

Chapter - 4

LAW LIBRARIES: TYPES, ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

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CHAPTER - 4

LAW LIBRARIES: TYPES, ROLE AND FUNCTION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Law libraries are considered as special libraries or specialised libraries. Special Library Association (SLA) defines a special library as “an organisation that provides focused, working information to a specialised clientele on an ongoing basis to further the mission and goal of the parent company or organisation” (Seidman, 1991). Law libraries, medical libraries, theological libraries are the examples of special libraries. Law libraries deal with information sources in specific subject areas and serve restricted clientele with a rather narrow range of interests and with specific needs for particular pieces of information.

Physically a law library, like any other library, is a trinity of men, material and building (Jain H. C., 1982). Since it contains highly specialised legal materials, the law librarian also require special skills to manage (Tewari, 2008), though most of the activities of the law libraries are same, the important difference between law library and other library is the subject matter and the clientele because they have specialised requirements. (Hicks, 1926). The clientele of law libraries may be judges, practitioners, government officers, legislators, teachers, students and research scholars. The need of legal fraternity may vary from person to person. They may need different types of legal information such as judgments of the courts, statutory provisions, rules framed under any Act, object and reasons behind any Act, amendments to any law, statutory notifications, Parliamentary debates at the given time, or scholarly articles on a given topic. The scope of information may go beyond the territory of a country.

There are many law making authorities in India which have complexity in their jurisdictions. The number of separate Legislatures and separate High Courts and their Benches is increasing steadily. The number of quasi-judicial bodies, administrative tribunals and lower courts is large enough in India. All these judicial and quasi-judicial bodies are deciding vast number of cases and the judgments are available in print as well as e-format, for example, Central Information Commission delivered 67,651 reported decisions interpreting the RTI Act from the Central

Information Commission of India from 2006-2011, an average of more than 10,000 decisions per year (Greenleaf, Vivekanandan, Chung, Singh, & Mowbray, 2012). The judgments of Privy Council are still binding on High Courts except in those cases wherein the Supreme Court of India has laid down different law. (Kulshreshtha, 2011).

The basic job of the law librarian is to obtain and organise the primary, sources authorities of law, indices and other finding tools which are needed to locate authority. The law library acquires and preserves print material according to the varying needs of its users. Nowadays, the full text primary authorities of law are also available in electronic format and almost every type of law library subscribes them.

4.2 TYPES OF LAW LIBRARIES

“Law libraries may be roughly classified into these groups which are known as state libraries, county libraries, bar libraries, and private libraries” (Wheeler, 1926). This classification done long back includes most of the law libraries in America. Law school libraries and public libraries are also discussed by Wheeler in his paper. In France, law libraries are divided into four types: (1) University and Research Libraries (2) Official Libraries (3) Court Libraries and (4) Bar Association Libraries (Germain, 1979).

Mahr studied law and law libraries in India from August 1986 to February 1987 under the fellowship from the Indo-United States Sub-commission on Education and Culture. He divided law libraries into three types: academic, judicial, and research (Mahr, 1990).

- A. Academic Law Libraries include, department of law libraries, law college libraries and law university libraries.
- B. Judicial Libraries include the libraries of the Supreme Court of India, High Courts, Bar Associations (at the Supreme Court, High Courts).
- C. Research Libraries like Indian Law Institute Library.

These three types of law libraries were considered for his study; perhaps the limitations of his study might not have allowed him to include others.

“Each type of law libraries is unique, all are similar. The differences that arise among these law libraries are because of the different clientele. Each group has a

different aim and use for legal materials.” (Gruben, 2014). On the basis of different type of clientele/users, law libraries are categorized as:

Table 4.1: Types of Law Libraries

| Sl. No. | Types of Law Libraries | Clientele/Patrons/Beneficiaries |
|----------------|--|--|
| 1. | Academic Law Libraries | Law students, Research Scholars and Teachers |
| 2. | Judicial Libraries (attached to Courts) | Judges, Jurist |
| 3. | Bar Association Libraries (at different levels) | Legal Practitioners |
| 4. | Government Law Libraries (attached to Government Department) | Civil Servants and Government Officials |
| 5. | Legislative Libraries (attached to Parliament and Legislatives) | Legislators |
| 6. | Libraries of Judicial Academies & Training Institutes | Judges and Civil Servants |
| 7. | Research Libraries (attached to Research Organisations) | Researchers |
| 8. | Private Law Libraries (attached to Law Firms) | Practitioners |

The law libraries provide vital legal information to clientele/patrons and play a role in the legal process and social justice.

