

Growth and Development of LIS Education in R.T.M. Nagpur University, Nagpur

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Abstract

The purpose of the current study is to provide in-depth information on the Library Science Department at RTM Nagpur University in Nagpur and how it developed under the guidance of numerous knowledgeable and creative teachers. The report also discusses the many LIS colleges that have been formed within the university and provides a quick overview of the capabilities for infrastructural support inside the colleges.

Key words: - LIS education, DLIS Nagpur University, Learning facilities

Introduction

One of the oldest libraries in the nation is at R.T.M. Nagpur University in Nagpur, where there is a department of library and information science. This department officially opened its doors on August 20th, 1956. Up until 1956, Nagpur served as the Central Province and Berar's capital. At the time, the state didn't have any universities that offered postgraduate diploma programmes in library science. Some of the city's leading librarians had begun approaching the university to establish a department of library science after seeing the need. Up to that point, the various university colleges and departments were founded thanks to the generous contributions of numerous philanthropists. As a relatively new field with little public awareness of its societal consequences, library science was unable to find a benefactor like the LIT, Department of Geology, and the others did. Finally, the request was accepted by the university with the condition that the department shall be "self-sufficient." For this reason, 79 students were admitted in the first year. Both the morning and the evening sessions of classes were offered. The issue with the teaching staff was initially another issue for the department. There weren't many qualified individuals in Nagpur who could work for the department. Leadership for the Development of the Department

Able Leadership of Mr. Phadke

Mr. P.S. Phadke is the founder Head of the Department. The foundation given and the traditions established by him were so sound, that it became easy for his successors to build-up the edifice. He picked up a number of young people like Messrs S. M. Kulkarni, P. P. Deshmukh, R. P. Hingorani, R. B. Pawar and others, and introduced them to the teaching. He also took an active part in the Vidarbha Granthalaya Sangh and played a key role in running its organ Grathapal. He established and maintained a good liaison between the Association and the Department. The Department in those days became the nerve-center of professional

activities. A number of extension lectures, education tours, visits to libraries and paper mills were organized. Annual social gathering and cultural programmes were regular affairs.

Role of Mr. Gidwani

After Mr. Phadke retired in 1961, Nagpur got two new faces Mr. Gidwani and Mr. V. V. Kulkarni. Mr. Gidwani, who joined the university as the librarian and head of the department, was only going to be there for a very little time. But during his time period, the curriculum gradually changed. He also served as the Maharashtra Book Production Board's head of the library science committee and was instrumental in the creation of Marathi-language library science publications. In 1975, a programme called the Internship was launched, requiring each student to complete 30 days of paid labour in a library that has been approved by the university.

Late Y. M. Muley

He then made an effort to do his best throughout that time. He recruited several people for the university library and gave some of them teaching responsibilities. He invited guests to talk on the Indian school of thought. He continued working closely with others. During that time, a few seminars were jointly planned. He founded the Journal of Library Science, as was already mentioned earlier.

Contribution of Dr. Kulkarni

Mr. V. V. Kulkarni succeeded Mr. Gidwani as Librarian and Head of the Department in-charge in 1964 and continued in these posts till 1978 with a break of three years, i.e., from 1968-1971. He started a new course for the undergraduates with the nomenclature of "Junior Diploma in Library Science". He also got the Diploma course upgraded to the degree course in 1966; Indian school retired as the librarian of the National Library in the year 1968, many institutions had sought his services. Having a niche in his heart for Nagpur, being also his birth place and having wished to settle here, he accepted the offer of the Nagpur University and took charge as Librarian and Head of the Department in the year 1968. He continued in this post for a period of three years. Realizing the need and observing the prevailing trend in the country, Mr. Muley had proposed for permanent full time staff for the Department in the IV Five Year Plan. He strongly recommended the creation of a post of Reader and two lecturers in the department. Finally one post of Lecturer was created which was filled in the year 1973. He discontinued the Junior Diploma course honouring the recommendations of the UGC Committee on Library science.

Dr. Kumar's Leadership for Twenty-Four Years

Dr. P S G Kumar joined the department as full time Lecturer in 1973. As per Nagpur University Act 1974, as per the statue 25, "The Senior most teacher in the Department shall be the head". Then the Vice-Chancellor ordered the separation of the department from the Library and designated Dr. Kumar as Head on 8th December, 1978.

