

Collection Evaluation of Saint Michael College of Caraga – Learning Resource Center

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Gunning Fog Index: 16.22 • Originality: 99% • Grammar Check: 99%
Flesch Reading Ease: 34.58 • Plagiarism: 1%



ABSTRACT

This collection evaluation is a process of assessing library materials through collection mapping. This should be done regularly to monitor the library collection. The study aimed to evaluate the library collection of Saint Michael College of Caraga Learning Resource Center. The method being employed in this study descriptive method. It specifically used the quantitative and document analysis approach. The study was focused on the library collection of nine (9) programs offered at Saint Michael College of Caraga. The main research instruments are CHED Memorandum Order common to all programs. So, the results of the study would be the basis in formulating a collection development plan for SMCC-Learning Resource Center. The study disclosed that for the last five years, in terms of print resources particularly in periodicals, mostly all programs have enough resources to be used while in print books, majority of the subjects in each program do not have enough or have no available resources at all. The same with non-print; most of the subjects do not have available materials. While the electronic resources (computer-based), all subjects in each program has no available subscribed resources for users. Thus, the result of the study shows that the library collection of Saint Michael College of Caraga-Learning Resource Center is not enough to support the program offered and meet the demands of the curriculum and different information needs of its users.

KEYWORDS

Academic Library, Collection Development, Collection evaluation, Collection Mapping, Assessment, Acquisition, Library collection

INTRODUCTION

The fundamental functions of any library are to collect, store, and disseminate information for the benefits and utilization of the users. With this, “collection” plays a major role as it influences the other two functions of the library to a considerable extent. A collection once sufficient both in terms of quality and quantity, if not appropriately and continually supported, will stop to be a live collection. In this way, the acquisition of information resources in different formats is a persistent procedure in any library (Singh & Mahajan, 2015).

According to Pattee (2014), the libraries need to have an assessment to determine the needs and interests of the users and guide or bases in the selection and acquisition of library materials. They also set a measurement, assessment, and evaluation projects to examine and maintain these selected library collections and to make sure that they meet those identified needs and interests of the users.

Singh & Mahajan (2015), states that collection assessment is the evaluation of library holdings (print, e-resources, and non-print materials), and one of the significant activities of an academic library is to provide the needs of its clientele. A well-arranged and updated library collections will help the clients retrieve and access the library materials easily; one thing that is vitally essential in satisfying their information needs.

Also, collection assessment and evaluation involves reviewing the collection in light of the library’s service goals and what needs assessment tells us about the population the library serves. This process provides librarians with necessary information about the collection and its use as well as a lens through which to consider and reconsider how the collection reflects and meets user needs and inspires further needs assessment activities, weeding, and selection (Pattee, 2014).

Moreover, Johnson (2014) says both evaluation and assessment provide a better understanding of the collection and the user community. Librarians could gain information that makes it easier for them to decide if a collection is meeting its purpose, how well it is serving users, in which ways or areas it is inadequate, and what remains to be done to be improved. Therefore, academic libraries must assess and evaluate their collections of print materials, e-resources, and non-book materials regularly (Singh & Mahajan, 2015).

The focus of this study is to determine the quality and quantity as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the library resources in terms of print, non-print and electronic materials based on the Standards for Academic Libraries of the Philippines under CHED Memo order Series of 2017 common to all programs.

This research aims to improve the library collections that support the different programs offered by the institution.

The findings of this study will be much helpful for librarians and school administrators of SMCC in uncovering some, if not all, the problems and needs of its library collections, and for them to collaboratively work towards crafting an efficient collection development plan, which is vital to the procurement of additional books for the library. Hence, it will bear a positive impact on the academic performance of the students as they now have full access to sufficient, latest, and most importantly, appropriate reading resources.

FRAMEWORK

The study focuses on the Collection Evaluation of Saint Michael College of Caraga – Learning Resource Center: Basis for a Proposed Three (3) Year Collection Development Plan. The assessment and evaluation of library collections in terms of print, non-print, and electronic resources will be using a collection mapping technique and will be based on the CHED proposed minimum requirements common to all programs for libraries of the higher education institution. This proposed minimum requirement was already approved and undergone a public hearing.

