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Recent Trends of ICT Services and the Present Scenario of Some Selected Engineering College Libraries in Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu: A Study

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ABSTRACT

Information is a fast growing entity, and Library is also an ever growing organization. It is always seen that library and information centers always welcome the new technologies so that they can satisfy the users' information needs. Therefore it is not surprising that, library & information centers adapting recent trends. This paper is a study in some selected colleges of Coimbatore district. It is an attempt to study the present scenario of these colleges.

Keywords: ICT, Greenstone, Dspace, Web 2.0 and Coimbatore.

1. INTRODUCTION

With the invention of modern information and communication technologies, information becomes a fast growing entity and accordingly information centers like libraries face the challenges of information delivery and its ever changing consumption. Hence the basic concept of LIS is no longer regarded as to retrieve, organize & to store information from printed or electronic sources.

Modern technologies provide fast and easy access for users to retrieve the ever growing amount of stored information in international, national or local databases. To pursue the user's changing societal needs, academic and research requirements, changing information seeking attitudes of users and impact of technological advancements and innovation of different ways for exploring information, LIS moved towards adapting recent trends.

For effective teaching and learning, an information centre like library, always needs to be up to date. So that teaching as well as learning could be interesting. According to Dorothy Obi, "good teachings demand that students be exposed to relevant information resources for effective understanding and exposing knowledge. Hence libraries became part and parcel of every academic institution.

To cope up with the time LIS are also adapting modern technologies. In the 21st century, the traditional method of service provision is astronomically becoming obsolete. In this regard, it becomes a challenge to professionals to keep their activities or services manual. It is not enough for the libraries to adopt modern technologies but they also be effectively managed.

1.1 Area of the coverage

The study is limited to selected colleges of Coimbatore district. These colleges are located at Coimbatore town. The criteria for selection of these colleges approval with AICTE and affiliated with Anna university and accredited by NAAC. A table has been prepared to present the selected colleges.

1.2 Objective of the study

1) To find out the ICT infrastructure of selected college libraries of Coimbatore district.

2) To know about the present status of recent trends of services provided by the selected libraries.

3) To know about the E-resources provided by the library.

4) To know about the ICT based services provided by the library.

2. EMERGING TRENDS & TECHNOLOGIES AND LIS

The use and impact of ICT among the users made the LIS to change their environment. Therefore, to provide precise, current and factual information just in time digital or electronic information are more popular than traditional printed publications. Traditional libraries are transforming themselves into digital libraries because of its enormous capacity of data storage, quick processing, access, retrieval and dissemination of information. Although some LIS are deal with both printed and digital materials. Some trends which are evolving recently in LIS are Library 2.0, mobile library service, cloud computing, geographical information system, internet based services, digital reference service, consortia based services etc. etc.

2.1 Library 2.0

According to Wikipedia, "with Library 2.0 library services are constantly updated and re-evaluated to best serve library users. It also attempts to harness the library user in the design and implementation of library services by encouraging feedback and participation". (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Library-2.0). To provide the best services to the users, Library 2.0 constantly updated and re-evaluated library services. Library 2.0 uses varieties of technologies offered by Web2.0. It includes online services like the use of OPAC system and an increased flow of information from the user back to the library. Library 2.0 provides users active participation and

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feedback of its user community. However Web2.0 technologies facilitates libraries to create collaborative and participative environment that is necessary to deliver user-centric library services and to create new resources and build- upon existing ones using collective intelligence of users. Such resources that are used in library environment are—Wikis, blogs, RSS and podcast have become popular in conveying and acquiring information.

2.2 Bulletin board

Bulletin board is a surface which is intended for the posting of publishes message. With the technological advancement bulletin board can also be entirely in digital domain and placed on computer networks and people can leave and create messages for other people to read, see as in a bulletin board system. It can serve the same purpose as a physical bulletin board. To attract the users bulletin board should be user friendly, advertising, informative and it must provide up-to-date information. Bulletin board in LIS offers services like CAS, SDI, display of new arrivals, reference services, information exchange, advertisements, conferencing, sponsors and grants etc. etc.

2.3 Cloud computing

Cloud computing is a technology where user can share the resources and services over the internet rather than having these services and resources on local servers/ nodes or personal device. Modern LIS have been using the cloud computing services such as online databases and large union catalogues for over a decade. But while planning for the use of a third party services LIS must have a detailed knowledge of the whole system. Only a standard company who is expert in handling such services should be appointing. Some cloud service providers are Ex-Libris, Duracloud and Polaris Library System etc are available in the market. Because of the integration in cloud between libraries, application partners and data, cloud computing can manage many common challenges of libraries like scarce resources, increased user demand, ever more complex collections, systems and workflows to a great extent. Libraries can use all types of cloud computing services in areas of automation, website hosting, digital library services, search services, storage, Integrated Library System, Inter Library Loan System etc.

