Library automation networking in dental college library in Rajasthan: a case study

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Abstract

The library and information centre is an important component of any educational institution, which is hub of the teaching, and learning activities where students, researchers and teachers can explore the vast resources of information. In the traditional libraries users have to send more time for searching a small piece of information and for that have to depend mainly on the library professional or library staff. But in the age of information communication technology, computers are being used for day-to-day housekeeping activity of the library which saves the time of the end users, and library professional also and at the same time avoid duplication of work and make the library service smooth and effective. Resource sharing library networks have been functioning effectively in developed countries since 1930s. In India, computerization and networking activities started with the establishment of National information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) in 1979. In the beginning, the major constraints of library automation were absence of planning, non-availability of vendor developed software at affordable prices, restrictions on the import of hardware, lack of trained manpower, non-existence of standards, and absence of co-operation.

Keywords: Library Automation, Networking, Dental Libraries, Internet, Information Services, Hardware, Software etc.

Introduction

Over the past twenty years, academic libraries have changed considerably as bibliographic utilities, online catalogs, automated circulation systems, and other new technologies have been implemented in a majority of library operations and services. These changes have created rising costs for libraries in a time of tight fiscal constraints, particularly in the area of telecommunications, buildings, furniture, and electronic equipment. For the medium and larger

sized academic libraries, it is not uncommon for computer costs associated with implementing online catalogs, circulation/reserve, acquisitions accounting, and serials control systems-including retrospective conversion of paper records in to machine-readable forms- to require $5 million plus. Annual maintenance, licensing agreements, software, and hardware requirements will exceed an additional $250,000 to $350,000 per year.

The increased access to electronic information systems not held locally and to other new technologies such as CD-ROM, laser technologies, interactive multimedia packages, OCR (optical character recognition) and imaging systems, satellite communication and teleconferencing, laptop computers, packet telephone switches, and cellular telephones have also been making an impact in a few libraries along with LANs (local area networks) and WANs (wide area networks) for interconnecting local computing resources.

The impact has not been only on more technologically oriented methods of operations and services; new information and instructional technologies have placed tremendous pressures on outdated cabling and wiring. Expanded budgets are required for such things as asbestos abatement in ceiling and floor tiling as well as utility tunnels; installation of fiber optics and additional connective wiring and cabling within and among buildings; and equipment for both staff and public access. Additional funding is needed for online network memberships and connections to local, state, regional, national, and international networks. These network relationships require new and expanded licensing agreements with updated copyright procedures and related issues. New formats and access tools require revamped policies and procedures, rules, and regulations. Expanded training and continuing education require increased travel budgets for participation in new professional associations and continuing education and training opportunities. Employment of new types of personnel to handle technological problems, programming, and maintenance and repair work, plus retooling of existing staff and enhanced hiring requirements when keyboarding skill becomes more important at all levels. The new equipment can focus staff demands for installation of ergonomic furniture and security devices. There are increased costs in HVAC and other utilities costs Reconfiguration and reconstruction of physical facilities both within and outside of library buildings is often necessary. Special consultants to assist with strategic planning, selection of systems, technological issues, and

related problems are often hidden costs. The emphasis on equipment increases the need for analysis of depreciation and replacement costs associated with many aspects of new technologies

The term 'Library Automation' is being used extensively in library science to mean the application of computer to perform some of the traditional library activities such as acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, stock verification etc. Library automation can be defined simply as the use of computer and networking technologies in the library.

Definition:

Automation is a process of using the machineries for easy working and saving the human power and time.

When we use machine for collection, processing, storage and retrieval of information and do an other work of library with the help of machineries that called library automation.

