

“AUTOMATION SERVICES”

(WITH REFERENCE TO ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN TUMKUR CITY)

CHANDRAKANTH H. G

Librarian, RR Institute of Technology, Bangalore, India

ABSTRACT

We live in an information age and libraries are expected to use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to provide information more expeditiously and exhaustively than before. Computerization of library “housekeeping” operations is an important activity. “Automation,” when used in a library in a similar environment, refers to the computerization or mechanization of activities. This is the age of computers. Computers have revolutionized all fields of knowledge. It has been gradually sweeping electronic webs in various parts of the globe for quite a few decades now. Today information technology coupled with computer technology has conquered even space and time with regard to dissemination of information. The need for automation in libraries is emphasized because of the effective handling of information, updating of information, resource sharing and to maintain profession wide standard.

KEYWORDS: Library Automation, Academic Libraries, Computerization, Acquisition, Circulation, Cataloguing, Serial Control

INTRODUCTION

Library is the hub of knowledge activities. There is a need to locate specific information to the specific users at the right time precisely. Through the automation process, library can join the fray to cater to the needs of its users and society.

It is also important for the information professionals to keep the information handy at any point of time. The complete automation of this section also helps to reduce much of hassles which may occur during the time of procurement, management and retrieval of the serials.

The recent addition to the periodical section is the e-publication like, e-journals. This new trend of publication almost wiped of the margin between libraries of information centres. These e-journals also brought new forms of problems in procurement and retrieval process. This demands not only different kind of hardware and software technologies but also requires new technical skills from the professionals.

History of Library Automation

Library automation, stated in simple terms, is the application of computers and utilization of computer-based products and services in the performance of different library operations and functions or in the provision of various services and production of output product.

Library automation in India is not yet widespread. With the acquisition of microcomputers in the 1980s in several Indian Organizations, there is a discernible impetus to introduce automation in the libraries. Some of the special libraries in

India have automated their information retrieval and dissemination functions. University and other academic libraries which require access to bigger computers, however, have not been in the forefront in the field of Library automation.

The 1950s

Early computers of the 1950s which were first acquired in large universities and research establishments in the USE and UK were very expensive. They were used predominantly for scientific and numerical work. These computers ere centralized and operated in batch mode.

The 1960s

However, during the 1960s smaller and less expensive computers began to be made. These computers which were called minicomputers enabled computing facilities to become available at several locations in an organization, unlike the computers produced in the 1950s.

The 1970s

Until the emergence of data networks or computer-communication network, library applications of computers served essentially only the library that sought to apply the computer. Library automation, in other words, had not yet brought about the capabilities for true interaction between libraries of a geographical region for the purpose of sharing their resources. The first of such networks was the OCLC. The OCLC became the model for the development of other library networks in USA and Canada.

The 1980s and Onwards

Although the microcomputer made its first appearance in 1971 it was not before 1981 that they made an impact on libraries. The reason was limited storage capacity and scarcity of good software for library applications. The wide range of software that is now available on microcomputers is evidence be several directories of library applications software now available and by the increasing literature on microcomputer applications in libraries appearing in journals and conferences.

Need of Library Automation

- Information Explosion
- To improve control over collection
- To share the resources
- Quick and speedy searching
- Economic Feasibility
- To have an effective control over the entire operations.
- Storage capacity
- Accuracy

Areas of Library Automation

- Library housekeeping operations and services

- Information storage, retrieval and dissemination
- Content Analysis
- Acquisition of books
- Cataloguing, Serial control, and Circulation

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

At present the city of Tumkur has a total 21 colleges including deficit and non-deficit colleges. Besides there are a good number of junior colleges, B.Ed. colleges, technical colleges, which has not been taken into consideration in this study. The colleges under study are shown below which are arranged according to their year of establishment.

Table 1: Name of College Library with Year of Establishment

| Sl No | Name of the College | Year of Estd. | Name of Library |
|-------|---|---------------|---|
| 1 | University College Arts(Govt Arts college) | 1940 | University College Arts(Govt Arts college) library |
| 2 | University College Science(Govt Science college) | 1940 | University College Science(Govt Science college) library |
| 3 | Vidyodaya Law College | 1958 | Vidyodaya Law College Library |
| 4 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce First Grade College | 1968 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce First Grade College library |
| 5 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce College for women | 1982 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce College for women library |
| 6 | Sri Sidhartha Arts, Science, and Commerce College | 1982 | Sri Sidhartha Arts, Science, and Commerce College library |
| 7 | Shree Siddaganga College of Pharmacy | 1984 | Department of Lib. And Inf Centre |
| 8 | Um pragathi First Grade College | 1992 | Um pragathi First Grade College |
| 9 | Indira First Grade College | 1994 | Indira First Grade College library |
| 10 | Rajive Gandhi First grade College | 1994 | Rajive Gandhi First grade College library |
| 11 | Vidyodaya First grade College | 1995 | Vidyodaya First grade Collge library |
| 12 | Vidyavahini First grade College | 1998 | Vidyavahini First grade College library |
| 13 | Sri Krishna First Grade College | 2004 | Sri Krishna First Grade College libray |
| 14 | S.R.S First grade College | 2006 | S.R.S First grade College library |
| 15 | Sridevi First grade College | 2006 | Sridevi First grade College library |

From the table 1 it is seen that some colleges are very old while some are newly established. 4 colleges were established in between 1940-1970 are the oldest while w colleges were established in the year 2006

