RESOURCES AND SERVICES AT LIBRARIES OF INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD

* Ata-ur-Rahman

Abstract

The research is designed to study the development of library facilities at International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) from 1980 to 2011. Undoubtedly a library is a hall mark of any academic institution. Hence IIU has endeavored to establish a library rather than libraries of high standard. Major objectives of the study are: to examine the historical development of IIUI library resources; to find out the available physical and technical resources at IIUI Library to suggest to some workable recommendations for the improvement of IIUI Library.

The material used for the study is accession registers of IIU library; thesis register; membership register; I.T. files' lists and budget guide line books of IIUI Central Library.

The study is based on the findings that progressive changes have been brought in the development of Central Library of IIUI. The number of books, thesis, periodicals students' membership, computer facilities and budget has been increased gradually during this period.

The main function of an academic Library is to meet and fulfill the academic services for the researchers, faculty members and for the students. The Central Library of IIUI has been improving its services time to time to achieve excellence in the provision and promotion of information services through quality information resources that meets the research, teaching and learning needs of the university's academic and research community. Furthermore, the Digital Library databases and other services have been improved in terms of accessibility. The readers of this article will find that how the development phases are covered and how this ideal Library is developed with the passage of time. This library is a good model for the newly established libraries also. This article covers the areas in which the development is being done in terms of services.

Definitions of Library:

"Libraries that are provided through public funding, for public use and the public good, public library make use of material in printed, audio visual and electronic format in order to collect, preserve, organize, retrieve, disseminate and communicate information, ideas and the creative product of human imagination" (International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science, 2003) [1]

A library provided wholly or partially from funds, and the use of which is not restricted to any class of person in community but is freely available to all.

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* Librarian Central Library, International Islamic University, Islamabad.

The Quran and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) prompted mankind to learn. First verse of the Holy Quran guides us "Read in the name of our Lord who created". (Al- Quran) [2]

Knowledge has religious connotations in Islam. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) encouraged learning on both genders muslim men and women.

The muslims fulfill the desire of their God and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by attending mosques. A lot of madaris were opened for muslims for learning in the early days of Islam.

University Library and its functions:

University Library is located in the main campus of the university to disseminate information, store information for benefit of researchers, faculty members and general public who want to quench their thirst of knowledge. [3]

University library conserves the knowledge and ideas which are an integral part of the university libraries. The purpose is to hold its collections in trust for future generations.

It supports teaching & research activities through primary as well as secondary sources; it will maintain permanent collections and attempt to provide access to all necessary material. It preserves university community publications and grey materials.

It enlarges the services with the development of information technology.

Library also plays a role as interpreting agent of research work for the faculty and the students.

M. A. Gelfand mentions that university Library should be: [4]

1.   A dynamic tool of education and helpful in university community capacity building.

2.   Must have a collection of material that support curriculum and also a good representation of subjects which are not in the curriculum.

3.   Must have a strong collection of general and specialized bibliographies.

4.   Facilitate the easy access to the contents of the library.

5.   Fully informed about students, faculty members about its library.

6.   Conduct orientation programs for guiding students in the use of library.

DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN PAKISTAN

The history of the university libraries in Pakistan goes back to more than a century when Punjab University was established by special Act of Incorporation by the Government of India in 1882. In fact this was the fourth university established in the subcontinent after Bombay, Calcutta and Madras which were established in 1857. This remained the only University up to 1947 when Sindh University was established in April 14, 1947 at Karachi but shifted to Hyderabad in 1951[5].

 After independence on 14th August 1947 Pakistan found herself without many essentials for her existence and further development. In the field of libraries started only with the University Library at Punjab which was established in 1908(university founded in 1882). Thereafter, no university was established until 1961, when two professional universities, the Agricultural University (Faisalabad) and the University of Engineering and Technology (Lahore) came into being as a result of the

conversion of the existing agriculture and engineering colleges, respectively. When Islamabad became the country's new capital, a need for a new university was also felt. A little different in character from the existing ones, the University of Islamabad (now known as Quaid-e-Azam University) made its appearance in the mid-1960s, primarily with the purpose of postgraduate education in sciences and social sciences.

