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Ghalib Khan Rubina Bhatti

Article information:

To cite this document:

Ghalib Khan Rubina Bhatti , (2015), "Determinants of academic law libraries' use, collections, and services among the faculty members: a case study of University of Peshawar", Collection Building, Vol. 34 Iss 4 pp. 119 - 127

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Determinants of academic law libraries' use, collections, and services among the faculty members: a case study of University of Peshawar

Ghalib Khan and Rubina Bhatti

Department of Library and Information Science, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, South Punjab, Pakistan

Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of this paper is to examine the determinants of academic law libraries' use, collections and services among the faculty members of the University of Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Design/methodology/approach – Keeping in view the objectives of the study, a survey based on a well-structured questionnaire was designed to collect data about law libraries' usage, collection and services from the faculty members of 19 law colleges, including Law College, University of Peshawar, and 18 affiliated law colleges situated in the different geographical location of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Findings – Results of the study indicate that most of the faculty members use law libraries for the issue and return of books and consult textbooks for their teaching and other academic activities. The overall results show the usage, collections and services of law libraries as somehow satisfactory.

Research limitations/implications – The scope of this paper covers constituent college of the University of Peshawar and its 18 affiliated law colleges (Total 19), and the geographical area is restricted to the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The scope of this paper can be extended to additional private and public sector universities in Pakistan, as well as abroad.

Originality/value – There are number of studies on the usage, collections and different library services, but this study is the first of its kind in Pakistan, specifically focusing on academic law libraries at a provincial level. This study will pave way to fulfill the demands of law faculty members and legal practitioners teaching in the legal institution of Pakistan.

Keywords Pakistan, Academic law libraries, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Law faculty members, University of Peshawar, Users studies

Paper type Case study

1. Introduction

Academic law libraries play an important role in the promotion of legal education. They devote a large portion of their budgets to creating and maintaining collections, services and facilities (Lenz and Wohl, 2008) and play critically an important role in supporting the work of legal scholars (Prager, 2004). These libraries are the repositories of distinctive collections of legal information which are developed and arranged for the users' community. The scope of the collection and services offered by academic law libraries depend very much on the host organization. Academic law libraries exist primarily to support the teaching and research of the academic institution to which they are attached (Feather and Sturges, 2003). The Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science (ODLIS) defines the law library as:

A type of special library with a collection consisting primarily of materials for legal research and study, including case law, federal and state statutes,

international legal agreements, treatises, reference works, legal periodicals, and electronic search tools (Reitz, 2007).

Because of the special exigencies of legal research and the nature the materials that composed it, academic law libraries are essentially reference libraries. They are the principal center of legal information which contributes directly to the training of future lawyers (Karkey, 2008). In fact, no meaningful teaching, study and legal research are possible without the use of an academic law library.

Building an effective collection according to the information needs of the users' community is among the most important functions of a library. Kasalu and Ojiambo (2012) state that effective collection development is only possible when it is based on the firm knowledge of users' that are being served. Therefore, periodic assessment of library services and collections, based on users' feedback, is important to improve the quality and to meet their information needs effectively. According to Hussain and Abalkhail (2013), it helps to identify the performance of the services provided for the library users.

Surveys are the most common and widely implemented strategies adopted by information professionals to assess service quality and the level of satisfaction of the users. The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) has conducted

The current issue and full text archive of this journal is available on Emerald Insight at: www.emeraldinsight.com/0160-4953.htm



Collection Building
34/4 (2015) 119–127
© Emerald Group Publishing Limited [ISSN 0160-4953]
[DOI 10.1108/CB-07-2015-0011]

Received 1 July 2015
Revised 1 July 2015
Accepted 13 July 2015

surveys to identify the key areas and also to develop new methods and tools to measure service quality and library performance. In library surveys, quantitative and qualitative techniques are used to measure the degree to which a library's collection, services and programs meet the end users' needs. These techniques are usually undertaken with the aim to improve the performance and quality of library resources and services (Reitz, 2007). The present study is undertaken to find out the availability of different types of collections, facilities and services and to know how well the libraries of law colleges and legal institutions in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, affiliated with the University of Peshawar, are able to fulfill the information needs of the faculty members.

