

THE PRESENT SCENARIO OF FINE ART ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN BANGLADESH

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Abstract

The purpose of the study is to describe the present scenario of university fine art libraries in Bangladesh. For conducting this study, a set of questionnaires were designed and distributed to the fine art library professionals of the selected university libraries of the country. The study revealed that the collection of fine art libraries is adequate but it needs to introduce more activities, services and facilities like automation, separate library building, and increase library budget to fulfill the needs and demand of the users. Most of the university has no separate fine art library. In this circumstance, the university central library provides the services to fine art students, teachers and researchers. Providing the library services to the respective users of the fine art faculty is a big challenge for fine art library professionals.

Keywords

Fine art academic library, Library service, Library facility, Bangladesh.

Introduction

The term 'Fine Art' refers to an art from practiced mainly for its aesthetic value and its beauty rather than its functional value. Fine art academic library is recognized as a collection of national significance. The resources of the fine art library cover art history, art theory, drawing and painting, contemporary art, photography, printmaking, new media, illustration art and design. A library containing fine arts books attached to any educational institution is known as fine art academic library. The main function of academic library is to accomplish the function as an auxiliary to parent institution in carrying out its teaching programme effectively. The library is considered as the 'heart' of a university and it is the center of learning for higher

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education. Since the university library is committed to provide an excellent service for its users, it has to develop an on-going dialog with the users. On the other hand, academic libraries have to improve the quality of their services to survive in this volatile competitive environment.¹ Academic libraries are libraries attached to academic institutions of learning to serve teaching and research needs of students and staff (Adeniran, 2011).

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to assessing the present condition of some selected fine art academic libraries in Bangladesh. The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

- To identify the present status of resources and services of the selected fine art academic libraries in Bangladesh.
- To identify the problems faced in the fine art library.
- To provide a number of recommendations to minimize problems faced by surveyed libraries in Bangladesh.

Background of the study

Fine art education in Bangladesh has been started with university level from fifty (50) years ago. According to (UGC, 2020) there are forty-six (46) public and one hundred seven (107) private universities in Bangladesh. Keeping pace with the time and demand, some public and private universities are opening the fine art departments. After opening the department, the fine art library is being established at every university according to the needs of the students and users. This is the first study in Bangladesh to assess the fine art libraries.

Scope of the study

At present there are forty-six (46) public and one hundred seven (107) private universities in Bangladesh (UGC, 2020). Around the country, we found that only seven (07) public and two (02) private universities has fine art libraries in Bangladesh. For the completion of research, this study was limited to seven (07) public university and two (02) private universities within the country. These university libraries are: Dhaka University (DU), Rajshahi University (RU), Chattagram University (CU), Jahangirnagar University (JU), Khulna University (KU), Jagannath University (JU), Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU), University of Development Alternative (UODA), Shanto Mariam University of Creative Technology (SMUCT).

Literature Review

A complete review of related literature has become an important part of any investigation as it identifies the new problems and gaps in the zone of research. It also delivers a basis for theoretical framework of the study and interpretation of findings (Uddin, 2002). At present, few public and private university are establishing fine art academic library in Bangladesh but there is no adequate collection, sufficient professional manpower and service quality. The quality of a library has traditionally been measured by its collection size and various counts of its uses (Ahmed and Shoeb, 2009). Muszkiewicz (2017) outlined initiative to embrace fine art in the academic library space, through a library-led and faculty-advised juried assortment and purchasing method for fine art students. Instead of rapid growth, the superiority of education is decreasing and the users are disadvantaged of quality library facilities. Fine art libraries assemble specialized digital collections of primary properties, but the literature proposes that these resources are often siloed, based on castigation and setup. Intellectual practices contain browsing collections, using somatic reproductions of books and journals, and often studying numerous (UTA, 2018). A fine art library occurs for a definite persistence. Its service is envisioned for a restricted group of people, or a limited figure of groups of people. Its aim is to reserve intermittent, unique and valuable substantial for the assistance of its users, and as a significance to retain such factual isolated from those whose curiosity in the specific subject is purely casual. It exists to serve the scholar (Howgeo, 1956). In a more affluent era it was agreed that future developments in the Westminster City Libraries system should be towards subject specialization, citing local history, music, medicine, fine art, languages and education (Williams, 1956).

There are no full library, no adequate books and other reading materials. It is commonly saying that most of the universities are failed to provide quality library services to its users and readers. There are no adequate library resources, spaces and facilities for the users, no professional and experience librarian or library personnel (Islam, 2014). After above analysis, decided that it is very necessary to take an attempt to assessing existing status of fine art academic libraries in Bangladesh.

Methodology

Among 153 public and private universities, seven (07) public and two (02) private university have been selected for this study those have fine art libraries. The researchers visited the selected libraries (Table 1) and distributed questionnaire among the fine art librarians to collect primary data to fulfill the research target. The primary data were collected from the fine art librarians/library administrators and the data were analyzed through SPSS.