Dr. Kumar headed the department for almost a quarter century (1978-2002). Till now in the forty eight years history of the department it was only Dr. Kumar who headed the department for the longest period and brought the department to the National Standards by his single minded devotion for the growth and development of the department. His close knit association and collaboration with library professionals at local and national levels has established a place for the Department of Library and Information Science, Nagpur University at the national level.

Milestones in Dr. Kumar's Leadership

- Getting Independent accommodation.
- Building up a separate collection of reference books and schedules of classification.
- Founding Nagpur University Library and Information Science Association (NULISA).
- Establishment of Library Science study circle, Nagpur LIBSCINA.
- Introducing compulsory educational tours for BLISC students.
- Curriculum change as per the changing needs of the librarianship.
- Changing the nomenclature of B.Lib. degree to B.L.I.Sc. degree.
- Shifting the department to University Campus and back to the Main Library Building for monitoring and coordination when he became the University Librarian in 1994.
- Creation of Teaching Positions

Lecturers	- 3
Reader -	1 (Sanctioned in VI Plan and Filled in 1983)
Professor	- 1 (IX – Five Year)

Heads of the Department

From 1956 to 1978, i.e. for a period of 22 years the University Librarian was heading the Department. In 1978, the full time Lecturer was designated as Head. From 1996 the University Librarian was heading the department as per the provision of Maharashtra Universities Act, 1994. Till 2002, and at present the department and library are headed by separate professionals. The Reader in the department Dr. D. Rajyalakshmi was head in the Department from 2002 to 2009. At present the department Dr. Shalini Lihitkar is heading the Department 2009 onwards and after Dr. Kumar's retirement as Librarian on April 30th, 2004, the University Library is headed Dr. K. B. Kale as In-Charge Librarian.

S. No.	Name	Designation	Duration
1	Phadke, P. S.	Librarian and Head of the Department	(1956-61)
2	Gidwani, N.N	Librarian and Head of the Department	(1961-64)
3	Kulkarni, V.V.	Librarian and Head of the Department	(1964-1968)
4	Muley, Y.M.	Librarian and Head of the Department	(1968-71)
5	Kulkarni, V.V.	Librarian and Head of the Department	(1971-1978)
6	Kumar, P S G.	Head of the Department	(1978-1994)
7	Kumar, P S G.	Librarian and Head of the Department	(1994-2002)
8	Rajyalakshmi, D.	Head of the Department	(2002-2009)
9	Lihitkar S. R.	Head of the Department	(2009- -----)

During the fifty years history of D.L.I.Sc., Nagpur University, It was only at two instances where the department had a separate head, and a separate university librarian.

University Librarians as Head of the Department

S. No.	Name of HOD	Designation	Duration
1	Phadke, P. S.	Librarian and HOD	(1956-61)
2	Shri N.N. Gidwani	Librarian and HOD	1961 – 1964
3	Shri V.V. Kulkarni	Dy. Librarian and HOD	1964 – 1968
4	Shri Y.M. Muley	Librarian and HOD	1968 – 1971
5	Shri V.V. Kulkarni	Librarian and HOD	1971 – 1978
6	Dr. P S G Kumar	Librarian and HOD	1978 - 2002

In the History of Nagpur University Department of Library and Information Science, till 1978, the same person held the HOD and Librarian positions. It was only from 1978 to 1994 two different professionals headed the Department and the Library.

Courses Conducted in the Department during last Forty-Eight Years

This Department has been offering the following courses from time to time.

1.	Diploma in Library Science	1956 - 1965
2.	Bachelor of Library Information Science	1966 - 2003
3.	Junior Diploma in Library Science	1966 - 1969
4.	Master of Library and Information Science	1984 - 2004
5.	Doctorate Degree	1987 onwards
6.	M.L.I.Sc. Integrated Course (two Years)	2003 onwards

Student Strength

The department started with a diploma course and the intake capacity ranging from 40-60 students between 1956 to 1984. From 1985 onwards till 2002 the intake capacity for B.L.I.Sc., was 40 students and for M.L.I.Sc., there were 12 students. The introduction of M.L.I.Sc. course with twelve as intake capacity increased the strength of the department to 52 students.

