CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Scholarly researchers require information sources to support their research need and academic libraries have the responsibility to satisfy those need. The objectives of the academic library are to collect, maintain, and make available for use all the materials to their users (*Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science*, 1987). In real situations, no single library can be expected to possess all the materials the researchers need. Research collections are often built around special subjects that reflect the major goals of an institution's existing research, teaching, and service programs as well as those projected for the future (*Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science*, 1987). It aims at achieving comprehensiveness in coverage of the literature within a particular subject. It should have wide holdings of monographs and serials, together with other appropriate documents be they in the original language or translations. Its collection should have both historical depth and currently published materials and should be opened to documents in new formats as they become available (Horacek, 1993).

Collection Development

Collection management are activities which are helpful to the need of researchers. Collection development for research need is one of the major functions of academic libraries that encompasse a variety of activities that relate to the selection and acquisition of material for research and also involve decisions on which material need to be included in that collection. Its activities include fund allocation, item selection, collection

evaluation, location, weeding, and preservation (Cline & Sinnott, 1981). Explanation of these activities will follow.

Fund allocation

One of the main library functions involves making decisions on how to spend the allocation of fund. This involves determining what proportion of the budget for materials should be assigned to the various library units. Each library assigns numerical values to factors based on its own institutional programs and the emphasis is to arrive at a fair allocation between the academic departments within that institution (Devin & Kellogg, 1990). According to Kohut and Walker (1975), the formulation of allocations have to take into consideration four major factors: (1) subjective judgments based on collection evaluations and historical inequities; (2) size of academic departments (number of students, credit hours, faculty, etc.); (3) level of program (graduate/undergraduate) together with library usage and; (4) the size and price range of published literature in a particular discipline (Devin & Kellogg, 1990).

Item selection

In the process of selecting items, the library has to adopt an approach to expand the allocated money with the following considerations: the size of the current year's allocation; relative emphasis on current versus retrospective purchasing; use of special purchasing plans; and involvement of those whom the fund most directly serves (Cline & Sinnott, 1981). Generally, the responsibility of selection of items is shared between the library and the academic staff.

Collection evaluation

Collection evaluation activities are designed to assess the strengths and gap in specific subject discipline allowing the library to know the levels of use of the various types of library's holdings. Decisions also have to be made to determine where holdings should be placed. This activity includes weeding and preservation. Weeding is the process whereby librarians remove obsolete or unused items from the collection to be discarded. Preservation are activities designed to identify and repair items whose physical condition has deteriorated to a point which precludes further use.

Collection management in academic libraries are consumed with a lot of pressure and problems. The relentless rise in the price of books and periodicals that yearly outstrip national inflation rates along with the decline in library budget have deteriorated the acquisition power of libraries (Gardner, 1985; Cline & Sinnott, 1981). In addition, the increase in salaries and wages of library staff, and the expansion of maintenance and operating costs have also placed library acquisition policy under severe stress (Cline & Sinnott, 1981). On the other hand, the pervasive explosion in the production and consumption of information, with a growing corpus of knowledge have doubled the pressure placed upon libraries. The new scholarly books published in the United States, for example, increased from 3000 to 15,000 between 1960 to 1980. The number of scientific and technical serials jumped from about 20,000 to 50,000 titles worldwide (Walton, 1982). The growth of costly publication coupled with the impact of declining budgets and rampant inflation have caused great financial and managerial problems to the academic

libraries in both maintaining and expanding their holdings as well as fulfilling their user need (Cline & Sinnott, 1981).

The increasing growth and complexity of knowledge have caused the process of cataloguing, classifying, and related technical routines to become increasingly more complex and expensive. The changes in subject relationship have forced cataloguers to devise minor modification and to recatalogue part of the collections in order to reflect modern knowledge accurately (Fussler, 1949). The increasingly specialized academic disciplines have also increased the difficulties of identifying the diverse interests of library users (Fussler, 1949). Together with such factors as the demand for more effective resource sharing initiatives (include access to remote sources of information), and increased user expectations have cumulatively make collection development and management more difficult (Robinson, 1993; Jenkins & Morley, 1991).

