STATUS OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION IN AFFILIATED COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN NORTH MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITY, JALGAON: A SURVEY

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ABSTRACT:- *This paper provides the status of library automation in affiliated colleges in North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. The questionnaire method was used for the study. Out of 112 respondents 84 (75%) has responded. The aim of this study was to analyze Library automation under related issues among the users and it was intended in the present to survey a few areas for Library Automation such as, automation services, purpose of automation and problems faced during accessing automatic services.*

KEY WORDS – Library Automation, SOUL 2.0, LIB MAN, Academic library.

INTRODUCTION:

Libraries are the lighthouses for information. The thirst of knowledge is increasing every day at various levels and on various subjects. There is a great demand to provide such information quickly on demand for which efficient and accurate devices or tools are introduced which are based on mechanized process. Library automation has become a need of the modern era (Veenapani & Singh, 2011). Automation in the library means bringing down the distance in the terms of time, space and language between the uses of the documents. A library is a collection of information sources. Today increasing demand and rapid development

of information and communication technologies have revolutionized the system of Library (Dash & Solanki, 2012).

LIBRARY AUTOMATION

The term automation was first introduced by D.S. Harder in 1936. He defined it as the automatic handling of parts between progressive production processes in relation to engineering industries.

According to Webster's dictionary "Automation is the techniques of making an apparatus, a process or a system operate automatically". In other words it is the machinery that mathematically manipulates information storing,select, presents and records input data or internally generated data. (Mohod, 2013)

The library automation is the use of automatic and semiautomatic data processing machines to perform such traditional library activities as acquisitions control, serial control, and cataloguing and circulation control. Library automation may thus be distinguished from related fields such as information retrieval, automatic indexing and abstracting and automatic textual analysis.(Deshmukh, 2013)

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to analyze the pattern and the purpose of automation use by the students of college libraries and the impact of automation services over the traditional library.

- To find out the status of automation in the North Maharashtra University Colleges from Jalgaon District.
- To ascertain the various automation services provided by the academic libraries to the users.
- To identify the different purpose for which the automation is used by the users.
- To find out the problem faced by the users while accessing and using automatic services.

SCOPE & LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is to examine the present status of Jalgaon district academic libraries in North Maharashtra University and the study cover the status of library automation, library collection, library computerization and networking, status of training programs for the staff.The study is based on the data collection for Ph.D. research scholar for collecting the data for questionnaire and it is observed that some relevant data for the research is not available. The data under the study is limited for the year 2010 to 2015.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Questionnaire method used for the study. Out of 112 colleges under the study 84 responded, 28 colleges not respond.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected through questionnaire was organized, tabulated and interpreted and analyzed by using simple statistical methods.

Table No.1 - Year of Establishment of the Library

Year	No. of College	Percentage (%)
1945-1950	2	02.38
1951-1955	0	00.00
1956-1960	0	00.00
1961-1965	6	07.14
1966-1970	4	04.76
1971-1975	4	04.76
1976-1980	2	02.38
1981-1985	8	09.52
1986-1990	8	09.52
1991-1995	7	08.33
1996-2000	10	11.90
2001-2005	14	16.67
2006-2010	14	16.67
2011-2015	5	05.95
Total	**84**	**100.00**

The above table 1.1 shows the number of college libraries which have been established during 1945 to 2015.It is observed thatthe maximum number of colleges established in the period of 2001 to 2010 i.e. 28 (33.34%),in the period of 1945-1950 and 1976-1980 there are 2 (2.38 %) college libraries established and in the period of 1961-1965 there are 6(7.14%)libraries are established and 1966-1970 and 1971-1975 there are 4 (4.76 %)colleges are established each

period respectively.In the Period of 1981-1985 and 1986-1990 there are 8 (9.52%) libraries established, in the year 1991-1995 there are 7 (8.33) libraries established, in the year 1996-2000 there are 10 (11.90%) libraries established and the year 2011-2015 there are 5(5.95%) libraries establishedand the year 1951-1960 there are not a single library established.