Introduction of integrated M.L.I.Sc. course of two years duration, from 2003-04 as per UGC Model Curriculum (2001) the intake capacity in First year M.L.I.Sc. was retained to the equal number of previous B.L.I.Sc. course admission and as such making the intake capacity as forty at both of M.L.I.Sc. first year and second year courses. With this the current strength of the department is increased from 52 to 80, which resulted in a lot of workload to be shared by the contributory staff of the department.

Doctoral Studies

After attaining Doctorate degree in the year 1985 Dr. Kumar introduced doctoral studies in the department in the year 1987 and provided an opportunity for many library professionals to attain highest levels in the profession. He is instrumental for not only his students obtaining the doctoral degrees in the discipline but also encouraged his students and made them as supervisors for research guidance.

As on today nearly 27 students obtained Ph.D. under his guidance and there are thirty two registered guides for doctoral studies in Library and Information Science in Nagpur University.

Thousands of new schools, hundreds of new collages and a dozen new universities came into existence after 1947; as a result of nationwide educational upheaval. This factor, coupled with the urge of the people to seek knowledge for the improvement of every human activity, prompted the action of stabilizing various types of libraries public, academic, special, national and regional.

This study was aimed to provide information for library professionals, scholars, students of library and information science and faculty members who wish to learn more about the role of library and librarians towards Education, Research and Training. It presents scholarly views, best practices, case analysis and empirical studies on the role of libraries towards Education, Research and Training.

In the backdrop of aforementioned information, this study was carried out systematically to assess the LIS education with different points of view i.e. learning aptitude and behavioural attitudes of LIS students in selected LIS schools.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the present study are -

To assess the different Library science schools intake and their background and infrastructure.

Scope of the Study

The study covers the survey of the students of established LIS schools from 1956 to the latest school established 2002 affiliated to R.T.M. Nagpur University.

List of LIS Institutions Affiliated to R.T.M. Nagpur University

Sr. No.	Name of the LIS School	Course offered	Year of Establishment
1.	Department of Library & Information Science, Nagpur University, Nagpur	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1956
2.	Indirabai College of Library & Information Science, Rajiv Nagar, Wardha Road, Nagpur.	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1994
3.	Pandav College of Library & Information Science, Nagpur	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1994
4.	VaingangaBahuuddeshiyaVikasSanstha's College of Library & Information Science, Sakoli, Dist. Bhandra	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1998
5.	MahilaMahavidyalaya College of Library & Information Science, Gadchiroli.	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1998
6.	Agnihotri College of Library & Information Science, BapujiWadi, Wardha	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1998
7.	New Arts College of Library & Information Science, Wardha.	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1998
8.	Arts & Science College, Pulgaon	B.L.I.Sc.	1998
9.	Sardar Patel College, Chandrapur	B.L.I.Sc.	1998
10.	ShriSamathaShikshanPrasarakMandal Joshi College of Library & Information Science, Tilak Road, Mahal, Nagpur.	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1999
11.	Radha Collage of Lib. &Infor. Sc. Reshimbagh, Nagpur.	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	1999
12.	TulsiBahuuddeshiyaShikshanSanstha's College of Library & Information Science, Jawahar Nagar, Bhandara.	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	2000
13.	Kamala Nehru College, Nagpur.	B.L.I.Sc.	2000
14.	College of Library Science, Koradi.	BLI Sc.	2001

15.	Indutai Memorial College of Library & Information Science, Tumsar.	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	2001
16.	Gabhane College of Library Science & Advance Studies, Tumsar.	B.L.I.Sc.	2001
17.	Dr.PanjabraoDeshmukh Institute of Management Studies and Research, Nagpur	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	2001-2002
18.	MahalakshmiJagdamba College of Library & Information Science, Nagpur	B.L.I.Sc. M.L.I.Sc.	2001-2002
19.	Harish More College of Library & Information Science, Bhandara	B.L.I.Sc.	2001-2002

Review of Related Literature

Kumar and Singh (2009) examined the use of services by the users of National Science Library (NSL), New Delhi, India. A well-structured questionnaire was used to identify the impressions of NSL users towards the various aspects. 120 questionnaires were distributed among the NSL users and 108 files were received back. The study result demonstrates and elaborates various aspects of NSL collections used within the available resources, frequency and purposes of visit, user satisfaction within NSL services and information about documents.

