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LIBRARIANS AWARENESS TOWARDS INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) TOOLS AMONG COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO SANT GADGE BABA AMRAVATI UNIVERSITY, AMRAVATI. (MS)

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Abstract :

India being developing country, is deploying Digital Technology in every possible field such as Information Technology, e-governance, e-banking, e-franking, e-sat services, e-tendering, but simultaneously it is facing shortage of trained personnel for making proper utilisation of all such facilities. Similarly in the field of Libraries, few are pro-active ICT Libraries but major are struggling to switch on to ICT but due to under trained personnel could not cater their services to students, teaching staff as well smart users in almost all College Libraries. This research paper is related with analysing knowledge levels of Librarians about ICT, colleges affiliated to Sant Gadage Baba Amravati University, Amravati which they are expected extend to prospective users, students and teaching staff of the Institution.

KEYWORDS :

Information Communication Technology (ICT), Librarians awareness, Maharashtra state.

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to deployment of ICT techniques, libraries are becoming pro-readers day by day. Libraries are offering state of art facilities to all its users to fetch latest information about every possible aspect, you are asking for, making almost all services faster, briefer in maximum possible time crunch. ICT are diverse set of technological tools that are used to communicate, create, disseminate, store and manage information directly related with the Institution.

On one side U.G.C. are offering sufficient grants for digitalization of Libraries as well as Information Management of all financial, educational and other transactions related with the educational Institution. But even today many private Institutions have insufficient resources, management and modernization of such Libraries

RELATED REVIEWS:

Dhanavandan (2008)4 had made an attempt to identify usage of Information Communication Tool among the library professionals in Tamil Nadu. Nearly 175 questionnaires were distributed among the library professionals in Tamil Nadu. Nearly 170 responses (97%) were received. It is found that all the respondents are using in one-way or the other various types of ICT Media tools.

Atulomah (2010)3 discusses a pilot study to gather information about the attitudes and knowledge of academic librarians in Southwest Nigeria concerning Library 2.0. The benefits   and barriers to installing information and communication technologies (ICT) in Nigerian university libraries are discussed. Demographic and attitudinal variables of the respondents are noted. Recommendations include the Nigerian Library Association's continuing efforts to gain global recognition, mentoring and training of young librarians by senior librarians, and solving the country's energy problem so ICT infra-structure can be developed.

Sachin D. Sakarkar(2013)9 find out the attitude of librarians. Trainings play a crucial role in creating an ideal atmosphere for ICT orientation of Librarians to evolve their attitudes favoring ICT amenities. This would certainly reduce the fear of Digital Divide amongst society and librarian could become an ideal guide to all expectant readers to avail broad

spectrum of knowledge available at an affordable time. The ICT implementation is very much safe and progressive to the society under the guidance of a well-trained and positive librarian.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To find out professional awareness of librarians towards Information Communication Technology applications.
2. To study the attitudes of librarians towards the use of information Communication Technology.
3. To analyze respondents perception towards the appropriateness of the different ICT media.
4. To find and examine the use pattern of information and communication tools by the respondents in the professional process.

METHODOLOGY:

Assuming the nature of the research and to know the facts about the attitude of librarians towards implication of ICT in their business environment the researcher has selected a descriptive survey method. As a data collection tool, the questionnaires are distributed to the respondents. The questionnaires are sent to ninety two respondents. However, sixty one respondents have given their opinions which are taken into consideration for the present study.

Population and Sample:

The study targeted libraries in colleges affiliated in SGB Amravati University, Amravati. A short structured questionnaire was filed up by the researcher through librarians in various institutions in SGB Amravati University, Amravati.

Table No.1 Sample Selection:

Sr. No.	Regions in SGB Amravati University, Amravati	Number of Librarians surveyed	Number of Librarians Males	Number of Librarians Females	Educational Qualification of Male Librarians		Educational Qualification of Female Librarians	
					PG	Ph.D	PG	Ph.D
1	Amravati	17	13	04	11	2	02	02
2	Akola	13	09	04	8	1	03	01
3	Buldhana	12	08	04	07	1	04	0
4	Washim	08	06	02	06	0	02	0
5	Yavatmal	11	08	03	07	01	03	0
	Total	**61**	**44**	**17**	**39**	**5**	**14**	**3**

The table no.1 depicts that the total respondents are 61, amongst them 44 are males and 17 are females. The male librarians having PhD are 5 and females are 3 as well as 39 and 14 males and females librarians are post graduate respectively.

Table No.2   Age wise distribution of sample

Sr. No.	Age	Male Librarians	Female Librarians	Total Responses	% of Respondents
01	Under 30	04	04	08	13.11
02	31-40	20	07	27	44.26
03	41-50	15	04	19	31.14
04	51-60	05	02	07	11.43

It is evident from the adjacent table no 2 that, number of respondents in group 4, is meager to the tune of 11.43, while as the number of respondents in group 2 is substantial i.e. 44.26 which is fairly indicative of the facts.

