

A Performance Survey of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar Libraries

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Abstract

Keeping in view the importance of libraries in educational institutions this study was conducted. The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the performance regarding acquisition, collection, services, tools for technical processing's of books, library integrated software, computerization, circulation system, cataloguing, labeling, arrangement of books, and reprographic services of the libraries of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar and to suggest some measures for the improvement of these libraries. Survey method was applied and questionnaires were distributed among the libraries of University of Engineering and Technology for data collection. The university has decentralized system of library, which comprises a central library, eleven departmental and three satellite campuses libraries in Mardan, Bannu and Abbottabad respectively. Total 126376 collections of information materials were found in University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar libraries. Total 16 professionals and 20 nonprofessionals were the employees in these libraries. Some measures about the latest information management technology were also suggested to overcome the problems facing by the traditional library. This research work is useful for all the library professionals, students and for high authorities of the University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar.

Keywords: *University Libraries, resource sharing, library services, cataloguing, classification, collection management, Engineering University*

Introduction

The library is of central importance to the university. It is an organic combination of people, collection, and buildings, whose purpose is to assist users in the process of transforming information into knowledge. The library must take an active role in the development of the university education.

The library is the heart of all the University's work; directly so, as regards its research work, and indirectly as regards its educational work which derives its life from research work. Scientific research needs a library as well as its laboratories, while for humanistic research the library is both library and laboratory in one. Training in higher branches of learning and research is mainly a question of learning how to use the tools, and if the library tools are not there, how can the student learn to use them? Both for humanistic and scientific studies, a first class library is essential in a university (Patel, 2001).

University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar is a premier institution of higher learning in the field of engineering sciences. Starting as a college in 1952, with an initial enrollment of only twenty students, today it boasts sixteen departments, covering an entire spectrum of engineering disciplines, from the traditional, such as electrical and mechanical, to the cutting-edge, such as electronics, computer sciences, mechatronics, and industrial engineering. With a modest beginning in 1952 as a “constituent” college of Peshawar University, the University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar was established in 1980. Since then, three satellite campuses in Abbottabad, Bannu and Mardan have been established. Recently it has expanded to Hayatabad also. However, Peshawar Campus remains the nucleus of the University (Farooq, 2008).

The universities have mainly two patterns of library administration:

1 Only centralized library.

2 Decentralized System comprised of a central library with dependent or independent unit libraries called “department” or “seminar” libraries (Ameen, 2008).

University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar has decentralized system of library, which comprises a central library, 11 departmental libraries and 3 satellite campuses libraries in Mardan, Bannu and Abbottabad respectively.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the performance regarding acquisition, collection, services, tools for technical processing’s of books, library integrated software, computerization, circulation system, cataloguing, labeling, arrangement of books, and reprographic services of the libraries of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar and to suggest some measures for the improvement of these libraries.

Objectives of the Study

Following are the objectives of the study.

- To bring standard in the libraries of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar.
- To promote the services of the libraries.
- To suggest a framework for the libraries to cope the need of the day.
- To promote the reading habits among students, teachers and other staff of the university.
- To bring uniformity in the field of:
 - Acquisition of library materials
 - Classification of information
 - Cataloguing of information
 - Labeling and stamping of books
- To put emphasize on the resource sharing among the libraries of UET Peshawar.

Significance of the Study

As we know that the rate of information explosion both in printed and electronic format is very high. Information management is also a big problem, and by using the traditional methods we would not be able to control this enormous rate of information explosion. Keeping in view the importance of information management in the university libraries this study is sought to be conducted in this university to evaluate the performance of the libraries. This research work will be useful for all library professionals, students and for high authorities of the University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar.

Review of Literature

The review of available recent studies shows that the nature of university library collections in Pakistan is slowly changing into hybrid, mainly because of HEC Digital Library that provides e-books, e-journals and peer review articles (Tahira, 2008).

Khan, (1995), explored that most of the university libraries in Pakistan have not yet seriously considered the use of computer in library operations. Only a few university libraries now have computers. With the exception of three agricultural university libraries and two private university libraries, no other university library is using information technology. The major limiting factors for not introducing information technology in the university libraries of Pakistan appear to be lack of imitative and failure to realize the importance of information by the top management of the university; lack of proper finances; lack of trained manpower: and lack of information sensitivity.