Kumar and Sharma (2010) presented a historical perspective of LIS education in India, and traced the growth and development of the subject. Authors reported that the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission provide an opportunity for reforms and changes in the educational system that needs to be grabbed, especially in the field of LIS.

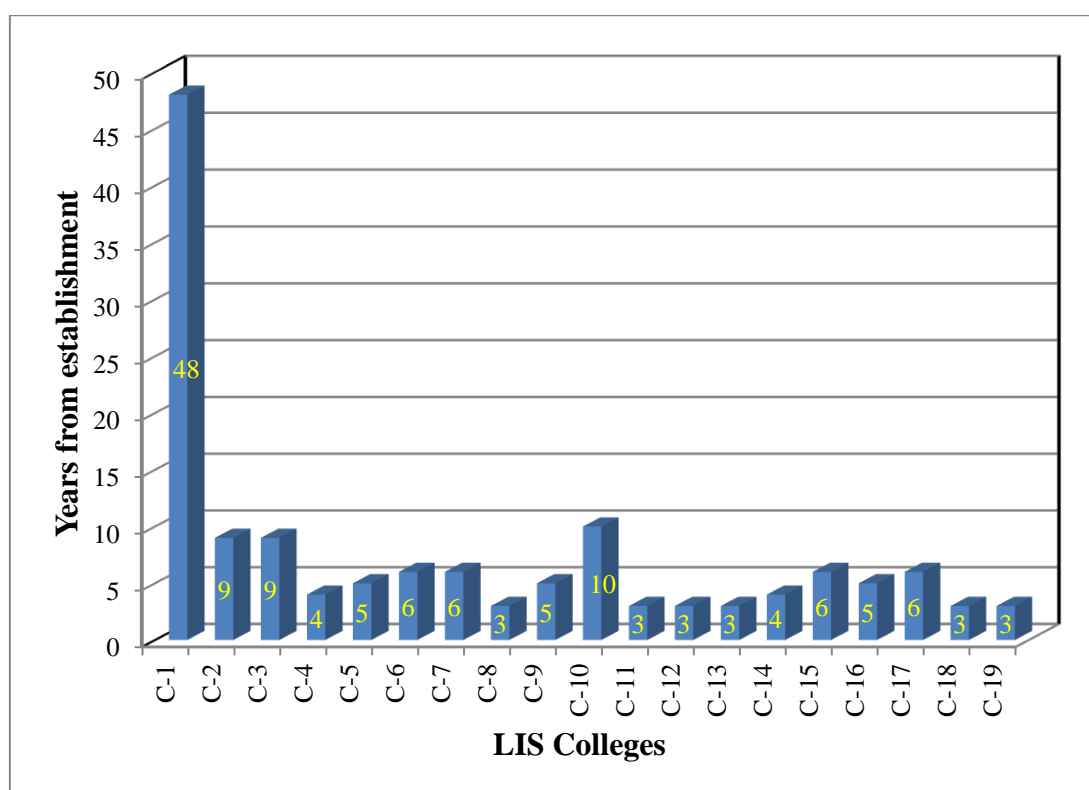
Panigrahi (2010) reported that due to the information explosion, libraries and information center's have an important role to play in the information society. Wherein, only well-trained manpower can handle this situation efficiently and effectively. Authors by focusing on the LIS Education in east and North-eastern India identified that undergraduate courses were started in many colleges, but most of these have been stopped due to many reasons whereas a few of these still exist. At present, there are different levels of courses, viz., CLIS, BLIS, MLIS, MLIS in DL, PGDLAN, M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Lit., etc. of various durations. Authors expressed a need for standardization of these courses.

Babalhavaejiani and Kermani (2011) determine the factors that influence knowledge sharing amongst LIS faculties, which in this context refers to attitude, intention and intrinsic motivation. Also, the study identifies the effect of two demographic variables (type of institute and length of teaching experience) on knowledge sharing behaviour. Data were collected through survey questionnaires returned by 93 full-time LIS teaching staff in governmental and private universities in Iran. Results showed that among demographic variables a significant difference was found between knowledge sharing behaviour of LIS educators with different teaching experiences (.027) but observed no significant difference between knowledge sharing behaviour of LIS faculties working in governmental universities and those working in Islamic Azad universities. The researchers also found a significant relationship (0.000) between the attitude of educators toward knowledge sharing and their intention to share knowledge. Results showed that intention and intrinsic motivation influence knowledge sharing behaviour of the LIS educators sampled.

