

Electronic Resources and Academic Libraries

Editors

- Rev.Dr.D.Thomas Alexander S.J.,
○ Dr.T.Raja ○ Dr.K.Murugan ○ Dr.S.Dhanavandan



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Library: Resource of Teaching Biological Science

Daniel, Y (Dr.)

Assistant Professor, St. Xavier's College of Education, (Autonomous), Palayamkottai – 627 002.

E-mail: drdaniel1979@yahoo.com & danilecturersxce@gmail.com

Mobile: 98655 30409 & 90927 28685

Abstract

A library can be considered a store – house of knowledge. In dictionaries the word "library" has been defined as "a building or room containing a collection of books". A library renders a great service to the society. Biology, which is the study of life, is essential to human society because it gives an understanding of how life is formed and how it works, changes and responds to environmental influences. It influences human health, reproduction, quality of life, nutrition and almost every aspect of human's everyday life. An efficient biological science teacher should include a number of co-curricular activities such as science clubs, science fairs and visits to places of scientific interest in the curriculum. This will supplement the classroom teaching and widens the knowledge of the students. There are different resources for teaching biological science. This paper deals with library is one of the resources of teaching biological science.

Keywords: Library, Information Sources and Biological Science

Introduction

"The library is the temple of learning and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history".

Books are a treasure for a lifetime. They are our lifelong friends. Books widen our knowledge, they are a source of inspiration and develop positive healthy attitudes. They help in proper utility of leisure. A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space, or both. A library's collection can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, e-books, audiobooks, databases and other formats. A library is a collection of books on various subjects. A private library belongs to an individual. A public library is meant for the use of all people who pay subscription to it and are enrolled as members. There are also free public libraries. A private library reflects the taste or the personal likes and dislikes of its owner. Here books are selected according to the owner's judgment and requirements. Hence it usually has a bias in favor of some particular subject or subjects.

Objectives of a Biological Science Library

- To encourage the students to acquire scientific knowledge as well as general knowledge.
- To help the students acquire good reading and self learning skills.
- To improve their critical thinking skills.
- To supplement the knowledge of classroom learning.
- To train the students to obtain extensive information on the topics in their curriculum.
- To teach the students proper utility of their leisure time.

The Biology Library Collection

School libraries are similar to public libraries in that they contain books, films, recorded sound, periodicals and digital media. These items are not only for education but also for enjoyment, and entertainment of the all members of the school community enhancing and expanding the school's curriculum. The brief categories are: textbooks, inspirational books, background books, reference books, experimental books, general books, science magazines, journals, periodicals, and newsletter.

Functions of a Biological Science Library

The Biological science library should reflect the objectives of the school, through, the nature of collection of the books and the services it provides. It should be the focal point of the school setup. The library should provide individualized learning opportunities to the students. It should help in the development of important skills like reading, thinking and self-learning skills.

The important functions

- To develop the reading habits in the students.
- To cooperate and complement the learning of the teachers and the students and supplement the classroom knowledge.
- To avoid adequate facilities for proper usage of leisure time by students and teachers.
- To help the teachers in updating their knowledge.
- The store the books and other reading materials in an easily accessible and convenient way for use by the students and teachers.
- To reduce the chances of indiscipline in the school.

Why Libraries are Necessary?

Libraries are a necessity for all people who boast of some culture. It is impossible for anyone to purchase all the books that are published. In a library we can select the subject in which we are interested. A good library also purchases books selected or recommended by the readers. Hence membership of a library gives one the opportunity of becoming familiar with a large number and variety of books.