The University of Peshawar is a prominent public-sector university in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which was established in 1950. It bears the status of international fame in the field of research productivity, building intellectual capacity, leadership development and providing skilled manpower for social and national development. It follows the policy of providing access to quality education relevant to meet the existing and future demands of society. During the past sixty years, Peshawar University has grown into an educational township. Three of its constituent faculties have been detached from it, giving birth to Agriculture, Engineering and Khyber medical universities. Presently the University has six faculties:

- 1 Arts and Humanities;
- 2 Islamic and Oriental Studies;
- 3 Life and Environmental Sciences;
- 4 Management and Information Sciences;
- 5 Numerical and Physical Sciences; and
- 6 Social Sciences.

It has five centers: Islamic Centre, Pakistan Study Centre, Area Study Centre, Centre of Bio Technology and Centre of Plant and Bio-diversity and two Centres of Excellence National Centre of Excellence in Geology and National Centre of Excellence in Physical Chemistry. There are four constituent colleges: Law College: Jinnah College for Women, Quaid-e-Azam College of Commerce and College of Home Economics. It has two high schools: University Model School and University Public School. The University has recently established an undergraduate college for boys. It has a central library with a collection of over 2,000,000 books which are properly organized. The Central Library provides services and facilities to the staff and students. In addition to the usual stock, it houses a good oriental collection of valuable and rare books and manuscripts, as well as a number of collections on local history and tribal customs and traditions, donated by the philanthropists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It also provides computers, Internet and e-mail facilities to the users. (University of Peshawar, 2013).

The University of Peshawar is the oldest university of the province and has the privilege of granting affiliation to 18 law colleges and institutions in the private sector (Appendix A1). The focus of this study is on the library use, collections and services of these law colleges, legal institutions and the constituent Law College of the University of Peshawar (total of 19 law colleges).

2. Review of literature

This paper briefly reviews studies conducted on the determinants of library use, collections and services of law libraries; however, it also includes other different studies dealing with the same variables. Some of the relevant studies in chronological order are as follows:

Hussain and Abalkhail (2013) examined the determinants of library use, collections and services among the students of engineering at King Saud University, Riyadh (KSA). The findings of the study revealed that a majority of the users used the circulation service. The study further found that research scholars preferred the reference collection for their various research assignments. The study concluded that the use of the library collection and services was appreciated by the users of College of Engineering, King Saud University.

Khan and Bhatti (2012) carried out a study of the law library's collection usage and services among the faculty members of the University of Peshawar. To achieve the objectives of the study, a questionnaire-based survey approach was adopted. Findings of the study revealed that law faculty members mostly consult textbooks, general books, law reports, journals and the reference collection for their various educational and research-related purposes. The study found that outdated stock, unavailability of required materials, insufficient provision of computers and Internet services in the law colleges' libraries were the main barriers in the provision of effective services to the faculty members. The study recommended the provision of up-to-date collection, electronic resources and information and communications technology (ICT) facilities for improving the law libraries' collection, services and facilities.

Thanuskodi (2012) conducted a case study of Dr Ambedkar Law University library's collection and services in fulfilling the information needs of faculty members. It was noted that respondents consult a variety of information sources to fulfill their academic and research needs. The study found that the tendency of the majority of the respondents was toward using printed collections more than electronic sources and facilities. The study suggested users' education programs on the use of electronic resources for law faculty members.

Kasalu and Ojiambo (2012) studied the application of ICT in collection development practices in the private university libraries in Kenya. Three universities and 72 respondents were purposefully selected for the study. Findings revealed that ICT facilities were available in all the three universities, but their application in collection development was not adequate in ensuring efficiency and in making sure that the library collections are effective in meeting the information needs of the users.