General Information Regarding Colleges
LIS Colleges Establishment (Years since established)

College	Years
C-1	56
C-2	9
C-3	9
C-4	4
C-5	5
C-6	6
C-7	6
C-8	3
C-9	5
C-10	10
C-11	3
C-12	3
C-13	3
C-14	4
C-15	6
C-16	5
C-17	6
C-18	3
C-19	3

Provides information regarding establishment and age of the colleges. Data revealed that college ‘C-1’ was the oldest (56 yrs.) college among all colleges, while, colleges ‘C-8’, ‘C-11’, ‘C-12’, ‘C-13’ ‘C-18’ and C-19 were newly established (3 years each) colleges. Data revealed significant difference ($P < 0.05$) amongst the age of the library science colleges in Vidarbha region.

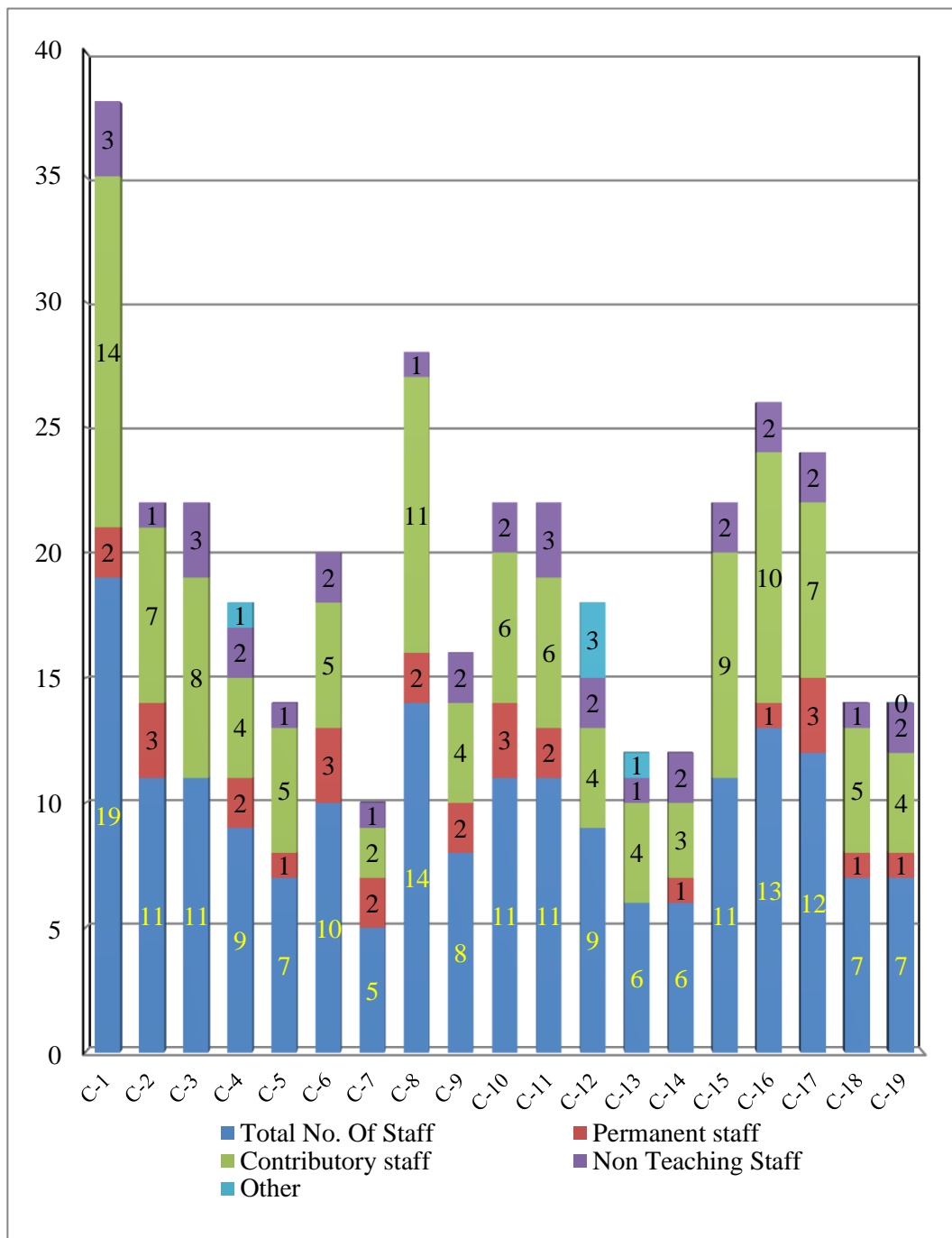


LIS College Establishment (Years Since Established)
Information Regarding Library Staff of the College