4.3 ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES

“Academic law library is the centre of activity for law students, academics, lawyers/attorneys, judges, members of the public and whoever else finds the need to

use them” (Dina, 2015). “The primary mission of the law school library is to meet the information needs of the faculty and students of the institution it supports. In addition to their role in educating future lawyers, law schools are the major producers of scholarly literature in law and rely on academic law libraries to provide the resources and support needed for research and publication.” (Danner, Estes, & Meadows, 2009). Academic law libraries also have mission to preserve the vast law literature for future generations. (Gruben, 2014).

Academic law library require a lot of personnel because it provides various types of services to the academic community. Academic law library has a busy reference desk, provides open access to vast collection of textbooks and reference books, journals and reports, easy access to legal databases and other e-resources. A written collection development policy helps the librarian to take decisions in expenditure of library budget in relation to support the library mission. Academic law library provides core collection of primary sources of law, indexing and finding aids, updating tools, secondary sources, treatises, and monographs to support the law school’s syllabi and to the faculty for their research and scholarship.

Differences among parent institute results differences among their libraries in terms of collection size and composition, staffing pattern and services offered. In India, academic law libraries or law school libraries may further be classified on the basis of parent institutions’ nature:

- i) National Law School/ University Libraries
- ii) Law Faculty/ Department Libraries in Universities
- iii) Law College Libraries

4.3.1 National Law School/University Libraries

National Law Schools or National Law Universities (NLUs) are established by Act passed by State Legislatures. The NLUs are established as a centre of excellence for exclusively legal education and research. These are State Government owned universities and are eligible for financial assistance from the Government of India via the UGC as soon as they get inclusion under Section 12 (B) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

Generally, in National Law Universities, the library is housed in a multi story building, qualified professional and supporting staff is appointed, and the functioning of library is properly managed by the library committee. There is no financial constraint for NLU Libraries to develop infrastructure and equip with the best facilities and resources in print and electronic format.

4.3.2 Law Faculty/Department Libraries in Universities

These types of academic libraries are attached to the Faculty of Law in Central Universities or Department of Law in State Universities particularly in old universities. These libraries may be autonomous or linked to the University Library System. The faculty libraries in Central Universities like Aligarh Muslim University, Benaras Hindu University and University of Delhi are the best in India. In case of the State Universities, the Departmental libraries of Kashmir University, Calcutta University, University of Mumbai, etc. have huge collection of legal material.

4.3.3 Law College Libraries

The number of law college libraries is bigger than other types of academic law libraries. The law college may be affiliated to a university or constituent college of the university or autonomous under the university. The college may be fully or partially funded by the State or Central Government or private college. Every law college maintains a law library attached to it to support the curricular activities of the college. The old law colleges like Government Law College, Mumbai and I.L.S. Law College, Pune have law libraries which are example of the best law college libraries in India.

4.4 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES

The primary mission of the academic law library is to meet the information needs of the students and faculties. The academic community relies on the law library for primary and secondary material required for their education and research. Beyond support for the basic functions of legal education and research, the specific mission of the academic law library vary depending on the size and the level of degree being awarded by the parent institute.

Academic law libraries are supposed to have a comprehensive collection of legislation, case laws, legal text and reference books and academic law journals. They

are also supposed to develop good collection in the subjects like economics, political science, sociology, history, legal language and other related or required subject which are part of the curriculum. There are many legal databases subscribed by the academic law libraries like AIR SC Database, AIR HC Database, SCC Online, Manupatra, LexisNexis, West Law, Hein Online, etc. Besides the legal databases access to e-books and databases for social sciences are also necessary as the law have strong relationship with other subjects specially for research scholars. If the school is offering Masters Degree or Doctor of Philosophy or some specialised courses, the library collection may include the resources of that level and scope.

