

EFFECTS ON BUDGETING OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES DURING PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

In 2020, as the covid pandemic continued to spread colleges and universities took action to protect staff, faculty and students while continuing to teach and conduct research to assess the impact on academic libraries as all learning rapidly moved online. Students of colleges were surveyed and additional usage data about some online library services were collected.

Keyword: - Covid Pandemic, Academic Libraries.

INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries were among the last facilities to close on many Campuses, as they were viewed as essential for students. As early as the week of March 9, 7% of Academic libraries reported that they had stopped circulating physical materials. As of the fall semester, many libraries reopened their doors, while many services were still being delivered virtually and some staff continued to work remotely. Safety measures have been widely adopted and access to collections is largely digital or staff-mediated. And now, as new cases of the virus are increasing nationwide, a few viable vaccines are being tested, and a new administration prepares to lead the United States, institutions are planning for another semester that will be greatly impacted by disruptions.

OBJECTIVE

To trace the impact of COVID-19 on various aspects of academic libraries in India;

1) To study challenges faced by the academic libraries on budgeting due to COVID-19.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

The challenge academic libraries may face is regarding balancing their collection vis-à-vis print and online. In India, college students largely use print resources because many Indian authors publish textbooks and study material only in print format. Library funding in academic institutes is inadequate to acquire online resources.

COLLECTION SPEND

Libraries have increased their investment in virtual services and digital sources over the past decades. By 2010, Librarians suggested that spending on online or digital journals, magazines and databases made up largely of their budgets. In 2025, Incharge anticipate that spending on e-books will be nearly double that of printed books.

CONSTRAIN OF BUDGET

In COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the strategies and priorities of library leaders as they navigate an even more constrained financial environment than they typically operate in. They have had to make difficult decisions about staffing, and staffs whose jobs rely on the physical library location have been most impacted by budget cuts. Librarians have had to make these difficult decisions while keeping employee well-being in mind and also balancing the financial stability of the library.

The impact on academic library budgets is substantial. In 2020-21 budget determined at the time of the survey, the majority — roughly 75% — have experienced cuts. 20% of librarians reported that they did not yet have set budgets at the time that the survey was conducted. In these cases, there are indications that libraries have been subject to expenditure controls, pausing spending wherever possible

CONCLUSION

Under this difficult time, both the central and state governments need to reconsider their budgets for the education sector in our country. The infrastructure and services required under the present situation calls for huge financial investments on the education sector. This may not possible without the governments' help. However the industrial houses may also be encouraged to come forward to help the education sector under their corporate social responsibility.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledgement is due to the anonymous referee(s) whose valuable suggestions helped to improve this paper from its original version.

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WEB LINKS

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