2.4 Geographical information system (GIS)

GIS is geospatial analysis and display. According to Burrough and Mc. Donnell, GIS is a, "a power full set of tools for storing and retrieving at will, transforming and displaying spatial data from the real world for a particular set of purposes". (https://books.google.co.in). By using GIS tool LIS research can investigate cost effectiveness of a new library branch location by doing quantitative analyze of the population demographic, circulation statistics and other data from new location. GIS is also useful to analyze and compare circulation data per capita in different neighborhoods. Librarian can easily understand and display research findings.

2.5 Internet based services

The internet today has a revolutionary effect on LIS and on its professionals. Due to such effect on traditional library services they shift from collection management to information management, from ownership to access, and the change in nature, boundaries and structure of information need. Therefore internet becomes a part and parcel of the LIS. And with the growing innovations in internet, one can easily access to libraries via web pages. Web based services can be available for 24×7 and it provides users with the convenience of accessing information in their own time, saving them traveling cost and time and new options for answering reference questions. Some of the important library services that can be offered through the internet are – acquisition, technical processing, circulation, reference service, OPAC, resource sharing, portals, electronic journals, online databases etc. etc.

2.6 Digital reference service

The development of ICT had a great impact on reference service too, as collection and information in general become increasingly accessible electronically. LIS, especially academic libraries are trying to meet the needs of the academic and research community by improving their services and enhancing their resources. Digital reference service is a network of expertise, human intermediation and resources put at the disposal of users in an online/ networked environment. Different types of digital reference services are remote enquiry services, catalogue on the web, dedicated web sites, interactive services, resources remotely available, links to other OPACs, e-mail based reference services etc. etc.

2.7 Consortia based reference services

Library consortia made it possible to share the resources within the networked libraries, publishers and vendors. Because of its low-cost nature it becomes possible to purchase information in stabilized and reasonable prices. Therefore an increasing number of libraries joined consortia as a way of brokering better prices and rendering rapid and efficient services to information seekers. Recently in the West, the library consortia are shifting from a peripheral and limited position of resource sharing to an integrated system-wide resource sharing. Consortia based library services offer sharing of union catalogue, inter-library loan, document delivery services, storage facilities, collection development and human resources at local, national and regional level. Some examples of consortia in India are CSIR Library Consortia (Council for Scientific & Industrial Research), FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy & Astrophysics), and HELINET (Health Sciences Library & Information Network), ILM's Library Consortia etc. etc.

2.8 Methodology

Sources of data are primary nature. To fulfill the purpose, research methodology adopted is questionnaire method and interview method. Prepared a questionnaire with relevant questions and have visited the colleges personally.

2.9 Data analysis and interpretation

Following tables provides an analysis and interpretation arrived at from the received questionnaires of the studied college libraries. From the above table it is seen that more or less all the libraries have ICT infrastructure. Among them SVS College of Engineering has introduced Web 2.0 recently i.e. in the year 2009 digital library.

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Table 1. ICT infrastructure of the studied libraries

Sl. No	Name of the college	Year of introducing computers	No. of computers in Library	Internet connection	Wi-Fi connection	Scanner	Digital repository	Digital library
1	Sri Krishna College of Engineering	1998	100-150	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	SNS College of Engineering	2007	50-100	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	SVS College of Engineering	2009	50-100	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Hindustan College of Engineering	2000	50-100	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Karpagam College of Engineering	2000	50-100	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

(Source: Primary data)

Table 2. ICT based services provided by the library

Name of the college	Circulation	NPTEL	Reference service	WEBOPAC	OPAC	Internet access	Wi-Fi	Access to e-resource	Web Page
Sri Krishna College of Engineering	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
SNS College of Engineering	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
SVS College of Engineering	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hindustan College of Engineering	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Karpagam College of Engineering	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

(Source: Primary data)

The above table is a presentation of services rendered by the library which are given through ICTs. From the above table it is seen that all the college libraries are providing circulation OPAC and access to internet services with the help of ICT. Web Page is the only service that is not provided by these college libraries except SVS College of Engineering (http://svslibrary.pbworks.com**)**. They are providing the facility manually to the users. The other entire college libraries have Wi-Fi connectivity and WEBOPAC facility is not available in all library. The study reveals that all other college library provides E- Resources to digitize documents.

3. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

With the changing environment of libraries, library professionals should also be well convergent with information and network literacy and e-learning. From this study it is seen that though all the colleges have qualified librarian most of the libraries has lack of professional assistance. This is a challenge for the librarian to provide ICT based services without qualified assistance. In this regard college authority can take initiatives like appointing professional staff and give them opportunity to participate in professional training. Some colleges still need to improve their ICT infrastructure. ICT infrastructure is the basic requisite to adopt new technologies. In spite of the availability of different e-resources and digital repositories users are still lagging behind in using them. With the advent of ICTs there has been a significant impact on LIS which lead to modernization of libraries. Changing attitudes of users in information seeking is also one of the most prime factors for modernization of a library. Therefore to cater to the users need modern libraries bound to adopt new technologies like Library 2.0, cloud computing, internet based services etc.

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4) http://svslibrary.pbworks.com

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