

Role of College Libraries in Knowledge Management in India

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Abstract

Knowledge management improves operations to boost earnings and competitiveness. Libraries and other non-profits may employ knowledge management solutions to enhance their services to suit evolving customer demands. E-resources and the Internet have changed the way libraries work. Academic libraries are transforming to provide parent companies a competitive edge in the knowledge society. Constant budget loss, lack of incentives, inadequate training and competence, a lack KM strategy, insufficient ICT infrastructure, and a lack of knowledge sharing culture were the main problems. The study concludes with KM implementation guidelines and a framework for university/academic libraries. This quantitative study examines college digital libraries' knowledge management roles in Maharashtra, India. Secondary data from government reports, census data, academic papers, and official publications are used to assess these libraries' accessibility, use, and effect. The sample includes urban and rural Maharashtra college digital library data. Despite high usage, some libraries have insufficient infrastructure and services. Public library accessibility varies by settlement size and demographic class. The report also investigates public library operations and library cess distribution among Indian states, highlighting Maharashtra's strong library infrastructure commitment. Since 1951, literacy rates have grown steadily, but public library expansion and coverage have not, showing a need for additional library resource investment to promote literacy development. These results help explain library dynamics and knowledge management in Maharashtra and beyond.

Keywords: *Information dissemination, Resource organization, Access facilitation, Knowledge preservation, Research support, Community engagement, Lifelong learning*

1. Introduction:

Knowledge management, or KM for short, is the idea or approach of methodically and constructively managing essential knowledge and the related activities of developing, obtaining, organizing, disseminating, using, and exploiting it. It entails transforming individual knowledge into corporate knowledge that can be utilized effectively and broadly disseminated across an organization. According to Nick Willard, knowledge management (KM) is the creation and support of cooperative working, acknowledging the interconnectedness of individuals. information and procedures in businesses that have evolved into mobile, global communities. "KM is a discipline that promotes an integrated approach to the creation, capture, organization, access, and use of an enterprise's information assets," according to Gartner Group in 1999. The assets consist of written material like policy and procedure manuals, organized databases, and—above all—the implicit knowledge and experiences that each person has.

1.1.Role of Libraries in KM:

Promoting knowledge innovation is the primary goal and function of libraries in knowledge management. The foundation of the knowledge economic society is knowledge innovation. Libraries serve as essential links in the scientific system chain, serving as bases for the gathering, processing, storing, and sharing of information. In addition, libraries actively participate in the process of scientific research. The knowledge innovation component is the work done in libraries. Thirdly, knowledge conversion and dissemination are important issues for libraries to address. They serve as intermediaries between intellectual innovation and practical productive forces (Gaikwad, 2016)

Libraries' function in the generation, dissemination, and transfer of knowledge as well as the network systems built by associated institutions and organizations are all referred to as knowledge innovation and management. Theoretical innovation management, technological innovation management, and organizational innovation management are its three facets. The purpose of theoretical innovation management is to expand and enhance the company's theoretical and practical research domains by following the most recent advancements in disciplines where the organization succeeds.

Managing the networks and systems that firms build in relation to the whole process of technological innovation is known as technical innovation management. as they transitioned from traditional libraries to digital or electronic libraries. Libraries should advance technologically, provide new facilities, and innovate in order to facilitate knowledge management.

The goal of organizational innovation management is to optimize library operations and functional departments in order to provide a set of efficient organizational management systems that can be adjusted to the demands of the electronic library era and support and enhance knowledge management endeavors (Gaikwad, 2014). Even if there are many people who utilize information, it may be quite challenging to learn what knowledge providers already know because of a variety of subjective and objective limitations. As a result, libraries may act as knowledge distributors in the twenty-first century by using a variety of media and channels, including the internet and its vast amount of material. However, libraries also assist individuals in finding and gaining knowledge. However, material that is ludicrous, scandalous, untrue, and indecent has recently surfaced on the Internet as a consequence of economic gain and political goals. As a result, it's essential to increase KM's distribution in libraries. This emphasizes how important libraries' role is in bolstering the knowledge management process. To get KM, they could:

- Establishing online libraries or information hubs for businesses, public institutions, governments, and scientific research centers. An organization or business finds it challenging to devote enough personnel, materials, and financial resources to the collection, organization, and development of information. Furthermore, investing a significant amount of money on information resources for their personal use is both impractical and pointless. Using a wealth of information resources made available by fast information networks, libraries may establish distinct virtual libraries or information centers for each of these organs based on their unique information needs.
- Establishing digital knowledge services, which is essentially a 21st-century library development trend. This requires: researching the methods, means, and techniques of information distribution and search with the internet as the base and Web technique as the core; developing step-by-step user-oriented information service systems such as information dissemination, information search, and special supply of information; expediting the creation of digitized libraries.

