AUTOMATION OF ACADEMIC LIBRAIRES : PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Dr. S. P. Nimbhorkar*

* Librarian
G.S.G. College
Umarkhed, Dist. Yavatmal,
Maharashtra, India

QR Code

Abstract: - The history of library automation is the world is not an old one. It dales back to 1950s to 1960s in America and Europe. The ancient and traditional methods of managing libraries are no longer dynamic and efficient in the age of information Technology. A properly computerized library will help its users - wiath quick and prompt services. The rapid growth and uses of emerging technogies has changed the traditional library into automated, electronic, virtual and digital library. The paper discusses about Academic library, library Automation meaning, need, problems & solutions.

Keywords : Academic Library, Automation.

Introduction:- The rapid growth and uses of emerging technologies has changed the traditional library into automated, electronic, virtual and digital library. The study present library automation, problem and solutions and use of information Technology. In the process of automation most of the library faced various types of problem. Trained manpower, library automation, Budget, infrastructure, preservation, space other are major problems. Many challenges are overcoming to the academic libraries for discharging better services. Library automation Due to ICT revolution and information revolution. College libraries should have play the modern role of making computerized database to give better access and technological services to the readers. The college library should make all services available on computer base to maximize the library collection. To provide virtual and digital resources through library automation to the student, teacher and scholars in their field of internet. But many libraries have or do not have library software.

Automation: According to Webster's dictionary "Automation is the technique of making an apparatus, a process or a system operate automatically." Library automation is the general term for information and communication technologies that are used to replace manual system in the library.

Library Automation: An automated library means refers to computerization of all activities. Library automation is regarding the human intervention in all library services so that any user can received the desirable information in less time. A computer system used to manage in house operation of library such as acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control and OPAC etc. Automation is a technique to make a system automated means self active. For these electronic machines are used to automate the libraries. The library automation means the application of machines to perform the different routines, repetitive and clerical job involved in functions and services of the libraries.

Need of Library Automation: The need of library automation has several reasons. Need of computers in all areas depending upon is usage highlight the aspect of library automation in the Indian libraries.

a) Information explosion to well management and retrieval of information.

b) Availability of information in various formats, Offer flexibility.

c) Increasing numbers of users.

d) Operational advantages.

e) Speed up processing.

f) Reduces repetitive clerical work.

g) Provide the users and the library staff with more information.

h) Accurate and extensive informa

i) tion.

j) Reasonably economical.

k) Simple method of updating records.

Problems in Library Automation: Evolution is being observed in each point mentioned above for better services from the library such as book acquisition, cataloguing, classification and Technical process, stacking, circulation. CAS, SDA and Photocopying etc. These all services can be provided only by trained staff but untrained staff can't do better services, old and untrained staff of library doesn't want to motivate them self. Old staff get benefits to their service period and get promotion without any trainings and any advanced Qualifications. Thus the old staff doesn't require any development in library. They are always satisfied in old methods. Due to such staff, development of ICT is the difficult thing this is the bad impact a library services. The problems is library automation in be categorized in problems related to management, staff, infrastructures, incomplete bibliographic record and time problems.

No separate Library Building : Many academic colleges do not have separate library building and library is placed anywhere in class or some other places. In this library it has only issues and stack room that's why we can't provide better services to the readers. Some library have big collection but there is no proper section of book like acquisition reference section, Rare book section, circulation section, stock volume, technical, biding section, etc.

Management: In college library development college management playsmajor role. The management includes both the college management and the library management means library committee as the secretary of the management whose task is the carry out the decisions taken by the executive of the college. If the librarian give the proposal of library automation the college management first ask the cost of the entire work and need of the automation, many of the management members are the old and the they think that in their time without any problem the library work is going fluently now what is the need of automation.

Staff: In the academic college there was no standard pattern of recruitment of the library staff. The management people think that the work in library is very peaceful and tensionless, they just give appointment of their near and dear in library. The staff of the library are just completed 12th class and passing the LTC. To providing better services and to fulfill all needs of student at college level, library should have trained and qualified librarians. Not librarian qualified but also the other library staff is also trained and qualified. In some colleges professor library incharge is appointed to do library work, but is very harmful to the libraries. The college should recruited library staff is qualified and is most important for good library services to readers.

Adequate budget: The management of the institure providing low budget for libraries which is allotted form student's fees only, but they donot agree to provide more budget form their own share or contribution. So ICT development in library is difficult for libraries, ICT's requirement is high, so many Hardware's and software's prices are high, such as computers printers, scanners, Xerox Machine, Barcode printer. Library automation is costly but provided low budget can't be spend on computerization. The UGC plan provided various grant for ICT development but the UGC allot the grant only to the colleges who that are registered under 12 b and 2 f. those that are not registered under 12 b and 2 fare not eligible for such grant without management share, ICT development is not possible.