Edward, C. (1995) makes clear that many of the staff of university libraries is not computer literate. This is a great setback in computerization. Many of the staff is reluctant to jettison their old mindset which resists change. Many are conservative and traditional, and suffer computer phobia. Research results show that, although the use of electronic information increases job satisfaction, confidence, and the effectiveness of librarians in their work, lack of technical expertise can be very frustrating to the librarians.

Farrukh et al (1995) provides details that the Library Automation and Management Program have been developed by the Netherlands Library Development Project – Pakistan (NLDP-P), with the collaboration of the Pakistan Library Association (PLA). It has been designed especially for Pakistani libraries. LAMP was developed entirely in CDS/ISIS with the help of PASCAL. It can handle the following library housekeeping routines:

- Acquisition: budget control, ordering routines, payments record.
- Cataloguing: bibliographic information, printing cards, printing bibliographies, searching through various keys.
- Circulation: Borrower's records check-in and check-out of items, reservations, fines calculation, SDI.
- Serials control: acquisition and cataloguing of serials, holding list.
- Authority files: publishers, subjects and name authorities for both serials and monographs.
- Management reports: statistical reports for acquisition, cataloguing and circulation.
- Utilities: data exchange, spell check, duplication check.

Research Methodology

The study followed a typical social science research approach, i.e. questionnaire survey, interviews, document analysis and personal communication. After conducting a comprehensive literature search, a survey questionnaire was developed for evaluating the performance of the University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar libraries for data collection. Collected data were analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively by using the spread sheet software to reach conclusion.

Results and Discussions

Questionnaires were distributed among the 15 libraries of UET Peshawar libraries and the response rate was 100%. According to the survey result 15 libraries found functional in which 16 professionals and 20 nonprofessional staff were working. The oldest library is central library, which was established in 1982 and the newly developed library is mechatronic seminar library,

which was established in 2007. Most of the libraries were established in the period of 2002-2008 as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Details of Staff and year-wise establishment of libraries

S #	Library	Library Staff		Year of Establishment of Libraries
		Profession als	Non Professionals	
1	Central Library UET Peshawar	3	3	1982
2	Central Library UET Abbottabad Campus	2	2	2002
3	Central Library UET Bannu Campus	1	2	2002
4	Central Library UET Mardan Campus	2	2	2002
5	Library Dept. of Agricultural Engineering	1	1	1960
6	Library Dept. of Civil Engineering	1	2	1980
7	Library Dept. of Chemical Engineering	1	1	1995
8	Library Dept. of C.S. & I.T.	1	1	2002
9	Library Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	1	2	1980
10	Library Dept. of C.S. Engineering	1	1	1998
11	Library Dept. of Electrical Engineering	1	1	1981
12	Reference Library Dept. of Elect. Engg.	-	1	1990
13	Library Dept. of Mining Engineering	1	1	1974
14	Library Dept. of Industrial Engineering	-	1	1991
15	Library Dept. of Mechatronic			2007
	Total Staff	16	20	

Collection

Collection is categorized into three categories i.e. (1) central library, (2) departmental libraries and (3) satellite campuses libraries. Fig. 1 shows that total 126376 collections found in UET Libraries, in which books were 121489, periodicals were 1644, e-books were E-books, theses were 2405, a/v materials were 297, and daily newspapers were 35.

Out of 121489 (100%) books, in central library 30000 (25%) books, in departmental libraries 64642 (53%) books, and in campuses libraries 26847 (22%) books were found.

Out of 1644 (100%) periodicals, in central library 200 (12%) periodicals, in departmental libraries 1148 (70%) periodicals, and in campuses libraries 296 (18%) periodicals existed.

Out of 506 (100%) e-books, in central library 0 (0%) e-books, in departmental libraries 18 (4%) periodicals, and in campuses libraries 488 (96%) periodicals were found.

Out of 2405 (100%) theses, in central library 200 (8%) theses, in departmental libraries 2150 (89%) theses, and in campuses libraries 55 (2%) theses were present.

