



Central State Library, Uttar Pradesh at Prayagraj: A comprehensive study

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Abstract

The Central State Library of Uttar Pradesh (CSLUP) is a state level public library governed by the Department of Secondary Education of the State Government and plays a vital role for dissemination of knowledge where resources are available on various subjects for different categories of the people. The collection of documents are very fruitful for the Scholars and students pursuing study of competitive examinations as well as children and the general public. The library provides facility of reading and study for each and every person of the society without any discrimination related to religion, caste, gender, age and area. The main objective of this study is to explore the functions of Central State Library at Prayagraj concerning its history, structure, services, and utility for the public. We were distributed 150 questionnaires but received responses 102. On the base of 102 responses analyzed the data. Most of users satisfied but some need in improvement of space, numbers of computer, number of e-books, parking and study materials.

Keywords: State public library, public libraries, services, function, history

Introduction

The term library originated from the Latin word “libre” which means “Books” and according to UNESCO public library manifesto 1949: The public libraries are an important and mandatory organization for encouraging peace and education. Now, the Libraries are known as knowledge resource center, where the collection in the form of book, journals and other reading materials arranged in systematic way using any standard classification schemes for its easy access and achieve the basis objective i.e. Save the time of Users. As per definition, the public library is an organization which is maintained by the public for public use at the public location with objectives of lifelong learning.

India has more than fifty thousand libraries based on the survey reports prepared by various institutions from time to time. The journey was started with the first public library established in the Madras region in the year 1661. The State of Uttar Pradesh also has District Public Libraries in 75 Districts and a large number of other public libraries funded by various organizations. These public libraries have a vast collection of regional and national documents. Some of the important public libraries of the state are as follows-

- Amir-ud-Daula Public Library, Lucknow
- Bharti Bhawan Library, Prayagraj
- Government (Allahabad) Public Library, Prayagraj (Thornhill Mayne Memorial)
- Central State Library, Prayagraj
- Rampur Raza Library, Rampur
- Saraswati Bhawan Library, Varanasi

History of central state library

A regional library was established in the month of September 1946 by Dr. Sampurnanand which was upgraded and renamed as Central State Library (CSL) which is situated at the heart of the city of Prayagraj District earlier known as Allahabad District. Mr. Ramanikant Sur was appointed as first librarian in 1949. The main objective of the library was to disseminate knowledge and information for the public.

Now, it has become a vibrant knowledge resource center by organizing various academic, social and cultural activities. Its collection has increased in diversity over time including materials on academic, literary and social subjects.

Legislative status

As per provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Public Library Act, 2006 enacted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the government will maintain two state level public libraries i.e. Central State Library at Prayagraj will be the first one and second will be Central Reference Library at Lucknow.

Major functions

As declared vide statute i.e. “Uttar Pradesh Public Library Act 2006”, the functions of the State Central Library at Prayagraj shall be-

1. to procure and organize all reading material useful for the general public;
2. to provide facility of self-reading to the general public;
3. to act as a supplement to other Public Libraries in the State;
4. to organize book exhibitions, lectures, seminars and other activities, etc. for promoting reading habits among public at large;
5. to act as an agency to disseminate information relating to various development schemes/welfare programs of the State and the Central Government;
6. to provide book lending services to the general public in such manners as may be prescribed;
7. to plan and co-ordinate library co-operation among Public Libraries in the State including inter-library loan services;
8. to provide reading facilities and special services to handicapped;
9. to work as an apex institution in Public Library System of the State;

10. to procure and make available literatures suitable for neo literates as a support system for various adult education programs in the State;
11. to promote computerization in Public Libraries of the State and organize training programs for the benefit of professionals working in Public Libraries;
12. to carry out such other work as may be entrusted to it by the State Library Council or the Director for the Development of Public Library System and service in the State.

Structure and services

(i) Collection

The Central State Library has a rich collection of books including Encyclopedia, Dictionaries, Novels, Stories, gazettes as well as digital resources on various subjects. There is also a library classification system Dewey decimal classification (DDC) to help users find the required books.

S. No.	Collection	No. of Collection
1.	Printed Books	103136
	E-Library Books	55815
2.	Daily Newspapers	17
3.	Magazines	26
4.	Computer System	20

(ii) Category wise collection

Collection	No of Collections in Languages
Hindi	46429
English	41156
Urdu	2034
For Children	13517

(iii) Major Collections

In CSLUP includes major collections in languages of Sanskrit, Hindi, Bangla, English. In the reference section found rare books such as Ved, purana, Upanishad, encyclopedia, constitution of India, who's who, gazetteer, population, maps etc.

(iv) Infrastructure & Facilities

- Sabhagar having capacity of 50-60 persons
- Separate Children Library Section
- Computer Lab equipped with Computer System, Video conferencing facility, Projector and Sound System etc.
- Separate Reading Room for Newspapers and Books
- Generator for power backup
- Drinking Water
- Public Utilities for Male, Female, Handicapped persons.

