

A STUDY ON AREAS OF ICT IN LIBRARIES AND THE CHALLENGES OF LIS PROFESSIONALS IN M.Ed COLLEGES OF GULBARGA

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Abstract :

A study has been made to determine the current status of Libraries and the problems faced by the LIS professionals of M.Ed colleges of Gulbarga. M.Ed Colleges (Master of Education) it is one of the major land marks in providing higher studies in the field of Education, the output of the colleges are the teachers and the administrative personnel who take the responsibility of the schools and colleges in various ways. The M.Ed colleges having good infrastructure facility like Building, Computers, Internet facility but the lack of interest towards adopting ICT in the libraries are clearly shown by the present study, The staff working in the library is having adequate computer knowledge and the Library & Information Science education, the study also shows the areas which ICT can be used for providing better services to the user community of M.Ed Colleges.

KEYWORDS :

LIS IN M.Ed COLLEGE, ICT IN M.Ed COLLEGE, GULBARGA M.Ed COLLEGES.

INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is one of the important buzzwords of today's ICT world. It has changed the society into information society and our way of life. It has penetrated in everywhere and its makes our life comfortable and easy. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a product of information age and technology. It has been regarded as a vehicle for future development, opportunities, challenges and competition that enables information to be collected and used. In this history of human civilization, no scientific discoveries had as comprehensive impact as ICT has. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is convergence of computers and communication technology which makes processing, storage, and its retrieval very faster instant and effective.

1. CONSEQUENCES OF ICT

ICT is playing a pivotal role for the emergence of information explosion theme. This information explosion leads to the problem of bibliographical control, which is the major and one of the biggest problem in front of all the library and information professionals. Their job is becoming more complex and tougher day by day. ICT is a very wide term and most specific and accurate example of ICT is Internet and this is a collection of millions and millions of documents but the problem is that all the documents are in scattered or unorganized form and information contained by many of them has not any durability or permanent significance. Many times Internet leads us to the misleading information or information pollution,



e.g. If someone is looking for “apple” fruit, the result output will show information on apple (earlier computer's name) with apple fruit and will give millions of records, which leads us to wastage of precious time. In this case one should not get the exact information and Internet can take his/her far away from the needed information. At this juncture, being a library and information professional this is our responsibility to manage all the scattered information in such a way that it will fulfill the diversified needs of information society. Information management is key element to catch up the 'mantra' of knowledge management. The motive of information management is 'right information to the right user at right time'. Therefore, in this digital world of information we need some tools to manage the digital information with systematic order. Here, for managing important information on the terms of durability and permanency we have the concept of “digital Library”.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Gulbarga district is the division centre of the Hyderabad Karnataka region which consists of five other districts i.e. Bidar, Raichur, Yadgir, Koppal and Bellary of Karnataka state. Gulbarga district have many colleges for professional and traditional courses it also have one academic University called Gulbarga University. For the present study M.Ed(Master of Education) colleges affiliated to Gulbarga University, Gulbarga were chosen, and for the literature review many researches have done previously i.e. Praveen Kumbar, ICT skills of library professionals of Gulbarga, Kumbar Goduar, & Mamta Maitri, Developments in ICT: Training need of the Library professionals [2011] and S Parmeshwar & Dr D B Patil, Use of internet by the faculty and research scholars of Gulbarga[2009] apart from this the various primary and secondary sources like surveys, journal article, dissertation, theses related to the topic has been studied.



POPULATION STUDY:

For the present study the M Ed (Master of Education) colleges of Gulbarga City has been chosen i.e. Al Badar M Ed College, Deccan M Ed College, Taj M Ed College, Sri Murugarajendra M Ed College and National M Ed College Gulbarga.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- 1.To assess the use of ICT in Libraries.
- 2.To identify and analyze the specific factor for promoted or hindered the Use of ICT in Libraries.
- 3.To assess to what to extent user were satisfied with the ICT based resources and services of Library.
- 4.To suggest measure of improvement of ICT based resources & services of Library.
- 5.To find out the current status of the Libraries.
- 6.To find out the areas and the usefulness of ICT in Libraries.

