

“AUTOMATION SERVICES”

(WITH REFERENCE TO ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN TUMKUR CITY)

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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 pinpointedly. 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

Sl 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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