Audio visual materials were not available in central library, in departmental libraries 240 (81%) and in campuses libraries 57 (19%) a/v materials were available.

Out of 35 (100%) daily newspapers, in central library 5 (14%), in departmental libraries 11 (31%), and in campuses libraries 19 (54%) daily newspapers were found.

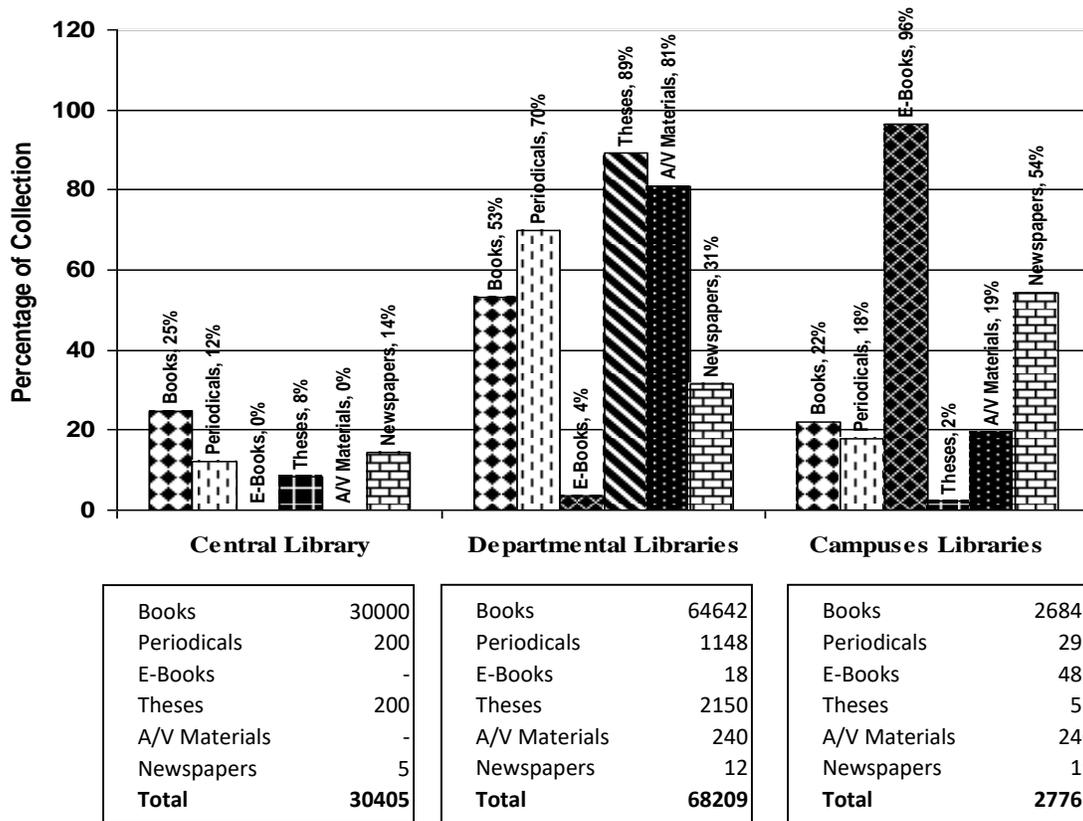


Fig. 1. Total collection of UET Peshawar Libraries

Library Users

Table 2 shows that total 5992 library users were registered in UET Peshawar libraries in which 635 were faculty members 4663 were students and 694 were administrative staff. Central library UET Peshawar contained 1000 library members in which 500 were staff members and 500 were students. Campuses libraries comprised 1712 library members in which 91 were faculty members, 1262 were students and 359 were administrative staff. Departmental libraries contained 3280 library members in which 244 faculty members, 2901 students and 135 were administrative staff.