Qualification of Librarian

The Professional qualification, including the technical qualification and training on I.T. related disciplines are the important aspects, because thelibrarians are expected to organize technology based information services on one hand, and to impart information seeking skills on the other

Table No.2 - Qualification of Librarian

Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Ph.D in Library & Information Sci.	08	09.52
M.Phil.	22	26.19
M.Lib&Isc.	69	82.14
NET in Lib &Info.Sci.	14	16.67
SET in Lib &Infor. Sci.	05	05.95
NET/SET Both	04	04.76
B.Lib&Infor. Sci.	74	88.10

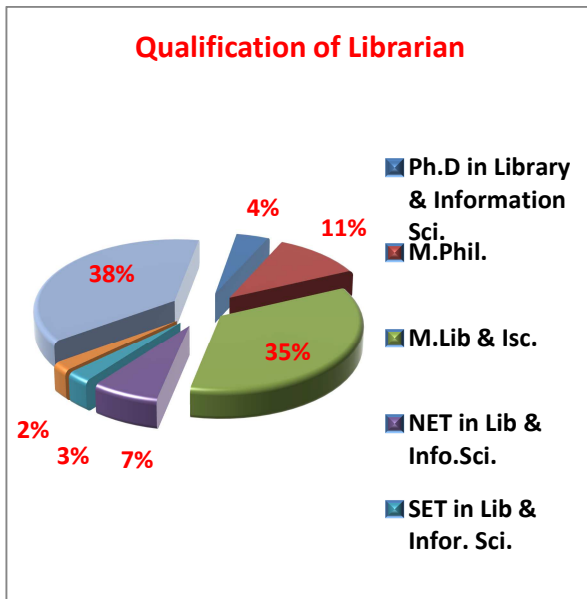*Note: Because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%.*

Figure No.1 - Qualification of Librarian

The analysis of data as shown in the above table No.2, and pie-diagram 1 shows the distribution of libraries based on qualification out of 84 libraries. It shows that there are 69 (82.14%) librarians are having Master degree in Library and Information Science, 74(88.10%) librarian has Bachelor degree in Library and Information science, and 8 (9.52%) librarian has Ph. D doctoral degree and 22 (26.19%) librarians have M. Phil degree. Then the 14 (16.67%) are the NET and 05 (5.95%) are in SET in library and Information Science and 04 (4.76%) pass in both NET & SET Exam.

Experience of Librarian

Respondents were asked about to mention their service experience. The answer of this question has given table no. 3.

Table No.3 - Experience of Librarian

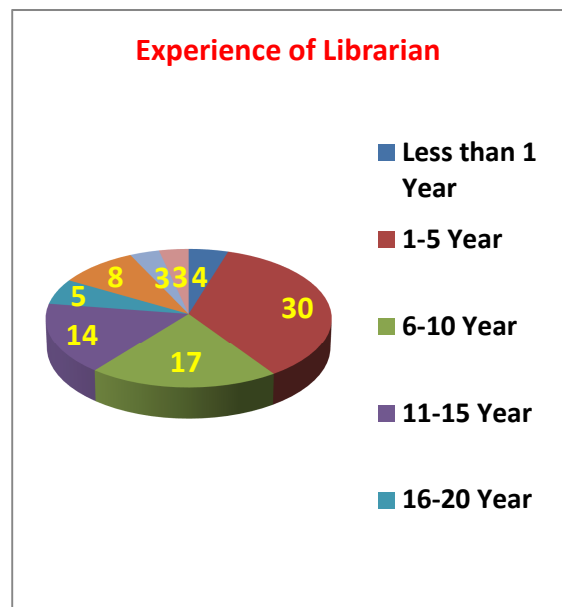| Experience	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than 1 Year	4	04.76
1-5 Year	30	35.71
6-10 Year	17	20.24
11-15 Year	14	16.67
16-20 Year	5	05.95
21-25 Year	8	09.52
26-30 year	3	03.57
More than 31 Year	3	03.57
Total	**84**	**100.00**