Common areas of Library Automation and its scope:

- **Acquisition System:** Automates the acquisition process, ordering, receiving, claiming materials from suppliers and returns and cancellations of materials. Acquisition can be done online if system is linked to an external network.
- **Cataloguing System:** Creation, storage, retrieval and management of bibliographic records and indexes.
- **Circulation System:** Handles circulation activities such as lending, return, renewal and place on hold.
- **Serial Publications Control System:** Manages placing, canceling, claiming of orders; returning defective, unwanted and unordered material and accounting and statistical information.
- **Inter-library loan via OPAC:** Provides staff with an information management system for interlibrary loan transactions. This includes automatic monitoring of loans and accounts, making claims, putting holds on materials being borrowed, etc.

Networking:

Business dictionary defines Networking as "In the world of computers, networking is the practice of linking two or more computing devices together for the purpose of sharing data. Networks are built with a mix of computer hardware and computer software".

Library Networking:

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) in its National Programme Document (1975) defines a network as: "two or more libraries and/or other organizations engaged in a common pattern of information exchange, through communications, for some functional purpose. A network usually consists of a formal arrangement whereby materials, information and services provided by a variety of libraries and other organizations are available to all potential users. Libraries may be in different jurisdictions but they agree to serve one another on the same basis as each serves its own constituents. Computer and telecommunications may be among the tools used for facilitating communication among them".

Libraries in Rajasthan:

Rajasthan is known for its culture, and libraries are the display of its culture as well as love and appreciation of education. The city of Jaipur houses some finest libraries of Rajasthan. These libraries provide wonderful support for students as well as work as the constant resources of finding good literature of the world to read and learn. They contain a large number of books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, e-books, audio books, databases, and other formats from which information can be retrieved. The Architecture of Libraries ranges in size from a few shelves of books to several million items.

- Radha Krishnan Central Library, Rajasthan
- Govt. Maharaja Public Library, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Shri Sanmati Library, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Shubham Readers Paradise, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Mind Gym Kids Library, Rajasthan
- Prakrit Bharati Academy, Jaipur, Rajasthan

- Gulab Bagh Public Library, Rajasthan

Review of literature

(Mirza Mohd. Rezaul Islam, n.d.) Studied *"Present Status of Library Cooperation, Networking, and Resource Sharing in Bangladesh: Web-based Library Cooperation for Access to World-wide Information"* and found that Libraries have been cooperating and collaborating on collection building and resource sharing for many years. The cooperation was based on inter-library loan and preparation and publication of union catalogue.

(Rush, 1982) Studied *"Library Automation Systems and Networks"* and observed that Library automation systems and networks refers to the use of computers, either stand-alone or in a shared manner, to increase the productivity of library personnel, and to provide new and improved library services to patrons. This chapter focuses on the advances in application of computers and related technologies to library operations achieved in the last decade.

(Takappa, 2017) Studied "*Present Status of Library Automation in Polytechnic Colleges in Karnataka State: a Survey*" and found that Libraries have been seeking technological aids to facilitate and enhance their operations and services since very long period. Libraries are expected to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to provide information to their users more expeditiously and exhaustively than before.

(Naveen, 2016) Studied *"Status and Problems of Library Automation in Govt First Grade Colleges of Hassan District, Karnataka: A Study"* and observed that Library is considered as heart of institution and soul of any learning institution, which is pivot of teaching-learning process. A well-equipped and well maintained library is the foundation of modern education structure. College library plays an important role in providing overall library and information services to the patrons. Colle

(V, 2015) Studied "*Automation of College Libraries in Bangalore City: A Study*" and observed that A well equipped and well maintained library is the foundation of modern education structure. The library play vital role and which consists of knowing how and where to find

information the art of selecting and processing these documents which are of maximum use and how to deliver it to users who need it.

Conclusion

Library automation is the process which needs proper planning, timely implementation and periodical evaluation. The librarian with the administrators has to set the priorities after analyzing the current status and future requirements. Selection of the suitable integrated library management package according to the needs of the users and the library is important. Retrospective conversion, OPAC, circulation and serials control, etc. should be conducted with care. Staff training and user education are keys to the success of the process. Library automation invites realistic approach. Librarian should acquire adequate knowledge about the hardware and software options available. All libraries should use standard software packages for automation and database creation to facilitate the exchange of bibliographic records between libraries.

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