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A STUDY OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION AND NETWORKING IN DENTAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES AFFILIATED TO RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, BANGALORE

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ABSTRACT

1 INTRODUCTION

The library and information centre is an important component of any educational institution, which is hub of the teaching, and learning activities where students, researcher and teachers can explore the vast resources of information. In the traditional libraries users have to send more time for searching a small piece of information and for that have to depend mainly on the library professional or library staff. But in the age of information communication technology, computers are being used for day-to-day house keeping activities of the library which saves the time of the end users, and library professional also and at the same time avoid duplication of work and make the library service smooth and effective.

The advantages of automated libraries viz. Large data can be handled with easy and accuracy, It operates at great speed, high rate and better quality performance, Labour saving, Cost effective, Easy in functioning, Avoid duplication of work and Grater manipulation is possible.

The present status of the dental college libraries and the extent of library automation and networking are not standardized. The library services rendered by these libraries may not be satisfactory of the users, because of their weaknesses. The present state of such information services shows that some of the information services may not cover the user’s expectation. It is assumed that the information services
should fully benefit to the user community. With this point of view, the researcher has undertaken this problem for the present study.

The Library Automation is planned for the purpose of automated acquisition, technical processing, circulation, cataloguing, serial control and online public access catalogue, etc. There are various library software’s available in the present day like in-house developed library software, commercially developed library software and co-operative based software which form the backbone of this training. The available software should be taken up for training of automation and networking of libraries.

2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A STUDY OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION AND NETWORKING IN DENTAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES AFFILIATED TO RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, BANGALORE

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Aims

The main and very purpose (aim) of the research work is to study the various barriers of library Automation and Networking of Dental College Libraries and to provide the feasible and cost effective solution to remove these barriers and allow libraries to cater the standard and quality services to the user community.

The objectives of the study are enlisted as given below:

1. To study the present status of Library Automation and Networking in Dental College Libraries Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi Health University, Bangalore.
2. To study the provision of Budget for Library Automation and Networking during last three years.
3. To study the Computer Skilled Professional Staff for Library Automation. (qualification, experience)
4. To evaluate the Library Software/ Hardware adopted by the Dental College Libraries.
5 To study the **Housekeeping Operations** (Acquisition module, Circulation, Cataloguing, Serial Control, OPAC/ WEB-OPAC (Intranet/ Internet).

6 To find the **various barriers** in the process the automation and networking faced by dental college libraries such as inadequate staff, insufficient budget, etc.

7 To study the usage of networking facility for sharing of information and resources used to cater various services to user community, (here by services we mean access to library resources outside the library using **campus link** and **outside the campus on the WEB** which is possible with only proper Automation and Networking of library.

8 To provide suggestions and solutions to improve the quality of library automation and networking in dental college libraries in terms of library operations, equipments and technology usage towards catering quality and standards of services to its user community.

### 4 HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses have been formulated for the present study.

1. The present status of library **automation and networking** of the dental college libraries is not satisfactory.
2. **IT/ network** based information services are not fully developed.
3. The **funds** provided for library automation and networking are inadequate.
4. The **present staff** of the library is insufficient and not trained for handling of library software, automation and networking.
5. The facility of **Campus-link** (Network), **outside –link** and Access on WEB in dental college libraries is in progress.

### 5 SCOPES AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

As per the rguhs web site dated 10/10/2009, 39 Dental colleges are affiliated to the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore. The maximum 13 dental colleges are located in Bangalore city. ([www.rguhs.ac.in](http://www.rguhs.ac.in))
1 The present study is based on Library Automation and Networking in Dental Colleges Libraries Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore.

2 The scope of the study includes all dental college libraries in Karnataka state.

3 The level of automation in various housekeeping operations and the services provided due to automation is studied in these college libraries.

The Limitations of the study are as follows:

1 The study is to be completed as per time period of Ph.D. rules and guidelines.

2 Only Dental college libraries, which are affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore are undertaken for the research study.

6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES TO BE USED

The study is basically an analytical one. For this purpose primary data were collected. The stratified sampling method is used. The study is based on descriptive method of research includes surveys and fact-findings enquiries of different kinds. The main characteristic of this method is that the researcher has not control over the variables; he can only report what has happened or what is happening. It is a method or research or investigation which is based on survey. Many techniques are employed by the surveyors to collect the factual data in descriptive research viz. case study, interview and questionnaire techniques.

Survey method is one of the most common methods used to conduct research in Social Science. When adequate information about some social problem is not available in records like files, and other resources, the researcher has to gather data from the population through personal contact, interviews or other techniques that are commonly called as social surveys. The survey method consists of various techniques like observation, questionnaire and interview but only questionnaire technique is discussed in length as it is used to collect data.
7 TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION

A short structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among the respondent in the college under the study. The questionnaire will be focus on the aims and objectives.

