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ISSUES & CHALLENGES IN THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION WITH REFERENCE ACADEMIC COLLEGES -A BRIEF STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The present study aims to analyze major issues and challenges involved in library automation among the Colleges affiliated with Academic College, Kota. The study covers the period from 2020 to 2021 survey method has been used for data collection, as well as structured questionnaires, are used. For this study, 20 colleges are chosen. Collected data are analyzed using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics. The study identified a lack of normalization lack of user-friendly software, shortage of manpower, lack of proper service from the vendor, up-gradation problems as technical problems, and lack of necessary funds, manpower, management decisions, and training for the staff and users of a management problem.

KEYWORDS: ISSUES, CHALLENGE, LIBRARY AUTOMATION, MGMT.

INTRODUCTION

In an information age, information centers like libraries are expected to use Information and Communication Technology to provide information more expeditiously and exhaustively to users than before. In this context, computerizations of the day-to-day routine activities of the library are the most inevitable and necessary one. The Library and Information Centers are concerned with the collection, processing, storage, and dissemination of recorded information for the purpose of reading, studying, and consultation. In an information age, information centers like libraries are expected to use Information and Communication Technology to provide information more expeditiously and exhaustively to users than before. In this context, computerizations of the day-to-day routine activities of the library are the most inevitable and necessary one. The Library and Information Centers are concerned with the collection, processing, storage, and dissemination of recorded information for the purpose of reading, studying, and consultation.

REQUISITES FOR LIBRARY AUTOMATION

Difficulties such as Cost; Space; Computer processing time; Hardware, Software, Personnel Management, Computer experts, Library Staff, Suppliers of Hardware and Software, and library users, planning, and designing can be identified under this category.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study analyses the issues and problem-solving techniques involved in the library automation of Academic Colleges Libraries affiliated with Kota city of Rajasthan.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Even though library automation gathered momentum during the 1990s, the status of library automation is still progressing and in a rural areas, it is at the infancy level only. Library automation involves careful planning, and selection of hardware, software, personnel, and budget. The library automation of academic college libraries helps the user to fulfill their information needs as well as helps to facilitate information sharing among the libraries. Due to lack of sufficient funds, lack of awareness, lack of quality software at affordable cost, lack of uniformity, and so on, these issues and challenges are more among the library and library profession automation, Therefore, the investigator felt the need to fill this gap and was motivated to undertake a study on issues and challenges of library automation among the academic colleges' libraries affiliated with Kota city.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ✓ The present study was conducted with the following objectives:
- ✓ To know the status of library automation in Academic College Libraries affiliated with Kota city.
- ✓ To identify the issues and challenges while automating the library.
- ✓ To find out the management problems in library automation.

METHODOLOGY

A methodology used for collecting data has questionnaire-based. All the questions were specifically prepared related to the use of Library Automation and its impact. These questionnaires were randomly distributed to the users and were successfully retrieved from users.

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

The Academic colleges, which are affiliated with Kota city are for the present study. Ten Academic colleges were taken as samples for the study. On the nature of the data collected from the respondents, statistical techniques like Percentage Analysis, and Co-efficient Correlation have been employed.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS:

TABLE NO.1 Show the status of the Library Automation

S NO.	STATUS OF AUTOMATION IN LIBRARY	NUMBER OF RESPONES	PERCENTAGE
1.	MANUALLY WORKING	2	10%
2.	MANUALLY & COMPUTERIZED(BOTH TYPES)WORKING	4	20%
3.	DATA ARE COMPUTERIZED	3	15%
4.	PROCESS INITIATE	3	15%
5.	PARTIALLY AUTOMATED	3	15%
6.	FULLY AUTOMATED	5	25%
	TOTAL	20	100

Table No.1 It is observed that the status of the library automation among the academic colleges are level. Only 25 percent of the libraries are fully automated, the process initiate in 15 percent, the partiality automated in 15 percent, the data are computerized in 15 percent, the manually & computerized (Both types) working in 20 percent, the manually working in 10 percent.

Table 2 Management problems in the library automation

S No.	MGMT. PROBLEMS	NO.OF COLLEGE	PERCENT
1.	Management Decision power	6	30%
2.	Selection of the Hardware & Software	4	20%
3.	Skilled Professional	3	15%
4.	Funding in the year	4	20%
5.	Awareness the readers	3	15%
		20	100%

Table No 2. It is observed that the status of Management problems in the library automation among the skilled professionals is 15 percent and the Awareness of the readers is 15 percent. The Selection of Hardware & Software is 20 percent. The Funding in the year is 20 percent. And the Management Decision power is 30 percent.

Table 3 Management problems in the library automation

S No.	MGMT. PROBLEMS	NO.OF COLLEGE	PERCENT
1.	Data Modification	4	20%
2.	Librarian Decision	3	15%
3.	Internet facility	5	25%
4.	System Security provisions	3	15%
5.	Good system Documentation	3	15%
6.	Maintenance and Development	2	10%
		20	100%

Table No 3. It is observed that the status of management problems in the library automation the Maintenance and Development is 10 percent. The Good system Documentation is 15 percent. The System Security provision is 15 percent. The Librarian Decision is 15 percent. The Data Modification is 20 percent. The Internet facility is 25 percent.

Table 4 Technical and infrastructure subject in Library Automation.

S No.	Technical and infrastructures Problems	Yes	Percent
1.	Lack of Man-powers	2	10%
2.	Lack of User friendly Software	3	15%
3.	Frequent Power Failures	4	20%
4.	Lack of standardization	4	20%
5.	Up-gradation Problems	2	10%
6.	Conversion of databases from one to another	3	15%
7.	Failure in ensuring proper service from the vendor	2	10%
		20	100%

It is observation table 4 that the major technical problems faced by the libraries of twenty Colleges affiliated with Kota city while automating the library are: the lack of manpower of 10 percent. The Up-gradation Problems is 10 percent. The Failure in ensuring proper service from the vendor 10 percent. The Conversion of databases from one to another is 15 percent. The lack of user-friendly software is 15 percent. And the frequent power failure is 20 percent. And the Lack of standardization is 20 percent.

Findings of the Study

- ✓ This is most libraries have initiated the library automation process and automated the library housekeeping operations. But the status is not fully automated.
- ✓ This is basic reasons for delaying automation libraries are lack of finance, not good infrastructure, not well-trained manpower person and lack of selection of the hardware and the software.
- ✓ This is a delay in management decisions is very also a major concern.
- ✓ This is another subject that is also identified is the lack of knowledge for librarians, library staff, and readers.
- ✓ This is a management of library automation involves another major issue which includes a lack of services from the vendor, and software defects in the software.

CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that the status of library automation among the library professional is facing some technical as well as managerial problems while automating the library. In a rapidly developing field such as library automation, changes in user behavior and the impact of improvements need to be re-assessed at regular intervals on a continuous basis. Library automation will bring about a tremendous impact on these libraries. It is essential that the authorities scout around for adequate funds to expedite the program. In order to cope with the anticipated changes, there is a need for capacity building; a change in the overall outlook of the staff would affect every aspect of the way they work in their respective libraries. When adopting the new technology, it should be

analyzed based on the resources available, funds, infrastructure facilities, and manpower. Issues of library automation are always on the way to its process and it can be overcoming the above-said issues identified.

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