Little (2011) conducted a survey of Library and Information Science (LIS) selectors at ARL institutions/libraries. The researcher found that LIS collections primarily support librarians in their daily work and continuing professional development. Little further observed that majority of the LIS selectors are responsible for collection development in multiple subject areas.

Hussain *et al.* (2011) conducted a survey of five women college's libraries in south campus, the University of Delhi, India. The objectives of the study were:

- to know the use of collections and services of the libraries;
- to determine the way of documents location and search elements of the libraries;
- to identify the infrastructure facilities provided by the library; and
- to find out the overall user satisfaction with the resources and services facilities provided in the women college libraries of south campus in the University of Delhi.

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the users were using lending and reference services. The study also found that the majority of the users were satisfied with the furniture and lighting facilities of the library.

Khan (2010) surveyed and evaluated academic law libraries' effectiveness by measuring faculty members' satisfaction with library use, collection and services. Main findings of the study were an inadequate library collection, scarcities of IT facilities and insufficient provision of computers and Internet in libraries. To meet instant academic and research needs, most of the law faculty members had developed their personal collections at home and office. A significant number of law faculty members appreciated the cooperative attitude of the library staff. The study recommended library education and orientation to improve the rate of law libraries' usage. The purpose of the study conducted by Kaur (2010) was to examine the perception of academic staff on the quality of academic library services in Malaysia. The important findings of the study were: a considerable number of users appreciated the cooperative attitude of library staff. Academic staff found that the library has placed a positive impact on their teaching, learning and research activities. They rated their library services and facilities satisfactory. Kassim (2009) evaluated academic library's performance by measuring users' satisfaction with library services, infrastructure and collection in Malaysia. The research found that majority of the respondents were satisfied with library infrastructure followed by collection and services.

In another study, Thanuskodi (2009) surveyed the effectiveness of the library in fulfilling the information needs of faculty members at the Central Law College, Salem, India. The study found that the college library provides a variety of information sources, including books, journals and law reports, to meet faculty members' teaching and research needs. The faculty members of the Law College, Salem, perceived their library "effective" in meeting their information needs.

Vignau and Meneses (2005) surveyed collection development policies of 16 centers of higher and technical education in Cuba. They found that although the directors of university libraries and managers of collection development were aware of the process of collection development, few have collection development policies, and few carry out users' studies. Amusa and Adekunmise (2003) studied collection development practices in a Nigerian third-generation University library and recommended sufficient budget allocation for library resources and faculty participation in the selection of materials. Earlier, Majid and Kassim (2000) examined the perceptions of law faculty members regarding the effectiveness of the central library at the International Islamic University, Malaysia. The study found that most of the faculty members use the library collection for their various

academic and research purposes. The study suggested the provision of electronic resources in the library's collection to meet users' information needs effectively. Other relevant studies are: Bhatti (2013), Bhatti and Hanif (2013), Khan and Bhatti (2012), Mangrum and Pozzebon (2012), Hussain *et al.* (2011), Okello-Obura (2010), Kassim (2009), Mallaiah and Gowda (2009), Adams and Noel (2008), Howard (2007), Seneviratne (2006), Agee (2005), Bouazza and Al-Mufaraji (2005), Wittenbach (2005), Kiondo (2004), Siddiqui (2002) and Gessess (2000).

3. Objectives of the study

The main objectives of this study were to:

- Identify law faculty members' purpose for using their college libraries.
- Determine the level of usage of the library collection by the faculty members.
- Assess their approach to finding a document from the library collection.
- Reveal the level of awareness about the library collection and services.
- Investigate their level of satisfaction from library collections, services and facilities.
- Explore major problems law faculty face while using their institutional libraries.
- Suggest appropriate measures for making law libraries services more effective and efficient.