Library preservation and maintenance problem: Library of colleges has many problems ofmaintence such as weeding out book, fire security, old collection preservation, etc. In big college library now days ther is a big collection of rare books in bad conndintion, there is a need to preserve it. But library have not sufficient or not affordable the cost of that preservation like digitization of books.

Time problems: As per college time schedule library staff busy in day to day work regularly. They don't have interest in qutomation work. If we give outsourcing of the work then all responsibility came on librarians. The people who do this date feeding job they don't know about users need and what we require, also they don't know the correct names, pseudo names of the authors and publishers so it take many time to

check and verify the work of the date feeding by others.

Library used for other work: Library staff is used to other work in the college and library get suffered its function and management. Library staff is only for library work to discharging library services to students, but college authorities not get important to these library operations.

Infrastructure: If the all people give positive response than the question arise about well and good infrastructure in market there are many library automation software's are available but some of them are not fulfill the requirement of the library and users need. Much software's run on only particular system. Computer, printer, scanner's xerox machines, bar code readers etc. Library have not separate library building, no seprarage sections and no proper furniture like tables, chair racks, display board. Display racks. There is no internet and online resources facility in the library.

Poor Library Services : Academic library have low budget so it cannot give services related to book bank scheme more book cannot issued due to less number of copies and having not reference and periodical facilities.

Incomplete bibliographic Record: In academic libraries the only one record maintains regularly i.e. accession register it provides the all detail of the records of the books which was entered in library. If the institute was much old there was many person work in past and they write it. In many cases the same book can be classified in different manner as per their thinking and some prisons are not fill all the entire information in the register. Library not provide better access :

College libraries have increased its collection in current situation but does not have separate library building maintaining all section. This problems create access of information systematically and technically. Libraries main function to provide better access of all resources to the readers. Many libraries have not qualified staff. Many Libraries do not have open access to the readers, book are putted in closed room and only protect them form theft, librarian also could not play role in academic Libraries because of poor facility.

Transfer of librarians & library staff : Transfer of library staff is also a harmful to the library operation management, Because library is information hub, there are a lot of information resource and to know it properly they should not transfer to other place.

Web Based Solution of Library Automation

Open Source Software: For the library automation the KOHA, Information and NGL open source software's are available for the library.

Web OPAC: Many libraries' give availability of their database with the help of web OPAC we can use the correct information of bibliographic record form the various web OPAC.

Free Software foundation: Free software foundation is a non-profit organization founded by Richord Stallman on 4 October 1985 to support the free software movement, which promotes the universal freedom to study. The foundation develops the GNU library management software for free access and downloading the current version and later updates in future.

OCLC: Provides online world catalogue and metadata sharing and online classification services for all subjects, which was helpful to the work of automation of the unknown title of the books.

Book Review: Some of the literature books translated from the other Indian language but we can't know the subjects of the book at that time we can use the review of the books in that particular language and translate it in the help ofGoogle translate.

Marathi Website: Website are useful for the Marathi literature books. All the detail about Marathi books are provides by the following websites for the information of Authors, publishers, price, puges and classification of the books. The websites are, www.bookganga.com, www.granthdwar.com, www.googlebook.com,

www.erasik. corn , www.pustak.org, www.rekhata.org.

Wikipedia: Wikipedia provides the detail about English literature books and the classification about the books.

***Conclusion*:** User satisfaction is the moto of library. Computerization is available in Academic Library even good impact on the staff. The work smart, save time and users get more satisfaction form library services. There is a great impact of internet on libraries; Library Automation is prime activity in the age of information & communication technology. Librarians are facing many problems in advancement of the library activities and services. Still the progress in library automation is inevitable.

References :-

1. Babu, T. Ashok of public libraries : Harold of library Science U.88, N.I-2 Jan-April 1999. hllp.'www. inflibnet. ac. in

2. Kumar P.S.G., Information Technology basic, B.R. Publication, Dehli.

3. Malwad, N.M. : selection criteria/or library automation software, des'idoc. Bu/lelion 15(2) 1995 P IP-25.

4. Pandey S.K., Sharam fundamentals of library Automation, New Delhi, ESS publication, 1995.

5. Phadke D.N., Granthalaya Sanganakikaran Ani Aadhunikikaran Pune, Universal Prikashan, 2007.

6. Ramana, P. Venkata, Information Technology Application In libraries, 2001, Ess publication, new Delhi.

7. Rowley : Automation options in Handbook of special librarlanship and information work ed. 6 london Meckler, 1989.

8. RashidAbdul: Library automation a overview library Science, Vol. xxxiil No. I March 1996.