College	Total No. of Staff	Permanent Teaching staff	Contributory Teaching staff	Non Teaching Staff	Other
C-1	21	2	14	5	-
C-2	11	3	7	1	-
C-3	11	-	8	3	-
C-4	9	2	4	2	1
C-5	7	1	5	1	-
C-6	10	3	5	2	-
C-7	5	2	2	1	-
C-8	14	2	11	1	-
C-9	8	2	4	2	-
C-10	11	3	6	2	-
C-11	11	2	6	3	-
C-12	9	-	4	2	3
C-13	6	-	4	1	1
C-14	6	1	3	2	-
C-15	11	-	9	2	-
C-16	13	1	10	2	-
C-17	12	3	7	2	-
C-18	7	1	5	1	-
C-19	7	1	4	2	-

Provides information regarding the staff working in the library science department of colleges in Vidarbha region. It was observed from the data that college 'C-1' had maximum i.e. 21 working staff in library science department, while, college 'C-7' had minimum i.e. 5 working staff. Regarding the permanent staff it was indicated by the data that, colleges 'C-2', 'C-6', 'C-10' and 'C-17' had maximum i.e. 3 permanent staff, while colleges 'C-5', 'C-14', 'C-16' and 'C-18' had only 1 permanent staff, colleges 'C-3', 'C-12', 'C-13' and 'C-15' had no permanent staff. Regarding the contributory staff it was revealed from the data that college 'C-1' had maximum i.e. 14 contributory staff, while, college 'C-7' had minimum i.e. 2 contributory staff. Colleges 'C-1', 'C-3', and 'C-11' had maximum i.e. 3 non-teaching staff, while colleges 'C-2', 'C-5', 'C-7', 'C-8', 'C-13' and 'C-18' had only 1 non-teaching staff, remaining 9 colleges had 2 non-teaching staff. It was revealed from the data that only three colleges 'C-4', 'C-12' and 'C-13' had 1, 3 and 1 staff respectively in their Library Science Department.

It may be concluded from data that all the colleges selected in the study have less number of permanent employees in their colleges.



Information Regarding Library Staff of College

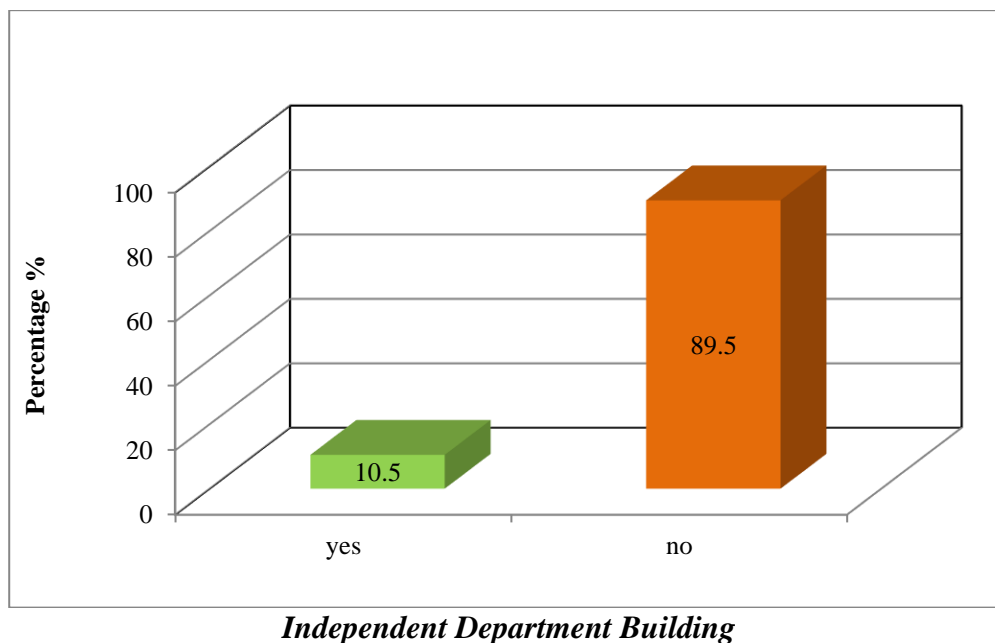
**Learning Facilities in the LIS Schools:
Independent Department Building**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	10.5
No	17	89.5
Total	19	100

