

## ADVANCEMENTS IN LIBRARY PRACTICES FOR NAAC ACCREDITED INSTITUTES OF RAJASTHAN: A NEW APPROACH

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### ABSTRACT

*This study deals with the best practices followed by the academic institutes of Rajasthan. Best practices are integral for the growth of institutions of higher learning at the same time they ensure up gradation of knowledge as well as the quality of research. These best practices will help the library users to identify the right information at right time and deliver whatever is desired of them.*

**KEYWORDS:** NAAC, HEIs, ODLIS, Best Practices, Academic Library.

### Introduction

India has one of the largest and varied education systems in the world. It is the second largest after the United States. Privatization, widespread expansion, increased independence and introduction of programs in new and upcoming areas has improved access to higher education. At the same time, it also led to widespread concern about the quality and relevance of the higher education. Library and Information Services of Higher Education institutions play a central role in enhancing the quality of academic and research environment. The National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) strives for setting benchmarks for quality improvement in higher education and advocates enhancing the role of Library and Information Services in improving academic environment. The library holdings in terms of books, journals and other learning materials and technology-aided learning mechanisms which enable students to acquire information, knowledge and skills required for their study programmers. In today's high-tech learning environment, the library as a learning resource is taking up increasingly more academic space and time in the life of a learner. In times ahead, this will be even more so. ODLIS (Reitz, 2004) defined term 'best practices' as follows: "In the application of theory to real-life situations, procedures that, when properly, applied consistently yield superior results and are therefore used as reference points in evaluation of the effectiveness of alternative methods of accomplishing the same task. Best practices are identified by examining empirical evidence of success."

### Higher Education in Rajasthan

Rajasthan is geographically the largest state of Indian union. The state is sub-divided into 32 districts with population of 5.65 crores (2001 census). The literacy rate of the State at 60.41 percent is marginally lower than the national average of 64% approximately. From the education point of view, Rajasthan is among the most backward states of the country. The difficult terrain of the state has been largely responsible for the backwardness in general and education in particular. Education and literacy

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are the two most important factors affecting the progress of a Nation and State. According to the provisional results of Census 2011 shows that, the literacy rate of India stands at 74.04 percent. Whereas literacy rate of Rajasthan is 67.06 percent. The Department of College Education was set up in 1958 for the administration and development of College education in the Rajasthan State. The Department is works under the control and administration of the Commissioner, College Education, Jaipur Rajasthan.

### Objective of the Study

- To explore *the best practices* in NACC Accredited University Libraries
- To study the **satisfaction level** of users

### Methodology

The methodology of this research will be based on the exploratory design. It includes Survey, Observation and Questionnaire methods. Selected higher education institutions which are accredited in cycle II have included in the study.

### Interpretation of Data

**Table 1:** Selected HEIs of Rajasthan awarded A/B/C Grades in Cycle 2 by NAAC.

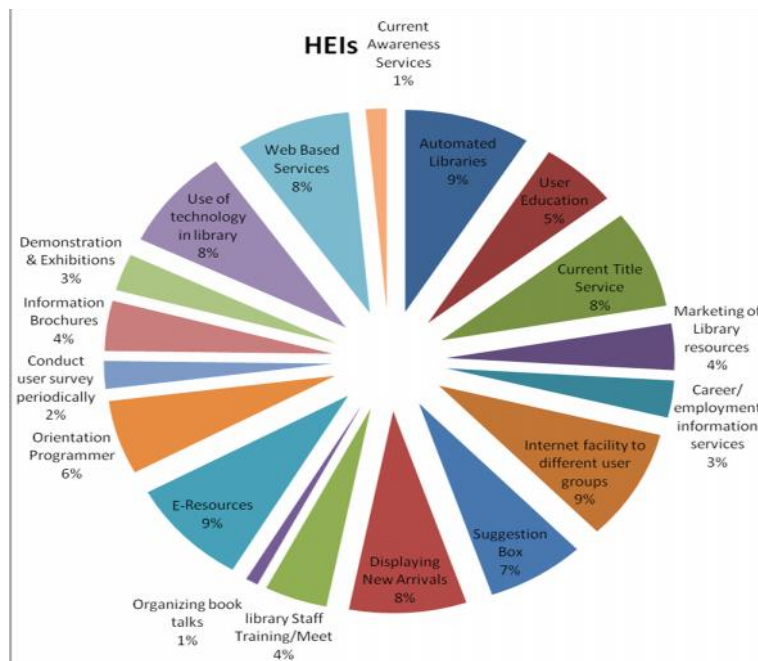
S.No.	Higher Education Institute	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
1	Universities	17	08	01
2	Colleges	245	75	01

The library and information center caters to the need of the user and supports research and development in the institutions. The academic libraries are facing tremendous change like financial support, lack of manpower challenging need of information society and overall information exploration. In the present scenario the fast paced education invoices lead to change and improve the overall activities and services in the academic library system. University Grant commission (UGC) and National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) are regularly motivating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to improve standards of education and to establish Best Practices in the Universities & colleges and library.

**Table 2:** Shows some of the Best Practices in the NAAC accredited institutions library in Rajasthan.

These institution have been graded A, B & C under cycle 2 by NAAC.

S.No.	Best Practices	HEIs	Percent
1	Automated Libraries	60	72.28
2	User Education	37	45.57
3	Current Title Service	52	63.85
4	Marketing of Library resources	25	36.36
5	Career/ employment information services	20	24.09
6	Internet facility to different user groups	60	72.28
7	Suggestion Box	47	56.62
8	Displaying New Arrivals	56	67.46
9	library Staff Training/Meet	30	36.14
10	Organizing book talks	6	7.22
11	E-Resources	58	69.87
12	Orientation Programmer	40	48.19
13	Conduct user survey periodically	15	18.07
14	Information Brochures	27	32.53
15	Demonstration & Exhibitions	20	24.09
16	Use of technology in library	55	66.26
17	Web Based Services	55	66.26
18	Current Awareness Services	10	12.04



**Outlay 1:** represent the Best Practices in the libraries. It has been observed 72% Automated Libraries, 45% User Education, 63% Current Title Service, 30% Marketing of Library resources, 24% Career/ employment information services, 72% Internet facility to different user groups, 56% Suggestion Box, 67% Displaying New Arrivals, 36% library Staff Training/Meet 7% Organizing book talks, 69% E-Resources, 48% Orientation Programmer, 18% Conduct user survey periodically, 32% Information Brochures, 24% Demonstration & Exhibitions, 66% Demonstration & Exhibitions, 66% Web Based Services and 12% Current Awareness Services

### Conclusion

UGC, INFLIBNET, MHRD and NAAC are the responsible authorities for setting benchmarks to improve quality in academic libraries of higher education. Mr. Bellary (2015) gives an account of the best practices of library in his paper. Attempts are being made to pressurize institutions to attain these standards of quality enhancement. In order to improve these services library and information centre building, information re-sources (print or electronic), library automation, qualified library professionals are the essential to provide best services to the end users. According to Vyas (2009) the Libraries of academic institutions of US and UK should be taken into account while formulating criteria for improvement of quality of libraries. There are areas which Rajasthan libraries have not been able to identify best practices.

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