Evaluation of the Iranian academic library collections based on the Standards of Iranian University Libraries (SIUL)

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Abstract

Aim: This paper aims at evaluation of libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz based on the "Standards of Iranian University Libraries" (SIUL) to clarify the current status of the resources of those libraries based on the abovementioned standards in a fifteen-year time period.

Methodology: A checklist was used for evaluation of resources of university libraries, which was prepared based on SIUL. Data collection of libraries' resources was accomplished using the AZARSA integrated web-based library software tailored for the Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz libraries. Additional tools and techniques used for data collection were interviews with librarians, statistics related to inventory of the libraries under investigation, statistics related to the number of faculty members and students in 2018.

Findings: The results of study indicate that the average conformity percentage of all libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz with SIUL in 2018 has reached 17% demonstrating 2% increase compared to 2004.

Results: This could promise an ascending growth trend of resources in the target libraries; however, it should be noted that there is still a big gap to reach the standard level.

Keywords: Collection, Resources, Standards of the Iranian University Libraries, University, Academic libraries, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz

Introduction

University libraries are considered as part of higher education system and have a significant role in collection and transmission of scientific information. These libraries provide the resources as required by researchers on the condition that the resources are up to date and satisfy the increasing demand of users' community qualitatively and quantitatively. It is possible to become informed of the quality of the complex through its evaluation and comparison with existing standards and regulations to specify their weaknesses and strength and provide an appropriate complex according to the international accepted criteria for university libraries in so far as there is always a direct relation between educational quality of a university and the growth of its libraries qualitatively and quantitatively and in terms of updated resources.

The research problem

Concerning the complaints regarding shortcomings and lack of required library resources by those referring to the libraries in Iran, including the Ccentral Library and the Center for Documents of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz as the largest university in Southeast Iran which from now on will be referred to as the central library, this question would arise whether there are sufficient library materials in Shahid Chamran University libraries for the population of the students and other clientst? and, Whether the libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz comply with the ACRL and SIUL standards?

Since the central library doesn't lend more than one book at a time to the bachelor students at most for one week, this study was carried out assuming that the libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz most probably do not quantitatively fulfill the information needs of the students.

The target central library as one of the main academic libraries of Southwest Iran, with the scientific development perspective, tries to promote its status among superior universities of Iran in terms of knowledge production and technology advancement within defined perspectives as mentioned in strategic program of the university and achieve better place and status among them. To this end, the mission of central library is enhancement of education, research and research activities of the university and support of efforts of university in elevation of its rank in national and international level through preparation, development and facilitation of access to scientific resources and data required by university and management of utilization of these resources.

In order to enable the Central Library to play a significant role in education and research and elevation of scientific level of faculty members and students, and nurturing of academic talents and provide the ground for development and promotion of scientific rank of university, it is required to be able to provide high quality services through supplying its required resources.

Supplying required resources for users is the most important factor that could provide information services to users which necessitates the use of efficient tools of SIUL; therefore, concerning the role and significance of the central library in satisfying the information needs of users, this library should show good performance in terms of library management and acquisition and fulfil the information needs of users. Therefore, the present study seeks to evaluate the library resources of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz to specify the strengths and weaknesses of library acquisitions. Moreover, the data obtained from this study could form a basis for decision making on budget allocation and cost for librarians, managers and policy makers so that the result would be a step toward

the main objective of libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz which is presentation of better services to clients.

Research background

In this part, some of the studies on evaluation of resources based on ACRL and SIUL are briefly presented.

Harvey (2005) in his study entitled, "The Standards of Iranian Recently- established Faculty Library" concluded that generally the university standards are designed as a guide for development of recently-established faculties. These standards intend guide Iranian professional librarians for better servicing of libraries. The aim of these standards is development of Iranian libraries rather than their standardization.

In 1992, Mohammad Saleh Ashur evaluated the university libraries of Saudi Arabia based on ACRL standards such that they were all investigated based on formula A. The results indicate that six university libraries complex (except Malek So'oud University) is significantly lower than standard level of university libraries.