It was the time there was no serious efforts were seen for the development of university libraries due to different problems that Pakistan felt, i.e. unplanned expansion in higher education facilities; introduction of semester system; democratization of university administration; politicization of university campuses; declining budgetary allocation and ever rising inflation; and above all the outflow of library manpower to oil-rich countries of Middle East and Africa.' Under such unfavorable conditions, it was difficult, if not impossible, to maintain even the status quo let alone plan for progress and development in library services at the universities. All in all, a climate of stagnation and decline developed in this branch of librarianship. However, it was gratifying to note a change in the attitude of our educational agencies, especially University Grants Commission [renamed Higher Education Commission (HEC)], during the closing years of 1970s.

Positive moves in development of university libraries in Pakistan was started in the decade of 1980 - 90 when a national workshop for university librarians was held in 1980; setting up of a Standing Committee on University Libraries (1980); and launching of an in-service training program, in cooperation with the British Council, for academic library staff' It is also understood that a report for development of university libraries was prepared by Prof D. J. Foskett of London University in mid-1980 at the initiative of the Commission. These efforts notwithstanding the existing university libraries did not show sign of improvement. Instead, there was a decline in academic libraries throughout the country.

Another achievement in development of university libraries is the provision of National Digital Library (NDL) program launched in 2003[6]. Through this programme, nearly all Pakistani University libraries have access to high class peer-reviewed journals, databases, books and articles in a variety of disciplines. HEC Today the National Digital Library is accessible by approximately 400 institutions. HEC provide access to 5000 electronic journals with complete text in addition to 30,000 abstracts of different journals [7].

HEC has also launched the Pakistan Research Repository (PRR). This initiative has been taken to digitize and make available online every Ph.D. and M. Phil. theses, produced in Pakistani universities. At this time more than 4748 research full text theses available on his website.

Pakistan has now 132 HEC recognized universities in public and private sector. Lot of development has been done in this decade with the explosion of Information technology. [8-9].

International Islamic University, Islamabad
An Introduction

The foundation of the International Islamic University, Islamabad was laid on the first day of the fifteenth century Hijrah i.e. Muharram 1, 1401 (November 11,1980).

This landmark of the beginning of the new Century symbolizes the aspirations and hopes of the Muslim Ummah for an Islamic renaissance.

Islamic Research Institute and few other units like Iqbal International Institute for Research & Dialogue, Dawah Academy, Shariah Academy and Institute of Professional Development are situated within the premises of majestic Faisal Mosque (spread over an area of 189,705 square meters) which is a symbol of International Islamic brotherhood and unity. In conformance with the Islamic precepts, the university provides academic services to men and women through separate campuses for each segment. These campuses, along with the Central library, administrative wing and hostels, are located in sector H-10 also called New Campus.

BRIEF HISTORY OF IIUI LIBRAIES

1. **Central Library:**

    International Islamic University Islamabad has 09 Faculties and 38 Departments. University contains around 8000 students. Current membership of students is about 6702. Central Library has the quality to accommodate all this strength of students in its premises at the same time. Both genders use the Library building separately. These sections are divided in Main Library and Reserve Section. Alternate days are dedicated for both genders. (Monday, Wednesday, Friday for Female students and Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday are for male students in the Main Library)

    The Central Library of International Islamic University Islamabad is located in Sector H-10, Islamabad. Library shifted to the new building in July 2006, which consists of two floors covering the area of 50,000 square feet. Reference, Reserve, Thesis, Lincoln Corner, Circulation desk and office of the chief librarian are located on the ground floor, whereas general collection, newspapers and periodicals' section Book Bank and I.T. Section (containing I.T. Lab and Video Conferencing Room) are on the first floor of the Library.

2. **Dawah Library**

    The Da'wah library has been developed in a period of less than two decades from a zero level to a level, where it is now capable of adequately supporting the research, training and publications programmes of the academy. It not only maintains a reasonable size of textbooks in the field of Da'wah but also most of the related fields are represented in its present stock.

    Da'wah Academy is responsible for publication of Da'wah-oriented literature. The Publication Committee of the Academy determines the priorities and specific topics on which new literature is to be produced.

