



## An analytical study on public libraries of Haryana

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### Abstract

Public libraries consider as the channel to bridge the gap between the 'information poor' and, the 'information rich' by ensuring that people from all sectors and settings of society and the community across India have easy access to knowledge seek. Presently, Internet and web technologies open up new ways of interactive communication between public libraries and the civil society. The progress in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) enable remote people can be connected by several technical options in a more affordable manner. In view of this, the Government of India has taken up the responsibility and helps each and every State in planning and establishing the quality public libraries throughout the country under Digital India Project. Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) is also working and taking initiatives to develop and support the Public libraries throughout the nation with the help of State Governments. Public Library in India has achieved its most remarkable development in large cities. But in Haryana, the development of Public Library was initiated after the enactment of Public Library Legislation from 1989. In the present research paper, an attempt has been made to know the current scenario of the Public Library System in India with special reference to Haryana State. It also covers the initiatives taken by the Government towards the development of Public libraries particularly in Haryana, along with the challenges and opportunities encountered by the Library professionals in the development of Public libraries. It also describes the future scope for the development of Public libraries in Haryana state.

**Keywords:** public libraries, Haryana, government initiatives, infrastructure

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### Introduction

Cultural heritage depends very much upon libraries and information centers. Libraries throughout world work as the repositories of knowledge and information. The main objective of the libraries is to create, store, process and disseminate information to the local, regional, national and international community. It can only be attained with the support and application of information and communication technology in libraries in true spirit and form. Information and communication technology enables access to digital information beyond time and space. It can be accessed anywhere with the help of this technology. Free flow of information and knowledge at the end of the masses remains the main objective of the information and communication technology (Das, P., 2012).

UNESCO defined a Public Library as the local gateway to knowledge which provides a basic environment for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural development of the individual and social groups. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC), of India, constituted in June 2005 described libraries as 'gateways of knowledge' and it said that a Library is not a building just stacked with books. Rather it is a repository and source of information and ideas, a source for learning and enquiry, and for the generation of thought and the creation of new knowledge (Ghosh, M., 2003) <sup>[19]</sup>. Public libraries in particular have the potential to bridge the gap between the 'information poor' and the 'information rich' by ensuring that people from all sects of society and the people across India get an easy access to knowledge seeking. Public libraries are the service agencies which serve the general public as a whole without considering their age, gender, profession and socio-economic background. The libraries are run under Department of Higher Education in Haryana at different district headquarters and these are called District Libraries. The libraries working under municipal committees, municipal corporations, village panchayats, rural youth clubs or those which come under any other social organization are called and treated as public libraries (Kaur, G. 2008) <sup>[22]</sup>.

### Missions of the Public Library

The following important aspects which are related to information, literacy, education and culture, should be thoroughly implemented in the public library services (UNESCO Public Library Manifesto):

- Stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people.
- Supporting and participating in literacy activities and programs for all age groups, and initiating such activities if necessary.
- Providing opportunities for personal creative development.
- Creating and strengthening reading habits in children at an early age.
- Providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts.

- Providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations and interest groups.
- Promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations.
- Fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favoring cultural diversity.
- Supporting the oral tradition.
- Ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information.
- Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills.

### Challenges Faced by Public Libraries of Haryana

**Inadequate ICT Infrastructure:** Automation requires a lot of machinery and other equipment like computer hardware, software, communication and networking systems; electricity backup system; furniture and other infrastructure. Financial provision for the infrastructure is required for automation and development of public libraries.

**Human Resources Scarcity:** Human resources are the key source of development of a library. Strength of the staff directly reflects the strength of the organization. Housekeeping, operations and services including automation of public libraries are based on educated and trained staff availability which is not sufficient in Haryana Public libraries.

**Scarcity of Funds for the Development Public Libraries:** The finance always remained the key need of any development. Automation and administration of a library also requires financial assistance. Every plan requires adequate funds for proper success. The finance is the pivot of every plan and its success. The paucity of funds remained the root cause of the crawling pace of the success in the automation of the libraries of Haryana.

