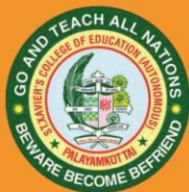


Emerging Trends for Sustainable Development in Libraries

A Perspective of Self - Reliant Learning

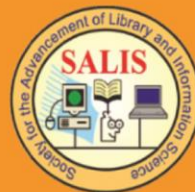
Editors

- ❖ Rev. Dr. D. Thomas Alexander SJ
❖ Dr. T. Raja ❖ Dr. K. Ramasamy ❖ Dr. A. M. Venkatachalam



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ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION BY NAAC IN TEACHER EDUCATION COLLEGE LIBRARIES: A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO FR. UTARID LIBRARY, ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (AUTONOMOUS), PALAYAMKOTTAI

¹Raja, T (Dr.) ²Antony Raj, M (Dr.) ³Sherlin, S (Dr.)

¹Librarian, St. Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu,
E-Mail: rajathangiah@gmail.com

²Assistant Professor, St. Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu,
E-Mail: drmantonyraj@gmail.com

³Assistant Professor, St. Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu,
E-Mail: sherlin27ss@gmail.com

Abstract

In India, only one percentage of the teacher education colleges are accredited based on the online submission of Self Study Report (SSR) after new online submission by teacher education institutions from March 2019. St. Xavier's College of Education is one of the leading teacher colleges across the country and fulfills all the requirements made by NAAC aspects. This paper examines the requirements and needed facilities and services of library for the NAAC accreditation process based on the new manual in online format for teacher education institutions.

Keywords : NAAC, Self Study Report, Accreditation, Teacher Education Institutions

Introduction

Accreditation is one of the major evaluation systems of the any type of higher educational institution in the country. After 2019 teacher education institutions are appearing with the new SSR manual and online submission for the accreditation from NAAC. St. Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous) appeared with the new manual in April 2022 and received A+ grade in its 4th cycle of re-accreditation. With regard to NAAC manual, the library and its functions are comes under Criterion 4 - Infrastructure and Learning Resources. In this regard library of the colleges must possess some important aspects like library automation, remote access OPAC, usage statistics and national policy documents. This paper highlights the requirements of libraries for the NAAC in the teacher education colleges and Fr. Utarid library of St. Xavier's College of Education provides the best facilities to the students and teachers as per the new manual of NAAC.

About St. Xavier's College of Education

St. Xavier's College of Education Palayamkottai was started in 1950 as St. Xavier's Teachers' Training College at St. Xavier's (Autonomous) College Campus, affiliated to the University of Madras with an intake of 30 students in B.Ed. programme. Now the college is affiliated to Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Chennai with an intake of 100 students. Our college offeres B.Ed., M.Ed., M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes in Education. Our college has a well flourished research centre that has produced 128 Ph.Ds in Education. In 2006 UGC conferred the autonomy status to this College and the UGC Review committee extended the Autonomous status of the College for the period of Six years upto 2017-2018 and it continues for ten years from 2018-2019 to 2027-2028. The College was re-accredited (4th Cycle) by NAAC with 'A+' Grade.



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About Fr. Utarid Library of St.Xavier's College of Education

Our college library was established in a small room in 1950; after a few years it was expanded to a bigger space strengthened with more collections. Library has two floors with an area of 5942 sq.ft and seating capacity for about 250 readers. Ground floor of the library accommodates a spacious reading hall, with reference books, Xavier Informatics Centre, and Student Service Centre. The first floor contains all the subject books in teaching pedagogy and general reading books. The library is the heart of our institution and well utilized by the student teachers, faculty members and researchers. At present the library houses a collection of 23,194 books, 1,563 book bank books, 898 M.Ed. dissertations, 928 back volumes of journals, 92 National policy documents, 276 CD's and 15 years question bank. The library subscribes 4 International and 36 National journals from reputed institutions. The library also subscribes 18 magazines and 3 daily news papers. Library is fully computerized through Rovon Technologies of Library Management System and students can search the resources through computer based catalogue [Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)]. Students can search the books from outside the library through KOHA Web-OPAC. There is a separate digital library section with DSPACE Digital Library Software. It has 4 Kindle e-readers, 1, 64,309 e-books and for about 6,150 online journals subscribed through UGC N-List consortium. The library resources exploration happens at an average of 75 students every day.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

National Assessment and Accreditation Council was established under the Ministry of Education in 1994. NAAC is the strongest and well effective body in the Indian Higher Education System. NAAC is inspecting the higher education institutions with the framed guidelines and criterias and given grade according to the performance of the institutions based on the guidelines. Before March 2019, Arts and Science colleges and Teacher Education Colleges have the same format for accrediting process. After 2019, NAAC recognized the teacher education colleges as professional colleges, and separate new manual in online format for submission of SSR was introduced. In the new format, only 36 colleges got accredited in the country (based on NAAC statistics in the website).

Requirements Needed by NAAC in Library

Library Automation

All the teacher education colleges should adopt the library automation with standard library software and all resources including the books, journals, back volumes, dissertations and multimedia resources should be uploaded in the software. The library should provide computer based services to the students and teachers. The institution provides brief outline of the automation facilities and uploade the bills, web link in the SSR submission through online.

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) with Remote Access

During covid-19 period, students may not able to access the library and their facilities. In this aspect NAAC added in the SSR new online manual that all the institutions must install the facility for accessing the library catalogue through online with the help library software. Number of colleges have already installed the library software without remote access facility. But only some standard libraries have installed the softwares with remote access module. In the SSR, the institutions need to explain in paragraph about this OPAC facility.