    The Section is responsible for publication of reports, journals, reprinting of selected books, and creation of new literature. It also responds to requests received from educational institutions and other Da'wah organizations for donation of books. Books and booklets, published by the PD are distributed inside and outside Pakistan for Da'wah purposes. During the past years the Academy published over one thousand books and booklets in 24 languages including the children literature.

    A marvelous achievement of this section is the publication of the translation of the

Holy Qur'an in ten languages namely English, Urdu, Persian, Tajik, Azeri, German, Albanian, Burmese, Sindhi and Chinese.

Books published by Da'wah Academy have earned popularity nationwide as well as globally. The Publication Department earns, on average, Rs. 4 million annually from the sales of its books. Books of almost equal value are provided to libraries and institutions free of cost.

3. Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah Library (IRI)

The library of the Islamic Research Institute was established in 1959, with the ambition to develop a comprehensive collection on Islam and the Muslims in the major languages of the World. The library was started at Karachi with a donated collection of 2500 books from Maulana Abdul Aziz Mayman. Since then the Institute has been making untiring efforts to collect reading material on each field of Islamic Studies. The library, which was named after the renowned scholar Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah in 1986, is unique in many respects. It possesses original source material in Arabic, Persian and Urdu, besides a large number of important works by Muslim and non-Muslim scholars in English, French, German, Italian, Greek, Spanish, Russian and other major languages. In terms of selection of books and its stock of essential and rare works it is the best library on Islam in Pakistan. It is a research Library and used by researchers.

IRI Publishes following journals:

1. **The** Islamic Studies   (English)
2. Al-Dirassat Al-Islamiyyah   (Arabic)
3. Fikr-o-Nazar   (Urdu)
4. Akhbar-i-Tahqiq   (Urdu)

4. Shariah Academy Library

The Shariah Academy Library was established in 17th October, 1981, following the promulgation of Islamic University Ordinance of 01 Muharram 1401 A.H. i.e. 10th November, 1980, and was later elevated as an Academy after the conferment of international status upon the Islamic University in 1985.

This library is basically a Reference Library who promotes the Islamic legal Philosophy and orientation in Islamic Law including the Islamic concept of justice through the training of judges, attorneys, prosecutor, legal professional etc.

One of the main objectives of the Shari'ah Academy is to promote Islamic legal philosophy and Islamic concept of justice, through production of Islamic legal literature and make it accessible to the members of judicial service. Keeping this objective in view an independent Research & Publication Section was established in the Academy. This section is responsible for carrying out research and translation work and to produce Shari'ah related material.

The Research and Publication Section has so far published a total of 102 titles which

include books, monographs, translations and units for various correspondence courses in Islamic law.

Books

The object of the project is to produce original research works on different topics of Islamic law in order to provide reading material to the students of Shari'ah, law and other relevant disciplines and also to carry research based original books on contemporary issues of the day regarding Shariah and Law.

Monographs

The objective of this project is to produce Research oriented booklets on topics concerning Shari'ah/law in Urdu/English. The volume of each monograph is approximately 100-150 pages, consisting of average 330 words per page.

Translation

To provide the readers non familiar with Arabic which is access to the original sources of Islamic Law and to the works of Arab scholars on contemporary issues, the Academy has undertaken its translation programme focusing on two main categories viz., Urdu translation of multi volume reference books and Urdu translation of modern publications of Arab scholars on current legal issues from Islamic perspective. Some significant books of Islamic Law were selected in this regard; some of which have already been completed and published, where as work on others is in progress.

Units for the Correspondence Courses

This project is meant to prepare the reading material for the participants of Islamic Law Correspondence Courses. Presently the Academy runs two courses of this series with 24 Units for each course which were prepared and published. Many editions of each series have appeared so far.

Reprinting

To continue facilitating its readers the section keeps on reprinting its productions.