Independent department building has advantages and opportunities like total privacy, own maintenance leading to lower costs of maintenance, better efficiency, reduction in parking costs, better negotiation power and branding opportunities. Provides information regarding status of building of the library science departments in Vidarbha region. Data

revealed that, maximum i.e. 17 (89.5%) library science departments did not have independent buildings, while only 2 (10.5%) departments had independent buildings. Data revealed that, there is significant ($P < 0.05$) difference amongst library science departments in Vidarbha region regarding the independent department building.

It was observed from the statistical analysis of data that significantly ($P < 0.05$) high percentage of LIS colleges in the study area have no independent building.

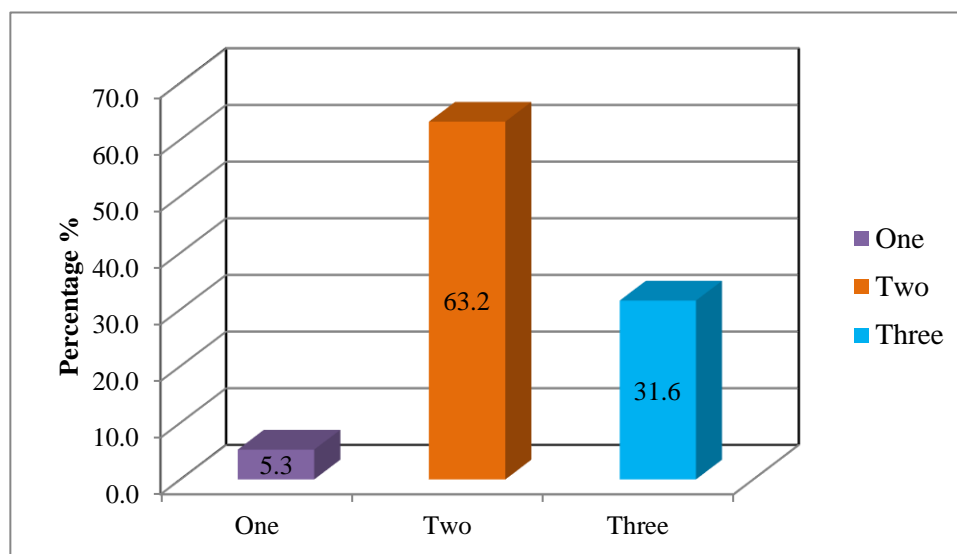


Number of Classrooms

No. of Classrooms for Library Science in College

No. of Class rooms	No of Colleges	Percentage
One	1	5.3
Two	12	63.2
Three	6	31.6
Total	19	100

A classroom is a room in which teaching or learning activities can take place. The classroom attempts to provide a safe space where learning can take place uninterrupted by other distractions. Provides information regarding the availability of classrooms in library science departments. Data indicates that maximum i.e. 12 (63.2%) colleges had two classrooms in their library science department, 6 (31.6%) colleges had three classrooms, whereas, 1 (5.3%) colleges had one classroom in their library science department. Data revealed that significantly high number of colleges have two classrooms available for library science departments in the colleges affiliated to RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur. Hence, it may be concluded from the data that significantly high percentage of LIS colleges in study have only two class rooms.



No. of Classrooms for Library Science in College

Conclusions

1. There is a vast growth of LIS Schools in RashtrasantTukadojiMaharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur during the period 2000 to 2010.
2. All the colleges selected in the study have less number of permanent employees in their colleges
3. The intake capacity of the LIS Schools at Post Graduate level needs to be limited to 10 – 20 students for making the facilities available to all the students.
4. There is dearth of approved faculty in majority of LIS Schools of the study region, which negatively affects the quality of education in the university in general and quality of teaching in particular.
5. It was observed from the statistical analysis of data that significantly ($P < 0.05$) high percentage of LIS colleges in the study area have no independent building.

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