CHAPTER 8
SUMMARY, FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND
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8.0 Introduction

The focus of the present study is to know the available information resources and procedures which are involved in the process of collection development, to evaluate the information resources and services, to study the status of automation along with the infrastructure availability, to know the various financial resources available to manage the polytechnic libraries, to recommend the new avenues for exploring the funding, to design the network model for the polytechnic libraries and also to suggest the effective ways and means for adopting the IT and other facilities for the network functioning and to analyze the cost effectiveness of network model for the purpose of optimum utilization of resources in the polytechnic libraries of Karnataka state. The First chapter introduces the problem of the study in its full form, the Second chapter covers the reviews of literature on various facets such as, polytechnic education, library services, collection development and network of libraries. The Third chapter covers the brief history, growth and development of the polytechnic education in India, with special reference to Karnataka, the Fourth chapter covers the profile of polytechnic libraries in Karnataka, and the Fifth chapter highlights the networking and its impact on library services. The Sixth chapter includes the analysis of the data and interpretation that led to the recommendation of cost
effectiveness of network model for the establishment of ‘POLIBNET’ (Polytechnic Library Network), the Seventh chapter covers the design of network model for the polytechnic libraries in Karnataka state. The last chapter concludes the research work and offers some feasible suggestions for future research in this field of activity.

8.1 Findings

The purpose of this study is to design and propose a network model for the polytechnic libraries in Karnataka state. The questionnaire method was used for collection of data. The condensed summary of the finding of this research is as follows;

- All the 179 polytechnic libraries have been selected for survey in the Karnataka state. Out of these, 129 polytechnic libraries have responded to the questionnaire. Among these polytechnic libraries, 76 are private unaided, 28 are government and 25 are private aided polytechnics. Majority of the polytechnics have been established between 1980’s to 2000. The 129 polytechnics are offering 28 different types of courses.
Majority of the polytechnics are offering more hot subjects like computer science, electronics and communication;

- Majority of the polytechnic librarians professional qualification is Diploma in Library and Information Science rather than Bachelor of Library and Information Science or Master of Library and Information Science;

- Responses indicates that, more than half of the polytechnic libraries’ general book collection ranges between 1000 to 4000 and 4000 to 7000 number of volumes;

- More than half of the polytechnic libraries reference collection is very meager in the state though it has been considered as the back bone of the library and its collections;

- One thirds of the polytechnic libraries have been subscribing journals annually, and private aided polytechnics are subscribing more number of journals as compared to private unaided and government polytechnic libraries;
• Besides the print media, the electronic materials such as Magnetic tape, Disks, Audio-Video-Aids, CD-ROMs, Online databases and E-Journals are also the part of their collection in a few of the polytechnic libraries in Karnataka;

• The study covers a five year library budget i.e. 1998 -1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. The average budget of each polytechnic library was Rs. 35620/- during 1998 – 1999. It was increased to Rs. 44534/- during the year 2002 –2003, with an annual average of Rs. 1782/- only. In the government and private un-aided polytechnic libraries, budget was increased steadily, whereas in private aided polytechnics budget was decreased from year to year due to the decision taken by the state government as non – release of recurring expenses to the private aided polytechnics;

• The polytechnic libraries have been allocated more budget for the procurement of books and journals. The average expenditure was Rs. 34069/- during 1998 -1999, and it was increased to Rs. 44224/- during the year 2002–2003 with an annual average increase of Rs. 2031/-. It
was nearly one fourths of the polytechnic libraries that have utilized the expenditure less than Rs.5000 for annual subscription of journals;

- Out of three different categories of polytechnics, majority of the government and private unaided polytechnic libraries are in the process of automation, whereas among private aided polytechnics, more than half of the libraries have been already computerized;

- More than half of the private aided and more than a quarter of the private unaided polytechnic libraries are having computers and necessary peripherals. Only two government polytechnic libraries are having full pledged hardware infrastructure. Among the different groups, private aided polytechnic libraries are in a better position compared to private Unaided and government polytechnic libraries;

- Majority of the libraries are using in-house library automation software. Most of the polytechnic libraries are using AACR-2 format as a bibliographical standard for creation of the library database;
• The professionals working in the polytechnic libraries are very much eager to introduce computer based information services to their user community. The private unaided polytechnic managements are more active and have supported automation of their libraries. Though the government and private aided polytechnic libraries are interested, they are depending upon the government grants for automaton of their respective libraries;