Table 2. Library users

S #	Library	Library Users			Total Members
		Faculty Members	Students	Administrative Staff	
1	Central Library UET Peshawar	300	500	200	1000
2	Central Library UET Abbottabad Campus	28	462	80	570
3	Central Library UET Bannu Campus	28	400	139	567
4	Central Library UET Mardan Campus	35	400	140	575
5	Library Dept. of Argicultural Engineering	11	54	19	84
6	Library Dept. of Civil Engineering	31	450	40	521
7	Library Dept. of Chemical Engineering	15	210	0	225
8	Library Dept. of C.S. & I.T.	15	200	10	225
9	Library Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	30	445	0	475
10	Library Dept. of C.S. Engineering	22	362	12	396
11	Library Dept. of Electrical Engineering	50	600	20	670
12	Reference Library Dept. of Elect. Engg.	30	300	16	346
13	Library Dept. of Mining Engineering	15	80	11	106
14	Library Dept. of Industrial Engineering	8	120	4	132
15	Library Dept. of Mechatronic	17	80	3	100
	Total	635	4663	694	5992

Services

The performance of the library can be judged by its services provided to the users. Fig. 2 shows that resource sharing is the only service, which has not yet been introduced by any library, and circulation and reference services introduced by all the libraries. Printing and photocopying services were provided by four libraries (30%), Scanning services were provided by 3 (23%) libraries, Reader Advisory Services were provided by 8 (62%) libraries, multimedia services were provided by 2 (15%) libraries and internet services were provided by the all 15 (100%) libraries of UET Peshawar.

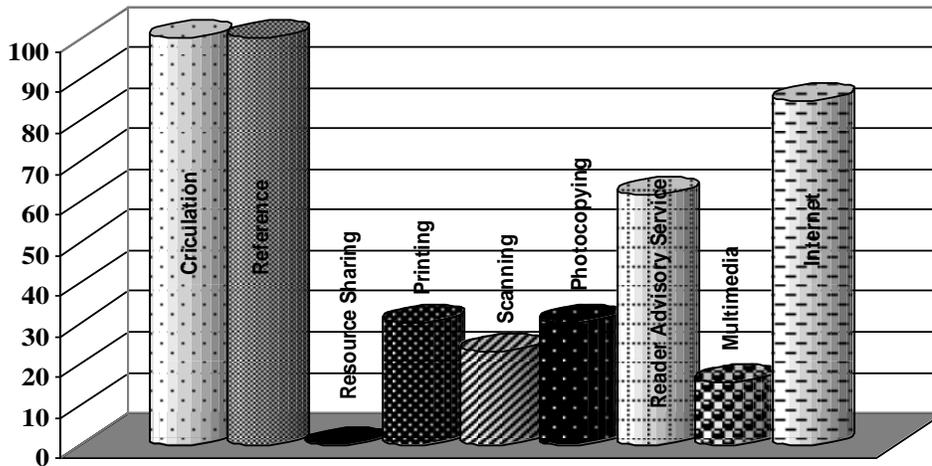


Fig.2. Services provided by the library to its users

Classification Scheme

Classification is the systematic arrangement of knowledge into groups or categories according to established criteria and that scheme which provides criteria for classification is called classification scheme. It has been declared that over 200,000 libraries in 135 countries use the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme (Schroeder, D. 2003). UET libraries were using DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme) for books classification. Out of 15 libraries 8 (53 %) used DDC sets, 3 (20%) used E-DDC (Electronic version of DDC scheme), while 4 (27%) libraries have not applied any classification scheme for books as shown in Fig. 3.

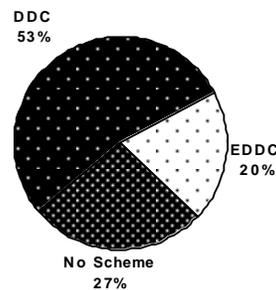


Fig. 3. Usage of Classification Scheme in the libraries of UET Peshawar

Books Classified

Classification of books is very necessary in library. In UET Peshawar out of 15 libraries, 5 (33 %) libraries have classified their whole collection of books, in 6 (40 %) libraries classification of books was in progress and in 4 (27 %) libraries classification of books was not initiated as shown in Fig. 4.

