The civilization has moved from an industrial society to a post-industrial society where information is the key economic resource. The modern society can also be called as Information Society. The information now has become not only an inevitable but also the fourth dimension of the society. To have a control over information the Libraries and Information centres play a vital role. However, the exponential growth of information and demand for speed and accuracy have forced to implement automation in management of library services.

Indian Institutes of Technology are being considered to be on the apex of academic institutions in the discipline of Science and Technology. Their libraries are rich in collection and possess variety of information sources. The users of these libraries i.e. students and faculty members are crazy to seek their desired information / document without wasting even a few minutes, also the quantum of users is huge. The libraries are well funded and normally money is not a hurdle to introduce new services or techniques. The staff in library, though efficient and good in number but the ever-increasing work load had put a big challenge before them. Automation of library has come to rescue the library staff.

Implementing automation in libraries is not an easy task, because the activities and services within a library have steps different from one another and each of the step may have number of variables. System – Design, therefore, is very crucial in Library Automation. The cost of computerisation and the benefits being accrued from it is another consideration in the decision-making of Library Automation.

In the present study the concentration is on the state of art of automation in the libraries of Indian Institutes of Technology, Systems used therein and the costs and benefits in this behalf.
Chapter 1 is the introductory chapter of study. After brief introduction of automation and Library Automation, feasibility of Library Automation is being introduced. Next, scope of this study is being highlighted which is followed by the Hypothesis. Methodology, being used to make this study, is through questionnaire, observations by personal visits and search of literature on the topic.

Chapter 2 reflects the vastness of IIT libraries and the variations among different Libraries. The collection details, users' details and details of Library staff have been summarized in Table 1, 2 and 3 respectively. After this the organisation of these Libraries and services extended by them are being described.

Chapter 3 covers the general aspects of system selection. It also describes the design for various house-keeping routines of Library, Indexing and Formulation of Bibliographical Data Base. Detailed programs and flowcharts are given which may prove useful in developing new softwares.

Chapter 4 gives elements of system and then studies Hardware, Software and Humanware in the libraries of Seven IITs.

Chapter 5 covers briefly the aspects of cost-benefit analysis in libraries and the problems faced in calculating the benefits. Available data is being analysed and calculation of benefits presented.

Chapter 6 contains the conclusion of this study. In order to test the formulated hypothesis the findings of this study are being analysed. At the end a few suggestions have been made for automating other libraries and for future research.
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