At the end of the assessment, the researcher will identify the quality and quantity as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the collections across all programs offered by the school. Hence, based on the output of the assessment, a proposed Three (3) Year Collection Development Plan will be made.

Therefore, through collection mapping, the researcher will be able to find out the type of collection(s) that requires more acquisitions for the library to have sufficient and appropriate reading resources that could satisfy the users' information needs.

Otherwise, a failure to identify and consider the real status of the collections in the library will make it more difficult for librarians to provide good library resources and better services to the users if no appropriate and adequate reading materials are made available for their academic needs. The ones aligned with the curriculum that essentially meets the minimum requirements based on the Standards for Philippine Academic Libraries.

Moreover, if both the library collections and its services are weak, it will surely yield adverse effects to the utilization of the library, and consequently, it will cause negative effects on the scholastic performance of the student. Thus, the library is the heart of every academic institution, and having poor library collections and services is equal to underperforming students.

With the above-mentioned concepts, the researcher came up with the schematic diagram that shows the flow of this study.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The research study determined the strengths and weaknesses of the collections in terms of print, non-print, and e-resources across all programs of Saint Michael College of Caraga - Learning Resource Center.

METHODOLOGY

Research

The researcher used a descriptive method of research utilizing the standardized instrument formulated by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as a research tool in gathering the data.

Research Environment

The study was conducted in the College Library of Saint Michael College of Caraga. SMCC is formerly known as Saint Michael's Institute (SMI). Over the years, it has grown as one of the fast-growing academic institutions throughout Caraga Region until the time it acquired its current name Saint Michael College of Caraga (SMCC). It is located at Atupan Street, Brgy. 4, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte, Caraga (Region XIII).

Research Instrument

This study used the instrument set by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) common to all programs, under the Memorandum Order Series of 2017 and the library records as a source of data and information for collection analysis.

Research Procedures

The researcher conducted collection evaluation on the library collections of SMCC – LRC by using collection mapping technique to assess and evaluate the print materials, non-print, and e-resources of each program. The results revealed sufficient reliability on its indicators to assess the respective variables of the identified strengths and weaknesses as well as the quality and quantity of the library resources in each program offered by Saint Michael College of Caraga – Learning Resource Center.

The researcher's collection mapping procedure was categorized into four:

1. Examining the format collection in terms of no. of titles per subject against the CHED Standard.
2. Identifying the present collection in terms of volume per subject against the CHED standard.
3. Distinguishing the entire collection published within the last Five (5) years as required by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

4. Finding the strengths and weaknesses of the collections in terms of the no. of titles and no. of volumes per subjects as required by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Data Analysis

The Researcher used the standards of the Philippine Academic Libraries released by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) under the Memorandum Order Series of 2017 in analyzing the data gathered from each program on whether or not it meets the minimum standard requirements. In analyzing the results of the study, the following steps/list must be provided/applied.

1. Identify the profile of the collections.
2. Examine how many volumes of the collection are there per program.
3. Identify the area of which is its strengths and weakness.
4. Examine the strength section to determine if the collection is evenly distributed.
5. For the area of weaknesses, check the curriculum and compare it to the Standard(s), and determine whatever materials are necessary.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Collection Profile Periodicals

PROGRAM	Last 5 years (2014-2018)		GRAND TOTAL	
	Title	Volume	as of 2018	
			Title	Volume
Bachelor of Arts in English Language	6	70	6	70
Bachelor of Elementary Education	6	70	6	70
Bachelor of Secondary Education-major English	6	70	6	70
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	3	11	3	11
Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management	2	19	2	19
Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management	3	25	3	25
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology	2	16	2	16
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	2	16	2	16
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	4	34	5	36

Table 1 shows the collection profile of periodicals for all programs. As presented in the table above for the last five years, the majority of the programs offered have

enough available resources, and some program did not meet the minimum standard set by the CHED. Therefore, high prices of journals affect the acquisition of resources thus librarians should be engaged in resource sharing or any consortium to minimize the cost and to have enough resources to be used.

