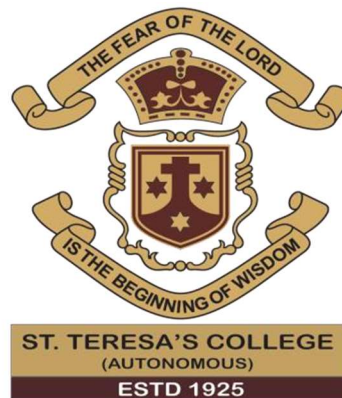


# UNENDING SAGA OF ERNAKULAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Project submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of a B.A Degree in

History

St. Teresa's College (Autonomous) Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam



AB20HIS023 – TIMIYA JOSEPH

AB20HIS024 – ALEENA V.A

AB20HIS026 – ANGEL MANUEL

AB20HIS043 – SISIRA SASANKAN

AB20HIS046 -SREEDEVI K

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

ST. TERESA'S COLLEGE

ERNAKULAM

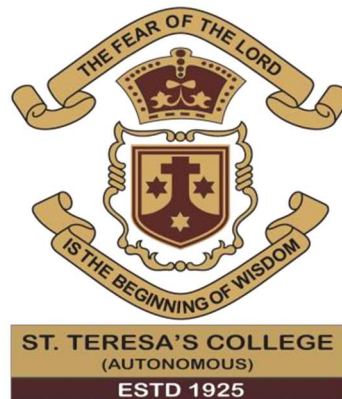
MARCH 2023

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project titled “ **THE UNENDING SAGA OF ERNAKULAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**” is being submitted by name in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of a B.A Degree in History of St. Teresa’s College (Autonomous) Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, is a bonafide record of the work done by the students under my supervision and guidance. No part of this work has been submitted elsewhere for the award of any degree.

Dr. Stancy S

Asst. Professor

Head of the Department,

Department of History,

St.Teresa’s College

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Dr.Vinitha T.Tharakan

Assistant Professor

Department of History

St. Teresa’s College

Ernakulam

## **DECLARATION**

We hereby declare that this project work entitled ‘ ‘ **THE UNENDING SAGA OF ERNAKULAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**’ ’ is an original work done by us under the guidance of Gayathri Varier, Assistant Professor Department of History St. Teresa’s College (Autonomous). No part of this work has been submitted elsewhere for the award of any Degree.

Place: Ernakulam  
Date:

AB20HIS023 - TIMIYA JOSEPH  
AB20HIS024 - ALEENA V.A  
AB20HIS026 -ANGEL MANUEL  
AB20HIS043 - SISIRASASANKAN  
AB20HIS046 -SREEDEVI K

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all those who gave us the possibility to complete this project.

First and Foremost we would like to praise and thank the almighty God for giving us strength and because of his blessing we finally managed to accomplish this assignment, without his blessing we wouldn't have gone this far.

We express our sincere thanks to our guide Gayathri Varier Assistant Professor to encourage us to the highest peak and provide us the opportunity to prepare the project.

We pay our deep sense of gratitude to our HOD Dr. Stancy S. We give our heartfelt gratitude to Miss Gayathri Varier. We are really grateful because we managed to complete our project "THE UNENDING SAGA OF ERNAKULAM PUBLIC LIBRARY" within the time given by our lecture.

This assignment cannot be completed without effort and cooperation from our group members, we always work hard to produce a good assignment with our full commitments and responsibility. We also thanking for the cooperation received from the chief librarian, and staff members of Ernakulam public library.

Last but not least we would like to express our thankfulness to our college St. Teresa's college Ernakulam for giving us the opportunity to conduct this project.

DATE :

PLACE :

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**INTRODUCTION**

Library – from the Latin *liber*, meaning "book." In Greek and the Romance languages, the corresponding term is *bibliotheca*. A collection or group of collections of books and/or other print or nonprint materials organized and maintained for use (reading, consultation, study, research, etc.)<sup>1</sup>

A library is a collection of materials, books, or media that is accessible to all. A library provides physical (hard copies) or digital access (soft copies) to materials, and may be a physical location, a virtual space, or both. A library's collection can include printed materials and other physical resources in many formats, such as DVD, CD, and cassette, as well as access to information, music, or other content held on bibliographic databases<sup>2</sup>

Embedded with collections of books on different subjects and areas of interests, libraries are considered gateways to the land of wisdom.<sup>3</sup>

Although there is one continuously existing library that is older, the al-Qarawiyyin Library is often believed to be the oldest library in the world. The library is a part of one of the oldest universities in the world and was first opened in 859 CE. It was founded by Fatima al-Fihri, the daughter of a wealthy Tunisian merchant (she also founded the Qarawiyyin Mosque and Qarawiyyin University).<sup>4</sup>

### **A Brief History of the Public Library**

A public library gathers information and makes them available to the public in different formats that are easily understandable. This information should be accessible to all, without any form of discrimination; according to the UNESCO manifesto:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://libguides.ala.org/library->

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library>

<sup>3</sup> Davis, Donald G. "The Status Of Library History In India : A Report of an Informal Survey and a Selective Bibliographic Essay ." *Libraries and culture* , Vol .25, no .4, 1990, pp.575-589

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.oldest.org/culture/libraries/> Oldest Libraries in The World



"the service of public library provided on the basis of equality of Access for all regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status."<sup>5</sup>

The role and function of libraries in creating knowledge to enrich modern India has transformed drastically over the years. Public libraries are one of our greatest treasures and we use it in a proper way to become an enlightened community. Libraries have played crucial role in intellectual stimulation and facilitated social awakening during freedom struggle.<sup>67</sup>

### **Public libraries in pre-independent India**

Investigations made on the epigraphy, numismatics and Sigillography are standing proofs, which symbolize the origin and metamorphosis of libraries from past to present. The present day printed books are one of the finest transformations from the past clay tablets, papyrus, birch barks, silk cloth, and copper plates. In the ever-advancing technological world, the common man's interest in public libraries have risen, which has led to enumeration of the roles and goals of public libraries.<sup>7</sup>

### **Before 1200 CE**

In the Archaic stage, people's literary collection comprised manuscripts and Palm leaves. The finding of Harappa and Mohenjodaro civilization stand as proof to the serene nature of early Indian culture. The recovered Magadha and Mauryan era inscriptions made in Brahmi, Karoshti, and Aramaic scripts indicate the prominence of the written word as means of conveying information. It was a clear evidence that the Indians were highly enlightened, having several well-developed scripts and system of writing.<sup>8</sup>

The Gupta period marked the dawn of well-organized libraries, housing collections of both Buddhist and Brahmanical literature. The Nalanda University is one of the oldest universities in ancient India, and its significance has been recorded by travellers such as Hiuen Tsang and I-Tsing, and housed several manuscripts which were studied extensively by scholars from India and elsewhere. All of these were lost when the University was destroyed in the 12th century. Similar to the Nalanda University, the Vikramashila University was established by

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<sup>5</sup> Hugar Guruprakash B "Library Movement in Hyderabad Karnataka", Indian Journal of Research, Vol.4 ,No .7,2015,pg.198

<sup>6</sup> idem

<sup>7</sup> The Library Quarterly :Informatiom, Community,Policy

<sup>8</sup> Idem

King Dharmapala in the 8th century C. E., houses a collection of rich texts in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Tibetan languages.<sup>9</sup> These too were eventually destroyed. The Universities at Nalanda and Vikramashila are just two of the many centres of learning in ancient and early medieval India that boasted a diverse collection of manuscripts – both religious and secular – that attracted scholars from different parts of the world.

### **Medieval period (1200-1757 CE)**

In medieval India, the growth and development of libraries was not evenly distributed. Libraries of medieval India can be divided into four categories:

1. Religious libraries

Religious Libraries had their origin in the Jewish religion, whose practise and transmission depended on the keeping and duplication of sacred texts<sup>10</sup>.

2. Public libraries

Public libraries are accessible by the general public and are usually funded by public sources such as taxes.<sup>11</sup>

3. Private libraries

Such libraries are privately owned and usually intended for the use of a small number of people.<sup>12</sup>

4. Academic libraries

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<sup>9</sup> RK Ngurtinkhuma, 'Public Library In India : Imapct On Social -Cultural and Educational Development of Mizoram' Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers 2011.

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_library](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_library) Christian Library accessed on February 2023

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.libraryscience.in/2020/06/public-library.html?m=1> Library Science.in accessed on March 2023

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.definitions.net/definition/private+library> Definitions for Public Library accessed on March 2023

These are libraries attached to a higher education institution and serves two complementary purposes to support the curriculum and the research of the university faculty and students.<sup>13</sup>

All the libraries of the above-mentioned categories constituted more than 2000 volumes of books. The last Maratha Emperor, Sarabtoji, patronized the Tanjore Saraswathi Mahal Library. It consists of thousands of manuscripts and printed books. Mohammad of Ghazni owned about 30,000 and Muhammad Gawan owned 3000 illustrious volumes of book in their respective libraries. One of the most common attributes associated with all Mughal rulers was that all of them maintained and patronised palace libraries. The Old Fort Delhi stationed the library of first Mughal emperor Babar as he was very keenly interested in reading books. After Babar, his son Humayun took over the crown and laid the foundation for the development of an Imperial Library at Agra. Emperors of the Mughal Empire till Aurangzeb patronized the Imperial Library with utmost care and passion. With the fall of Mughals in the mid-18th century and the subsequent British invasion and colonisation of India, the British accepted the control over libraries in India from 19th century onwards.<sup>14</sup>

### **British period (1757-1947)**

The 19th century witnessed transformations in the social, political, industrial, and other spheres of life in India, leading to the era of transformation of the historical libraries in our country. During the period of British rule, the country was divided into three Presidencies, namely Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. Public libraries were set up in these three regions.

