CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREAMBLE

Change is one reality with which individuals, groups and organizations must constantly cope in order to survive. The needs for progressive changes in people’s attitudes and behaviors are essential for global acceptance. Nevertheless, for Library and Information Science (LIS) Professionals, a change is often linked with modern Information Technologies (IT) and management issues. Over the past few decades, the nature of library environment and mode of service has changed drastically. Implementing Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the library depends largely on librarians’ attitudes towards it. The application of ICT has caused significant changes in libraries: automated cataloguing, circulation, information retrieval, electronic document delivery, and CD-ROM databases (Adekunle, Omoba, and Tella 2007).

The sets and collection of media other than books for storing information, many libraries are now also repositories and access points for maps, prints or other documents and various storage media such as microform (microfilm/microfiche), audio tapes, CDs, cassettes, video tapes, DVDs, and video games. Libraries may also provide public facilities to access subscription databases and the Internet (Nath, Gautam and Parveen 2007).

Modern libraries are increasingly being redefined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources. They are understood as extending beyond the physical walls of a building, by including material accessible by electronic means, and by providing the assistance of librarians in navigating and analyzing tremendous amounts of knowledge with a variety of digital tools (Biddiscombe, 2001).
People in many professions use library resources to assist them in their work. People also use library resources to get information about issues of personal interests or to obtain recreational materials such as films and novels. Students use libraries to supplement and enhance their classroom experiences, to learn skills in locating sources of information and to all cultural institutions, the library provides information and services that are essential to learning and progress.

There is a scarcity of resources, putting lot of pressure on library services. Today, we need sustainable librarianship. Sustainability means to be able to sustain with reduced resources, by adopting innovative practices leading to economies of different kinds. Students need to be ascertained and motivated for better reading. This is possible only when there is a well-knit library attached to the college libraries and continues to perform traditional functions (Srivastava, 1997).

Academic Libraries are the libraries established in academic institutions to support teaching and research activities of students, researchers and teachers. The academic library is a service center where professionalism of the staff manning it can come hardly to the clientele, be they the students or the teachers. The real worth and potential of a library is realized when the students feel compelled to be driven from the classroom to the library to quench the thirst that is created in the classroom. Academic libraries have already transformed their specific functions by utilizing effectively innovative information technologies to enhance and integrate their specific information resources and services. Eventually, library and information professionals in academic libraries need to update their knowledge and skills in ICT as they play the role of key success factor in enabling the library to perform its role as an information support system for society. The academic libraries include libraries in schools, colleges and Universities. All these cater to the needs of the academic community for supplementing the study and research programmes of the institutions and help to conserve and disseminate the knowledge (Mohamed and Abdul, 2010).
1.2 PROPOSED RESEARCH

The explosion of ICT since the beginning of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century has been rendering manual-based library system in academic, research, special and public libraries less relevant. This is because using and implementing ICT in the library depends largely on the attitude of library staff toward this digital age. There is no doubt about the fact that significant changes have taken place in libraries in the developed world due to the application of ICT in automated cataloguing, circulation systems, online information retrieval, electronic document delivery, and CD-ROM databases (Obioha, 2005).

Attitudes have been used to represent perceptions of library staff on the value attached to IT in libraries - technical processing, collection organization and user services. It represents the conceptual value of these technologies in the minds of the library staff, not the values of these technologies. The study of attitude in general begins with a decision between two competing theories about the nature of attitude as a state of readiness, intervening variable between a stimulus affecting a person and that person’s response. In other words, a person’s attitude prepares him to react to a given stimulus in one way rather than in another. It is desirable that all library staff would need to have a positive attitude towards ICT in the current changing environment. It should be noted at this point that there are many variables which seem to have relations with or influences on the attitude of the librarians towards the use of ICT (Temjen and Saraf, 2003). In the light of the increasing number of colleges every year in BAMU, Aurangabad, it is felt necessary to study the attitude of the Librarians’ working in the colleges towards ICT in meeting the needs of their users.

1.2.1 Statement of The Research Problem

There are not much studies conducted about the effects of ICT on the professional activities of library professionals in college libraries. It is important to evaluate whether progress in ICT has had any impact on the library profession. Considering the above factors, the statement of the present study is entitled as "Professional Attitudes of Librarians Towards ICT: A Survey Of College
Libraries Affiliated To Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad”. It is hoped that the study will give an insight about how far the librarians will be able to be abreast of the advances in ICT, their professional development activities, whether their education in library and information science has helped them in handling the latest technologies and their need for further education and training in the profession.

1.3 DEFINITIONAL ANALYSIS

1.3.1 Professional

A Professional is a person who is engaged in a certain activity or occupation for gain or compensation as means of livelihood (Srivastava, 1997).

1.3.2 Attitude

Attitudes are “inclinations and feelings, prejudices or bias, preconceived notions, ideas, fears and Convictions about any specific topic” (Temjen and Saraf, 2003).

1.3.3 Librarians

A person who is a specialist in all library work (The Free Dictionary, 2015).

1.3.4 ICT

ICT refers to technologies that provide access to information through telecommunications. It is similar to Information Technology (IT) but focuses primarily on communication technologies. This includes the Internet, Wireless Networks, Cell Phones & other communication mediums (Watane, Vinchurkar and Choukande, 2005).

