Library Automation in First Grade Colleges Affiliated to University of Mysore: A Study

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Abstract - **The present paperprovides the status of library automation of first gradecollege libraries affiliated to University of Mysore. A structured questionnaire was used as the tool to collect basic inputs from college libraries to understand the present status. A total of 160 colleges were taken up for the study in which 135(84.37%)colleges responded,15 first grade college libraries did not have librarians and 10 librarians did not respond.The findings of the study reveal that 60(63.83%)college libraries are using open source software E-Granthalaya and KOHA software for library automation. Out of 135 colleges,29 (30.85%) college libraries are fully automated, 65(69.15%) college libraries are partially automated and 41(28.90%) libraries are not automated. The librarians have to attend intensive training programs on deputation or have to become proficient on their own in automation in order to provide effective and efficient services to users.**
Keywords: Library automation, college libraries, software

I. INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century globalization of information and adoption of information technology will be the hallmark of great libraries. The size of libraries or their collection may not be the bench mark but rather accessibility to the major thrust of library automation (Omoniwa, 2001).Automation is the application of computers and related processing devices to the technical processes, public services and other housekeeping functions. To enhance productivity, the use of computers cannot be overemphasized (Efe & Adogbeji, 2006)

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sani & Tiamiyu (2005) assessed the status of automated information systems and services in Nigerian universities in mid-2002. Out of the 29 different automated services that one would expect in a modern university, only about 40 percent were available and utilized. Haneefa (2007) investigated in special libraries in Kerala, the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) and found CDS/ISIS software was used in the libraries than any other software. Bansode & Periera (2008) in their study of Goa state showed that out of 23 college libraries,4 of the collegelibraries were fully automated, 5 were partially automated and 14 colleges were in the early stages of automation.Efe & Adogbeji (2006) examined low level of automation in Nigeria. Out of the 57 questionnaire only 15 were returned and two of the meteorological and weather stations in Nigeria are automated. The CLICOM software is very effective in weather information management and providesweather maps, charts quick dissemination information to students, university and public libraries.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine how many first grade college libraries affiliated to University of Mysore have undertaken automation.
2. To study the present status of the automation of college libraries affiliated to University of Mysore.
3. To discover which areas of library function and services are automated.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The present study used the structured questionnaire as a tool.Thedetails of affiliated colleges to University of Mysore were taken fromthe website of University of Mysore .The questionnaireswere distributed to all the160 librarians of first grade colleges affiliated to University of Mysore. Apart from distributing the questionnaires, informal personal interview with selected librarians was conducted and observation in the libraries was also done. A total of 135duly filled in questionnaires were received with the response rate is 84.37 %(135). It was found that 15 first grade college libraries did not have librariansand 10 librarians did not respond. The collected data is tabulated using SPSS statistical package.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE I TYPE OF MANAGEMENT

Type of Management	No. of Colleges	Percentage
Government	60	44.44
Aided	19	14.08
Private	47	33.81
Autonomous	09	06.67
Total	135	100.00

The table I depicts that out of 135 colleges 60 (44.44%) are government colleges,19 (14.08%) are private aided colleges, 47 (33.81%) are private unaided colleges and 09 (06.67%) are autonomous colleges. The highest number of first grade colleges affiliated to University of Mysore are Government colleges.

TABLE II NAAC ACCREDITED COLLEGES

NAAC accreditation	No. of colleges	Percentage
Yes	74	54.81
No	61	45.19
Total	135	100.00

The table II shows theNAAC accredited colleges affiliated to the University of Mysore. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) evaluates the institutions for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching-learning processes, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organisation, governance, financial well being and student services. Out of 135 colleges 74(54.81%) are NAAC accredited colleges and 61(45.19%) colleges are yet to go for NAAC accreditation status where it requires for them to have proper infrastructure development to get accreditation.

TABLE III NAAC GRADES OF THE COLLEGES

Grade	No .of colleges	Percentage
C	15	20.28
B	32	43.25
B+	02	02.70
B++	10	13.51
A	14	18.91
A++	01	01.35
Total	74	100.00

The table III reveals the NAAC grades of the colleges. NAAC grade are assessed on qualitative indicators, quantitative indicators and student satisfaction survey report of the college. It is observed from the table 3 among 74 colleges 32(43.25%) are ' B' grade ; 15(20.28%) colleges are 'C' grade;14(18.91%)colleges are ' A' grade; 10(13.51%) colleges are 'B++'; 02(02.70%) colleges are' B+' and only 01(01.35%) autonomous college is 'A++'. Majority of colleges 32(43.25%) are ' B' grade affiliated to University of Mysore.

TABLE IVGENDER-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Gender	No .of librarians	Percentage
Male	78	57.80
Female	57	42.20
Total	135	100.00

The table IV shows that out of 135 respondents 78(57.80%) are male librarians and 57(42.20%) are female librarians.

There are more number of male librarians than female librarians working in the college librariesaffiliated to University of Mysore.

TABLE V QUALIFICATION OF LIBRARIANS

Qualification	No .of librarians	Percentage
MLISc	62	45.93
M Phil	47	34.82
PhD	26	19.25
Total	135	100.00

The table V summarizes qualification of the librarians. The Doctoral degree holders of Library and Information science are 26(19.25%) librarians, most of them are in government colleges.

The Master in Philosophy of Library and Information science are 47 (34.82%) librarians, 62(45.93%) librarians are Master in Library and Information Science.