### Haryana State: An Overview

Haryana is one of the north-western states of India, bordered on the north by Himachal Pradesh, on the east by Uttar Pradesh, on the south and southwest by Rajasthan and on the northwest by Haryana state. The National Capital Territory of Delhi straddles the border between Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The area of Haryana (Hindi for Dwelling Place of God) is 44,212 sq km (77) and comprises of 19 districts.



*Source: Government of Haryana Publication*

**Fig 1: Map of Haryana State**

**Table 1:** Districts of Haryana State, India

District	Population	Area (in km <sup>2</sup> )
Ambala	1,136,784	1574
Bhiwani	1,629,109	3,432
Charkhi Dadri	502,276	1370
Faridabad	1,798,954	792
Fatehabad	941,522	2,538
Gurugram	1,514,085	1,253
Hisar	1,742,815	3,983
Jhajjar	956,907	1,834
Jind	1,332,042	2,702
Kaithal	1,072,861	2,317
Karnal	1,506,323	2,520
Kurukshetra	964,231	1,530
Mahendragarh	921,680	1,859
Nuh	1,089,406	1,874
Palwal	1,040,493	1,359
Panchkula	558,890	898
Panipat	1,202,811	1,268
Rewari	896,129	1,582
Rohtak	1,058,683	1,745
Sirsa	1,295,114	4,277
Sonipat	1,480,080	2,122
Yamunanagar	1,214,162	1,768

*Source: Government of Haryana*

Haryana had a population of 21,082,989 in 2011, with an average density of 477 persons per sq km (1,235 per sq mi). About 90 percent of Haryana's residents are Hindus. A Sikh minority lives in the north and northwest; Muslims mostly live in the southeast, near Delhi. The official state language is Hindi, but Punjabi and Urdu are also widely spoken. Most people live in rural areas and work in agriculture (Zahid Ashraf Wani, n.d.). The city of Chandigarh, which forms its own union territory, is the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab. The area that is now Haryana is one of the oldest known areas of settlement in India. Urban settlements in Ghaggar Valley date from before 3000 B.C. From about 1500 B.C, Aryan tribes became the first of many groups to invade the region. The area was the home of the legendary Bharata dynasty, which gave India its Hindi name, Bharat. The epic battle between the Kauravas and Pandavas, recorded in the Indian epic poem, the Mahabharata, took place at Kurukshetra. In the 3rd century BC, Haryana became India's 17th state in 1966 when the Punjab Reorganization Act divided Punjab state (formed in 1956) along linguistic lines; the Hindi-speaking areas became Haryana while Punjab state retained the predominantly Punjabi-speaking areas (Government of India, 2012).

### Education System in Haryana

Haryana has a network of educational institutions. While a primary school is available within in radius of one KM, middle level education facilities are available within a radius of 1.87 kilometres and high schools are available within a radius of 2.1 kilometres. There were 10399 Primary Schools, 1792 Middle Schools and 3838 High and Senior Secondary Schools functioning during 1998-99 in the State. Presently, there are four Universities and 214 Colleges with 161 Colleges of general education and 53 institutions exclusively for women in the State. The Maharishi Dayananad University at Rohtak, Kurukshetra University at Kurukshetra and Guru Jambheshwar University at Hisar are exclusively for the promotion of technical education and management studies. As compared to All India Average of literacy rate of 52.21 per cent Haryana's literacy rate is 55.85 per cent (Deswal, 2010).

### Public Library Development in Haryana

Haryana had only two public libraries at the time of its creation on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1966 one at Ambala and the other at Narnaul. In 1967 public library Ambala was upgraded to State Central Library. Though Haryana made tremendous development in the overall development as a state, but the progress development of public libraries on a wide scale is yet to achieve (Kumar, N. 2015) [3].