- The technological tendencies and development modes of libraries in the information economy period are digital or electronic libraries. Future library knowledge services will begin with the development of databases made up of electronic books and journals in several languages that can run on fast information networks and have standardized features. All currently available massive, non-electronic information resources should be converted to electronic format and integrated into electronic libraries with great care.

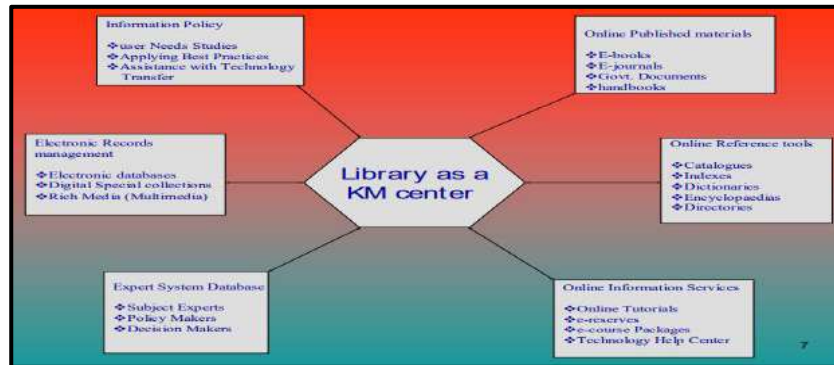


Image 1: Library as a KM centre

1.2.Strategies for Knowledge Management in Libraries:

The process of knowledge management encompasses the generation, recording, distribution, and use of knowledge. Knowledge is the most important resource needed, regardless of whether the primary goal of academic libraries is to help the university community by offering resources and information services.

That is, understanding how the library runs, understanding its patrons and their requirements, understanding its collection, and understanding the facilities and technology it offers. It is necessary to combine these different kinds of information to produce new knowledge that enhances and develops user services. This varied information is, nonetheless, relatively scattered among the library's sections and tiers.

There are many people that possess the information instead of just one. Academic librarians may contribute to the process of creating knowledge by taking part in university-sponsored research and teaching initiatives. In this particular context, knowledge production need to include all managerial endeavors undertaken by the academic library in an intentional attempt to get abilities that are not obtainable via internal or external means. Libraries that can adapt to the requirements of their patrons and are user-centric are successful. Academic libraries need to come up with creative methods to adapt as users become more savvy in order to improve their offerings.

A well-designed library website is essential for empowering librarians to not only provide comprehensive, personalized reference services but also to learn how to respond to various types of customer inquiries. Academic libraries must transform into knowledge-based enterprises in order to use their expertise. Academic libraries must become ready to use and disseminate knowledge. The capacity of academic librarians to locate, incorporate, and get outside information need to be the foundation for the significance of knowledge sharing.

1.3.Objectives of the Study:

1. To assess public libraries' use and accessibility in Maharashtra's rural and urban regions, with an emphasis on the services they provide and the effects they have on the surrounding people

2. To examine how public libraries are distributed across various settlement sizes in Maharashtra's rural regions and evaluate how this affects people's ability to use library services
3. To look at how public libraries, both private and state-run, are distributed throughout the various socioeconomic groups in Maharashtra's metropolitan districts, with an emphasis on finding a balance between the two sectors' contributions to library services

2. Literature Review:

Sasdi, M., & Danim, S. (2024) in view of adherence to Guideline Number 12 of 2017, which frames public library principles and was given by the Top of the Public Library of the Republic of Indonesia. The library is vital for the scholarly cycle since it is the focal point of knowledge and requires successful organization. With an emphasis on the Al-Hasanah Establishment explicitly, this examination endeavors to assess how lawful ideas are utilized as rules for the management and organization of school libraries. This study utilizes the CIPPO appraisal model, which is a subjective and evaluative exploration method, to screen and dissect the library's functional viewpoints. There is proof that the Al-Hasanah Establishment Library should adequately fulfill the laid out guidelines due to a staffing deficiency that causes shortcomings in doing undertakings, offering services, and setting school library projects in motion. Disregarding these hindrances, the Al-Hasanah Establishment Library serves its benefactors' information prerequisites well, especially with regards to acquiring library materials. The limits that have been distinguished impact guest commitment, which underscores the need to address human asset limits to further develop library execution.

