

Core Lists of Periodicals for Nursing College Libraries

K.M. KEERAN

KNOWLEDGE is multidirectional and multidimensional. Due to the rapid quantitative growth of documents and the rapid increase in the cost of acquiring and storing documents it is not possible to acquire all the published literatures with the limited resources of a library. Further, there has emerged an increased realization among researchers and managers of the importance of information as a national resource for research and development activities. As a result there has been an increased demand on the resources of libraries and information centres; and they are now being asked to provide access to more and more of World's literature output.

Nowadays libraries are required to meet the demands of the user community on the one side and the economy in acquisition programme on the other. Due to the meagre resources it is very difficult to meet out this problem. It is therefore, natural to seek a national solution to this problem.

Central Lending Facility

If the libraries can obtain material from a central lending-facility to meet less frequent demands, the problem of acquiring and maintaining less used material can be reduced considerably. Any such system which enables local libraries to economize their acquisition programmes depends, for its successful operation, entirely on a central lending facility capable of speedy supply of material not available in local libraries.

A major and perhaps the most significant and successful experiment in this direction began in the United Kingdom with the establishment of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology (known as BLLD), on the basis of the hypothesis that "a satisfactory" national interlibrary loan service in any field must depend upon a central collection rather than a union catalogue.

The specific purpose of this paper is to take note of the different models that can be used helpfully to effect cost effectiveness in the acquisition of periodicals by specialist libraries in India in the context of this new development.

The articles in any field of interest of our institution will be distributed in a number of periodicals. In Ranganathan's terminology some of these periodicals will be in the 'Umbral' region of interest: Some will be in the 'Perumbral' region of interest and some will be in more or less, 'Alien' region of interest. The periodicals in the umbral region of interest would be in great demand; and therefore, any library should attempt to acquire and maintain all the periodicals falling in this region of interest.

In the context of escalating prices and limited funds, libraries are forced to think increasingly in terms of optimization of the resources. As such a core list of periodicals in the subject field of interest of an institution becomes important for proper resource allocation. The core list must be readily accessible, clearly labelled and logically arranged. The basic principle of any core list is maximal impact at minimum cost.

Compilation of a list of core periodicals can be done in several ways. Some of the widely used methods are: Brooks Model; Precisin Ranking Model; Houghton and Prosser Model; Cost Effectiveness Model; Citation Analysis; Opinion Survey of Users; and Bradfords Law of Scattering Model.

In this paper an attempt has been made to identify core periodicals in Nursing. The periodicals of Nursing in the Index Medicus, Vol. 2, for the year 1985 was examined and the journals that publish papers on nursing were noted. Finally the periodicals were ranked in the order of decreasing Productivity (See Appendix-I).

The Bradford's Law of Scattering is perhaps the well known of all the bibliometric concepts for ranking list. It was based upon productivity distribution of literature on a discipline. For the preparation of core list for nursing library, I have used the Bradford's model. (See Appendix-II Bibliograph).

A decision to subscribe to a journal is different from a decision to buy a book. Each book is an individual entry whereas subscription to a journal means more or less a recurring annual expenditure for the library. Individual libraries will be able to cut subscription to periodicals only if there is a well organised National Document Delivery services. The National Medical Library should supply required papers at a reasonable cost provide an efficient document delivery service to all the libraries.

The effective as well as more realistic of core priodicals for Nursing College Libraries in India can be compiled relatively more economically it is done in the National Medical Library with the co-operation of all Post Graduate nursing college libraries. Because NML has resources materials, man power and financial sources. Other nursing college libraries, of course have to adopt that list after necessary deletion and additions whenever necessary with the assistance of the specialists of the respective college library.

This study also revelas the fact that the scattering of journal literature obeys Broadford's distribution. The ranked list of journals and the "Bibliograph"