"Status, Problem And Prospects Of Library Automation In Engineering Colleges Of Jabalpur City: A Study"

Ashutosh Upadhyay[1], B. Varsha Pandey[2] , C. B.P.Shrivastava[3]

Abstract:

The study presents the status of automation in Engineering College libraries and information centers of Jabalpur city in Madhya Pradesh. The uses of Information and communication Technology (ICT) facilitate easy & immediate access to Information. During the process of Automation understanding and analyzing the various problems faced by the Management and the staff. The methodology adopted for the present study is survey using a structured questionnaire. It was observed that 52.63% of the Engineering College libraries were not automated for reason such as, Lack of computer facilities, Inadequate finance, Lack of trained Manpower; Management is not interested in library automation, collection from library is very less, tentativeness and lack of attitude towards automation and unsatisfactory library software problems are the major hindrances to speedy automation. Only` 47.37% of Engineering College libraries are using automation to show that the libraries must be updated on the current scenario and the other libraries will follow these updates. This study also gives a status view of the software packages used by different engineering college libraries & the opinion of the librarians & library staff about the performance of software they use.

I. INTRODUCTION

Library is the heart of any institution. It is soul of any learning institution, which is pivot of teaching-learning process. College library plays an important role in providing overall library and information services to the patrons. We have just entered in new millennium and we have a lot of challenges before us for keeping in pace with modern development in information technology which have brought information explosion and information revolutiont.[1]

Computer is used in libraries to increase efficiency and effectiveness of their operation and services; they have also provided information management for taking effective decisions. Development and use of information and communication technology (ICT) enables the libraries not only to offer their clientele the appropriate information available within their Libraries but also gain access to catalogue of other libraries, both local and outstations.[2]

Automation of libraries has helped the libraries to keep pace with the latest Development .This has also facilitated accuracy, flexibility and reliability in the library and information centre. Automation of libraries reduces the repetitive work and save time and bring accuracy and speed. It also increases efficiency in technical processing of library materials and improve the efficiency of library administration and manager. [3]

II. ROLE OF LIBRARY IN ENGINEERING COLLEGES

The library is regarded as the 'nerve centre of know-ledge', the centre of intellectual life and the heart and soul of the academic institution. This means that discoveries are actually made in the library and subsequently tested in the laboratory. It occupies an important place in the modern education system and maintains the Expensive educational resources of the academic institutions. It is the responsibility of the staff of engineering and technical libraries to provide right information at the right time to right user to save the time of the user. The libraries are primarily responsible for the selection and collection of material appropriate for libraries, preservation and organization of the collection and dissemination of the material or the information, which it contains. Libraries as centre of learning are playing an important role in sustaining and satisfying the information requirements of parent institutions. For the efficient, effective and scientific development of information resources and services, the libraries need to be designed and developed systematically based on the inputs from studies on existing resources and services, and the studies on users of engineering college libraries.[4]

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

- To find out the present status of computerization in engineering college libraries located in Jabalpur city.
- To study the problems & prospects in library automation in engineering colleges.
- To find out areas to be covered in library automation.
- To find out the computerization services offered in these libraries.

- To know about the software used in the library?
- To distinguish between traditional and automation of librarianship.
- To find out staff available to carry out library automation'
- To find out the barriers to automation faced by libraries.
- To know the effect of automation in user services.
- To evaluate the need of manpower training for implementation of library Automation.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
The survey research method has been adopted for this study.

V. DELIMITATION
The present research is confined to engineering colleges of Jabalpur city only. The study covers government & private engineering colleges both.

