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Patna varsity central library sans a regular librarian

B K Mishra, TNN | Jan 19, 2015, 11.00PM IST

PATNA: S R Ranganathan's fundamental principle of library science that books are for use and that every book has its readers, does not hold good for the libraries of Patna University (PU).

It does not mean that there is dearth of students interested in availing the facilities of these libraries. It is the utterly poor management of the same by the university which has made the libraries inaccessible to most of those interested.

The libraries of almost all the postgraduate departments of the university are virtually locked for the past several years for want of library personnel.

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While many departments do not have any sanctioned post of a librarian to manage their well-equipped libraries, others have failed to fill up the vacant posts of librarians for years together,

causing hardship to the students and faculty members of the departments.

Books worth crores of rupees were purchased by different departments with the generous grants sanctioned by the UGC during different plan periods, but they are simply stacked in the departmental libraries allowing very little access to the users. "I have not received even a single book from the department library during the last one year," said a student of political science department.

PU geology department library has not got a single trained library staff for the past several years. A class three employee of the department is somehow managing the library. A few years back, the department had introduced the much-publicized e-granthalaya scheme, but it lies defunct in the absence of any trained staff.

So far as the Patna University Central Library is concerned, the less said the better. Almost all the posts of librarian, assistant librarian, classifier, cataloguer and professional assistant have been lying vacant for the past several years. The situation has come to such a pass that this library having more than 3 lakh books and periodicals does not have a full-time librarian and is being managed by a teacher.

More than 5,000 rare manuscripts in different languages are decaying in the PU Central Library for want of proper upkeep and preservation. Even as the library was linked with the Information and Library Networking Programme of the UGC several years back, these valuable manuscripts are yet to be transformed into digital and electronic forms. The manuscripts include 1,530 in Persian, 440 in Urdu, 316 in Arabic and 2,547 in Sanskrit, Maithili and Hindi. All these manuscripts were made available to the library during the last 80 years by different researchers and scholars.

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