Legislature Library of Maharashtra State

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Abstract: - *The paper describes the Legislature library, one of the oldest, richest and largest libraries, managing wide ranges of information e.g. Acts & Bills, Proceedings, Gazettes, Rare books, LT papers, Old News Paper, Debates, Report etc. There is hardly any library other than Legislature library handling all kinds and variety of information resources. This makes the management and functioning of legislative library unique. The Legislature library has 'Research and Reference' services for members of assembly have gradually developed into what is now referred to as the library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information service more familiar. The Legislature library is under the control of Government of Maharashtra. This easily offers information to the various users of different fields such as government officers, administrative staffs, MLAs, ex –MLAs etc. The optimum use of Legislature library is instrumental in making the members of assembly and overall function of the assembly very effective.*
Keywords: Maharashtra, Legislature Library, Assembly, Users, Services, Publications,

Introduction

India is a sovereign, socialistic, secular democratic country. The democracy largely depends upon the proper functioning of Parliament and state Legislatures of the country. India, since its independence, has been functioning properly through Parliament and State Legislature. The Legislature is the supreme law making and deliberative institution of the State under the Parliamentary system of Democratic Government. A wide range of subjects, issues, and problems embracing almost all spheres of regional and state level activities come up for discussion before legislature from time to time. Members of Legislature are expected to be abreast with most of these issues in order to make an effective contribution to the deliberations of the House.

In order to cater to the information needs of the members, it is imperative that members should have access not only to a well-equipped library but also get at any time factual information and

data on socio-economic problems, scientific and technological advancement and information regarding regional, state and national political developments etc.

History of State Legislative Assembly Libraries

State Legislative Assembly Libraries and Councils are as old as the establishment of the Parliament library in the year 1921 in India. In India, most of the State Councils were established in the year 1926, with a view to fulfilling the provision of the Montfort Reform of 1919. After the establishment of the said council in various States, its members demanded the establishment of the Legislative libraries in their respective Sates to be used exclusively by the members of the said council. Accordingly, Legislative libraries were established in various States, having Legislative Council during the period from 1919 to 1952.

Review of Literature

Research by Santa Deke (2012) in her thesis titled "The Working and Functioning of The Assam Legislative Assembly Library and Its Use and Impact on Legislator and Administrators: A Critical Study" studied the functioning of the Assam Legislative library and its use and administration. The researcher conducted the study related to the functioning of Legislative libraries and studied about collection and services offered by the library. He also studied parliament library of the India and explained the differences and some guidelines for the state Legislature libraries and the services provided by the

Legislature library, user study of the library (Sanatan, 2012)

The book 'Library Organization, Administration and Management: Leading Library Managers' reflected the needs of Library Manager and Administrator. It also presented an insight of Librarians' job descriptions and highlights all the aspect of librarianship. Library managers can utilize this book while making essential decisions in their respective organizations and for the purpose of enriching the image of libraries collectively (Khan, 2012)

Kumari (2004) analysed the organization, administration, and utilization of DRDO libraries endeavours to highlight the variation in the procedures adopted by the different DRDO libraries and identify the strengths and weaknesses in their organizational setup and administrative machinery (Kumari, 2004)

In the present paper, Kaushil explored tools as an effective method for a library to improve its effectiveness and improvement in its day to day working and quality of services to the user. He argued that this concept encourages employee participation, promotes teamwork and motivates them to contribute towards overall effectiveness of library activities through small group activities (Kaushil, 2016).

