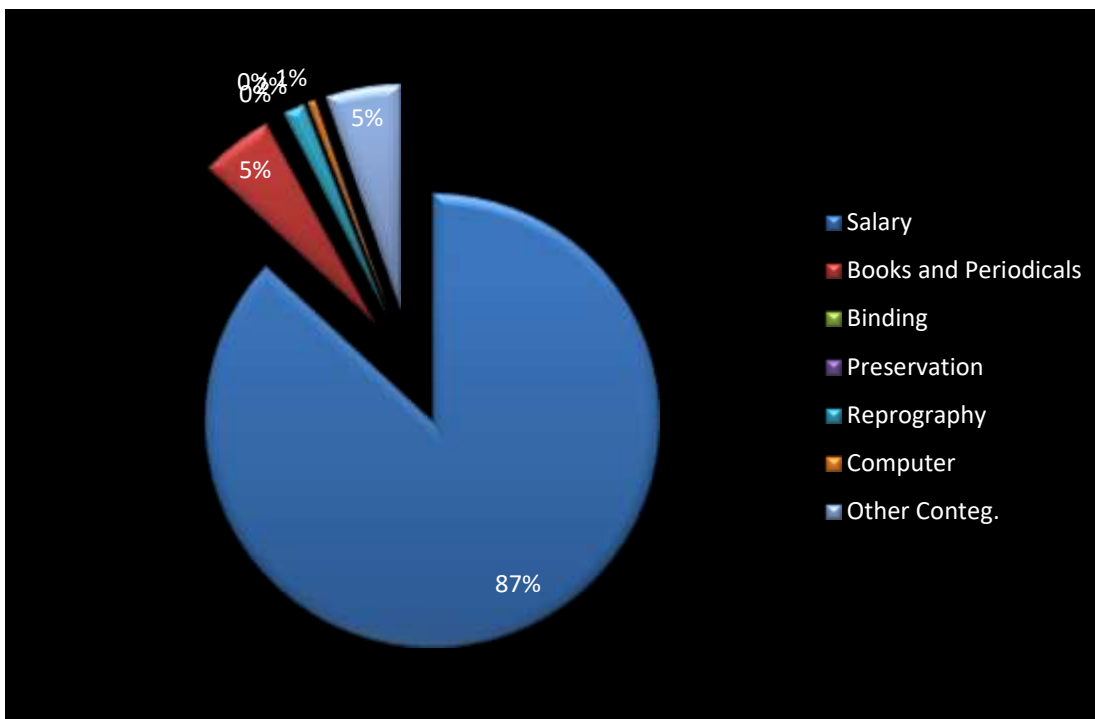
Rs. Lakhs

University of Kerala has allocated amount in all years. The highest amount of allocation was Rs.1.25 lakhs in the first three years of the study periods. Very meager amounts Rs. two thousand was allocated and its share to total allocation was 0.01% for only one year 2011-2012. The highest share of allocation was 0.94% in the year 1999-2000. From this we can conclude that university allocation towards preservation was decreasing and its share is less than 1%. The average allocation was Rs. 0.49 lakhs and share was 0.26%. In campus library majority of the study period Rs. Five thousand was allocated and its highest share was 0.29%. The average amount was Rs five thousand and its share was 0.15%. From that we can find that the total allocation of fund was increasing but the allocation towards preservation was not increasing. University authority has not given much importance to preservation.

Percentage share of Expenditure in Non-Plan of the University Library



Percentage share of Expenditure in Non-Plan of the University of Kerala Campus Library



Year-wise distribution of variance of Preservation estimate in the University of Kerala Library in Non-Plan

	Budget Estimate	Actual	Variation	%of variation
1999-2000	1.25	0.00	-1.25	-100.0
2000-2001	1.25	0.00	-1.25	-100.0
2001-2002	1.25	0.00	-1.25	-100.0
2002-2003	1.00	0.00	-1.00	-100.0
2003-2004	0.10	0.00	-0.10	-100.0
2004-2005	0.10	0.00	-0.10	-100.0
2005-2006	0.10	0.00	-0.10	-100.0
2006-2007	0.10	0.00	-0.10	-100.0
2007-2008	0.88	0.30	-0.58	-65.9

2008-2009	0.50	0.00	-0.50	-100.0
2009-2010	0.50	0.00	-0.50	-100.0
2010-2011	0.50	0.19	-0.31	-62.00
2011-2012	0.02	0.00	-0.02	-100.00
2012-2013	0.25	0.00	-0.25	-100.00
2013-2014	0.25	0.06	-0.19	-76.00
Average	0.54	0.04	-0.50	-93.59

Among fifteen years of the study period only four years alone a small amount was utilized and in the remaining period no amount was utilized. In the utilization period cello tap alone was purchased. Only 38% of the amount was utilized in 2010-2011. The average utilization was rupees four thousand only. University will instruct the library to utilize all allocated amount. The University Librarian should take necessary steps to utilize all amounts. University libraries should have a preservation section on the pattern of the preservation wing of the National Library of India, which has three major divisions viz preservation division, Laboratory division and Reprography division. The Preservation section in a university library should monitor the preservation activities like fumigation, spraying, restoration of damaged volumes etc. The libraries should arrange for in-service training in preservation techniques for their personnel from National Archives of India or from the State Archives.

Conclusion

Preservation is an essential part of library's activities. It is a process which needs to be undertaken with special attention to financial implications, legal issues and the necessity to transmit what is acquired from the past to the future. The concept of preservation is now gradually becoming a central issue in modern librarianship and preventive conservation plays a key role in preserving the documentary heritage for posterity. Users of the library may also be given guidance on careful handling of books. Posters may be displayed to impress the importance of preservation of library materials. Every library should at least practice preventive conservation of documents. If sincere efforts are made in this field only then we can utilize the unique documents and can preserve them for the future generations. Present day libraries are

mostly Hybrid Libraries which contains both print and electronic documents, to safeguard these valuable and multi type materials, it is highly essential to install an Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm System in any library or in archives which ultimately safeguards the Nation's heritage and wealth.

Reference

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