

Special and Research Library Important in the 21st Century

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Abstract: *The Special Library is a never-ending network of information kiosks known as the Specials' (Special) blood vessels. Topic/Special Customer Base). It has been discovered that a nation's rate of advancement primarily depends on its educational system and rate of scientific activity. In this regard, the Special Library is essential to research projects aimed at advancing and developing the country. Concurrently, positioning the specials by the use of IT/ICT tools and techniques, as well as information literacy methods and means, is imperative for both the personal and societal development of the nation. The current paper focuses on particular aspects of libraries that pertain to needs, kinds, services, roles, and activities in the past, present, and future. Future direction that prioritizes the current situation. Three fundamental components comprise the projected 3K2CM model, which graphically depicts the functions and services of a special library: Knowledge Content, Knowledge Creation, and Knowledge Management. In the twenty-first century, special and research libraries are essential for a number of reasons. Particulars these libraries are vital for academics, professionals, and researchers looking for in-depth. They frequently protect rare historical manuscripts, artifacts, and documents, which helps to preserve cultural heritage. Special and research libraries give users access to the most recent issues of scientific journals, which fosters creativity and cutting-edge research. By acting as gathering places for specialists from various fields, they promote interdisciplinary collaboration by fostering new ideas and insights.*

Keywords: Libraries

I. INTRODUCTION

In order to fill an organization's unmet information needs, special libraries are frequently created. In the same way that institutional and public libraries developed to support the ideas of "universal education" in the 20th century, they are responses to the information needs of geometrically expanding science and technology. Schick and Howard (1968) presented the following standards for defining special libraries in one of the first surveys of special libraries in the United States:

- (i) The library should place more emphasis on handling informational materials than recreational or instructional ones;
- (ii) In most cases, the library is a component of a bigger organization with goals beyond libraries;
- (iii) The library's services are restricted to advancing the goals of the sponsor and the library's collection is limited by the sponsor's specific areas of interest.
- (iv) The main users of the library are the librarian and his employees. It's their responsibility to interpret the collection's body of literature for the target audience.

The library offers a variety of print and non-print books and other reading materials shape. These resources are organized in a way that makes it easy for the reader to conduct research and pursue academic goals. Library science is no longer a library due to the evolving nature of libraries and their services. Knowledge, but its information and library science. It has been noted that as technology advances, there is a rapid advancement in the field of libraries.

Special and research libraries are unique and important establishments that concentrate on gathering, safeguarding, and granting access to specialized knowledge and data. These libraries are specialized, as opposed to public or general libraries, and are therefore vital hubs for professionals, researchers, scholars, and enthusiasts looking for in-depth information and subject-matter expertise in particular fields. These libraries frequently contain rare and unusual

resources, including manuscripts, rare books, archives, and specialized collections. These resources are essential for furthering academic research and conserving cultural heritage. Professional advice in order to support and improve learning, innovation, and scholarship. Research and special libraries are not just found in physical locations; many have embraced the digital era by digitizing their holdings and making them accessible to a worldwide audience online. They are essential in providing people with the information, data, and perspectives required to advance progress in a variety of fields, including the humanities, social sciences, and science and technology. These libraries are still developing in the twenty-first century, adjusting to new information technologies and research techniques to guarantee their continued importance in our quest for knowledge.

What special library is?

Numerous definitions have been proposed since the special library movement got underway at the turn of the century. It seems that every writer discussing special libraries has to start with a definition. During the initial stages, definitions frequently concentrated on informing business professionals. A common definition of special libraries in modern literature is "any library that does not fall into the academic, public, or school categories." Any library with a specialized collection is included in another definition, and subject departments within academic and public libraries which are not autonomous but do have some autonomy are also included in some definitions.

"Commercial, industrial, technical, civic, municipal, and legislative reference libraries, the special departments of public libraries, universities, welfare associations, and business organizations" is how the Special Libraries Association's 1910 constitution defined special libraries. Additionally, "all small special libraries throughout the country; financial, commercial, scientific, and industrial; and special departments of a state, college, and general libraries; and in fact, all libraries devoted to special purposes and serving a limited clientele" was the definition provided in the first issue of the journal *Special Libraries*. Murray (2013) is the source.

Types of special libraries: There are many different kinds of special libraries, and each one caters to the unique information requirements of a certain business, sector, or discipline. Typical kinds of special libraries include the following:

- 1) **Corporate Libraries:** Located inside a company or organization, these libraries are dedicated to offering resources and information about the sector, goods, and services offered by the business. They aid in decision-making, development, and research inside the company.
- 2) **Academic Libraries:** While the majority of academic institutions have general libraries, some also keep specialized libraries, like law, medical, or engineering libraries, to meet the specialized needs of a particular school or department.
- 3) **Government Libraries:** Public policy, legislation, statistics, and other government-related data are stored in the libraries of government agencies and institutions. For instance, legislators and their staff may find resources in a legislative library.
- 4) **Medical Libraries:** Catering to researchers, medical students, and healthcare professionals, these libraries are devoted to medical and healthcare information. They give users access to databases, clinical resources, and medical journals.
- 5) **Legal Libraries:** By giving access to legal texts, case law, statutes, and legal research materials, legal libraries assist legal professionals. These libraries are often maintained by courts and law firms.
- 6) **Archives:** Archives are specialized libraries that focus on preserving historical documents, manuscripts, records, and artifacts. They are vital for historians, genealogists, and researchers interested in primary source materials.
- 7) **Museum Libraries:** Libraries house publications, exhibition catalogs, and reference materials pertaining to the collections of large museums.
- 8) **Specialized research libraries:** focus on particular fields of study, such as the humanities, social sciences, technology, or science. They frequently back scholarly and scientific investigation.
- 9) **Libraries run by Nonprofits and NGO's:** In order to further their goals, a number of nonprofit and non-governmental organizations keep libraries. Information about the organization's activities, such as social justice concerns, environmental preservation, and humanitarian efforts, is the main focus of these libraries.
- 10) **Digital Libraries:** With digital collections and resources covering a wide range of topics, many special libraries in the modern era are fully online. These libraries are available everywhere.

