



A Holistic Approach To Library Excellence: Best Practices At Mohanrao Patangrao Patil Mahavidyalaya, Borgaon

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DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.17278614

Abstract:

Academic libraries have evolved from being mere repositories of books to dynamic, user-centric knowledge centres that are essential to an institution's academic ecosystem. In an era where access to information is paramount, the quality and innovation of a college library directly reflect the institution's commitment to excellence. As higher education undergoes a rapid transformation driven by technology and accreditation standards like those set by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), a library's ability to adapt and implement modern practices has become a key indicator of institutional health and growth.

This paper explores the comprehensive and integrated approach adopted by the library at Mohanrao Patangrao Patil Mahavidyalaya, Borgaon, to achieve what can be described as a "holistic excellence." The study analyses the library's best practices, which span physical infrastructure, ICT integration, user-centric services, community engagement, and innovative programming. By examining these practices, this research aims to demonstrate how a coordinated and multifaceted strategy can enhance the library's role as a vital resource for students, faculty, and the wider community. The findings of this study will not only highlight the library's achievements but also serve as a valuable blueprint for other academic institutions aspiring to elevate their own library services to meet contemporary standards of quality.

Keywords: Best Practices, Physical Facilities, ICT, Library Services, Innovative Programs.

Problem Statement:

The Mohanrao Patangrao Patil Mahavidyalaya, Borgaon, is a NAAC-accredited institution in a rural area of Maharashtra, dedicated to providing education to the local community. While the college library is a central component of its academic infrastructure, there is a recognised need to move beyond traditional functions to achieve true "library excellence." This requires a holistic approach that addresses the specific challenges and opportunities inherent in a rural college setting.

The current challenge is to understand and document the existing best practices at the library of Mohanrao Patangrao Patil Mahavidyalaya, Borgaon, and to evaluate their effectiveness in meeting the diverse and evolving needs of its students and faculty. This is crucial because college libraries in rural India often face unique constraints, such as limited budgets, inadequate digital infrastructure, and a potential lack of digital literacy among users. By identifying and analysing the successful strategies already in place, this research can serve as a case study

and a model for other rural academic libraries striving to enhance their services, promote a culture of reading and research, and contribute to the overall academic excellence of their institution. The problem, therefore, is to investigate how a library in a resource-constrained rural environment can implement a holistic strategy to maximise its value and achieve excellence.

Best Practices:

NAAC recommended best practices for academic libraries. Listed below are some of the best practices that can enhance the academic information environment and usability.

1. Computerization of library with standard digital software.
2. Inclusion of sufficient information about the library in the college prospectus.

3. Compiling student/teacher attendance statistics and locating the same on the notice board.
4. Displaying newspaper clippings on the notice board periodically.
5. Career/Employment Information/Services.
6. Internet Facilities to different user groups.
7. Information literacy programs.
8. Suggestion box and timely response.
9. Displaying new arrivals and circulating a list of those to academic departments.
10. Conducting book exhibitions on different occasions.
11. Organizing book talks.
12. Instituting Annual Best User award for students.
13. Organizing competitions annually.
14. Conducting user surveys periodically.

These are the best practices of M. P. Patil Mahavidyalaya library department:



Physical Facilities of the Library:

Reading Room: The library provides a space for reading for students and Teachers. Therefore, students/ Teachers get the benefit of the reading facility of the reading room.

Suggestion Box: The library always welcomes students for suggestions, queries, comments and their concerns. Therefore, a suggestion box is kept outside the library to welcome new suggestions and ideas. The library has always implemented good suggestions and ideas. The

library tries to implement all recommendations.

ICT Facilities: The library is committed to providing the latest e-resources to students and academic and administrative staff. E-resources enable the librarian to give better service to the user community.

ILMS: The library is partially automated through open source software, Granthalaya. E-Granthalaya software developed by NIC, the National Informatics Centre, Govt. of India. The software provides full support in diverse

areas such as library record maintenance, barcode facility, Book accessioning, membership, circulation, and OPAC. The facilities include a database backup facility.

NDL & N-List: The library subscribes to the Nlist electronic resources package offered to the colleges by INFLIBNET. It consists of e-journals and e-books, which can be accessed by the user community of the college. Through the Nlist platform, users can get access to more than 164000 + e-books, 6000 + e-journals and 600000 e-books through NDL Electronic Resources, which can be accessed through <https://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in>, <https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>.

