A Study on ICT Based Library Services with Reference to Academic Libraries in Rural Area

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Abstract: - *The present study gives an overview of ICT based library services in AICTE approved institutes of rural areas of the eastern part of Pune district. The findings of the study revealed that basic ICT equipment and technology is available in the majority of libraries under study. These libraries provide ICT based services like OPAC, reprographic service, access to full text databases, etc., but services through digital library and institutional repository are lacking. The majority of librarians have knowledge of software for providing services. The libraries were facing problems like inadequate library budget and insufficient trained staff.*

Keywords: ICT, ICT literacy

Introduction

ICT has proved a boon to the service sector of all the fields in society viz health, education, business and agriculture, etc. Academic Libraries are not an exception to this as they are the backbone of the education sector. Today, academic libraries are using ICT for managing all the day to day activities and using it as an effective tool in rendering services to the users. In recent years library's electronic collection is gradually increasing and ultimately it has changed the nature of the services offered by the libraries. ICT based services include email alerts, use of social media, various internet based services, SMS alerts, electronic document delivery, etc. As users are adopting modern technologies for their academics, these ICT based library services are playing a vital role in their academic success.

Literature Review

There are numerous studies conducted in India on ICT based Library and information services. Hussain(2013) conducted studies on ICT based library and information services in Delhi and NCR region. The researcher demonstrated the primary way to learn about ICTs, the purpose of

using ICT enabled library services and the extent to which users are utilizing the services.

Ridhwan (2015) in his study on application of information and communication technology in management of information resources and services highlighted the prospects and problems of ICT in Kaduna State Tertiary Libraries.

Kumar (2015) studied various ICT facilities and services provided in engineering institutions in the Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh. He found that 60% libraries were partially automated and barcode technique is the most frequently opted for circulation and DELNET seemed to be the most preferred information network service.

Khan (2016) focused on the impact of Information Communication Technology on the Library and its services. He discussed how ICT has brought unprecedented changes and transformation to an academic library and information services.

Bansode and Viswe (2017) assessed the information communication technology (ICT) literacy of the library professionals working in University Libraries in Maharashtra. They found that majority of Library professionals had acquired the basic ICT literacy skills and suggested that University libraries should organize in-house training programs at regular intervals.

Objectives

1. To identify the implementation of ICT based equipment and technologies in the academic libraries.
2. To study ICT enabled services provided by the academic libraries.
3. To assess ICT literacy among the librarians for managing library services.
4. To identify problems faced by the librarians.

Methodology

This is a survey based study in which a structured questionnaire was designed to collect data. Fifteen AICTE approved institutes from the rural areas of the eastern part of Pune district were selected for the study. These institutes are from Daund, Baramati and Indapur Taluka. There were six engineering colleges, five management institutes, two pharmacy colleges and two architecture colleges. The questionnaire was distributed personally as well as through email to the respective librarians of the institutes.

Data Analysis and interpretation

Data collected through the questionnaire was analyzed and graphically presented and interpreted. ICT based library services require various ICT equipment and technologies. The Researcher has asked regarding equipment and technologies available in their libraries.
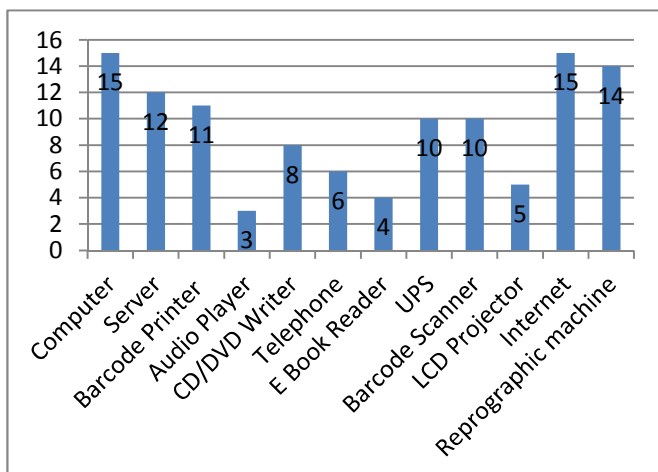
Figure 1.Equipment and Technologies Available in the Library

