PROFILE OF THE UNIVERSITIES SURVEYED

- Kerala University
- Mahatma Gandhi University
- Cochin University
- Calicut University
A brief profile of the universities surveyed for the study is presented in this chapter. It is aimed at giving general information about the respective university libraries in Kerala. The facts presented were mainly obtained by means of university websites, annual reports and personal observation.

2.1. KERALA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The University of Kerala is one of the first 16 universities in India was founded earlier as the University of Travancore in the princely state of Travancore in 1937. The university started functioning in the University College, Thiruvananthapuram and Trivandrum Observatory. When the University of Travancore was initially founded, the Departments of the college became the University Departments and switched back again when the transformation to University of Kerala happened in 1957. Now, the university has 16 faculties and 41 departments of teaching and research. (http://www.keralauniversity.ac.in)

Kerala University Library started in the year 1942 and is the oldest university library in the state of Kerala. The Kerala University library is situated in the heart of Thiruvananthapuram city adjacent to the main campus of the university. During these years Kerala University library has become the major centre of study and research for academic community in the university departments and affiliated colleges of the University. The library is housed in a permanent and spacious building, was constructed with the assistance of University Grant Commission and started functioning in September 1962. The library has almost all modern computer and communication facilities for accessing electronic information resources and services through UGC-INFONET.
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For functional convenience, the library is divided into eleven sections, namely, circulation, Acquisition, Technical, Reference, Periodical, Documentation and Information services, Information Technology, Kerala Studies, UN and World book, Research and maintenance. It is the only library in Kerala which serves as a repository of UN and World Bank publications. On normal working days the library operates from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm. On Sundays the users can utilise the library facilities from 2.00 pm to 8.00 pm. It remains closed on all public holidays except on Sundays and Second Saturday. Besides students, teachers and research scholars of teaching departments of the university and its affiliated colleges, the head of the non-teaching departments of the university, members of the senate, syndicate, faculties and board of studies, non-teaching staff of the university and its departments, and others at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor are also eligible for membership in the library. The library is providing only fee-based membership.

The library has a very rich collection of documents consisting of books, back volumes of periodicals, theses, CD-ROMS, Microfilm and Microfiche etc. Total number of information sources available in the library exceeds three lakh fifty thousand. The speciality of the library is its exclusive collection of the areas of Kerala Studies and UN related books. The collection of back volumes of social science periodicals is one of the best in South India. The library is getting nearly 500 periodicals covering a wide area of subjects. It also offers electronic information services such as UGC-INFONET Consortium facilities. For classifying the materials the library is following Colon Classification Scheme and documents are catalogued according to the Classified Cataloguing Code.

Kerala University Library is offering a variety of services to its users, which includes circulation of reading materials, inter library loan, internet,
email, CD-ROM search, OPAC search, compilation of bibliographies and indexes, reprographic services, referral service, microfilm reader, and printout service, publication of current contents, e-library search, and services, weekly publication of new additions, display of recent additions, display of recent additions etc. A nominal charge is being levied for most of the information technology assisted services. User amenities like drinking water, dining hall, canteen and toilet facilities are also provided.

The Kerala University library is using LYBSIS software for the automation activities. Preparation of database of textbooks, theses, back volumes of periodicals, member records, UN and World Book Publications is continuing. Kerala University Net Information Centre was established in the year 2002 with the assistance of Information Technology Department, Government of Karla to provide the Internet service. There is a proposal for preservation and digitalisation of rare documents of the Kerala Reference Section and it has undertaken a project to prepare a union catalogue for the entire Kerala University Library System. At present there are fifty eight professionals working in the library and they are given ample opportunities for career developments. The library is periodically publishing a brochure to promote the library use and make the users aware of the services offered by it. (http://www.kulib.in/aboutus.html)\(^1\)

