



INFORMATION SOURCES AND SERVICES IN THE ACADEMIC LIBRARIES OF OSMANABAD DISTRICT: A STUDY

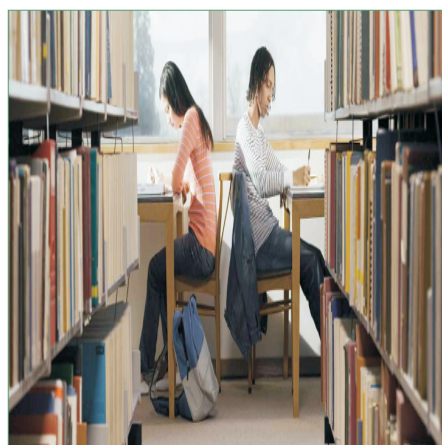
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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the present Information Sources and Services in academic Libraries. The Investigators designed questionnaire and send to the selected College librarians for collecting the required data for the present study. The analysis of the collected data covers the



qualifications, different type of sources and services resources, e-resources availability, status of library automation, problems in automation etc.

KEYWORDS : Information Sources and Services, Academic Libraries.

INTRODUCTION

“Education is the process in which these powers (abilities, capacities) of men which are susceptible to habituation are perfected by good habits by means artistically contrived and employed by a man to help another by good habits OR himself achieve the end in view. Higher education helps to improve our complete living standard and the youth to lead a better life in a society. In other words with the help of college education younger generation can develop their all round personality as to make them an enlighten citizen. Thus the purpose of educational institution like colleges is to discover and bring the best man in a democratic social order through education especially with the advent of IT based education like Internet technology.

Adeleke and Olorunsola (2010) studied ICT and library operations found that ICT facilities were the major constraints facing libraries in the use of tools. Shafi Ullah and Roberts (2010) found that ICT infrastructure is necessary to make provide a research culture in higher education institutions and recommended allocating funds for ICT infrastructure. Etebu (2010) studied ICT availability and found a situation that is not encouraging. Patil (2010) found that users were not trained to use ICT- based products and services and further recommended an ICT training programme to increase the use of ICT products and services.

Prior to 1948 Osmanabad was an integral part of Hyderabad State of which Urdu was the official language and stress was on Persian and Arabic languages English and secondary importance. The development of education actually takes place after 1948. But till today it took lot of time to become a popular aspect due to staunch religious ideas especially of Muslims. Now the things have changed. The realized the importance of education and literacy rate to increasing.

Osmanabad Districts is a developing district. In this area various types of educational institute is imparted like professional, technical and general. Professional education involves colleges of Engineering, Law College, B. Ed., D. Ed., D. Pharm. and B. Lib. & Information Science and library training certificate course is also conducted in Osmanabad. Technical education like ITI, Govt. Polytechnic College is being imparted in the districts.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to explore the Information Sources and Services in the Academic Libraries of Osmanabad District

METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, an effort is made to evolve a suitable methodology for the research. The study will be designed, developed and carried out to determine and analyze the current status and use of ICT application in academic and development libraries of Osmanabad District. Survey method is used to collect the data. A well designed questionnaire is used as principal tool for the Collection of data Apart from questionnaire; interview and observation methods will be adopted for data collection. The scope of the study is limited to the development of library Information communication Technology in academic Colleges in Osmanabad districts.

ANALYSIS OF DATA INTERPRETATIONS

Questionnaires have been provided and collect information from the librarians of the colleges in Osmanabad District. 24 questionnaires were distributed among the College librarians, of Osmanabad district out of which 15 (62.5%) responded. The study was carried out in fifteen college libraries. Sample Distribution of study population is shown in Table 1 revealing total colleges in Osmanabad district and actual colleges covered in the study.

Table 1: sample Distribution of study Population

Sr No	Description	Academic Colleges		
		Available	Covered	Percentage
1	Osmanabad	5	3	60
2	Omerga	6	4	66.66%
3	Lohara	2	1	50
4	Tuljapur	4	3	75
5	Kallam	3	1	33.33 %
6	Bhoom	2	1	50
7	Paranda	1	1	100
8	Vashi	1	1	100
	Total	24	15	62.5%

A total of 24 academic colleges are affiliated to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Osmanabad districts. Out of which 15 academic colleges are covered in the study to determine the problems of ICT application accounting to response of 62.5 %.

QUALIFICATION OF THE LIBRARIAN

A competent and a well qualified staff with IT knowledge is a much in this information oriented society. Regarding the qualification of Librarian, most of the librarians in the college library are not very well qualified and trained staff. The qualification of the librarian of different colleges located in Osmanabad districts were shown in table 3.

Table 2: Qualification of the Librarian N = 15

Sr. No.	Qualification	Number of College	Percentage
1	B.L.I.Sc	2	13.3
2	M.L.I. Sc.	7	46.6
3	M. Phil	5	33.3
4	MLIS ,NET/SET	1	6.7
5	Ph. D	Nil	Nil
	Total	15	100%

About 46.6% of college Librarians are possessing M.L.I.S. qualification while 13.3% are possessing B.L.I.S. qualification. However, only 5% of the college librarians have acquired M. Phil qualification. Possessing Ph D qualification among the college librarians is not found which calls for strengthening higher qualification in order to improve their skills towards better services.