In 1784, the Asiatic Society of Bengal set up the first “modern” library in India. The Asiatic Society of Bombay was formed in the year of 1804 and subsequently, the Bombay General Library was established in 1830. Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holker II of Indore set up the General Public Library at Huzurya Mahal in 1854.

Several other libraries were established during the British period, including the David Sassoon Library in 1870, the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in 1930 – once the residence of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and aptly named after him – Asiatic Society Library of Bombay in 1835, Calcutta Public Library in 1836, and the Calcutta State Library in 1903 were major among them. Currently, the National Library of India, Kolkata, is

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/playing-in-the-same-sandbox/229> IGI Global accessed on February 2023

<sup>14</sup> A study of public libraries

the largest in the country by volume, housing 2.2 million books. The Public Record State Central Library of Kerala one of the oldest public library in India, established in 1829 under King Swathi Thirunal. The Allahabad public library, known as Thornhill Mayne Memorial, situated at Alfred park in Allahabad, is one of the biggest libraries of Uttar Pradesh, founded in 1864. It has a collection of 125,000 books, 40 varieties of magazines, newspapers from 28 different languages, and 21 Arabic manuscripts.<sup>15</sup>

This project mainly focuses on the Ernakulam Public Library, which is the oldest and one of the biggest public library in Kerala established in 1870, the library has been witness to the improvements that have occurred socially and culturally in this city over the past three centuries.<sup>16</sup>

## **Review of Literature**

Review of literature is a systematic review of previous research on the subject .This help us to review reviews ,journals ,books and other applicable sources for a particular field .The souvenirs published by Ernalulam Public Library in 1986,1998 ,2006 and 2014 respectively have gave us a lot of information which guided us in this project . Some of the scholarly articles of researchers related to public libraries are arranged in chronological order.

**1. Kanwar,Geethanjali Rana** ‘Public Libraries In India : A Case Study Of Allahabad Public Library Uttar Praadesh,India’Research Journal Of Library Sciences

**2. Davis,Donald G .**”The Status Of Library History In India : A Report of an Informal Survey and a Selective Bibliographic Essay .”Librarries and culture

**3. Hugar Guruprakash B** “Library Movement in Hyderabad Karnataka”

**4 Ngurtinkhuma,RK.**’Public Library In India : Imapct On Social -Cultural and Educational Development of Mizoram’Today and Tomorrow’s Printers and Publishers 2011.

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<sup>15</sup> Kanwar,Geethanjali Rana ‘Public Libraries In India : A Case Study Of Allahabad Public Library Uttar Praadesh,India’Research Journal Of Library Sciences Vol. 3 no .9,2015,pg.1-7  
<http://www.isca.in/RJLS/Archive/v3/i9/1.ISCA-RJLS-2015-028.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ernakulampubliclibrary.com/> Ernakulam Public Library site accessed on February 2023

## **Objectives**

The project has the following objectives:

1. To trace the evolution and establishment of the Ernakulam Public Library
2. To record the general public's attitude towards the library, through observation of changes in membership and reading habits.
3. To appraise the services of the staff according to people's expectation and their satisfaction on the services of the public library.
4. To explore the extension activities offered by the Ernakulam Public Library.

## **Methodology**

Various research methodologies have been used for this project. This project contains data obtained from the sources like questionnaires, interviews, websites, photographs, and souvenirs published by the library. The Investigators visited the Ernakulam public library to collect information from the staff and visitors.

Questionnaires were developed by the investigators and will be delivered to the users through both online (Google form) and offline methods. In order to have a better knowledge of how the library operates, the managing committee, staff, past librarians, early and present users, and the library staff were all questioned.

Secondary data is also used in this project. It includes, articles etc. Thesis submitted on public libraries was also referred.

## **Chapters**

### *Chapter 1: Introduction*

This chapter deals with an introduction of the study. It includes a brief history of Public Libraries in India during Ancient, Medieval, and British periods. It explains the objectives of the study, review of literature, and the methodology used.

### *Chapter 2: Historical Background*

The second chapter attempts to trace the history of the Ernakulam Public Library. This chapter consist of four parts:

1. Two pioneering figures: A. F Sealy and Shankunnimenon
2. Two Celebrations in the history of Ernakulam Public Library.
3. Ernakulam Public Library as a Cultural Institution

### *Chapter 3: Analysis and Interpretation*

This chapter includes a thorough analysis of the information gathered using the questionnaire and through interviews. Tables, pie charts, and bar graphs have been created using these formats. Explanations have been provided to the corresponding questions for each diagram.

### *Chapter 4: Conclusion*

The final chapter provides a conclusion to the matters discussed in the other chapters.

**CHAPTER : 2**  
**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

More than 150 years have passed since the Ernakulam Public Library was founded. It had its roots in an old shed at Maharaja's College, which was on the east side of the college's current library structure. The idea of starting a library and reading room at Ernakulam had come up, and accordingly, a meeting was held in this school building on 8 October, 1869, attended by high officials and citizens. The notice of the meeting was published in the Government Gazette and Diwan Shankunni Menon informed the meeting about the library while Kovilakam Tutor RM White supported. According to the Resolution, the Head of the Education Department, A. F. Sealey, was elected as the Chairman of the meeting. The meeting passed a resolution to establish a library and reading room in Ernakulam. It was moved by Senior Judge A. Shankaraiah of the Anchikkaimal District Court and the Appellate Court's eminent lawyer, Krishna Rao, supported it.<sup>17</sup>

Diwan Shankunni Menon formally inaugurated the library on 1 January 1870. The working capital was the free hand contribution of the townspeople. Contributions were made by British Resident Mr. Bellard, Dewan Shankunimenon, Paliath Valiachan, Krishnanaikan, and Mrs. Rukmini Bai. A total of Rupees 1272 was collected in the beginning, while the Government paid Rupees 1267. Initially, the membership fee was Rupees 280 and the Government Grant was Rs 248. The working hours of the library were from 7 in the morning to 6 in the evening. This continued for thirty-seven years, until the working hours were changed to 8 in the morning to 8 at night – twelve hours. In 1920, there were 4964 books in

the library. Sealy took the initiative to raise funds. Art programs were organized with tickets. The library, which originally started from a thatched building, was by this time occupying a tiled building in the north-eastern corner of the present Maharaja's College premises. While the library was located in this building, efforts were made to construct a suitable building to house it, and money was collected for this purpose. The exact amount collected cannot now be ascertained, but the Government of Cochin offered to give suitable accommodation for the library, and the Town Hall Building was constructed. One floor of the building was given to the library, and the other floor was utilized as the Legislative Assembly. This was in 1922,

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<sup>17</sup> Kalavara souvenir 2014 Ernakulam Public Library pg:13



and from that time up to the time the Legislative Assembly was shifted to Trivandrum, the library functioned in that building.<sup>18</sup>

After the formation of the State of Travancore, Cochin, and the formation of the Travancore and Cochin High Court, when the building was needed for housing the Law College, the library was shifted again, this time to the building belonging to the Chandini Company near the Bharat Hotel which was then in charge of electrical supply in Ernakulam. When the Chandini Company was taken over by the Kerala Electricity Board, and they wanted the building, the library was again shifted, this time to the Ravi Varma Mandhir on T. D. Road. This constant shifting adversely affected the stock of books; many of the older books which were in a bad condition could not be repaired and were lost to the library. Many others were lost in transit. Other books were in bad shape and had to be rebound to make them fit for lending.<sup>19</sup>

The first set of books for the library was provided by Members H Southern and company (MH Southern and Company Ltd) in England cost Rs. 2277. At that time, there were 1,358 books in the library. When the library started there were thirteen First Class members and twenty-five Second Class members. In 1920 the membership dropped to seventeen. At that time, the First Class fare was Rupees 2 and the Second Class was Rupee 1. To increase the number of members, a Third Class membership was started in 1874. This Class, however, was a failure: there were only three members in this class. Later, the library grew in several stages.<sup>20</sup>In 1970, when the Centenary was celebrated, the library had a total of 750 members, including three Life Members, 180 First Class Members, 260 Second Class Members, and 307 Subscribers. The total number of books were 14189 in English, 7348 in Malayalam, and 353 in Hindi. By then, the space provided by Ravi Varma Mandhir was insufficient. The Government, therefore, was requested to provide land for the construction of a new library, the most suitable being the land occupied by the Ravi Varma Mandhir. The Government finally passed an order on July 25, 1970, sanctioning 45 cents of land on which the Ravi Varma Mandhir stood to be given to the Ernakulam Public Library. The land was actually handed over to the Library only nearly two years later. Plan for a suitable building was then

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid pg:14

<sup>19</sup> Ibid pg 15

<sup>20</sup> Ernakulam Public Library Souvenir 1998

made. The plans were made with certain goals in view. The construction had to be undertaken without demolishing the old building, so that the Library could work satisfactorily while the construction of the new building was in progress. Again, the construction had to be taken up in stages as finance became available. After completion of the northern block which was first taken up, it should be possible to demolish the old building and take up construction of the southern block. A Master Plan with all these aspects in view was prepared, which, when completed, would have about 42,000 square feet of area, and could accommodate a library having over two lakhs book, with enough space for other needed services like Reference Library, Members Room, General Reading Room, and Technical Services Section.

