ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY
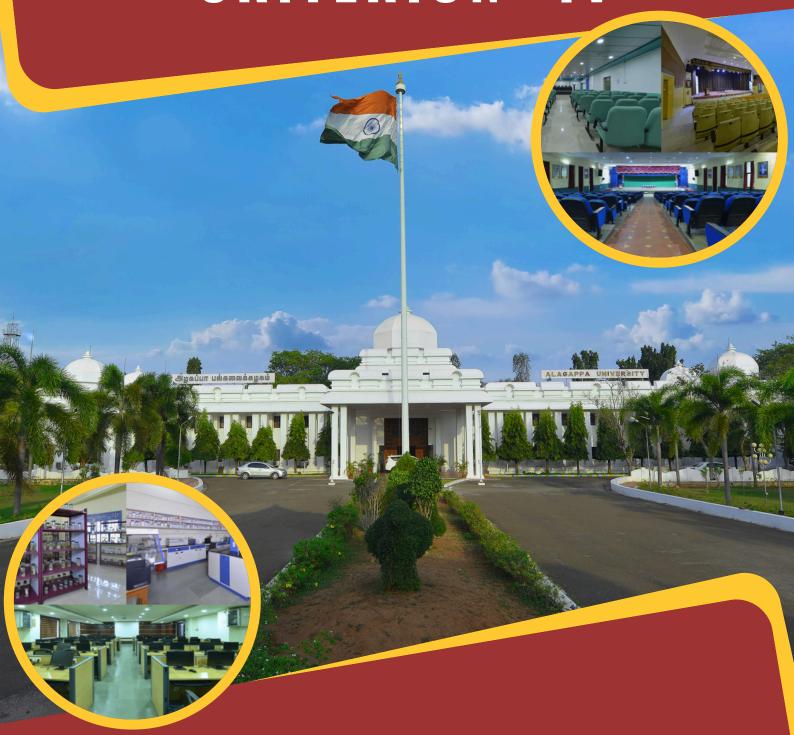
A State University Accredited with A+ Grade by NAAC (CGPA: 3.64) in the Third Cycle

KARAIKUDI – 630 003, Tamil Nadu, India

CRITERION -IV

INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEARNING RESOURCES

4.2 Library as a Learning Resource

4.2.1. Library is automated with digital facilities using Integrated Library Management System (ILMS), adequate subscription to e-resources and journals are made. The library is optimally used by the faculty and students

The Central Library of Alagappa University, founded in 1987, stands as the bedrock of academic resources, offering a comprehensive range of facilities and services. Housing a vast collection of 1,23,533 printed books and 1408 electronic books, the Library also subscribes to 101 print journals, both national and international. Furthermore, it provides access to over 10,000 e-journals, 1,99,500 e-books, and 6,00,000 NDL e-books through the e-ShodhSindhu Consortia.

The Library has received a grant of Rs. 16.65 lakhs from the UGC, for the digitization of theses and the establishment of an Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Lab. Currently, 2345 full-text theses have been uploaded, and 1000 printed theses (amounting to 3,50,000 pages) have been digitized. The remaining funds have been allocated towards the establishment of the ETD Lab, which includes servers, computers, printers, digital cameras, laptops, and other necessary equipment.

To ensure the quality of research, the Library employs the Drillbit – Plagiarism Detection Software provided by UGC-INFLIBNET for checking the similarity level of theses. Additionally, the library has subscribed to iThenticate, a high-quality plagiarism detection software to check the similarity level of research articles and theses.

The Library's operations are fully automated through the use of Koha Open-Source Software, an Integrated Library Management System. RFID tags have been pasted in books and theses, allowing users to borrow materials through self-checkout kiosks seamlessly.

The Library provides various user assistance services, including Information Kiosks, Help Desks, and Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) terminals. A Drop Box Kiosk is available for convenient book returns, and an Electronic Surveillance System ensures proper book checkout procedures. The Library has a spacious reading hall, three-tier stack rooms, a conference hall, a discussion room, an internet center, and other facilities for users' convenience.

In addition to the Central Library, Alagappa University has four Faculty Libraries (Science, Arts, Education, and Management) and a Public Library (AU-CB), all of which offer similar facilities and services. The ambience of the Central Library and its Faculty counterparts is conducive for readers, with spacious, air-conditioned reading halls and a blend of traditional and modern furnishings. The Library's collections are kept up-to-date and forward-looking to meet the needs of users.

Online Journal Access area provides users with access to the internet facility provided by National Knowledge Network (NKN) infrastructure, with 1 Gbps connectivity and 8 Mbps connectivity within the University. The Library has forty personal computers for accessing INFLIBNET - e-Shodh Sindu resources.

Alagappa University is a member of the e-Shodh Sindu Digital Library Consortium under the UGC INFLIBNET Centre, providing access to various e-resources from different publishers and the University regularly subscribes to Emerald e-journal collections.

The Central Library is a member of INFED (INFLIBNET Access Management Federation), allowing seamless access to e-resources for staff and students from anywhere, at any time. The Library is also an institutional member of DELNET, facilitating access to books and articles for research and reference purposes.

To further support learning, the Central Library has various open educational resources, such as DOAJ, e-PGPathshala, MIT OpenCourseWare, NPTEL, OER Commons, Open Textbook Library, OpenDOAR, Shodhganga, and Vidya-mitra, to all users as add-on facilities.

The introduction of the MyLOFT mobile App has enabled students, research scholars, and faculty members to access subscribed e-resources and open access resources conveniently. MyLOFT serves as a personal library, allowing users to include and categorize contents according to their preferences.