The purpose of this study is to identify general characteristics and patterns that exist with regard to the innovativeness of librarians as it relates to the adoption of ICTs. Specifically, the study addresses the following questions:

How innovative are librarians in relation to their peers in the adoption of information and communication technologies? Do demographic variables affect librarian innovativeness? What implications might the innovativeness of librarians have on the diffusion of innovations within libraries?

This study is driven by the recognition of the key role librarian's play in the diffusion of innovation in the library, and

by the recognition of the increased need to understand their behavior toward new ICTs in their everyday life as a precursor to their role as adopters and disseminators within the library setting.

RESEARCH TOOLS:

The instrument used for the collection of data on this study was a modified Igberia and Chakrabarti (1990)4 Computer Anxiety and Attitude towards Microcomputer Utilization (CAATMU) scale and librarians' attitude questionnaire developed by researcher. This Research tool is in three parts.

Part 1: Demographic variables of the respondents

The items included in this part were respondent's gender, age, highest educational qualification, department/section/division and length of service.

Part 2: ICT Awareness of Librarians

This part contains various items assessing librarian ICT experience and training relating to queries - languages known, library software packages, operating systems, knowledge of computerization, network facility, use of databases, collection, computerized activity areas, different facilities, constraints faced by librarians, participation in design and implementation of ICT, and method of acquiring ICT experience.

Table No.3 . Knowledge about ICT

Sr. No	Statement	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	Have you completed computer course?	53	86.89	8	13.11	61
02	Is computer facility available in your library?	49	80.33	12	19.67	61
03	Computer has impact on better utilization of the library?	58	95.08	03	4.92	61
04	Do you think computer will reduce the work load of librarian?	48	78.69	13	21.31	61
05	Do you feel computer has good impact on introducing new library services?	60	98.36	01	1.64	61
06	Do you think that the use of computers improve the efficiency of librarian?	58	95.08	03	4.92	61
07	Do you think that the use of computers improve the accuracy of the librarian?	48	78.69	13	21.31	61

Table no.3 shows that, most of Libraries are leading in effective utilization of ICT techniques through the use of high speed Internet and Computer peripherals. Librarians feel that Computer could prove itself to be key resource of Library, but simultaneously they also feel that Computers can not reduce the work load, as the prospective users are becoming more and more tech savvy, while on the other hand greed about information is also growing day by day, which could be coped with high speed internet connections. So the question of reducing work load with Computers does not arise.

Regarding computerized activities and operations librarians feedback is,

a. Acquisition-26, b.Cataloguing services-36, c. circulation-30,d. Literature Search-19
e. Serial control-16, f. Offline and online services- 18, g. SDI services-14, h. CAS services-13,
i. Indexing services-12, j. Networking-19, j. Information storage and retrieval-17
Any other- ILL, Bibliography.

The facilities available in libraries are-

a.Telephone- 38, b. Fax-12,   c. Homepage of Institution- 17, d. Photocopying-39,

e. Any other- Linguistic conversion machine

        According to librarians the Advantages of Computers are as follows; 1.Online Catalogue, 2.Resourse Sharing, 3.Easy online and subscription,   4. Service in Minimum Time, 6. Good reference service and other Information, 7. Optimization of service of library staff, 8. Avoid repetition 9. save files computerized record.   10. Computerized record. 11.Easy Journal report, 12. Information and Dissemination, 13 Accountancy work, 14. Computer can give reliable information, 15. E-journal-books, 16.Save space problem and storage. 17 Save the time of reader.

Table No.4. Databases

Sr. No	Statements	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	Do you have in-house database?	29	47.54	32	52.46	61
02	Do you have CD ROM database?	30	49.18	31	50.82	61

Above table no. 4. depicts that 50% of Librarians are unaware about the use of database availability

Table No.5. Information Literacy

Sr. No	Statements	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	Do you have Information literacy program in your institution?	32	52.46	29	47.54	61
02	Have you attended any computer literacy programme related to library?	34	55.74	27	44.26	61

    Above table no. 5. Shows that, Information Literacy is such a program designed to make library readers oriented, but Librarians have limitations due to insufficient updation training to cater efficient services to match the expectations of readers.

Table No.6. ICT training

Sr. No	Statements	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	Did you attend any training on library automation?	35	57.38	26	42.62	61
02	Would you like to attend such training?	45	73.77	16	26.23	61
03	Do you help such students who are not aware of ICT??	43	70.49	18	29.51	61

    Table no. 6. depicts that, ICT techniques are constantly undergoing updations, which deserved proper timely training sessions for Librarians. Thus though most of Librarians being ill trained about Computers have opted lead role in Library Automation drives, because may be Librarians would be deploying professional services for relevant automation.