Figure No.2 - Experience of Librarian

The table No.3 and figure No.2 shows the experience of librarian it is observed that 30

(25.72%) librarians are working inthe range of 1-5 years. The 17 (20.24%) librarians are working in the range of6-10 and 14 (16.67%) librarians in the range of 11-15years experience. It is reveal that the, 5(5.95%) librarians are working in the range of 16-20 years. It is shown that, 8(9.52%) librarians are working in the range of 21-25 and 3(3.57%) librarians are working in the range of 26-30 years each category respectively and the range of above 31 the range of 3(3.57%).There is a 4 (4.76%) librarian working in less than one year of service.

The Distribution of Libraries Based on Library Collection

A good reference collection is the soul for sound reference service. It has beenobserved thatthe libraries maintained separate reference section. Responses received about the strength of reference collection are tabulated below.

Table No.4 - Total Library Book's Collection

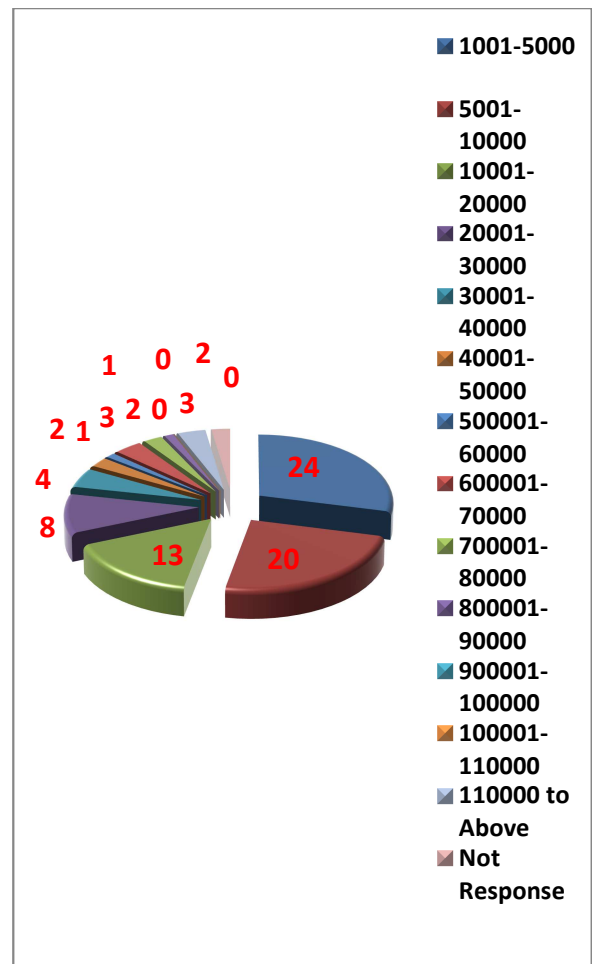| Number of Books	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than 1000	01	01.19
1001-5000	24	28.57
5001-10000	20	23.81
10001-20000	13	15.48
20001-30000	08	09.52
30001-40000	04	04.76
40001-50000	02	02.38
500001-60000	01	01.19
600001-70000	03	03.57
700001-80000	02	02.38
800001-90000	01	01.19
900001-100000	00	00.00
100001-110000	00	00.00
110000 to Above	03	03.57
Not Response	2	02.38
Total	**84**	**100.00**

Figure No.3 - Total Library Book's Collection

It is reveals that the analysis of the data that these libraries mainly have the collections such as: books, inclusive of reference books, textbooks, and book bank in the table no.4 and figure No.3.it is found that out of 84 libraries. The 1 (1.19 %) libraries have the total collection of documents in the range of less than 1000. And the 24(28.57%) libraries have the total collection of document in the range 1001 to 5000 and the 20(23.81%) libraries have the total collection of document in the range 5001 to 10000 the 13(15.48%) libraries have the total collection of document in the range 20001 to 30000 and the 4(4.76%) libraries have the total collection of document in the range of 30001 to 40000. Then the 2(2.38%) libraries have total collection of document range is 40001 to 50000 and 70001 to 80000 each. Then the 3(3.57%) libraries have total collection range is 60001 to 70000 and above 110000. Then the 1(.19%) libraries have total collection range is 50001 to 60000 and 80001 to 90000.