2.2. MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Mahatma Gandhi University was established on October 2, 1983 and has jurisdiction over the revenue districts of Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki and some parts of Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta. This university accomplish various programmes for undergraduate, Postgraduate, M.Phil. and Ph.D. levels through its 16 University Departments, 7 Self-financing Department, 82 affiliated colleges, 158 unaided colleges and 73 recognised research institutes. The MG University has also established its territorial jurisdiction
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through the off-campus centres of the School of Distance Education (SDE). The University is also participating in collaboration with international research institutions of the Max Planck Institute of Technology, and Heidelberg University Germany; University of Nantes, France; Brown University, USA; Catholic University, Belgium; University of Toronto Canada (http://www.mguniversity.edu)

Mahatma Gandhi University Library popularly known as MG University Library was established in the year 1989. It is housed in a permanent and convenient building at Priyadarshini Hills, Athirampuzha, 13 Km away from Kottayam. The primary aim of the library is to cater to the information requirements of the academic community in the state especially in the central parts of Kerala.

Like other university libraries, Mahatma Gandhi University Library also follows functional organisation model for departmentalising its activities. There are separate section for acquisition, processing, circulation, maintenance, periodical preparation of union catalogue and documentation activities. The library functions from 8.00 am to 7.00 pm on normal working days and from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on public holidays. Sundays and second Saturdays are also working days. Apart from the students and teachers of the teaching departments and affiliated colleges of the mahatma Gandhi University, research scholars of the university departments, non-teaching staff of the university, department heads and members of the senate and syndicate are also eligible for membership in the library.

A variety of information sources are available in the Mahatma Gandhi University library. It includes books, theses, microfilms and microfiches, maps, globes, atlases, CD-ROMS, technical reports etc. At present there are more than 50000 information sources available in the library. In order to meet the current information requirements, the library is subscribing to 334 subject
and 124 general periodicals. Library uses Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) for classification and AACR II for cataloguing.

Mahatma Gandhi University Library is offering a variety of services to satisfy its clientele. The services are both conventional and modern in nature. The services it offers include cataloguing, indexing, photocopying, interlibrary loan, current awareness services, referral mail, internet browsing, display of recent additions, CD-ROM search, information board, microfilms and microfiches, and provision for electronic journals. Library has taken every step to cope with the changes taking place in the field of information technology. It is using SOUL software for computerising the in-house as well as the information retrieval activities of the library. All the hardware materials required for providing modern information services are available in the library. The Mahatma Gandhi University is one of the first fifty universities to come under the UGC-INFONET Consortium Programme. Through this Consortium, the library provides access to more than 4000 e-journals and databases. The MG University Library and Information System consist of University Central Library and more than thirty libraries of the departments, schools and study centres existing in different campuses. One of the major achievements of the library is the endorsement related to the doctoral theses archives developed by the University Library. The Library often organises training programmes in SOUL software for internal as well as external information professionals. (http://www.mguniversity.edu)^

2.3. COCHIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Cochin University Library was established in 1975 as a central agency for meeting the information requirements of the academic community of the Cochin University Library. The university is situated near South Kalamassery in Ernakulam district. Being the information centre of the technological university in the state, the university has built up a balanced and rich
collection pertaining to all branches of science and technology, social science, humanities, language and legal studies. The library is housed in a permanent building with all modern information technology facilities. (http://www.cusat.ac.in)

For administrative convenience, the activities of the university library are divided into Acquisition, Technical, Stack, Reference, Periodical, Bound volumes and reprographic sections. The library is kept open on all working days from 9.00 am to 8.00 pm. On all second Saturdays and Sundays not forming part of public holidays, the working hours are fixed as 10 am to 4 pm. Membership of the library is open to regular teachers, students, research scholars and non-teaching staff of the university. Graduates of recognised universities who are residents in the Greater Cochin Development Area could also take membership. Research Institutions, Government or Public Limited Institutions, are admitted to institutional membership.