### Role of Haryana Library Association

In 1966, late Mr. M.L. Bhagi the then State Librarian and founding member of HLA drafted a public library bill and submitted the same to the State Government. A Central Library Committee had also deliberated on the draft but due to some reasons could not bear the fruit. HLA has made persistent efforts since its inception in 1967 (Janak Raj and Chandra, Girish, 1982). Haryana Library Association vigorously made strenuous efforts to persuade the State Government to enact public library legislation, which was eventually done in 1989. The bill aimed to ensure the establishment, maintenance and development of public libraries in the state (Rana, J S., 1989).

**Haryana Public Libraries Act, 1989**

The Haryana State was formed in the year 1966, carved out from the earlier Punjab State. Haryana Act has got the following features:

- Constitution of the State Library Authority to advise the Government on all matters in promotion of Library Service in the State.
- Formation of State Library Directorate to implement the programmes approved by the State Library Authority.
- Establishment of the State Central Library.
- Constitution of a District Library Committee for each District.
- Constitution of a City and Town Library Committee for each city with a population of over a lakh and a Town Library Committee for a Municipal Town with a population of not more than one lakh, were provided in accordance with such rules as may be framed by the District Library Committee concerned.
- Constitution of Block Library Committee and Panchayat Library Committees by the District Library Committee concerned:
- Constitution of the State Library Fund, District Library Fund, City or Town or Block or Village Library Fund meant for the development, improvement and maintenance of the Library Service.
- Levy of Library Cess in the form of surcharge on property tax and house tax at such a rate decided by Government from time to time.
- Provision to recognize State library associations, and co-operative institutions by the State Library Authority.
- The Library Act of Haryana was passed to impart a comprehensive rural and urban library services. (Kumar, N. (2015).

**Table 2:** Present Status of Public Libraries in Haryana

S. No.	Name of the College/Distt./Sub-Div. Library	Total Area of Library Rented/Govt.	Locality
1	Central State Library, Ambala Cantt	About 3 acres Govt. Building	Staff Road Ambala Cantt.
2	Distt. Libraray, Nuh (Mewat)	150 Yard Hall 2 Room (Municipal Committee Building)	Municipal Committee Nuh on Road
3	Distt. Library, Jhajjar	18X31 Sq. Ft. One Hall 12X15 Two rooms each Govt. Building	Situated in the Heart of the city
4	Distt. Library, Fatehabad	160 Yards Other Department (Old Court Building)	Old Court Building Near Old Bus Stand, Fatehabad
5	Distt. Library, Kurukshetra	3135 Sq. M Govt. Building	Near Railway Station, Sector-10, Urban estate, Kurukshetra
6	Distt. Library, Sirsa	2.5 Acre to 3 Acre Area: 400 yards Govt. Building	Old Tehsil Near Bal Bhawan, Sirsa
7	Distt. Library, Hlsar	5700 Sq. Ft. covered area: 3200 Sq. Ft.	Near Panchayat Bhawan
8	Distt. Library, Sonapat	10000 Sq. Ft. Govt. Building	Tehsil Complex, Near Timber Mandi
9	Distt. Library, Karnal	700 Sq. Ft. Govt. Building	Opposite G.C. Karnal, Railway road, Karnal
10	Distt. Library, Yamuna Nagar	2000 Sq. Ft. Govt. Building	Civil Hospital, Jagadhri
11	Distt. Library, Panchkula		In the premises of Govt. College for Girls, Sector-14, Panchkula
12	Distt. Library, Panipat	Govt. Building	Mini Secretriart Basement, 12 No. Hall Panipat.
13	Distt. Library, Rewari	21X36 Half Portion of Bal Bhavan Govt. Building	Bal Bhavan, Model Town, Rewari
14	Distt. Library, Kaithal	Govt. Building	Pehwa Road, Kaithal
15	Distt. Library, Rohtak	500 Sq. Ft. Building donated by HUDA Rented (Half)	HUDA Complex Near BSNL, GM Office, Rohtak
16	Distt. Library, Narnaul	2888 Sq Yards Govt. Building	Near Bus Stand, Narnaul (DRDO Office)