STATUS OF AUTOMATION

Table No.5 - Status of Automation

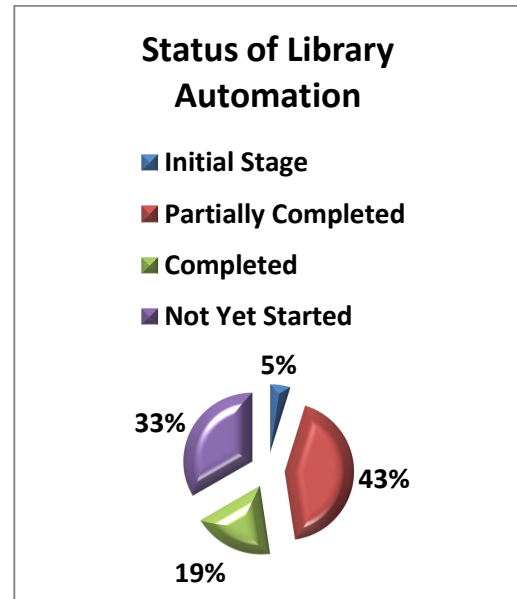| Status of library Automation	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Initial Stage	4	04.76
Partially Completed	36	42.86
Completed	16	19.05
Not Yet Started	28	33.33
Total	**84**	**100.00**

Figure No.4 – Status of library automation

Inorder to ascertain the extent of the automation of the libraries the librarians were asked to indicate the extent of automation of the libraries. It isobserved from the data as shown in the table 5 and pie diagram 4 out of84 libraries. 16 (19.05%) libraries are completely automated and 36 (42.86%) libraries are partiallyautomated. It is observed that 5 (4.76%) library is in Initial stage of automation and 28 (33.33 %) libraries have not provided information regarding automation.

LIBRARY AUTOMATION SOFTWARE

Library application software is the most important element in library automation. The success of library automation depends on the selection of right software and its correct implementation. Many commercial library software's like LIBSYS, LIB MANAGER,

SOUL, LIB MAN, SLIM, etc. are available in the market. Each and every software has its own unique features and limitations. The College

Library Automation Software	Number of libraries	Percentage (%)
SOUL	16	19.05
LIB MAN	11	13.10
LIB MANAGER	13	15.48
SOFT LIB	2	02.38
VRIDDHI	3	03.57
SLIM	1	01.19
DEV Software	1	01.19
TSS (Techno Soft Soln.)	1	01.19
GRANTHALAYA	1	01.19
AIM Library Management System/Coll.Softwar e/Smart Library (In-House S/w)	6	07.14
No Library Software	29	34.52
Total	**84**	**100.00**

libraries were asked to furnish the information regarding the library software used in the library and the responses received were tabulated in the table no. 6 and pictorial presentation has been made using figure no.5

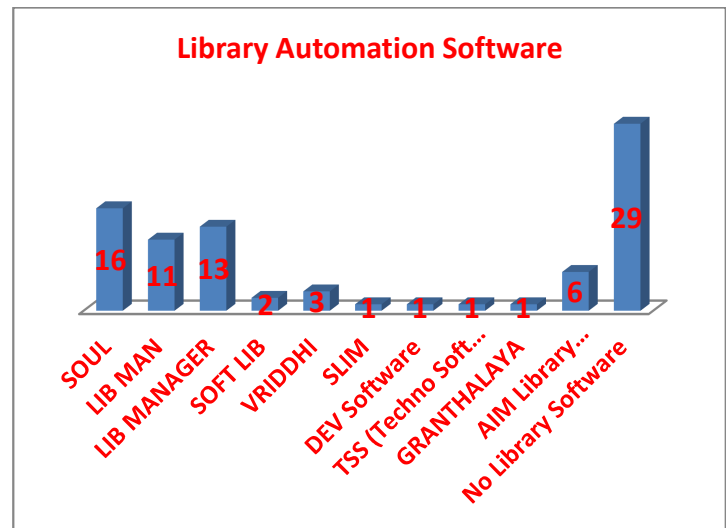**Table No.6 - Library Automation Software**