The foundation stone of the new building was laid by Sri. C. Achutha Menon, then Chief Minister of Kerala. The ground and first floors were completed on 28 February 1974, and the library was shifted to the first floor on 3 March 1974, the inauguration being again performed by Sri. C. Achutha Menon. The second floor was completed on 19 January 1997, and the Members Room and General Reading Room, the Ladies and Children's Room, and Managing Committee Room were shifted to that floor, the inauguration being performed by His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Parakkattil.

The construction could be taken up mainly on account of the help received from Sri. S. Krishna Kumar, the then District Collector of Ernakulam. Learning that an Award Presentation Ceremony was being held in Ernakulam, and that could fetch some income, Library management approached him for assistance to the Library from the receipts of this function. He readily agreed to give to the library the entire receipts from the Award Night, and they received Rupees 1,35,000. This, of course, represented only a small portion of the total amounts spent for construction, but this was the nucleus on which construction was started. The UCO Bank and the Parur Central Bank also gave their assistance, which allowed the completion of the ground floor and the first two floors.<sup>21</sup>

## **TWO PIONEERING FIGURES: A.F. SEALY AND SHANKUNNIMENON**

Alfred Forbes Sealy has been credited as the Father of English Education in Kochi. Shankunni Menon also holds a distinct place in educational history as a Diwan who paid

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<sup>21</sup> Souvenir 1998 Ernakulam Public Library pg:34-35

close attention to organising Kochi's educational system. Without including these two pioneers, the history of the Ernakulam Public Library will fall short.

After a century, it was these individuals who erected the Ernakulam Public Library's foundation. The names of everyone who has contributed to the institution's numerous accomplishments are not listed here, yet it seems like a grave injustice to omit Sri. Achutha Menon's name as one of them. He is very closely associated with this cultural institution in the erstwhile Kochi state. During his tenure as chief minister, this institution received 45 cents worth of public land. The construction of the three-story structure where the library is currently located also received a grant of Rupees one lakh. A programme called "*Tharanisha*" also gave them a contribution of Rs. 1,37,000. In addition to gathering books on various topics and giving them to the less fortunate, libraries should engage in cultural events that help the general public have a thorough grasp of themes like social justice, national security, religious peace, and press freedom. The fact that this type of activity is being carried out in Ernakulam Public Library is specially mentioned here.

Many candidates were considered to the positions of the Headmaster of the English Elementary School in Ernakulam when it first opened, but Dewan Shankunni Menon remained unsatisfied. He invited Sealy, a Cambridge lecturer, to Ernakulam from England. The programme from the elementary school was promoted to the high school, Ernakulam College, and finally Maharaja's College. Over the course of its 20-year existence, a lot has been accomplished. The reading room opened. English literacy and steel-tipped writing were taught to citizens of the Kingdom of Kochi. Both the English and native language education departments worked together to set the standard for education. The creative Diwan, Sankunni Menon, allowed Sealy complete licence for this.

They owe a debt of gratitude to the public library as well. They laid the groundwork for the establishment of this public library. Looking at the historical record, it is clear that individuals in charge of the public library's governing bodies since its founding in 1870 have left their marks in a variety of spheres of endeavour. If we examine the past, we can see that those who have held managerial positions ever since the public library system was founded are those who have made a name for themselves in a variety of professions.

The origins of English education in Kochi may be traced back to A. F. Sealy. He served as president, with GH Gunther as secretary and Shankaraiah as treasurer. The Maharaja's College's presidents, secretary, and treasurers were then foreign instructors and high-ranking representatives of the British government. Dr. Vitton, Dublin, E Clark, S Locke, Crushank, V Krishna Rao, B Subharaya Ayer, Venkata Rao, K Narayana Marar, T A Dwaraiswami Ayer, N.V Subramanya Ayer, P Gopalamenon, V.K Kochunnimenon, T.K Krishnamenon, T.S Narayana Ayer, S Govindamenon, P. k Vargheese, N. k Subramanya Ayer, Thomas Manjuran, Rao Bhahadur Neelakandamenon were the other administrators.

Historian KP Padmanabhamenon and Kerala High Court Chief Justice MS Menon served as President and Secretary of the library at various times. After Independence, B. V. K. Menon, P. Sivadas Menon, Dr. K.N. Menon, Govinda Menon, K. Muralidharamarar, M. N. Shivaraman Nayer, T. Unnikrishna Menon, Thomas Cheriyan, Nambath Shivarama Menon, K. P. K. Thirupad, Chaakappan Kaliyath, and C. Shankaramenon were the other famous people who held the offices. P. M Thomas, K. K Madhavan, T. R Govinda warrier, K.K Abdul Rahman, Chackochan P Thayil, Tatapuram Sukumaran were also the personalities who had made remarkable contributions. After 1969, Justice T. Chandra Shekara Menon, P. Balagangadhara Menon, A. D. Krishnanashan became the chairpersons. The active presence of Rajamohan Nair, (1983-1996) who served as an Honorary Secretary in the library for a long time, brought the library to the forefront. C. Ravindranath (1996-2004), who came as Secretary, also showed a brilliant work. A. D. Krishnanasan, who was the President continuously since 1996, rendered untold service till his death.<sup>22</sup>

## **TWO CELEBRATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF ERNAKULAM PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

The city will always remember two events from the history of the Ernakulam Public Library: the fiftieth anniversary and the library's centennial. Similar to the Pakal Puram at the Ernakulam Shiva Temple, the 50th anniversary celebration was held on January 28, 1920. The hall of Maharaja's College in Ernakulam served as the location. The ceremony was overseen by Dewan Rao Bahadur, T. Vijayaraghava Achari. V.K. Ramanmenon delivered a speech before Secretary P. K. Krishna Menon read the activity report. Women were among

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<sup>22</sup> Kalavara souvenir 2014 pg:15-18

the many attendees at the event. In 1970, a centennial celebration took place. At that time, the library had 750 users including three lifelong users, 180 first-class patrons, 260 second-class users and 307 normal users. The library has 14,189 English volumes and 7348 Malayalam books and 353 hindi books at this time.<sup>23</sup>

## **ERNAKULAM PUBLIC LIBRARY AS A CULTURAL INSTITUTION**

Growth is an indication of life. Any entity that is expanding and developing on many different levels, whether it be an individual or an institution, contains a component of life or to believe that it contains living action. The Ernakulam Public Library was founded in 1870 and is not only the oldest library in Kerala, but also one of the top district libraries in the state. Established and first operated in a very modest manner under the direction of Thottakkattu Sri Sankunnimenon, the Dewan of Kochi, the library now has assets of roughly one crore rupees. Its fixed assets comprise 45 cents of land in the centre of Ernakulam City, a large and spacious three-story structure, an old-style two-story building, and two or three sheds.

One of the contributors to the library's growth was the former Chief Minister of Kerala, Achutha Menon. He has strong ties to this organisation that promotes culture in the former state of Kochi. During his tenure as chief minister, this institution received 45 cents' worth of public land. In addition, a grant of Rupees one lakh was given for the construction of the three-story structure that houses the library today. A programme called "*Tharanisha*" also gave them a contribution of Rs. 1,37,000.<sup>24</sup>

Libraries serve a variety of purposes beyond simply gathering books on diverse topics and giving them to those in need. Libraries should also engage in cultural events that help the general public gain a solid grasp of problems relating to social justice, national security, religious tolerance, and press freedom. Particular attention is paid to the fact that this kind of activity is taking place in the Ernakulam Public Library. With the minimal monthly

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<sup>23</sup> Kalavara souvenir 2014 pg:19

<sup>24</sup> Ernakulam Public Library a growing cultural institution : R .Rajmohan Nair Souvenir 1986 pg:1-2

subscription fees from patrons and the annual state government grant, it is impossible to operate a facility like the Ernakulam Public Library. The annual cost of books must be around one lakh rupees, and this library offers access to all kinds of journals, including foreign publications available in India. A good sum of money should therefore be spent each year. The annual expense of property tax, power, water, and facility maintenance is significant for the library.

