ABSTRACT

The objectives of the present study were: to assess the ICT infrastructure available in Karnataka State university libraries; to know the status of library automation; to find out the collection of electronic information sources; to find out the provision of electronic information services made by the university libraries; to find out the awareness and use of the electronic information sources by the academic staff; to find out the awareness and use of the electronic information services by the academic staff; and to find out the academic staff’s awareness and participation in user education programmes conducted by the university libraries.

The scope of the study area was limited to Karnataka State. Only six universities which were included in the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000 had been taken into consideration for the purpose of the study. The universities which were included in the present study: the Bangalore University with headquarters at Bangalore, the Gulbarga University with headquarters at Gulbarga, the Karnataka University with headquarters at Dharwad, the Kuvempu University with headquarters at Shankaraghatta, the Mangalore University with headquarters at Konaje, and the Mysore University with headquarters at Mysore. The study was restricted to the academic staff working in post-graduate departments of the said universities.

The survey method had been adopted for the present study. Two questionnaires were designed: one for university librarians and the other for the academic staff for the collection of data and wherever necessary the questionnaires were used as interview schedules. The data collected were tabulated and analyzed statistically using appropriate descriptive and inferential techniques.

The study found that the university libraries greatly vary from one to another as far as the ICT infrastructure was concerned. Most libraries lack sufficient hardware and software facilities and did not have sufficient Internet nodes and bandwidth. The campus LANs of the universities were not fully extended to exploit the benefits of digital information environment. The efforts put in to develop electronic information resources on their own by the university libraries found to be meager. The scholarly literature accessible under the UGC-Infonet E-Journal Consortium was the only strength of these university libraries.

Though majority of the academic staff were aware of the electronic information resources and services, negligible number of them use for study, research and publication purposes. Based on the findings, suggestions were made to improve the provision of the electronic information resources and services in the Karnataka State university libraries, also to create awareness of and use them by the academic staff.

Key words: University libraries- Karnataka; Electronic information resources- University libraries- Karnataka; Electronic information services- University libraries- Karnataka; Electronic information resources- Awareness- Academic staff; Electronic information resources- Use- Academic staff; User education- University libraries- Karnataka; University libraries- Academic staff