The Importance of a Library

A library plays a very important role in promoting the progress of knowledge. There are many people who love reading. But they can't afford to buy books because the prices of books are very high. So when one becomes a member of a library, he can borrow valuable books. A member can borrow two books at a time and he can keep it with him for two weeks. Libraries are particularly useful for poor children. Even those who are better off can't afford to buy all the books they require for their studies. For instance, invaluable books like Encyclopedias and large dictionaries cannot be purchased. Students are greatly benefited by the library because:

- ✓ They read more and develop a greater potential for success.
- ✓ They develop the reading skills, which increase their knowledge of the complex world of information.
- ✓ The needs and interests of students are catered to by the access to the library.
- ✓ Their learning improves when the library resources are integrated with classroom curriculum.
- ✓ They utilize their leisure in a proper manner by visiting the library and developing their knowledge.

Traditional library

A public library is a place that is open to poor and rich alike. There are mainly two sections in a library. They are the lending section and the reference section. Any member can borrow books from the lending section. Nonmembers too can use the reference section. They are allowed to enter the section free of charge. They can take down notes from the books. In addition to these two sections, there is another section in a library. Here any one can do his or her studies under a calm and quiet environment. This section is called "The study room". Some students find it very difficult to do their studies at their homes due to various reasons. This section is particularly useful for such students.

A library is very useful for rural youths too. If they take to reading they will be able to refrain from evil habits such as loitering and gambling. There are not only books, but also newspapers, magazines, periodicals and government gazette in a library.

Digital Library

A digital library is a special library with a focused collection of digital objects that can include text, visual material, audio material, video material, stored as electronic media formats (as opposed to print, microform, or other media), along with means for organizing, storing, and retrieving the files and media contained in the library collection. Digital libraries can vary immensely in size and scope, and can be maintained by individuals, organizations, or affiliated with established physical library buildings or institutions, or with academic institutions. The digital content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks. An electronic library is a type of information retrieval system.

Advantages of Digital Libraries

The advantages of digital libraries as a means of easily and rapidly accessing books, archives and images of various types are now widely recognized by commercial interests and public bodies alike.

Traditional libraries are limited by storage space; digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little physical space to contain it. As such, the cost of maintaining a digital library can be much lower than that of a traditional library. A physical library must spend large sums of money paying for staff, book maintenance, rent, and additional books. Digital libraries may reduce or, in some instances, do away with these fees. Both types of library require cataloging input to allow users to locate and retrieve material. Digital libraries may be more willing to adopt innovations in technology providing users with improvements in electronic and audio book technology as well as presenting new forms of communication such as wikis and blogs; conventional libraries may consider that providing online access to their OPAC catalog is sufficient. An important advantage to digital conversion is increased accessibility to users. They also increase availability to individuals who may not be traditional patrons of a library, due to geographic location or organizational affiliation.

No Physical Boundary: The user of a digital library need not to go to the library physically; people from all over the world can gain access to the same information, as long as an Internet connection is available.

Round the Clock Availability: A major advantage of digital libraries is that people can gain access 24/7 to the information.

Multiple Accesses: The same resources can be used simultaneously by a number of institutions and patrons. This may not be the case for copyrighted material: a library may have a license for "lending out" only one copy at a time; this is achieved with a system of digital rights management where a resource can become inaccessible after expiration of the lending period or after the lender chooses to make it inaccessible (equivalent to returning the resource).

Information Retrieval: The user is able to use any search term (word, phrase, title, name and subject) to search the entire collection. Digital libraries can provide very user-friendly interfaces, giving clickable access to its resources.

Preservation and Conservation: Digitization is not a long-term preservation solution for physical collections, but does succeed in providing access copies for materials that would otherwise fall to degradation from repeated use. Digitized collections and born-digital objects pose many preservation and conservation concerns that analog materials do not. Please see the following "Problems" section of this page for examples.

Space: Whereas traditional libraries are limited by storage space, digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little physical space to contain them and media storage technologies are more affordable than ever before.

Added Value: Certain characteristics of objects, primarily the quality of images, may be improved. Digitization can enhance legibility and remove visible flaws such as stains and discoloration.

