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Library services and resources on agriculture: With reference to Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University

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Abstract

Library has been Chief conserve of Knowledge and Ideas of Man. It is a vital link in the chain of the man's communication. But, above all Library is a Human Enterprise. This article discusses the agricultural resources available in ANGRAU libraries and e-Resources. Services provided by the library of automation, digitization, resource sharing, LMS software, Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) and institutional repositories Krishikosh. The role library to updating the information in the field of agricultural society wants to be update for latest agricultural research, move forward to key role in increasing productivity and self sufficiency in agriculture information service.

Keywords: ANGRAU, five laws of library science, e-Resources, CeRA, Resource Sharing, Digital Library, Plagiarism

Introduction

Library science is now dominating as Library and information science is an interdisciplinary subject or multidisciplinary field that applies the practices, perspectives and tools of management, information technology, education, and other areas to libraries; the collection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information resources.

What is Library?

The Libraries function as a "Treasure of House of Human Knowledge of the Past and provide information support to the Research and Education activities". The Term "Library" is originated from the Latin word "Liber" which means "Book". As early as 1374 Oxford English Dictionary defined "Library" as a place where books are kept for Reading, Studying and Reference. Library often called as "Library is heart of institution." "Nerve centre of organization", "Mind of society". Libraries are Depository of cultural and civilization past and sustainer of intellectual activity that anticipates the future and latest forms of library services, the newest form of educational media and most advanced means of storing and retrieving information.

Library has been Chief conserve of Knowledge and Ideas of Man. It is a vital link in the chain of the man's communication. But, above all Library is a Human Enterprise. The father of library science in India Dr. S.R. Ranganthan was propounded the five laws of library science in India in 1928 at Provincial Educational Conference, Chidambaram. They were later enunciated in his book "Five Laws of Library Science in 1931. He formulated these laws based on his own experience and observations both at England and India.

The five laws library science is:

1. Books are for use
2. Every reader his or her book
3. Every book its reader
4. Save the time of the reader
5. Library is a growing organism

These five laws look very trivial, but embody deep thought. These laws give philosophical base, guarantying an everlasting future to the subject of Library and Information Science, library profession and library users.

ANGRAU Libraries and It's Services

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU) was established on 20th March, 1965 in the name of Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University by Late Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister of India. "On 7th November, 1996, the University was renamed as Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University in honour and memory of an outstanding parliamentarian Acharya Nayakulu Gogineni Ranga, who rendered remarkable selfless service for the cause of farmers and is regarded as an outstanding educationist, kisan leader and freedom fighter"(ANGRAU Annual Report, 2001).

Institutions of higher education have the main responsibilities of equipping students, researchers and faculty with advanced knowledge and skills. A well-equipped and managed library is an essential prerequisite to achieve this. In particular, scientific research needs a library as well as its laboratories. Keeping this in view, the Library undertakes many responsibilities and performs varied functions and it plays a vital role in the university education and research by providing invaluable resource of knowledge.

The Library supports the students and faculty to enhance their academic requirements to develop their research capabilities:

- To assess library collections and electronic resources to support their research.
- Help identify and order materials to support student research for their class.
- Provide customized instruction on library resources and research methods.
- Give you an individual tour and orientation to the library.
- Help you stay current content in their field through journal contents alert services.

Library services

Following services are offered by the ANGRAU Library:

- Circulation Desk
- Reference Service and Competitive study cell
- Back volume and Periodical service
- Digital Library Service
- Inter Library Loan Services to faculty members through email (DDR).
- Reprographic services.
- Library orientation to fresh members.
- Supply of handout to guide the users for the use of library.
- Display of prospectus for various courses of national and international universities.
- Online newspaper clippings
- Display of Course Reference Collection

Resources available on Agriculture and allied Sciences

Books: The library has rich collection of books in Agricultural and allied sciences. Of these, more than 5000 books are kept as reference books. The collection includes textbooks, reference books, theses, manuals, monographs, dictionaries, encyclopedias. Around 300 to 400 basic to advanced books are added every year for the users of the library. Thesis/ Dissertations more than 8000 are available.

e-Books: Collection of about 1100 e-books at present and all these e-books are accessible via the e-book gateway of OPAC which is available through the Intranet connecting all the

three teaching campuses and the University headquarters. E-Books like CRC Books, CABI Books, Wiley Books, ASAP Books and Elsevier e-Books The e-Book gateway also provides web links to major e-book gateways which are providing access to full-text e-books covering various disciplines.

Journals: Current Periodicals: Journals are the medium of scientific communication because of its up-to-datedness. The library subscribes about 22 foreign journals and 165 Indian journals.

