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DU library in poor health

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The Dhaka University library has a very small collection of useful books, journals and periodicals compared to the students' needs.

Most of the students who use the library say they do not get the required books and journals. Although the DU authorities claim that the library is the biggest in the country with more than five lakh collections, students say the shelves are filled up with age-old books and other materials which have no relevance now and are useless.

Sources in the library say poor management and maintenance, non-return of books by the users and lack of funds for purchasing new books created

the present situation. The few current collections are now with the teachers, they said.

Once a teacher takes a book, he keeps it for years together. Sometimes they take books for their wards and relatives, a source said.

In the rare section of the library, there are some irrelevant and age-old annual reports of the United Nations and its agencies and some books on the United States, gifted by the USIS when its library was shifted from the Jiban Bima Bhaban, one student claimed.

Only teachers and researchers of the university have access to the rare section where there are some current books and journals. Books and

journals are often lost from the library, mainly from the rare section, it was also alleged.

International journals and periodicals are available to the students only when they are sent to the journal section after four or five years of entry into the university.

The reference section of the university is in a very deplorable condition with no supply of current reading materials. Even the latest edition of the most common SHIPRI Year Book or Europa Year Book are not available there.

Talking to the Daily Star, the librarian said the budget for the library is not enough to meet the increasing demand of

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students.

The budget has not been increased from Tk 72 lakh in last ten years. Of this amount, we spend Tk 50 lakh for buying journals, and the rest for buying new books, he said.