4. Methodology

To achieve the objectives of the study, a survey research method was used. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire from the target population. The target group of the study was the teaching faculty of the Law College and 18 law colleges, affiliated with the University of Peshawar. The list of affiliated law colleges (Appendix 1) was obtained from the academic section, University of Peshawar. To determine the population of the study, the official record of the academic section, University of Peshawar was used as a sampling frame for this research. As per the existing data, there are 128 faculty members teaching in these law colleges. A random sampling technique was used, and 100 law faculty members were chosen through the lottery method for the study. The size of the sample taken was quite large, so that the formalities of identification can be assisted. This method has been adopted by Hussain and Abalkhail (2013) and Kumar *et al.* (2010) in their studies. Moreover, this was done with to obtain result-oriented findings and make inferences generally.

Printed copies of the questionnaire with a covering letter were sent to the respective law colleges/institutes along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Out of 100 questionnaires, 86 filled-in questionnaires were returned, constituting 86 per cent response rate, with 6 (7 per cent) female and 80 (93 per cent) male respondents.

5. Data analysis and interpretation

5.1 Employment status and qualification of the respondents

A significant number of respondents 51 (59.3 per cent) were visiting faculty. The ratio of respondents by designation was as

follows: 16 lecturers (18.6 per cent), 8 assistant professors (9.3 per cent), 2 associate professors (2.3 per cent), followed by 9 (10.5 per cent) professors (Table I). Majority of the respondents 51 (59.3 per cent) had Bachelors (LLB) degrees followed by 22 (25.6 per cent) Masters (LL.M) degree, while 10 (3.5 per cent) faculty members were holding PhD degrees (Table II).

5.2 Respondents' visits to the library

Frequencies of visits to the library are an index to assess users' needs and satisfaction of the library resources and services. It can be assumed that the users who frequently visit the library use the library at the maximum level as compared with those users who visit the library occasionally (Hussain and Abalkhail, 2013). Table III illustrates that a simple majority of faculty members, 27 (25.6 per cent) out of 86, visit the library on "Daily" basis, followed by 17 (21 per cent) "Once in a Month" and 14 (17 per cent) each "Two or Three Times a Week" and "Several Times a Year". Only 13 (16.1 per cent) faculty members visit their college libraries "Once in a Week". Interestingly, one faculty member never paid a visit to his/her college library. Five respondents did not answer this question.

5.3 Purpose of visits to the library

The purpose of assessing the respondents' visits to the library was to find out whether they come to the library to satisfy their information needs for their various research and academic assignments or for general purpose. Table IV shows that 55

Table I Respondents' designation (n = 86)

Serial no.	Designation	Frequency	(%)
1	Lecturer	16	18.6
2	Assistant Professor	8	9.3
3	Associate Professor	2	2.3
4	Professor	9	10.5
5	Visiting Faculty	51	59.3
	Total	86	100.0

Table II Respondents' qualification (n = 86)

Serial no.	Qualification	Frequency	(%)
1	LLB	51	59.3
2	LLM	22	25.6
3	MPhil	3	3.5
4	PhD	10	11.6
	Total	86	100.0

Table III Respondents' visits to the law college library

Serial no.	Visits frequency	Frequency	(%)
1	Daily	22	27.6
2	Two or three times a week	14	17.3
3	Once in a week	13	16.1
4	Once in a month	17	21
5	Several times a year	14	17.3
6	Never	1	1.2
	Total	81	100.0

Table IV Respondents' purposes of visit to the library (n = 86)

Serial no.	Purposes	Frequency	(%)
1	To borrow or return books	55	64.0
2	To read newspapers	33	38.4
3	To study library materials	20	23.3
4	To search literature/reference materials	10	11.6
5	To chat with friends	7	8.1
6	To study own reading materials	1	1.2

Note: Multiple answers were permitted

out of 86 (64 per cent) respondents' visit the library to borrow and return books, while 33 (38.4 per cent) respondents visit the library for reading newspapers. The findings further revealed that 20 (23 per cent) respondents use their college libraries to "read library materials", followed by ten (11.6 per cent) to "consult literature and reference materials". Among them, seven (8.1 per cent) indicated that they visit library to chat with friends, while one (1.2 per cent) mentioned the purpose of library visit "to study own reading materials".