The use of law school library takes two different forms – physical and virtual. According to Hazelton (2012) the students use the law library due to various reasons:

- » The convenience of the law library in relation to the classrooms
- » Comfortable seating with a variety of options, including tables, carrels, group study rooms, computer workstations, and casual seating
- » Quiet, uninterrupted space
- » Wireless Internet
- » Access to printers and photocopy machines
- » Help from library staff
- » Access to print materials on course reserve or for course assignments
- » Access to library-licensed electronic resources
- » Access to student study aids not part of the student's own collection

Basically the academic law libraries are designed and developed to assist law students, teachers, research scholars and the management of the parent institution. Therefore, the library meets the information need of the different users having specific interests.

4.4.1 Academic Support Activities

Academic law librarians are engaged in formal and informal instructions. Providing reference services, to help users with both instructional and problem solving queries, are important part of the day to day activities of the law library staff. Law librarians have expertise of legal research and scholarship and play vital role in teaching and research mission of the law school.

The students in academic institutions require textbooks, reference books, law journals, law reports and other periodicals on legal and general information. The students also need ICT environment to access internet and e-resources. All types of resources are required for preparation of assignments, project reports, dissertations/theses, moot-court competitions etc. The academic library provides services to students till the end of examinations with extended hours. The library also plays an important role in completion of funded research projects undertaken by the teaching faculty.

4.4.2 Legal Aid and Awareness

Legal Aid Clinic is an integral part of each law school as per the Bar Council of India Rules, 2008. Senior faculty member and final year students of law school run the clinic in cooperation with the Legal Aid Authorities, voluntary lawyers and other Non-Government Organisations engaged in this regard in the locality. (Bar Council of India, 2008). “Legal aid has come to comprehend not only legal presentation and assistance in litigation but also such other things as legal advice, arbitration and conciliation, creation of legal awareness and assertiveness in the masses, promotion of meaningful community participation in legal and national development and reform of law and the legal process”. (Menon, 2009). The academic law library supports the whole process of legal aid and promoting legal awareness.

4.4.3 Legal Information Literacy

“Law librarians have been at the forefront of librarianship in seeing training of library users as an integral part of their role, and providing targeted instruction and guidance for all aspects of legal research methods and skills” (Bird, 2011). “Information literacy in law schools has become a subject of great interest to law librarians” (Harker, 2013). “Interweaving legal skills and legal literacy requires close cooperation between faculty and library” (Beljaars, 2009). This is an important emerging role on the part of librarian to cope with the changing nature of the study of law, and he plays his role in teaching and research mission of the law school.

4.4.4 Administration of the Parent Institute

The management members or the administrative officials of the parent organisation consult or library staff provides them information frequently on the legal

matters related to various issues pertaining to the parent organisation or for making policies for the administration. Therefore academic law libraries play an important role in the administration of parent organisation.

4.5 JUDICIAL LIBRARIES

The judicial hierarchical set up in India consists of the Supreme Court at the apex, High Courts in each State of India which are final courts of appeal in those States. Below the High Court there are District Courts in each district. The lower courts functions under District Judge. Apart from the hierarchy of regular courts, the Constitution of India also provides provisions for Quasi Judicial Bodies, Administrative Tribunals.

4.5.1 The Supreme Court of India Library

The Supreme Court Judges Library was established in 1937 and then known as Federal Court Library. The library contains significant legal literature to support the need of the Hon'ble Judges and the Courts. It is a grid of libraries. It maintains workable collection in 15 Bench Libraries and 31 Residential Libraries. There is also a separate "Library-cum-Reading Room" for the Hon'ble Judges in the Judges Gallery.

The library contains significant library collection of 2,80,000 legal documents including Books, Bound Volumes of Journals, Committee/ Commission Reports, Bare Acts, Central and State Gazettes, Parliamentary Debates, Manuals of Central and State Acts. The library subscribes 220 Indian and Foreign legal journals, and 22 Newspapers.

The library is subscribing commercial databases like SCC Online, Manupatra, Westlaw India, AIR Infotech Database, ITR Online, Taxmann and other databases. In addition to the subscribed databases, the library also has In-house Databases and most of them are available freely on the library webpage for public.