(v) Library Staff and Users

Library Professionals	7
Office Assistant	8
Library Trainee/Interns	3
Supporting Staff /Attendant	5
Monthly Users (average)	2000

There are specialized team for providing guidance of reference material, data collection for research scholars and aspirants of competitive exams. Also, a dedicated team is available to assist the children in the library.

Major activities

The utility of central state library has various prospects as mentioned below:

(i) Promotion of Education

Here students and researchers can get necessary academic materials and references. "According to William Shakespeare, one can seek one's purpose in great books—on whose nature, one can nurture one's curiosity" (Chatterjee, Sidharta and Samanta, Mousumi and Dey, Sujoy (2023): Perception of Public Libraries as Substantive Knowledge Organizations).

(ii) Social Inclusivity

The library is open to all sections of people, leading to equitable distribution of knowledge and information.

(iii) Cultural Development

The library promotes social dialogue and cooperation through cultural activities.

(iv) Peaceful Environment

The library provides a peaceful environment for all sections of people.

(V) Promotion of Skill Development

The library provides skill development such as computer literacy course, internship programme, personality development, debate and others. With the help of IPLM and Allahabad Library Forum organized the many programs at their own place.

1. CSL is used an automation software e-granthalaya managed and supported by NIC. Help of this software the library services such as circulation related services are very easy for access and minimum time taking during service.
2. Internship programme, one year training for graduate students of library and information science, computer literacy programme, personality development and art making programs continuously organized by central state library. Last some years ago organized training programs for library professionals with the collaboration of IPLM (Indian Public Library Movement).

(VI) Promotion of Reading habit

Public libraries exist not only as local gateways to knowledge, but also as centers for life-long learning (UNESCO, 1994; Krolak, 2006).

The library creates reading habits among users. Libraries are the most important center for intellectual activities.

(VII) Current News

The library subscribes to 17 newspapers which includes national and local editions.

The large number of users regularly visit the library and take advantage of reading these daily newspapers in order to fulfill their current information needs.

(VIII) Social and Cultural Activities

The library regularly holds information literacy workshops, teaching users how to identify, store and use information.

Major Services

(i) **Circulation Services:** Books issue and returns, book lending.

(ii) **Reading Hall:** Reading Hall facility available for all users.

(iii) **Newspaper and Magazines:** Available for all users.

(iv) **Printing and Photocopying Services:** Available for all users.

(v) **Children Section:** This section is specially designed and maintained for children.

(vi) **Career Counseling Program:** By the order of Hon'ble Director (Education) established the career counseling section.

(vii) Social Activity services:

The library organized different types of programs such as Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, birth anniversary of freedom fighters, social worker, social reformer, national and international and many specific days celebrated with different creative activities.

Methodology

For the purpose of this study 102 responses were received out of 150 questionnaire distributed in the month of May and June 2024.

Data analysis

Services and other facilities available in CSL	Response % as Very Good	Response % of Good	Response % as Average	Response % as Improvement
Current Affair Magazines	73	22	5	0
Daily Newspapers	77	18	5	0
Literature in Hindi Language	68	23	4	5
Literature in Urdu Language	40	35	12	13
Literature in English Language	61	26	6	7
Children Section	46	29	16	9
Space of Reading Hall	42	24	18	16
Video Conferencing Room	75	13	8	4
No of Computer Environment of CSL	15	26	16	43
E-books	45	25	12	18
Drinking Water	76	18	3	3
Parking Facility	35	46	8	11

Responses for Services and other Facilities Available in CSL*.

*CSL- Central State Library

Objective

- 1) To explore the collection available in the central state public library.
- 2) To identify the role and functions of Central State library established at Prayagraj.
- 3) To identify the origin and history of the state public library at Prayagraj.
- 4) To identify the services available for different types of people in the library.
- 5) To find out the type of social activities organized by the State public library.

Findings

The study shows that most of responded are satisfied with the services and facilities provided by Central State Library of Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj regarding space of reading hall, number of computers, parking facility users wants to improvement and increasing the facility. Responses for current affair magazines and newspapers are very good.

Conclusions

The basic role of public libraries are to educate the people of various age groups for effective and efficient information needs by guiding them about information seeking skills at various levels to enable them to be informed citizens of the country.

Likewise, the Central State Library is also involved in the development of civilized society and has a deep impact on it. It increases education levels, reduces information inequality, and encourages cultural awareness. Through the programs organized in the library, people gain information about different ideas and traditions, which promotes harmony and understanding in the society.

The Central State Library uses library automation software e-granthalaya. It is an important center of knowledge, which plays an important role in personal and social development. Its services and impact on society make it an invaluable resource. Various schemes related to the operation, strengthening and development of the Central State Library are executed by the Department of Secondary Education of the state Government. We hope that it ensures the preservation and maximum use of library resources, so that it can build an educated and aware society. Library is an essential organization of knowledge. In case of services and facilities are good for users but users want some need in improvement and extension facilities for number of computers, space of reading hall, parking, study materials, and children section.

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