A study by Jimith investigated the effective library services on the promotion of good

governance**.** The study recommended that increase in funding, recruitment of qualified personnel was considered as the panacea for libraries to play their roles in providing relevant information to policy makers, political office holders and those charged with positions of leadership (Jimith, 2015)

In this research, Matadeen (2013) examined the current situation of libraries in India and identifying the problems and difficulties being faced by them and suggests means and ways by which an effective library cooperation and users services may solve these problems. This research made some practical recommendation emphasizing the need for library cooperation programs and proposing a model for an effective resource sharing network among technical institutes in India (Matadeen, 2013)

Uniqueness of Legislature Library

The Legislature library is one of the oldest, richest and largest libraries, managing a wide range of information e.g. Acts & Bills, Proceedings, Gazettes, Rare books, LT papers, news, debates, Report etc. There is hardly any library other than Legislature library handling all kinds and variety of information resources. This makes the management and functioning of legislative library unique. Therefore there is a need to study the overall library management, administration, information management, services, and users in this library. This will give an opportunity to explore all the library practices, type of software, archiving and overall information management.

Maharashtra Legislature library

The Maharashtra Legislature library is one of the oldest Libraries, established on 18th March 1922.During the year 1919, according to the law, Mumbai's first elected legislature came into existence and it was provided to the legislature members to overcome the problems that were upcoming during the establishment of the law. It is one of the largest, richest and best reference repositories in the state of Maharashtra which caters to the needs and requirements of the Honourable Members of Legislature by supplying them all available sources of information like Books, Reports, Debates, Newspaper clippings, articles published in periodicals etc. to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively.

Efforts are continuously being made by Legislature library to satisfy all the information needs of the members of both the Houses of Legislature– Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. The library has already fulfilled the Parliamentary requirements of the members of both the Houses as well as staff of the Legislature to the maximum possible extent and also within shortest possible time as any delay would hamper the functioning of the House.

Library Functioning

The principal functions of the Legislature library are acquisition, processing, presentation and issuing of books and other related published

material received from day to day in the library and to fulfil the parliamentary requirements of the members of both the houses as well as staff of the Legislature to the maximum possible extent and also within shortest possible time as any delay would hamper the functioning of the House.

Library Sections

The Legislature library is divided into three sections, mostly into Books and Reference Section, Reports and Record Section and Newspaper and Periodical Section. Namely,

1) **Books and Reference Section**

    This section looks after the buying of new books, placing order of books, making lists about the books according to their various subject, making availability of the books easily, adding information about the books in the library software, keeping records about the books properly, maintain the record of circulation, to provide Members "No Objection Certificates" and to update the meeting of the library committee from time to time. This section also looks after the reports regarding the library and provides information and collects information about the library to private as well as government institutes. The honourable chairperson and the honourable members of the assembly are provided with information whenever needed.

2) **Reports and Record Section**

This section preserves and allows access to reports and records from 1937 to till date about Maharashtra Legislature Assembly and Maharashtra Legislative council. Also maintains the record of LokSabha and Rajya Sabha from 1950. Gazettes of State Government from 1923 and National government from 1937 are available in this section. History of British Parliament form year 1016 and Hansard Debates from 1803 are available in this library. This section Library has preserves various type of record by subject and accessible. There are debates of the Maharashtra Legislature Assembly, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha since 1862 onwards. Supreme Court and High Court cases are well-maintain in the library. Committee Reports of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Maharashtra Legislative Council, LokSabha & Rajya Sabha are available in this section. Separate Gandhian section is also maintained so as to make available all the work by and on Mahatma Gandhi at one place. It also conserves speech of Governances, Assembly discussion reports, Annual Budget, Speeches of assembly members.

3) **Newspaper and Periodical Section**

Legislature library has maintains various newspapers and periodicals. All these periodicals and newspapers are preserved and indexed into various subjects. Given below is the list of 42 mentioned subjects-

1. Administration
2. Home
3. Crimes
4. Politics
5. Elections
6. Constitution
7. Local Self Government
8. Foreign Policy
9. Defence
10. Agriculture
11. Food
12. Civil Supply
13. Animal Husbandry
14. Irrigation
15. Electricity
16. Judiciary
17. Law
18. Parliamentary
19. Economy
20. Planning and Development
21. Industries
22. Labour
23. Commerce
24. Price
25. Co-operation
26. Urban Development
27. Rural Problems
28. Education
29. Language
30. Science
31. Population
32. Social Welfare
33. Health
34. History
35. Arts and Culture
36. Forests
37. Bio Graphics
38. Religion and Customs
39. Transport
40. Natural Calamities and Accidents
41. Miscellaneous
   Book Reviews