The library is regularly bringing out many publications for Current Awareness purpose of the Hon'ble Judges:

- 1) Referencer of Reportable Judgments
- 2) Recent Judgments

- 3) Library Catalogue Supplement
- 4) Current Contents (Monthly)
- 5) Accession List (Quarterly)

The library has developed many useful in-house tools to information pinpointedly required by the Hon'ble Judges: Union Catalogue of Current Periodicals subscribed in the Supreme Court and High Court Libraries, Index to Central and each State Acts with amendments, Equivalent Citation Table, etc. (SCI, 2013), (Shrivastava, 2013).

4.5.2 High Court Libraries

The Constitution of India provides that there shall be a High Court in each state. At present, there are 24 High Courts in the country. The libraries in twenty four High Courts and their benches have collection of legal materials to meet the local needs of the particular High Court. The libraries of the oldest High Court like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras has richest and largest collection of legal materials. The High Court Libraries contain database of local laws and also subscribe online legal databases. A list of High Courts with jurisdiction and their benches is attached in Appendix – 3.

Provisions of services in High Court libraries include journal collection, reference collection, inter-library loan service, reference service, CAS, SDI, including both answers to factual question and literature researches, internet services, online full text legal database service, notification of recently published materials on specific laws, information on recent judgments and amendments of laws etc. (Khan, 2014).

4.5.3 Libraries in Quasi Judicial Bodies, Administrative Tribunals and

Lower Courts

Quasi judicial body or statutory tribunal is not a regular court but similar to the court in the sense that it is also constituted by the State under a statute. Important quasi-judicial bodies, administrative tribunals which have their jurisdiction all over India are as under:

Table 4.2: List of Quasi Judicial Bodies with their year of establishment

| Sr. No. | Name of the Quasi Judicial Bodies | Year of establishment |
|----------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | National Commission for Scheduled Castes, New Delhi | 1978 |
| 2. | National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi | 1988 |
| 3. | National Commission for Women, New Delhi | 1992 |
| 4. | National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi | 1993 |
| 5. | National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi | 1993 |
| 6. | National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi | 1993 |
| 7. | Competition Commission of India, New Delhi | 2003 |
| 8. | National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, New Delhi | 2004 |
| 9. | Central Information Commission, New Delhi | 2005 |
| 10. | National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, New Delhi | 2007 |

Various commissions have also been established in different states having their jurisdiction in their respective states:

- 1) State Commission for Minorities
- 2) State Commission for Women
- 3) State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
- 4) State Electricity Regulatory Commission
- 5) State Human Rights Commission
- 6) State Information Commission

Besides the above mentioned quasi judicial bodies, there are various types of courts, tribunals and forums having varied jurisdiction:

- 1) Appellate Tribunal for Electricity

- 2) Armed Forces Tribunal
- 3) Central Administrative Tribunal
- 4) Central Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal
- 5) District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum
- 6) District Courts (Civil, Criminal, Family, Labour etc.)
- 7) Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
- 8) Intellectual Property Appellate Tribunal
- 9) National Green Tribunal
- 10) State Sales tax Appellate Tribunal

4.6 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF JUDICIAL LIBRARIES

Judicial Libraries play very crucial role in the administration of justice. Judicial libraries serve the judges of the court and court officers to which the library is attached. Judicial libraries are part of judicial system infrastructure, established and funded by the State or Central Government. The court libraries vary considerably in their provisions. The size and collections of judicial libraries vary on the basis of jurisdiction of its parent court. Judicial libraries serve Judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts, quasi judicial bodies and administrative tribunals at different level. The basic collection includes Acts, statutes, commentaries, reports of the decisions of the Supreme Court and High Courts and other reference materials. The libraries have access to legal databases like AIR SC, AIR HCs, Manupatra, SCCOnline etc. Many of the library staff in judicial libraries has law degree with degree in library and information science.

4.7 BAR ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES

The Bar Associations at different levels (National, State, Regional, District level) have established libraries for their members. These libraries are very essential for the practicing lawyers but the staff in these libraries is not competent enough to provide legal research and reference service. Majority the High Court Bar Association Libraries in India do not have professional staff. (Khan, 2014).

Examples of Bar Associations: Supreme Court Bar Association, All India Bar Association, Indian National Bar Association, Advocates' Association of Western India, Bombay Bar Association, etc.

4.8 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF BAR ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES

Bar Association Libraries cater to their member lawyers, providing a working collection for their requirements. These libraries are financed by the parent bar associations and major decisions including book purchases are usually made by the library committee under the bar association. The core collection of these libraries is based on legal material from its home state including published decisions and rules of the respective courts.