Figure No. 6 - Library Automation Software

From the table no. 6 and figure no. 5 it is revealed that, out of 84 college libraries gone for library automation, 11 (13.10%) college libraries are using LIB MAN software, where as 13 (15.48%) libraries are using LIB MANAGER, where as 16 (19.05%) libraries are using SOUL, where as 3 (1.57%) libraries using VRIDDHI, where as 2 (1.32%) libraries using SOFT LIB and 6 (7.14%) libraries using In-house Library Software and 1(1.19%) library using SLIM, Dev Software, TSS and out of 29 (34.52%) library has not yet purchased any library application software. From the analysis it is interesting to know that 11 (13.10%) college libraries are using LIB MAN software developed by the Master-Soft ERP Solution Pvt. Ltd. Nagpur. It is obvious because

the LIB MAN is the most provide multiple services in ERP system for the College Office and Library Management Automation System Software which is considered as most user Friendly software for Education Institutions.

He has provided to the Student Admission & Fees Collection, Student Administration, Financial Accounting, Payroll & Leave System, Library Management System (LIB-MAN),M-OPAC for Android Mobile (for library data searching),WEBSITE,Bio-Matrix-X990-Finger Print+ RFID Card Reader, Old Student C Generator, Inventory (Stores), Short Messages Services, Inward Outward , Service Book & Establishment system all those system are provided to Master-Soft ERP Solution System.

The second most used software was LIB MANAGER 13(15.48%) Library system which designed Library Manager Nasik.

The Third most popular software knows that 16(19.05%) college libraries are using SOUL software developed by INFLIBNET. It is obvious because the INFLIBNET is distributing the software at a low prices to the college libraries as compared to the other software as well as INFLIBNET is giving all the technical assistance i.e. maintenance of the software to the university libraries whenever they are in need.

BARRIERS IN LIBRARY AUTOMATION

Library automation is an expensive, complex and continuous process involving various problems faced in its implementation. In order to identify various problems faced in implementation of library automation at the college libraries. The respondent libraries were offered 6 problems plus any other. The responses received are tabulated in the table no. 7

Table No.7–Barriers in Library Automation

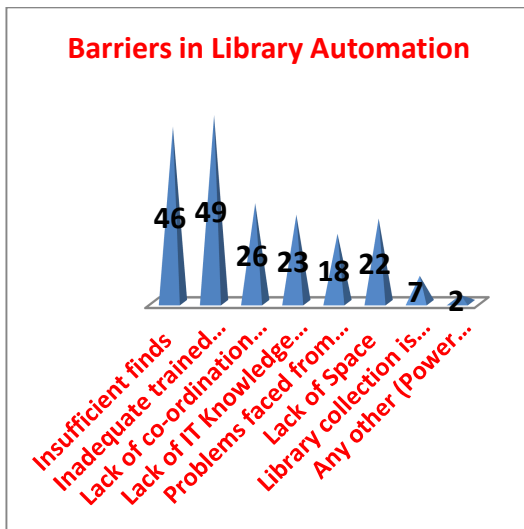| Barriers	Number of libraries	Percentage (%)
Insufficient finds	46	54.76
Inadequate trained staff in IT application	49	58.33
Lack of co-ordination among the library staff	26	30.95
Lack of IT Knowledge on the part of users	23	27.38
Problems faced from higher authorities of University / College/Institute	18	21.43
Lack of Space	22	26.19
Library collection is very less	7	08.33
Any other (Power supply)	2	02.38

Figure No.6 - Barriers in Library Automation

FINDINGS

- It is found that the majority of college library established in 2001 to 2010 and not a single library established in 1951-1960 in the North Maharashtra region to the 84 selected libraries.