Kont, K. R. (2024) was to find out the knowledge, demeanor, and lead of library staff individuals concerning information security corresponding to the seven spaces covered by the representative information security strategy: secret phrase management, email use, Web use, online entertainment utilization, cell phone use, information taking care of, and detailing of digital occurrences. The hypothetical segment gives an outline of the subject's importance with regards to libraries and makes sense of why libraries need to focus on information security and network protection similarly as much as, say, banks or medical services offices. All things considered, you can barely comprehend the outcomes of losing Estonia's digital social memory or having client information split the difference. Information was assembled utilizing the Parsons et al.- created HAIS-Q (Human Parts of Information Security Survey) to assess the organization's degree of information security mindfulness (ISA). Three parts made by similar creators act as the reason for the methodology: the Knowledge-Disposition Conduct (KAB) model, which evaluates workers' security mindfulness. The Estonian curators were the target group for the internet based review. 388 administrators from particular, school, examination, and public libraries altogether addressed the survey. To achieve the review objective, spellbinding insights, Cronbach's coefficient, Pearson relationship examination, mean and standard deviation of each target region, etc were utilized. The discoveries showed that the chose procedure is suitable for deciding preparation prerequisites and assessing the cyberliteracy of staff at all memory establishments, including exhibition halls and documents, as well as library workers.

Sife, A. S., & Matto, G. (2022) Advancements in information and correspondence advances (ICTs), particularly new digital advancements that conflate digital, natural, and

actual frameworks, are the thing are driving the Fourth Modern Upset (4IR). The Web of Things (IoT), man-made brainpower (simulated intelligence), distributed computing, large information examination, nanotechnologies, high level mechanical technology, sensors, blockchain, and 3D printing are a couple of instances of these digital innovations. The customary library tasks, exercises, and services have been impacted by ICT propels, especially concerning 4IR advancements. Every one of them continues to upgrade libraries in various ways. There are a ton of examples when library frameworks have included 4IR technology. Alongside other captivating highlights of 4IR, creating innovations likewise produce various patterns and conceivable outcomes. Thus, libraries should devise strategies that permit them to measure up to the assumptions, snags, and troublesome movements of the 4IR climate. This includes the need that libraries rethink how they control and offer their types of assistance to make proactive interests in ICTs, adjust continually, become imaginative, and realign their techniques. In the 4IR age, the new library fundamental is "access as opposed to proprietorship." A worldview change is required, and bookkeepers should constantly master new abilities to be serious in the consistently developing working environment. Projects and educational program at LIS training foundations should be altered to incorporate sufficient material and guidance to foster bookkeepers with the imperative abilities. Also, pioneers and chiefs in the library area need to keep fostering their abilities and expanding public mindfulness.

Van Den Hooff, B., & De Ridder, J. A. (2004) Deciding the components that work with or obstruct information sharing in gatherings and organizations is a vital field of study. Three such effects are the subject of this paper: "organizational correspondence," "organizational responsibility," and the utilization of a specific specialized device, PC intervened correspondence (CMC). There are two unmistakable ways for sharing knowledge: assembling and giving. With respect to effect of responsibility, environment, and CMC on these cycles, numerous hypotheses are advanced. Six contextual analyses were utilized to test these speculations. The discoveries infer that knowledge gift is well affected by an organization's responsibility, which is then decidedly influenced by the use of CMC. A helpful correspondence climate has been exhibited to essentially influence knowledge gift, knowledge assortment, and profound responsibility, making it a vital variable. At last, a surprising affiliation was found: a singular's eagerness to contribute information to others increments with how much knowledge they have procured. This proposes that social event knowledge decidedly influences transferring knowledge. Numerous hypothetical and pragmatic repercussions are investigated considering these discoveries, and suggestions for more review are made.'

3. Research Methodology:

- 3.1. **Research Design:** In order to better understand how college digital libraries contribute to knowledge management in Maharashtra, this study used a quantitative research approach. The systematic collecting and analysis of numerical data is made possible by quantitative approaches, which also provide insights into the links, patterns, and interactions between different variables. Utilizing secondary data from many sources, the study design examines the influence of college digital libraries on knowledge management, as well as their accessibility and consumption trends.
- 3.2. **Source of Data:** Secondary sources, such as official publications, scholarly journals, government reports, and census data, provided the data for this investigation. An important foundational document that sheds light on the laws and regulations guiding library services in the state is the Maharashtra State Library Act. Reports from the

Census of India provide detailed information on how college digital libraries are distributed across Maharashtra's several regions. Government publications give useful information and metrics about library resources and use trends, while academic periodicals offer intellectual insights into how well library services promote knowledge management.