17	Distt. Library, Gurgaon	Width 64 Ft. or Length 38 Ft.	Distt. Library, Near Shyama Restaurant Jharsa Road, Gurgaon
		Govt. Building	
18	Distt. Library, Bhiwani	6132 Sq. Ft.	Railway Road Opp. Vaish College, Bhiwani
		Govt. Building	
19	Distt. Library, Jind	1565 Sq. Ft.	Scheme No. 6 Gandhi Nagar, Bal Bhawan, Jind
		Govt. Building	
20	Distt. Library, Faridabad		In the premises of Govt. College, Faridabad

(Source: Department of Higher Education, Government of Haryana)

### Public Libraries in Haryana: An Overview

The Haryana state is existed in the north-western part of India. The area of Haryana is 44,212 sq km (77) and comprises of 19 districts. Haryana had a population of 21,082,989 in 2001, with an average density of 477 persons per sq km (1,235 per sqm). The official state language is Hindi, but Punjabi and Urdu are also widely spoken. Most people live in rural areas and are agriculture based. The city of Chandigarh, which forms its own union territory, is the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab. The area that is now Haryana is one of the oldest known areas of civilization in India. Urban settlements in Ghaggar Valley dates back before 3000 B.C. Since 1500 B.C, Aryan tribes became the first of many groups to invade the region. The area was home of the legendary Bharata dynasty, which gave India to its Hindi name, Bharat. The epic battle between the Kauravas and Pandavas, recorded in the Indian epic poem, the Mahabharata, took place at Kurukshetra. In the 3rd century BC, Haryana became India's 17th state in 1966 when the Punjab Reorganization Act divided Punjab state (formed in 1956) along linguistic lines; the Hindi-speaking areas became Haryana while Punjab state retained the predominantly Punjabi-speaking areas. Haryana has a network of educational institutions. While a primary school is available within in radius of one kilometre, middle level education facilities are available within a radius of 1.87 kilometres and high schools are available within a radius of 2.1 kilometres. There were 10399 Primary Schools, 1792 Middle Schools and 3838 High and Senior Secondary Schools functioning during 1998-99 in the State. Presently, there are four Universities and 214 Colleges with 161 Colleges of general education and 53 institutions exclusively for women in the State. The Maharishi Dayanand University at Rohtak, Kurukshetra University at Kurukshetra and Guru Jambheshwar University at Hisar are exclusively for the promotion of technical education and management studies. The Choudhry Charan Singh, Haryana Agriculture University at Hisar being one of the biggest agriculture universities in Asia is dedicated to agricultural education, research and development. As compared to All India Average of literacy rate of 52.21 per cent Haryana's literacy rate is 55.85 per cent. Haryana had only two district libraries at the time of its creation on 1st November, 1966 one at Ambala and the other at Narnaul. In 1967 district library Ambala was upgraded to State Central Library. Though Haryana made tremendous development in the overall development as a state, but the progress development of public libraries on a wide scale is yet to achieve. Mr. M.L. Bhagi the then State Librarian and founding member of Haryana Library Association (HLA) drafted and submitted a public library bill in 1966 to Haryana Government. There were various experts were given their opinions to the then Director of Public Instructions, Haryana. A Central Library Committee was also formed to draft the bill on library but it could not be materialize due to various issues. HLA was continuously endeavors for the introducing the library act since its inception in 1967. Later on, by the stringent efforts made by HLA to convince the Government was to initiate library legislation, which was eventually done in 1989. The bill aimed to make sure the formation, preservation and expansion of public libraries in Haryana. The present library structure in the state is as follows:

**Table 3: Libraries in Haryana**

Library	Numbers
State Central Library	01
District Library	19

Source: Report on Public Library by RRRLF

### Services Provided by the Public Libraries of Haryana

- Charging and discharging of documents
- Reprographic and printing services
- Newspaper clipping services
- Inter library loan
- Assistance in the searching of documents
- Reservation of books
- Reference service
- Library orientation service
- Internet services
- Extension services
- OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue)

