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PRINT: ISSN 0976-6634 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6764

J Sociology Soc Anth, 13(1-2): 37-46 (2022)

DOI: 10.31901/24566764.2022/13.1-2.378

## **Alternative Library Models Suitable For Rural Communities in South Africa: Services of Various Library Types**

**N. P. Mahwasane**

*Department of Library and Information Services, University of Venda, South Africa  
E-mail: [Nkhangweni.mahwasane@univen.ac.za](mailto:Nkhangweni.mahwasane@univen.ac.za)*

**KEYWORDS** Documentation. Information Needs. Information Services. Rural Library. Extension Services

**ABSTRACT** Libraries are essential elements for the provision of both wanted and needed information in order to enable people as a whole to succeed in life. As a result, it is of paramount importance that even though most of the people in the rural areas are not literate, and they are oral based, communities in the rural areas should have suitable libraries that will be able to address their needs. This study investigates the alternative library models suitable for rural communities in South Africa. The study employed literature review methodology along with narrative and integrative approach. Significant literature existing on different community library and information services in the rural communities they provide to meet the needs of people in the rural communities were consulted. The aim of this conceptual paper is to highlight the various alternative libraries that are suitable to meet the information need of people living in rural areas. Based on the literature review, this study brings to light different types of libraries and information services that can assist in closing the information need gap of rural people. The study recommends that suitable libraries and information services that will be able to provide relevant information to meet the information needs of the rural people who cannot read and write should be made available in rural communities.