5. National Seerah Library

In 1999 government of Pakistan decided to embark upon the ambitious plan of setting up a National Seerah Library and Study Centre. The task was entrusted to the IRI. A special grant of the value of Rs.18.461 million was provided to fulfill the requirements of this project. The choice of the Institute to host this library is an expression of confidence in IRI. This fills the Institute with an added sense of responsibility to establish a facility that will adequately meet the needs of both advanced scholars and general readers. Books, manuscripts and significant publications in major languages on Sirah and related subjects are being acquired. Almost 6500 books have been acquired so far. The task is being carried out with great zeal and responsibility.

Resources' Details:

Collection Development of IIUI Libraries

Collection development is a universal process in the library whereby the library staff brings together variety of materials to meet the patrons demand. The following table provides the details of collection development of IIUI libraries.

Name of Library	Books	Theses	Periodicals	Newspapers
Central Library	2,05,900	8,350	40	11
Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah Library	1,00,806	NIL	800	07
Dawah Academy Library	26,637	NIL	21	03
Shariah Academy	9,000	NIL	8	02

Islamic Resources Collection Details

Name of Library	Percentage	No. of Islamic collection
Central Library	50 %	1.10,000
Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah Library	80 %	90,000
Dawah Academy Library	85 %	20,000
Shariah Academy	85 %	7,000

E- Theses and E-Periodicals

To increase visibility of research originating of research scholars and archive them for a long time, Institutions now a days maintain digital archive of research produce by the research scholars, published and unpublished materials for the benefit of community. The following table shows that IIUI libraries have how and which type of material preserve in digital format for the community of IIUI.

Name of Library	E-theses	E-Periodicals
Central Library	1600	NIL

Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah Library	NIL	Available through Greenstone software with in IRI premises only
Dawah Academy Library	NIL	NIL
Shariah Academy	NIL	NIL

Computers and HEC digital library Databases

The thirst of knowledge is increasing day by day as such reader's demands quick information. With the help of computers. Libraries meet the demands of information needs. The following table provides the details of digital library resources.

Name of Library	No. of computers	HEC data bases
Central Library	200	24
Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah Library	150 (Approx)	16
Dawah Academy Library	05	Nil
Shariah Academy	01	Nil

Resources available Online:
The Online resources of Digital Library have following description:

S.N	Resources available Online: Digital Library H.E.C	Available Articles/Book Chapters	Available Resources Online: E-Library U.S.A
1	Faculty of Arabic (Linguistics Literature Translation and Interpretation) (FA)	236698	281875
2	Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences (Computer Science & Software Engineering)	1994767	121873
3	Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences (Mathematics)	1436228	443964
4	Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences (Enviornmental Science)	21421	65849
5	Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences (Statistics)	2434956	2611936
6	Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences (Physics)	2790125	820413
7	Faculty of Engineering & Technology (Electronics Engineering)	727046	2896
8	Faculty of Engineering & Technology (Mechanical Engineering)	675492	482
9	Faculty of Engineering & Technology (Technology)	3940158	23877
10	Faculty of Islamic Studies Ussuluddin : (Aqeedah)	359892	58
11	Faculty of Islamic Studies Ussuluddin : (Hadith & its Sicence)	11650	5684
12	Faculty of Islamic Studies Ussuluddin : (Comparative Religion)	272550	34923

13	Faculty of Islamic Studies Ussuluddin : (Tafseer)	1207	158
14	Faculty of Islamic Studies Ussuluddin : (Qurannic Studies)	4705	171
15	Faculty of Islamic Studies Ussuluddin : (Seerah)	61	120
16	Faculty of Islamic Studies Ussuluddin : (Islamic History)	116142	106655
17	Faculty of Islamic Studies Ussuluddin : (Dawah and Islamic Culture)	130619	77402
18	Faculty of Language & Literature (English Langauge)	681525	85952
19	Faculty of Language & Literature (Persian)	151809	231199
20	Faculty of Language & Literature (Urdu)	17675	35159
21	Faculty of Management Science (Business Administration)	969574	2344128
22	Faculty of Management Science (Technology Management)	902576	3762187
23	Faculty of Shariah and Law (Shariah)	2226	16006
24	Faculty of Shariah and Law (Shariah and Law)	1837	8017
25	Faculty of Social Sciences (Media)	154806	118286
26	Faculty of Social Sciences (Media & Communication)	154806	118286
27	Faculty of Social Sciences (Education)	3002546	5072498
28	Faculty of Social Sciences (History)	1626283	5657805