5.4 Use of information sources

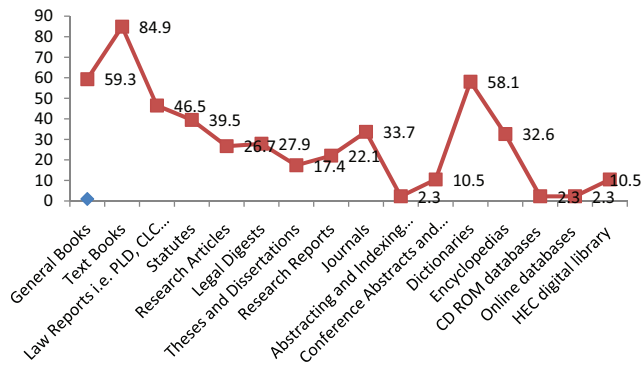
Respondents were asked to identify the sources of information they use to fulfill their information needs. Table V indicates that a vast majority of respondents, 73 (84.9 per cent), use textbooks followed by 51 (59.3 per cent) general books and 50 (58.1 per cent) law dictionaries to fulfill their information needs. Consequently, 40 (46.5 per cent) respondents consulted law reports, 34 (39.5 per cent) "Statutes", followed by 29 (33.7 per cent) who used journals and 28 (32.6 per cent) encyclopedias. Furthermore, the findings show that 24 (27.9 per cent) respondents study legal digests, 19 (22.1 per cent) research reports, 9 (10.5 per cent) conference abstracts and proceedings and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Digital Library resources, respectively, to meet their information and academic needs. On the other hand, the use of CD ROM databases and online databases was very low (n = 2, 2.3 per cent, for each) (Figure 1).

Table V Respondents' use of information sources (n = 86)

Serial no.	Sources of information	Frequency	(%)
1	Text books	73	84.9
2	General books	51	59.3
3	Law dictionaries	50	58.1
4	Law reports, i.e. PLD, CLC, ScMR, etc.	40	46.5
5	Statutes	34	39.5
6	Journals	29	33.7
7	Encyclopedias	28	32.6
8	Legal digests	24	27.9
9	Research reports	19	22.1
10	Conference abstracts and proceedings	9	10.5
11	HEC digital library	9	10.5
12	CD ROM databases	2	2.3
13	Online databases	2	2.3

Note: Multiple answers were permitted

Figure 1 Respondents' use of information sources



5.5 Provision of law journals

Law journals are the main sources of information for legal practitioners, advocates, law faculty members and students. These are the periodical issues which contain legal decisions of the courts and scholarly communications of the legal experts. Respondents were asked about the availability and subscriptions to law journals in their respective institutes. It was found that the majority of law colleges subscribe to law journals related to faculty members' field of interest. Fourteen respondents did not know about subscriptions to any law journal in their respective libraries (Table VI).

5.6 Satisfaction with library resources and services

Table VII shows the views of respondents regarding their satisfaction with library resources and services. Findings reveal that the majority 51 (69 per cent) of the respondents were satisfied with library "document location" and 47 (54.7 per cent), with staff, furniture and computer facilities. In addition, 44 (51.2 per cent) of the respondents were also satisfied with Internet connectivity and the library collection. On the other hand, they were dissatisfied with the library catalogue (n = 48, 55.8 per cent).