Due to the economic constraints, librarians have to be certain that the money is being spent wisely. Decisions have got to be made with regard to how to handle or organise whatever research materials which the library possess. Research libraries also need to know what type of literature is needed by researchers and how much of what is needed can be satisfied by the library. Librarians have great difficulty in deciding how to cut up the materials-budget pie (Walton, 1982). Literature have shown that the types and pattern of literature used by academic researchers varied (Burnette et. al., 1994; Garfield, 1980; Stevens, 1956) and this variations is the function of discipline. That is, there are variations in the information use behaviour amongst the physical scientists, technologists, social

scientists and humanities researchers (Sandstrom, 1994). To find accurate and complete answers to the question of "Who uses what publications, for what purposes?" are essential in the design of library and information service, especially in collection development and management (Broadus, 1987). Some decisions which the library has to make with regard to research materials are; (a) which materials should be preserved, (b) which titles or category of materials should be kept on reference, and (c) documents from which research areas must the library concentrate on acquiring. To make decisions and formulate policies, the library need to have some knowledge about the nature and need of its researchers (Stevens, 1953a). Thus, to provide for its users an effective and active service rather than a passive one, library service should attempt to fit in to the requirements of its users by careful analysis of their users' information environment and their work demand (Al-Salem, 1989). Many approaches have been used to find out the information-gathering habits and information use of natural scientists and technical workers but researchers have overlooked the need of other scholars, such as the social scientists and the humanists (Stevens, 1956). As such the main objective of this study is to ascertain information use of humanist scholars.

Objectives

The main purpose of the University of Malaya Library is to support the university's academic curriculum and research activities. Its users include undergraduates, postgraduates and faculty members that come from the disciplines of the natural and applied sciences and technology, social sciences and the humanities. An effective segmentation and strategic planning of resource allocation for research need should

inevitably involve identifying the research population, the trend of current and past researches and finding out researchers' information need and use.

Table 1.1 shows the total number of postgraduate students enrolled in higher degree programs at the University of Malaya between 1984 and 1994. The table indicates that the total number of postgraduate students enrolled in higher degree programs was 10,514; 4,003 (38%) were in the science and technology disciplines and 6,511 (62%) the non-science disciplines. The table therefore indicates that a large proportion of postgraduate students are in the non-science disciplines. Table 1.2 shows that the non-science disciplines contributed a total of 925 dissertations (278 in the humanities; 647 in social sciences), whereas natural and applied sciences and medicine disciplines contributed 497 dissertations (357 in natural and applied sciences; 140 in medicine). The non-science disciplines therefore contributed more than 65% of the total number of dissertation submissions. With such a substantial number of contributions from the non-scientists; it is assumed therefore that the library should possess adequate resources to support the research need in the social sciences and humanities.

Table 1.1: Postgraduate Students Enrolled in the University of Malaya Between 1984-1994

Faculty / Year	84/85	85/86	86/87	87/88	88/89	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	94/95	Total	%
Econ. & Admin	150	141	148	170	166	171	171	186	261	260	1824	17.35
Engineering	11	16	48	60	65	64	57	56	60	84	521	4.96
Education	148	123	117	141	199	234	267	299	269	261	2058	19.57
Dentistry	1	1	1	1	-	-	3	3	1	7	18	0.17
Medicine	22	29	50	69	75	110	140	140	240	262	1137	10.81
Science	97	99	108	114	154	150	170	169	196	223	1480	14.08
Arts & Social Science	102	111	129	144	162	149	155	172	215	205	1544	14.69
Syariah	-	-	8	17	26	23	21	16	24	20	155	1.47
Law	10	4	5	12	13	13	14	23	41	65	200	1.90
Usuluddin	2	3	3	11	15	18	18	20	40	49	179	1.70
Ins Adv Learning	33	45	50	83	91	85	83	84	115	110	779	7.41
Language & Linguistics	-	5	14	24	25	42	68	81	125	167	551	5.24
Computer Science	-	-	6	10	10	7	8	7	10	10	68	0.65
TOTAL	576	577	687	856	1001	1066	1175	1256	1597	1723	10514	100.00

Source: Annual Report of the University of Malaya, 1985-1995.