Table 1. Selected university libraries

Library Name	Category	Est. Year	Type of library	Library User	Library Staff
CU Central library	Public	1921	Academic	23000	65
DU fine art faculty library	Public	1966	Academic	1075	06
JKKNIU central library	Public	2006	Academic	5180	17
JU library	Public	1971	Academic	21300	47
JnU library	Public	2005	Academic	20800	31
KU library	Public	1991	Academic	1730	17
RU library	Public		Academic	3800	41
SMUCT library	Private	2003	Academic	5800	10
UODA library	Private	2002	Academic	835	05

Demographic Information of fine art librarians/administrators

The primary data were collected from nine (09) fine art librarians/library administrators of selected nine (09) fine art academic libraries through the questionnaire to reveal the existing scenario of university fine art libraries of Bangladesh. Table 2 shows the demographic information of librarians/library administrators where 7 (78%) respondents were from the public university, and 2 (22%) were from the private university. The greater proportion of the respondents were Deputy Librarian 4 (44.4%), Librarian 3 (33.3%), Additional Librarian 1 (11.1), and Assistant Librarian 1 (11.1%). The table demonstrates the year of experience of respondents in their respected fields.

Table 2. Demographic Information of Librarian/Library Administrator (n=9)

Variable	Class	Frequency	Percent	Valid%	Cumulative%
Category of University	Public	7	77.8	77.8	77.8
	Private	2	22.2	22.2	100.0
Gender	Male	6	66.7	66.7	66.7
	Female	3	33.3	33.3	100.0
Designation	Assistant Librarian	1	11.1	11.1	11.1
	Deputy Librarian	4	44.4	44.4	55.6
	Additional Librarian	1	11.1	11.1	100.0
	Librarian	3	33.3	33.3	88.9
Experience	1 - 5 years	1	11.1	11.1	11.1
	6 - 10 years	4	44.4	44.4	55.6
	11 - 15 years	3	33.3	33.3	88.9
	Above 15 years	1	11.1	11.1	100.0

Data Analysis and Findings

Library Collection

The library administrators were asked to mention their library collection indicating the different types of library collections. Table 3 demonstrated the library collections such as textbooks, reference books, theses, periodicals, manuscript, audio-visual, reports, portfolio and catalogue of selected libraries.

Table 3. Library collection of selected libraries

Library Name	Textbook	Reference Book	Theses	Periodicals	Manuscript	Audio-visual	Reports	Portfolio	Catalogue
CU library	250000	70000	1400	75000	600	1400	500	500	100
DU fine art library	10000	3000	500	200	-		200	1000	1000
JKKNIU library	38000	800	200	04	-	-	-	-	-
JnU library	110000	10000	5500	200	28	-	600	-	-
JU library	30000	10000	100	-	-	500	500	-	-
KU library	40000	10000	5000	3000	-	400	2000	-	-
RU library	320000	72000	1550	81000	650	2100	960	700	300
SMUCT library	15357	200	1200	300	400	-	-	-	-
UODA library	16900	500	500	-	-	10	590	-	-

Library services and facilities

The library administrators were asked to mention their library status whether it is manual, automated or partly automated. Figure 1 revealed the library automation status. 4 (44 percent) administrators said that their libraries are manual, while 4 (44 percent) and 1 (11 percent) respondents mentioned that their libraries are partly automated and automated.

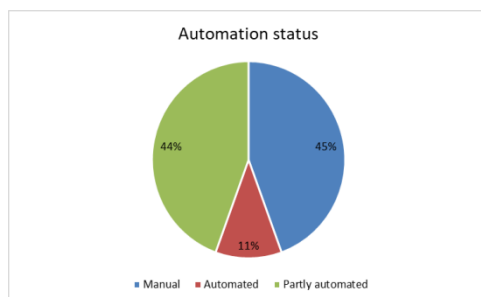


Figure 1. Automation status of surveyed libraries

Table 4 demonstrated the training program organized for library staff. The largest group 7 (79 percent) university library organized training program where 2 (22 percent) university libraries don't arrange any training program for their library staffs.

Table 4. Status of training program for library staff

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	7	77.8	77.8	77.8
No	2	22.2	22.2	100.0
Total	9	100.0	100.0	

Table 5 demonstrated the automation software status of selected libraries. Those university libraries are fully automated or partially automated are using Koha library automation software.

Table 5. Status of library automation software

Name of Software	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Koha	5	55.4	55.4	55.4
No software	4	44.6	44.6	100.0
Total	9	100.0	100.0	

Table 6 showed the status of institutional repository software. The table shows that the largest proportion does not use any repository software and the lowest proportion 3 (33 percent) maintain institutional repository software for preservation of intellectual output of the university.

Table 6. Status of institutional repository software

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	3	33.3	33.3	33.3
No	6	66.7	66.7	100.0
Total	9	100.0	100.0	

Table 7 demonstrated the status of library services provided by selected university libraries.