Nowadays these libraries are subscribing some of the online legal databases and provide print-outs of the cases to the clientele on payment basis. Bar Association libraries at old High Courts as Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Allahabad and Delhi are better in terms of their collection especially old collection.

4.9 GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES

The law libraries established by the Central or State Government to support the day-to-day activities of officers under various department of the Government. These libraries have limited and specific collection and limited users.

4.9.1 Ministry of Law and Justice Library

Ministry of Law and Justice have Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department. The Department of Legal Affairs is concerned with advising other Ministries while Legislative Department is involved in drafting of principal legislations.

The Ministry of Law and Justice Library has a good central library which provides books, journals and other research material to support the day-to-day activities of the ministry and its department. The clientele of the library are limited to the officers of this Ministry and related department of the Government. The library was established in 1832 and has a collection of more than 70,000 documents. (Bhatt, 1995). It has a special collection of government reports. The library also provides access to the following databases (Ministry of Law and Justice, 2014):

- AIR SC Reference (CD ROM)
- AIR Criminal Law Journal (CD ROM)
- AIR High Courts (CD ROM)

- Grand Jurix (SC, HC, Tribunal)
- Manupatra.com Online (IP) Services
- SCC Online case finder
- SCC Online Web (IP) Services.
- Westlaw India Online (IP) Services.

4.9.2 Law Commission of India Library (<http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in>)

Law Commissions were constituted by the Government from time to time and were empowered to recommend legislative reforms with a view to clarify, consolidate and codify particular branches of law where the Government felt the necessity for it. The first such Commission was established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833 under the Chairmanship of Lord Macaulay which recommended codification of the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and a few other matters. After independence, the Law Commission of India was established in 1955 by an executive order. The commission consists of judges and lawyers, who are expert in the field law and judiciary with impartial minds. (Law Commission of India, 2015)

“The function of the law commission is to study the existing laws, suggest amendments to the same if necessary, and to make recommendations for enacting new laws. The recommendations for amendment of the existing laws are made by the commission either *suo motu* or on the request of the government.” (Srivastava, 2008)

Presently, the twentieth Law Commission is in existence. The Law Commission in India has brought out 262 scholarly reports to date on various legal aspects. The full text for each report is available on the commission’s website. The Law Commission Library maintains a collection of more than 30,000 documents and library services are restricted to the members of the commission only. Its special collection includes of reports and documents from similar law commission of other countries.

4.10 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES

The Government Law Libraries are basically established to run day to day business smoothly of the parent department. The collection of these libraries is related to the functions of the department and the scope may go beyond the Indian publications. The Government Officers engaged in drafting of new laws, amendment

of existing laws, preparing rules, regulations, guidelines and reports are the potential users in these kinds of libraries.

4.11 LEGISLATIVE LIBRARIES

These types of libraries are attached to the Parliament and the State Assemblies. The collections of these libraries include the subjects other than law also. But the core collection is based on the law making process. The libraries are really good and served by the qualified staff.

4.11.1 Parliament Library (<http://164.100.47.134/plibrary/Home.htm>)

Parliament Library, one of the richest repositories of books in India, was established in the year 1921 to assist members of the Indian Legislature. This is the largest library in Delhi and second largest library in India after the National Library. As the main Library of Parliament is primarily meant for the use of members of the two Houses.

The library collection include about 1.38 million volumes of books, reports, governmental publications, U.N. Reports, debates, Gazettes and other documents, including periodicals, newspapers and publications as on date (31st May 2015) brought by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Out of the total collection of the library holdings, Books constitute a major portion. At present library have about 12,80,016 books acquired from the entire field of human activity relating to almost all subjects with special emphasis on legislative requirements of members of Parliament the only exception being books on advanced technical, pure science and light fiction. Parliament Library presently acquires 419 journals which include 310 in English, and 77 in Hindi and 32 journals in various regional languages. It also receives 85 newspapers consisting of 28 newspapers in English, 18 in Hindi and 39 in various regional languages. The Unit maintains a proper record of its holding with periodic weeding out and binding of journals/newspapers for permanent retention.