- It is found that the Eight librarian is completed to the PhD and 22 librarian is completed in M.Phil and 14 are NET and 05 are passed in SETexam and 69 are passed in M.lib & 74 are passed in B.lib. it means the librarian are well qualified in NMU region.

- It is found that the most of the librarian are experience in the range of 1 to 5 years means new joining of librarian and the range of 6 to 15 years is 34 librarians.

- It is found that the 58 college libraries having collection of less 20000 and the only 3 libraries are more than 110000 books collections.

- It is found that the status of automation is 16 libraries are completed automation and 36 libraries is partially completed and 4 libraries are initial stage and 28 libraries not yet started the automation means the few college library not automated.

- The major finding is that the 16 libraries are use in SOUL library software for Inflibnet and 13 are used in Library Manager and 11 are used in LIB MAN library software and 6 libraries are used in In-House library software. That is SOUL is mostly used in NMU region because the software recommended by UGC and very chip cost and user-friendly.

- It is found that the 49 librarians are faced the inadequate trained staff in IT application and 46 libraries are face to the Insufficient fund and 26 libraries are face to the lack of co-ordination to library staff and 23 libraries are face to the lack of IT knowledge on the user and 22 libraries are face to the lack of space and 7 libraries are very less collection and 18 libraries has faced the higher authority problems

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings of the study an attempt has been made to suggest a few recommendations which will help the library professionals, management and the authorities to successfully use the ICT facilities as well as to automate their college libraries

- Few college libraries are fully automated. The libraries in which automation has been initiated should try to become fully automated and the libraries in which automation is yet to start begin as soon as possible.

- Sufficient funds should be made available by the authorities for library automation.

- For the library automation, the willingness of the librarian and the authority is a must.

- Proper guidelines and planning should be maintained for implementing ICT in library

- activities.

- Adequate funds may be provided and utilized properly.

- Qualified and professionally trained manpower should be recruited.

- E-resource training programme maybe organized by the concerned authority.

- Librarians must be encouraged to renovate themselves with the modern technologies.

- Specific fund should be allotted for automation process.

- In-service training should be provided.

- Latest technology as well as modern equipment should be introduced.

- Proper collection development policy should be maintained.

- Adequate infrastructure should be developed.

- Before implementation of computerisation of library activities, the respective library

- should draw action plan and flow chart for step by step implementation of INFLIBNET Programme

- Although INFLIBNET is arranging workshop for senior library professionals for implementation of library automation programme, opinion from the experts who have already computerised the library activities and services, may be taken for successful implementation of the computerisation of library services;

- Library professionals at senior level should visit computerised library to have better idea of computerisation of library operation and services;

- Irregular power supply should be corrected by installing high capacity 5 KVA or more powerful UPS with stabilizer to sustain data entry work;

- User friendly good library application software should be made available either from the concerned university or by the INFLIBNET;

- Intensive compulsory training to senior library and information professionals as well as other library staff for data creation work should be provided by the university or arranged by the INFLIBNET.

- Although INFLIBNET has introduced regional training called INFLIBNET Regional Training Programme in library Automation (IRTPLA) for the library professionals working in a particular

region, but universityis not deputing its library staff compulsorily. Therefore it is suggested that maximum number of library staff should be deputed for attending short and long term training programme being organised by INFLIBNET, INSDOC (NISCAIR), ILA, IASLIC and other university or institutions for giving maximum exposure to work in IT environment.

- UGC and INFLIBNET should take care of timely release of fund for data support maintenance and salary of Information Scientist; and

- The Standard for data capturing given by INFLIBNET should be followed strictly and the any change in standard may be communicated to the libraries under the INFLIBNET programme.

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