VI. FINDINGS
- It was seen that only 10.53% (2) Engineering College libraries were fully automated, whereas 36.84 % (7) were partially automated, and 52.63 % (10) were not automated.
- In 19 Engineering college libraries, it was found that 57.89 %(11) of librarians had Master degree in library & Information science. Where as 42.11 % (8) had Post graduate Diploma in computer Application with M.Lib.Isc.
- It shows that out of 19 college libraries only 5.26 % (01) has highest no. of reading materials and 15.78% (03) has lowest no. of reading materials.
- Majority of the Engineering college libraries have Server System , Client/computer work station CD/CDR Drives.77.78%(7) have DVD/DVDR Drives ,Barcode Reader & Laser Printers.66.67%(6) have UPS.33.33% have Barcode Printer & scanner. Only 22.22 %(2) have Dot matrix Printer
- The automated libraries were found to be using Software's which were available in Local Market and were hardly "**Standard**".
- Two popular modules viz; **Circulation & Cataloguing** were in use in all the libraries which were automated.
- All (100%) the libraries were taking recourse to Internet services for access to **INDEST CONSORTIUM** and few 66.67 %(6) were using it for E-Mail & Web browsing.

- All (100%) of the libraries were using **LAN** mode of connection.   Where MAN & WAN were not use in anywhere.
- All (100%) automated libraries were not having grant from any national network.
- It shows that out of 9 institutions only one has membership of INFLIBNET.
- It is seen that majority of the Engineering college libraries (66.67%) offer On-line services, Internet search and On-line database search.
- It shows that all libraries faced Pre automation problems of lack of space as well as less interest of authority to upgrade IT skill of staff. On the other hand, in a few libraries, lack of interest of staff in learning IT applications is the problem.
- It is found that all libraries feel that computerization has increased productivity in terms of work output and information retrieval and helped in extending library services. The libraries have, however, divided opinions about the other prospects of computerization like economy in expenditure, enhanced the prestige of the library and increased user satisfaction.

VII. SUGGESSIONS
- There is a need to computerize all the remaining (52.63%) libraries in future for providing better and efficient services to readers
- Vacant post of technical staff needs to be filled up and new posts should be created as per requirement
- Computerized systems are dynamic rather than static. So it is important in planning for computerization, that hardware and software be selected which is sufficiently flexible to meet both the present and future needs. The hardware chosen must have the capacity to handle growth of the system for at least three to five years. The software chosen must also be flexible enough to accommodate additions and/ or changes to the system as need arises (Johnson, 1989).
- Librarian should conduct a survey of different automated libraries to exchange experiences before selecting software for their library.
- Choice of the library software must be carefully considered with emphasis on the ability to meet particular library needs
- Librarian should evaluate each module before selection of library software, through receiving a demo of the software.
- Vendors should be scrutinized before selection and should be made to sign an agreement on the regular servicing and

maintenance of the software purchased from them.

- There is the need for training and retraining of librarians in the use of information technology. Information literacy is also essential for all librarians who will be living and working in the 21st century.
- Computer training should be provided and made mandatory for all the library staff .This mode of training programme will help the staff to practice and assimilate more .At the same time, it will also allow them to look after day -to-day work.
- IT based LIS education at B.L.I.SC & M.L.I.SC. Level is must.
- Emphasis should be on buying standard library management s/w like LIBSYS, ALICE, SOUL etc. as they are found to be more satisfactory. Also this software allows data entry in standard form like CCF, MARC etc.
- User education program on emerging library technologies may be introduced to the library clientele especially freshmen.
- User education should be provided to make the user aware of the library collection as well as the services. User should also be given training so that he can handle the computerized system independently.
- Systematic utilization and categorization of this budget according to the needs of the library is also very important.
- Librarians should convince administrators at the higher level, in the importance of the use of computers, to develop a level of awareness at the administrators' level sufficient to encourage them to use the computer in libraries and to convince officials that

automation will improve the effectiveness of information services and access to information which they need for decision making.
- The AICTE, in conjunction with the Library Association should periodically organize seminars and workshops to enlighten members of the university community on the imperativeness of library automation

VIII. REFERENCES

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:-

Ashutosh Upadhyay[1] was born in Jabalpur on 11th Aug.1980. He has done M.Phil in Library & Information Science in 2009 He is presently doing PhD. in Library & Information Science from CMJ University, Shillong (Meghalaya), India