1.3.5 College

College is an educational institute which imparts education to graduate, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and professional community with the help of various teaching aids and faculty to improve all round development of personality of the student admitted in the college (Wikipedia, 2016).
1.3.6 College Library

Libraries are constituted by the educational authorities in the campus of college to fulfill the information (informative) needs of students and the faculty related to their subject by providing reading material like books, journals, non-book material etc. and services regarding the curriculum (Wikipedia, 2016).

1.3.7 Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University

Marathwada University established in August 1958 was renamed in 1994 as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) is located at Aurangabad. The jurisdiction of BAMU is Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed and Osmanabad (BAMU, 2015).

1.4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- To find out Professional Awareness of LIS Professionals towards ICT.
- To understand the levels of Knowledge and use of the Library Professionals on various aspects of ICT.
- To study the attitudes of LIS Professionals towards the use of ICT.
- To identify general characteristics and patterns that exist with regard to the Innovativeness of Librarians as it relates to the adoption of ICT.
- To study the problems faced by Library Professionals in the effective use of ICT applications.
- To understand the ICT and Network Infrastructure available in College Libraries.

1.5 HYPOTHESIS

1. The attitude and opinion of Librarians vary among the Male and Female.
2. Awareness of E-resources is present among the College Librarians.
3. The attitude and opinion of the library professionals vary with the age group.
4. Awareness of Internet use is prominent.
5. There are differences in the availability of ICT and Network Infrastructure in Colleges.
1.6 SCOPE & LIMITATION OF STUDY

The population of the study mainly comprised of Arts Commerce & Science Colleges affiliated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) Aurangabad. Under the jurisdiction of BAMU, Aurangabad is having 4 districts of Marathwada and total 404 affiliated colleges at various places. Present study is limited to 120 affiliated colleges (Government & Aided) out of them Seven (07) were Government Colleges while other 113 Colleges were Private aided located in rural and urban areas of Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed and Osmanabad district and affiliated to BAMU, Aurangabad.

1.7 METHODOLOGY

The present study used survey method to collect the data from Arts, Commerce & Science College Libraries affiliated to BAMU, to find out the prevailing situations. “The survey method is one of the most effective and sensitive instrument of research survey research can produce much needed knowledge” (Kasyap, 1969).

The present study utilized a combination of historical analysis, literature review and questionnaires for data collection. Historical analysis and literature review were useful in collecting textual data from published and unpublished sources. The questionnaire method was quite useful in soliciting information from the LIS Professionals. Hence, the data collected for this study was a combination of primary as well as secondary data.

The survey was undertaken with the help of questionnaires design for the purpose of data collection. While designing the questionnaire, care was taken that it has the mix of closed and open-ended questions. To enhance the response rate, multiple-choice questions included in sufficient numbers.
1.7.1 Population Sample

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University is one of the oldest universities in the Marathwada region. There are 120 Government & Aided colleges affiliated to BAMU. All these college were included in the population. The Population Sample according to Types of Colleges is given in table no. 1.1.

The sample size for College population of 120 is 92 as per Krejcie and Morgan population sample table (Krejcie and Morgan, 1970). Accordingly, of the total 120 colleges, the questionnaire was distributed to 120 granted affiliated colleges which are shown in table no. 1.1. Of the 120 respondents 103 (85.83%) have returned the questionnaire duly filled in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of College</th>
<th>No. of Colleges</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Response Received</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Commerce &amp; Science</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>43.33</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>44.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Commerce</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14.17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Science</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19.17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>103</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The rich & wide variety of quantitative data obtained had been checked & tabulated before processing & analysis were carried out. Data handling, validation processing & analysis have been carried out with the help of computer.

Collected data will be analyzed and presented in tabular as well as graphical form. In graphical form, bar charts, Pie Charts and line graphs will be used for presentation. For the purpose of analyzing the data collected, the fixed variables were librarians’ place of residence, gender and age; the statistical software package (i.e. SPSS) has been used. In addition, some of the tools/techniques used for analyzing data include weighted arithmetic mean (WAM), co-relation, chi-square, Ti-Square etc.

1.8 CONSPECTUS

The present thesis has been divided into 07 chapters as detailed below:

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with Preamble, Proposed Research, Definitional Analysis, Objectives, Hypothesis, Scope and Limitations, Methodology and Conspectus.

CHAPTER 2 : PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDES OF LIBRARIANS TOWARDS ICT: A REVIEW

Explains definitions of Attitude, Professional Attitude, ICT, ICT Applications in Libraries, Attitude of College Librarians towards ICT and etc. and reviews of earlier related studies in detail literature.

CHAPTER 3 : NORMS AND REGULATIONS FOR COLLEGE LIBRARIES: AN OVERVIEW

The chapter presents the theoretical analysis of UGC, AICTE, BCI and NCTE, their growth and development and professional council’s recommendations for college libraries.
CHAPTER 4 : DR. BAMU AND AFFILIATED COLLEGES: AT A GLANCE

Presents brief profile of BAMU, its Objectives, Functions & detailed information about University & its Affiliated Colleges in General and Statistical information particular.

CHAPTER 5 : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents details regarding the Research Methodology adopted, procedures adopted in data collection from College Librarians working in Affiliated Colleges in BAMU using a structured questionnaire.

CHAPTER 6: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter presents details regarding the procedures adopted in Data Collection from College Librarians using a Structured Questionnaire and subsequent Analysis, with SPSS as well as tabular & graphical form followed by Interpretation.

CHAPTER 7 : CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

This chapter deals with Major Conclusions, Implications and Further area of Research.

The thesis ends with the list of Bibliographical References and Appendices.
REFERENCES