- Readers advisory service
- Bibliographic and documentation services

### Public Libraries in Haryana: The Changing Scenario

The first thing to do when considering services to adults with special would need to create a plan. Some advance planning and preparation can go a long way in library make wise programming choices. Because resources are limited, staff of public libraries needs to identify priorities and offer those services that will meet a community need and deliver the greatest benefit. The planning process and the planning document do not need to be lengthy or involved. The extent of the planning effort depends on the staff and budget resources the library is willing and able to devote (Aabo S. 2005) <sup>[1]</sup>. Planning is a continual cycle of assessment, forecasting, goal setting, implementation, and evaluation. A library that maintains a regular planning cycle can emphasize various aspects at different times or after examining community demographics and talking to others in the community, a library may decide to focus on one particular special needs group. The amount of work to be invested in every step depends on library resources and past planning efforts. The library should be able to recognize success when it happens and make midcourse correction when necessary. Written plans help clarify ideas that in turn provide the information needed for good communication with the library staff and the community.

### Objectives of the Study

- To discuss the present position of public libraries in Haryana.
- To study the hardships and challenges in the implementation of IT based operations and services automation in public libraries of Haryana.
- To study the status of automation of district libraries in Haryana.
- To study the challenges in implementing library automation in district libraries of Haryana.

### Research Methodology

The present study is analytical in nature. It has been conducted by taking primary as well as secondary data. The primary data has been collected by using the survey instrument by conducting the study on the public library system in Haryana. There are total 20 public libraries in Haryana including one central library. A structured questionnaire was designed to satisfy the objectives of the study and it was distributed among the library professionals as well as users' in selected nine public libraries and one central state library. The convenience sampling method was adopted for the collection of data. Also an attempt was made to personally contact and meet all library professionals in their respective libraries to have first-hand information and to have an understanding of the existing infrastructure in terms of IT and staff. The list of selected public libraries of Haryana State are as follows:

**Table 4**

S. No.	Public Library
1.	Central State Library Ambala
2.	Public Library Bhiwani
3.	Public Library Fatehabad
4.	Public Library Gurugram
5.	Public Library Jind
6.	Public Library Karnal
7.	Public Library Kurukshetra
8.	Public Library Panipat
9.	Public Library Rohtak
10.	Public Library Sirsa

### Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data collected through personal survey and questionnaire has been presented in the table form and the analysis of the data has been done. Results are presented here.

### Equipment's Available in Public Libraries of Haryana

**Table 5:** Equipment Available in Public Libraries of Haryana

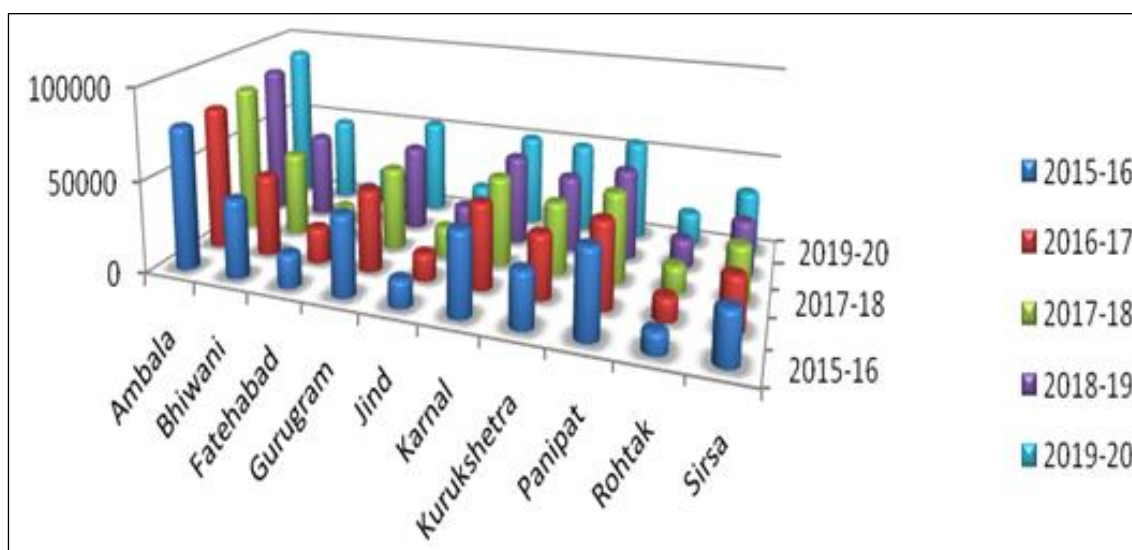
Equipment	Ambala	Bhiwani	Fatehabad	Gurugram	Karnal	Kurukshetra	Panipat	Rohtak	Sirsa	Jind
Photocopy Machine	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Wheel Chair	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computer	2	5	2	13	1	10	10	2	2	6
Common Facility	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Air Conditioner	0	2	0	7	0	0	8	8	0	6

