

---

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



**ROLE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES WITH INTRODUCTION OF SEMESTER PATTERN BY  
THE GOA UNIVERSITY: SOME OBSERVATIONS**

**Anjali M. Bhide**

**Librarian , S.S. Dempo College of Commerce & Economics ,  
Altinho – Panaji**

**ABSTRACT:**

Academic libraries play crucial role in supporting academic programs of the respective institutions. Library has to make constant efforts to cope with any changes in the educational set up. This paper has focused on the changing role of college libraries in Goa with the introduction of Semester pattern for all the academic courses of the affiliated colleges. This pattern has introduced many new subjects and papers. Also more stress is given in continuous assessment of the student with the help of attendance, assignments, projects, presentations etc. along with term end exams. These changes has affected the existing work environment, collection and the services of the libraries. An account of these changes are considered with introduction of some new services for the readers with the help of information technology and various communication channels.

**KEYWORDS:** Academic libraries , assignments, projects, presentations.

**INTRODUCTION**

Education is essential for keeping space with the changing environment in the society. It is a remedy for different problems in the society. In Goa, Goa University is the only university in the state that offers undergraduate courses in various subjects in the higher education program through affiliated colleges.

The word globalization has become a buzzword in all fields. The doors have been opened for the foreign universities to venture their educational programs in the country. The traditional undergraduate courses offered by the university needed transformation in all respect with due attention to the quality aspect. The accreditation process initiated by the NAAC (UGC) has also resulted in encouraging the institutions in the quality drive.

On this background Goa University adopted semester pattern for its undergraduate courses from the year 2007-08.with following objectives:

- To bring the undergraduate curriculum on par with the model curriculum recommended by the University Grants Commission

- 
- To impart quality education to make it internationally comparable
  - To offer new relevant and need based courses
  - To inculcate in students responsibility and self discipline in the learning process.
  - To enable students to acquire specific skills in keeping with their area of study.
  - To make evaluation process continuous and more objective.

In the ordinance, guidelines are outlined for the whole process of learning that includes syllabus, books, examinations, marks, number of students in the class, teacher's workload etc. New subjects are introduced and also in the existing papers syllabus is changed. Similarly evaluation is done on the basis of performance in Intra-Semester Assessment (ISA) and Semester End Examination (SEE). The ISA is conducted throughout a given semester. Different modes like classroom quiz, presentations/seminars, assignments, objective/written tests etc are conducted.

**Assessment pattern:** This system has given weight for the self study through assignments, presentations etc. College students in general are not familiar with library atmosphere. College life is for enjoyment where they forget that the most valuable time to gain knowledge and develop a personality where they can have basic ingredient for shaping one's life towards the correct path. But many times these students are not serious about their studies. It is only at the last moment preparations are done. Another fact is that the readers generally are not matured enough to understand the library environment. Till this time they have not used library for their self study independently. But on the contrary they are ready to experience thrill of college life. Naturally need arises to orient them to the library which becomes a very tough job. Practically every time at every step orientation is needed. Student's compliance/feedback becomes deciding factor.

The college library acts as a support system for the entire college for its teaching and learning process. On the background of changes made in the course pattern of the university library has to revive its present working pattern on the campus. All the above changes collectively have increased workload in the library. Students are compelled to use additional references in each subject. For many subjects prescribed text books are out of print or not available. In such cases students has to rely on reference material. The library has to acquire prescribed text and reference books plus additional books on the subject. New editions are published often for complete coverage of the subject. Library does not come in picture at all while introducing any changes in the educational pattern as regards to its functioning. But in practice library has to redesign and renovate its functioning style to suit the needs of the users. The staff pattern followed in the college libraries in Goa includes librarian as a only qualified staff and has to work with untrained staff in insufficient number. The librarian alone has to cope with any changes in the requirements and behavior of the students' everyday while managing administrative and professional duties.

**Readers psychology:** Students are the first one to exploit and experiment latest technologies. They belong to 'techno savvy' community. They always like to try and experience new things

---

and keep pace with latest technical developments where everything is believed to be available on a button click. They do not appreciate the traditional methods like searching card catalogues or copying old question papers in the reading hall. Immediate compliance with complete product is expected from the library in the easiest way.