Paula, Webe, Mary and Duffy (2017) carried out a study entitled, "Whether the Universities of Southeast United States Respect ACRL Maintenance and Promotion Standards or Not?" The aim of this study was to discover the approaches related to libraries management in General Higher Education Institutes in United States. In an effort to realize the manner of adherence to ACRL standards for faculty status for academic librarians, the librarians at University of South Alabama area studied 148 public universities in this region. The results showed the significant areas of consensus and lack of consensus and indicated that the standards were not completely applied which requires further study and proposed referral to ACRL standards.

There are some local studies on evaluation of the resources as follow:

Moradmand (2004) evaluated the libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz based on ACRL and SIUL which shows that there are 396871 volumes in libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz; while the required collection by this university according to formula A is 1,279,995 volumes and according to SIUL is 1,091,241 volumes which conforms 31% with ACRL and 36% with SIUL.

Ebrahimi (2010) studied the university libraries of Tabriz Medical Sciences University based on ACRL and concluded that compared to other unievrsity libraries of the country, they are not in good status and the findings showed that all libraries of Tabriz Medical Sciences University includes 85,046 documents which includes 9% of SIUL and 5% ACRL.

Mirhosseini (2012) studied the libraries of Tehran Medical Sciences University including one central library and 9 faculty libraries. The results showed that the central library and libraries of dentistry, pharmaceutics and medicine have better status than other libraries with 79 to 83% conformity with all standards. Faculties of management and psychology were in average status. The library of health faculty had conformity with standards by 49% and in total, there was no library in full conformity with standards and mostly the libraries confronted with problems in human resources, budget and library materials and sources.

Moreover, other researchers such as Amiri (1987), Alavi (1993), Haqiqi (1993), Shahirad (1996), Zamaninejad (1998) and etc. evaluated the university libraries resources based on ACRL and SIUL. The results of these studies showed that the status of resources in Iran university libraries is not appropriate and there is a great gap between them and standards of university libraries.

ACRL and SIUL

Concerning the fact that the future of libraries as the main and dynamic center of information depends on compatibility and concordance with current advancement of librarianship science and related knowledge and technology, the standards of these sciences constitute a considerable part of the tasks of national and international librarianship and information. The library standards are regulations through which it is possible to evaluate and measure the library services. The standards are developed by the expert librarians to facilitate the achievement of determined objectives. The library standards could be described as the desired pattern, sample solution, evaluation criterion, a motivation for future development and progress and necessary instrument to help decision making and taking actions not only for librarians but also for non-librarian public who indirectly deal with library planning, management and services (encyclopedia of library and information science, 1968-2000).

As far as the university libraries are taken as the main scientific, educational and research information center of country, respecting the standards is a reliable method for cost reduction, prevention of human resources wastage and more importantly promotion of library services to users. Observation of standards satisfies two main principles of "conformity of systems" and "sharing of resources" which are considered as the basis and infrastructure of modern library services (Taavoni, 2002).

ACRL standard was approved in 1959 and reconsidered and revised in 1975 and finally confirmed in 1986 by American Library Association (ALA). This standard provides a set of criterion and regulations on the objectives, acquisitions, human resources, management and budget of university libraries. On the other hand, from 1995, the National Library of Islamic Republic of Iran has considered preparation and development of regulations and standards of various efforts of library from organization to electronic exchange of bibliographical information and library services in an effort to fulfill one of its main objectives, i.e. promotion of librarianship profession and national information delivery. The development of standards of Iran university library has been done based on information and facts on librarianship and information and Iran university libraries using international standards and study of the quality of national standards of other countries (Taavoni, 2002). In development of each standard, effort is taken to pay more attention to practical aspects of standards and avoid possibly the deficiencies of some of the known standards, for example, the fix basic number in "Standards of University Libraries" of American Librarian Association (WATIKINS, 1972) and make constructive use of standardization experiences in third world countries. So far, two parts of Iran Library Standards collection have been published by deputy of technical and general deputy of this library in 1995 and 2002.