Table 2: Collections

| Sl No | Name of the College | Collections | | |
|-------|---|-------------|-------------|-------|
| | | Printed | Non Printed | Total |
| 1 | University College Arts(Govt Arts college) | 78000 | 200 | 78200 |
| 2 | University College Science(Govt Science college) | 45000 | Nil | 45000 |
| 3 | Vidyodaya Law College | 5000 | Nil | 5000 |
| 4 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce First Grade College | 5200 | Nil | 5200 |
| 5 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce College for women | 36448 | 175 | 36623 |
| 6 | Sri Sidhartha Arts, Science, and Commerce College | 58227 | 125 | 58452 |
| 7 | Shree Siddaganga College of Pharmacy | 6000 | Nil | 6000 |
| 8 | Um pragathi First Grade College | 13000 | Nil | 13000 |
| 9 | Indira First Grade College | 3600 | Nil | 3600 |
| 10 | Rajive Gandhi First grade College | 5500 | Nil | 5500 |

Table 2: Contd.,

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| 11 | Vidyodaya First grade College | 12346 | 30 | 12376 |
| 12 | Vidyavahini First grade College | 2683 | 50 | 2733 |
| 13 | Sri Krishna First Grade College | 13104 | 100 | 13104 |
| 14 | S.R.S First grade College | 1880 | | 1880 |
| 15 | Sridevi First grade College | 7075 | 177 | 7252 |

Table 2 shows the collection of different college libraries of Tumkur. It reveals that the collection of University College of Arts has highest collection and Sri Krishna First Grade College has the least collection.

Table 3: Library Automation

| SI No | Name of the College | A | B | C | D |
|-------|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1 | University College Arts(Govt Arts college) | | | Yes | |
| 2 | University College Science(Govt Science college) | | | Yes | |
| 3 | Vidyodaya Law College | | | Yes | |
| 4 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce First Grade College | | | Yes | |
| 5 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce College for women | Yes | | | 2005 |
| 6 | Sri Sidhartha Arts, Science, and Commerce College | | Yes | | 2006 |
| 7 | Shree Siddaganga College of Pharmacy | | | Yes | |
| 8 | Um pragathi First Grade College | | | Yes | |
| 9 | Indira First Grade College | | | Yes | |
| 10 | Rajive Gandhi First grade College | | | Yes | |
| 11 | Vidyodaya First grade College | | Yes | | 2003 |
| 12 | Vidyavahini First grade College | | | Yes | |
| 13 | Sri Krishna First Grade College | Yes | | | 2004 |
| 14 | S.R.S First grade College | | | Yes | |
| 15 | Sridevi First grade College | Yes | | | 2005 |

Fully Automated b) Partially Automated c) Not Automated d) Year of Automated

The table 3 gives a clear picture of automation status of college libraries of Tumkur city, from the table it is clear that only 3 colleges have fully automated, 2 colleges have partially automated while 10 colleges are yet to start automation services.

Table 4: Library Software Used for Automation

| SI No | Name of the College | Library Software Used |
|-------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | University College Arts(Govt Arts college) | |
| 2 | University College Science(Govt Science college) | |
| 3 | Vidyodaya Law College | |
| 4 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce First Grade College | |
| 5 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce College for women | EasyLib |
| 6 | Sri Sidhartha Arts, Science, and Commerce College | E-Lib |
| 7 | Shree Siddaganga College of Pharmacy | |
| 8 | Um pragathi First Grade College | |
| 9 | Indira First Grade College | |
| 10 | Rajive Gandhi First grade College | |
| 11 | Vidyodaya First grade College | Local software package |
| 12 | Vidyavahini First grade College | |
| 13 | Sri Krishna First Grade College | EasyLib |
| 14 | S.R.S First grade College | |
| 15 | Sridevi First grade College | EasyLib |

From the above table it is seen that out of 15 colleges under this study 3 colleges used EasyLib software for Library automation while one college used E-Lib software and one college used local software package developed at Tumkur. The remaining 10 doesn't have any Library software.

Table 5: Areas of Automation

| SI No | Name of the College | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
|-------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | University College Arts(Govt Arts college) | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 2 | University College Science(Govt Science college) | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 3 | Vidyodaya Law College | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 4 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce First Grade College | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 5 | Sri Siddaganga Arts, Science and Commerce College for women | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 6 | Sri Sidhartha Arts, Science, and Commerce College | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| 7 | Shree Siddaganga College Pharmacy | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 8 | Um pragathi First Grade College | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 9 | Indira First Grade College | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 10 | Rajive Gandhi First grade College | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 11 | Vidyodaya First grade College | Yes | | Yes | | | | | | |
| 12 | Vidyavahini First grade College | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 13 | Sri Krishna First Grade College | Yes | yes | yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | No |
| 14 | S.R.S First grade College | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| 15 | Sridevi First grade College | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

- Acquisition b) Cataloguing c) Circulation d) Serial Control e) Budget f) Admin.
- G) SDI h) CAS i)OPAC

CONCLUSIONS

Academic libraries play a crucial role in dissemination of information services to the academicians, students and research scholars. The entire phenomenon is a joint venture where library professionals, library authorities, library users play the key role. All of them should come forward to make it a successful one by their full-fledged cooperation. Even though wide range of technology/products is available, it is necessary for librarians to keep a watch on the developments and to choose appropriate technology depending on the needs.

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