# "Library Automation: A need of the day"

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*Abstract - There is a great impact of computer and information technology and its application on the libraries due to which a process of great change is taking place in libraries. Modern technology is tending to alter radically the nature of our society and affect the prevailing economic, political and social values. Libraries are also in the process industrialized countries were the first to realize that in the context of knowledge, classical approaches relating to storage, retrieval and utilization of the information were no longer adequate and effective and that the solution lay in making fullest use of new developments in electronics, computers, telecommunications micro-recording etc. In the present research paper highlight the importance of library automation.*

*Key words: Information Technology, EDI – Electronic Data Interchange, Enterprise Resource Planning*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Today we are living in the information age. A large amount of information is being generated every moment, which is termed as "Information Explosion" The information generated may be in the form of book or non-book material in developed and developing countries information is considered to be the most important and dynamic and unending resource, which affects all the walks of life. Information supports education, research and development. Computer and telecommunication technology has revolutionized library and information service. Librarians are now expected to use various information technologies to provide information more expeditiously and exhaustively than before.

### Significance of the Study

This study signifies the importance of library automation in today's IT age. Due to various factors like increase in publication, user's demand, huge amount of information, change in technology the users can not be provided better service and required information. So to make the services effective and efficient, it is necessary that library operations and services should be automated. Hence for this reason automation is required when implementing automation, it should be seen that the staff as well as the users are aware of the automation programmed and fully co-operate with it.

### Statement of the Problem

During the informal discussion with the librarian and the concerned authorities of college and library administration it was brought to the notice of the researcher by them that there is a great need to study the functioning of these libraries and library automation with respect to the daily working of the library. Many of them rightly stated their experiences with regard to difficulties faced by them while handling the routine as well as critical situation. It has been observed that the librarian, students and management have been facing problems regarding the library and its automation.

## II. OBJECTIVES

1. To study the working pattern and management style of libraries and its automation.

2. To evaluate the working of library and its automation.

3. To find out the problems faced by the user in using automated library services.

4. To examine the satisfaction level of users about automation of library services.

## III. HYPOTHESIS

1. **The library automation and manpower training are independent**

2. **Library automation and student satisfaction are independent.**

### Research Methodology

The simple random sampling and purposive sampling methods will be adopted during the course of this study. In case of simple random sampling methodology the libraries were selected at random from different location, whereas in the purposive sampling methodology it will be applied to student sample, faculty sample after considering the factors such as library automation, use of technology etc.

For solving any type of problem, study of the whole population or universe is impossible. It is therefore decided to pick up sample units that can represent the universe, which are being covered by the research. In this research work the selected samples are,

a) Library sample ; Library sample consist of full time and in charge librarian. The sample has been formulated using purposive sampling. It is estimated that permanent and in charge librarian are approximately 30 and the sample size is 10 which is 33.33% .

b) Students sample consist of present student of various courses users from different library have been selected in the sample. It is estimated that the total

number of students are approximately 2000 out of 50 students were finalized for the study

**Empirical Study**

Table No 1

**Do You Have Sufficient Trained Staff**

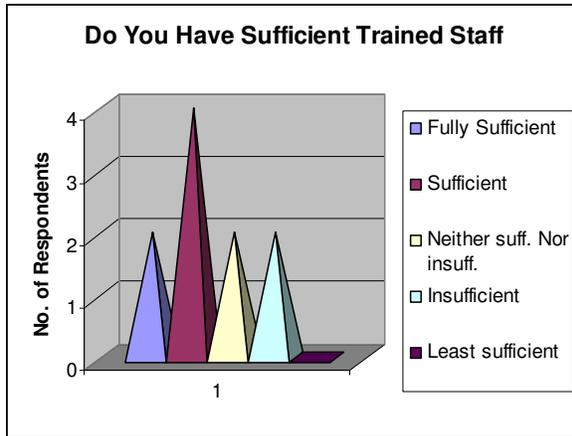|  | No. of Responses | %age |
|---|---|---|
| Fully Sufficient | 02 | 20.00 |
| Sufficient | 04 | 40.00 |
| Neither suff. Nor insuff. | 02 | 20.00 |
| Insufficient | 02 | 20.00 |
| Least sufficient | 00 | 00.00 |
| **Total** | **10** | **100.00** |



**Do You Have Sufficient Trained Staff**

Table No 1 reveals that the information about whether the trained staff is sufficient or not. Majority of 40.00% libraries were having sufficient training staff. Where as 20.00% libraries says that the training staff is fully sufficient, insufficient, and least sufficient respectively.

**Table No. 2**
**How Frequently You Visit To Library**

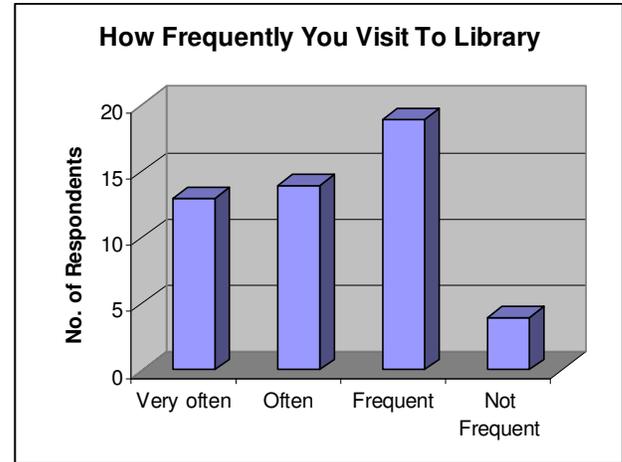|  | No. of Responses | %age |
|---|---|---|
| Very often | 13 | 26.00 |
| Often | 14 | 28.00 |
| Frequent | 19 | 38.00 |
| Not Frequent | 04 | 08.00 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100.00** |



**How Frequently You Visit To Library**

Table No 2 reveals that how frequently student visit to the library. 26.00% , 28.00% and 08.00% student were said that they very often , often and not frequently visiting to the library. Where as majority of 38.00% student were visit to the library frequently.