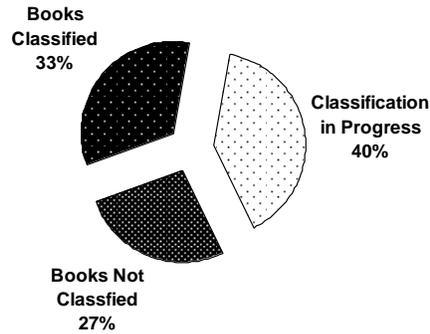


Fig. 4. Status of Classified Books

Cataloguing

Catalogue is list of library holdings arranged systematically⁹. All libraries found using code of AACR II revised edition for cataloguing of library materials. Out of 15 libraries, 6 (40%) have computerized catalogue, 5 (33%) using manual catalogue, while remaining 4 (27 percent) libraries of UET Peshawar have no catalogue in their libraries as shown in Fig. 5.

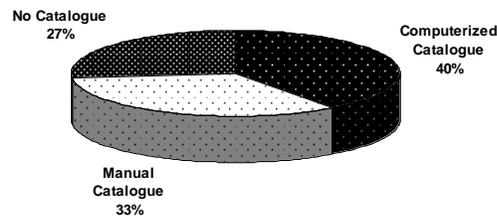


Fig. 5. Forms of catalogue being in practice at UET Peshawar Libraries

Labeling of Books

Labeling is very important for library books, because access point is pasted on the spine label of book, so the library users and staff could get their required piece of information very easily with the help of these labels. Out of 15 libraries, 5 (33 %) have computerized catalogue, 6 (40 %) using manual catalogue, while remaining 4 (27 %) libraries of UET Peshawar have no catalogue in their libraries shown in Fig. 6.

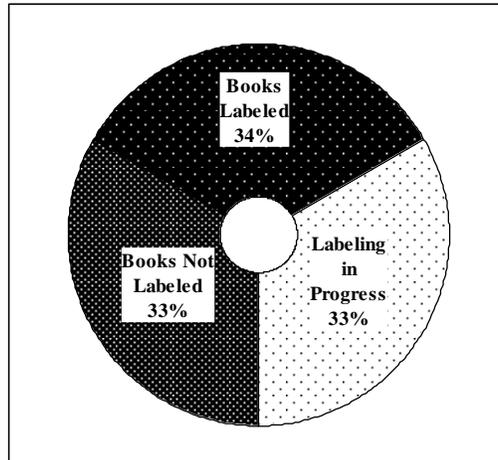


Fig. 6. Labeling of Books in libraries

Arrangement of Books

The order in which the books are shelved is known as Arrangement of Books in shelves. Mostly library books are arranged according to title-wise, author-wise, and subject-wise.

In UET Peshawar libraries mostly books were arranged subject-wise i.e. out of 15 libraries, 6 (40 %) libraries have arranged its books subject-wise, in 5 (33 %) libraries books were arranged according to title, only in one (7 %) library books were arranged author-wise, and in 3 (20 %) libraries books were not arranged in any order as shown in Fig. 7.

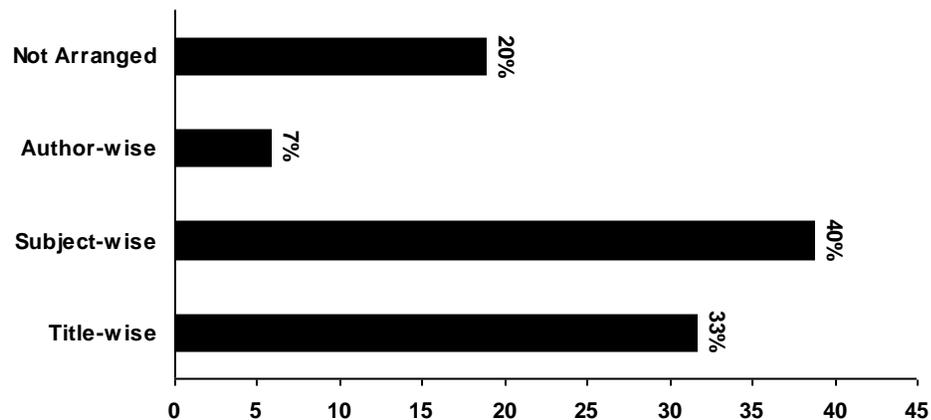


Fig. 7. Arrangement of books in libraries.

