

# Brief Note on the Services Provided and Future Plans of DR.B.R.Ambedkar Open University Library, Hyderabad

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<http://www-icdl.open.ac.uk/icd/database/asia/india/bramedk/inst/index.htm>

## I. About the University

Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University, an Open University, the first of its kind in the country, was established by the Andhra Pradesh State Government by an Act of State Legislature in 1982 with its headquarters at Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh State. The University came into existence on 26/08/1982 under the name and style of 'Andhra Pradesh Open University'. Later, in the year 1992 the University was renamed after the late Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, the author of the Indian Constitution, as a mark of respect to the late leader.

The main motto of the University is to provide opportunities of higher education for all the people who could not pursue their education in regular universities / institutions.

Over the last 16 years, the university has established 116 Study Centres for the benefit of under-graduate course holders and 13 post-graduate centres for counselling the students who are pursuing the post-graduate courses. At present 19 academic programmes are offered in different subjects leading to award of Certificate Courses, Diplomas, Bachelor degrees, post-graduate degrees, Master of Philosophy and Doctorate degrees.

## II. About the Library

### i) Establishment and Collection

The library at the Head Office of the University was established in 1983 to support the academic activities. Since then small libraries at various Study Centres and Post-graduate Centres are established to serve the students and counsellors at the respective centres.

At present the Central Library has a collection of 37,186 + books and subscribes for 180 journals in various subjects. Other collections at the Central Library includes maps, charts, theses, models, audio/video cassettes. Total books at all the libraries of the Study Centres are in the range of 55,180 + as on date.

Besides the above collection at Central and Study Centres Libraries, the Central Library has a philanthropic collection of about 25,000 books in different subjects donated by the family of late N.Venkateswara Rao, an eminent journalist. This rare and varied collection is kept separately and are open for reference only.

## ii) Staff

The library is headed by a Professor-in-charge of Library supported by technical staff at various levels. In all, there are 18 members working in the library. Out of which four are Library Professionals with high academic qualifications (three Doctorate degree holders and one Master degree holder).

There is a library committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of University with Deans and Directors of different branches as its members, which lay down and monitor the policies and functions of the library at the highest level.

## iii) Building

The library is located in a sprawling building of 878 sq.mts. and houses all the activities of the library. The library has all the facilities such as telephone, copier, computer, etc.

## iv) Finance & Budget

The library receives its annual grant from the University's general grant which has its source from the Distance Education Council of University Grants Commission and matching grant from the State Government.

The library prepares its annual budget and spends its allocations as approved by the University.

## v) Technical Process

Presently, the library follows DDC-19th Edition for classification and AACR-II for cataloguing.

## vi) Library Services

From its modest beginning of offering lending and reference services to its members, in the beginning, the library has grown and now offers variety of services such as

- Reference and Bibliographic services
- Documentation - i.e. indexing and abstracting
- Current Awareness Service
- Reprographic Service
- Home lending of books and journals

Documentation abstracts and current awareness promotion services are provided by the Library in the areas of Distance Education, Environmental Studies, Women's Studies, Business Management and Trade, Youth, Religion, Mass Media, Commerce and Industry, Science and Technology and Socio-Economic & Political Affairs.

Documentation services are made available through

- A Documentation Bulletin (Monthly)
- Documentation Abstracts (Bi-Monthly)
- Current Contents (Monthly)
- New Additions to the Library (Quarterly)

The database of abstracts is created using (CDS / ISIS). Till to date 550 abstracts are available of which 45% are on Distance Education.

The above services are extended to Post-graduate Study Centres of the University.

#### **vii) Clientle**

The Central Library provides services to all the teaching and non-teaching faculty of the University, research scholars and students. Lending services are offered only to the staff and research scholars. Students are extended the reference services at the library premises.

#### **viii) Computerisation**

The computerisation of the library activities and services is under progress and is expected to be completed by February/March 1999. After completion of the computerisation, in the second phase Local Area Network (LAN) will be established connecting all the departments of the University to the library. In the third phase, the library will be provided with V-SAT connectivity, E-mail, Internet facilities. All the Study Centres will be connected with the Central Library through the dial-up facility and the Central Library will be connected to the proposed 'OPENNET', a network proposing to connect all the Open Universities in India.

### **III. Future Plans for Improvement of Library Services**

The library has ambitious plans for improving its services to the students, scholars and faculty. After completion of computerisation, it has plans to connect all the Study Centres to the Main Library through Network and the distance learners can have access to the resources of main library through network from any corner of the State.

It is proposed to have internet service at the Central Library. With this its readers can have access to the resources of other libraries in the World which are available on internet. The Library has plans to extend this service to all the distance learners through network facility available at the Study Centres Libraries.

It is proposed to establish a multimedia unit in the library since the concept of distance education involves the multimedia approach of imparting instruction. The media unit is an important and essential part of the library.

Through this multimedia it is proposed to make available the distance education course material produced all over the commonwealth countries and as a part of this the Library has already acquired about 600 audio and video cassettes produced by various distance education universities. The CD ROM data base of distance education supplied by ICDL is already available to the teaching faculty of the University.

The Library has plans to extend the home-lending facility of books to the students through the Study Centres libraries.