In ACRL, standard No 2, i.e. formula A is about the university library collection. Based on this standard, the library collection does not include just printed materials; it also shall include any type of developed information in any form, printed, visual and 3D materials.

The criteria considered in Formula A, based on ACRL standards are as follow:
- 8500 volumes basic collection
- 100 volumes of required collection for each full-time faculty member
- 15 volumes for each full-time student
- 3500 volumes for each educational course in bachelor degree
- 6000 volumes for each educational course in master degree

- 3000 volumes for each educational course in master degree of higher levels
- 6000 volumes for each educational course in PhD level
- 2500 volumes for each educational course in specialized PhD level

In this formula, "volume" refers to each physical unit of a printed work, manuscript, covered or in a ring binder which is catalogued and classified or prepared to be used by referrals in any other way. In evaluation of the collection of libraries based on Formula A, the inventory of audiovisual materials could be counted based on bibliography unit and added to the number of printed and covered materials.

For ranking of libraries based on ARCL standards, those libraries which hold 90 to 100% of their required collection according to formula A are considered as first rank libraries, those with 75 to 90% are called second rank, those with 60 to 74% as third rank libraries and those with 50 to 59% are considered as fourth rank libraries.

As previously mentioned, in so far as ACRL standard is developed based on condition of western community and doesn't match the condition of third world countries including Iran, and due to high number of books in western, European and English language countries and the possibility of easier preparation of resources in these countries; with consideration of the conditions of Iran, ACRL standard is published as the draft of Iran university library standards by national library. In this standard, it is stipulated that in acquisition of university libraries, the following points should be taken into account:

- Number, range and depth of educational and research programs of bachelor degrees;
- Number, range and depth of educational and research programs of master degrees and higher;
- The number of researches that require library resources;
- Quality and quantity of the resources in intended field;
- The relative price of library resources and materials in intended field;
- The number and type of users of library (student, professor, researcher and so on);
- Teaching methods;
- Accessibility to other resources of libraries;
- Computer systems and use of networks (Taavoni, 2002).

Based on SIUL, the calculation of required collection of each independent university library is done based on the following formula:

V= Basic collection+ 100F+ 12E+335U+3000M+ 2000D
In this formula:

T=	Total number of required collection of library
F=	The number of full-time faculty member
E=	Total number of full-time students
U=	The number of fields of bachelor degree
M=	The number of fields of master degree
D=	The number of fields of PhD level

"Basic collection" is a fixed number and indicative of the least collection that should exist in the library of each university as soon as it is established. This number for various fields is as follow:

Literature and Humanities	48000 vols.
Social Sciences	40000 Vols.
Basic Sciences	32000 Vols.
Technical and Engineering	32000 Vols.
Medicine	40000 Vols.
Art	18000 Vols.
Agriculture	28000 Vols.

Source: Standards of Iran University Libraries, p. 18

The basic collection of Central Libraries should be determined between 40,000 to 80,000 volumes based on type and subject matter which is considered in this study as 60,000 volumes.

In this formula, the same as formula A of ARCL standards, in SIUL, one volume is not taken to mean just one volume, rather it is taken to refer to any library material including film, slides, tape, videotape, software, CDs and etc. on that they are prepared, organized and placed in library collection and accessible to the library users.

It is required that the library complex achieves 2 to 6% annual growth after reaching "total complex" quorum in above formula, depending on the type and subject field.

Research objective

The aim of this study is to specify the current status of faculty libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz. This study is based on evaluation formula of SIUL which is based on ACRL; however, it has been localized by Shirin Taavoni based on the conditions of Iranian community. The present study seeks to evaluate libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz based on this standard formula and compare these results with the statistics of libraries' resources in 2004 for investigation of their growth rate. The reason for selection of this time interval is that Moradmand's study in 2004 has been carried out with the aim of evaluation of libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz. The researcher intends to evaluate the variation in status of libraries of this university.