29	Faculty of Social Sciences (Pakistan Studies)	139493	67245
30	Faculty of Social Sciences (Islamic Arts & Architecture)	331408	1137326
31	Faculty of Social Sciences (Sociology)	804277	187050
32	Faculty of Social Sciences (Psychology)	1261610	557124
33	Faculty of Social Sciences (Politics & International Relations)	1261610	557124
34	International Institute of Islamic Economics	44038	17422
35	Bioinformatics and Bio Technology	191226	102102
	TOTALS:	**26,853,042**	**24,673,252**

www.iiu.edu.pk/ digital library [10]

Reading Environment & Seating Capacity

Comfortable environment is generally contributed in bettering the library needs. The following table describes the condition of library environment and seating capacity.

Name of Library	No. of Seats
Central Library	400
Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah Library	100
Dawah Academy Library	31
Shariah Academy	20

Reprographic Services:

In the age of digital era without Photocopying, Scanning and Printing facilities libraries are failed to achieving their desire goals. The following table indicates that How many Photocopying, Scanning and Printing machine available for library users in IIUI libraries.

OPAC (Online-public access catalogue):

OPAC means on-line public access catalogue, which can check in the library. OPAC searches books through author, title, subject or key words etc. In IIUI library maintains both OPAC and card catalogue manually. The catalogue is maintained in three languages (Arabic, Urdu and English). The provision to search material through author, title and subject, key word is there. One of the librarians talked about OPAC.

"OPAC is a bridge between the students and a book. A catalogue is the key to the library without catalogue; we cannot access the resources of the library. Therefore OPAC is the key when the users search through   the OPAC. It tells either the books are available or not. It is the basic facility of the library to know what is available in library. This facility has been launched.

Conclusions:

On the basis of findings the following conclusions are made:

1) In 1980 total number of books was 1240 and till the end of 2008 the total number of books in Library increased to 113273.

2) In 1991 total number of theses was 375 and till the end of 2008 the total number of theses in library increased to 5168.

3) In 1980 total number of periodicals was 231 and till the end of 2008 the total number of periodicals in library increased to 1457.

4) In 1993 total membership of male students was 1628 and till the end of 2008 the total membership of male students was 14361.

5) In 1991 total membership of female students was 124 and till the end of 2008 the total membership of female students was 9798.

6) During the years 2000-2001 total budget was Rs. 2.699 million and till the end of 2008 the total budget increased to Rs. 62.273 million.

7) In 2006 the number of computers was 8 and till the end of 2008 the number of computers increased to 98.

8) In 2006 the number of servers was I and till the end of 2008 the number of printers increased to 16.

9) The number of servers in the university libraries is more than five.

10) In 2007 the number of scanner was I and till the end of 2008 the number of scanners was 3.

Recommendations:

On the basis of statistical analysis following recommendations are drawn.

1. IIUI libraries are completely disconnected in resource sharing process. Some bold steps should be taken in the resource sharing.

2. HEC digital library databases are not in all the Libraries of IIUI. The access of these databases should be expanded in all the libraries.

3. All libraries must have an integrated OPAC. In this way a wide range of researchers will be entertained.

4. I.T. resources should be improved and acceded in the terms of scanning and printing photocopies facilities in all IIUI Libraries.

5. Librarians need information literacy and 'audio visual usage' workshops to improve the capacity building of their readers in libraries.

6. The Indexing of resources present in the Periodical Section must be initiated. The pattern of I.R.I Library, *(IIUI)* for Indexing may be followed.

7. There is a need to adopt a uniform policy regarding the purchase of new books with reference to their numbers in addition to new requirements.

8. Numbers of volumes of books should be increased in order to facilitate the students.

9. The numbers of periodicals are not enough, therefore it is suggested that the number of periodicals should be increased at IIUI library accordingly.

10. The provision of budget is not in consonance with the present requirements for further improvement of the central and its constituent libraries to update them.

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