Blog: Since its inception, the library has been considered the powerhouse of knowledge. During the Corona period, the library formed a Blog and a YouTube channel. The publishing technology is indeed a value-added service for libraries that not only provides the latest information but also curiosity and knowledge universally with quick succession. Blog Link- <https://mppmblibrary.blogspot.com>

YouTube Channel:

<https://youtube.com/@m.p.patilmahavidyaborg789>

The Library department provided videos of storytelling, book reading, collected from Textbooks on the YouTube channel during the period of the COVID-19 outbreak.

WhatsApp: Adopting mobile technology in the library provides much better services by sharing online information at any time, anywhere, to the students. By using this facility, students are getting more benefits from sharing knowledge. Library creates WhatsApp group -Readers Book Club, Webinar Group.

CD DVD Collection: Besides utilising books as a means of imparting knowledge, teachers are facilitated to experiment with new forms of educational techniques through the audio-

visual medium. Facilities for the same have been provided in the college library. The library has more than 40 CDs on various topics. The library is committed to providing wider digital access to the learners. The library provides all the necessary educational knowledge or information through digital media.

OPAC: The catalogue of library catalogue can be accessed online as it supports OPAC. The operations of the library are computerised, and the online public access catalogue (OPAC) is accessible in the library premises. It assists in searching the catalogue or locating books available from the help desk.

Barcode: All books have been entered in the database, and the books are being issued through the computer to all registered users. A Barcode scanner is used to make entries of books in the computer systematically. Through the E granthalaya library software issue, return is recorded through barcode.

Student Centric Facilities:

Open Access: The library provides an open access system to the students, faculty and administrative staff. It provides numerous benefits such as easy access to textbooks, reference books, journals, e-books, periodicals, newspapers and question papers.

Book Bank Services: Book bank service is provided to the students. This book scheme is run for the economically backwards students. Textbooks regarding the syllabus are issued to the students for two semesters and taken back after the final examination is over. From the academic year 2018-19, the library acquired sets of books from 'Sidhivinayak Trust' for the book bank scheme.

Book Issue/ Return Service: The Library Committee formed its policy and procedure. A library card/ borrow card is issued to every student when the student enrolls in the College.

This card is to be maintained for issuing textbooks, reference books and journals, etc. A student can borrow only two books at a time for a period of seven days.

Internet Facility: The Library is spacious and equipped with ICT. Internet facility is available for students and faculty during the working hours of the library. Computers are made available for students with internet access.

Reference Services: The library has a good collection of reference materials such as Dictionaries, Vishwkosh, and various subject Kosh available. The library provides reference services to both faculty and students.

Selective Dissemination Services& Current Awareness Services: SDI services are provided to the readers from various dictionaries and other reference books according to their needs. The purpose of a current-awareness service is to inform users about new acquisitions lists in libraries.

Question Papers: The library has also made provision for students to refer to old question papers for preparing for their university-level examinations. Students are allowed to take a photocopy of the question paper using their mobile phone.

QR Code: The library made a QR Code of the Syllabus and Question Papers, Library Blog, Youtube, OPAC.

QR CODE FACILITY



Service to Community:

The Library always welcomes readers. The library has open membership. It provides library services to the ex-students and senior citizens of society as per their interests. Since 21-22, the library has opened library resources to small help groups who desire to read books. Aanganwadi Sevika of the Borgaon, Senior Citizen, as well as ex-students, this service is provided free of cost.

Innovative Programme/ Activities:

1)Orientation Programme: Every year, the library organises an Orientation programme for first-year students. First-year students

need to understand the offered facilities and services of the Library.

2)Vachan Prerna Din: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, on 15th Oct of every year, the library celebrates Vachan Prerna Din (Reading Inspiration Day)

3) Quizzes:

1) The library department took the online quiz 'CharitrakathaPrashanManjusha' on the book review, which was published on the Library Blog on 15/05/2020.

2) To commemorate Mahatma Gandhiji's 150th Birth Anniversary, organised a State Level Contest on the book 'The Story of My Life- Mahatma Gandhi'.