3.3.Sample and Study Area: Data pertaining to Maharashtra college digital libraries made up the study's sample. One of the most populated states in India, Maharashtra, provides a varied environment for researching the function of libraries in knowledge management. The research area included both urban and rural areas in different parts of Maharashtra. The availability of secondary data from trustworthy sources is taken into consideration when determining the sample size, which guarantees a thorough examination of college digital libraries across various demographic groups and state regions.

3.4.Data Collection: The process of collecting data included compiling pertinent information from secondary sources, such as official publications, government reports, census data, and scholarly journals. An important foundational document that offers insights into the laws and regulations guiding library services in the state is the Maharashtra State Library Act. The Census of India report provides detailed information on how college digital libraries are distributed across Maharashtra's several regions. Government publications give useful information and metrics about library resources and use trends, while academic periodicals offer intellectual insights into how well library services promote knowledge management.

4. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Many libraries are still in disrepair and lack organized programs. For instance, in May 2023, Livemint published an article about a district library in the Thane district of Maharashtra that was in disrepair and contained 15,000 tattered books. The library was run by a librarian earning Rs 700 a month, which is equivalent to a mid-range meal at a metropolis. Still, a number of students went to the library each day to prepare for their tests. When libraries were notified (officially recognized) for the first time, it was in the 2011 Census. Out of the 370 million people who live in urban areas, there were 4,580 and 70,817 libraries servicing these populations, respectively. Based on these figures, there should be one rural library for every 11,500 residents and one urban library for more than 80,000 residents. The functioning and degree of service capabilities of these libraries, however, are not well known; some rural libraries may exist just as a room with a few volumes, while others may operate with funding from NGOs or private donors.

Table 1: Rural regions' public library count

Areas	Number of libraries
Hamlet Smaller	19000
Small Village	16000
Medium Village	24000
Lage village	7000
Very large Village	3000

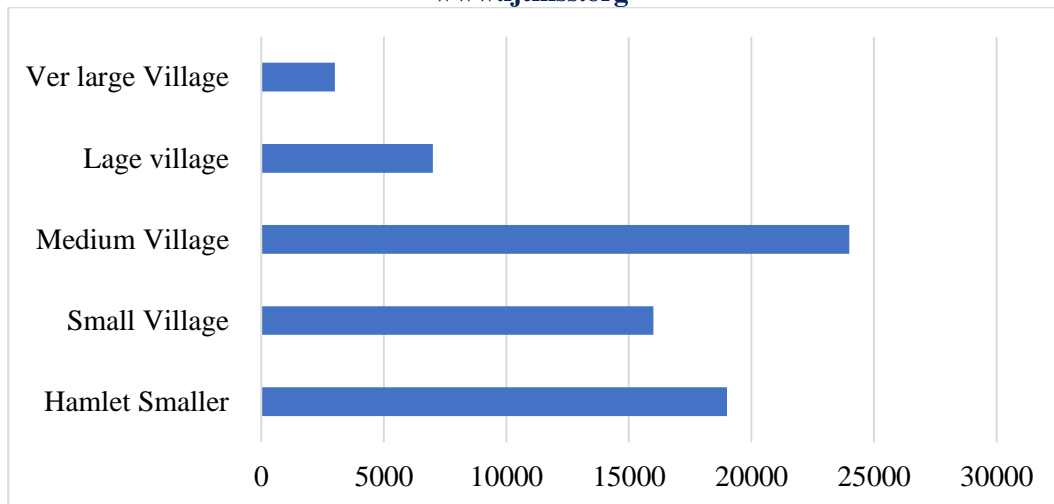


Figure 1: Rural regions' public library count

Source: Census of India 2022

The distribution of public libraries in rural regions is shown in Table 1, which is divided into categories based on the size of the communities they serve. Approximately 19,000 libraries serve hamlets, 16,000 serve small villages, 24,000 serve medium-sized villages, 7,000 serve big villages, and 3,000 serve extremely large villages, according to the data. The distribution of libraries across various rural settlement sizes is shown by this data, which may indicate that access to library services varies depending on the size of the community. In comparison to other groups, medium-sized villages have a disproportionately high number of libraries, which would suggest that these places are prioritized for resource and service provision.