Table 5 elucidates the equipment's available in Public libraries in Haryana state. The public library of Ambala, Fatehabad, Gurugram, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panipat and Jind have their own photocopy machine. From the observation, it has been found that there was not even a single wheel chair available in any of the public libraries in Haryana. The availability of computers in public library of Haryana is better than Punjab as there were thirteen computers available in Gurugram while ten computers were available in Kurukshetra and Panipat Libraries. The common facilities was available in each of the public libraries in Haryana.

**Table 6:** Total Collection in Public Libraries of Haryana

Particular	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Ambala	78000	79000	82000	85000	90000
Bhiwani	42810	44670	46580	47279	47826
Fatehabad	18310	19612	19800	20000	20218
Gurugram	43712	44612	45590	47512	53072
Jind	15000	15000	16700	16900	17230
Karnal	45000	46500	48700	49500	51000
Kurukshetra	30000	35000	39000	42000	49627
Panipat	46500	46500	48700	49500	55000
Rohtak	11516	12716	14517	15650	18140
Sirsa	28000	29000	30000	30000	34170

Table 6 highlights the total collection of books in Public Libraries of Haryana from 2015-16 to 2019-20. Among all public libraries in Haryana the public library of Ambala had maximum number of books as it had 78000 books in 2015-16 which increased over the years and finally in 2019-20, it reached to 90000 books. The Panipat Public Library has the second position in the collection of books as there was 46500 books in 2015-16 which reached to 55000 in the year 2019-20.



**Fig 2:** Total Collection in Public Libraries of Haryana

### Newspaper and Magazines subscribed by the Public Libraries of Haryana

**Table 7:** Newspapers and Magazines subscribed in Public Libraries of Haryana

Particular	Newspaper	Magazines
Ambala	13	12
Bhiwani	12	25
Fatehabad	10	12
Gurugram	12	5
Jind	6	0
Karnal	10	15
Kurukshetra	11	27
Panipat	7	8
Rohtak	12	15
Sirsa	13	9

Table 7 shows the availability of newspapers and magazines among the public libraries in Haryana State. Maximum number of newspapers were subscribed by the Ambala and Sirsa Public Libraries as they subscribe to thirteen newspapers while the Kurukshetra public library subscribed to maximum number of magazines i.e. 27. The Bhiwani public library subscribes to twelve newspapers and twenty five magazines while the public library of Rohtak had subscribed to twelve newspapers and fifteen magazines.