Subscription of E-Resources

Institutions are expected to enhance the subscription of e-resources including e-books, e-journals and databases. E-Shodhsindu having different module namely UGC-INFLIBNET-N-LIST provides the best e-resources for teacher education colleges and arts and science colleges. The colleges submit the subscription letter and receipt through SSR. They also expects e-shodhganga module of e-theses and e-dissertations, but these modules are free and open access.

Average Annual Books and Resources Purchased in the Library

NAAC manual demands the annual expenditure for purchase of books, journals and e-resources in the library for the last five completed academic years. They also expects data sheet as per the template and auditor statement of the purchase of books and other resources in the library.

Usage Statistics of Library

NAAC manual entails the percentage per day usage of library by the teachers and students during the last full academic year and should heighlght the most used selected five months in the academic year. It is required to submit the scanned copy of Gate register pages, e-library entry register pages and screenshots of the usage of remote access facility by the students and teachers in the SSR.

National Policy Documents

The college library holds the policy documents includes all the education based commission reports, curriculum based commission reports, education survey reports, UGC, NAAC, NCTE, Central and state government orders related to higher education system should be maintained and updated in regular intervals. The list of documents should be scanned and uploaded in the SSR.

Facilities @ SXCE Library as per the NAAC Requirements

- ❖ Library already installed and maintained the ROVAN library management system from 2006. The library also installed the KOHA 20.11 software and uploaded all the resources and provides the facilities to the students and staff members. Gate register is maintained in the ROVAN library management system and other services including books lending, statistics, stock register are maintained in the KOHA software.
- ❖ Library provides remote access catalogue facility through KOHA 20.11 to the students and teachers. Students and teachers also check their own account and see the reports of individual lending history.
- ❖ Around 8.5 lakhs spent for purchasing books, journals and UGC-INFLIBNET-N-LIST E-Resources Subscription for the year 2016 to 2021. 1200 books purchased and 40 journals subscribed during the last five academic years.
- ❖ Our college library regularly monitors the library usage statistics and maintains the statistics file. As per the NAAC SSR new manual, it is expected to upload the percentage per day usage of library by teachers and students during the last full academic year and should heighlght the most used selected five months in the academic year.
- ❖ Our college library collected and filed the national level policy documents including commission reports, survey reports, all the latest orders and reports of UGC, NCTE, NAAC, state and central government and are displayed in a separate shelf.

NAAC Peer Team Expectations on Library

- ❖ Library accession register should be maintained properly and presented with the signature of the librarian and principal at the time of visit.
- ❖ Journals must be displayed properly in separate racks and back volumes also maintained in the separate shelves. Journals usage entry register also maintained near to the journals display rack.
- ❖ If possible try to display the rare books and new arrivals in the entrance of the reading hall.
- ❖ Computers must be in good working condition and also assessed to check the e-resources (UGC-N-LIST) portals.
- ❖ Books and other resources and journals subscription bills should be maintained properly and will be checked at the time of accounts verification by the Peer Team members.

Best Practices @ SXCE Library

- ❖ The library has a very large information board. It includes all the updated information like resources and services available in the library.
- ❖ Organize library orientation programme for the fresher's on the starting of every academic year. The programme focusing the reading habits of students and explain the resources available, services available and how to make use of the library.
- ❖ Organize book exhibition both to the staff and students of the college for promoting the reading habits. The staff members also recommend the books to be purchased for the library through this exhibition.
- ❖ Every year, after the accessing and technical processing of the books, the new arrivals are displayed on the library table for students and staff members.
- ❖ The Principal, Library Director and the Librarian collectively select the best library users for the academic year and honour them. Four prizes are awarded such as Best Library user of B. Ed. First Year student, B. Ed 2nd Year student, PG Student and staff member from the college.
- ❖ Every year, our library organizes the World Books Day on April 23rd, by conducting essay competitions and prizes will be distributed on the celebration of World Books Day.
- ❖ The library has a separate e-resource section. It has seven computers and two kindle e-readers for reading the e-books in the library. The e-readers have TET/CTET examination materials, English Grammar, Vocabulary and proverbs.
- ❖ Our college offers Library and Information Science Management as one of the Elective Paper for the B. Ed. Programme.
- ❖ One credit (Use of Learning Resources – As per NCTE Curriculum) is allotted for Library Usage in 4th Semester (2nd Year Students). Credit will be awarded to the students by considering the library visit, books lending and submission of one book review report.

- ❖ Faculty Members and Ph.D. Scholars are regularly informed the title of articles (Table of Contents from journals) to their e-mails through Article Alert Services.
- ❖ Similarly, through Conference/Seminar/Workshop Alert Services the details of the forthcoming professional programmes are also intimated to the Faculty Members and Ph.D. Scholars.

Conclusion

As the gateways of knowledge, libraries play a fundamental role in every institution. They are considered as the heart of any institutions, since the bombardment of knowledge is possible only with the help of libraries. In a teacher education institution, the role of library is still crucial, because here the future teachers are trained and moulded. The quantity and quality of libraries with technology integration must be the need of the hour and it should be the face of any standard institution. With this view, the present paper shared the role of libraries in teacher education institutions with special reference to the expectations of NAAC. It also highlighted all the needed information based on the facilities available at St. Xavier's College of Education. This is not the end but a new beginning for a better library for the better society and for a better nation. It's our duty to update the library facilities as per the changes that takes place.

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