INTRODUCTION

Library is the product of our cultural maturation. It is essentially a response to the total communication pattern of modern society. The advent and advance of democracy; the extension of the horizons of education, the intensification of research, interdisciplinary approach in education and research, and the virtual explosion of knowledge and information sharing have necessitated the services of a well-stocked, well-staffed, well-organized and up-to-date library. (Sharma, A.K. 1985).

Importance of Pharmacy

The word ‘Pharmacy’ is derived from the Greek word “Pharmakon” which means drug. Today, India is a vast and growing pharmaceutical industry. The increase in number of hospitals, nursing homes and pharmaceutical companies are clear indication of the growing scope in the area. Pharmacy also offers ample job opportunities. Pharmacy, as a career option is very much in demand. India is a nation with over one billion of population and is prone to both minor and major diseases due to lack of healthcare facilities. Now, in this era of technological advancement, these diseases have been brought under control with the help of medicines, and this is where Pharmacy has stepped in as a blessing. (Balasubramanian, S. 2006, Ash, B.N. 2004, Kothari, D. S. 1966)

Collection development and management

Collection development has been described as one of the most discussed but least understood areas of librarianship. Libraries have always had collections that grew and, in that sense might be said to have developed. There is, however, more to the growth of a collection than simply acquiring materials; someone must decide which materials will be acquired and through which methods. This implies that selection decisions must be made, perhaps in accordance with an overall plan for the development of the collection. In recent years, the term "collection development" has come to encompass a broad range of activities related to the policies and procedures of selection, acquisition, and evaluation of library collections. As collection development began to be seen as a library function distinct from acquisition procedures and broader than selection alone, the exact relations of the terms were not always cleared. (Bloomfield, B.C. 1987)
What is Collection Development?

Collection development is the term applied to the set of practices employed by libraries to build, manage and maintain collections resources. These include:

- selecting titles to acquire in all formats
- establishing and managing approval plans
- monitoring the curriculum and developing relationships with the faculty who shape it
- developing the fiscal resources required to support these needs
- determining which need conservation treatment or replacement
- selecting resources to be reformatted to expand their utility and extend their usefulness
- selecting titles to withdraw from the collection
- negotiating license terms that are cost-effective and permit the broadest possible use
- determining the titles that are moved to off-campus storage and develop recall mechanisms that meet research needs

Computerization in library

The advent of computer has also brought a revolution in the field of Library & Information Science. The conventional print material is going to convert is the digital form. Traditionally Digital means the use of numbers and the terms comes from digit or figure. The digital environment means that every copy is a technological equal of the original. Absent printed output, content may exist without form. Paper becomes an interface, a volatile, disposable medium for viewing information on demand or a storage medium. It no longer serves a primary function as a communications medium. Today digital is synonymous with computers. Libraries are no exception to this first changing digital environment. Library in digital environment is a computer-based system for acquiring, storing, organizing, searching and distributing digital materials for user access. (Tebbetts, D.R. 1996, Tebbetts, D.R.1996).

PROBLEM NARRATION AND JUSTIFICATION

The research problem conceived under the title “A Study of collection development, Management and Computerization of Pharmacy College Libraries located in the Central and North Gujarat Region” proposed study venture to examine collection, development, management and computerized facilities available in all pharmacy college libraries of north and some part of the central Gujarat. The main aim is to develop collection methods in the library and computer
services using information technology to the greater production and to help to achieve the distinction in the subject field. Keeping in view the need for the study and its objectives, following questions are formulated.

- What is the status of collection development and management methods in pharmacy College Libraries of north and some part of the central Gujarat?
- Which types of information resources available in pharmacy College Libraries of north and some part of the central Gujarat?
- What is the situation of computer based information resources in pharmacy College Libraries of north and some part of the central Gujarat?
- What is the current position of library automation in pharmacy College Libraries of north and some part of the central Gujarat?

NEED OF THE STUDY

Gujarat has been one of the leading states in country in providing pharmacy education. There are around ninety of colleges in Gujarat that are approved or recognized by the pharmacy council of India (PCI) approved located at nook and corner of the state not only to facilitate pharmacy education to the student’s community of Gujarat state but also attract great many students from all over country and also from abroad. The colleges offer undergraduates, postgraduates and after postgraduates (super specialty) courses and some of them undertake research programme leading to Doctorate Degree in pharmacy streams. To accomplish this, it is necessary that pharmacy college libraries have to come together to share their resources and to put their efforts to jointly access resources available elsewhere.

1. To promote sharing of resources among the libraries of pharmacy colleges and research organizations by collecting, storing, disseminating information and by offering computerised service to the users.
2. To co-ordinate efforts for suitable collection development and reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible.
3. To enable the users to acquire the materials not available in their library from other libraries participating in the network systems.
4. To develop a special bibliographical database of books, serials and non-book material for search and access for users.
5. To possess and maintain electronic and mechanical equipment’s for fast communication of information retrieval.

6. To evolve standards and uniform guidelines in techniques, methods, procedure, hardware, software and services for adoption by the participating libraries to facilitate pooling, sharing and exchanging resources and services.

7. To take initiative for promotion of pharmaceutical research, development and innovation of information technology in pharmacy field.