

CHAPTER – I

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0. Introduction

We are living in an information age and the simple word information has become the keyword in our life. Information becomes the power of human being. As a social services institution, library has been an important center for generation, collection, storage and dissemination of the information which interact between document and user. The major factor or function of the library is collection, storage and dissemination of information. To get fast and reproduce the information requires some communication and for communication requires some technology. In 21st century with the help of Information Communication Technology the functions of library and information centers have been easy to access the information from worldwide.

Library is soul of any educational institution which associated with all academic, technical, professional, research & development institution as a central point of teaching and learning process. It plays an important role in providing overall library and information services to the students, teachers, staff and professional in educational institutions and also known as creators and publishers of scholarly information. The library is known by its collections and collection development is one of the primary functions of the library and information centres which are known as the book selection, collection building. The buildings of library house it; the library personnel acquire and manage and teach users how best to access and use them.

Library Collection development is the process of meeting the information needs of the people in a timely and economic manner using information resources at locally held as well as from other institutions which means improving the collection of a library with various kinds useful and necessary documents for the users of the library. Traditionally, libraries go on adding documents to the stock and seldom weed out and discard them. They feel pride in more numbers of documents in their collection whether they are useful or not. Through collection development a library can fulfil its objectives; achieve its goals; carefully plan the budget and spend on relevant documents. It should also evaluate the stock periodically and weed out.

Collection development implies selection, acquisition and evaluation of the library collection in order to see that both print and non-print materials which are available in a library are really useful. Similarly, periodic evaluation of the library stock to improve its collection and also to weed out the irrelevant, outdated and unnecessary documents from the library. To increase in number that is more important but the provision of useful materials should keep in mind about users' needs while building up the collection.

Information Technology has changed all aspects of modern human life which helps in the day to day activities, in public, social, educational process, research and developments. Information Technology facilitates transfer of electronic data or information from one place to another, one person to another or one educational institution to another crossing all boundaries. It covers any product that will store, retrieve, manipulate, transmit or receive information electronically in digital form.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is the technologies that provide access to information through telecommunications using the Internet, wireless

networks, cell phones, and other communication mediums. Modern information and communication technologies have created a "Global Village" in which people can communicate with others across the world as if they were living next door. The greatest potentiality of ICT is its ability to serve as a tool to circulate information and to introduce a qualitative change in the life of a people.

Application of ICT in libraries has become important in era of information explosion and widespread use of digital information resources. Effective application of ICT in libraries helps in performing their operations and services most efficiently. Libraries subscribe e-journals, CD-ROM databases, online databases, web based resources, and a variety of other electronic resources. The collections of many of the Academic Libraries and Special Libraries were already digitised and can be accessible through the networks. Several Information Systems and Networks are developed collecting libraries. NISSAT develop several Metropolitan Area Networks such as ADINET, BONET, CALIBNET, DELNET etc. The other networks are INFLIBNET, ERNET, SIRNET, etc. Through networking of the libraries, many libraries are sharing their resources online. In the printed world of educational and research content, the collection development function revolved around the library's philosophy of ownership and preservation for perpetual use. When the libraries purchased the materials from the publishers, the lending and perpetual usage rights came by default under the first-sale right doctrine of the copyright laws. (Sinha, 2011)

ICT is a broad term that covers wide range of technologies. It is the convergence of computers, communication and microelectronic-based techniques. The technologies and devices like; Radio, Servers, Printers, Scanners, Bar Code Printer, Bar Code Readers, R/W/ Combo Drive, Speakers, Digital/Web Camera, Micro-phones,

Stabilizers, UPS, VCR/VCP, OHP, Film Projector, Micro film reader, Micro fiche reader, LCD Projector, Photocopy Machine, Security Systems/ CCTV Cameras, Air Conditioner, Digitization Unit, Telephone, Telegraph, Fax, TV, Telephone, Mobile phone, Internet, Email, Satellite Communication, LAN, ISDN, Video conference, RFID. Telephone and other devices play important role in library services like SDI, Inter library loan, reference services, and online information retrieval. The stabilizers, UPS and air-conditioners are included because this equipment is indispensable to maintain the servers, general computers and related ICT tools. The personal computer, printer and operating software were the initial components of ICT in the university libraries. ISDN has increased the capacity for data transmission which facilitated introduction of new services such as E-mail, Fax etc. Cheaper data storage media has increased the storage capacity of libraries. The software plays an important role in the success of ICT in libraries. The computer operating system and networking software indicate the quality and performance of technology being used by the library. Efficient library application software performs the effective operations and procedures of the library, while multi-functional, integrated, modular, and multi-user, multi-security, and user-friendly library software are found more useful to the libraries. (Sinha, 2007)

