Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, has always inspired me to create something innovative that may bring peace, happiness and prosperity in our mother land. While talking on virtual universities and knowledge management, Dr. Kalam has advocated for creation of knowledge grid. In order to explore maximum from existing resources, consortia and resource sharing have been advised. A humble effort has been put forward to apply MIS in academic libraries, a budding field, to explore most from libraries.

After entering in new millennium, libraries are experiencing unprecedented rates of change, both internally and from external sources. A changing user population, technology enhancement, transformation of the scholarly communication system, digital libraries, new approaches to management and a renewed commitment to planning and assessment throughout the organization are propelling the new library environment. The library as fixed space is no longer a constant, and there are many alternative sources of information. All these factors converge to widespread interest in library planning, evaluation and outcomes assessment.

The MIS’s function is to provide library managers and staff with data, information, analysis and tools that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of library services and assist in the decision-making process. According to Amos Lakos, it is a supporting tool—a MIS does not replace managerial judgment. Its main objective is to improve the effectiveness of decisions. The MIS is an environment and a process, not just a piece of software.

Management information systems are tools designed to improve management decisions. Charles R. McClure, Amos Lakos and other library professionals have recognized the need for systematic application of MIS in Libraries. Some coordinated MIS projects have been carried out in U.K. & U.S.A.
The objectives of an MIS are to assist staff with the daily decision making process, to maintain better accountability and control of resources, to monitor budget allocations, to improve overall library effectiveness by focusing on outcomes to generate internal and external reports to improve long-term planning and to facilitate performance measures activities.

Financial constraints, declining budget, information glut, constant change in IT, web services, customer’s expectations for 24 x 7 services, time shortage are compelling MIS to be mandatory.

Libraries have now metamorphosed into digital and virtual institutions. More and more libraries must unit, which of course requires a change in the attitude, practices and policies to get the maximum benefit from consortia.

I have applied MIS to track performance, monitor the results of innovation, identify problems and opportunities, evaluate alternative options, and conduct strategic planning to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of library services and to assist in decision-making process.

Chapter one deals with the introduction of MIS, amalgamation with other subjects, resource sharing, Dr. Ranganathan’s five laws, macro approach to MIS. A model has been proposed for MIS along with creation of MIS environment among Chhattisgarh universities has been proposed.

Chapter two describes about Research Design, tools, factors, methodology, procedure, checklist to measure and improve effectiveness of library and suggests some periodic routines to be performed.

Chapter three includes the literature survey of the work already done in this field. The contributions of Charles R. McClure and Amos Lakos have been highlighted.

Chapter four describes the impact of IT on functioning of academic libraries, particularly in the e-learning process, library Operation, information sources, services, staff skills and user expectations.
Chapter five analyses the exponential growth of information, digital libraries and tools & techniques to harness the information overload.

Chapter six is divided to the applications of MIS in libraries, its significations and performance measurements.

Chapter seven examines results and discussions. Analysis of collected data through SPSS has been submitted and different graphs and tables have been prepared using ANOVA.

Chapter eight includes Conclusion and suggestions. Software has been suggested that enables MIS through integrated database. Some conclusions and principles have been suggested.

Mohammed Imtiaz Ahmed