Apart from books and periodicals, Parliament Library has a huge collection of Reports. At present about 1,35,191 reports of Central Government and 71,249 reports of State Governments besides more than 47,433 reports of UN and about 49,535

reports of other foreign organisations. The Acts and Bills Section preserves and maintains the record of all the Central Government and State Governments Acts and Ordinances, Government and Private Members' Bills, Central and State Governments Rules, Joint Select Committee Reports, Constitution of India, Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules) 1961, Foreign Acts, etc. The Section also carries out corrections in Central Acts, Constitution of India and Allocation of Business Rules, as amended from time to time, so as to keep them up-to-date and handy for reference purpose. The copies of the Reports of the Joint/Select Committee (constituted from time to time to review bills) as presented to the Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha available since 1921, and the volumes of India Code published by the Ministry of Law and Justice are also maintained in the Section.

The copies of all the Central Acts since 1836 are preserved. The updated copies of Central Acts and Ordinances promulgated by the President of India, received from the Ministry of Law and Justice are also maintained. The Copies of the State Governments' Acts and Ordinances are also preserved. The Rules, Regulations and Notifications of the Government of India Laid on the Table of House under the Central Acts are collected from the Table Office of the Secretariat and arranged in chronological order to facilitate their prompt and timely supply according to Act number/year wise in Black Card Folders.

The Gazettes and Debates Section maintains the collection of the Abstracts of Proceedings of the Council of Governor General of India, Proceedings of Indian Legislative Council, and debates of the Legislative Assembly, Council of States, Constituent Assembly (Legislative), Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislatures and selected foreign Parliaments and indices of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha debates for reference and research by Members of Parliament and their PSs/PAs, Officers of both the secretariats of Parliament, media persons, research scholars and others engaged in the working of the Parliamentary Institutions. The section also maintains the original verbatim reporting of the proceedings of the Lok Sabha and synopsis of the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, resumes of work done by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Bulletin Part I and Part II of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and bound volumes of Papers laid on the Tables of both the Houses.

The Section also maintains Gazettes notified by the Government of India, State Governments and Union Territories as received from time to time. These are maintained in the form of bound volumes in order to cater to the demands of Members of Parliament and other users. (Lok Sabha Secretariat, 2015).

4.11.2 State Legislative Assembly Libraries

There are 29 states and 7 Union Territories in India, each state and Delhi (U.T.) have their assemblies. Each assembly has a good library served by the qualified library staff. The core collection of these libraries is based on local laws and the law making process. These libraries also have books on other subjects.

4.12 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF LEGISLATIVE LIBRARIES

Legislative Libraries work mainly for Members of the Legislature, who work under great pressure, and who both use and create information. For this reason they need adequate information support. (Cuninghame, 2009). Legislative library is the base for Legislative Information Systems infrastructure. Besides the general information services to the members, the legislative libraries also give research services and support in publication, preservation and archiving the history of the house.

4.13 LIBRARIES OF THE JUDICIAL ACADEMIES & TRAINING INSTITUTES

The Law Commission of India, in its 117th Report, recommended training of all judges of the subordinate judiciary. (Law Commission of India, 1987). The Supreme Court of India in its judgment in the case of All India Judges' Association vs. Union of India (2002)¹ had directed creation of Judicial Academies in all States for continuous training of subordinate court judges. National Judicial Academy is focusing on strengthening the skills and knowledge of the members of the higher judiciary, the state academies are primarily focusing on imparting training to members of subordinate judicial service.

4.13.1 National Judicial Academy Library, Bhopal (<http://www.nja.nic.in/>)

National Judicial Academy (NJA) was established in 1993 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It is fully funded by the Government of India and the Hon'ble

¹ All India Judges' Association vs. Union of India, MANU/SC/1411/2002

Chief Justice of India is the Chairman of the General Body. The NJA is widely acknowledged to be the best judicial education campus in the world. The NJA has established a national system for judicial education which is guided by the National Judicial Educational Strategy (NJES). Judicial education at NJA brings together judges from across the country to provide them a forum to jointly identify the major obstacles facing the administration of justice and develop appropriate solutions for overcome these obstacles. (NJA, 2007).