In the organisation, seventeen people hold full-time jobs in a variety of capacities. The salaries and other benefits for the library staff cost roughly 1.2 lakh rupees a year. The fact that this library's staff members receive a respectable wage in comparison to those at other libraries is a good thing.<sup>25</sup>

The Ernakulam Public Library, which prides itself on having a century's worth of library history, is a well-liked place for reading as well as a significant cultural hub for the city. It is gathering momentum as Kerala's largest high-tech library, targeting the next generation for at least ten years. The support, cooperation, and encouragement of the existing and new members inside and outside the library are an inspiration, even though there is a new issue, such as the delay of government aid, including grants. The idea of our cultural centre has begun to take root in readers' and cultural workers' thoughts. The city's aesthetic and cultural development, as well as the library's growth, have both benefited from some exceptional events that have taken place there. This is reflected in the membership, participation of the public, and programmes. In the library courtyard, a public platform called *Aksharamutam* was built as part of the construction work in 2012 effectively guides conversations and debates on current cultural issues.

The other is Binoy K., a prominent lawyer of the High Court give a remarkable lecture on material property rights. Dr. Shaji Jacob's lecture on Television and Politics and the reception given to Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award winner K Balu Subramaniam to N. B. T Chairman Sethu are some of the activities to be mentioned. Member of Parliament (MP) P. Rajiv lecture on Eric Hobbes Baum and the changing world shed light on Marxist thought. During the memorial lecture of the great personality P. Govindappillai, Dr. P. K. Michael Tharakan gave a talk on Human Affection without Barriers, was a cultural feast for the audience. A

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<sup>25</sup> Souvenir 1986 pg: 2

memorial lecture to Sukumar Azhikkod was delivered last year in the library by a noted young speaker, Sunil P. Ilayadam.

. The 2017 seven-day film exhibition based on works of world literature was a feast for literary and film lovers. The Hunch back of Netherdam, when Asianet, which was operating on the third floor, vacated, this section became an extensive book room. The Last Temptation of Christ, Metamorphosis, Wuthering Heights, Disgrace, Good Earth were the films that were displayed. S. Rameshan, V. K. Prasad, Ramachandran, Dr. Priya K. Nair, Dr. Muse Mary, and Prema Jayakumar gave a small briefing on these works.

To improve the finances of the library, the first floor was rented out to book publishers. The existing film club functioned in the hall with more facilities. 30 lakhs was spent to prepare this modern 7000 square feet book section. Facilities for conducting film festival and film appreciation classes have been prepared. The Air conditioned theatre can seat seventy people.

Discussions are also held. Classical movies from around the world, and movies from Russian Film Festival, French Festival etc. were displayed. As per the interest of the readers, the committee decided to extend the reference department. The working fund of library is from membership instalment fees Raja Ram Mohan Roy grant, yearly grant of library council and money collected from rent. Presently, there are forty employees including Librarian and joint librarian. Owing to this around of 40 lakh rupees was spent on renovation. The completion of the renovations could only be done with an extra amount of thirty lakhs.

Following the concept of “from people to the people,” the Ernakulam Public Library has effectively implemented the “reader to reader” programme by understanding the general will of the people. The Library has implemented the practice of understanding the interests of the readers and reaching out to them to satisfy their reading tastes. As a result, hundreds of people became members of the library. The number of members increased rapidly. This is the first time that the Library's Stall has launched a Book Festival at Ernakulathappan Ground and the DC Books Festival at Marine Drive. There was a rush to take membership in the stalls. The library's extension counter has been opened in the style of going to find books for the readers and the readers say that it is very new. Queues are seen in front of the public library counters.

In terms of books, Ernakulam ranks first among public libraries in Kerala. From old rare books to new books released yesterday, it will be more than one and a half lakh. Two floors of compact bookshelves house the entire world literature. Apart from Malayalam there are

English Tamil, Hindi, Sanskrit, language books. The list of number of books donated at each time is not complete. In a year, library buys new books worth around five lakh rupees from and outside book festivals. In addition to this, new books are bought by the readers. Newspapers and periodicals enrich reading. Sixteen Malayalam newspapers and seven English books are coming out. Apart from this, about 165 magazines, weeklies and biweeklies are published. About 500 people come to exchange books every day. About 1500 readers including them visit the library every day. The children's library department also testifies that there is a great taste for reading among children. A space of 750 square feet has been reserved for them and we know that the library caters to the reading needs of people of different age groups who come and go here every day. The reference section is handy for students preparing for public examinations, college examinations and research students. The student corner is always crowded.

Tourists coming to the city use the library. The book collection on the third floor has been prepared for the coming ten years. The website of the library has become convenient for the readers to search for books. Library is open every other day except national holidays. Now the library is moving towards high-tech. It is up to the readers to fuel it. Library staff are committed to working with what readers want.



**CHAPTER -3**  
**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

## INTRODUCTION

Analysis of data is one of the important part of the research. This study was conducted to find out effectiveness and efficiency of Ernakulam Public Library. The analysis is based on the feedback got from the questionnaires from the different user groups. The questionnaires is distributed to selected samples. The analyses is made on the basis of data got from the users. The data are analysed by using tables, charts and graphs. The personal details of the respondents are not included in the analysis and the data are presented in the forms of tables and diagrams.

**Diagram : 1 Types of Membership (2023)**

Sl. No	Types of membership	No. of members
1,	A Class	267
2,	B Class	2581
3.	C Class	7267
4.	Life membership	2508
5.	Institutional membership	13 Institution
6.	Total	12,636

*Source : Interview with Reshma Madhu ; Assistant Librarian*

Because of the affordable costs and short time periods, more people are taking C class. Vared Charities C.L., Radhakrishnan P.N. Usmania Tile Works, Cochin Electric and Novelty Store, Varghese and Sons P.K., Cochin Stock Exchange, Sasi Advertising (Pvt Ltd), Lord Krishna Bank Ltd, Madhusoodhan .K, Kerala Chemicals and Proteins Ltd., Spice Board, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, NIFE M/S, Overbook Technology Services, are the thirteen institutions eligible for institutional membership.

**Diagram 2: Working hours (2023)**

Sl.No	Sections	Working days	On Sunday
1.	Reading room	8AM to 8 PM	8AM to 5 PM
2.	References room	10AM to 8 PM	8AM to 5 PM
3.	Lending room	10AM to 7PM	9.30AM to 5 AM

*Source: Interview with Priya K Peter :Librarian*

The various library sections are depicted in this table along with their corresponding operating hours. There is a small variation on Sundays, but the library is open every day. For those who work, Sundays are more convenient. On weekends, many parents bring their kids along. More time was allocated on Sundays by taking into account public demand.

## **LENDING AND OTHER SERVICES**

According to Kiran, the library staff, they worked in two shifts, the first from the morning hours of 10 am to 6 pm and the second from 11 am to 7 pm. Older individuals use libraries more frequently than the younger ones do. The reason for this is the extension programmes offered by the library, which allows members to borrow books from their institutions without visiting the library. These extension services are offered at the Highcourt, Infopark, etc. The Library does have a digital library, but since books are available online, or can be downloaded, this service is not well-used.

## **SUBSCRIPTION**

On the first of January, April, July, and October of each year, subscription payments are always due in advance. If admittance occurs in the middle of a quarter, the subscription fee for the remaining months of the quarter will be returned. Subscriptions must only be calculated for this purpose using calendar months.

## **MEMBERSHIP TICKETS**

A member will be given as many tickets as the number of books which he is entitled to borrow. The Member-ship Card is to be produced when borrowing books, and when required by the Library Staff while making use of the Member Room and the book Room. Loss of tickets must be reported in writing to the Librarian immediately. Duplicate membership cards will be issued on payment of Rupees ten for each card. Neither books nor tickets shall be lent to another person. Book from the Reference Library and current issues of periodicals will not be lent. Members are responsible for the books borrowed on their tickets. Borrowers will be required to pay for or replace the books lost or returned in a damaged/mutilated state. Books should be checked before they are taken out of the Library, and the defect, if any, should be immediately reported to the staff on duty.

#### NUMBER OF BOOKS A MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO BORROW

Members can reserve the books on-line or otherwise. Reserved books Which are obtained will be, notified every Tuesday and may be borrowed by the allottee on any day till next Sunday. If not claimed in time they will be allotted to the next claimants in Order.

#### RESERVATION

Members can reserve books on-line or at counter. The concerned member will be informed when the book is available in stock. The member shall collect the book with in the period prescribed. If not claimed within the prescribed period the book will be allotted to the next claimant.

#### DURATION OF LOAN

All books on loan must be returned at the expiration of a fortnight. They may be renewed for a further period of fortnight. No renewal is allowed further renewal should be made prior to the expiry of the first loan term.