The university library has built up a balanced and rich collection of all branches of science and technology. At the same time, books of general interest having high intellectual standard in various fields are not neglected. At present the collection exceeds 115,000 volumes inclusive of several reference books, doctoral theses, and back volumes of periodicals, patents and CD-ROMs. The library has a separate section for special collections. The special collection includes theses, patents, art books, WHO and other UN documents, census reports, vikasana rekha (a multi volume Malayalam book on the development of each local administration area in Kerala state, prepared as part of the People Planning Programme) and books on library and information science. The documents are classified according to Universal Decimal Classification and indexed by following the Anglo American Cataloguing Rules with local modifications. The university library subscribes to about 150 journals, including foreign and online journals on various
subjects. Besides the library has electronic access to many electronic resources through INDEST and INFLIBNET consortium. UGC-INFONET services are also available in the library.

The university library has restructured its services to face the threat and boon that results from the rapid proliferation of electronic information resources. The services offered include loan services, inter-library loan, literature search, reference, proficiency corner, compilation of bibliographies, reprographic document delivery, conference alert, new addition alert, patent information, consultancy, Internet and CD-ROM search. Electronic information services include access to Chemical Abstract, Current Contents, and patent CD-ROM database called CD-INPAT. Provisions are also made for the availability of services offered by INFLIBNET and DELNET (Developing Library Network).

Cochin University Library has given top priority to the automation of its activities. Automation of library activities is done by using ADLIB software. It has interconnected the departments by using LAN technology, which has made it possible for the academic community of 30 departments to access information from their location itself. In future, the library envisages having a digital library, providing users with coherent access to a very large organised networked repository of information and knowledge. The human resource development activities of the library are satisfactory. For promoting and popularising the services the library is publishing a handbook at regular intervals. (http://library.cust.ac.in/eg/eg-home.php)

2.4. CH MOHAMMED KOYA (CHMK) LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT

The Calicut University Library was started in the year 1971 in a temporary room under the leadership of Mr. M.N Ramakrishna who assumed
office as the University Librarian on deputation from Kerala University. Later
the name of the library was changed to C.H.Mohammed Koya Library as a
mark of respect to the education minister, C.H.Mohammed Koya who took
initiative to establish Calicut University in the educationally backward area of
Malabar. The library is functioning on the main campus in Tenhipalam in a
spacious building.

Admission to the library is restricted and eligible categories for
membership include students, teachers, research scholars and non-teaching
staff of the Calicut University, graduates of recognised universities, members
of senate, syndicate, academic council, faculties and board of studies of the
University. The users have to pay caution deposit/subscription to get
membership in the library. The working hours of the library is from 8.00 am
to 8.00 pm on normal working days. However it will remain open only from
8.30 am to 2.00 pm on Sundays and 8.00 am to 2.00 pm on Second Saturdays.
For administrative purpose, the library is divided into seven sections. They
are Acquisition, Technical, Circulation, Maintenance, Periodical, Reference,
Binding, Infonet, Computer and internet.

The University Library has a collection about ninety five thousand
books, 218 journals, 4617 non-book materials, 205 microforms, 36 CD-
ROMs, ten news papers and 2105 bound volumes of periodicals in its
collection. Recently the library has joined UGC IINFONET programme of the
INFLIBNET to avail the journals via online. The users have access to around
2400 full text electronic journals under this programme. The Library has
recently created an exclusive section for providing this service with forty
terminals. The documents in the library have been classified according to
DDC. Cataloguing is done according to Classified Catalogue Code with some
local variations. The Catalogue of the library is available both in the card and
OPAC form.
The services offered to the users include reference, periodical, cataloguing, bibliographic, indexing, photocopying, lending of books, interlibrary loan, information board, display of recent arrivals, email, internet, online search, literature search and provision for electronic journals.

Keeping abreast with the changes taking place in the information field, the library took up the challenge of automating the activities in the year 1996. Initially CDS/ISIS software was used to create the database of the reading materials and later it was replaced by the more powerful and exclusive LIBSYS software in the year 1998. Now the entire activities of the library are automated and the authorities claim it is the first university library in Kerala to do so. The library has almost all the modern information technology hardware to impart information services to its clientele. Twenty six permanent professionals are managing the affairs of the library. In the recent past the library has conducted several National Seminars and Workshops. (http://www.universityofCalicut.info)
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2.5. REFERENCES