Table VI Provision of law journals

Serial no.	Opinion	Frequency	(%)
1	Yes	55	64.0
2	No	17	19.8
3	Do not know	14	16.3
	Total	86	100.0

Table VII Respondents' satisfaction with library resources and services (n = 86)

Serial no.	Library services	Frequency	
		Yes (%)	No (%)
1	Document location	51 (69)	35 (31)
2	Library staff	47 (54.7)	39 (45.3)
3	Library furniture	47 (54.7)	39 (45.3)
4	Computer facilities	47 (54.7)	39 (45.3)
5	Internet connectivity	44 (51.2)	42 (48.8)
6	Library collection	44 (51.2)	42 (48.8)
7	Library catalogue	38 (44.2)	48 (55.8)

5.7 Problems faced by the respondents

Respondents were asked to mention problems they face when using the library facilities, collection and services. Unavailability of an up-to-date collection was the main problem of the majority of the users (51, 36.17 per cent), followed by outdated collections (37, 26 per cent) and lack of time to consult library collection (22 per cent). Consequently, lack of knowledge about using library resources (13 per cent), followed by lack of support from library staff and lack of individual study booth (5 per cent), scattered information (3.5 per cent) and lack of journals (3 per cent) were also the main obstacles faced by the users. Similarly, two (1.4 per cent) respondents showed unfamiliarity with library catalogue (Table VIII).

6. Discussions of the findings

The users who frequently visit the library can be assumed that they use the library to the maximum level when compared with those users who visit the library occasionally or rarely. It is generally assumed among the professional librarians' community that the effectiveness of the library collection can be judged from the visit frequencies of the users' community. The study revealed that the majority (22, 27.6 per cent) of the respondents visited their college libraries on a daily/regular basis for the issue and return of books and reading newspapers. However, a trend of low library usage was observed among the law faculty members (Figure 2).

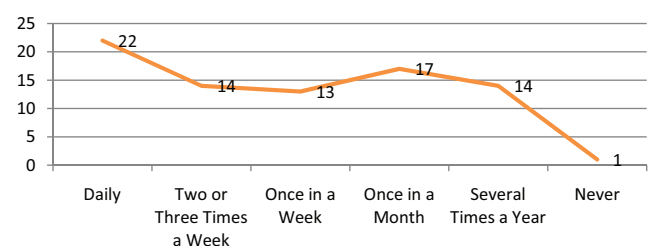
Legal information sources, like general books, law reports, legal research journals, theses, dissertations, conference proceedings and other reference collection, are important for

Table VIII Problems faced by respondents (n = 86)

Serial no.	Problems	Frequency	(%)
1	Up-to-date collection is not available	51	36.17
2	Outdated collection	37	26
3	Lack of time to consult library collection	22	15
4	Lack of knowledge about using the library resources	13	9
5	Lack of support from library staff	7	5
6	Lack of individual study booth	7	5
7	Information is scattered in too many sources	5	3.5
8	Lack of journals	4	3
9	Do not know how to use library catalogue	2	1.4

Note: Multiple responses were permitted

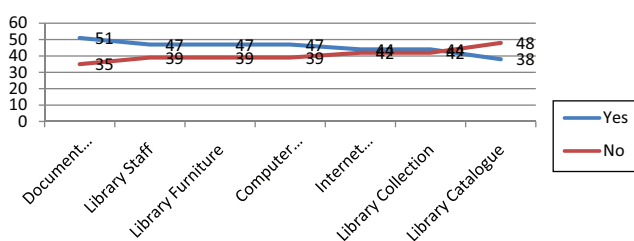
Figure 2 Library usage frequencies of the respondents



legal research. Law faculty members always consult these sources of information for various academic and research purposes. The study found that majority of the law faculty members use textbooks and law dictionaries for searching legal terminologies and word meanings. The extensive use of textbooks and limited use of general books, law reports, legal research journals, theses, dissertations, conference proceedings and other reference collection show inadequacy of legal information sources in all the law colleges' libraries. The data presented in Table VIII ascertain this fact where 51 respondents complained about the unavailability of up-to-date collections in their libraries followed by 37 respondents who rated their library collection "outdated". Similarly in Table VII, 49 per cent respondents showed dissatisfaction regarding their libraries' collection. This might have increased faculty member's dependency on textbooks. This situation also indicates that outdated reference materials will have hindered their research, academic and professional development activities. The majority, 55 (64 per cent), of the respondents mentioned that their libraries subscribe to law journals, but 16 per cent did not know about any journal subscriptions. If we compare both these figures, then it constitutes 1:4 response rates, which too indicates that a reasonable proportion of respondents do not know about journal subscriptions in their respective law libraries. Figure 3 shows that majority of the respondents are satisfied with their college libraries resources and services, but on the other hand, a considerable number of respondents expressed their dissatisfaction about it. The blue and red lines in the figure show the level of satisfaction and dissatisfaction of both groups regarding their library resources and services.