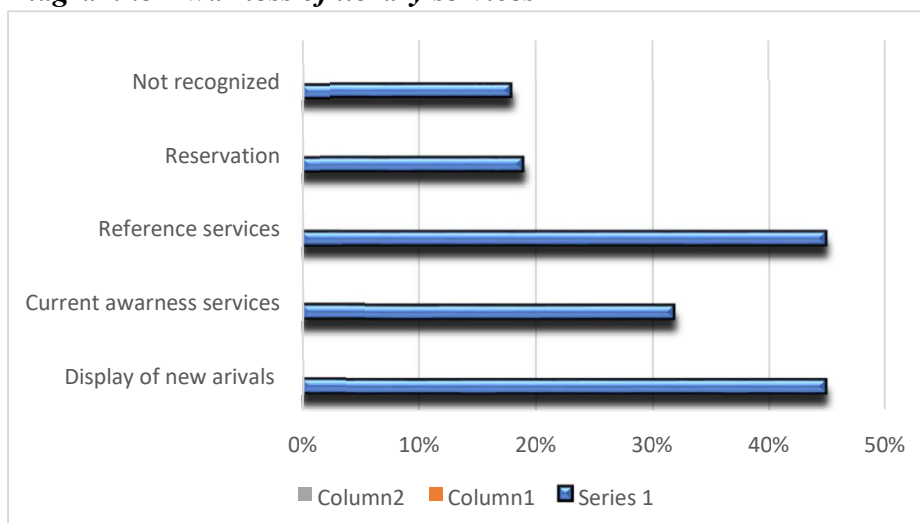
#### OVERDUE CHARGES

The borrower is expected to return borrowed volumes on or before the due date. If they are not returned when due, an overdue charge of 50 paisa per volume per day would be charged. Those who retain any book for more than the duration of loan will not be permitted to borrow any more books until the overdue books are returned, and the overdue charges cleared. If a book is lost while in possession of a member, he shall intimate the fact to the Librarian immediately, and should either replace or remit the cost of the book (as assessed by the Librarian) within one week after such information, if the fact that a book is missing is intimated after the due date for the return of the book, or if the member does not replace the book or pay its cost within one week after the intimation, the person concerned is liable to pay overdue charges also along with the replacement of the book or the remittance of the cost.

## WITHDRAWALS

Withdrawals of membership shall be made in writing in the prescribed form and shall be submitted at the Office one week before the commencement of the calendar month from which the withdrawal is desired failing which he will continue to be charged the usual subscriptions. The security amount is returnable on termination of membership.

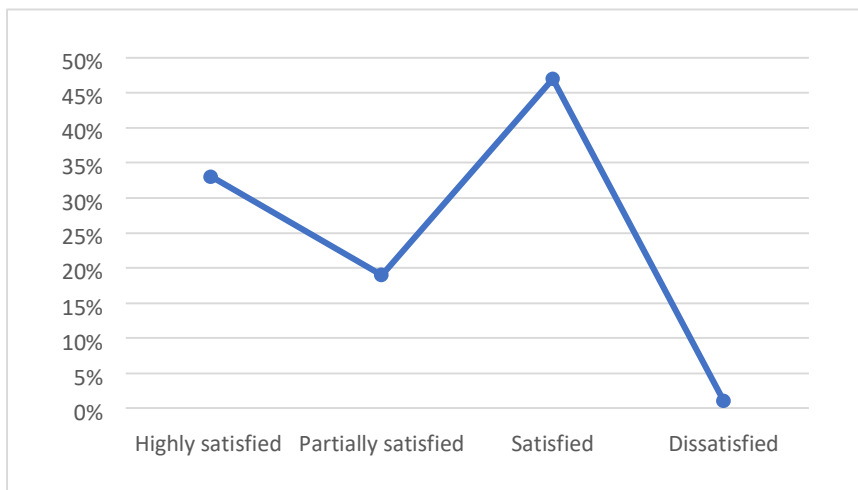
**Diagram :3 Awarness of library services**



*Source : Response from the questionnaire*

The diagram above assesses how well the general public is informed about the services offered by the library. Because the majority of people use libraries for research and book borrowing, they are more aware of new arrivals and reference services. The websites of the libraries contained information on every service they offered. The majority, though, were unaware of it.

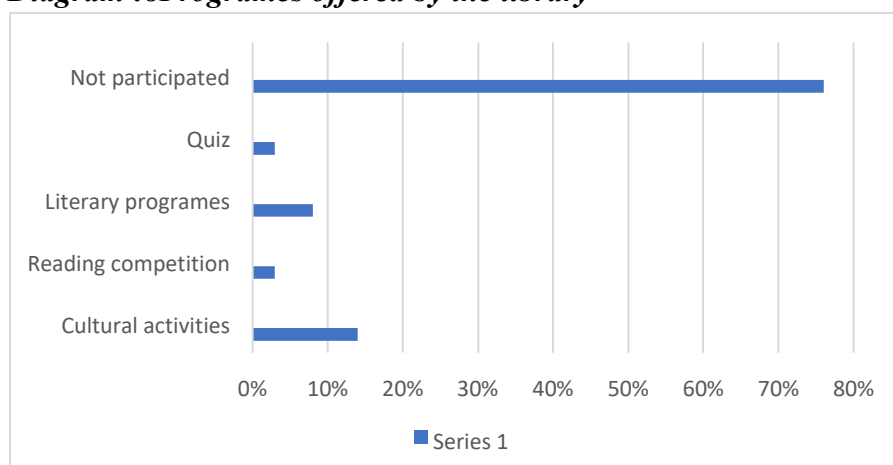
**Diagram :7 Satisfaction of library services**



*Source ; ResponsesFrom Questionnaire*

The table above displays the degree of customer satisfaction with the library's collections. This inquiry is included in the questionnaire to find out how satisfied respondents are with the library collections. Around 45 percent of users expressed satisfaction with the library's collections, Some of them made a few suggestions to include newer novels and additional works that would appeal to young people's tastes.

**Diagram :8 Programes offered by the library**



*Source : Response from the questionnaire*

The Ernakulam Public Library offers a variety of cultural programmes every as seen in the diagram above. It includes quizzes, literary programmes, reading competitions, and cultural activities. Every programme organised by the library was advertised to all members via SMS and other channels, but attendance is often low compared to membership.

**Diagram :9 Purpose of using library**

Sl.NO	PURPOSE	No: users
1.	Recreation	22%
2.	To read newspaper	20%
3.	Education	34%
4.	Career oriented	22%
5.	Reference	42%
6.	Read magazines	20%
7.	To Borrow Books	49%

*Source : Responces from the questionnaire*

To learn more about the reason people visit libraries, these questions has been included to the questionnaire. The goal was broken down into seven categories: reading newspapers, lending books, reference, reading magazines, career-oriented, and recreation. According to the mentioned statistics, the bulk of the public (49 percent) uses libraries for book-lending purposes, followed by (42) reference visits, (34 percent educational visits), (22 percent

recreational visits), and (20 percent) newspaper and magazine visits. This indicates that most people utilise libraries to borrow books

**Diagram :10 Library Collections**

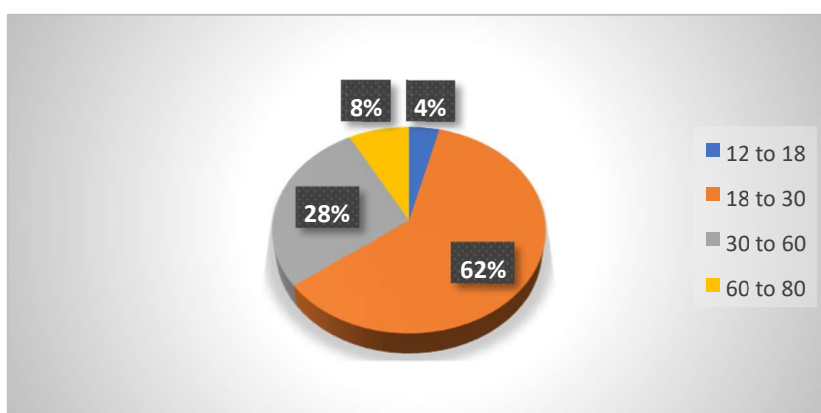
Sl.No	Collections	No.of items
1.	Books	Approx.2 lakh
2.	Periodicals	219
3.	Newspaper (English]	8
4.	Newspaper[Malayalam]	16
5.	Newspaper [Hindi]	4

*Source :Interview with Reshma Madhu ;Assistant Librarian*

This table shows that Ernalulam Public Library has approximately two lakh books including two hundred and nineteen periodicals ,eight English newspapers,sixteen Malayalam newspapers,and four hindi newspapers

According to Kiran, the library had more than 20,000 users. Books are offered in Malayalam, English, Hindi, Tamil, and Konkani. Members of the library could also read magazines in addition to the newspapers that were available in two areas for both those who have memberships and those who do not.