The questionnaire is designed including the following main 11 parts. The 200 questions are asked in librarians. The main parts of the questionnaire are: General information, Librarian information, Library working hours, Library buildings seating capacity, Library collection, Number of library staff working, Library budget, Services provided by the library, Library automation and Library networking facility.

8 CONSPECTUS OF THE STUDY
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Chapter I covers the Introduction, Networking in libraries, Constraints of networking, Statement of the problem, Selection of the problem, Rational and significance of the study, Aims and Objectives of the study, Scope and Limitation of the study, Hypotheses, Research Methodology and technique to be used (Descriptive method of research and Survey techniques (Questionnaire), Method of data collection, Tools used for data collection, Conspectus of the study and conclusion.

CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chapter II covers the review of literature search is an attempt to identify, locate and synthesize completed research reports, articles, books and other materials about the specific problems of a research topic. In this research work researcher used the references of 62 books, 45 journals articles, 15 conference proceedings and 19 related web sites.
CHAPTER III: HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF DENTAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Chapter III gives information regarding history and development, Resources of digital information, list of free online dental journals, brief information of Dental Council of India, Location of Karnataka, Total number of BDS colleges in India, State wise number of BDS colleges in India, Total number of MDS colleges in Karnataka, The number of Health Science Institutions affiliated to RGUHS, Bangalore and Libraries and Information Network in Karnataka.

CHAPTER IV: LIBRARY AUTOMATION AND NETWORKING IN DENTAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Chapter –IV deals with the details regarding History of automation in India, Meaning of automation, Definition of library automation, Objective of library automation, Need of library automation, Steps in library automation, Implementing library automation and housekeeping operations. It also describes automated library services, Barriers of library automation, Networking, Objective of networking, Need of networking and Contribution by various National and International networking associations.

CHAPTER V: ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Chapter V covers the analysis of data; the Questionnaire was circulated to all the 39 dental college libraries affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore. Out of 39 dental college libraries, 35 libraries responded to the questionnaire while the remaining 4 libraries did not responded, i.e. response rate is 89.74%. Hence the analysis of the data collected is based on the responses of these 35 libraries. This data is collected for the period of September 2010 to February 2011.
The data collected through questionnaires and the empirical data collected through personal visits/observations are analyzed, interpreted and presented through 79 tables, 53 graphs, 28 pie-diagrams/percentage circles and 2 model figures.

Data analysis is most important part of research work. It is the process of ordering into constituent parts in order to obtain answers to questions. The question formulated in the form of guiding principles. Analysis of data helps to prove the hypotheses, which are initially assumed by the researcher. The data collected by circulating the questionnaire asking the librarians by contacting in person and querying over phone have been analyzed to get the information to carry out the research work. Thus collected data was entered in the computer and with the help of MS Office Application the MS Excel Spreadsheets the output of the data was collected statistical tools were applied to calculate the percentages.

The study was based on the objectives and hypotheses and the statistical tables are prepared on various parameters. The year of establishment of the library, distribution of colleges based on the type of management, distribution of colleges based on the type of courses offered, distribution of libraries based on qualification and experiences of the staff, status of professional staff, working hours of the library, distribution of seating capacity, library collection (books, journals, back volumes, reports, thesis and dissertation, e resources and audio visual materials). The study also covers funds provided for the library and services provided by the library. The circulation and information services are the main goals of many libraries. The study considered the various circulation methods and use of technology in circulation, statistics in use-of-materials, and shelf organization tools like classification and support tools like cataloguing are important measures for effective service of printed documents. The study also covers the library automation and networking facility provided by the library.
CHAPTER VI: MODEL PLAN FOR LIBRARY AUTOMATION AND NETWORKING IN DENTAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Chapter-VI Researcher has introduced the model plan for library automation and networking in dental college libraries affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore.

CHAPTER VII: FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Chapter VII covers the information on the basis of analysis and interpretation of data. The researcher concluded at specific findings and important suggestions are configured based on the findings of the study and testing of hypotheses and fulfillment of the objectives of the study.

9 CONCLUSION

Dental education and libraries are in a state of transformation in electronic age. Outcome measurements for dental education including libraries are becoming the norm. Now a day’s students need to acquire information skills and critical thinking skills as part of their dental education. So they can become productive participants in the work and be prepared for life long learning. Faculties and librarians can achieve better learning outcomes in terms of critical thinking and life long learning skills. They work together on designing curricula to include appropriate courses and modules to teach information skills. The collaboration between faculty and librarians will ensure that faculty members are prepared for electronic information use, as a result they will be able to integrate technology into their teaching processes and students are taught useable information skills.