• The opinion given by the librarians regarding sectionwise automation work in different polytechnic libraries clearly indicates that, the private aided and un-aided colleges have been already automated acquisition and technical processing section, whereas the government polytechnics are yet to start the automation work;

• The government polytechnic librarians have expressed most consistent opinion for influencing factor i.e. "Principal or Head of the institution has directed for computerization of the library" and "availability of grants from parent institutions". In the case of opinion among the private aided polytechnic librarians, the most consistent opinion for the factor of "Principal or Head of the institution has directed for computerization of
the library” and most variable opinion factor is “world wide trend”. Among private unaided polytechnic libraries, the most consistent opinion variables are “world wide trend” and “Principal or Head of the institution has directed for computerization of the library”;

- Out of 129 polytechnics, only 13 polytechnics are having LAN facilities on the campus. 34 polytechnic libraries are having Internet connectivity and they are having leased-line connection with BSNL and Private ISP;

- There is a significant difference in information based services provided by government, private aided and private unaided polytechnic libraries in the state;

- Majority of the respondents have agreed to participate in the proposed library network as well as to share the expenses of the proposed network. This is a good sign for the development of polytechnic libraries’ network in the State of Karnataka;
• The opinion of the librarians relating to Networking of polytechnic libraries in Karnataka and their keen interest in sharing the information resources clearly indicates that the networking will help the optimum utilization of information resources in the state.

8.2 Suggestions

On the basis of the opinion given by the librarians working in different polytechnic libraries in the State of Karnataka, the researcher has offered the following suggestions:

1. The library should provide a tailor-made services to the academic community. Support in the selection of relevant and useable information in the increasing information chaos should be the core business for library professionals who should, therefore, have a specific subject oriented training and play a more pro-active role. Therefore, fully qualified and well trained staff should be recruited on the basis of the staff formula laid down for this purpose by the AICTE. All the librarians working in different polytechnics should be given a status as well as scales in accordance with the AICTE norms;
2. The DTE should organize at the state level different kinds of training programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences etc for the working librarians in different polytechnic libraries in Karnataka so as to enable them to improve their skills and techniques in an IT environment;

3. The AICTE and DTE should bring pressure on the existing polytechnics and its authorities to follow the existing norms in recruitment of librarians and other professional personnel in accordance with the existing norms of the AICTE;

4. Networking requires funds in the initial phase of development as well as a means for continual support. This component is considered to be of extreme importance due to the lack of economic support for the development of library and information services in the region. Lack of economic support was found to be an obstacle to the development and later implementation of the proposed network. The proposed network called ‘POLIBNET’ is in need of proper funding to set up and to develop the polytechnic libraries’ network in the State of Karnataka. The researcher has suggested that DTE should take up the responsibility of funding as well as the development of network, which is going to be
considered to be crucial for the optimum utilization of existing resources of different polytechnic libraries in Karnataka;

5. The AICTE at the national level should formulate a national policy on networking of Engineering and Polytechnic libraries in the country for the optimum utilization of the existing resources of different Engineering and Polytechnic Libraries in India;

6. There will be a shift from collection to access and from collection management to information management in a networked environment. Information can be accessed relatively easily, users can search information and retrieve documents that are not physically stored in the library of the parent institution. For that reason the library should focus on information management rather than on collection management;

7. More and more information in the 21st century is becoming available in digital form. The number of databases and news services available for subscription accessible via computer networks such as Internet is growing in number. Accessibility to information rather than extensiveness of collection has become a key measure of a library
performance. It will link all publicly funded libraries, breaking down barriers to easy and timely access to relevant information. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that the DTE has to take up this project and implement it on priority basis;

8. The state and regional standing committee (proposed) for ‘POLIBNET’ should convene meetings of interested polytechnics to consider the creation of a regional or local consortium as an interested community emerges. This should act as a catalyst to develop leadership champions for: creating a culture of sharing, developing policies and guidelines, encouraging collaboration with industry, developing regional consortia for licensing and procurement;

9. A ‘POLIBNET’ centre should be identified or established in each region to monitor and co-ordinate the development of library networking in the region which should be nurtured and supported by AICTE / DTE;

10. International standards should be adopted by libraries to facilitate the exchange of information within the state, nation and the world at large to encourage the development of inter-operable systems;
11. The proposed network should be implemented by DTE in three different phases;

(a) The polytechnic Libraries which have already completed computerization work should strive to improve their standard,

(b) The polytechnic libraries which have their computerization work in progress should complete it,

(c) All the remaining polytechnic libraries should also start adopting networking.