**Diagram 11 : Age Group**

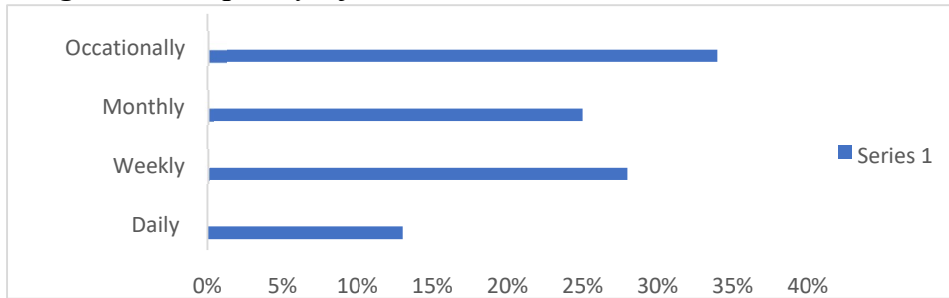


*Source ; ResponsesFrom Questionnaire*



The age groups that visit library more frequently are depicted in this pie chart. 62 percent of users in this group fall into the 18 to 30 age group, 28 percent into the 30 to 60 age group, 8 percent into the 60 to 80 age group, and 4 percent fall into the 12 to 18 age group. We might infer from this that people in the 18 to 30 age range attend the Ernakulam Public Library more frequently

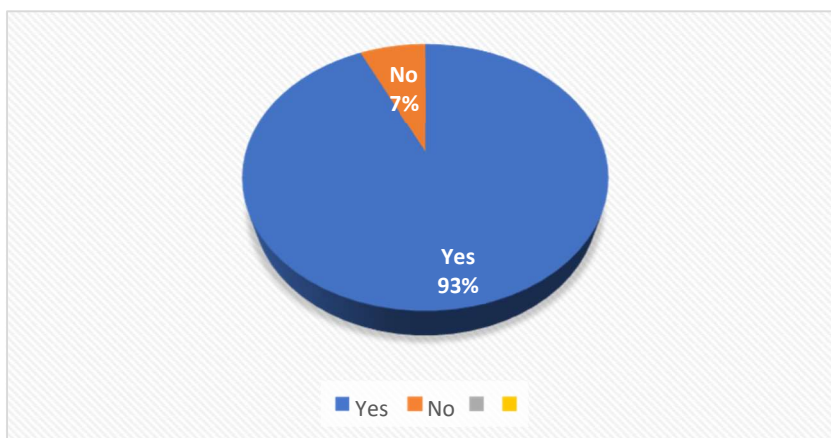
**Diagram12 Frequency Of Visits**



*Source : Responses from the questionnaire*

This graph displays how frequently individuals visit the Ernakulam Public Library. Just 14% of individuals were the library's daily visitors, Majority of daily visitors comes to read newspaper and educational purpose. whereas 35% of people visited on occasionally, 30% of them did so weekly, and 25% did so monthly

**Diagram; 13 Satisfaction With The Physical Facilities Of Library**



*Source : Responses from the questionnaire*

The diagram up top displays the degree of satisfaction with the public library services offered by Ernakulam. To find out how satisfied respondents are with the physical facilities the library offers, this question has been included to the questionnaire. In the library's facilities, 93% of users expressed satisfaction. Only 7% of people report being dissatisfied and having trouble finding books; they also complain about a lack of space to sit and read; the atmosphere for reading has to be enhanced; the restrooms need to be upgraded; and a reading table needs to be placed close to the book area. Over all all, the majority of them are extremely happy with the Ernakulam Public Library's current facilities.

### **Changes in Reading Habits**

According to **Elizabeth Edikala**, a member of the management committee for the Ernakulam Public Library, a large number of children, young people, researchers visit the library for a variety of reasons, ranging from educational to reading newspapers. People don't read less than before, but library visits have gone down as people now turn to social media for information. She believes that reading allows the individual to improve themselves and develop a "pleasant attitude." The lessons and insights she gained through reading are still valued by her. On asked whether any promotional activities are needed by the library to increase membership, she responded that people who enjoy reading would naturally visit libraries, and there is no need to promote or advertise.

According to **Ajith Kumar** Secretary of Ernakulam Public Library, readers are a library's most valuable resource, it is stated that libraries are movements of artists, writers, and other people. The Government is collaborating nicely, and the Company is providing financial support. Here, a variety of programmes are run to help kids develop the habit of reading. There is a separate referral mechanism just for kids. This public library has always been used more frequently by children than by seniors. The collection includes bound volumes and old newspapers. Not every bound book All significant volumes that have been published are here.

According to **Bhagat Singh**, Former Librarian of Ernakulam Public Library ,for Ernakulam Public Library the statement that reading is decreasing is not true. Ernakulam Public Library has good readers then and now. Every day the number of people is increasing and not decreasing. Because there are many good readers out there who encourage their children to

read. But it is a fact that the advent of technology like TV mobile has reduced reading habits among children. His other experience is about Justice Sukumaran. Sukumar Nair takes 3-4 books from the library (he mostly chooses history books) and reads those books in one day and comments on that book the next day. He also says that he has many acquaintances who like to read like this.

According to **Ashwathy Madhu** Assistant Librarian of Ernakulam Public Library, There are many different kinds of folks who join here. All age groups come here, including those who are young, old, and even very young. The young people have a variety of ways to find out if a new book is on the way. As soon as new books are published, they come and buy them. Younger ones are particularly interested in reading books. Youngsters frequently ask if a book is available here or if it can be purchased as soon as they view it online. In light of this, the library staff purchases the books that the readers actually need. In the library, there are lots of regulars. Some people have taken some old magazines home and given them back. The library is used by college students from Ernakulam. The majority of students utilise the library as a stress reliever.

On weekdays, Saturday and Sunday will be less crowded; on weekends and holidays, it will be more congested.

According to **Priya K Peter** Librarian of Ernakulam Public Library there are about 10,000 members, of which about 5,000 come daily, so we can understand if reading is not dying.. Many members also come here on Saturdays in the evening. Currently, between 500 and 700 people have arrived and left. For this reason, we hold classes for the PSC and UPSC exams as well as reference and research activities. Now that digital libraries are here, public libraries are receiving a lot of support and grants. Similar to this, they are working with the government on their education project in an effort to grow IT in a positive way. This library has helped a lot of people, including scientists, IAS officers, and literary personalities. Sanjay Chopra has been here for some time and has done training and things for people studying IAS. Ramachandran .M has authored numerous books on the Delhi Metro. where he has made a contribution

## Recollection

This project attempts to compile the memories of the library's earliest patrons and examine the ways in which this setting shaped those people's character, profession, and academic pursuits. The project also attempts to analyse how early students used libraries to further their education and careers.

**Lala C. Manayil** is a High School teacher in Our lady of Fathima, Kumbalangi. In her childhood and youth, she depended on the Ernakulam Public Library for her studies and to improve her reading. Through her library visits, she was able to get acquainted with many excellent books, and she enjoyed being able to read for hours in a calm atmosphere, for as long as she wanted.

**Betsy K. M** did both her schooling and college at St. Teresa's College in Ernakulam, between 1979 and 1993. Her academic career has been strongly impacted by the Ernakulam Public Library. She found the library of great assistance with her studies. This library had the books that were needed for undergraduate courses in banking, economics, and civics. This significantly aided her in achieving success in her field of study. She decided to pursue her BA at the school due to the high caliber of the faculty and the accessibility of the public library. Mrs. Betsy, along with her classmates at college, would visit the library during their free time to consult books and make notes on subjects like psychology, anthropology, Malayalam, and world history. Her subsequent teaching career and, in particular, her efforts to pass on that knowledge to the younger generation in order to help them gain a deeper understanding of her subject, were greatly aided by the public library.

In 1979 **Bhagat Singh** was joined the Library as Assistant. Later he took charge as librarian between 1985 and 1866. His library duty was to order new books and he did all the book work. The history of the library dates back to the 1870s when Thotakkat Shankunni Menon led the way to start the library. At first the library had no building or premises of its own. The library was started in a part of the college. Later it was shifted to a building of KSEB. It was the building of the kings of the past, later known as the Ramavarma Club. Later, during CH Menon's tenure as Chief Minister, the library got a new location and constructed a building there. Earlier there were three floors but today the library has four or five floors. Earlier there were more people interested in reading because TV and other media did not come then. More

people used the library to read books. After he became a librarian, the library was digitized and computerized and now all the model systems are in Ernakulam Public Library. Advocate AD Krishnadas was the Secretary of Ernakulam Public Library when he joined the library. Justice Chandrasekaran was the President. The people who were prominent in Ernakulam at that time brought up that library. All of their services were indispensable to the library at that time. Now many literary discussions and meetings are held in the library. At the time he joined the library, a man named Gopalan was the librarian and he has many years of experience and he also played a big role in developing the library. Other eminent persons who were known to him were Thotakkat Chandrasekharan Sir, Advocate C Ramachandran and many other social and political people. Thus the work of all of them came as a library.

### **Setting of Ernakulam Public Library through Memories**

According to **Ramachandran V.G** ,It was only after 1970 that this building was added to the Public Library Ernakulam, which had been established in 1870. Eight staff members are currently employed here, compared to possibly just one or two at the beginning. The current hall was once the library's hall, a sizable space for gatherings and activities open to the public. Facilities were created to store additional books upstairs because there wasn't enough room to store many of them below. The library was also housed for a while in the similarly dated structure next to it, the Ravi Varma Temple.

According to **.Ajith Kumar,Secretary** of the Ernakulam Public Library ,The library, which is older than Maharaja's College, moved to this structure from Ernakulam and other smaller colleges. This institution in Ernakulam benefited from the support and collaboration of well-educated, intelligent authorities and residents who maintained excellent standards of living. Speaking of reading, it will always exist.

### **Extension Activities**

According to **Priya K Peter** Librarian of Ernakulam Public Library Extension counters are available in the library. The first one operates every Wednesday at Infopark. The following one is High Court, which is open on Thursday. The next one is in GCDA, and the Chakkaraparamb Library and Federal Bank both previously had counters. Due to minimal

traffic, both of these libraries are currently closed. Public libraries have a significant impact on society, and its primary goal is to advance literacy and elevate literature.