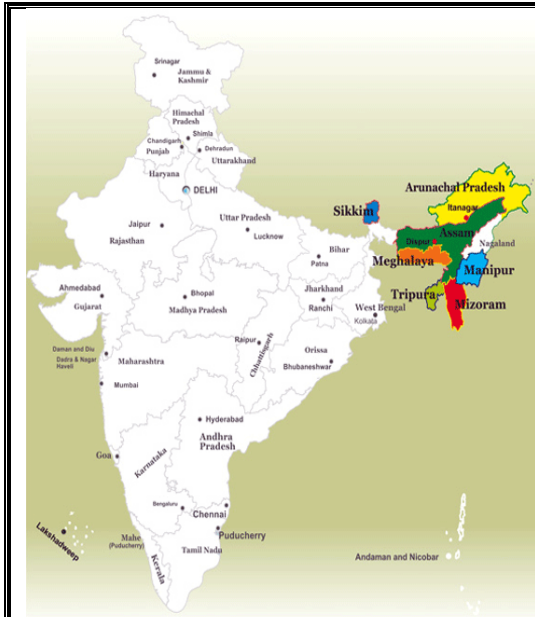
1.1 Sikkim: A Brief Profile

Sikkim is a landlocked Indian state located in the Himalayan Mountains. The state is bordered by Nepal to the west, China's Tibet Autonomous Region to the north and Bhutan to the east and the Indian state West Bengal lies to the south. The state is with the population of 6,07,688 in 2011 census covering an area of 7,096 km². Sikkim is located 28°07'48" and 27°04'46" north latitude and 88°00'58" and 88°55'25" east

longitude (<http://www.sikkim.gov.in/portal>). Sikkim has been included in India as 22nd State in 1975 and as eighth states of North Eastern Region of India in 2000. It is one of the important tourist destinations of North East India. The state has three ethnic groups, namely Lepchas, Bhutias and Nepalese. “There is sprinkling plains folk, who have settled in Sikkim generation ago. They form part of the business community who live in perfect harmony and mutual understanding with the rest of the people in the state.” According to the Government of Sikkim Act, 1974 various sections of the population were divided into two principal groups; “Sikkimese of Lepcha-Bhutia origin” and “Sikkimese of Nepali origin.”

1.1.1 Language

On October 12, 1977 the Sikkim Assembly had passed by voice vote an official bill seeking to declare Lepcha, Bhutia and Nepali, as State languages for official purpose and received support from all sections in the House. English is the official language of the state whereas Nepali is widely spoken by all the sections of the society. Sikkim has eleven official languages: Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha, Limbu, Newari, Rai, Gurung, Mangar, Sherpa, Tamang and Sunwar. Presently, there are three language formulas in schools of Sikkim, they are; English is the first language, Hindi is the second language and regional vernacular language is the third language. In the year 2002, Sanskrit was also introduced in government schools of Sikkim from primary to higher secondary classes but it could not expand as expected. (Bhutia, 2012)