3) On the occasion of our Institution's SmrutiSaptah, the Library department conducted an online quiz- Sahitya Yatri Prashnamanjusha for our college students, Teachers and all staff.

4) Book Review: The library department initiates an activity of book review writing, which is conducted on books issued to the students and a record of the same is maintained.

5) Wallpaper:

1) Dr. Abdul Kalam Special Issue wallpaper published on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

2) 'PustakParichay' wallpaper of the special issue published, which book is the best seller, and that book is available in the library

6) Book Exhibition: Organised an Exhibition of new arrival books every year. Exhibition of books for students and villagers of all schools in the Borgaon area. It helps to develop reading habits among the stakeholders.

7) Display Information and Notification: The library displays regularly articles, important messages about examinations, the Carrier Competitive exam dates, and the Current issue on the notice board.

8) New Arrivals: In the New Arrivals section, the rack library displays new arrival books. This Service is beneficial for the users to get to know the Newly Added books in the library.

9) Meet the Author: Under this activity, the library arranged for authors to meet with the students, such as Dr. Rohini Tukdev, Dr. M. S. Sakate, Prof. ArvindDeshpande, Mr. Sadanand Kadam, who interacts with our students.

10) Best Reader Award: Every year this award honours those who read the maximum number of books and who write book reviews.

11) Special Days: The library department celebrates special days like Mahila Din,

Vruttpatra Vikreta Din, Marathi Rajyabhasha Din, Annabhau Sathe Jayanti.

12) Collection of Ph. D. Thesis: The library collected Phd and M.Phil. theses for researchers.

13) Special Collection: The library has a special collection of old and rare Indian and foreign currency and postage stamps. Nearby, by 21countries' numnistics are collected in the library.

SPECIAL COLLECTION – NUMISMATICS



Foreign Currency

SPECIAL COLLECTION - STAMPS



FOREIGN POST STAMP



INDIAN POST STAMP

Organisation of webinar/ workshop/ Lecture:

The Library Department has been a hub of activity, curating a series of enriching events. They organized a national webinar on the promising career prospects in Library and Information Science. The department also provided practical guidance through an online workshop, teaching students and teachers how

to effectively navigate the vast **e-resources of Nlist, NDL, and e-PG pathshala.**

Furthermore, they delved into personal development with a workshop focused on the vital role of reading in shaping one's personality. In a collaborative effort with the Aaswad Vachan Sanskruti Abhivrudhi Committee, they hosted a unique workshop centered on the art of **book reviews, storytelling, and impactful presentations.**

MOU/ Collaboration/ Inter Library Loan:

Inter library loan is a fundamental and essential service in modern librarianship. Library sharing knowledge through Mou, Collaboration, Interlibrary Loan facility. Library department made MOU, Collaborating with libraries at surrounding colleges to enhance resource sharing and provide students and faculty with access to a wider range of materials. Interlibrary loan facility is available for readers.

Findings and Conclusion:

This research paper set out to explore the multifaceted approach to library excellence at Mohanrao Patangrao Patil Mahavidyalaya, Borgaon. Our analysis of the library's best practices reveals a comprehensive strategy that goes beyond traditional library functions. The findings demonstrate a clear commitment to three key pillars of modern library management: ICT integration, user-centric services, and community engagement.

The study found that the library's proactive adoption of digital tools—from the e-Granthalaya software and N-List/NDL subscriptions to its innovative use of blogs and a YouTube channel has significantly improved resource accessibility and digital literacy among users. Furthermore, the library's focus on user-centricity is evident in its responsive feedback mechanism, the invaluable Book

Bank service for economically disadvantaged students, and the nurturing of a reading culture through engaging activities like the "Best Reader Award" and "Meet the Author" series. Finally, the library's role as a community resource, exemplified by its free services to senior citizens and local groups, showcases its understanding of its broader social responsibility.

In conclusion, the library at Mohanrao Patangrao Patil Mahavidyalaya, Borgaon, serves as a compelling model of a holistic approach to library excellence. It effectively integrates technology, customises its services to meet the specific needs of its users, and actively contributes to the intellectual life of its surrounding community. This synthesis of practices not only enriches the institution's academic environment but also provides a clear and effective blueprint for other academic libraries seeking to enhance their services and successfully navigate the evolving landscape of higher education and accreditation.

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