Automation & Networking of Engineering College Libraries in Kerala State – A Evaluate Study

KR. Senthilkumar[1]

[1]Librarian, SVS College of Engineering, Coimbatore

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Abstract - *This article focused on the development of library automation and networking of engineering college libraries in Kerala. The survey findings mainly cover various aspects of library automation and networking such as Library automation, Networking facilities, information services, Staff development and budget. The problems encountered in this process are identified possible suggestions are stated.*

Key Words: Library Automation, Networking, Engineering College Libraries, Internet, Intranet, Information Services, Hardware, Software and DELNET.

1.INTRODUCTION

Automation offers many opportunities for libraries to improve their services and serve their users well. It will also help the library staff in their responsibilities of acquisition, cataloguing, circulation and dissemination of information.

The Engineering libraries in the state are the earliest adopters of ICT to their environment. Engineering libraries joined the fray only during the 1990s. The automation and networking of many colleges, national institutions and other institutions of higher learning has been initiated by the national agencies dealing with information and library networks like NICNET, INFLIBNET, DELNET, CALIBNET and other metropolitan and city networks which have started developing various bibliographic databases of their holding. NICNET and ERNET have made e-mail/ Internet service available to the academic as well as in Government sectors. Some of the metropolitan and city library networks like ADINET, MALIBNET, CALIBNET, MYLIBNET, PUNENET, BONET etc. have also been initiated and couple of them have started functioning and providing various on-line services through these networks by Sinha and Bhattacharjee, 2003. The JNU established DELNET as the national agency for coordinating the library networking activities of libraries.

2.REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In a study on Library Automation and Information Networking Radheshyam Singh (1999) highlighted the need for developing INFLIBNET as a number of urban library networks in the country like DELNET, CALIBNET, BOMNET, ADINET, etc. It would be useful, for resource sharing of various organization/library and checking the duplicate purchase in the city

In a case study carried out by Ramana (2004) on automation and networking of central library of CSJM University had shown the scenario of automation of libraries, hardware and support used for library automation, staff strength and software used (i.e. SOUL) in the library

ICT infrastructure is an important resource of modern library or information centre. In the study of ICT Infrastructure in Special Libraries in Kerela, Mohamed (2006) has revealed that the libraries of Kerala apply ICT for providing efficient services. The investigation also shows that majority of the special libraries have basic hardware facilities like servers, computers, printers, barcode printer, and barcode scanner, etc

3.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of the study are:

- ✓ To find out the Present status of Library Automation in Kerala
- ✓ To find out the Present status of Networking libraries in Kerala
- ✓ To know the Budget expenditure from Management Support
- ✓ To find out the ICT skilled professional staff for IT
- ✓ To evaluate the Library Software

To know the Networking service like ILL (interlibrary loan)

4.METHODOLOGY

The present study is a survey using a structured questionnaire as a tool. The addresses of institutions in the area were collected through formal and informal sources. A short structured questionnaire was sent to Kerala state nearly 76 engineering colleges. Only 32 Colleges is responding. It will analysis Excel 2007 and find a conclusion.

5.DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

5.1.The General Aspects of Libraries

In the light of the objectives of the study, the data collected through questionnaires were analyzed and interpreted with the help of excel 2007 method using simple percentage approach. The data has been presented compared and analyzed by using tables and diagram. In the category of Total Collection, total Periodicals, Establishment of Years, types of Management, Librarian Qualification and Type of Networking

Volume	8000 - 12000	12000-17000	Above 17000	Total
Total Collection	12	10	10	32

In above table reveals the general aspects of engineering college libraries out of 32. The 12 libraries have the total collection of documents in the range of 8000 to 12000. The 10 libraries have the total collection of documents in the range between 12000-17000. The 10 libraries have the total collection of documents in the range between above 17000.

No. of Periodicals	1-30	30-60	Above 60	Total
Total Collection	15	11	7	32

In above table reveals the Total number of Periodicals out of 32 libraries. The 15 libraries have the total periodicals 1 to 30 only. The 11 libraries have the total periodicals 30 to 60. Remaining 7 libraries have above 60 periodicals subscription per year.

Years	Before 1990	1991-1999	After 2000	Total
Establishment of Years	2	8	22	32

Govt./Private/ Autonomous	Govt.	Private	Autonomous	Total
Types of Management	1	26	5	32

Qualification	MLIS	MLIS with M.Phil	Ph.D	Total
No. of Librarian	19	12	1	32

Type of Networking	DELNET	INDEST / AICTE	OTHERS	Total
No. of Libraries	28	2	2	32

5.2.Status of Library Automation

In the present day of information age everyone is talking about automation and networking. Libraries and Information Centers have started using computers for its day to day activities and have also been adopting the state-of- the-art of automation for making the library and information services faster and effective. The automation of library operations facilitates the essay access to the information, saves the time of the professionals as well as users and avoids duplication of housekeeping operations. But the process of automation of library activities needs proper planning, selection of hardware/software, awareness of use of IT among the professionals and users, trained manpower and willingness of the authorities for implementing the automation and networking of library activities. The following table 1.1 shows that status of library automation in Kerala State.

The data shows that 18 (56.25%) college libraries are fully automated where as only 14 (43.75%) are partially automated
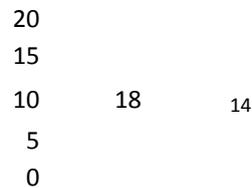
Status of Automation

Figure No. 1.1. Status of Automation.

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