LIBRARY AUTOMATION IN UNIVERSITIES OF KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Attempts to know how, why and under what circumstances university libraries in Karnataka attempted to initiate library automation activities. It studies the status of libraries while initiating automation process and how they plan the need for automation for retrospective collection and current documents and OPAC services rendered along with various services rendered to the services.

KEYWORDS: Automation, Computerization, *Retrospective Conversion*

INTRODUCTION

Automation of libraries involves investments in costly hardware and software and other resources, training of staff and in some cases recruitment of new staff. There could be considerable dislocation in services during the change over from non/automated services to an automated service. This is stressful both for library staff and users. The notional of choosing automation should therefore be clearly understood by the management, library staff at all levels and uses. There should be a shared understanding of the rationale and the cost benefits of automation. It is useful for each library to introspect with the management of the institution in which it serves and with its clients to determine the benefits that automation may ultimately provide to all concerned. Such introspection and a shared understanding of goals can go a long way in creating a healthy climate in which automation can be planned and implemented.

Library automation helps in managing the library's resources in a better way and at the same time saving time, money and manpower. For example, once the bibliographic details like author, title, edition, publisher, price, ISBN number, etc are entered at the time of ordering, the same data can be used for accessioning; cataloguing (OPAC), and circulation and other important factors associated with automation are having speed, and accuracy. Automation also offers freedom from doing repetitive and routine works, as well as enables providing efficient services properly and more efficiently cutting down time and improving productivity Automation also facilitates generation of a number of reports for better decision making in the effective management of the library. Availability of various statistical and other usage reports and performance reports will ensure better appreciation for library users. Many current awareness services like current additions, contents of books and journals, etc can also be provided to users.

Haravu (2001) "outlines the experiences gained in projects to automate the Library and Documentation Services of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), including the methodology and priorities in library automation, the rational for various decisions taken and the mistakes that, in retrospect, could have been avoided. He presented approach to local library automation in a climate where library networking is being increasingly emphasized". Sani and Tiamiya (2005) "evaluated of the status of automated information services in selected Nigerian universities with a view to identifying progress and prospects of, and constraints to, the technological transformation of Nigerian universities as the basis of strategic recommendations to the different stakeholders in Nigerian university education. The study assessed the status of automated information systems and services in Nigerian universities mid-2002 through site visits, and questionnaire and interview surveys of the views of administrators, teaching/non-teaching staff,

students and researchers in the universities. It found that automated services were far from adequate and that, out of the 29 different automated services and one would expect in a modern university, only about 40 per cent were available and found utilized. Federal universities that had enjoyed higher levels of funding for automated systems had higher output of automated services than the non-federal universities. Major obstacles militating against the automated services in the universities include inadequate funds, electricity supply and telecommunications connectivity, as well as inadequate human resources for the automated systems".

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are

- To know strategies adapted, the approaches followed to determine the status of computerization, retrospective conversion modalities to solve the problems encountered in planning and implementation of automation activities in respective libraries,

- To understand the effectiveness and efficiency of computerized activities in libraries applied for in-house activities and access to OPAC/ WEBOPAC and,

- To know the extent of usage of computerization library services, INFLIBNET, Internet services and training in library automation process,

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey approach is the most suited for gathering descriptive information based on the objectives of the study. A Structured Surveys has been used to elicit the data using formal lists of questions asked of all respondents in the same way. Survey research has been adopted for collecting research data from the university libraries in Karnataka using questionnaire and the observation method by means of designing a structured questionnaire covering nine State Universities dealing in sciences, social sciences and humanities. They are University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Bangalore University, Bangalore, Mangalore University, Mangalore, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Kuvempu University, Shimogga, Kannada University, Hampi, Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur and Tumkur University, Tumkur.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Library Software's Adopted in University Libraries

Library Software	Frequency	Percentage
CDS/WINISIS	_	_
SOUL	3	33-3
New-Genlib	2	22-3
Libsys	3	33-3
In-House	_	_
Others	_	_

Table shows that the different library Software adopted in university libraries of Karnataka out of nine university libraries only eight universities are using different library software's, SOUL and LIBSYS Software is used by 3:3 university libraries (33.3-/-) each. However, only 22.2% of the universities libraries are using New-genlib Lib software.

Table 2: Status of Computerization of Library

Computerization	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	8	88.8%
Fully	5	55.5%
Partially	3	33.3%
No	1	12.2%
Total	9	100 %

Status of Computerization of Libraries eighter fully or Partial computerization is shown in table 2. Except one library that is Tumkur university library remaining eight university libraries (88.8%) have computerized library activities and services; out of which only 5 libraries are fully automated and the remaining 3 university libraries are partially automated.

Table 3: Computerization of in-House Library Activities & Services (N=8)

Modules	Frequency	Percentage
Acquisition	4	50%
Cataloging	8	100 %
Circulation	6	75%
Serial Control	4	50%
OPAC	7	87.5%
Financial	-	-
Stock Verification	2	25%

Computerization of in-house library activities and services of university libraries, among the 8 university libraries out of nine is presented in table-3. Among the modules of in-house library activities, cataloguing is computerized by all the university libraries (100%). Online public access catalogue (OPAC) is utilized by 88.5% of the libraries and circulation module is automated in 75% of the libraries. Half of the university libraries have computerized acquisition and serials control. Only one fourth of the University libraries have computerized the process of stock verification (25%).

Table 4: Availability of Web OPAC in University Libraries

Web OPAC	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	5	55.5%
No	4	44.5%
Total	9	100%

Web OPAC helps in knowing the availability of documents in the library from remote locations. Availability of web OPAC in university libraries is shown in table 4. It is found from the table that 55.5% of the university libraries have developed web OPAC facility for the benefit of users and the rest of the 44.5% of the university libraries have not developed web OPAC services.

Table 5: Computerized Library Services

	Services	Frequency	Percentage
a)	Circulation	5	55.5%
b)	OPAC Search Service	8	88.5%
c)	Reference Service	3	33.3%
d)	SDI Service		
e)	Online Services	7	77.7%
f)	Inter Library Loan Service	5	55.5%
g)	CAS	3	33.3%
h)	Document Delivery Services	3	33.3%
i)	Bibliographic Services	5	55.5%
j)	Consultancies Services	2	22.2%

Computerized library services rendered by university libraries in Karnataka is shown in table 5 among the various library services, OPAC search service is rendered by 88.8% of the university libraries and is followed by online services (77.7%) circulation services (55.5%), Inter library loan service(55.5%), bibliographical service (55.5%). However reference, current awareness services, and document delivery services are rendered in 33.3% of the libraries and only 22.2% of the libraries extend consultancy services.

CONCLUSIONS

Libraries and information centers in India have always been faced with difficulties when it comes to choosing software to automate their libraries. This problem is even more exacerbated today when they are facing competition from other players as they will need to justify the choice of a software even more convincingly to their managements than before. In such a scenario, the best approach is to concentrate not so much on criteria that will help the library to become more efficient but on how software will make it possible for the library to utilize networked resources for the benefit of their users. The results found that LIBSYS and NewgenLib have been used by university libraries. There is a need to explore all the options of the software being used and thereby provide efficient services to the users and they should seriously concentrate on complete automation of libraries.

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