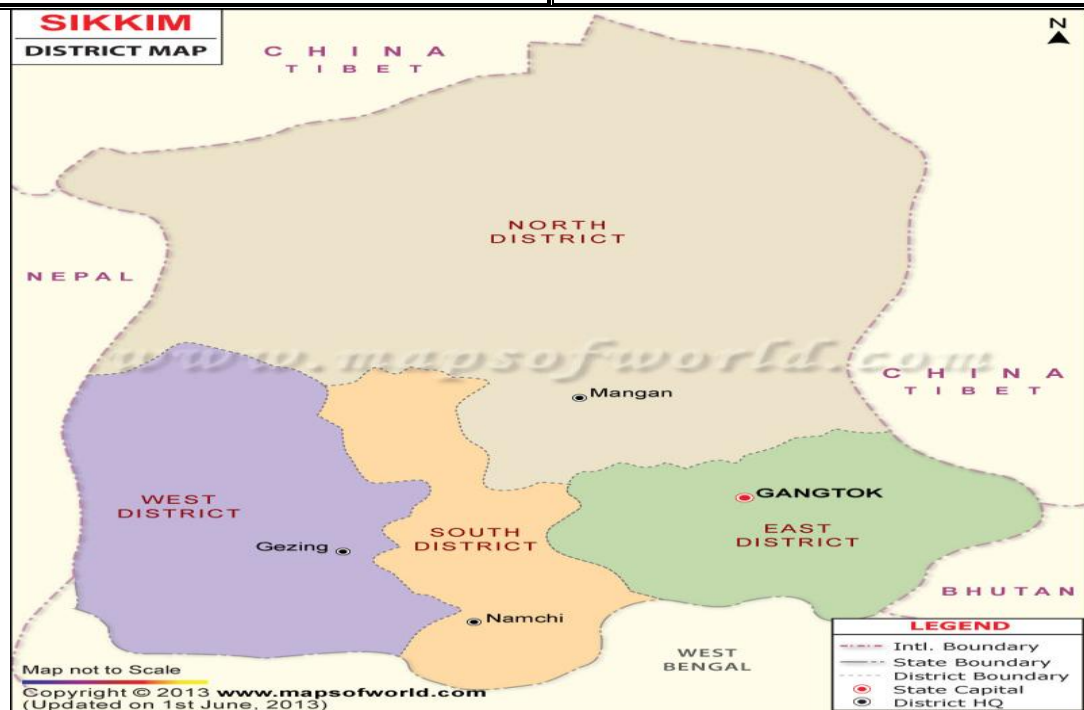
Map -1: Location of Sikkim in India

Source: <http://www.emapsworld.com>



Map -2: Location of Sikkim in North East Region of India

Source: <http://www.emapsworld.com>



Map – 3: Map Showing Districts in Sikkim

Source: <http://www.emapsworld.com>

Table: 1 Brief Statistical Record of Sikkim

Attained statehood in	16 th May 1975
State Capital	Gangtok
Area	7,096 sq/km
Altitude	280 meters
Neighbouring State	West Bengal
Neighbouring Countries	China, Nepal, Bhutan
Population	Persons: 607,688 Male: 321,611 Female: 286,027
Sex Ratio	889
Density	86
Decade Growth	12.36%
Literacy (+7 Yrs)	82.6
Official Languages	English
Other Languages	Nepali, Lepcha, Bhutia, Hindi, Limbu, Newari, Rai, Gurung, Mangar, Sherpa, Taman and Sunwar
Literacy Rate	82.20 Males: 87.29 Females: 76.43 (2011 Census)
Number of Districts	4 (Four)
Sub-Divisions	16
Block Administrative Centres	31
Police Station	26
Village	450
Town	11
Main Town	(Gangtok, Namchi, Gyalshing, Mangan, Jelepla, Jorethang, Pemayangtse, Lachen, Yungthang, Tashiding, Rumtek, Rangpo)
Legislative Bodies	Assembly Seats : 32 Parliament Lok Sabha Seat: 1 Rajya Sabha Seat: 1
Main Political Parties	Sikkim Democratic Frond (SDF) , Indian National Congress (INC)
Seat of High Court	Gangtok
Major Religions	Buddhism, Hinduism
State Animal	Lesser or Red Panda
State Tree	Rhododendron Niveum
State Flower	Novile Orchid
State Bird	Blood Pheasant

(Source: Manorama Yearbook 2015 pp 778-779 and [http://sikkimhrdd.org/General Statistics](http://sikkimhrdd.org/General%20Statistics))

Table: 2 Name of Districts along with Headquarters, Sub-Divisions and Block

Administrative Centres of Sikkim

Name of the District	Headquarters of the District	Sub-Divisions	Block Administrative Centres	Police Stations
East Sikkim Area : 954 sq/km Population : 281293 (Census 2011)	Gangtok	1. Gangtok 2. Rongli 3. Rangpo 4. Pakyong	1. Gangtok 2. Pakyong 3. Rhenock 4. Duga 5. Ranka 6. Regu 7. Khamdong 8. Raktong 9. Martam 10. Parkha	1. Gangtok 2. Ranipool 3. Singtam 4. Rangpo 5. Pakyong 6. Rhenock 7. Rongli 8. Sherathang 9. Kupup
West Sikkim Area: 1,166 sqkm Population: 136299 (Census 2011)	Gyalshing	1. Gyalshing 2. Soreng 3. Yuksom 4. Dentam	1. Daramdin 2. Gyalshing 3. Yuksom 4. Dentam 5. Kaluk 6. Soreng 7. Hee Martam 8. Chungrang 9. Chakung	1. Gyalshing 2. Soreng 3. Nayabazar 4. Kaluk 5. Sombaria 6. Uttarey
North Sikkim Area: 4226 sqkm Population: 43354 (Census 2011)	Mangan	1. Mangan 2. Dzongu 3. Kabi 4. Chungthang	1. Chungthang 2. Mangan 3. Passingdong 4. Kabi Tingda	1. Mangan 2. Chungthang 3. Phodong 4. Lachen 5. Lachung
South Sikkim Area: 750sqkm Population: 146742 (Census 2011)	Namchi	1. Namchi 2. Ravangla 3. Yangyang 4. Jorethang	1. Temi Tarku 2. Melli 3. Sikip 4. Yangyang 5. Namchi 6. Ravangla 7. Namthang 8. Jorethang	1. Namchi 2. Jorethang 3. Ravangla 4. Temi 5. Melli 6. Hingdam