The library of National Judicial Academy is world class law library in terms of infrastructure and resources related to the judiciary and law. It has excellent collection of national and international publications. It provides online accessibility to Manupatra, eJurix, EPW, West Law India, & JSTOR. It also maintains a collection of five thousand resource materials of the previously held programmes for ready reference. (NJA, 2007).

4.13.2 State Judicial Academy Libraries

Every State Judicial Academy maintains a good library. A list of State Judicial Academies with the year of their establishment is attached in Appendix – 4.

4.14 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LIBRARIES OF JUDICIAL ACADEMIES & TRAINING INSTITUTES

Basically judicial academies are training institutes to enhance the quality, attitude, skills and knowledge of Judicial Officers and training on administrative aspects of the justice dispensation system. The judicial academies are the centres for training of newlyappointed judicial officers and for continuing judicial education on emerging laws. The libraries support these all these activities by providing their services. The collection of these libraries is not limited to reference books, printed journal and reports but also subscribe various International legal databases. Generally, the librarians appointed in judicial academies have a degree in law or experience of working in law libraries.

4.15 RESEARCH LIBRARIES

“A few legal, educational, and social science institutions engaged in legal research have research libraries in law” (Mahr, 1990). These research institutes also conduct diploma courses in specialised field of law. In order to support their

educational activities and research, they have developed and modernized their libraries. The libraries of these institutions support the educational and research activities of these institutes in order to accomplish the mission of the parent institute. The aims and objectives of some of the important institutes are described below:

4.15.1 Indian Law Institute Library, New Delhi (www.ili.ac.in)

The Institute came into existence in 1956 primarily with the objective of promoting and conducting legal research. It is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The general objectives of the Institute are to cultivate and promote advanced studies and research in law and allied fields so as to meet the social and economic needs of the Indian society, to improve and impart legal education, and to publish legal literature. (ILI, 2013).

The present major activities of the institute are (Jain S. N., 2006):

- 1) Undertaking research studies;
- 2) Producing legal treatises and teaching materials;
- 3) Organizing lecture, seminars, conferences, workshops/panel discussions, symposia;
- 4) Publication of a quarterly journal – the Journal of Indian Law Institute (JILI);
- 5) Arranging an annual survey of the Indian law;
- 6) Bringing out an index to Indian legal literature;
- 7) Running post-graduate degree and diploma courses;

The Institute's Library is one of the best libraries in the country, one of the leading law libraries in Asia and attracts scholars from all over the World for legal research. The library contains around 79,000 volumes. It receives a large number of current legal periodicals including serial publications. The library has been recognized as a place for legal research leading to doctorate degree in law and political science by the UGC. Researchers from different parts of the world, Judiciary members, Central and State Government officers, various Embassies and High Commissions in Delhi have been using the referral services of the library. (ILI, 2013).

The ILI has set up a Legal Information Resource Centre which includes databases like AIR Infotech, SCC Online, Law Premium, West Law, Lexis-Nexis,

Hein Online, JSTOR, Planning Commission Reports, and Law Commission Reports etc. The digital version of ILI publications and rare documents is available at Digital Library (<http://www.elearningilidelhi.org/ILIWEB/>) free of cost. Digitized Material available on the website includes Journal of the Indian Law Institute, Annual survey of Indian Law, Index to Indian Legal Periodicals, Commission and committee reports, Indian Law Institute Publications, Rare documents, Federal Court Reports, Indian Law Reports - Calcutta and Madras from 1876 to 1940. The digitization of Ph.D thesis submitted to ILI has also been completed. (ILI, 2015).

4.15.2 Indian Society of International Law Library, New Delhi (<http://www.isil-aca.org/>)

The Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) was established in 1959. This institution is dedicated for promotion and research of international law. During the period of more than half century, the institute has gained repute al International level. The basic objectives of the ISIL are to promote study and research of international law and publish scholarly literature in the form of journals, treatises and other teaching material. (ISIL, 2003)

The ISIL library has approximately 25,000 books and bound volumes of journals. The library subscribes more than one hundred national and international journals on international law and allied subjects. The reference collection includes reference books like encyclopedias, dictionaries, legal lexicons and indices. The library also has important primary authorities e.g. reports of the International Court of Justice, reports of International Law Commission and documents of the United Nations. The library provides various information services to its members and researchers. (ISIL, 2003).