TABLE VI LIBRARIES AUTOMATED

Library automated	No .of college libraries	Percentage
Yes	94	71.10
No	41	28.90
Total	135	100.00

The automation of college libraries is shown in table VI. The information age success lies in the innovative application of information technology and adoption of state of art the information technology for making the library and information services faster and effective It is observed from the table that out of 135 college libraries, 94(71.10%) libraries have automated in house library work and 41(28.90%) college libraries have not automated the in house library work.

TABLE VII STATUS OF AUTOMATION IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Status of Automation	No .of College Libraries	Percentage
Completely automated	29	30.85
Partially automated	65	69.15
Total	94	100.00

The table VII shows that out of 94 college libraries, 29(30.85%) are completely automated which means automation of acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, online public access catalogue and administration module etc. are adopted and applied; 65(69.15%) college libraries are partially automated where only few modules of library automation are applied.

TABLE VIII IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTOMATION

Implementation of automation	No .of librarians	Percentage
Independently	60	63.83
IT Professional of the College	23	24.47
Outsourced	11	11.70
Total	94	100.00

It is observed from the table VIII that 60 (63.83%) librarians have independently installed the library automation software; 23(24.47%) librarians have implemented library software with the help of IT professionals of the college; 11(11.70%) librarians haveoutsourced automation work by taking the permission of the management. Majority of the librarians possess the skill of implementing the automation which depicts a good sign for the future of the libraries.

TABLE IX TYPE OF AUTOMATION SOFTWARE ADOPTED

Software adopted	No .of libraries	Percentage
Commercial	31	33.00
Open Source	60	63.82
In-house Developed	03	03.18
Total	94	100.00

It is revealed from the table IX out of total 94 colleges libraries, open source software are used in 60(63.82%) collegelibraries; 31(33.00%) college libraries have adopted commercial software; and 03(03.18%) college libraries have their in house developed software for the library housekeeping work. From this it is inferred that a large majority of the libraries adopted open source software which account for 63.82%.

TABLE X SOFTWARE PACKAGES ADOPTED BY THE LIBRARIES

Name of software used	No .of libraries	Percentage
E-Granthalaya	30	31.25
Easylib	24	25.00
KOHA	22	22.91
Libsoft	04	04.16
NewGenLib	07	07.29
SLIM++	03	05.20
WINISIS	01	01.04
In house	03	03.12
Total	94	100.00

It is observed from the table X among 94 college libraries, 30(31.25%) have adopted E-Granthalaya software which is an open source software; 24 colleges representing25% usedEasylib software. Easylib software has been implemented in many government colleges due to the effort of the College Development Council to automate the library functions and services as well as meet to NAAC requirements. KOHA software was used in 22(22.91%) colleges.The Libsoft has been adopted in 04 (04.16%)

colleges; NewGenLib software is adopted in 07(07.29%) colleges; SLIM ++ is adoptedin 03(05.20%) colleges; 03(03.12%) of the colleges have their own in-house developed software, 01(01.04%) college library has adopted WINISIS to automate their library functions and services. Among 94 college libraries, 60 (63.83%) have adopted the open sources software which shows knowledge and skill of the librarians regarding the software.

TABLE XI AREAS OF AUTOMATION IN USE IN THE LIBRARIES

Areas of automation in use	No .of libraries	Percentage
Catalogue	87	92.55
Circulation	79	84.04
Administration	44	46.80
Acquisition	24	25.53
OPAC	29	30.85
Serial control	21	22.34

It is found from the table XI that catalogue module is used by87 (92.55%) libraries as they can facilitate access to the OPAC, an automated services to the users. The second most used module is circulation by 79(84.04%) libraries which have automated their circulation activity. The administration module used in 44(46.80%) libraries ; acquisition module is used in 24 (25.53%) libraries; OPAC module is used in 29(30.85%) college libraries and serial control module is the least used module which happen to be in 21(22.34%) college libraries.

VI. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. It isfound that 15 colleges are without librarians in firstcolleges affiliated to University of Mysore.
2. NAAC accreditation status for 61(45.19%) colleges is yet to be done and it requires for them to have proper infrastructure development to get accreditation.
3. It isseen that 94 college libraries have automated their libraries, 29 (30.85%) college libraries are fully automated, 65 (69.15%) college libraries are partially automated and 41 (28.90%) libraries are not automateddue to the multiple barrier faced by majority of librarian like insufficient fund, lack of trained staff and lack of training .
4. It is found that skill-base of library professional are good as 60 librarians representing 63.83% have installed library automation software on their own; 34 librarians needsupport to manage library and information centre and uplift their skill.
5. It is seen from the study that out of 94 colleges,60(63.83%) libraries are using open source software to automate the library like E-Granthalaya,KOHA etc.
6. Majority of the respondents automated circulation and cataloguing module in their in house library workwhich forms the core activity in information organization and retrievalfunction.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

It is suggested that the librarians of the first grade college have to become familiar with automation of library functions and services. For this purpose librarians have to attend intensive training programs on deputation or have to become proficient on their own by taking the assistance of computer professionals of the college. Librarians have to attend workshop and training from time to time to keep them self-abreast of latest trends.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The status of automation in colleges affiliated to University of Mysore is similar to that of colleges throughout India. Colleges should recruit librarians wherever there is vacancy. Colleges libraries where it is partially automated should try to fully automate the library. Librarians and college administration must initiate automation in order to provide effective and efficient services to users.

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