### **Youth Involvement**

According to **Swathy Krishna P.U.**, a degree student of St. Teresas College, Ernakulam, she developed a reading habit while she was in class 10, influenced by her friends' reading habits. It greatly aided her in understanding various cultures and broadening her knowledge when she first started reading the book. At the time of enrolling in college, membership was required. Study-related books and English Malayalam fiction are also required reading. When teenagers feel confident in themselves, they will only begin reading. She claims that reading a book or a newspaper is a good way to start the habit of reading.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

We have distributed hundred questionnaires to the users of Ernakulam Public Library as part of our project. From this questionnaire we collected the public response towards the Library.

We gained many suggestions from the users they were listed below

1. Ernakulam Public Library is one of the best libraries providing better services both through online and offline. But sometime online websites are not available. As we know people are becoming more digitalised online services should be effectively activated.
2. Users are facing difficulties in searching books and journals due to dim light. So lighting facilities should be improved.
3. Public Library always publishes new arrivals but more books are needed by the people so according to the needs of users add more books.
4. Ernakulam Public Library can be promoted through newspapers and metro trains at interwells to make awareness of library existence.
5. More preferred by youth should be added. So we can attract youth towards library.

6. It is great if they categorised books in such a way that is easy to find and please remove the cover page of the some books which are really confusing .
7. Washroom facilities should be improved .
8. Please add some programs or associations for middle aged women as they can also participate in the library programs .
9. Public library should increase its extension services through more institutions.

**CHAPTER :4**  
**CONCLUSION**



This Study mainly focuses on the Ernakulam Public Library, which is the oldest and one of the biggest in the state of Kerala. Established way back in the year 1870, the library has been witness to the improvements that have occurred socially and culturally in this city over the past three centuries. The Library's legacy from its beginning through its pioneers and events, different services, extension activities, and the users satisfaction into this library services are also given focus.

A library should never remain as an institution for just lending and storing books it should be something that go beyond this. A public library should be a backbone for the community through encouraging the unemployed youth to fulfil their career, give the unending knowledge to the people. However, while the general fear is that there is a decline in reading habits, the study shows the fewer people are borrowing from libraries because online media provide more variety and are easier to access. At the same time, many parents still bring their children to libraries to cultivate a love for reading. The real role of the public libraries are yet to be established in the society more effectively. Not only the library should more effective readers should also utilise library more effectively which will definitely helps them a lot in their life.

## FINDINGS

We have distributed more than hundred questionnaires to the users of Ernakulam Public Library and we get hundred responses .On the basis of this source we have some findings on the functioning and other services of Ernakulam Public Library .

1. Members are more likely to be in the C class, according to a study, by 32%.
2. A comprehensive range of services offered by the Ernakulam Public Library set it apart from other public libraries.
3. According to our findings, more individuals frequent libraries on a regular basis and on a weekly basis.
4. Most patrons of the library spend fewer than two hours inside, doing anything from reading newspapers to borrowing things.

5. More individuals visit libraries for informational and educational purposes.
6. Although all Ernakulam Public Library members received SMS notifications about all cultural events, attendance was surprisingly low.
7. Just 7% were not very satisfied, making the overall satisfaction rate for the physical facilities 7.93%.
8. 80 Percent users were satisfied with the placement of books and in the shelf ,but even though 20 percent states that they are facing difficulty in locating journals and books.
9. Majority of the users make use reading areas .
10. Digital library was introduced in the public library recently but it was make used by only 44 percent of users .All things are now available on online so digital library is not well utilised.
11. 33 percent of people were highly satisfied with the library collections and 19 percent were partially satisfied .47 percent were satisfied 1 percent were dissatisfied .

## Appendix I

***Diagram 14 Library Staff***

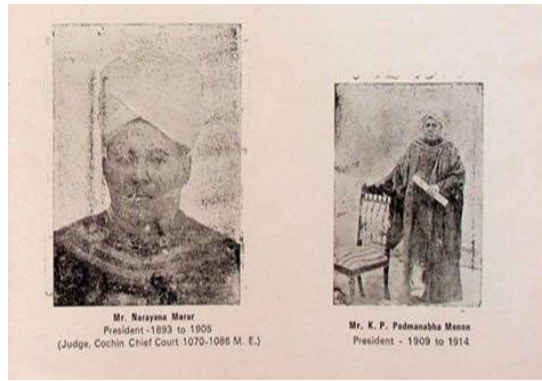
Sl.No	Name of the staff	Staff
1.	Priya K. Peter	Librarian
2.	P.V Shaiby	Assistant Librarian
3.	Reshma Madhu	Assistant Librarian
4.	Ashwathy M.Ashokan	Assistant Librarian
5.	K.Paulose	Record clerk
6.	Rahul.Raj K.L	Library Attender
7.	Adhul Krishna A.B	Library Attender
8.	Cleaning staff	1(outsider)
9.	Security staff	1(outsider)

## PICTURES

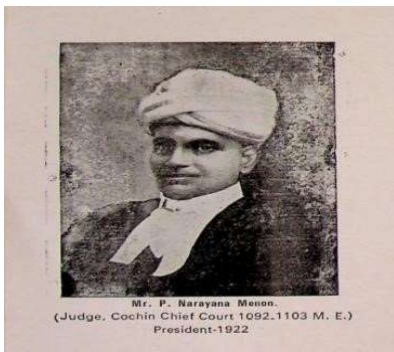
### PIONEERS OF ERNAKULAM PUBLIC LIBRARY



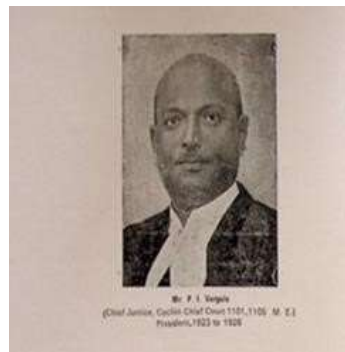
Sir Thottakkat Sankunny Menon  
and A.F Sealy



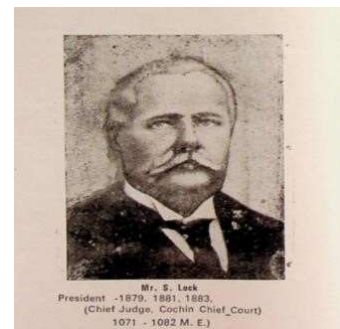
Mr Narana marar and Mr.K.P.Padmanabha Menon



