

ABSTRACT

Thesis : Resource Sharing in The Royal Thai Army Library Operation

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Degree Sought : Master of Arts

Major : Library and Information Science

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The objectives of the research were four fold : (1) to survey the information resources and services of the Royal Thai Army Libraries; (2) to study problems and obstacles in using the information resources and services of the Royal Thai Army Libraries; (3) to compare the need for sharing information resources of the Royal Thai Army Libraries, stratified by users in various units of the Royal Thai Army; (4) to investigate ways of sharing information resources and services among the Royal Thai Army Libraries.

The 21 Royal Thai Army Libraries were categorized into 3 groups : the Supporting Unit, the Headquarter Unit and the Academic Unit. It was hypothesized that the needs of the users and the libraries to receive and share information resources and services would vary according to the units to which the libraries belonged. Self-administered questionnaires were distributed to 21 librarians and 362 users of the 21 Royal Thai Army Libraries. All questionnaires were returned by the librarians and 88 percent were returned by the users. Data were analyzed using One-way ANOVA and descriptive statistics. The DPM format was also employed.

The results showed that the information resources and services of all the 21 Royal Thai Army Libraries were small and limited. They mainly provided borrow/return services. The resources mostly utilized were book on general knowledge, social science journals and Thai newspapers, but there was a strong need for academic library materials to support internal courses run by the Army. The problem facing the users moderately was the limited information resources because of no inter-library loans. The problems facing the libraries moderately were the lack of librarian professionals, limited information resources and other standard library services. These problems obstructed the growth of the information community of the Royal Thai Army.

There were no variations according to category of library. The need of users resources and services was moderate while the need of libraries to give such service was small. The old manual system of the libraries is not compatible with the information age. It was recommended that the libraries use modern information technology, both inter-library and for world-networking via the Internet. Most important is the need to train library personnel at all levels in the standard work of the modern library.