

PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED LIBRARIES

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Abstract

The growth and development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is playing vital role in the field of library and information science and library automation in particular. The present article is referred to the status and problems of library automation in government degree colleges in Aligarh. The study clearly presents the status of Library automation and main problems for library automation are inadequate staff, lack of infrastructure, insufficient funds and lack of training to library staff. This study also gives a status view of the software packages used by libraries and modules of library automation are using. It is evident from the study out of 17 libraries 14 (82.35%) libraries are using e-granthalaya, in this some of libraries are partially completed and some of are in initial stage. Further about 3 (17.65%) colleges are using Easy Lib Software.

Key words: Library Automation, Government Colleges, Benefits of Library Automation, Book-keeping.



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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY: The major objectives of the study are as follows;

1. To find that how many libraries have undertaken for automation under RUSA.
2. In which areas library functions and services are automated.
3. To find out present status of the library automation.
4. To know the barriers to library automation faced by library staff in government colleges.

Methodology: According to the nature of the study, The Descriptive and Analytical Research Methodology is opted for the purpose. The primary data is collected with the help of pre designed interview schedule. Secondary sources are used for review of literature.

Library Automation - The Concept: The word „Automation“ has been derived from a Greek word „Automate“ which means something which has the power of spontaneous motion or self movement (Webster's Third New International Dictionary of English Language, 1966). The term „Automation“ was first introduced by D.S. Harder^[1] in 1936, who was then with the General Motor Company in United States. He used the term automation to mean

automatic handling of parts between progressive production processes. McGraw – Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (1982) defines automation as “a coined word having no precise, generally accepted technical meaning but widely used to imply the concept „development“ or use of highly automatic machinery or control system.” From the above definition one can observe that „automation“ is the application of „machines“ to perform a task automatically.

Review:

Bansode, Sadanand and Periera, Shamin^[2] conducted a survey on the status of the library automation in the college libraries of Goa State. Pusad (M.S.). Rajput and Gautam^[3] (2010) examined the status of library automation and problems in its implementation in special libraries of Indore city, Madhya Pradesh. Jayamma K V & Krishnamurthy M ^[4] has highlighted on the scenario of library automation in the college libraries of Bangalore city in Karnataka state. Ajay Kamble ^[5] in his study entitled "Status of library automation in the Institutions of Higher Studies in Punjab" gives an overview of major facets of automation activity and surveys the current state of computer application in 6 areas of library work. For each area discussion briefly indicated the motive of automation and describes current dominant approaches citing examples of representative products and services^[6].

FINDINGS: The following findings have been identified during the study. 1. Only a few libraries in the district are fully automated (2) College libraries were not fully automated, due to lack of fund. (3) Most of the libraries are partially automated, (4) Fund released by the government is insufficient for initial Stage Automation. (5). It is found that majority of college libraries are not using e-granthalaya (6) Most of the college libraries are not getting any funds for the purpose of library automation. Hence they are using open source software's (free software).(7) It is found that majority of college libraries are in initial stage in bar coding of their resources. (8) It is found that majority of libraries are managed manually or by stand alone (single) computer. (9). It was founded that majority of college libraries facing major problem of inadequate staff & infrastructure. (10). It is found that majority respondents need training in library automation.

SUGGESTIONS: This study would like to give following suggestions for introducing and developing effective library automation in all government college libraries. 1. Parent body of government colleges need to be provided basic ICT infrastructure like desktops with good configuration, power backup, bar code printer, bar code reader, scanner and internet connection to make a library automation. 2. The libraries need to be completely

computerized in future for providing better and efficient services to users. 3. Choice of the library software must be carefully considered with emphasis on the ability to meet particular library needs. 4. Vacant post of assistant librarian and library assistants needs to be filled up and new posts should be created as per requirement. 5. Computer and automation software training should be provided and made mandatory for all the library staff. Than only staff will be more comfortable with library automation functions and modules. 6. Required financial fund need to be provided to incorporate all modules of library automation in libraries.

Results : Library automation brings great changes in the functioning of the library and proving effective and efficient library services. Automation of libraries is still in formative stages in government first grade colleges in Aligarh district. By library automation, librarians can handle library functions more effectively and can provide good services to the users. Some of libraries are using library automation only for few modules like acquisition, circulation and cataloguing. Libraries should introduce all modules in their library automation like OPAC, Serial Control, stock verification, budgeting and etc.

Table of Responses (50 respondents) about uses of library automation in Government colleges.

S No	Parameters/ Variables	Responses		
		Positive	Negative	Neutral
1	Library automation in Government colleges is Useful for Librarians	35	12	03
2	Library automation in Government colleges is Useful for Librarians	32	06	12
3	It saves time spent in distribution of books Grants issued under RUSA , made it possible in government Colleges	42	08	00
4		43	00	07

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