

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES GEARED UP FOR EXAM SEASON

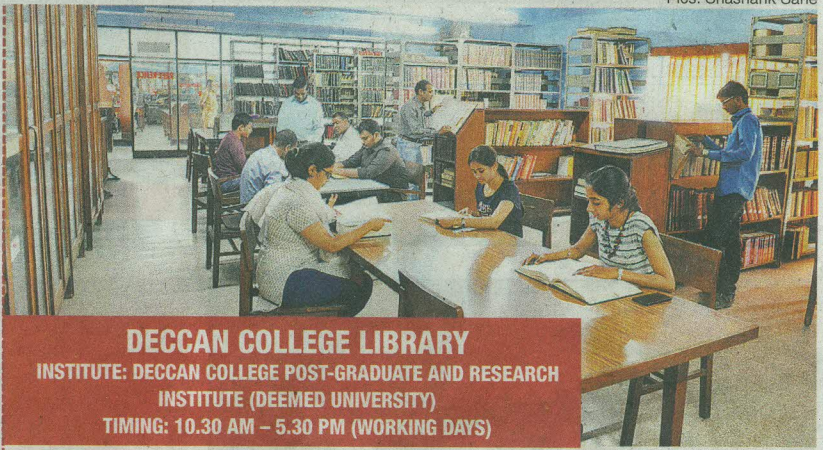
Pics: Shashank Sane

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Named after their mother, the library is a two-storeyed structure, with multiple rows of bookshelves that hold the collection of 229763 books, including 104 research journals, 1396 manuscripts and 55 palm leaves. Some of the books available here were published before 1950 and are quite rare. Pointing towards the books on the top floor, Swati Joglekar, professor in-charge, Bai Jerbai Wadia Library, informs, "Apart from the Mandlik collection, we have the Bramhe collection, Osho collection as well as Paul Tesla collection in our library. Some of the volumes you can see on the top floor are from the Bombay Natural History Society, even they don't have some of these books and usually come here to refer to them."

In 2014, the library received a grant from the National Archives of India and Ministry of Culture to preserve the rare books. "We've since then digitised them and they are available in digital format for students as well as scholars," Joglekar adds.

One of the many unique facilities available here includes the Braille books corner for the visually-challenged students and a Sathi Learning Centre equipped with JAWS (Job Access With Speech) software.



DECCAN COLLEGE LIBRARY

INSTITUTE: DECCAN COLLEGE POST-GRADUATE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)
TIMING: 10.30 AM - 5.30 PM (WORKING DAYS)

Located just behind the main building of the college, the library building is a beautiful stone-structure that houses some of the rarest books in Pune. Having inherited a big collection from the old Deccan College, the library has approximately 175000 books including those on archaeology, ancient Indian history, medieval history, anthropology, linguistics, Sanskrit, philosophy and religion. "We also have about 12 thousand hand-written manuscripts in our collection," informs librarian Trupti More.

Spread over a carpet area of 42000 sq ft, the two-storeyed library has spacious rooms full of book shelves dedicated to each field as well as 40 independent study rooms for research scholars. "In 2014 we began the digitisation process to preserve our rare book-collection. These books are now available on intranet for all our members. Our catalogue is also available online and can be accessed by everyone," More adds.

The library is open to students, research scholars as well as anyone who wants to refer to the books. "Since most of our books are either old or rare, we do not allow members to carry them out of the library premises, but all the books here are available for reading and reference to anyone who wishes to use them," informs More.



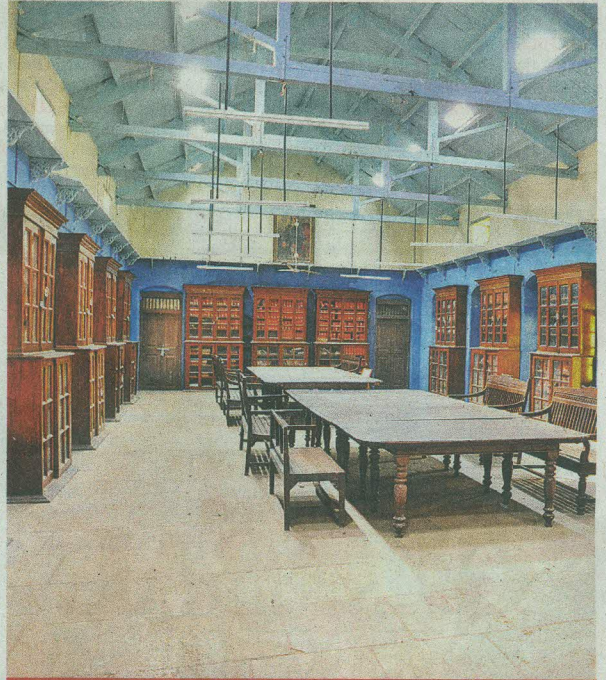
WADIA COLLEGE LIBRARY

INSTITUTE: NESS WADIA COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
TIMING: 7.30 AM - 5.30 PM (ALL WORKING DAYS)

Located on the ground floor of the Ness Wadia College premises with classrooms on both sides, the Wadia College library was established way back in 1969 and has been functional since then. Equipped with a large number of textbooks, reference books, periodicals, journals and newspapers, the library houses about 52000 books. "We have books available on all commerce-related subjects including law as well as English literature," informs assistant librarian Surekha Khare.

This library is a member of the N-List Programme of UGC and subscribes to e-journals for the benefit of students. As many as 21 newspapers are also available for the students to keep themselves up-to-date with the current happenings across the world.

Khare also adds that in order to inculcate reading habits among the students, the library hosts a Book Lovers' Group since 1970 which meets and discusses thought-provoking books. "This year we have 12 students in the programme who recently discussed a book titled *The Ultimate Gift* by Jim Stovall," says Khare.



DHANANJAYRAO GADGIL LIBRARY

INSTITUTE: GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS
TIMING: 10.30 AM - 5.30 PM (ALL WORKING DAYS)

Established in 1905 as a public library, the Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library was built under the aegis of the Servants of India Society with late Gopal Krishna Gokhale as one of its founding members. It was in 1930 that it began serving as the academic library of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. Although it is still accessible to public, the library is mainly used by the scholars, academicians and policy makers, who study social sciences. The majestic four storey building that houses the library has more than 5,000 rare books that published between 1680 and 1940. The oldest book from this library is *The Works of the Famous Nicolas Machiavel: Citizen and Secretary of Florence* by Nicolas Machiavel, which was published in 1680. Also the Union budgets from the years 1799-1805 and 1874-75 till date, including the budgets of princely and provincial states of pre-independence period are available here.