CHAPTER - VI

FINDINGS, SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

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6.0 Introduction

The computer and telecommunication technologies have revolutionized the field of library and information services. They are being utilized for collecting data, storage, organization, processing, analysis and dissemination of data or information to the users. With the introduction of new technology, libraries are expected to use modern technology. It has a great relevance in the context of the fourth law of library science “save the time of readers and staff” in which S.R. Ranganathan provided the objectives relating to the internal efficiency of library.

There is a visible impact of information technology on the functioning of library and information centers. During the last decade, LIC’s in India have started making use of the state-of-art of new information and communication technologies in a big way.

In this research study the researcher taken into consideration all relevant resources and services of libraries and examined them in detail to understand the impact of library automation upon them. Inferences were drawn from the analysis of the data. Subsequently findings have been evolved.
6.1 Findings of the study

The systematic efforts in data collection and its scientific analysis lead to the following important findings:

I. The steady growth in the number of Engineering Colleges established after independence it is observed, reached the highest peak during 2001-2002.

II. It is clearly noticed that there is a proportional increase in the addition of newer and newer disciplines at the Graduate and the Post-Graduate levels, leading to the provision of research programmes in some of the established Engineering Colleges.

III. The potential users of Engineering College libraries are the faculty, research scholars and students.

IV. The major sources of finance to Engineering Colleges are AICTE, State Government and Management of the respective Colleges. By all measures, it seems, the funds are inadequate to meet the requirements.

V. Major expenditure is concentrated on print materials, and the expenditure on electronic resources is slowly picking up.

VI. Though the libraries are headed by qualified professionals, the number of qualified supporting staff is very meager.
VII. Majority of College Libraries are housed in the main Administrative block of the College and only 15 Colleges have independent buildings with provision for future expansion.

VIII. Information Technology application is slow but steady. However equipments such as Computers, OHP, Photocopier, TV, VCR, Microfilm Readers and LCD Projectors are moderately provided in all the Engineering Colleges.

IX. In most of the libraries, the automation is an ongoing process, using indigenously developed software, and in some cases commercially available software is also used. LAN facilities are found to be satisfactory.

X. OPAC is common in almost all libraries. In addition to this, CD-ROM databases search service; E-mail and Internet Services are provided quite liberally.

XI. There is a strong inclination towards resource sharing activities.

XII. Enough assistance to manage network facility is available in all the colleges.

XIII. There is a considerable interest shown by the librarians in going for designing and creating bibliographical databases of their resources.

XIV. This study univocally advocates the common network for all the engineering colleges in the state.
XV. In the light of the emerging consortia movement in all fields, the strong feeling among the professionals is to formulate a state wide engineering college libraries consortia.

6.2 Suggestions

Keeping in view the data analysis and interpretation, the following suggestions made:

1. In view of heavy demand and the need to sustain the onslaught of electronic and digital information resources, adequate funds be made available to the libraries.

2. Generous funds be made available for the upgradation of technology so as to face future consequences.

3. There should be professionally qualified and technologically exposed supporting staff to provide the technology related library and information services.

4. Provision be made to use the standard library software which can sustain the possible changes from time to time and which can offer back-up services as and when required.

5. As a prerequisite, there should be a union catalogue of library resources of all the engineering college libraries.

6. Looking into the national efforts in the formation of consortia in some groups of subjects, there seems to be an immediate need for joining such national consortia so as to exploit the resources for the benefit of users.

7. Library is provided with equipped conference hall, an audio-visual room and Internet corner.
6.3 Conclusion

The library profession has never been exposed so much in the past to the changing information scenario as it has been done now. In this age of information explosion, the technology has progressively replaced the old method of information collection, storage and retrieval. Today the walls of a library are giving way to electronic environments to establish links with information and virtual libraries that are getting shaped on the Internet. Each individual library is acting as a place for storage and service to the users while the trend is to provide shared information to the users. Emphasis is given to access to information rather than owning it. It is also possible to create their own institutional digital repositories by transforming their institutional publications which are in print. All this needs cooperation and support from the authorities of the colleges and active participation of library professionals.

Academic libraries in India have long desired one-stop shopping for their customers and in this electronic age their customers are demanding it to search from a single point at any physical location, and retrieve information from the library catalogue, citation from journal indexes and full text information from the electronic resources.

The driving force in advancing the creation and use of information in the current millennium will be integration of Internet/World Wide Web and standards of all computer applications operating in the networked...
environment. The rapid enrichment of resources available in electronic form combined with immediacy of access will make the electronic medium an essential component in the work environment of students and scholars in all disciplines at all levels. Academic libraries are facing increasing pressures from multiple sources. Libraries can no longer be expected to support research and development from their own resources due to the information explosion, increasing cost of library materials, shrinking library budgets etc.

The global computer network providing access to online bibliographic information and full text delivery of request will change the way work is performed in the libraries. The most important advantage of the information age for libraries may be that the information is not limited to the items held by library rather than user can access any modern library in the world through the World Wide Web.

Libraries must provide reliable, cost efficient access to information whether print or multimedia. And whether held locally or remotely. The need to provide information services that remove the barriers of distance and time become even more important. In earlier times libraries have always acquired and organized material so that the information is accessible more easily.
6.4 Future area of Research

Based on the review of literature and data collected, analysis and interpretation has given an indication to the following areas to be taken for further study.

1. A similar studies can be initiated in the other areas like; Medical colleges, Agricultural colleges, Pharmacy colleges etc.

2. The studies may be concentrated on the use of information sources with networked environment in engineering colleges.

3. An organized study of operability of usefulness of consortia mode of LIS resources may be made.

4. An intensive study may manpower development to manage the networked resources may be undertaken.

5. Design and development of digital archival of library of engineering colleges may also become a vital area of research.

With the developments in electronic publishing, there is a need to study the proper mechanism for cooperative acquisition of electronic resources by libraries. A detailed study is essential to under the pre-requisites for providing easy access to scholarly literature with consortia based solutions for e-subscription including the pricing model for consortia based services for the academic libraries.