Methodology

In order to achieve the research objectives, checklist prepared based on SIUL has been used for evaluation of the resources of libraries of university. Data collection of libraries' resources has been done using integrative web-based software of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz libraries (AZARSA) and interview with librarians, booklet of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz and its website, department of information technology and deputy of research of university, the statistics related to inventory of the libraries under investigation, the statistics related to number of faculty members and students in 2018. The statistical population includes the inventory of 10 libraries (9 faculty libraries and 1 central library). Microsoft Excel has been used for data analysis and drawing of diagrams and tables. Most libraries are managed as fixed shelves and AZARSA web-based software is used for cataloguing.

Data analysis

In table 1, the statistics related to the number of titles of theses, journals and Persian and English books of faculties of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz for 2004 and 2018 have been presented from which beneficial analyses could be extracted.

In table 1, the highest number of resources belongs to Central Library that includes 321,780 volumes of printed and electronic books and 4694 journals in library software and 11744 master and PhD theses related to Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz theses out of which 171780 volumes are printed, 150000 volumes are electronic books. As observed, Central Library has deficiency in terms of printed book but in better status in terms of electronic books. After Central Library, the library of faculty of literature with 53578 volumes of Persian and English books is at the second rank; however, when put in SIUL formula, the existing collection is negligible in terms of the number of students (1272 students) and faculty members (34 people), the number of fields of study of bachelor degree (5), the number of fields of master degree (4) and the number of PhD fields (2).

Table 1. The study of the inventory of the printed and electronic collection of libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz in 2004 and 2018

Row	Name of faculty	The number of Persian and English printed and electronic books		The number of journals		The number of theses	
		1383	1397	1383	1397	1383	1397
1	Literature	95400	53578	152	1106	87	780
2	Economics	23233	9531	93	3	52	919
3	Theology	20065	39500	24	34	20	526
4	Physical Education	8311	10192	15	49	12	549
5	veterinary medicine	15867	15780	119	573	440	1017
6	Basic and Mathematical Sciences	33489	48834	139	1201	227	2049
7	Educational Sciences	33300	33730	90	542	221	1915
8	Central Library	101352	321780	455	4694	1961	11744
9	Agriculture and Water Sciences	21485	26230	100	66	357	1747
10	Art of Shoushtar	4025	9599	4	52	1	200

Moreover, according to table1, the library of faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics with 48834 volumes of Persian and English books, 2049 theses and 1201 journals is in the third rank. However, in so far as the resources of faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics, Computer and Earth Sciences are merged and these faculties use the same library from 2004 onward, this library should be more extensive and wider than the current complex; therefore, the resources of this faculty with 2623 students, 135 faculty members, 17 bachelor fields of study, 33 master fields of study, 14 PhD fields are not in appropriate and desired status. After faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics, faculty of

Theology with 39500 books, 34 Persian and English journals and 526 theses is in the fourth rank; however, concerning the number of students (958) and faculty members (24) and bachelor fields of study (5), master fields of study (4) and PhD fields of study (2) the existing collection is negligible. After faculty of Theology, faculty of Educational Sciences with 33730 volumes is in fifth rank and faculty of Agriculture and Water Sciences with 26230 Persian and Latin books in sixth rank (table 1).

Table 2. The ratio of the number of theses, journals and Persian and Latin books of libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz in 2018 compared to 2004

Name of faculty	ratio of the number of Persian and Latin books	ratio of the number of journals	ratio of the number of theses
Literature	0.6	7.3	9.0
Economics	0.4	0.0	17.7
Theology	2.0	1.4	26.3
Physical Education	1.2	3.3	45.8
veterinary medicine	1.0	4.8	2.3
Mathematical Basic and Sciences	1.5	8.6	9.0
Educational Sciences	1.0	6.0	8.7
Central Library	3.2	10.3	6.0
Agriculture and Water Sciences	1.2	0.7	4.9
Art of Shoushtar	2.4	13.0	200.0
average of growth	1.4	5.5	33.0

In table 2, the number of theses, journals and Persian and Latin books of libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz in 2018 compared to 2004 has been presented. Concerning the results, the library of Faculty of Art of Shoushtar has experienced the highest increase in the number of theses, journals and Central Library in Persian and Latin books compared to other libraries.

