College Librarians' Perception of Preservation of Library Documents in the Aided Arts and Science Colleges Affiliated to the Bharathidsan University

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ABSTRACT

Libraries are social institutions bestowed with the responsibility of storing and preserving the cultural heritage by way of accounting and making them available for use to the community. Descriptive research method has been followed to conduct the study. The study describes the physical storage of documents, security measures adopted in the library building, deterioration of print documents, causes of deterioration of documents, awareness level of care and preservation methods, procedures and traditional preservation techniques, preventive preservation practices and the constraints on effective preservation practices. The researcher spotted 19 colleges for the study using census method. The questionnaire was distributed to all the librarians of the aided arts and science colleges and 15 filled-in questionnaires were received from the respondents, representing the different geographical locations covering the Bharathidasan University. The study concludes that more than one third (47%) of the respondents had a high level overall perception of library holdings and a majority (60%) of the respondents had a low level awareness with regard to overall level of awareness about the causes of deterioration of documents. More than one third (44%) of the respondents had a high level of overall awareness about preservation methods and a majority (73%) of the respondents agreed that inadequate funding, lack of competent manpower and administrative bottlenecks were the main constraints on effective preservation practices.

Keywords: Library; Documents; Perception; Awareness; Storage; Deterioration; Preservation Practices; Constraints.