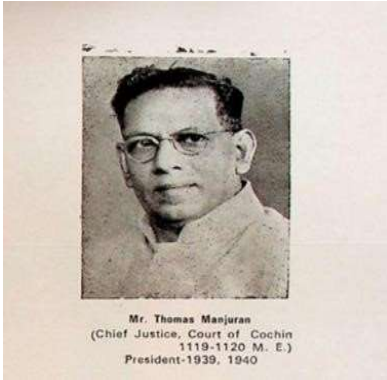
Mr.P.Narayana Menon



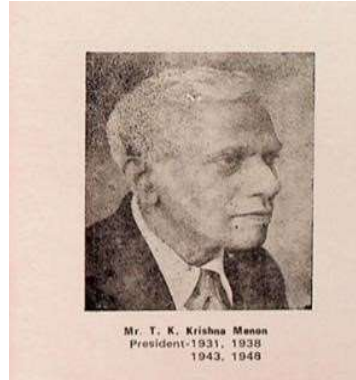
Mr.P.I Varguis



M.S.Look



Mr. Thomas Manjuran



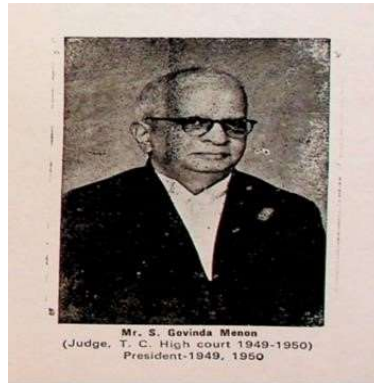
Mr. T. K. Krishnamenon



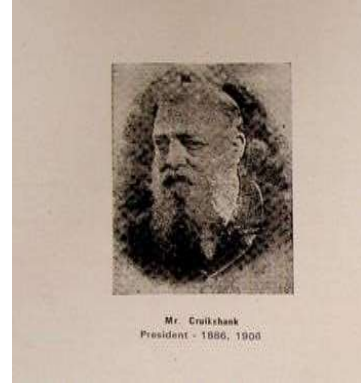
Mr. T. C. Krishna Menon



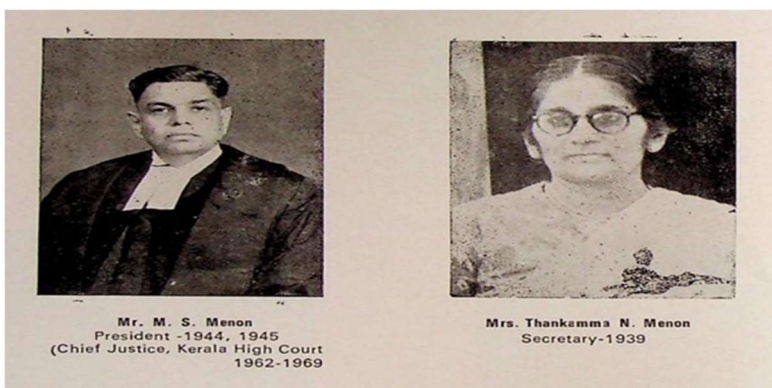
Mr. P. Neelakanta Menon



Mr. S. Govinda Menon

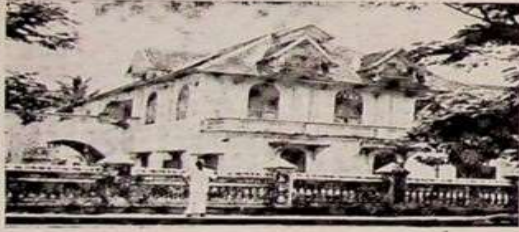


Mr. Cruikshank



Mr. M. S. Menon and Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon

Source ; Ernakulam Public Library Souvenir 1986



The Rama Varma Hall  
The 1st Floor housed the Library  
for some years

The Rama Varma Hall



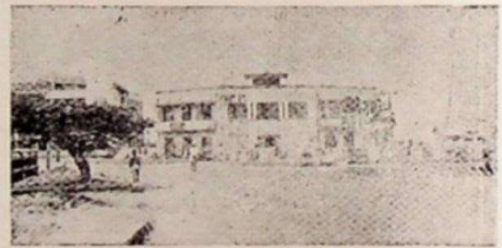
The Maharajas College  
A small building in the quadrangle  
originally housed the Library

The Maharajas College



The Ravi Varma Mandir  
was our home until 1974  
when we shifted to the present building

The Ravi Varma Mandir



The Chandri Company Building  
on the forshore housed the library for some years

The Chandri Company Building



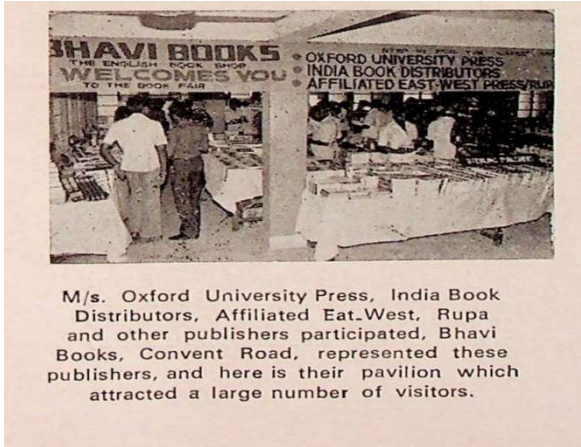
The Book Room of the Library. The  
members have direct access to the stacks,  
facilitating personal selection of the books.



The issue counter. The staff busy  
Verifying the books returned by the  
members, and on the night hand, side  
processing the issue of books taken by  
the members.



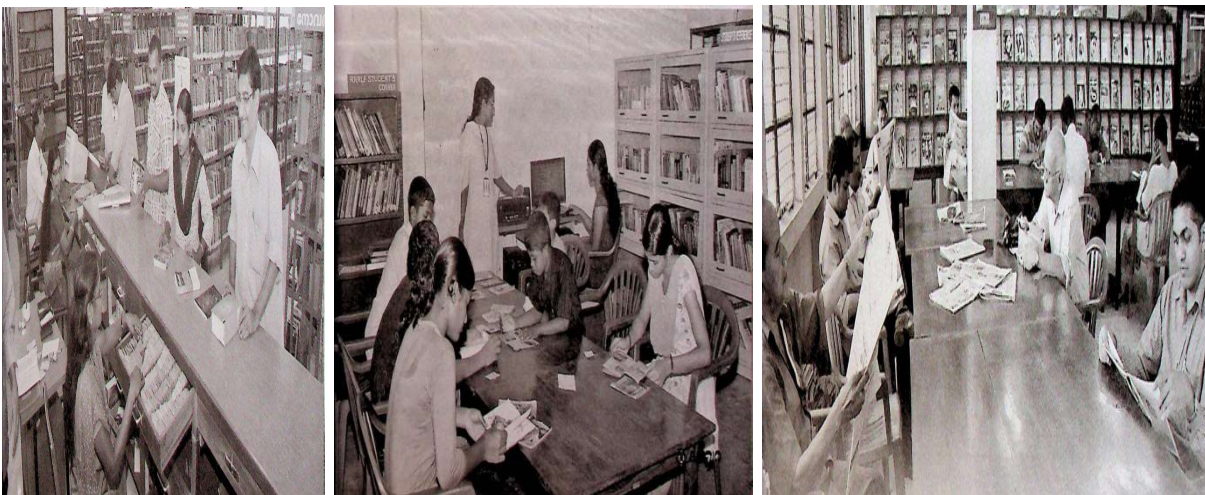
The members of the staff of the Ernakulam public Library Sitting, Shri V. D. Ajayan,  
Library Attender, shri C. A. Bhagath singh Library Assistant, shri P. M. Mathew, Joint  
Librarian shri T.B. Gopalan, Librarian, shrik Ganapathy, Office Manager, shri N. Parameswaran  
Nair, Library Assistant. smt. T. K. Baby, Accounts Clerk. standing, shri T. R. Joseph,  
Office Boy, shri V. G. Ramchandran, Library Attender, smt. K. A. Kochuthresia, Library  
attender smt. K. R. Indira' Library Attender, smt. M. S. Deena, Library Assistant, smt.  
T. S. Baby, Library Attender, smt. P. V. Shalby, Library Attender smt 'Ranshath Basheer,  
and smt. Kochuthresia' Sweeper.



Source; Ernakulam Public Library Souvenir 1986



Source; Ernakulam Public Library Souvenir Source; Ernakulam Public Library Smaranika



Members of Public Library



*Book Lending Section*



Present Buliding of public library

*Source ; Ernakulam Public Library Kalavara 2014*





Book Lending Section



RFID System [Radio Frequency Identification]

This System makes borrowing and returning more easy without approaching the staff

*Source ; Taken by Aleena V.A*

## APPENDIX III

### **Questionnaire for the Users of Ernakulam Public Library**

We are conducting a research on the topic "THE UNENDING SAGA OF ERNAKULAM PUBLIC LIBRARY ". We have prepared a questionnaire to get response from the users of Ernakulam Public Library

Kindly fill this form:

1.Name:

2.Contact Number :

3.Age Category :

Above 80

60 to 80

30 to 60

18 to 30

12 to 18

4.Education :

SSLC

PLUS TWO

UG

PG

P. hd

Other

5.Occupation :

Private Sector

Government

Business

Retired

Other

6. Which type of membership do you have ?

Life long

A class

B class

C class

Nil

7. How often do you visit this library ?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Occasionally

8. How much time did you spend in library?

More than 4 hour

2 to 3 hour

1 to 2 hour

Less than 1 hour

9.What is the purpose of using this library ?

Recreation

To read newspaper

Education

Career oriented

Reference

Read magazines

Lending books

10.Do you ever participated in the following programmes conducted in the library?

Cultural activities

Reading competition

Literacy programmes

Quiz

Participated

Not Participated

11.Are you satisfied with physical facilities provided in library?

Yes

No

12.Are you aware about the following library services provided by the library?

Display of new arrivals

Current awareness service  
Reference services

Reservation

Known

Not known

13. Which automation facilities are used frequently?

Online Journals

Catalogue

E- books

Other

14. How long you are member of this library ?

15. Do you experienced any difficulties in locating journals or books in shelf?

Yes

No

16. Which among the following library services were important for you?

Reading areas

Reference service

Browsing materials

Other

17. Did you make use of digital library/

Yes

No

18. Whether the staffs were cooperative?

Yes

No

19. Are you satisfied with the collections available in the library?

Highly satisfied

Partially satisfied

Satisfied

Dissatisfied 20. Any suggestions for more improvements

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## Souvenirs

1. Ernakulam Public Library Souvenir 1986
2. Ernakulam Public Library Souvenir 1998
3. Smaranika 2006
4. Kalavara 2014

## Interviews

1. Ramachandran V. G Retired Librarian of Ernakulam Public Library on 13 th December 2022
2. Ajith Kumar Secretary of Ernakulam Public library on 20 th November 2022
3. Elizabeth Edikkala , Management Committe member of Ernakulam on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022
4. Bhagat Singh Former Librarian of Ernakulam Public Library on 16 th November 2022
5. Priya K. Peter , Librarian of Ernakulam Public Library on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022
6. Ashwathy Madhu , Assistant Librarian on 9 th August 2022
7. Kiran , Staff of Ernakulam Public Library on 10 th August 2022
8. Lala. C. Manayil High School Teacher (Our lady of Fathima Kumbalanghi) on 16 th January 2023
9. Betsy K. Retired Teacher (Our lady of Fathima High School) on 9 th December 2022
10. Swathy Krishna , Degree student on 20 th August 2020