(Source: <http://www.sikkim.gov.in>)

1.1.2. Literacy Rate in Sikkim by 1981 – 2011

Table: 3 Literacy Rate

Year	Persons	Male	Female
1981	41.6	53.00	27.40
1991	54.39	63.44	44.06
2001	68.8	76	60.4
2011	82.20	87.29	76.43

According to census 2011 the literacy rate in Sikkim is 82.20. The literacy rate among male is 87.29 and female is 76.43. The literacy rate has been almost double in 2011 census in compare to 1981.

1.1.3. Literacy Rate in North East India

Table: 4 Comparison of North East Literacy Rate

States of North East India	2001 (Persons)	2011 (Persons)
1. Arunachal Pradesh	54.34	66.95
2. Assam	63.25	73.18
3. Manipur	69.93	79.85
4. Meghalaya	62.56	75.48
5. Mizoram	88.80	91.58
6. Nagaland	66.59	80.11
7. Sikkim	68.81	82.20
8. Tripura	73.19	87.75
India	64.83	74.04

Literacy Rate of Sikkim is at third place in 2011 census in North East Literacy Rate of India.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The phenomenon of Collection Development and ICT Application among the libraries in Sikkim is still a recent development. There is a need to study the various models,

guidelines and procedures and collaborative approach towards collections development and ICT applications in libraries of higher educational institutions in the state.

The literature review indicates that no such study on the related topic has been done before stating the general status of collection development and status of ICT Application in educational libraries of Sikkim. In the light of the above facts a need has been felt to undertake the research on the topic – *“Status of Collection Development and ICT Application in Libraries of Higher Educational Institutions of Sikkim: A Study.”* This study will enable to learn all the important aspects of Collection Development and ICT Application in greater depth and its status in the higher educational institution of state.

Sikkim has 1 (One) Central university, 4 (Four) Private Universities, 1 (One) National Institute of Technology, 1 (One) Constituent Agriculture College of Central Agriculture University, Imphal, 1(One) Medical College, 1 (One) Pharmacy College, 4 (Four) Teachers Training Colleges, 1 (One) Law College 6 (Six) State Government Colleges, 2 (Two) Polytechnics and 5 (Five) Private Colleges 1 (One) Government Industrial Training Institute in Sikkim and all the institutions are supported with library to meet the information need of the students, faculties and staff.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to assess the status of the Collection Developments and ICT applications have influence and need for further on the modernisation of the Library and Information Centres of the higher academic institutions in Sikkim. The objectives of the study are summarised as;

- a) To assess the status of Collection Development of Libraries of Higher Educational Institutions of Sikkim State;
- b) To examine the Collection Development Policies adopted by the Higher Educational Institution Libraries in the Sikkim State;
- c) To assess the status of ICT application as a tools for the modernisation of Libraries of Higher Education Institutions;
- d) To find out the basic infrastructural facilities available in the Higher Educational Institutional Libraries of Sikkim;
- e) To study the extent of computerisation activities of Library housekeeping operations for organisation and information dissemination; and
- f) To explore some of the difficulties encountered by Libraries while automating their housekeeping operations.

1.4. Scope and Limitations of the Study

The success of any institutions depends upon the skills and capabilities of its teachers. It is well known fact that teacher can update their knowledge through the habit of reading and reading the materials which are available in the library and information centres. Libraries of institutions are supplement of their parent institutes in attaining educational goals to meet the information needs of present and future teachers. At present, there are 30 higher educational institutions in the state of Sikkim. This includes recognised higher educational institutions i.e.; Central University, Private Universities, Technical Colleges, Medical College, Teachers Training Colleges, Law College, Polytechnics, General Govt. Colleges and Private Colleges in Sikkim.