Table 1.2: Master's and Doctoral Dissertations Submitted to the University of Malaya Between 1984 and 1994

Year	Humanities		Social sciences		Natural & applied sciences		Medicine		Cumulative Total	
	n=278	%	n=647	%	n=357	%	n=140	%	n=1422	%
1984	12	4.32	41	6.34	14	3.92	4	2.86	71	4.99
1985	9	3.24	47	7.26	17	4.76	4	2.86	77	5.41
1986	15	5.40	50	7.73	23	6.44	8	5.71	96	6.75
1987	15	5.40	26	4.02	8	2.24	19	13.57	68	4.78
1988	22	7.91	42	6.49	39	10.92	24	17.41	127	8.93
1989	23	8.27	71	10.97	44	12.32	18	12.86	156	10.97
1990	29	10.43	80	12.36	42	11.76	27	19.29	178	12.52
1991	41	14.75	71	10.97	43	12.04	26	18.57	181	12.73
1992	38	13.67	89	13.76	47	13.17	4	2.86	178	12.52
1993	43	15.47	66	10.20	46	12.89	2	1.43	157	11.04
1994	31	11.15	64	9.89	34	9.52	4	2.86	133	9.35

This study intends to examine the trend of postgraduate researches in the humanities and their use of information sources. It will be based on the following hypotheses:

1. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences contributes the most dissertations.
2. Subject coverage of researchers is Malaysian and regional oriented.
3. The preferred language of humanities scholars is the Malay language.
4. The materials used by humanities confined mostly to locally literature which are based on local research.
5. Local humanities researchers would require more monographs compared to other types of sources. Studies have shown that researches in the natural sciences depend primarily on serial literature. Chemists and physicists in the United States make more than 90% reference to serial articles (Stevens, 1956). Researchers in United States history however used not merely journals, but also books, pamphlets, newspapers and manuscripts (Stevens, 1956). Format of the publications requested by the researchers in the National Humanities Centre in North Carolina in 1983 on the other hand showed that the materials requested varied from monographs, periodicals, newspapers, dissertations, government documents, to pamphlets (Broadus, 1987). This study expects to show that the dispersion of literature used by humanists researchers spread amongst various type of format in the humanities. The printed book (scholarly books, text books) and journal (scholarly journals, popular journals) are used along with archival materials, theses, conference papers, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, government documents, manuscripts, etc. However, it is expected that the form of literature used would be more monographs oriented.

6. The citations used by the humanities scholars would be mainly single-authored.
7. The zonal analysis of literature cited would indicate that humanities researchers need access to wider number of serials and the core documents comprise of a third of total citations . Similarly, core authors of literature cited would comprise of a larger number of names compared with other disciplines.
8. The age span of literature used by local humanities scholars would be considerable longer and exhibit a longer half life. An examination of the Institute for Scientific Information's *Journal Citation Reports* shows that, over 60% of the citations in physics and chemistry are for works published within the last 5 years; whereas only 38% of the citations received by a history journal are to articles published in the last 5 years (Garfield, 1980). Unlike the natural scientists, humanities scholars are not likely to ignore materials because of their age. A study have shown that 22.7% used in the study of American literature are made to materials more than 50 years old (Budd, 1986).
9. The literature used by local humanities researchers would indicate a wider interdisciplinary subject coverage than those used by experimental researches. Historical researchers seem to use a great number of materials classified in a variety of subject fields. The study by McAnally (1951) has shown that less than a third of the books and periodicals used in researches on United States history were classified in the field of history (Stevens, 1956). Whilst Fussler (1949) noticed that 68.5% of the references cited in the chemical research were in the area of chemistry and 69.9% of those cited in physics research were in physics. This study hopes to show that the references used by humanists researchers goes beyond those classified within the subject area of the discipline itself.

