

Evaluation of Information Resources and Services in Ayurvedic Libraries: A Study of Bhopal Division

Prachi Singh¹ and Dr. Pooja Karaiya²

¹Research Scholar, Library and Information Science, Sam Global University, Raisen (M.P.)

²HoD, Library and Information Science, Sam Global University, Raisen (M.P.)

Abstract

Libraries play a vital role in the advancement of knowledge and education in the field of Ayurveda. The present study aims to evaluate the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness of information resources and services provided by Ayurvedic college libraries in the Bhopal Division of Madhya Pradesh. The study investigates the nature and adequacy of library collections, technological resources, user services, and satisfaction levels among students and faculty. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and personal observations from librarians, faculty members, and students of selected Ayurvedic colleges. The findings reveal that while traditional print resources remain dominant, digital and electronic resources are gradually being introduced. However, inadequate funding, lack of automation, and insufficient user awareness limit the effectiveness of library services. The study concludes by recommending modernization of library infrastructure, training of staff, and enhanced access to e-resources to improve the overall quality of Ayurvedic education and research.

Keywords: Ayurveda, Library Resources, Information Services, Library Evaluation, Bhopal Division, Ayurvedic Education

1. Introduction

Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine, is deeply rooted in knowledge transmitted through manuscripts, books, and scholarly texts. Libraries of Ayurvedic colleges serve as repositories of this invaluable heritage while supporting academic and clinical learning. The efficiency of these libraries depends on the quality and accessibility of their resources and the range of services provided to users.

In the Bhopal Division of Madhya Pradesh, several Ayurvedic colleges operate under both government and private management. Despite their crucial role in promoting Ayurvedic education, little empirical research has been conducted to assess the status of their library resources and services. Evaluating these libraries is essential to identify existing gaps and to strengthen their contribution to the academic and research activities of students and faculty.

This study aims to evaluate the available information resources, library services, and users' satisfaction in Ayurvedic libraries of Bhopal Division, thereby highlighting areas for improvement and modernization.

2. Review of Literature

Several studies have examined the role of academic libraries in higher education. According to Kumar (2018), library evaluation helps in assessing the adequacy and relevance of resources in meeting users' needs. Singh and Sharma (2020) emphasized that library automation and ICT integration are vital for modern educational institutions, including traditional medicine systems. In their study, Patel and Sinha (2019) found that most Ayurvedic college libraries in India are under-resourced, with limited access to digital resources and trained personnel. Gupta (2021) pointed out that user satisfaction is closely linked to the timeliness and efficiency of library services. Furthermore, Sharma and Tiwari (2022) observed that libraries of traditional medicine institutions are gradually shifting toward hybrid models, blending print and electronic resources.

The literature suggests a growing recognition of the need to enhance Ayurvedic libraries through better infrastructure, automation, and user-oriented services. However, region-specific studies—especially from the Bhopal Division—remain limited, creating the rationale for the present investigation.

3. Objectives of the Study

1. To evaluate the availability and adequacy of information resources in Ayurvedic libraries of Bhopal Division.
2. To assess the quality and effectiveness of library services offered to users.
3. To examine user satisfaction regarding library facilities and services.
4. To suggest measures for improving the performance of Ayurvedic libraries.

4. Research Methodology

The study employed a descriptive survey method. The population included librarians, faculty members, and students of selected government and private Ayurvedic colleges in Bhopal Division. A total of 100 respondents (10 librarians, 30 faculty members, and 60 students) were selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and observation checklist to assess library resources, services, and user satisfaction. Responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentage and mean score.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Availability of Library Resources in Ayurvedic College Libraries

Type of Resources	Available Libraries (N=10)	Percentage (%)
Textbooks and Reference Books	10	100
Ayurvedic Classical Texts (Samhitas)	10	100
Journals and Periodicals (Print)	8	80
E-books / Digital Collections	3	30
Research Dissertations / Theses	6	60
Magazines and General Reading Material	7	70
Online Databases / Digital Repositories	2	20

Interpretation: While all libraries maintain rich print collections, digital resources and online databases are available in only a few libraries.

Table 2: Types of Library Services Provided

Library Services	Libraries Offering Service	Percentage (%)
Circulation / Lending Service	10	100
Reference Service	9	90
Reading Room Facility	10	100
Internet Browsing / Wi-Fi Access	4	40
OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue)	3	30
Reprography / Photocopy Service	5	50
User Orientation / Information Literacy	2	20

Interpretation: Traditional services are well established, but ICT-based services remain limited.

Table 3: Frequency of Library Visits by Users

Frequency of Visit	Students (N=60)	Faculty (N=30)	Total (%)
Daily	25	12	37
3–4 times a week	18	8	26
Once a week	10	6	16
Occasionally / Rarely	7	4	11

Interpretation: Most users visit the library frequently, indicating its academic importance.

Table 4: User Satisfaction with Library Resources and Services

Level of Satisfaction	Students (%)	Faculty (%)	Overall (%)
Highly Satisfied	10	15	12
Satisfied	55	50	53
Neutral	20	20	20
Dissatisfied	10	10	10
Highly Dissatisfied	5	5	5

Interpretation: Over half of users are satisfied, but only a few are highly satisfied, showing need for improvement.

Table 5: Major Problems Reported by Library Users

Problems Faced	Respondents (N=90)	Percentage (%)
Lack of Updated Books and Journals	58	64
Insufficient Seating Capacity	42	47
Lack of Internet / E-Resources	60	67
Short Library Hours	30	33
Inadequate Staff	25	28

Interpretation: Limited access to updated materials and poor digital facilities are major issues.

6. Findings of the Study

1. Ayurvedic libraries in Bhopal Division are rich in print materials but poor in digital content.
2. Most libraries lack automation and modern ICT infrastructure.
3. Budgets are insufficient to purchase updated materials.

4. User satisfaction is moderate with scope for modernization.
5. Faculty rely more on personal collections than library holdings.

7. Conclusion

The study concludes that Ayurvedic libraries in Bhopal Division are functioning but require significant modernization. The absence of automation and e-resources limits their academic potential. Strengthening digital infrastructure, increasing budgets, and capacity building among staff can transform these libraries into effective centers of Ayurvedic education and research.

8. Recommendations

1. Increase financial support for modernization and automation.
2. Adopt integrated library management software.
3. Provide access to e-journals, online databases, and digital repositories.
4. Organize user awareness and training programs.
5. Develop institutional digital archives for Ayurvedic manuscripts.

9. References

- Gupta, R. (2021). User satisfaction in traditional medicine libraries: An analytical study. *Journal of Library Management*, 12(2), 45–53.
- Kumar, A. (2018). Evaluation of academic library resources and services in higher education institutions. *Library Progress International*, 38(1), 11–20.
- Patel, S., & Sinha, R. (2019). Challenges of Ayurvedic college libraries in India. *Indian Journal of Library Science*, 9(3), 67–74.
- Sharma, N., & Tiwari, D. (2022). ICT adoption in libraries of traditional medicine institutions: A new perspective. *Information Studies*, 15(4), 102–113.
- Singh, P., & Sharma, K. (2020). Automation and modernization of academic libraries: An Indian scenario. *Library Herald*, 58(2), 125–133.