**Faculty members:** Faculty members are engaged in different activities besides teaching. Research and publications has become an integral part for shaping their carrier. The impact of the globalization together with the developments in communication technology has brought continuous changes in almost all the subjects. The availability and the speed of access to latest developments are crucial to make one's research a 'real' research. They have their own ways to manage with the required information from the internet and through their own networks.

### **Redesigning LIBRARY SERVICES**

Various basic services offered by any kind of library are circulation, reference, bibliographic service etc. But the nature and scope of these services vary with the type of library, its clientele and their information needs and demand. Library is organized and services are produced to satisfy the requirements of its users.

In Academic library structure college libraries are set up to cater to the educational needs of its user community which in turn depend upon the course curriculum and syllabus offered by the institution, examinations and tests held for completing the course. For new semester pattern libraries can introduce new services to fill the gap between information needs and its availability on the campus.

**Strengthening existing collection:** It should be a regular practice to browse through the catalogues, reviews and news items from the media to update the library collection. A list of useful titles can be submitted to the recommending body for obtaining necessary approval. Justification can be supported by the requests, queries and searches received/made by the readers.

In addition to prescribed books, other related titles on the subject also supplements teaching and learning process in the academic field. Librarian receives information about the new publications through catalogues, newsletters etc. or the personal visit of book sellers and publishers. Now all leading publication houses reach their consumers through various modes like websites. Also special websites like amazon.com facilitates online purchases. Publication alert through e-mail to individual teacher and follow up action can be very useful for collecting recommendations. This data proves to be effective for acquiring reading material especially when funds come like windfall from funding agencies like UGC etc. Book exhibitions in the city are the best source to find new titles on varied topic as the presence of books itself makes a difference. Librarian can become a navigator between the consumer and the producer. Subscription of new journals/magazines is necessary with the introduction of new subjects/topics and revised syllabus there is a need for subscribing new journals.

---

**Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities:** Many extracurricular events are organized by various colleges and institutions to explore the latent talent of the students, example, quiz, debates, drama, elocution, poetry, essays, posters, wall papers etc. Such activities are promoted by clubs and other wings like NSS and clubs in the college. To support such activities library should strengthen its collection with addition of various books and other resources like videos, CDs etc.

Along with this other related activities are also undertaken which are categorized as extra-curricular and co-curricular activities giving opportunity to explore latent talent resulting in personality development of the student. Besides this many events and programs are organized not only by other institutions in the field but also by various organizations, medias etc for the college students. In addition there are various other platforms offered for youths. In Goa there are many such events organized by the government, social and literary organizations especially for the youths where students have their role to play. Example is Students parliament competition by Goa Legislative Assembly, Konkani utsov, annual happenings of the colleges etc.

**Orientation & Help guide:** It is just out of reach for the library to procure/subscribe to all required information resources. But certainly maximum utilization of available resources can be made possible through various channels like information alert service, interaction, publicity in the newsletter, website etc. Students generally are not attentive during orientation program arranged for them and later require special attention at the time of searching of the material in the library. Online Library guide in lecture form or presentation with photos, demo etc. will be great help to all to orient users explaining various sections of the library and tips for using services effectively. Help guide displayed in the stack room shall help the users when they get lost amidst the library collection, confused with topics and non-matching titles is possible with help guide displayed in the stack section. Guidance in using index, glossaries, bibliographies etc from the books and journals is a helpful throughout the life.

**Journal and magazine Guide:** A tutorial explaining various titles subscribed by the institute, their scope and coverage of contents, availability of back issues, about the database of table of contents etc. should be available to all.

**Syllabus guide:** Semester wise list of all subject offered by the institute, list of prescribed text books and reference books available in the library. Further topic wise references of related books with bibliographic details will be useful to all which will save time in asking queries and getting the things from the library staff by the users. Such material will encourage self study culture among the students. This can be done with consultation of respective subject teachers. Other than this, highlights of any other special books should be brought to their notice. Constant updating of this list with the new titles will be more effective service.