The above hypotheses are formulated to answer these specific questions:

About the dissertation trend:

1. What are the quantity of researches carried out in the humanities between 1984 and 1994, distinguished by three broad disciplines, such as language and literature, history, religious and philosophical studies?
2. What are the language distribution of dissertations submitted?
3. Does dissertation titles classified in the humanities emanates only from the Faculty of Arts or do other faculty contribute a fair share of total dissertation submissions?
4. What are the subject coverage of the dissertations? Does the studies mainly focus on local and regional studies?

About the references used:

1. What is the average quantity of references used by humanities researchers?
2. What types of literature are usually used by postgraduate humanities researchers? (Categorisation by types of literature as whole and by each three broad disciplines)
3. Who are the core scholars whose works are frequently used by the humanities researchers?
4. Does the literature used exhibit identifiable authorship pattern?
5. What is the spread of journal titles used by the researchers? Does journal titles used follow the law of scattering as formulated by C. S. Bradford?

6. Are there titles which are frequently used? (Confined to books used only)
7. What is the geographical distribution of materials used by humanities (Confined to books and journals only)? Does humanities researchers refer to more foreign publications?
8. Who are the publishers of the works cited? (Spread by publisher for books)
9. What is the age span of literature used? What proportion of literature used are published within 10 years of the date of submission of the dissertation in each discipline under study? (for books and journal articles used)
10. What is the language distribution of titles used?
11. What is the subject distribution of the cited document? Does it fall within similar discipline areas or extend over other disciplines?

Sample And Methodology

The sample frame of this study are -- Master's and Doctoral dissertations submitted by humanities researchers to the University of Malaya between the years 1984 and 1994. An 11 year span is considered adequate to indicate research trend and strengths.

According to the Library of Congress Classification Scheme, humanities are categorised under B (except BF), C, D, P, M and N. Table 1.3 shows that the total number of dissertations produced by the humanities researchers in the University of Malaya increased from 30 in 1960s to 174 in the 1990s as a total of 431 dissertations during the past 34 years. Class P produced over 53% of the total number of dissertations, following by class D 22% , class B 12% and the remaining were from the other subject classes. This study

will concentrate on the three broad classification Categorisation which includes; (a) Religion and Philosophy (class B), (b) History (class D), and (c) Language and Literature (class P).

This study will adopt a mixture of descriptive statistics and bibliometric analysis as the measuring instrument. Descriptive statistics are used to indicate quantities and trend of researches in the humanities as a whole and by each disciplines. Bibliometric analysis will be used to show the spread and character of the literature referenced by the humanities researchers.

Table 1.3: Dissertations in Humanities Submitted to the University of Malaya Between 1960s and 1990s

Year	B		D		P		M&N		C		Total	
	n=51	%	n=96	%	n=274	%	n=6	%	n=4	%	n=431	%
60s	2	3.9	14	14.7	14	5.1	-	0.0	-	0.0	30	6.9
70s	5	9.8	32	33.3	57	20.8	1	16.7	1	25	96	22.3
80s	12	23.5	25	26.0	87	31.8	5	83.3	2	50	131	30.4
90s	32	62.8	25	26.0	116	42.3	-	0.0	1	25	174	40.4

Summary

This study will be divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 states the objectives of the study. Chapter 2 reviews the literature of previous studies in the same field. Chapter 3 describes the methodology adopted in detail. Chapter 4 analyses the research trend of postgraduate researchers in humanities. Chapter 5 analyses the characteristics of the information sources used by humanities researchers. Finally, Chapter 6 concludes the entire study.

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