Table 2: The quantity of public libraries in cities

Population class	Number of libraries	
	Private Public Libraries	Government Public Libraries
Class IV, V, VI	700	1555
Class III town	400	905
Class II Town	250	485
Other Class I City	300	320
Million Plus city	100	100



Figure 2: The quantity of public libraries in cities

(Source: Census of India 2022)

The dispersion of public and private libraries among various socioeconomic groups. It shows that there are 1,555 government public libraries and 700 private libraries among Class IV, V, and VI regions, suggesting a larger concentration of government-funded libraries in lower population classes. Similarly, there are 400 government public libraries and 905 private libraries in Class III towns, indicating a trend toward increased government participation in library supply in these places. Private library numbers, however, tend to equal or surpass government public library numbers as population classes rise. Notable examples of this include Other Class I Cities and Million Plus Cities, where private library numbers are either equal to or higher than government ones. The information presented here points to a complex distribution of library services across various socioeconomic groups, with disparities in the proportion of public vs private participation in various metropolitan environments.

The Culture Ministry conducted another official census of libraries to examine the procedures and effectiveness of the public library system following the establishment of the National Mission on Libraries in 2014. The mission's goals were to create a supportive environment through the establishment of model libraries, capacity building, and comprehensive surveys. The production of baseline data for 5,000 libraries was the first step in what was known as the Qualitative and Quantitative Survey of Libraries. But since 2014, there have been no updates on the results, and it's unknown how the poll turned out. The figures also seem inconsistent: the National Mission of Libraries' records state that there are now 5,478 registered libraries in India, whereas other polls indicate a much larger number.

- **Functioning of public libraries**

There isn't a unified, national public library management system in India. State governments manage public libraries using funds from municipal governments, village councils, and corporate entities. Only five of the 29 states and seven union territories in India have state library law in place. Of these, 19 states have approved state library legislation.

Table 3: State-by-state percentage of library closures

State libraries	Percentage (%)
Tamil Nadu	11%
Andhra Pradesh	10%
Karnataka	5%
Kerala	5%
Goa	2%
Maharashtra	15%

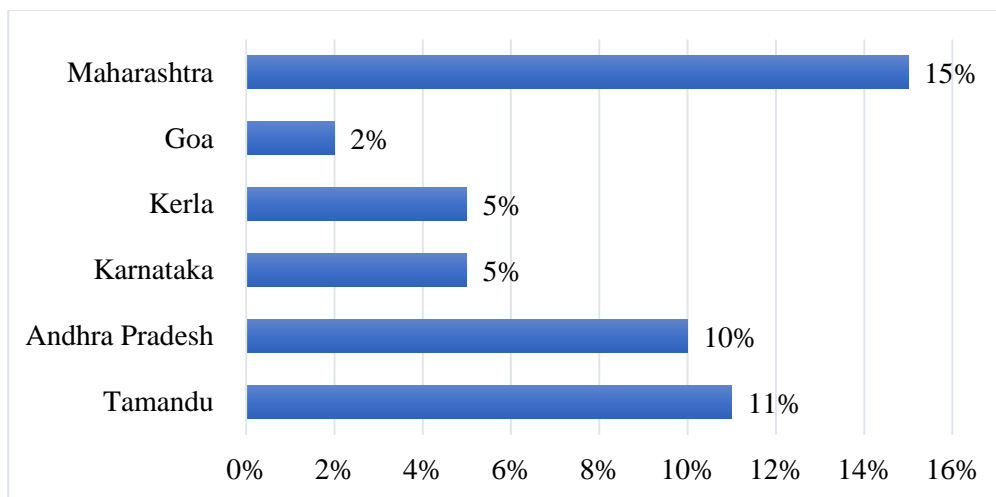


Figure 3: State-by-state percentage of library closures

(Source: Respected State Library Acts)

The distribution of state libraries, shown as percentages, among the various Indian states is shown in the table. At fifteen percent of all state libraries, Maharashtra has the highest proportion. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh come in second and third, respectively, with 11% and 10%. Goa has two state libraries, while the other two states have five each, Kerala and Karnataka. This distribution shows that Maharashtra has a notably higher concentration of state libraries, which may be a sign of the state's strong commitment to library services and infrastructure. While Kerala, Karnataka, and Goa show a much lower but still substantial presence of state libraries, the percentages for Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also indicate large expenditures in library resources. Overall, the distribution shows how various Indian states place varied priorities on the availability of public libraries.

