

BEST PRACTICE III

IDUKKI SHELF: The Local History Zone

Objectives of the Practice

District Repository: Build up a complete *reference source* for Idukki District, the district having high significance in the history of Kerala and in which our college is situated.

Authenticity: Construct a reliable *reference source* for the students, researchers, media men, writers and anyone who are interested in the study of Idukki District.

Accessibility: Reduce the time, cost, effort etc... of the users of information on Idukki district especially research scholars by constructing an exhaustive single point of reference and providing expeditious-pinpoint access to maximum possible sources at free of cost.

The Context

The District Idukki is a High-range. Mountains, Hills, Rivers and Forests give this district a variety appearance, climate, ecology and environment. Idukki is famous among the common people as well as educational people in India for its mountain hills, tea, cardamom, pepper and coffee plantations, huge dams both for irrigation and electricity, reserved forests, variety of nice-looking fauna and flora and so on. Common men in India are attracted by the nature, the climate, the terrain etc... while the academicians are interested in the history of civilization, migration, colonial and post colonial activities, the tribal, past constructions, specialised species of plants etc....

All these made the importance of District Idukki in the History of Kerala and India is a remarkable one. As a Higher Education Institution (HEI) located in the middle of this District, we decided to institute an exclusive bibliographic reference source on Idukki District to meet the crying demands from different groups of people. The result of that strong decision is Idukki Shelf: The Local History Zone.

The Practice

Phase I: The Department of History and College Library unanimously undertook the challenge.

Phase II: Students of PG History and UG Final History has collected the then existing printed Books, Periodicals, Documents, Souvenirs by churches in the region, Memoirs, Travelogues, Legal publications, News Paper Clippings, Periodical Clippings, Photographs which has importance in the history of Idukki.

Phase III: College Library provides a suitable area for organising the collection to ensure easy access. Classify the collection using DDC Scheme and prepared a bibliographic record for it.

Phase IV: The process of acquisition of documents with the collection is continuing. The project reports by PG students, Department of History on Idukki is regularly adding to it. It in turn served as the primary source on District Idukki.

Evidence of Success

Within a few years of establishing, Idukki Shelf could attract a considerable number of users. The positive comments by users of Idukki Shelf are recorded in a register, which tells us that the practice is a success.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Those who possess old Books published earlier, rare Photographs, Souvenirs, Old News Paper Clippings; Old Periodicals are not willing to abandon it for Idukki Shelf.

Notes

Now “IDUUKI SHELF” is the highly specialized and precious collection of College Library which brought us reputation. There is no single point, having the competence to provide maximum available information on Idukki District to relief the thirst of interested user community in it. The traditional historiography gave only a very negligible importance to the history of High Ranges. So the research scholars in this area found it too difficult to get the data .The problem would have left untreated, if the Department of History not identified the importance of it. IDUKKI SHELF is the only one of this kind.