In today's library and information services, electronic information sources are important research tools that complement printed information sources in traditional library service (Dadzie, 2005). Electronic resources and services can include an information resource, such as an online/offline database, or a service, such as a virtual help desk, provided via a network, such as a local area network, intranet or the Internet (Ryan *et al.*, 2001). The study found a scarcity of electronic and digital resources and its low use where available. Access to HEC digital library is limited to Law College library and that too is provided via the University of Peshawar, with the Internet protocol being its constituent organ. Of the 86 respondents, only nine used HEC Digital Library, whereas two each mentioned CD ROM and online databases for their information search. This situation shows law faculty members' low usage of electronic resources and their dependence on traditional means of information.

Figure 3 Respondents' satisfaction with library resources and services ($n = 86$)



7. Suggestions

- This study suggests that law colleges libraries should arrange proper information literacy programs to inform users and make them familiar with the sources, resources and facilities available in the libraries.
- Law journals are the main sources of information for legal practitioners, lawyers, faculty members and students. These are the periodical issues which contain all legal decisions of the apex courts, i.e. Supreme Court, High Courts and other important courts of a country. In Pakistan, these journals are *Pakistan Law Journal* (PLJ), *Pakistan Legal Decisions* (PLD), *Supreme Court Monthly Review* (ScMR), *Civil Law Cases* (CLC), *Pakistan Text Decisions* (PTD), *Pakistan Criminal Law Journal* (PCrLJ), *National Law Reporter* (NLR), *Supreme Court Judgment* (SCJ), *Pakistan Law Cases* (PLC), *Pakistan Supreme Court Cases* (PSC), *Unclassified Cases* (UC), *Shariat Decisions* (SD), *Criminal Law Judgment* (CrLJ), *Sindh, Balochistan Law Reports* (SBR), *Dacca Law Cases* (DLC), *Appeal Cases* (AC), *Tribunal Cases* (TD), *All India Reporter* (AIR), *Pakistan Code*, *Law Digest*, etc. The decisions in these journals are used for reference in all court hearings in different cases. Major and important cases are also included in the courses of LLB so that the students may get an understanding about it for passing their examinations, as well as for use in their practical and professional lives. The use of these journals is very much technical. Law faculties members teach these cases to all the law students and make them acquainted with how to use and find a case in law journals. These law journals are a valuable asset of any law library. To promote research culture, all law colleges should make these journals available to their users' community.
- There is no stagnancy in the field of law. Every day new court decisions, laws, rules and amendments take place. To interpret and explain these decisions, laws and amendments, the latest editions of reference and general books are required. Through these books, the users get up-to-date information in the field of law. The study suggests that all law colleges must have a sound document selection and acquisition policy for the purchase of new editions of law books.
- Computers in libraries are most often used to gain access to the library's reading materials and database. Computers usually allow searching the database for a book, journal or a piece of information within a book or journal. Computerized catalogues also help and enable a person to find whether a book or reading material is available in the library stock and building or not.
- The provision of computers and ICTs in law libraries is imperative. Case laws are always based on precedents and evidences. To find a case law or its cross reference or any relevant section of laws in a conventional way is difficult and time consuming. Information search through computers and Internet is spontaneous and quick. ICTs also help in finding the cross references of different legal information and case laws. The study recommends the provision of computers, Internet and other relevant provisions of ICTs in the law colleges' libraries to assist users in their search for needed information. Through the

adoption of modern technologies, law libraries can also move toward networking and exchange information with each other for the mutual benefit of their users.