Conclusion

Resources are very much need for effective classroom instruction in a school. They not only facilitate teaching-learning process but also help in achieving instructional objectives. Instructional resources may include any material, person and organized experience or the environment within which instruction takes place. There are mainly three types of resources for education. (i) Human resources viz., students, teachers, supervisors, supporting staff and others involved in the system of education. (ii) Material or physical resources like buildings, land, equipment, furniture and so on. (iii) Financial or fiscal resources viz., funds available for education. For bringing about all round development of education in the country, all these resources should be properly distributed and utilized.

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Rev. Dr. D. Thomas Alexander S.J., Principal

Rev. Dr. D. Thomas Alexander S.J., currently working as principal of St. Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous) has sixteen years of experience as teacher educator. Earlier he has served as the Director of Alumni Association of SXCE, Director of Fr. Utarid Library and Director of Jesuit Council for Educational Research and Training before assuming the present position. He has also served as member of NAAC, University and Government inspection committees. He is instrumental in making SXCE as autonomous and the Second Best College of Education at the All India Level at Grade 'A' with 3.67 score out of 4. He has published more than 50 articles / papers as author / Co-author and he also edited monographs for 10 seminars. He was the Convener of many UGC sponsored Seminars and Workshops. He has been the most sought after Resource person for Seminars / Youth related Workshops / Camps / University Refresher Courses. His areas of interests are: Moulding the prospective youth / teachers in commitment, compassion and competence (as a different / unique teacher), personality development programme and Social Analysis.



Dr. T. Raja, Librarian, SXCE & Secretary, SALIS TVL Chapter

Dr. T. Raja has completed BLIS, MLIS from Annamalai University, M.Phil from Alagappa University and Ph.D from Bharathiyar University. He has also cleared the SET from Bharathiyar University. He has published 5 articles in reputed journals and 15 papers in the conference proceedings. He has attended 54 national and international conferences, seminars and workshops. He has also served as a resource person in the public library training programmes and handled the classes for the B.Ed Students of at St. Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous) where he is working at present and Tamil Nadu Open University. He has been conducting NET examination coaching programmes for the last 3 years and so far 76 LIS professionals have benefited and among them, two of them cleared the NET examination. He served as a Member of Editorial Board in SALIS National Journal of Information Management and Technology and International Journal of Information Technology and Library Science (IJITLS). He was received the AUTOLIB Tamil Nadu best young librarian award from the year 2013 and also received best paper award in the SALIS National Annual Conference on 2011.



Dr. K. Murugan, Librarian, UVOCC, AU, Thoothukudi & Chairman SALIS TVL Chapter

Dr. K. Murugan holds Ph.D in the Library and Information Science from Annamalai University. Having more than 18 years of experience, he has attended 70 Conferences/Seminars/Workshops. He has published 34 Articles in International Journals/Indian Journals/Book Chapters and 41 articles in International/National Proceedings. He is a member of Editorial boards of 11 International and 2 national Journals of Library and Information Science. He is a reviewer of the International journal of the Library and Information Science and an editor of one Conference Proceedings. He has published two books. He served as resource persons in many conferences and organized many programmes. He has received SALIS Autolib Tamil Nadu Young Best Librarian Award – 2015.



Dr. S. Dhanavandan, Asst. Librarian, Gandhigram Rural University, Dindigul

Dr. S. Dhanavandan has been serving as an active LIS professional since eighteen years. He has guided many Ph.D scholars. He has published more than 100 articles in National and International Journals. He has presented and published more than 120 papers in the National and International Conferences. He has authored more than 20 books in Library and Information Science. He has contributed 25 Chapters in edited books. He has attended more than 50 Seminars/Workshops and training programmes. He served as Chairperson and resource person in many workshops and conferences. He has organized five workshops. He has received Rs.60,000/- cash award for the best article in 2015 and Rs.27,500/- cash award for the best article in 2016 from Konkuk University, South Korea. He served as Resource Person in the International Workshop at Sri Lanka. He also serves as the Editor for few Library and Information Science journals.

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