Chaputula & Kanyando (2014) noted that due to the expensive cost of living in today's generation, most libraries had been embraced the resources sharing and consortium purchase in the acquisition of e-journals and databases.

Table 2. Collection Profile Non-Print

PROGRAM	Last 5 years (2014-2018)		GRAND TOTAL as of 2018	
	Title	Volume	Title	Volume
Bachelor of Arts in English Language	5	5	26	34
Bachelor of Elementary Education	8	9	71	260
Bachelor of Secondary Education-major English	5	5	26	34
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	1	1	3	3
Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management	0	0	6	6
Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management	0	0	8	16
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology	0	0	15	18
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	0	0	28	33
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	0	0	4	4

Table 2 shows the collection profile of non-print for all programs. As presented at the table above, for the last five years, the majority of the programs do not have an available resources. Thus, lack of storage room and assigned staff in maintaining and preserving the instructional materials it affects the acquisition of non-print materials.

Rodriguez (1998) affirms libraries have been slow in acquiring this type of materials the problem might be the extra burden placed on library personnel because audiovisual material requires special treatment and handling such as processing, preservation, and use of equipment.

Table 3. Collection Profile Electronic Resources (Computer-Based Materials)

PROGRAM	Last 5 years (2014-2018)		GRAND TOTAL as of 2018	
	Title	Volume	Title	Volume
Bachelor of Arts in English Language	0	0	0	0
Bachelor of Elementary Education	0	0	0	0
Bachelor of Secondary Education-major English	0	0	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	0	0	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management	0	0	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management	0	0	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology	0	0	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	0	0	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	0	0	0	0

Table 3 presents the collection profile of Electronic Resources (Computer Based Materials) for all programs. As shown at the table above, the data illustrates that all programs do not have available subscription of electronic resources. Thus, the SMCC-LRC should have sufficient budget to support and comply with the facilities in having electronic resources.

Okogwu & Achebe (2018) says that most libraries do not systematically receive additional funding to maintain and develop electronic resources; it becomes difficult to add new resources by having limited budgets. Thus, subscriptions to electronic resources involve a substantial amount of budget (Ramanan, 2012).

Table 4. Total Titles and Volumes of Collection as of 2018

PROGRAMS	TOTAL TITLES	TOTAL VOLUMES
Bachelor of Arts in English Language	252	1238
Bachelor of Elementary Education	225	1145
Bachelor of Secondary Education-major English	171	859
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	235	1160
Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management	221	1095
Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management	106	539
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology	82	441
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	247	1259
Bachelor of Science in Criminology	294	1660

Table 4 shows the total titles and volumes of books in each program as of 2018. As presented at the table above, it shows that Bachelor of Science in Criminology has the highest total volumes of books available in the SMCC-LRC, while the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology has the lowest available book resources. Thus, the librarians should have a regular evaluation of the library materials to identify the strengths and weaknesses in terms of print resources of the different programs.

According to Agee (2005), without collection evaluations that provide a clear assessment of available resources, future collection management-budgeting, format consideration, selection, or deselection-may be inefficient and at risk.

Also, the result reveals that the print collection of all programs have a multiples copies in each title that could give problems in the librarians as well as in the library system. Giri, Sen, & Mahesh (2015) says acquiring multiple copies of printed books increases problems or implications such as the remaining unused materials could occupy the scarce space of the library. Other libraries, it has found out that they purchased multiple copies but they were hardly used. Also, keeping unused books in multiple copies for a long period of time in the library hardly gives any purpose and it takes a large amount of the budget.