Moreover, faculties of Physical Education and Theology with growth rates of 45.8% and 26.3% have the second and third ranks in terms of the number of theses, Central library and faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics with growth rates of 10.3% and 8.6% have the second and third ranks in terms of the number of journals and finally, faculties of Art of Shoushtar and Theology with growth rates of 2.4% and 2% have the second and third ranks in terms of the number of Persian and Latin books.

The interesting point in this analysis is the total average of growth rate in the number of thesis titles which by 33% has the highest percentage of statistics compared to two other parts that are the number of journals and the number of Persian and Latin books which indicates the increased number of higher education fields and consequently the number of students. These results are confirmed concerning demographic processing and applicants of higher education. However, the other significant point in the results of this study is the low growth rate of the numbers of journals and Persian and Latin books that

are 5.5% and 1.1%, respectively, which seems to be due to increasing advancement in internet and network which has facilitated online access to electronic versions for users.

In this way, it is possible to realize the effect of technology in acquisition in Iran University Libraries which is considerable and significant.

Table 3. The frequency of faculty members, students and academic levels.

Row	Name of faculty	Number of faculty members		Number of students		Number of Bachelor fields		Number of master fields		Number of PhD fields	
		2004	2018	2004	2018	2004	2018	2004	2018	2004	2018
1	Literature	42	34	1758	1272	18	5	3	4	1	2
2	Economics	41	56	1469	1920	16	6	4	13	0	6
3	Theology	20	24	739	958	11	5	1	4	0	2
4	Physical Education	19	21	319	339	2	1	2	5	0	1
5	veterinary medicine	41	61	339	550	1	0	1	4	9	11
6	Basic and Mathematical Sciences	67	135	1655	2623	20	17	26	33	6	14
7	Educational Sciences	34	48	957	1293	8	4	7	13	2	4
8	Central Library	493	681	12283	15895	127	67	81	98	27	51
9	Agriculture and Water Sciences	62	82	961	1375	12	7	23	21	9	11
10	Art of Shoushtar	3	10	273	407	4	3	0	1	0	0

Table 3 indicates the number of faculty members, bachelor, master and PhD students in 2004 and 2018. It should be noted that standards of Iran university libraries has not differentiated the fields of master and higher levels and higher levels and professional and specialized PhD and considers all of the as being similar. The statistics presented in table 3 have considerable diversity in terms of mentioned factors and indicate the spread, history or newness and the number of their educational fields of study in different levels. According to statistics included in this table, the highest number of faculty members (135) and students (2623) and bachelor fields of study (17) and master fields of study (33) and PhD fields (14) belongs to Faculty of Sciences (combined with Mathematics and Earth Sciences). In terms of the number of faculty members, Faculty of Agriculture and Water Sciences (82 people) is in the second rank and Veterinary Medicine (61 faculty members) is in the third rank. Moreover, in terms of the number of students of Faculty of Economics (1920 students) and faculties of Agriculture and Water Sciences (1375 students) are in the second and third ranks. After faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics, the highest numbers of bachelor fields of study (7 and 6 fields) are related to faculties of Agriculture and Water Sciences and Economics and in this respect, these faculties are respectively in second and third ranks. Moreover, in terms of mater fields of study, faculty of Agriculture and Water Sciences with 21 master fields of study is in the second rank and faculties of Economics and Educational Sciences with 13 fields of study

are in third rank and in terms of PhD fields of study, faculties of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture and Water Sciences are equally (having 11 fields) in the second rank and faculty of Economics with 6 fields of study is in third rank.

In sum, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz has 681 faculty members, 15895 students whether state-funded, tuition-paying and scholarship, 67 fields of study in bachelor level, 98 fields of study in master level and 51 PhD candidates. As far as the Central Library presents services to all faculty members and students of university and all students and faculty members are considered as its potential members of, the related statistics is included in front of Central Library and other calculations are considered with this approach such that if Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz had just one Central Library and faculty libraries did not exist; this library should have had 1,655,285 books concerning the total statistics of faculty members, students and bachelor, master and PhD fields of study based on SIUL (according to table 4); while central library just includes 20% of the standard collection based on SIUL (according to table 5).