Need:

In the twenty-first century, special and research libraries are still crucial for a number of strong reasons.

Access to Specialized Information: Unlike general libraries, special and research libraries hold distinctive and specialized collections. Professionals, academics, and researchers depend on these resources to gain in-depth understanding in their fields.

Fostering Cutting-Edge Research: By giving researchers access to the most recent scholarly journals, scientific publications, and research materials, they contribute significantly to the advancement of research. Innovation in science and technology depends on this.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Rare books, manuscripts, and historical documents are kept in many special libraries, which helps to preserve cultural heritage and makes these materials accessible to the public and scholars.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: These libraries act as gathering places for professionals from many fields to exchange ideas and work together, stimulating creativity and problem-solving across a range of industries.

Making Well-Informed Decisions: In order to make well-informed decisions in a variety of fields, such as public policy, economics, and healthcare, policymakers and decision-makers rely on specialized libraries for objective, superior information.

Lifelong Learning: Special libraries encourage lifelong learning by giving people the chance to constantly increase their knowledge and skill set for both professional and personal growth.

Digital Resources: Many special libraries have adopted digitalization, opening up their resources to a worldwide user base. In the digital age, their relevance and reach have grown as a result of this digital transformation.

Expert Support: As subject - matter experts in their domains, special and research librarians offer advice, support, and reference services to researchers, assisting them in navigating challenging information environments.

Preserving Scientific and Technical Knowledge: The dissemination and preservation of scientific and technical knowledge, which is essential for innovation and advancement, depend heavily on libraries that specialize in science, technology, and engineering (STEM) fields.

Global Information Exchange: These libraries promote international cooperation and understanding by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise on a worldwide scale in a world growing more interconnected by the day.

To sum up, special and research libraries are still essential tools in the twenty-first century, acting as doors to information, creativity, and culture. They remain essential for research advancement, education, and the distribution of specialized information across multiple domains, and they adjust to the ever-changing information landscape.

Features and Characteristics of a Special Library

Special libraries differ from regular libraries in that they have unique attributes and features. The following are some essential attributes and traits of special libraries:

Focused Subject Areas: Special libraries are devoted to particular fields, industries, or subject areas, such as corporate research, engineering, medical, or law.

Specialized Collections: They contain sets of materials, such as databases, reports, books, and journals, that are specifically designed to meet the needs of their user communities.

Unique and Rare Resources: Historical records, archives, and artifacts about their area of study are just a few examples of the rare and unique materials that special libraries frequently house.

Targeted User Groups: The main audience for these libraries includes professionals, researchers, and students from a particular field or industry.

Specialist Librarians: Because special libraries hire librarians with subject-matter expertise, they are better able to offer specific research support and advice.

Support for Research and Innovation: By giving users access to the most recent books, journals, and data in their field, special libraries are essential for fostering research and innovation.

Customized Services: They provide services like document delivery, literature search, and current awareness services that are specifically designed to meet the needs of their users.

Digital Resources: A lot of special libraries have digitized their holdings to enable online access, thereby extending their reach outside physical libraries.

Focused Budgets: The resources and spending plans of special libraries are frequently directed toward the acquisition of goods and services pertinent to their particular area of expertise.

Collaborative Hubs: Specialists from various fields congregate at special libraries, which frequently act as hubs for interdisciplinary collaboration to share ideas and information.

Assistance in Making Decisions: Certain special libraries, especially in the public and private sectors, offer vital information to help decision-makers make decisions about policies and tactics.

Archiving and Preservation: Historical and archival materials housed in libraries contribute to the preservation of historical documents and cultural heritage.

Constant Adaptation: To remain relevant in the digital age, special libraries adjust to the ever-evolving technologies and information requirements within their respective fields.

Because they offer access to specialized knowledge, resources, and expertise that are essential for research, decision-making, and the advancement of knowledge in their respective fields, special libraries are invaluable to the communities and industries they serve.

II. CONCLUSION

Finally, special and research libraries continue to play a vital role in society in the twenty-first century. They are essential for researchers, academics, professionals, and decision-makers because they act as doors to specialized knowledge, rare resources, and expertise in a variety of fields. These libraries foster interdisciplinary collaboration, support state-of-the-art research, safeguard cultural heritage, and promote lifelong learning. By providing digital resources, they make themselves relevant and globally accessible in the digital age. Special and research libraries remain essential foundations for 21st-century knowledge advancement, innovation, and well-informed decision-making in a world that is changing quickly.

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