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### ROLE OF UGC IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSITIES LIBRARY- A REVIEW

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#### ABSTRACT

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is a statutory body established by an act of parliament in 1956. It serves as the national authority for coordinating, determining, and maintaining standards of university education. Acting as a crucial intermediary between the union and state governments and higher education institutions, the UGC not only allocates grants to universities and colleges but also provides advisory services to both levels of government on measures necessary for enhancing university education. Moreover, the UGC formulates regulations, such as those concerning the minimum standards of instruction and qualifications of teachers, based on advice from subject specialists and academicians with whom it regularly collaborates in program formulation, evaluation, and monitoring.

**Keywords:** Universities, Colleges, Education, Development, Library Professionals

#### INTRODUCTION

As the apex body responsible for overseeing higher education in the country, the UGC plays a significant role in fostering library and information services within universities and colleges. To ensure quality education and services in the realm of library and information activities, the UGC has established numerous libraries, information centers, study centers, and committees. These initiatives include financial assistance to university and college libraries, the establishment of curriculum development committees (CDCs) for library and information science, the creation of national information centers, the formation of INFLIBNET, modernization of university libraries, and the establishment of national review committees on university and college libraries.

##### **Financial Assistance to University and College Libraries:**

The UGC provides financial assistance to various types of universities and colleges, including central universities, state universities, deemed universities, and government and affiliated colleges, to help them develop and maintain their libraries. Grants are allocated for the acquisition of books, journals, library infrastructure, furniture, and equipment. Additionally, the UGC introduced a scheme for the establishment of book banks in colleges and universities, aimed at providing textbooks to financially disadvantaged students for home study.

##### **Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) on Library and Information Science:**

In 1990, the UGC established the CDC on Library and Information Science to revamp the courses of studies in this field. The committee formulated guidelines covering various aspects such as admission policies, faculty and student strength, instructional methodology, teaching aids, and the integration of information technology. Furthermore, the UGC set up a panel in Library and Information Science to recommend changes in the education and training of LIS courses.

##### **Establishment of National Information Centers:**

The UGC established national information centers in specialized areas to enhance access to information and provide bibliographic support to teachers and research scholars. These centers have



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developed computer databases to offer reference and information services, documentation services, and current awareness services in their respective fields.

### **Establishment of INFLIBNET:**

In April 1991, the UGC initiated the INFLIBNET program with the aim of establishing a national network of libraries and information centers in higher education institutions and research organizations. Headquartered in Ahmedabad, INFLIBNET functions as a cooperative network program facilitating resource pooling, sharing, and optimization among libraries and information centers. It provides access to various information and documentation services, including catalog-based services, database services, document delivery services, collection development, and communication-based services.

### **Modernization of University Libraries:**

Recognizing the importance of information and communication technology, university libraries have embarked on a path of modernization by computerizing their services and establishing connections. This transformation is driven by recent advances in technology and the increasing utility of digital resources in academic settings. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has implemented various network programs, such as INFLIBNET, to deliver fast, efficient, and reliable computerized information services to its users. Additionally, the UGC has allocated special financial assistance to central university libraries and other university libraries established in recent years to upgrade their library facilities. The primary objective is to computerize library activities and connect them to INFLIBNET programs. The funds provided for this purpose are utilized for various expenses, including the purchase of computer systems, software, furniture, electrical fittings, and air conditioning, as well as the appointment of information scientists, support for data entry work, procurement of books, journals, and audio-visual materials, staff training, and other contingencies.

### **CONCLUSION**

The UGC has also established a National Review Committee on University and College Libraries. The committee's objectives include reviewing the utilization of grants to central universities and certain state university libraries, preparing a status report on university and college libraries in India, and developing strategy plans/guidelines for their future operation.

The UGC took a significant decision in 2003 to implement the UGC INFONET program. Under this program, each university will receive internet connectivity through various modes such as VSAT link, radio link, or satellite link, depending on its geographical location. Once linked, free access to e-journals will be provided, marking a significant change in library services. Some universities have already been provided with this facility, while others are in the development phase.

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