In refer to the criterion included in formula of SIUL resources and data presented in table 3, the status of required collection of libraries in desired condition is presented in table 4.

As formula A in ACRL standards is developed based on regulations and terms of western communities and don't match with the current situation of our community; it is changed by Shirin Taavoni to indicate the required collection based on Iranian community, the rate of publications and the number of books and libraries' budget; therefore, table 4 presents the required basic collection, the collection required by faculty members and students, bachelor, master and PhD students and finally the collection required by SIUL. In this table, the required basic collection for central library, the mean required basic collection is considered as 60000 documents.

Table4. The required collection based on SIUL formula in 2018

Row	Name of faculty	Required collection by faculty members		Required collection by students		Required collection by bachelor fields		Required collection by master fields		Required collection by PhD fields		Basic required collection	Total required collection 2018	Total required collection 2004
		2004	2018	2004	2018	2004	2018	2004	2018	2004	2018			
1	Literature	4200	3400	21096	15264	6030	1675	9000	12000	20000	40000	48000	120339	108326
2	Economics	4100	5600	17628	23040	5360	2010	12000	39000	-	120000	48000	237650	87088
3	Theology	2000	2400	8868	11496	3685	1675	3000	12000	-	40000	48000	115571	65553
4	Physical Education	1900	2100	3828	4068	670	335	6000	15000	-	20000	48000	89503	60398
5	veterinary medicine	4100	6100	4068	6600	335	-	3000	12000	180000	220000	32000	276700	223503
6	Basic and Mathematical Sciences	6700	13500	19860	31476	6700	5695	78000	99000	120000	280000	32000	461671	263260
7	Educational Sciences	3400	4800	11484	15516	2680	1340	21000	39000	40000	80000	48000	188656	126564
8	Central Library and Faculty of Engineering	49300	68100	147396	190740	42545	22445	243000	294000	540000	1020000	60000	1655285	1082241
9	Agriculture and Water Sciences	6200	8200	11532	16500	4020	2345	69000	63000	180000	220000	28000	338045	298752
10	Art of Shoushtar	300	1000	3276	4884	1340	1005	-	3000	-	-	18000	27889	22916

According to table 4 and formula of SIUL, the required standards emphasize on the sufficiency of collections for master and PhD fields of study the reason is that the users of these collections are mostly researchers who intends to expand borders of thinking and an appropriate collection is considered the most important tool for them.

Unfortunately, the collection of faculty libraries and central library of Shahid Chamran University don't reach quorum even with the modified formula and except faculty of literature which is close to standard average, most libraries have just a negligible collection of required standards (table 4).

In table 4, the highest required collection by full time faculty members is related to faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics by 13500 volumes and then to faculty of Agriculture and Water Sciences by 8200 volumes. The least required collection is related to faculty of Art by 1000 volumes.

The highest required collection by full-time students is related to faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics by 31476 volumes and then to faculty of Economics by 24060 volumes. The lowest rate is related to faculty of Physical Education by 4068 volumes.

The highest required collection for fields of bachelor degree is related to faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics by 5695 volumes and the lowest rate is related to faculty of Physical Education by 335 volumes. Moreover, the highest required collection for fields of master degree is related to faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics by 99000 volumes and the lowest rate is related to faculty of Arts by 3000 volumes. It worth noting that highest required collection for fields of PhD degree is related to faculty of Agriculture and Water Sciences by 280,000 volumes and the lowest rate is related to faculty of Physical Education by 20000 volumes (table 4). In sum, faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics with 17 fields of study in bachelor level, 33 fields in master level and 14 fields in PhD with 461671 required volumes is in the first rank, then, faculty of Agriculture and Water Sciences with 338045 required volumes is in the second rank. Whereas according to table 1, faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics has just 50883 books and theses and this has just 11% conformity with the standard, faculty of Mathematics and Computer Sciences has not independent library and uses the faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics; in this regard, it is obvious that the current collection is negligible for faculty of Basic Sciences and Mathematics.