Table 7. Status of library services provided by selected libraries

Library Name	Reference service	CAS	SDI	Referral	Indexing	Abstracting	Reprography	Computer service	Inter-library loan
CU library	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
DU library	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×
JKKNIU library	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	×
JnU library	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×
JU library	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×
KU library	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓
RU library	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
SMUCT library	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×
UODA library	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓	×

Budget is the important part for development of the library. Table 8 demonstrated the last five years library budget of selected 9 universities.

Table 8. Library budget of last five years

Library Name	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
CU library	41,00,000	41,00,000	37,74,000	35,60,000	40,61,535
DU library	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000

JKKNIU library	31,00,000	19,00,000	16,00,000	14,00,000	12,00,000
JnU library	43,00,000	43,00,000	41,00,000	41,00,000	41,00,000
JU library	25,00,000	20,00,000	20,00,000	25,00,000	20,00,000
KU library	30,00,000	25,00,000	20,00,000	15,00,000	10,00,000
RU library					
SMUCT library	-	-	-	-	-
UODA library					

Subscription method of periodicals

Figure 2 shows the subscription methods of periodicals where 4 (44.4 percent) university library subscribed the periodicals from local market and from agent, 3 (33.3 percent) subscribed through agents and 2 (22.2 percent) university libraries subscribed these by local purchasing.

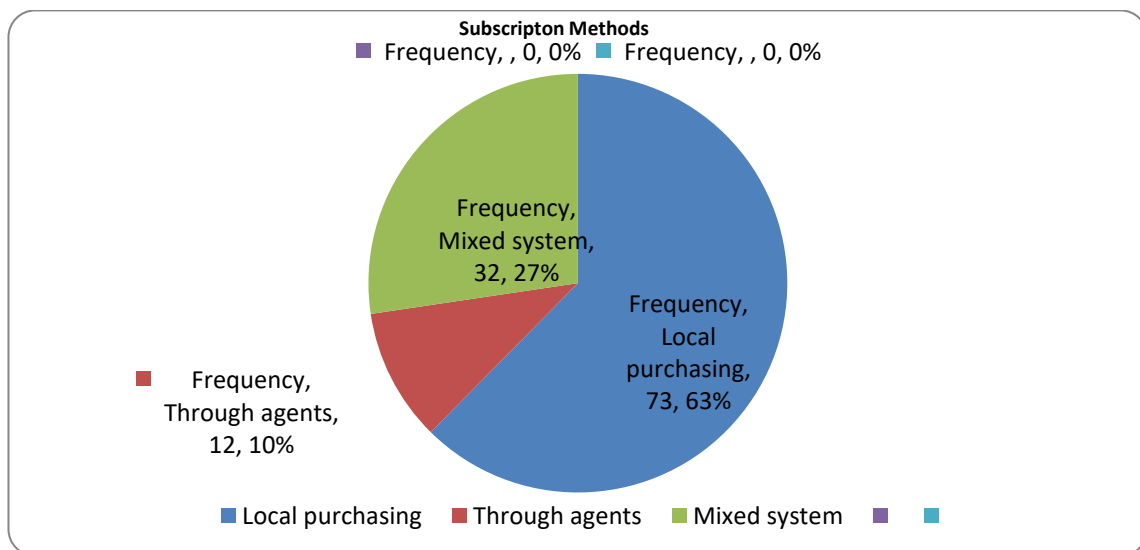


Figure 2. Subscription methods of periodicals

Major problems of fine art libraries:

Based on the researchers observation the study exposed some problems in the surveyed fine art libraries such as insufficient fine art related books, lack of IT facilities, lack of trained staff, unorganized library resources, insufficient library budget, lack of infrastructural development, limited and inconvenient library hour, lack of skilled professionals, lack of individual study room, lack of e-resources and

online service, lack of updated books, interrupted power supply, lack of air condition facility, lack of proper information services, lack of adequate cleanliness etc.

Recommendations

The researchers while they conducted the survey felt the university fine arts libraries need to introduce more services and facilities like automation, separate library building etc. Based on the researchers' observation and questionnaire survey, the study illustrated the recommendation for library authority. Hence, the library authority should procure more fine art subjective books in the library, make sure library automation and staff training, increase IT facilities, provide e-book and online services. Library should increase periodicals as well as more updated books along with individual study room. The library resources should be organized properly, library budget should be increased, and library needs more skilled library professionals, library card should be mandatory for users and ensure infrastructural development.

Limitation of the study

Sufficient knowledge on fine art library in the form of books, article, and academic journals is not available nationally and internationally. Additionally, only a few universities maintained fine art libraries so that the number of respondents as fine art library administrator is limited for conducting the survey the study.

Conclusion

The contribution to the digital nation-building process, many library professionals in Bangladesh are working to bring their libraries up to global standards. This study was conducted among nine (09) librarians of seven (07) public and two (02) private university libraries of Bangladesh those have fine art subject/department. It is found that most of the university libraries are not fully automated. Only University of Dhaka has separate library building for fine art faculty. Most of the university has no separate fine art library. In this circumstance, the university central libraries are providing information services to fine art students. There are numerous problems in the library in providing library services to fine art students and faculty members.

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