Table 5. Total Titles and Volumes of Collection as of 2018 (Periodicals)

PROGRAMS	TOTAL	
	Titles	Volumes
Bachelor of Arts in English Language	6	70
Bachelor of Elementary Education	6	70
Bachelor of Secondary Education-major English	6	70
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	3	11
Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management	2	19
Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management	3	25
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology	2	16
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	2	16
Bachelor of Science in Criminology	5	36

Table 5 illustrates the total titles and volumes of print periodicals for all programs offered. The table shows that some of the programs do not have enough available resources. Therefore, the administrator should adopt the electronic format of periodicals by engaging in a consortia approach to minimize the cost, and that would comply with the minimum standard requirement.

According to Nisha (2012) subscription to electronic formats is day by day increasing, but due to their high cost, a substantial number of libraries are not able to do so. A possible solution to reduce the subscription costs is consortia approach and minimum possible customization of the number of journals keeping in mind the requirement of a subscribing library.

Table 6. Total Titles and Volumes of Collection as of 2018

PROGRAMS	TOTAL	
	Title	Volumes
Bachelor of Arts in English Language	26	34
Bachelor of Elementary Education	71	260
Bachelor of Secondary Education-major English	26	34
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	3	3
Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management	6	6
Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management	8	16
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology	15	18
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	28	33
Bachelor of Science in Criminology	4	4

Table 6 presents the total titles and volumes of non-print materials for all programs. As shown at the table above, the majority of the programs do not have enough resources, while BEED has the highest or has enough available non-print resources. Due to the high cost of every material and the constant development of media format makes the librarians hesitate to purchase.

Morris, Ayre, & Jones (2006) affirmed that many librarians are concerned about the costs and practicalities acquiring audiovisual materials for libraries, particularly given the constant developments in the media formats available.

Table 7. Total Titles and Volumes of Collection as of 2018

PROGRAMS	TOTAL TITLES	TOTAL VOLUMES
Bachelor of Arts in English Language	0	0
Bachelor of Elementary Education	0	0
Bachelor of Secondary Education-major English	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	0	0

Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	0	0
Bachelor of Science in Criminology	0	0

Table 7 shows the total titles and volumes of electronic resources for all programs. As presented at the table above, the data illustrates that all of the programs offered do not have an available subscription of electronic resources for students and faculty use. Thus, the limited budget, expensive subscription and lots of electronic resources available on the internet for free access lead the administrator not to subscribe to electronic resources and to focus only in the acquisition of printed materials.

Vashishtha (2011) says the Internet, open source and consortium subscription of e-resources packages are much helpful to develop a large collection in college libraries. However, Kasalu & Ojiambo (2012) state that the budgetary constraints are the main reason why private university libraries had small electronic collections as compared to their print collections.

CONCLUSION

The library collections of Saint Michael College of Caraga-Learning Resource Center are not enough to support the program offered and meet the ever dynamic and growing demands of the curriculum and most importantly the different information needs of the users. Hence, a collection mapping of all library resources are necessary to determine the strength and weaknesses of the collections; enable to have a balanced collection for each program and to have a better service to its users. Therefore, the library needs to purchase additional library materials and strictly implement the CHED minimum standard to meet the basic requirements and to come up with quality and balance collections. It should have a regular collection evaluation also; all teachers handling the subjects must submit the list of desired materials to be purchased to support the programs offered; and the library committee must actively participate in building the library collections to attain its mission and vision of the institution. Lastly, increase the library fee and to have an adequate budget allocation for the Learning Resource Center (LRC) to finance the continuous upgrade of all library resources and services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the result of the study, the researcher recommends the following:

1. There is a need for the administrator to be responsive in the approval of requested library materials, and turn over the responsibility to the Head Librarian in managing the allocated library budget.
2. The Library Faculty Committee is highly requested to actively participate and cooperate in the selection and acquisition of Library materials.
3. Increase of Library Fee is needed to have enough budgets in acquiring and maintaining the library resources and facilities.
5. That the proposed collection development plan be implemented and supported by the administrators, deans, and librarians.
6. That the implementation of the collection development plan is evaluated annually to determine the strength and weakness and the improvement or development of the collection.

And finally, the researcher believes that through this study and with the implementation of the said recommendations, continuous improvement of library resources and services will be provided to the community of the institution.

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