The required collection based on formula of SIUL has been compared with the existing collection of libraries in 2018 in table 5. This table indicates that unfortunately none of the faculties in Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz doesn't reach quorum according to required standards. In this regard, according to this table, the warning figures are mostly related to faculty of Economics which just has 4% of the standard collection and in this regard, faculty of Veterinary with 6% and faculty of Agriculture and Water Sciences with 8% of the standard collection are at the next ranks and just faculty of Literature with 45% of the standard collection is almost closer to standard collection. According to the results of table 5 and SIUL in ranking libraries, faculty of Literature with 45% of the standard collection has the best condition compared to other libraries of university and other libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz are under rank 4.

Table 5. The comparison of the required collection based on SIUL with the existing collection in 2018.

Name of faculty	Total required collection 2018	Available printed and electronic materials	Is the set below standard?	Difference	conformity with standards
Literature	120339	54358	Yes	-65981	0.45
Economics	237650	10450	Yes	-227200	0.04
Theology	115571	40026	Yes	-75545	0.35
Physical Education	89503	10741	Yes	-78762	0.12
veterinary medicine	276700	16797	Yes	-259903	0.06
Basic and Mathematical Sciences	461671	50883	Yes	-410788	0.11
Educational Sciences	188656	35645	Yes	-153011	0.19
Central Library and Faculty of Engineering	1652270	333524	Yes	-1321761	0.20
Agriculture and Water Sciences	338045	27977	Yes	-310068	0.08
Art of Shoushtar	27889	9799	Yes	-18090	0.35
Total	3511309	590200	Yes	-2921109	0.17

Valuable results could be extracted from table 6. In this table, the percentage of conformity with the standard of existing collections in 2004 and 2018 with university library standard is presented. The results could be analyzed in two ways; first it is observed that in 2004, the library of faculty of Literature with 88% conformity with standard has the best status, faculty of Theology is in the second rank and faculty of Economics and Educational Sciences, jointly, are in third rank. At the same year, the total average of libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz has 15% conformity with standard. In 2018, the faculty of Literature with 45% conformity is in first rank and faculties of Theology and Art of Shoushtar with 35% conformity are jointly in second rank. The interesting and considerable point is the percentage of total conformity of libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz which in 2018 has reached 17% and has grown 2% compared to 2004 which indicates the ascending trend in growth of resources in libraries of this university. However, it should not be ignored that there is a great gap until reaching standard level.

On the other hand, there are some considerable points in this table, for example, although the library of faculty of Literature has had the first rank during the studied period, its conformity with standard has decreased up to 43% which is in one hand, due to dislocation of library and transfer of resources and selection of collection and on the other hand, increase in the number of students, faculty members and academic fields of study in these years. In addition to faculty of literature, the library of faculty of Economics has experienced the same status among libraries of SCU which is 23% reduction of conformity with the standard and the reason is the merging of library of Economics in Central Library in a time. Other results are presented in table 6.

Table 6. The comparison of the percentage of conformity of the inventory of collection in the libraries of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz with SIUL in 2004 and 2018.

Name of faculty	conformity with standards		Available printed and electronic materials		The required collection based on SIUL formula	
	2004	2018	2004	2018	2004	2018
Literature	0.88	0.45	95487	54358	108326	120339
Economics	0.27	0.04	23285	10450	87088	237650
Theology	0.31	0.35	20085	40026	65553	115571
Physical Education	0.14	0.12	8323	10741	60398	89503
veterinary medicine	0.07	0.06	16307	16797	223503	276700
Basic and Mathematical Sciences	0.13	0.11	33716	50883	263260	461671
Educational Sciences	0.26	0.19	33521	35645	126564	188656
Central Library and Faculty of Engineering	0.10	0.20	103313	333524	1082241	1655285
Agriculture and Water Sciences	0.07	0.08	21842	27977	298752	338045
Art of Shoushtar	0.18	0.35	4026	9799	22916	27889
Total	0.15	0.17	359905	590200	2338601	3511309