4.15.3 The Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies Library, **New Delhi (<http://icpsindia.org/>)**

The Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) was inaugurated on December 10, 1965 in the Central Hall of the Parliament House. ICPS is a unique institution in India for the research and study of Constitutional Law and Parliamentary Affairs. It is a common platform for Parliamentarians, Academics,

Practitioners and Researchers. The principal objectives of the institute are (ICPS, 2010) :

- 1) To promote and provide for Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies.
- 2) To undertake Comparative Studies.
- 3) Publication of monographs, books, research papers on development
- 4) To serve as an amalgam of an advanced research.

The library collection includes 30,000 documents consisting of books, journals and reports. The publication of ICPS includes over 100 books (English - 80, Hindi- 20), on a wide range of subjects. Some popular publications are:

- » Election and Electoral Reforms in India
- » Federal and Financial Relation in India
- » Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Amendments
- » Indian Political Parties
- » Law and Poverty, Cases and Materials
- » Parliament and Administration in India
- » Parliamentary Committees in India
- » Role of Private Members in Parliament
- » Social Justice and Law
- » The Union and States

4.16 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

The main function of the Research Libraries is to acquire and maintain the research material published within India and abroad. They provide service to the researcher within and outside of the institute. These libraries provide specialised services to the researcher and also publish products like indexing and abstracting periodicals. The Indian Law Institute Library publishes “Index to India Legal Periodicals”, which is indispensable searching tool for the researchers. The library staff also support in publication of journals, monographs, books and other materials.

4.17 PRIVATE LAW LIBRARIES

Private law libraries are those maintained by large corporations, partnerships, and individuals (Wheeler, 1926). Law Firm Libraries and LPO Libraries come under this category. The law firm libraries have a core collection of the primary and secondary materials in the jurisdiction in which the firm practices and electronic legal databases in the concerned field are preferred due to physical space.

Providing legal advice is the motto of legal professionals. “Many attorneys carry on their vocation through profit seeking business structures, namely, law firms” (Azzolini, 2013). The library serves to the lawyers and supporting the lawyers staff associated with law firm or LPO. “The library’s space and the needs of the attorneys dictate the size of the collection. Many large firms have a main library and satellite libraries in other branches of the firm worldwide” (Wertkin, 2014).

The personal collection of law luminaries can also be considered as a good personal library of law under this category. Generally these kinds of collection include the reference books related to the interest of the person and set of law reports. It is observed that after the death of the concern person, these kinds of collection becomes the part of any academic law library because it gets in donation.

4.18 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF PRIVATE LAW LIBRARIES

“Librarians in law firms have many of the same tasks as academic librarians, especially in terms of assisting patrons in retrieving information. But firm libraries move at a different speed.” (Wertkin, 2014). “Librarians apply their skills of collecting and organizing externally produced information in internally created information and build knowledge management system” (Danner, Estes, & Meadows, 2009). The in-house database may contain all the documents produced by the attorneys at the firm, such as pleadings, an agreement for a purchase or sale of a company, a copy of license for a client.

Law firm libraries use ICT to provide access to information available at different locations. Current Awareness Service is preferably in electronic format as e-newsletter, e-zines, e-mail, RSS feeds etc. “Right information to the right users at the right time” is the motto of these libraries. The work of a law firm librarian is time bound because the clients of the firm work in multiple time zones around the globe.

SUMMARY:

“In civil legal system, legislature makes law, executes law and interprets law, so do the executive, administrative and judicial departments of the Government. All three wings act unitedly to give effect to the policy of the Government.” (Tripathi & Tripathi, 2013). Law libraries are integral part of all these wings, and play very important role in day to day activities of these law enforcing institutions and hence in maintaining rule of law in the society and justice delivery system as well.

Law being an information rich subject, which grows exponentially, it is very difficult for lawyers to practice without referring authentic and up-to-date law resources. “Lawyers/students dip in the law libraries and rise with legal solutions. In other words, law libraries have functioned as magic wand for all troubled and tussled.” (Patil, 2015). The law libraries provide solution on finger tips with the help of applications of information technology. In academic sector libraries are considered the “mind” of the parent institute. All the teaching and research activities evolve around the academic library.

Law libraries are specialised by subject but the nature of its users, their requirements and the purpose to use the library differ from one type of law library to another and it depends on the parent institution.

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