**Students' participation:** Students are the major consumer of the library resources. But they are not involved in the recommendation process followed to purchase reading material. Students express their requirements by way of interaction with library staff, discussions and

---

conversations among their own groups, their comments, queries and requests. Participative approach in collection enrichment process always encourages use of the library by its users. Students should be able to send their demand or requisition for required resource for addition in the library. For this process library needs to have procurement policy in place for entertaining any requests from the readers. Cognizance taken will certainly give a feeling of 'belongingness' among the students.

**Projects:** Third year students have to take project for the year in group. Total marks are 100. Project submission, field work forms and viva forms the part of the paper. Usually at the last year students for the first time steps in the research field and they need guidance. Many of them are likely to see library for the first time and get surprised about the collection or library set up. But students hardly approach librarian for such guidance. They are reluctant to come forward and express their requirements on the topic beyond the syllabus.

Many a times required information is not available in the library as the topic is very small or regional or case studies are chosen as per the guidance of the faculty. Topics of the projects are finalized at the beginning of the semester. Collection of these topics for acquiring required titles is necessary so that resources are available on time for the students. Library should buy related books in advance. Needful inputs can be obtained from the teachers and the students. No specific books are identified for these topics. Some books may not be useful but library collections will see qualitative growth in the collection. At the same time library can make bibliography for each topic of the available material needed to be updated from time to time and can be preserved as an important source of reference. Database of project topics of all colleges will be helpful in selection of topics and avoiding repetition. A project manual on the library website with examples of bibliography etc. will be helpful. A tutorial/ lecture on how to go ahead with the project, selection of topics etc on the library site.

Library should develop local information section in which newspaper clippings, magazines, publications etc of local importance is maintained to serve project needs.

**Skill development:** Newspapers and other media are offering platform for students' participation through special supplement (page/column), competitions, special broadcast program etc. Press notes are released by the college of various programs held. Also T.V. channels give wide coverage. These clippings acts as a source of college news and photos. Weekly reporting of college activities finds special space on the page dedicated for the campus news. Students can make translation of original news of the college in Konkani and Marathi language which again gives opportunity to develop language skill. Library can have display of college news and the names of the reporters to encourage them.

Exhibition of resources on various skills like public speaking, communication, interview preparation etc can be organized for the students. At the same time various competitions like essay, poetry, poster, book review etc encourages students to use library material and enhance their extracurricular skills.

---

**Institutional membership:** Membership of various institutions and organizations established in the state should be taken by the library which shall help in getting their publications, reports and bulletins regularly which is important source of information for the readers. Many a times such material forms primary source of information for the project. It also enables members to know and participate in their activities like talks, workshops, seminars etc.

**Publicity:** Wide publicity to various library services and resources is a need of an hour. Subscription of e-journals, and databases, online free resources and any new product developed by the library should get due attention from the users. Orientation, signage, exhibitions, special displays, lectures, assignments, website, blog and such communication channels can be used for this purpose.

**Feedback from the readers:** Library can design a feedback module for the users to know their satisfaction level. This can be done through a systematic survey by way of distribution of questionnaire or asking for online feedback. Suggestion box/corner can be made available in the library or other places also on the campus. Availability of books in the library, user's specific needs, additions, services, behavior of the library staff, functioning etc can be included. This should be done after each semester.

**Research station:** Publications of the faculty plays important role in shaping career as well as promotion of the faculty. They have to publish research articles in the journals. Library has to update its resources by developing strong reference collection in all subjects of the college. There should be a proper balance of Online and printed resources. They should be provided with suitable space and time in the library for research purpose. Working hours of the library need to be increased. Awareness about Inter library loan practice, free online resources, demo etc should be given due attention. Database of content page of selected journals should be prepared and made available on the website/campus network for all teachers which are preserved like book database. Also subject wise list can be send to faculty via email according to topics, subjects and interest of each teacher. Availability of reference books, details of bound volumes of magazines/journals, online access to article index, free online resources are some more tools to help researcher. Here metadata of free books, journals, relevant website addresses etc. can be compiled. The resources should be organized and maintain in place. or otherwise should be organized which can contribute towards research work.