Open and Closed Access Libraries

In UET Peshawar out of 15 libraries, 6 (40 %) libraries have an open access to the books, 3 (20 %) libraries have closed access to the library books, and 6 (40 %) libraries have partially open access system as shown in Fig. 8.

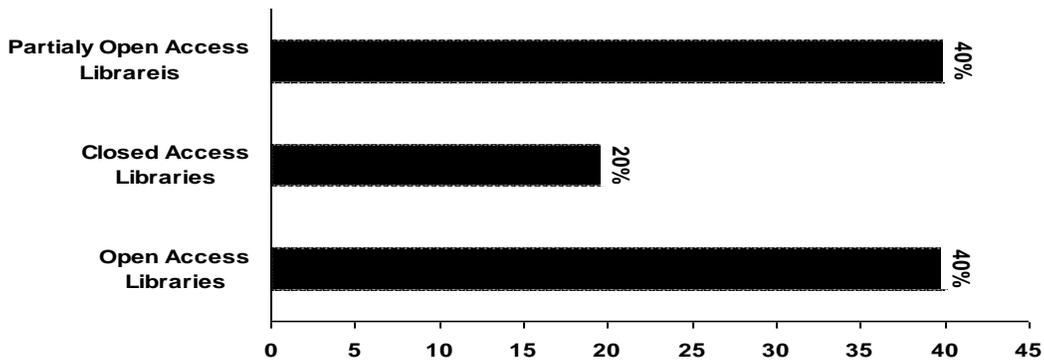
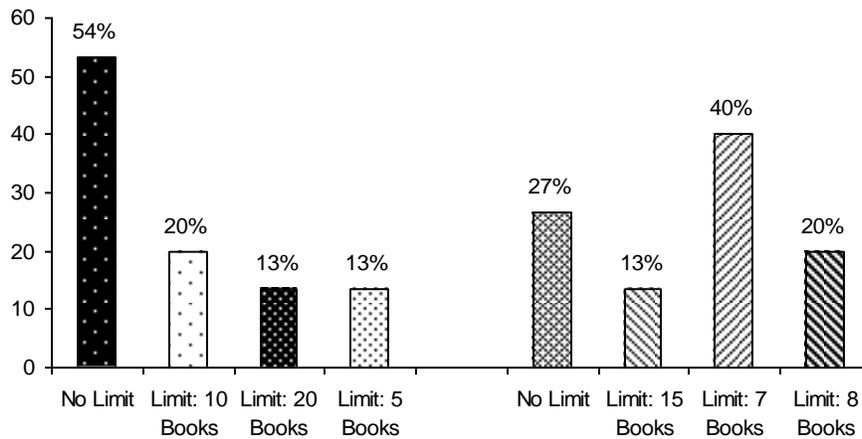


Fig. 8. Open and closed access libraries

Circulation of Books

Circulation is the most important activity of any library. In UET Peshawar libraries discrepancies were found in the rules and regulations of borrowing policy of books. Out of 15 libraries, 8 (54 %) libraries have no limit for borrowing of books to faculty members, 3 (20 %) libraries were issuing up to 10 books, 2 (13 %) libraries were issuing up to 20 books, and 2 (13 %) libraries were issuing 5 books per faculty member.

Out of 15 libraries, 6 (40 %) libraries have the limit of 7 books for borrowing per student, 3 (20 %) libraries were issuing up to 8 books per student, 4 (27 %) libraries have no limit of issuing books to the students, and 2 (13 %) libraries were issuing up to 15 books per student as shown in Fig. 9.



Limit of borrowing Books for Faculty Members

Limit of Borrowing Books for Students

Fig. 9. Limit of borrowing books for faculty members and students

Charging System

Various methods and systems used for keeping the record of loan of books is called charging system. We have many charging systems to keep the record of loaned books such as ledger system, dummy system, temporary slip system, card system, brown charging system, new ark charging system, and computerized charging system. In UET Peshawar libraries, three charging systems were found i.e. new ark, ledger, and computerized charging system. Out of 15 libraries, in 5 (33%) libraries new ark charging system was in practice, in 8 (54 %) libraries ledger charging system was in practice and 2 (13 %) libraries were using computerized charging system as shown in Fig. 10.