**Table No. 3**
**Are You Satisfy About the Library Automation**

|  | No. of Responses | %age |
|---|---|---|
| Highly satisfactory | 11 | 22.00 |
| Satisfactory | 15 | 30.00 |
| Neither satisfactory nor unsat. | 15 | 30.00 |
| Unsatisfactory | 09 | 18.00 |
| Least satisfactory | 00 | 00.00 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100.00** |



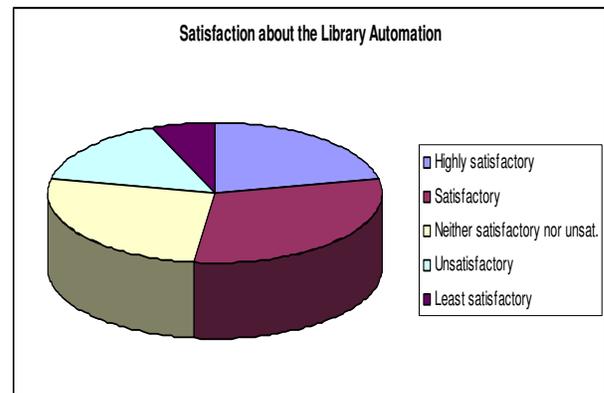**Satisfaction about the Library Automation**

Table No. 3 reveals that the information about the student satisfaction about the library automation. 22.00%, 30.00% students were highly satisfactory, satisfactory, and neither satisfactory nor unsatisfactory where as only 18.00% nor none of the students were unsatisfactory and least satisfactory. It is concluded that majority of students were satisfactory about the library automation.

**Testing of Hypotheses**

1) **The library automation and manpower training are independent**

   Calculated value of $\chi^2$ = 3.333

   Degree of Freedom      = 3 d.f.

   **Table Value          = 7.815**

   For three degree of freedom at 5% level of significance, the table value is 7.815. The calculated value of $\chi^2$ is much greater than the table value and hence the hypotheses stands rejected. Therefore, it may be concluded that there is a significant difference between the library automation and manpower training.

2) **Library automaton and student satisfaction are independent.**

   Calculated value of $\chi^2$ = 8.265

   Degree of Freedom      = 3 d.f.

   **Table Value          = 7.815**

   For three degree of freedom at 5% level of significance, the table value is 7.815. The calculated value of $\chi^2$ is less than the table value and hence the hypothesis stands for accepted. Therefore, it may be concluded that there is no significant difference between the Library automation and student satisfaction.

**Findings:**

- Majority of the colleges do not have qualified librarians as per the guideline given by the UGC guidelines.

- All the colleges provide traditional, reprographic etc. but only very few of the colleges provide non traditional services OPAC, CD-ROM database search service, online search and internet search facility.

- The initiation of automation process is recent however it is seen that in some of the college libraries automation process is still not completed.

- Majority of the college libraries admit that they have no sufficient manpower for automation. This may be due to various factors like lack of qualifications, lack of coordination among staff etc. and even the staff which is recruited is the one which is not specialized in it. Hence the process suffers.

**Suggestion:**

- The library authority should see that proper staffing pattern is present in the library which is providing efficient services to the user.

- Students had given some suggestion at to improve the library services like,
  - ✓ All students should know that how to use this automated service.
  - ✓ Appoint appropriate person to guide students in library.
  - ✓ There should be good and qualified staff in library.

IV.    CONCLUSION

- It is found that the majority of colleges have appointed the librarian as full time (60.00%) where as majority of librarian were not qualified according to the guidelines given by the UGC.

- It is clear that only 40.00% of librarian is implementing the new changes in the software often.

- Majority of 60.00% librarians are agree that the software is user friendly and menu driven but the same time student were not agree about the operation of software

- 50.00% of librarian were quoted that the training is provided often for the operation and new user of the library.

- Maximum of the software's 80.00% were support the multi-user capability which is very helpful in library automation.

- Only 30% of library users are agreed that the software has hot sufficient security measures.

- Majority of 50.00% and 40.00% librarian agreed that the cost of software is very high and high.

- 40.00% of librarian are agreed that they have sufficient trained staff where are remaining 60.00% librarian were not agreed about the trained staff.

- Majority of 50.00% libraries were using the Pentium-IV types of machine with windows operating system.

- 90.00% and 80.00% software has got scanner and barcode facilities in the software.

- It is observed that the only 30.00% libraries were having the support of online journals.

- It is observe that the majority of libraries were suffers the problem like inadequate fund, lack of trained manpower and staff co-ordination.

- It is found that the majority of libraries were using the LIBSYS software which is recommended by the UGC.

- Only 36.00% students were agreed that the software has got the sufficient searching mechanism.

- 40.00% students were making use of software often for the purpose of book searching.

- Majority of students 80.00% were visit to the library for the purpose of book issue/receive where as remaining students were visit for periodical section and reading of newspapers etc.

- It is observed that only 30.0% student very satisfy about the computerization and library automation.

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