8.3 Recommendations for Future Research

The proposed structure of library network does not represent the only solution to the information problems of the polytechnic libraries in the State of Karnataka. In fact, coordination, cooperation and close communication among all the librarians of the state are needed for this type of endeavor to be successful. Although the purpose of the study was to plan and develop a model library network structure, the following areas pertinent to the planning, development, operation and implementation of the library network should also be carefully studied:
8.3.1. Technical design of the network structure:

A study should be conducted which addresses the technological aspects relating to each of the functions of the polytechnic library network. Since this aspect was beyond the scope of the present research, this area needs to be explored.

8.3.2. Manpower should be identified for the different regions:

Follow-up man power studies are needed to identify where the needs for manpower development exist for different regions. This study should identify not only the areas that are in need of attention, but also the available resources in different regions needed to overcome the problems.

8.3.3. Identification of information needs:

It is necessary to identify the types of information needs for the different types of users to whom polytechnic libraries offer their services.
8.3.4. Evaluation of the network structure:

Such study should be designed that identifies the different ways by which polytechnic library network should be evaluated. Evaluation of the structure is necessary in order to enhance and expand services and for a performance evaluation of the overall operation of the network. The environment for the implementation of polytechnic library network is favorable or not. The recognition that information is a valuable resource for the general development of the state is a factor favoring the development of such a network structure. Library leaders must convince administrators, government officials and decision makers of the need for developing this polytechnic library network and secure funds for its implementation and growth.

8.4 Conclusion

Though the information gathered have indicated that a polytechnic library networking in the state of Karnataka is probable, desirable and feasible, the analysis of all the information presented in the questionnaire illustrates that a good environment exists for the development, planning and
later implementation of the polytechnic library network. Although there is
diversity in many areas among the polytechnic libraries in Karnataka, it is
true, too, that there is a wealth of resources that can be better utilized for
solving the information problems of the state as well as those of the country.

Even though different states/countries have different strengths, there
are countries where the information situation can be classified as critical.
Available resources or existing strengths include experiences that most of
the English speaking countries have had in areas such as development of
national information policies, finding means of bibliographic control of their
publications, well-established national libraries, experience in seeking funds
from international organizations, engaging in networking cooperation with
neighboring libraries in the region, application of different types of
technology to library functions and the wealth of library resources found in
their library collection.

Polytechnic libraries in Karnataka state should have a network and
resource sharing facility among themselves other. Information must be
collected, stored and retrieved from many sources and disseminated to the
end users. Cost for obtaining this information, especially in the field of
engineering and technology, are rising sky high year after year without any increase in the library budget. Networking helps to free access of information to the polytechnic library irrespective of budgetary constraints. Networking is an agent which speeds progress and yet caters to human needs. It requires the support of all engineering professionals, government, management of polytechnics and, above all, from polytechnic librarians and their constructive thinking in order to bring about the procedures that will result in the most significant uses of network facility. Perhaps a truly adequate system can be achieved only through the creation of a kind of public utility for information handling such network as discussed above for the State of Karnataka.

The overall impression gathered from the study is that the situation in several polytechnic libraries in the state is moderate as compared to other states, even though it is evident from data and something must be done, if the polytechnics libraries are to be improved, to support quality education, research and finally improvements in technician’s skills which are over due in all communities of Karnataka. Therefore, more than ever, now is the time to seek, a solution to correct the above deficiencies. The only way towards the improvement is the planning and implementing the networking
of polytechnic libraries in the state. In return, the network will work to its full potential, and the users will be trained in locating information from various sources and retrieving these from different reading materials. And once we have access to these resources which are available, the users will be able to get all information they require for their study and research.

In the changed scenario of libraries, Information and Communication Technologies are converting, computer networks are reaching every part of the world, digital libraries are multiplying and the user community is steadily growing. These developments have made it possible to reach the enormous sources of information available to many people across the globe. People can access, store and transfer data faster than ever before. Some predicted that computer networks and digital libraries would lead to end of books, bookstores, libraries and archives, to a proliferation of virtual classrooms, and to employees working great distances from their employers.