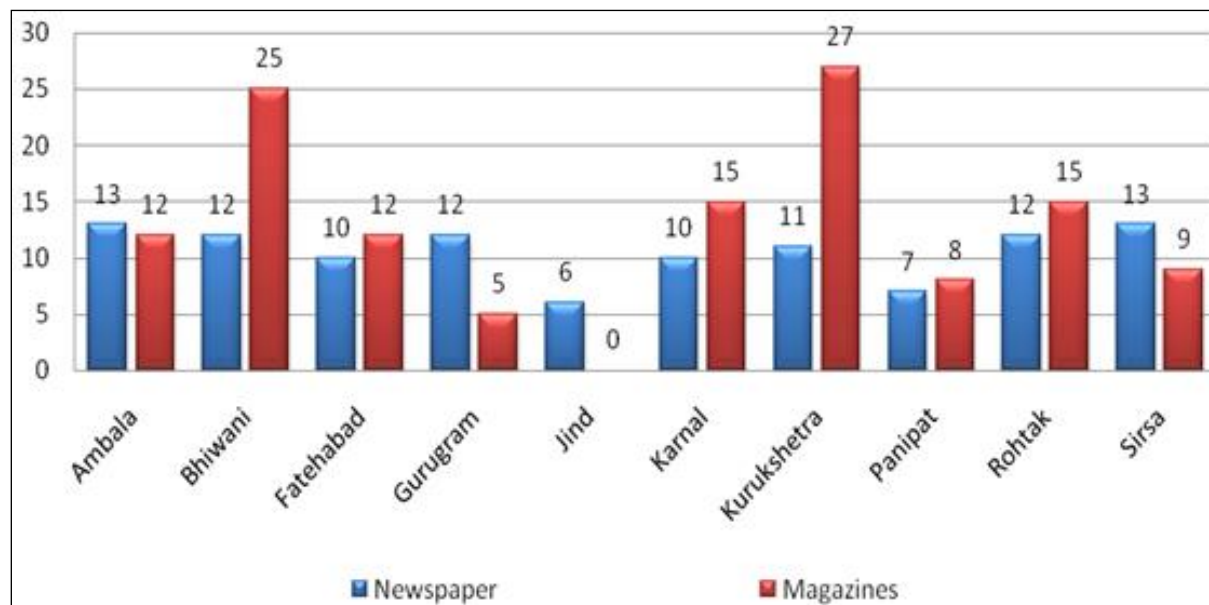


Fig 3: Newspapers and Magazines subscribed by Public Libraries in Haryana

#### Building Library Material available in Public Libraries of Haryana

Table 8: Building Library Material in Public Libraries of Haryana

Building Library Material	Haryana
Library Committee	No
Suggestions from Users	Yes
Gift and Endowments	Yes

Table 8 shows that the collection development policy included library committee, suggestions from users and gifts and endowments in public libraries in Haryana State. From the analysis it is clear that there is no library committee in the public libraries of both the states. The collection of material was mostly built on the basis of the suggestions from the users and gifts and endowments received from RRRLF, local public and users.

#### Collection Development Policy in Public Library of Haryana

Table 9: Collection Development Policy in Public Library of Haryana

Collection Development Policy	Haryana
Yes	01
No	09
Total	10

Table 9 presents the existence of collection development policy in the public libraries of Haryana. It has been found that there is no collection development policy available in nine libraries of Haryana. Only one library in both the states had a collection development policy for building their library collection.

#### E-facilities Available in Public Library of Haryana

Table 10: E-facilities available in Public Libraries of Haryana

E-Facilities	Computer	Printer	Internet	Supporting Staff
Ambala	√	√	x	x
Bhiwani	x	x	x	x
Fatehabad	√	√	√	√
Gurugram	√	√	√	√
Karnal	√	√	√	√

Kurukshetra	√	√	√	√
Panipat	√	√	√	√
Rohtak	√	√	x	x
Sirsa	√	√	√	√
Jind	√	√	√	√

The e-facilities available in public libraries of Haryana State are given in table 10. It is clear that maximum number of Public libraries had their own computers except in Bhiwani public library. The public library of Bhiwani did not have any e-facility while public library at Rohtak has computer and printer but no internet or supporting facility.

### Learning Support available in Public Libraries of Haryana

**Table 11:** Learning Support in Public Libraries of Haryana

Support	Training the Users	Personal Support	Tutorials/Manuals	Others
Ambala	x	√	x	x
Bhiwani	x	√	x	x
Fatehabad	x	x	x	x
Gurugram	√	√	x	√
Karnal	√	x	x	x
Kurukshetra	√	x	x	√
Panipat	x	√	x	√
Rohtak	x	√	x	x
Sirsa	x	√	x	x
Jind	√	x	x	x

The table 11 shows the different kinds of support provided by the public libraries of Haryana State. It has been found that the public library of Ambala provides only personal support to its users. The public Library of Gurugram, Karnal, Kurukshetra and Jind are providing training for users along with personal support and other kinds of support.

