# Chapter 12
# Role of Academic Libraries in the Accreditation Process:
## A Case of Library Science and Engineering Education in India

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## ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this chapter is to analyze the policies and procedures needed for the accreditation of academic institutions by various agencies. In the case of India, a number of accreditation bodies visit academic institutions to accredit the programs and to analyze various facets to assure that standard policies and procedures are in place. The policies and procedures adopted by various accreditation bodies such as AICTE, UGC, NAAC, ABET, etc. recognize the courses offered by the institutions, whereas agencies like Times Higher Education, QS Ranking, NIRF (India) are playing a key role in the ranking of the institutions. Libraries are always one of the important criteria for accreditation as well as ranking. The purpose is to identify the key expectations from these bodies for library science education and libraries in terms of collection, services, and other important aspects which help to achieve an institution's success.*

# INTRODUCTION

Educational institutions play an essential role in the development of society. The institutes support global development strategies with necessary highly qualified manpower and research. The success of the educational institute in achieving this role necessitates for them to have a strategic plan supported by a mechanism for monitoring, controlling and adjusting it (Al-Turki & Duffuaa, 2003; Reeder, 1942). The importance of education cannot be ensured unless the quality is maintained. Institutions run the various program at various levels. The performance measurement is strongly related to developing a set of objectives that helps in the successful implementation of the strategic plan. The performance measurement helps in monitoring the strategic plan and achieving the goals of the institution. Many literature discusses the strategic plan and developing performance measurement strategies (Jalaliyoon & Taherdoost, 2012; Shawyun, 2010). One such organization is the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). It was inducted in the year 2000 which aimed to establish a criterion that emphasizes the integrated strategies approach for evaluating engineering schools (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, 1998). The accreditation process helps in ensuring that the academic programs meet a certain level of minimum quality standards. Accreditation is "the process whereby an organization or agency recognizes a college, or university, or program of study as having met certain predetermined qualifications or standards" (Selden, 1960). In Accreditation processes, the institution conducts a "self-study and evaluation" guided by a set of standards. Further, those self-studies are evaluated by a set of experts, peers to adjudge that the programs meet a certain level of minimum standards (Bangert and Gratch, 1995).

During the accreditation process, the agencies visit the institution and verify the self-study reports and evaluate it with a set of standard guidelines. Along with the other infrastructure and activities, agencies also look for how strong is the library in terms of collection, resources, and services. To standardize policies and procedures the Association of College Research Libraries (ACRL) and the American Library Association (ALA) framed some guidelines for the strengthening libraries. Similarly, the accreditation agencies also provide a set of standard parameters where the libraries have met those guidelines. These parameters generally include collection, library space, services, automation, staff, etc. Each of these parameters includes some minimum marks.

Governing these guidelines, libraries need to set their policies and procedure to meet the minimum standards. Each agency has its own set of parameters. The librarians have to understand those parameters and orient themselves so that they can contribute towards meeting the accreditation process of the Institution. This chapter is intended to analyze the policies and procedures of various accreditation

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