ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to find out the problems and prospects of networking in the public library in Assam. The study initiated with an explanation the need of library networks in the public library system in Assam. Because of use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in its working and services, the libraries today has become an establishment beyond four walls of a library building but extended to even the remote places. The study intended to forward for establishment of a "Assam Public Library Network" for the betterment of library workings and service standard in the State. For this, all related issues including the problems and prospects are studied taking into account different study methods.

A number of objectives were undertaken for successfully completing the study. Of the basic objectives: study the present situation of public libraries in Assam in case of collection, users, manpower and services, existing infrastructure facilities, library automation scenario, problems of library networking, prepare and suggest a conceptual model for networking of public libraries in Assam had been proposed. The study has been conducted as per stated objectives grouping into different chapters. In the study these objective are met properly and is explained in the Concluding chapter of the work.

Design/ Methodology/ Approach: The methodology for conducting the study consist of librarian’s perspective survey through prescribed questionnaire, formal and also the informal interview with library professionals, observation of the library activities and review of literature. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sources of literature dealing with Public library and library networking have been consulted. Internet resources on the research area are also searched extensively for the study. As the title of research, the area of the study is confined to the Public libraries of Assam.
Findings: It is observed from the study that public libraries of Assam have the resource mainly the physical forms: printed books and journals. Libraries are yet to develop digital collection in proper perspective. The study also shows that the numbers of registered library members are increasing last three years. All the librarians of surveyed libraries are professionally qualified. The study reflects the status of automation in public libraries in Assam. All the surveyed libraries entered their bibliographical data through LMS Koha. The study also reflects the problems of automation and networking among the surveyed libraries.

Research Limitations/Implications: The whole survey of the study is entirely based on public libraries of Assam. The study concentrates on problems and prospects of public library networking in Assam. So the study includes only those public libraries which have been started their library automation process. Remaining public libraries are excluding from the study.

Originality/ Value: The research work will be of extreme value for public library management authorities, research scholars and LIS professionals. This thesis will be valuable to the researchers, public library professionals and anyone who wants to pursue study in this line.

Keywords: Networking, Library networking, Library automation, Information and Communication Technology, Union catalogue, Public Library, ASPLIBNET.

Research Type: Descriptive, Evaluative, Survey based.