### Challenges in Implementing Library Automation in Public Libraries of Haryana

**Inadequate ICT Infrastructure:** Automation requires a lot of machinery and other equipments like computer hardware, software, communication and networking systems; Electricity backup system; furniture and other infrastructure. Financial provision for the infrastructure is required for automation and development of public libraries.

**Human Resources Scarcity:** Human resources are the key source of development of a library. Strength of the staff directly reflects the strength of the organization. Housekeeping, operations and services including automation of public libraries are based on educated and trained staff availability which is not sufficient in Haryana Public libraries.

**Library Legislation in Haryana:** Non- implementation of library legislation in Haryana remained the main reason behind the poor public library system in Haryana. According to UNESCO (1991), only legislation can empower the appropriate authorities to provide the service and endure adequate financial support and efficient administration according to national standards. Library legislation ensures the development and maintenance of libraries on an approved and uniform pattern for the service of the community by laying down the structure of libraries.

**Paucity of Funds for the Development Public Libraries:** The finance always remained the key need of any development. Automation and administration of a library also requires financial assistance. Every plan requires adequate funds for proper success. The finance is the pivot of every plan and its success. The paucity of funds remained the root cause of the crawling pace of the success in the automation of the libraries of Haryana.

### Findings of the Study

- The overall percentage of all the components of ICT is quite low.
- It has been found that out of 10 sample public library of Haryana, only 08 public libraries have their own auditorium or conference hall.
- The state and district library system in Haryana presents a dismal picture.
- Only six district libraries, out of fourteen, have regular librarians which is only 21 per cent out of the sanctioned 29 posts.
- It has been found that all sample public libraries are facing lack of professional and non-professional personnel. Due to unavailability of professional staff, most of the libraries are facing various issues with technical work like classification and cataloguing and process of automation.

- The central state library has a shortage of librarians against the sanctioned strength besides other supporting staff.
- All the district libraries are not able to implement ICT in their library systems because of paucity of funds, shortage of staff, inadequate infrastructure to support ICT and lack of training facilities for the existing library staff.

### Suggestions

- The enactment of library legislation is taken to be essential for the purpose of an integrated library development. There should be a set-up of a separate and an independent directorate of libraries for administering and managing the public library system in Haryana.
- Public library should be made approachable to all with the help and use of modern technology and internet. The circulation of cultural heritage should be made available beyond walls and boundaries, for the use and advantage of the public, by putting whole collection just a mouse click away.
- It has been found that most of the sample libraries are providing referral service. The researchers observed that libraries provided handbooks, bibliographic information regarding the district and other necessary information.
- On-line access to information is of utmost importance with the development of information technologies and their use. Smart public libraries are thus required to play a vital role as e-learning centers and should be providing free access to electronic information and free access points for the users of the libraries.
- Automation is also mandatory in the libraries because to locate and issue the required book to the reader needs to take a very little time and effort. IT related training should also be imparted from time to time to whole library staff on regular intervals. There should be conducted regular meetings with the staff and users to judge the scope for improvement of services in district libraries.

### Concluding Remarks

The public libraries in Haryana plays an important role in the education system of the state. Automation of Public Libraries in Haryana requires a lot of work to be done yet. The main requirement at the present time is the willingness of the state government to support the cause of library automation. The Haryana state has its own Library Legislation which provide a platform for the smooth functioning of public libraries in the state. Library automation depends upon adequate infrastructure, manpower and financial resources which unfortunately public libraries of Haryana do not have. The Haryana State has 19 district public libraries and one state central library. The present study was conducting by taking 09 public libraries and one central library from the state. The public libraries of Haryana are providing various facilities to their users in order to impart knowledge and fulfill the requirements. It is found that neither the state library nor the district libraries are providing services beyond the walls of respective cities. The public libraries need to have mobile library concept in order to reach out the people in countryside.

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