AREAS OF APPLICATIONS:

The application of computer in libraries can be grouped into two main groups:

- (i) Information retrieval operations.
- (ii) House-keeping routines.

(i) Information retrieval operations

Information retrieval is concerned with meeting the information/specific requirements of the users, where and when it is required by authors, subject etc. Besides using large library catalogues (in machine readable form) for this purpose, enormous number of data bases have been developed over the last 10 years in diverse disciplines. Such data bases are being used not only for exchange of bibliographic data (e.g. through tapes in MARC format) but also for conducting on-line searches for specific queries.

(ii) House-keeping application include aspects of serial control, circulation control, Cataloging, ordering and acquisition and collection of management statistics. Now, we have systems such as Automatic Library system, which provide sophisticated on-line circulation control. Computerization of house-keeping routines have been in existence during the last two decades however, integrated systems capable of handling different subsystems such as acquisition, cataloging, circulation control etc. In the extent of sophistication of such systems during the last few years can be best described by OCLC as an example. Database contain the same type of bibliographic and statistical information that librarians and information scientists previously accessed with the aim of printed directories, listing, indexes and bibliographies. The computer based information retrieval is more convenient and provides more flexibility and comprehensive retrieval than a manual system.

ICT makes Library Housekeeping functions easier & quick in many ways...



1. Online public access catalogue
2. Circulation
3. Acquisition
4. Serial control

1. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

The problem being faced by the users in locating the document was the first to be targeted in the library automation. As a result the work first started in this direction. There was one more reason for this and that was the availability of CDS/ISIS software which had the facility of catalogue only. It was in contrast of the libraries where the work first started on providing information services like CD-ROM search. Even today this area of automation has more activity than any other area. It has now graduated to Web-OPAC (web based online public access catalogues) where university libraries have made their databases available on their websites. This has eliminated the need of installation of search software on the user's terminal. One potential which remains unutilized is the use of search data for research purpose as the search history can provide very useful tools for the librarians to formulate their collection development plans.

2. Circulation

Circulation is one of the main activities of a library. The next area which was taken up was the circulation. In some of the libraries the number of books issued/returned may be more than one thousand per day. We at IIT Roorkee (formerly University of Roorkee) have experience of issuing 1500 books in six working hours. Sometimes there used to be a queue of more than 100 students, since the free hours for all students used to be the same, before automated circulation started. Use of barcodes had made the life very simple due to added accuracy and speed. Besides speeding up the issue/return, printing reports, sending reminders also become very easy. Circulation data also provides a very important insight into the book use pattern. Librarians should try to use this data for research and development purpose.

3. Acquisition

Use of computers in acquisition remains a low priority area. Not many libraries are using computers in acquisition. One reason may be the continuously reducing budget for purchase of books. But this area needs to be strengthened. Computerization at the stage can help not only in order processing but also can be a very effective tool in budget control. You can allocate funds to different departments based on a set formula, can send department heads about non availability of funds, can control over ordering and also utilize the data entered at this stage for technical processing and OPAC.

4. Serial Control

Idiosyncrasies involved in serial control affects the use of computers in serial control and hence the area is not very well represented Library Automation in Academic Libraries in India: Problems and Prospects at automation scenario. One more reason is the unsuitability of serial control modules available in most of the library Management Softwares. The procedures developed by these softwares are so cumbersome that sometimes it looks easier to use normal method rather than automation. However, this area provides very good stage for use of computers as it can help tracking the missing issues very efficiently and provide the current awareness services and even the SDI services besides budget control.