The figure No.1 shows equipments and technologies present in the libraries. Maximum Librarians were provided with the facilities like computers, internet connectivity, and reprographic machine. Facilities like audio player, LCD projector was available to few librarians. Only very few librarians were provided with E book readers also to avail library services.
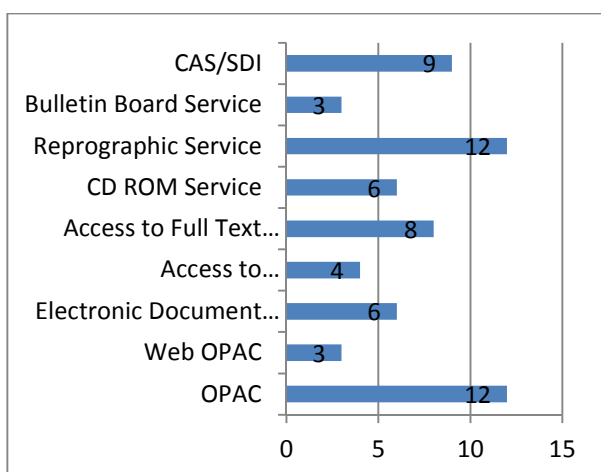

Figure 2: ICT Based Library Services

It could be seen from figure 2 that majority of librarians were providing reprographic, OPAC and CAS/SDI services to the users. Many of them were providing access to full text databases. Very few librarians were also providing services like access to bibliographic databases, bulletin board service and web OPAC services to their users.
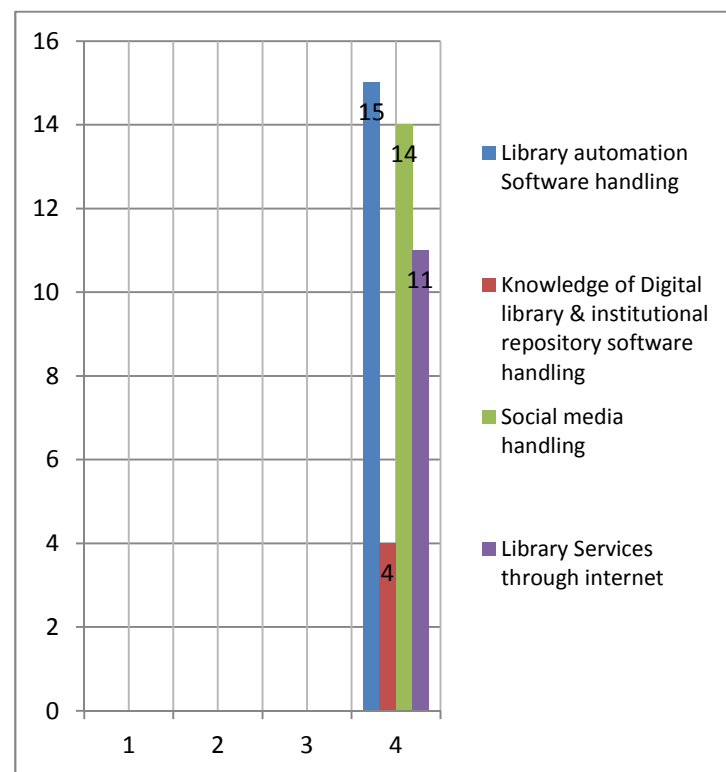

Figure 3: ICT literacy Among Library Professionals

From the figure 3, it was found that all the library professionals under study were able to handle automation software. Majority of library professionals were able to manage social media for providing library services. Some library professionals were knowledgeable enough to provide library services through internet. Only a few knew about digital library and institutional repository software.
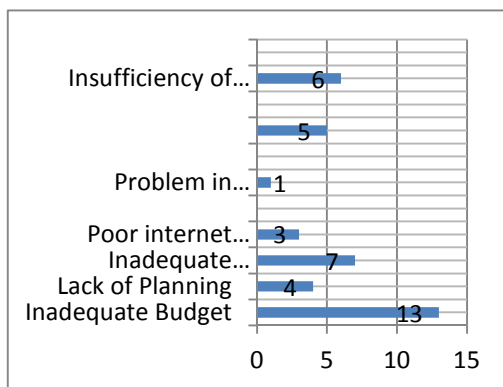
Figure 4: Problems faced by the Librarians for availing ICT Based Library Services

It was noted from the Figure 4that most of the librarians were facing problems regarding inadequate budget, insufficient trained staff and less number of workstations. Remaining librarians were having problems like compatibility of systems and lack of planning. Though the study was conducted in the rural area, it was observed that internet connectivity was good enough as very few librarians were facing problem for internet connectivity.

Conclusion

Most of the libraries were providing ICT based library services such as OPAC, bibliographic services, CD ROM, access to full text databases etc. to the users. It was observed that creation of digital libraries, institutional repositories and web OPAC, which are the current trends in the library services, were lacking in the libraries under study. The problems faced by most of the librarians while providing library services were inadequate budget, insufficient trained staff, incompatibility

of systems, etc. It can be concluded that the rural academic libraries were good enough in providing ICT based library services from the platforms like social media, internet as well as using library automation software.

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