Back Volumes: The old journals are hardbound and kept as Back Volumes for reference. So far, the library has built up over 6825 back volumes of journals.

e-Journals: In the electronic age, information-seeking process is made so much easier and quicker by introduction of e-journals and digital library. Falling in line with modern electronic era, the Library has also activated on-line access to about 200 foreign journals and Indian journals. A list of Open Access e-Journal Portals has also been compiled by the Library and web links established to those portals to ensure easy access to the invaluable journal literature.

CD-ROM/DVD Collections: The library has about 5177 CD-ROM products for the users to retrieve necessary scientific data. This collection includes databases and CD-ROM products including DVDs.

Electronic Surveillance System: Electronic surveillance system has been installed in the library to ensure proper safety and security of the valuable library collection. The system consisting of IR surveillance cameras and monitors help the library administration to track the movements of the library users.

Digitization: The Library has started digitizing the theses and dissertations and currently abstracts of over 3,600 theses had been digitized and full-text of theses and dissertations submitted after 2000 are available in digital format under the Central Library, Hyderabad. Valuable old documents available in the library are identified under ICAR for digitization and digitization of about 4,50,000 pages of documents were digitized.

Reprographic Facilities: Photocopying facilities are available to the library users at nominal charges. To improve the services, two digital copier (scanner, printer and copier) and a digital copier had been added recently. The students and staff utilize these facilities for their reprographic requirements.

Resource Sharing: The Regional Library is a participating library under CeRA project and through this project it shares the library resources of about 123 libraries including SAU/SVU and ICAR institute libraries. Further, the library is an institutional member of the OCLC Library for resource sharing.

Book Bank Scheme: An SC/ST Book Bank comprising of basic and advanced books has been established in the library for the benefit of students.

Information Literacy Programmes / Seminar / Workshop:

The Library periodically conducts information literacy / library orientation programmes to the library users. Awareness programmes are also being conducted for the benefit of library users regularly.

e-Resources/Online Resources on Agriculture

The Library has created a database of Books, Journals, Thesis, Reports and Reference sources and it's made available through 'OPAC'. The library has also created databases of current periodicals, on-line Journals subscribed and digitized database of Theses available in the Library. It also has contributed to the project Strengthening of Digital Library and Information Management under NARS (e-Granth) by setting up a work station for digitization of old resources prior to 1960, which is housed in the library building. Recently library has implemented KOHA Library Management System. The library has implemented and will adopting new technologies to keep pace with the growing information needs of the community to provide better information services.

The ANGRAU Regional Library has subscribed e-Resources/Online Resources to provide the latest information to the Teachers, Scientists, Extension Specialists, Students etc. to meet their research and educational information needs.

1. Remote Access: RemotLog server for remote access of all e-Resources available in the ANGRAU to the Teachers, Scientists, Extension Specialists and Students to browse the important content on agricultural and allied sciences.
2. Statistical Database: Indiastat.com and EPWRF are authentic storehouse for socio-economic statistics about India. Provides statistical data, current happenings with a statistical approach, and articles from scholars on subjects of social and economic importance etc.
3. e-Books: The ANGRAU University Library has purchased from different reputed publishers from International and National, more than 1100 e-Books on Agriculture and allied sciences which can be accessed through I.P. and User ID and Password basis. The e-Books are very much useful to the Teachers, Scientists, Extension Specialists and Students to browse the important content on agricultural and allied sciences.
4. e-Journals: The ANGRAU University Library has subscribed from International and National e-Journals, more than 200 on Agriculture and allied sciences which can be accessed through I.P. and User ID and Password basis.
5. J-Gate Agriculture and Biological Sciences: It has also provides access to Online e-Journals Portal called J-Gate Agriculture and Biological Sciences under CeRA.
6. Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA): In addition to that CeRA (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture) under NAIP project from 2008 onwards. It is providing access to nearly 2900 journals in agriculture and allied disciplines. The user ID and Passwords have been circulated to all the Colleges of the University, Research Stations and also to all the patrons of the University to utilize the e-Resources effectively.
7. KrishiKosh: KrishiKosh is an Institutional Repository under National Agricultural Research System (NARS). The repository of knowledge in agriculture and allied sciences, having collection of old and valuable books, records and various documents spread all over the country in different libraries of Research Institutions and

State Agricultural Universities (SAUs).

8. Open Access Database: University Library has created a database of open access e-Books, e-Journals, e- Reports and Reference sources and it's made available through 'OPAC'.
9. DELNET: The University is the member in DELNET and access the all resource to our clientele.
10. Plagiarism Software: University Library monitoring and administer the anti-plagiarism software like Drillbit, Urkund for research output.

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