**Resource development:** Value addition to the present collection is an important task where initiative of the librarian plays major role. It can be done in various ways not always by purchasing new stuff but by using innovative method to trap the production of information done by the very own college and users. Some methods are discussed below.

**Faculty deposit:** Faculty attends various seminars, workshops, conferences etc. where they receive pamphlets, souvenir, reports, proceedings etc. These documents on the selective bases and proceedings can be a part of the library collection.

---

**College publications:** Every college publishes annual magazine which contains records and review of yearly activities. Prospectus of all courses, souvenir and newsletters etc. are published at the regularly. Also many colleges have started publishing their own research journal to encourage research activity. Research journals published by the colleges carries big value as far as reference source for research purpose. Library has to underline its archival value by preserving it through binding tactics. Seminar proceedings are published on the organization of such seminars or conferences. These books should have space in the college publication section.

Projects submitted can be scrutinized by the committee and selective projects can be preserved in the library. All these resources should be preserved in the electronic form and made available to the students on the campus.

Scholar students can be encouraged to write notes on selected topics as a part of assignment in all subjects which can be then made available on the campus network for all students.

Library can maintain copy of the research output of every faculty since they are engaged in various projects, publications etc. They should deposit a copy of their report in the library which will be available for reference to all. University Grants Commission encourages research by giving financial assistance to teachers under schemes like Minor research project and Major research project. Most of the time research undertaken focuses local issues and problems. Hence the necessity and the value of the project is more.

Faculty members are invited as a guest speaker by other institutions. They also visit other association and bodies as a special invitee on various occasions of festivals and programs in the society. These lectures can be collected for the library.

**Scanning and preservation:** All the college publications like journals, seminar proceedings, newsletters, prospectus, souvenirs, annual magazine, photos, question papers etc can be scanned and preserved on the web by using special software. This will create institutional repository of the college. With regard to recent publications one can start collecting soft copy of such material for preservation regularly to avoid duplication work like scanning and other works. e.g. At the time of celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> year of college selective articles from the college magazines were published in the souvenir, and old photos gained importance which was published. Similarly for the presentation on the progress of the college such information acts as a primary source.

**Career corner:** Developing separate collection of career oriented books and magazines and its regular updating will offer new prospects for students' future plan of studies. Collection of books on competitive exams held for various professional courses will bring awareness among them about different choices they have after completion of present course.

**Reference and Faculty Stack:** Copies of all textbooks are to be reserved in the library for a reference purpose. On the same line separate collection of frequently used titles for the faculty can be developed in the separate rack/cupboard. This will save time and efforts and shall

---

guarantee the availability of the books. Library can add new reference titles in the subject from time to time.

**Intern library loan:** There s a need to share catalogue of entire library collection online. Ore details and the availability of required resources should be known to the perspective borrower on the spot and at the same time reservation for the same for next one or two days should be possible from all college campus.

**Alumni community:** Activities of the Alumni association of the college is an important criterion considered during the accreditation process of the NAAC. Therefore Colleges have given stress on strengthening their alumni association. Special programmes are organised for them and also they are kept associated with other important college activities. They are interested in knowing the activities and happenings that are organised by the college as they were they were the eye witness once upon a time. They feel honored in attending selected programmes. Library can have a column on the site where such kind of announcements and invitation can be published. Publication of articles, lectures etc by the eminent alumni in their field of specialization can be a valuable source of information for the students in the assignments and examinations.

**Information Desk:** library receives circulars, guidelines, announcements etc from the office. They should have its place in the file at the circulation desk.