Table No.7. CONSORTIA and e-journals

Sr. No	Statements	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	Do you participate through CONSORTIA for accessing full text.	18	29.51	43	70.49	61
02	Do you subscribe e-journals or N-list in the library?	21	34.43	40	65.57	61
03	Are you willing to subscribe online journals if made available?	29	47.54	32	52.46	61

    Table no. 7. reveal that, In present study Maximum Librarians normally are coming from Arts, Commerce, Science disciplines, hence they might be unaware about Consortia, e-Journals, but since such services will have more demand in near future, Librarians are bound to seek proper knowledge and training regarding such fields.

Table No.8. Library software

Sr. No	Statements	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	Do you use automation software in your library?	49	80.33	12	19.67	61
02	Have you developed any other software at your level?	3	4.92	58	95.08	61

Above table no.8 shows that, about 85% Libraries have Automation Software, but many libraries are awaiting for their modernisation and development to suit time's demand.

While asking which of the automation software use in the library feedback are,

a. e-Granthalaya - 03,   B. LIBSYS-02 , C. SLIM- 05, D. SOUL-19,
b.Any other- ADMIN, LIBSOFT,LIBMAN, Lab manager, CDS/ISIS
c.Table No.9. Existence and Problems about ICT

Sr. No	Statements	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	Are libraries losing their identity due to unawareness of ICT?	35	57.38	26	42.62	61

From table no.9. More than 42 % librarians agreed that, Yes librarians are losing their identity, according to them the reasons are,

 1. As users are demanding computer based information.   2. Cause of Mismanagement, 3.Because unawareness of ICT among Librarians 4. Lack of technical staff.
While more than 57 % librarians are not agreeing about losing their identity, they gave the following reasons, Librarians admit that Libraries would have its own identity in future, reasoning for such statement-

1.The importance of printed material is still there, 2. Online information has many limitations none get all information online, so library is necessary.

Table No.10. Library Identity

Sr. No	Statements	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	If all the materials and information required in study and teaching are available online,do you think that the existence of libraries is necessary?	41	67.21	20	32.79	61

Table no.10 shows that, most of librarians feel that Libraries are in trouble due to ICT. What are the reasons for the same?

Reasons pointed out by the librarians are,

1.Users need the study materials
2.Materials are ready but a user doesn't know how to use it.
3.To direct the right path and guidance to the users of the online environment library play an important role.
4.Because of the advancement of traditional library.
5.Libraries play an important role in our life. How to get information users don't know.
6.Machines cannot replace human beings.

7.Because library is a place where all information can be accessed easily and wel organized

10Managing and maintaining information resources is not possible without library.

11Whole updated and required information is not available online

12Anytime data of computers can be lost

13Load shedding problems are also there.

14Vast information is available on internet, but libraries can give pinpointed information.

15Even though study and teaching are available online then also people accept services from libraries. Librarians have to become information manager

16Library and hard copies of reading material is very important.

17Materials may ready ,but users doesn't know how to use the related information. Only ICT is not helpful to this regard.

18All the related information is available online ,but what about rural India there is no IT infrastructure, access is important for use and Librarians with philosophy is helpful for this purpose.

19If you don't accept change the change will change you

While more than 32 % librarians feel that, libraries are not losing their identity,

1.Online information cannot replace human being

2.To direct the right path and guidance to users of online environment, librarians do this very well.

3.Online information is a paid information and there is a time limit to access the information

4.Online information has some limitations, none get all information online, Libraries are necessary.

Table No.11. Problems in ICT

Sr. No	Statements	Yes	%	No	%	Total
01	Do you have problem in adoption ICT in your library?	35	57.38	26	42.62	61

Most of Librarians face problems in adopting ICT techniques, due to reasons as under -

Problems;

Sr. No.	Problems faced by the Librarians	No. of Librarian
a	Financial condition	18
b	Non-availability of trained staff	23
c	Fear of adverse impact of employment	05
d	Apprehension that the technology could be too expensive	05
e	Lack of support from the management	20
f	Technical problem	22

CONCLUSION:

The appraisal for deploying ICT techniques is worth and being recognised as first step towards Digitalization. Though most of Librarians are facing difficulties in using ICT techniques for better and speedy information retrieval, still they are committed to promote digitalization as it is going to ease out their work load.

Librarians are well aware that if ever they ignore ICT, it will be going to pose lot many problems in near future. Hence they are committed to promote ICT techniques, they deserve support from Management of the Institution backed with sufficient funding required for digitalization through ICT techniques.

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