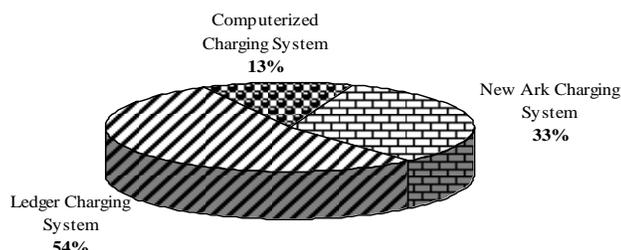


Fig. 10. Charging system of UET Peshawar libraries

Integrated Library Software and Availability of Computers

Table 3 shows that 6 types of library software were being used by 15 libraries of UET Peshawar. In five libraries 100%, in one library 50%, in two libraries 30% and 15%, and in one library 20% collection was computerized, and in four libraries computerization of books was not started. For library staff 18 computers and for library users 17 computers were available in the libraries of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar.

Table 3. Library Integrated Software and availability of Computers

S #	Library	Name of the Library Software	Computerization of Books	Availability of Computers	
			%age of Books Computerized	For Library Staff	For Library Users
1	Central Library UET Peshawar	ELIS	100 %	3	10
2	Central Library UET Abbottabad Campus	Library Manager 6.5.9	100 %	2	4
3	Central Library UET Bannu Campus	Lib-Soft	100 %	1	1
4	Central Library UET Mardan Campus	LMS	100 %	2	2

5	Library Dept. of Argicultural Engineering	Library Manager 6.5.9	30 %	1	-
6	Library Dept. of Civil Engineering	LIMS	30 %	1	-
7	Library Dept. of Chemical Engineering	Library Manager 6.5.9	15 %	1	-
8	Library Dept. of C.S. & I.T.	Library Management System	50 %	1	-
9	Library Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	LIMS	15 %	1	-
10	Library Dept. of C.S. Engineering	Library Database Management System	100 %	2	-
11	Library Dept. of Electrical Engineering	LIMS	20 %	1	-
12	Reference Library Dept. of Elect. Engg.	-	-	1	-
13	Library Dept. of Mining Engineering	-	-	-	-
14	Library Dept. of Industrial Engineering	-	-	1	-
15	Library Dept. of Mechatronic	-	-	-	-
			Total Computers	18	17

Conclusion and Recommendations

In the light of the study results, the following conclusion and recommendations are made.

- In most of the libraries computers are available for the use of library staff but they are still dealing with traditional methods, therefore all libraries activities should be computerized to provide the easy and quick access to the library materials and for the creation of various library reports.
- Majority of the libraries are closed access libraries. Open shelves should be provided for easy access of books and for the protection of books theft, security cameras and RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Device) should be installed in libraries.
- In 73% libraries computers are not available for library users; therefore, it is recommended that sufficient computers should be provided to the students and faculty members for their research work.
- Resource sharing is not introduced by the libraries of UET Peshawar, which is the most important and economical way to facilitate the library users with their required piece of information. Resource sharing should be facilitated within the libraries of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar.
- Already available in-house software ELIS in use of central library UET Peshawar may be upgraded to meet the international standards and to provide the best performance. After upgrading it may be chosen as the standard software for providing the facility of data exchange among the libraries of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar through computer networking.

- The world is known as a global village and we have to be the part of it, by developing an online public access catalogue, which would also be used as a union catalogue of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar.
- Trainings and workshops may also be arranged on regular bases by the university administration regarding new trends and techniques in the field of librarianship.
- HEC online digital library is accessible in all libraries of University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar, but they don't have adequate e-collection in their libraries, which may be increased due to its easy access and durability.
- In these libraries they have inadequate collection of periodicals, which need to be increased for better performance.
- Printing and scanning facility may be provided to the library users.
- Variations are also found in spine labeling, standard was not followed by the majority of libraries, it is therefore recommended that standard may be followed by the librarians in this regard.

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