- **Growth of literacy and public libraries**

Public investment in the arts, culture, and libraries is directly correlated with the growth of literacy. Since 2022, India's literacy rate has continuously increased. Nevertheless, public library coverage, growth, and quantity have not kept pace with development.

Table 4: India's literacy rates since 2022

Literacy Rate	Percentage (%)	
	Female	Male
2016	11	22
2017	17	40
2018	21	45
2019	25	59
2020	39	64
2021	47	78
2022	66	80

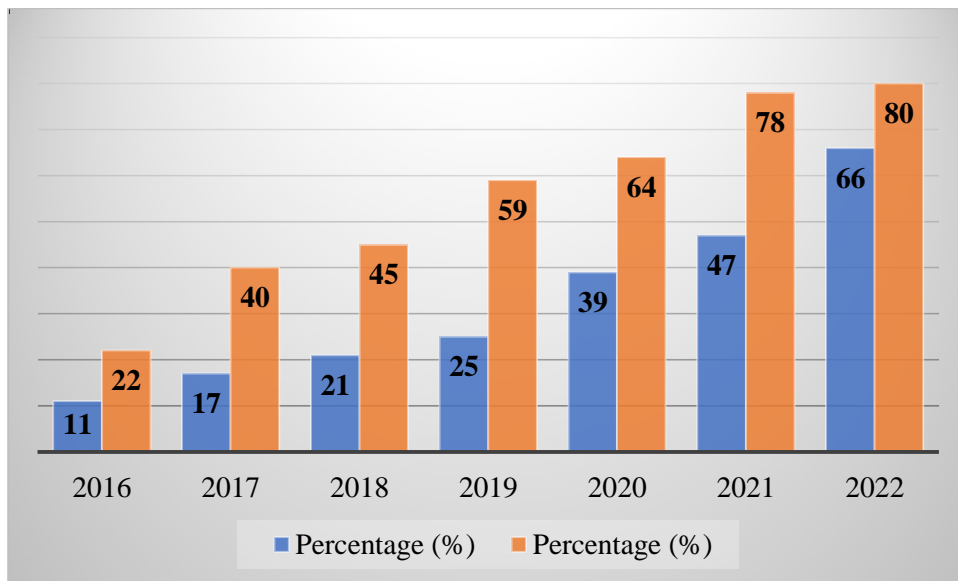


Figure 4: India's literacy rates since 2022

(Sources: Census of India 2022)

Since 2015, India's literacy rates have been steadily rising, and over time, there has been a noticeable decline in gender gaps. As of 2022, 80% of people were literate generally, with men continually having greater literacy rates than women. In 2015, the percentage of women who were literate was just 11%, compared to 22% for men. But by 2022, the percentage of female literacy had increased to 66%, demonstrating notable advancements. Although it did so more slowly, male literacy rose as well and reached 80% by 2022. This points to a promising path towards gender parity in literacy rates, even if more work will be required to close the remaining difference. In general, the information highlights the continuous endeavors in India to improve the accessibility of education and encourage literacy among both genders.

5. Conclusion:

Using a quantitative research approach to examine several facets of library supply and its effects, this study has shown the vital role that college digital libraries play in knowledge management in Maharashtra, India. Through the use of secondary data from a variety of sources, such as official documents, academic publications, government reports, and

census data, a thorough investigation into the usefulness, accessibility, and usage patterns of college digital libraries in supporting knowledge management processes has been made possible. The differences in the infrastructure and service capacities of libraries, which are especially noticeable in some of them despite having large numbers of visitors. Analysis of the distribution of public libraries reveals differences in accessibility according to population class and settlement size, highlighting the need of providing library services fairly to a range of demographic groups. Furthermore, the research provides insight into the complex distribution of library services in cities, highlighting differences in the proportion of public and private participation. The report talks about the difficulties that India's public libraries face, such as the absence of a standardized administrative structure and insufficient financing sources. To overcome ongoing gender discrepancies and attain universal literacy, it is critical to continue investing in education and literacy promotion initiatives, as shown by the analysis of the rise of literacy rates over time. It is apparent that despite advancements in raising the literacy rates and building the library infrastructure, there are still major obstacles to overcome. Governmental agencies, academic institutions, and civil society groups must work together to improve library infrastructure, expand resource access, and support literacy development programs in order to meet these difficulties. In addition, continuous research and assessment are required to guarantee the efficient use of college digital libraries in accomplishing knowledge management goals and to support evidence-based policy choices.

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