Conclusion and Recommendation

The Faculty of Literature and Humanities Library, as the first library established in Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz (formerly Junishapur University) at the Triangle Building, ranked first in 2004 for its rich resources with overall 88% conformity with standards. However, this outstanding library witnessed a descending trend in the following years so that its conformity with standards lowered to 45% in 2018; i.e. experienced descending trend which was actually due to the problems arose in those days due to some destructive activities during movement from its old place out of the campus, to the newly build establishment on the campus. The displacement of the collection of this library actually led to decrease in its inventory. This wonderful library faced some severe problems that raised partly due to mal actions such as dissecting the library collection, sending one part to the Central Library (mostly English books) that went actually out of control and out of service. All this happened basically due to shortcomings that were exposed in the new building because of the shortage of space and mis-planning that occurred in the new building. The saga was completed when the library staff discovered another catastrophy that triggered by termite attack which caused wearing out of many books and more reduction of the inventory.

One of the reasons for reduction of the inventory of the statistics of this university in the studied period is combination and merging of a couple of libraries in the central library in the years 2007 through 2010 due to a concentrated management project approved by the board of presidency of this university with the aim of compact on the resources of the libraries of university which was performed for faculties of Economics and Engineering in 2007 and 2010 and then stopped. This displacement has affected the statistics related to the inventory of these faculties.

On the other hand, with implementation of web-based software of university libraries in 2005, the integrated management of resources becomes possible through this software, data are kept in proper places and statistics of resources is closer to real data. However, the statistics related to 2004 to 2015 have some problems, because as previously

mentioned, the libraries of faculties merged with central library which changed the statistics of central library and faculty libraries. For example, the problem which is forecasted to occur is the faculty of Earth Sciences whose resources are currently kept in faculty of Literature and Sciences and since this faculty is now under construction, the acquisition and cataloging policies should be specified to avoid any problem during their displacement to faculty of Earth Sciences (for example, the records related to this faculty could be differentiated with a developed policy and stored in a separate place in software).

Moreover, during the change of library software in 2015, the false records, iterated records and the false storage locations were eliminated at the time of data conversion to serve of libraries of university which led to reduction of the inventory of libraries.

The other point which is noteworthy is lack of technologic proficiency of librarians in software system of library which has been influential on the report of the statistics of these libraries in the software. Therefore, the statistics related to the inventory of resources in printed record booklets is nonrealistic and higher than the real statistics in library software. Usually the statistics related to the resources in libraries is less in the library software system than the statistics related to the resources in printed records booklets.

On the other hand, in so far as the record and cataloging policy of the central library of this university has been clear and specified from the beginning and has not changed so far, it has confronted with fewer problems concerning the inventory statistics of resources. It is obvious that when the organization and cataloging policies of resources changes, the previous data should be changed and modified which are not usually done by the experts, therefore data will experience duality.

For improving the current status of the resources of university libraries, it is recommended that:

Since the library of each education institution is the most important educational, research and data source of scientific and academic community, it should be expanded and developed in parallel to the curriculums and research programs to complement them. According to SIUL in 2002, the university library should provide a balanced and organized collection in related fields of studies and in coordination with the objectives and programs of main organization. The library collection of this university should contain the most recent and updated information and documents in different printed or non-printed forms.

The acquisition policymaking should be performed by the director of library and librarians in cooperation with consultative committee and reconsidered once in a period.

University libraries of SCU could provide the ground for quick accessibility of its scientific community to library resources and materials by sharing intra-organizational specialized data banks.

The resources of SCU libraries should be updated and dynamic and coordinated with the changes of academic programs.

The annual statistics of libraries of university should be annually documented and achieved by related analysis and interpretations and with consideration of the problems of cataloguing and resources record in the system of university libraries.

The historical background of libraries of university should be documented in each unit.

The knowledge and experience of the experienced librarians and individuals who are engaged in specialized and technical affairs of library should be taken into account and the necessary measures for registration of experiences of human force of libraries of

university to be taken since by retiring of the forces, all their knowledge and experience will be not accessible anymore and the past mistakes are repeatedly occurred.

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