

The Executive summary of the Minor Research Project (MRP) titled “*Information retrieval barriers in Government Arts & Science Colleges in Kerala the digital age, proposed corrective measures*” assisted by UGC as per approval No. MRP (H) 546/08-09 LMG009/UGC/SWRO

Principal Investigator: P. T. Markose, Selection Grade Librarian, Maharajas College, Ernakulam

The minor project is a truthful enquiry to the real condition existing in arts and science college libraries in the government sector of Kerala state. Since the principal Investigator has more than five years experience in both arts and science as well as professional colleges as chief librarian the difference experienced him both in service as well as infrastructure facilities and the indifferent attitude of users as well as authorities towards the library is the backbone of conducting such an enquiry towards finding out the reasons such a situation in arts and science colleges. Moreover principal investigator is one of the senior most librarian in the common pool of library services in Kerala which the professional college as well as arts college libraries are part with, and felt that if the condition is going on in the same way the arts and science colleges will automatically perish in the near future and it will adversely affect the users and library profession. The major finding of the project summarized as below:

1. The existence of proper teaching and learning process is absent in arts and science colleges than professional colleges and it is the reason for the users not considering the library service seriously.
2. Department library system following in the arts and science colleges restricting the users from using the general library so they are satisfied with the minimum information available there and not bothered about central library and various facilities available and to use them where as no department library system in professional colleges.

3. Infrastructure facilities in all respect are insufficient in arts colleges; they are library building, Information and communication facilities, E-resources, number of professional staff, helpful working hours, etc.

4. The implementing powers available to the principals of arts and science colleges in respect of library regulations are discriminatory capered with professional college principals. Same is the case with the allotment of funds to the library resources.

To overcome the above barriers existing in the proper informational retrieval in arts and science colleges the project suggest following suggestions.

1. Create better teaching and learning atmosphere and introduce library oriented learning.
2. Library orientation will be provided to the users and library hour introduced to students.
3. Department library system abolished and amalgamates with central library.
4. Sufficient infrastructure is provided with information and communication facilities
5. Working hours of the library is extended and shift system introduced.
6. UGC staff pattern of two professional librarian system introduced in arts colleges.
7. The powers holding by the professional college principals also make available arts colleges in respect of library for the up keeping of collection and weeding out of unwanted documents.