Computerisation

It was introduced with a view to usefully utilise the existing space in the Legislature library and also to make available non-partisan, objective, reliable, information and authoritative data and also to render quick and qualitative reference service on a continuous and regular basis to legislator & staff of the Legislature. Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat took full technical advice and support from C-DAC Pune. C-DAC has developed four different in-house application software for automation of Maharashtra Legislature library services.

   a) MIS(Members Information System)
This software is designed to keep track of all the required personal information related to all current and former Members of Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.

b) DIS (Debates Information System)

This software is designed to prepare database of indexes to debates of both the houses in first phase and in nest phase to scan and sore full images of pages of the debates of both the houses respectively to locate and search the discussions previously occurred in both the houses.

c) AMS (Acts Management System)

This software is being designed to prepare database and to find information about Private Members Bills & Government Bills discussed in both the houses. With the help of database prepared through this software, the history and status of any Bill/ Act can be traced immediately.

d) NCIS (Newspapers Clippings Information System)

This software is designed to scan and classify newspapers clippings into various subjects' folders.

Lib-sys Software:

Apart from the above four in-house application software, for day to day library management functions such as acquisition, procession, issue and return of books and for indexing of articles published in periodicals etc. standard commercial Library software 'Libsys-ver' is also in use.

Publications:

1. List of selected articles and Digest of Articles (Bi – Monthly)

This publication has two parts. The first part consists of a list of articles selected from various periodicals received in the Library.

The second part consists of digest of a few articles selected mainly with a view to helping the members in their parliamentary work.

2. Who's Who of the members' publication

The library brings out publication during the tenure of each Assembly wherein bio-data of each member along with photograph id given in concise form. Similar publication in respect of Members of the Council is also brought out periodically.

3. List of Books added to the Library

This publication used to be distributed hither to Members twice a year at the time of every Session. However it is proposed to issue this publication before the 10th of every month.

4. Maharashtra Assembly Journal

The Journal contains articles on Parliamentary, Legal and Constitutional topics. The Journal also contains Issues, Legal and Constitutional News, Selected Literature on Parliamentary and Allied Topics and Review of the work done by the Maharashtra Legislature with Statistical Data.

Users

The Legislature library is under the control of Government of Maharashtra. This easily offers information to the various users of different fields such as government officers, administrative staffs, MLAs, ex – MLAs etc. The needs of Parliaments for information to making new law, approval of taxation and expenditure, generally in the context of the national budget, oversight of executive action, policy and personnel, ratification of

treaties and monitoring of treaty bodies, debating issue of national and international moment, hearing and redressing grievances, approving constitutional change, etc.

Services

The service that is generally required to be given in such a Library is that of an information dissemination type. SDI (Selective dissemination information), Reference service, therefore, deserves special attention. The queries from the Members and the Legislature Secretariat are required to be attended to immediately. The Library also renders reference service to various Legislature Committees. The Legislature library has provided various types of services like press clippings, Statistical Information, Biographical Notes on Important Bills, indexes, Code, and Bills, laminating and Binding, Condolatory references, translation, and information packs on specific topics, research studies on specific topics public opinion polls comment son bills expert opinions background papers on specific topics reports on policy issues discussed in parliament etc. The library deals with the subject of Condolatory reference to be made in both the houses. The Library thus endeavours to help members and other special readers to the maximum possible extent.

Summary:

There is hardly any library other than Legislature library handling all kinds and variety of information resources Acts & Bills, Proceedings, Gazettes, Rare books, LT papers, news, debates,

Report etc. Many renowned members of assembly has utilised the collection of Legislature library to prepare studied speeches, which has created their own impression. All the records from 1937 are computerised and available on a single click. The Legislature library is the real treasure of many precious and rare books. The optimum use of Legislature library is instrumental in making the members of assembly and overall function of the assembly very effective.

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