The present study has been carried out taking sample of selected 25 higher educational institutions and limited to these selected which existing in the state. The institutions are;

Table 5: Higher Educational Institutions under the Study

Sl.No.	Higher Educational Institutions in Sikkim	Estd.	Status (Govt./Pvt.)	Affiliation/ Approval
1.	Sikkim University	2007	Central University	UGC, MHRD
2.	ICFAI, University	2004	Private University	UGC
3.	EIILM University	2006	Private University	UGC
4.	Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University	2008	Private University	UGC
5.	SMIMS, Tadong, East Sikkim	2001	Private College	SMU
6.	D.I.E.T, Gangtok	2003	Government College	HRDD, NCTE
7.	Rhenock Government College	2005	Government College	SU
8.	Sikkim Government College, Tadong	1972	Government College	SU
9.	Namchi Government College	1996	Government College	SU
10.	Government College, Geyzing	2011	State Govt.	SU
11.	SHEDA College, Deorali	1983	State Govt.	SU
12.	Damber Singh Degree College	1994	Private College	SU
13.	Palatine College, Pakyong	2004	Private College	SU
14.	Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology	1997	Private College	SMU
15.	Sikkim Govt. B.Ed. College	2009	Government College	SU
16.	Loyala College of Education	1997	Private College	SU
17.	Harkamaya College of Education	2003	Private College	SU
18.	Advanced Technical Training Centre, Bardang, East Sikkim	1999	Government Polytechnic	AICTE
19.	Centre for Computers & Communication Technology, Chisopani, South Sikkim	1999	Government Polytechnic	AICTE
20.	Industrial Training Institute	1975	Government	NCVT
21.	Himalayan Pharmacy Institute	2003	Private Institute	SU
22.	College of Agricultural Engineering and Post – Harvest Technology	2006	Central Government Institution	CAU, Imphal
23.	National Institute of Technology	2009	Central Government	MHRD
24.	Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology Applied Nutrition	2001	Government	NCHM, New Delhi
25.	Sikkim Government Law College	1980	Government College	SU

The study has been covered all aspects related to the status of collection development and ICT application for acquisition of information sources such as books, journals and non-book materials including electronic resources.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The collections, resources and services of libraries of higher educational institutions are mainly for users; students, teachers, staffs and authorities. The success of a library can be measured by well selected material, process, arrangement, preservation, and maintenance, use of ICT Applications for its resources and also for its services.

The main requirement for the present study is based on the fact that not any specific study has been done on status of library collections, library automation, and library professional in the state of Sikkim. This proposed significant of study will be helpful in the following topic;

- (i) The study would particularly benefit to the librarian, student, and faculty members to know the status of libraries of higher educational institutions in Sikkim.
- (ii) The proposed study will provide information about the collection development and ICT Application of the modern libraries in the state.
- (iii) It will coordinate efforts for suitable collection development and impact of ICT Application to modernise their institutional Libraries.
- (iv) The study will provide the information to the higher authority of institutions to take better decision to improve the library of their institution.

1.6. Definition of Operational Terms

1.6.1. Collection Development: A Collection Development is a process which permits the library to develop a collection of materials responding to the information needs and service requirements of the users. It has been also defined as a process that allows for the identification of the strengths and weakness of the document collection of a library in terms of the needs of the users and the resources of the community. It is a universal process in the library world in which the library professionals assembles a variety of materials in order to satisfy the demands of the users. This dynamic and constant cycle brings together six elements: user study, policies, selection, acquisition, weeding and evaluation.

1.6.2. Higher Educational Institution: The Institutions which provide all types of education such as universities, colleges, technical institutions, teacher's training institution and in which the courses leads to give an award (degree, diploma of certificate of higher studies). The students are about eighteen years of age and have completed 10+2 schooling. The stage of higher education covers the stages; certificate, diploma, graduate, post-graduate, post graduate diploma and research.

1.6.3. ICT Application: ICT is an abbreviation of Information and Communication Technology which is used as extended synonyms for Information Technology (IT). In general term the role of communications and the integration of telecommunication - telephone lines and wireless signals, computers, middleware as well as necessary software, storage and audio visual systems which enables users to create access, transmit and manipulate the information.

1.6.4. Library Automation: Use of control systems and information technologies to reduce the manual work and fast information dissemination in the libraries.

1.6.5. Sikkim: The 22nd State of the Indian Union bounded on west by Nepal, on the north by China, on the east by Bhutan on the south by West Bengal.

1.7 Conclusion

In Indian Union Sikkim is small and beautiful state with comparatively better literacy rate in North East Region of India. In the state there are good numbers of higher educational institutions which were established after 1975 when the state got statehood and maximum numbers of the higher educational institutions were established in 2001-2010. All these higher educational institutions have established their own library and information centre as a learning resources centre for student, academic community. In the region, there was not any research study in particular fields of collection development and ICT status in higher educational libraries of Sikkim. Therefore, the researcher selected the area and topic with statement of problems and six objectives of the study. The concept, history, overview, findings, suggestions, recommendations, conclusion and further scope of the study have been described in chapter wise in the thesis.