USE & ADVANTAGES OF ICT IN LIBRARIES

Information Technology can be used in Libraries and Information Centers for the development of new information services and computerized library services. ICT is useful in a great extend. It is useful for:-

Improving productivity and efficiency of library services effectively (i.e. acquisition, technical, processing, circulation etc.);
Provision of quality information (e.g. CAS, SDI etc.)
Saving the space using the electronic storage (e.g. CDs and CDROMs) and faster accessing of Information;
Provision of the extensive information and maintenance; and
Improve the cooperation in sharing of resources (e.g. shared acquisition, shared cataloguing etc)

RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS:

Sl no	Name of the College	Courses Offered	Whether Full time Librarian is Appointed?	Qualifications
1	Al Badar M Ed College	M Ed	Yes	MLISc.
2	Deccan M Ed College	M Ed	Yes	MLISc.NET.
3	Muhammadi M.Ed College	M Ed	Yes	MLISc.
4	National M Ed College	M Ed	Yes	MLISc.
5	Sri Murugarajendra M Ed College	M Ed	Yes	MA.,MLISc
6	Taj M Ed College	M Ed	Yes	MLISc.

Table no. 1

Sl no	Name of the College	Separate Hall/Building for Library	Avalability of Computer & Other Equiepmens	Status of Library Automation	Name of the Library Software
1	Al Badar M Ed College	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil
2	Deccan M Ed College	Yes	Yes	Automated circulation	Lib Easy
3	Muhammadi M Ed College	Yes	Yes	Under process	Nil
4	National M Ed College	Yes	Yes	Under Process	Nil
5	Sri Murugarajendra M Ed College	Yes	Yes	Manual	Nil
6	Taj M Ed College	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil

Table no. 2

Librarians who can effectively manage to computerized their library and information activities seem that they have not properly adopted Information Technology. There is negligible application of Information Technology (ICT) in most of the Libraries. Without proper infrastructure and well- trained staffs, application of ICT in the libraries is impossible. The most important aspect in this regard is financial resource from the concerned authorities.

All the college of present study has the separate space for the Library with computers and internet facility and also had the full time LIS professionals. Very few colleges are working towards the library automation many of the LIS professionals are habitual by doing the manual work for housekeeping functions and not shown their interest for adopting the ICT in there Library.

The major Challenges for adoption of Information Technology are lies on the following factors:-

- Attitude and interest of Library authority/Staff.
- Availability of enough knowledge of ICT trained professional in libraries.
- Adequate funding from the concern authorities.
- Evolving a policy on library automation.
- Lack of awareness of ICT in Library professionals.
- Lack of collection and journals for circulating through automation.
- Lack of adequate equipments
- Inadequate support from the trained ICT personals.

11. SUGGESSION

The information Communication Technologies (ICT) has the revolutionary potential to make the flow of information across the space possible. ICT can be used in libraries and information centers 'To save the time of the users'. The library authority (i.e. librarians and staffs) should aware of the ICT. The following suggestions appear to be appropriate in terms of ICT application in Libraries:

- Library professionals need to accept the changes with the latest developments of IT Application in libraries.
- The library authority without any discrimination and delay should accept the adoption of ICT in their library.

3. Special fund provision should be made in the annual budget for ICT and utilized properly.
4. Internet facility should be made available in the Special Libraries so as to provide access to information for the users.
5. Special fund may be provided for development of subject oriented information centers.
6. The Government should formulate Information Technology policy for the State in which application of ICT in libraries should have specific emphasis.
7. Library professionals should be given the professional freedom to work independently.
8. The Learned Societies/Associations should come forward for active co-operation for development of libraries.

12. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion we can conclude that the introduction of Information Technology would certainly offer the solution to many problems faced by the Libraries. It would improved library services and enhances the productivity and efficiency of library staff. Application of ICT in Libraries is totally neglected and the primary reason for this is the inadequate provision of funds and lack of right attitude towards library development. The libraries have neither IT trained manpower nor the authorities are interested to make them trained. The application of ICT in the libraries depends on many factors like management supports, adequate financial resources, staff-cooperation etc. and also lack of adequate training facilities and absence of ICT education in the State for the library professionals is one of the reasons that reflects non use of ICT application in libraries.

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