- The study suggests the provision of access to HEC digital library and important legal databases, i.e. (www.LexisNexis.com, www.lawvisionpk.com and www.pakistanlawsite.com) to all the law college libraries for the users. The affiliated law colleges must make proper arrangements in this regard.
- Library staffs are the managers and mediators of access to information. They are like scholars who guide the researchers, information generators and managers who fulfill the needs of information seekers. This is among the best qualities of library staffs that they are always gracious, courteous, open hearted and polite. They introduce users to the treasure of knowledge. Library staff's attitude has a direct impact on the library use and users. The study recommends to all law colleges to motivate the users to use their institutional libraries effectively and independently.
- The study recommends user-centered evaluation to determine how well the library's holdings meet the needs of the law faculty members. This method of evaluation would benefit librarians to get a perspective of their libraries' collection from the perceived needs of the faculty members.
- The study suggests the formulation of collection development policies (CDP) to ensure standard document selection practices in all the law colleges' libraries. This CDP would carry several distinct benefits for law libraries. First, it would serve as a guide when acquiring information resources to support the mission and programs of the institutions. Second, it would help librarians and college administration to make their selection and acquisition of information sources within the limited financial ranges, and finally, it would justify the selection of materials related to a specific discipline or subject.

8. Conclusion

Results of the study indicate that the usage, collections and services of law libraries were rated by the respondents as somewhat "satisfactory". The usage of HEC digital library and electronic resources among the law faculty members is very low. The reason behind this is that access to HEC digital library and online electronic resources is only available to the constituent Law College of the University of Peshawar via the University Internet Protocols, while the rest have no such facility. This study suggests that the authorities of the law colleges, library professionals and University administration should concentrate on this issue and take solid initiatives to provide access to electronic resources to all the affiliated law colleges via the HEC digital library.

Presently, electronic information sources and the Internet are considered extremely important tools for effective teaching and research. Therefore, law colleges' libraries must have proper arrangements for electronic information resources and access to HEC digital library. They should also embark on an extensive library promotion and user education programs. The study also suggests strengthening subject collections in law with special reference to journals and research collections.

It would benefit faculty and students equally and would stimulate research and academic progress.

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Further reading

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Appendix

Table AI Law colleges and legal institutions affiliated with the University of Peshawar

Serial no.	Name of law college/legal institution	District	Program	Date of affiliation
1	Abbott Law College	Abbottabad	LLB	29 April 1995
2	Abbott Law College	Mansehra	LLB	29 September 2003
3	Ayub Law College	Haripur	LLB	20 March 1999
4	Centre for Studies in Law and Democracy	Peshawar	LLM	6 August 2005
5	Frontier Law College	Peshawar	LLB	3 March 1990
6	Institute of Legal Studies	Peshawar	LLB	6 August 2005
7	Islamia Law College	Peshawar	LLB	3 March 1990
8	Jinnah Law College	Peshawar	LLB	26 December 1998
9	Justice Law College	Abbottabad	LLB	29 April 1995
10	Kohat Law College	Kohat	LLB	26 April 1995
11	Mardan Law College	Mardan	LLB	26 April 1995
12	Muslim Law College	Swat	LLB	26 April 1995
13	Peshawar Law College	Peshawar	LLB	24 September 1991
14	Quaid-e-Azam Institute of Legal Studies	Nowshera	LLB	20 March 1999
15	Supreme Law College	Peshawar	LLB	14 February 2004
16	Swabi Law College	Swabi	LLB	18 April 2000
17	Women Law College	Abbottabad	LLB	30 May 2002
18	Gilgit Law College	Gilgit	LLB	2014

Source: Academic Section, University of Peshawar

Corresponding author

Ghalib Khan can be contacted at: ghalibkhan1@yahoo.com

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