**Goa corner:** Libraries in Goa can develop separate collection of books on Goa irrespective of the type of courses offered by the college. They are useful from many angels of study. Mostly for projects and programs like quiz, exams, folk competitions etc for the all students. Development of local information product can be undertaken with systematic approach. It can be done with the help of NSS volunteers or as an assignment to some groups. Subscription of magazines published in Goa like 'Goa Today' 'Business Goa' and also books related to Goa contains local information. Preservation of such material will add to the value of the collection. Publications of local industrial/business organizations and government departments are the primary source of information particularly related to Goa state. Some of these publications are available free. Publication depository can be maintained by arranging collection and procurement of these publications which will be useful for developing local information product. Examples: Goa Chamber of commerce, publications of government printing press etc. Special focus is required on reference sources on Goa covering its various aspects. Usefulness of reference sources like Gazetteer of Goa, 'Konkani Vishwakosh' etc. can be highlighted to the users which are useful for projects and assignments and to supplement extra-curricular activities.

**Newspaper clippings:** Most of the college activities get wide publicity in the local press and television channels. These activities speak about the progress and achievement of the institution. Library can take a lead in compiling this news and organize them for historical record. They can be preserved online giving separate heading on the website.



---

Miscellaneous information resources: Raw information is scattered in different forms like special lectures, newsletters, pamphlets, souvenirs, handbooks, special supplements of the newspapers etc. which is received in the library for display purpose. In course of time this kind of information becomes valuable to prepare special talks or writing an article these references can be useful. In the library one has to foresee the value of day to day information. Librarian has to keep bag of information ready which can be used to supply information according to needs. Here the collection, organisation and preservation of information is a basic task.

**Online/web services:** Library should automate all functions for the benefit of the readers. Circulation activity of the library is the most important one as it is directly connected with facility to borrow, return, demand, reservation, fine, reminders, deposit etc. Online catalogue of the library proves to be an effective tool for the usage of the library resources. Many colleges in Goa are running various innovative self financing courses other than regular courses in arts, science and commerce streams. The collection developed for these courses is very special. This collection should be highlighted specially in the catalogue supported with peripherals like abstract, contents, index etc.

**Library website:** Website of the college has to give due attention to library on the website. It has to provide with online services of the library wherever needed. All resources and services are to be classified under various headings like About Library, OPAC, Free online resources, alumni corner etc. etc. Online catalogue with facility to browse table of content page, index, statistical data, map etc will effectively act as an alternative to read the book at a glance and know its usefulness. This arrangement will reduce the unnecessary handling of books from the shelves to some extent especially in case of reference books.

A single common website of all academic libraries should be developed with link to individual library. Websites of various government departments and other organizations should have link from this website.

**Institutional repository:** This repository should be created with the help of special software developed for the purpose. Technical support is a basic need of the librarians in carrying out such activities. Repository is a helpful source of information where own information resources like prospectus; faculty publication etc. gets a wide coverage and also protects copyright when they are documented and recorded.

In short the introduction of semester pattern and the relevant changes in the syllabus has indirectly affected the libraries in terms of its collection as well as services. Students have to carry out their studies on their own to fulfill the requirements of the subjects. Extra reading and referencing is needed to excel. Hence responsibility of the library as an information bank is more. These changes have increased the usage of the library. At the same time their requirements has changed. Old services with application of technology advancement will serve the purpose. At the same time new services has to be started to cope with information needs of the users. Library can apply marketing tactics to popularize the services among the users.

---

To accept and play this new role, library on its own has to visualize the required changes for its smooth functioning and services offerings. Library needs to redesign its services with the help of new technologies and the internet. This way library can shoulder greater responsibilities in the academic progress of the college.

1. Dhimal AK, Sinha SC (2002). Academic Libraries, Ess Publications, New Delhi.
2. Krishna K (1986). Library Manual. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House
3. Krishan Kumar. Library Management in Electronic Environment. Delhi, Har- Anand, 2001.
4. Kulkarni, S.A. Best Practices in College Libraries. National Seminar on Library and Information Services in Changing Era, 22-23 January 2009.
5. Mittal RL (1993). Library Administration: Theory and Practice. Ed.5. New Delhi: Metropolitan Book Co. (Pvt). Ltd
6. NAAC – Guidelines on Quality Indicators in Library and Information services: affiliated/constituent colleges.
7. Goa University – Goa University Handbook, 2007-08. Taleigao – Goa
8. Goa University – Goa University Syllabus, 2007-08. Taleigao - Goa