COLLECTION OF THE LIBRARY

Collection of information Resources is the most important work in a library. It is the backbone of library services. Every collection of library should have support to the educational programme and also can give effective strength and recreational requirement to the readers. The following tables 5 show the collection development in different college libraries in Osmanabad districts.

Table 3: Collection of Information Resources N= 15

Information Resources	Frequency & Percentage			
	Up-to 500	501-20,000	20,001–40,000	40,001and above
Books & News Papers	--	3 (20%)	6 (40%)	6 (40%)
Periodical	12 (80%)			
e-Journals	---	8 (53 %)	---	---
No of Records in Databases	----	9 (60%)	4 (26.6%)	2 (13.2%)
Back Volumes of Periodicals	11 (73%)	----	----	----
CDs / DVDs	5 (33.3 %)	--	--	--
Maps/chart/microfilm	--	---	---	---

The present analysis revealed that most of the college libraries have their collection development on books. From above table 5, it is clear that most of the colleges do not collection of Maps & Chart, microfilm and C.D.

STATUS OF ICT FACILITIES IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Information communication Technology infrastructure is usually considered with respect to its main areas, which are hardware, software, telecommunication and human ware. The infrastructure remains the main bottleneck to the development of ICT in libraries. Sufficient infrastructure is very essential for the successful implementation of advanced information services and resources. ICT facilities available in the college libraries in Osmanabad district is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Availability of ICT facilities

ICT Facilities	Respondents	Percentage
Printer	10	66.6
Barcode Unit	03	20
Scanner	06	40
Reprography	13	86.6
Telephone Intercom	14	93.33
College / Library website	04	26.6
Computer with access to internet	12	80
Computer with access to online database	05	53.3
Computer	14	93.3
LCD	05	33.3
Audio / Video Visual Unit	08	53.3
Computer with library software	11	73.3

ICT based resources and services to satisfy the diverse information needs of their users. It is observed from the table 7 that the majority of libraries using computers (93.3%), Computer with access to internet (80%), Computer with library software (73.3%), and less libraries are facilitate the college / library website (26%), LCD (33.3%), Barcode (20%) & Scanner(40.%) etc.

AVAILABILITY OF ICT BASED ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Table 5: Availability of ICT based Electronic Resources

Sr No	Description	Respondents	Percentage
1	E-Books	3	20
2	E-Journals	8	53
3	Full Text Database	2	13.33
4	Bibliographic Database	2	13.33
5	CD-Rom Database	5	33.33
6	E-Learning Resources	2	13.33
7	DVD's	5	33.33
8	Audio/Video Cassette	2	13.33
9	Library Consortium	6	40
10	ETD	0	0

ICT based resources and services to satisfy the diverse information needs of their users. ICT facilities are using in libraries specifically information processing, organizing, storing, searching and retrieving Information Technology environment It is observed from the table 10 That the majority of libraries using computers (96.38%), Computer with access to internet (90.36%), Computer with library Software (72.28%), Computer with access to LAN (66.26%), and less libraries are facilitate the LCD (25.30%), Video conference (36.14%), Barcode & Scanner (36.14%) etc

LIBRARY SERVICES

User is the kingpin of the library. So main purpose of ICT resources is to provide better services and facilities to users Table 6 portrays the provision of various types of ICT based services provided college libraries in Osmanabad districts under study.

Table 6: ICT Based Library Services N= 15

Sr No	ICT Based Services	Number of College	Percentage
1	Database Searching (CDROM and Full text databases)	10	66.6
2	Access to bibliographical databases	--	--
3	On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)	11	73.33
4	Web OPAC	----	-----
5	Internet Based Information Resources (Online networking)	14	93.33
6	Photo copying	10	66.66
7	On-line Information Service	13	86.66
8	Scanning of documents & forwarding	08	53.33
9	e-Journals	07	46.66
10	e-Books	02	13.33
11	Audio-Visual Service	06	40

Out of 15 Colleges covered in the study of Osmanabad district. 10 College libraries provide database searching (CD-ROM and Full text databases) service (66.6%, N=10), On line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) (73.33%, N=11), Internet Web Services (93.33 %, N=14), Photo Copying Service (66.66%, N=10), Online Information Service (86.66%, N=13), Scanning of document & forwarding

(53.33%, N=8), e-journals (46.6%, N=7), and audio-visual service (40%, N=6) , None of the libraries has providing Access to bibliographical databases and Web OPAC service to the users.

CONCLUSION

College Libraries occupy important role in building the institution image in meeting the information needs of students and teaching community. In this process, accreditation activity is gaining momentum and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a mission to enhance quality in the colleges and its libraries stress for Internet services, as one of the indicator for college libraries to strengthen and support library resources in the process of e-learning process. To achieve the optimization of Internet facilities and services, college libraries have to establish a Learning Resource Centre – Computing Internet lab for the benefit of students and teaching community to access various electronic resources. In this connection, it is proposed to have Internet Learning Resource Centre for the college libraries and provide user sensitization programmes to the users regularly to provide hands on experience to know about techniques of using Internet, its search engines and NLIST resources. In order to render the e-services to the users, State-of-the-Art ICT facilities with sound campus network is must, without which, academic computing e-services cannot be performed.

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