A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION ON THE SERVICES OF LIBRARIES OF ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BHOPAL(MADHYA PRADESH)

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Abstract   *There are several reasons for automating the library activities especially computerizing library activities. On account of Information & knowledge explosion it has become essential for librarians to provide a master key to this repository of knowledge in the service, the librarian started mechanizing activities of libraries and research institution through various gadget. The aim of library is to provide access to proper information explosion, due to growing demands of the user and shrinking of financial resources, library cannot maintain all the reading materials on demand. With the library automation, which requires planning, designing and implementation the speed, accuracy and effectiveness of library operations can be improved. In this research paper effectiveness of library automation is being tested and result shows that library automation proves to be tremendous advantageous for the improvement of different services of library.*

Keyword: *Library, Automation, Acquisition, Cataloguing, Serial Control, Circulation*

INTRODUCTION

Computer has gained its importance in every field of human activity because of its, speed, accuracy, storage, versatility, automation and diligence. The aim of library is to provide access to proper information explosion. Due to growing demands of the user and shrinking of financial resources, library cannot maintain all the reading materials on demand. The only way to overcome this problem is sharing resources through consortia, and Internet. Library automation reduces the drudgery of repeated manual efforts in library routine by use of library automation collection, storage, administration, processing, preservation and communication etc.

LIBRARY AUTOMATION

Many years ago, libraries used card catalogs, typewriters, and manually assigned due dates. Library automation, an up-to-date method to help libraries and library patrons to effectively use library resources, is now streamlined because of computers and software. In Libraries automation refers to the process of automation in house functions such as circulation, cataloguing Acquisition, serial controls etc. Automation is a technique to make a system automated means self-active and for this electronic machines are used in the library. Automation means the application of machines to perform the different routines, repetitive and clerical jobs involved in functions and services of the libraries.

LIBRARY AUTOMATION PACKAGE

The term 'library automation package' is generally used to refer software packages designed to automate library housekeeping functions such as Acquisition, Serial control, Circulation control, OPAC (On Line Open Access Cataloging) etc. While selecting library automation package one should consider the following points;

- It should be user friendly.
- It should contain well designed screens, logically arranged functions with extensive help messages .
- Minimum training should be required for its users.

Library Automation Operations

Minimum number of operations performed by software package are called library automation operations and these are;

Acquisition, Cataloguing, Circulation, Serial Control, OPAC (Online Public Access Cataloguing)

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Software of Library Automation Package

Few software's for library automation are;

Alice for Windows, AUTOLIB, CALIBAN, LIBSYS, KOHA,LIBRARIAN, LIBASOFT, SOUL, TLMS, NIRMA

Library Operations

Several operations are being performed in order to run a library. Few important ones are described here;

Acquisition

Acquisition meant for the selection and purchase of materials or resources like books, reference books, encyclopedias etc.

Cataloguing

Cataloguing means to register all bibliographic items found in a library or group of libraries**.**

Circulation

Circulation system is to facilitate access to the library materials and services by the users and to control the information and details pertaining to such usage.

Serial Control

Serials are defined as a publication in any medium issued in successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely. Serials include periodicals, newspapers, annuals (reports, yearbooks, etc.) the journals, memoirs, proceedings, transactions etc., of societies and numbered monographic series.

Objectives of the Study: Objectives of the study are given below;

- To compare the acquisition module of the automated library with that of manually managed library.
- To compare the cataloguing module of the automated library with that of manually managed library.
- To compare the circulation module of the automated library with that of manually managed library.
- To compare the serial control module of the automated library with that of manually managed library.
- To study the effect of library automation on the services of library.

Hypothesis of the Study: Hypothesis frame for the study are given below;

- There is no significant difference in the acquisition process of automated library with that of manually managed library.
- There is no significant difference in the cataloguing process of automated library with that of manually managed library.
- There is no significant difference in the circulation process of automated library with that of manually managed library.
- There is no significant difference in the serial control process of automated library with that of manually managed library.
- There is no effect of automation on services of library.

Research Methodology: Survey method was used for the purpose of this study.

Sampling Method: Sampling method used in this study is Purposive Random Sampling.

Sample Size: Twenty libraries of Engineering colleges were selected for this research study.

Tool: Personal interview was conducted. Data was collected on the basis of the responses of the questions asked during their interview.

Table: Table Showing Means and 'T' Value

Operations	Means through traditional method	Means obtained through Automated method	Standard Deviation	df	't' value
Acquisition	80	87	2.01	19	2.61
Cataloguing	75	86	1.02	19	2.72
Circulation	62	78	1.034	19	1.80
Serial Control	83	89	2.4	19	2.02
Overall Services	75	85	1.001	19	2.55

Statistical Analysis

Data collected through interview were arranged properly. Analysis was done through SPSS package.

Findings

On the basis of the 't' value given above we can conclude that;

- The acquisition process of automated library is significantly effective in comparison to that of manually controlled one.
- The cataloguing process of automated library is significantly effective in comparison to that of manually controlled one.
- The circulation process of automated library is significantly effective in comparison to that of manually controlled one.
- The serial control process of automated library is significantly effective in comparison to that of manually controlled one.
- The overall services of the automated library is significantly effective in comparison to that of manually controlled one.

CONCLUSION

Today's trend of replacing manually operated vehicles with automated ones will have an impact not only on machine design, working environment and procedures. Library automation is the process which needs proper planning, timely implementation and periodical evaluation. The librarian with the administrators has to set the priorities after analyzing the current status and future requirements. Selection of the suitable integrated library management package according to the needs of the users and the library is important. Acquisition, Circulation, Cataloguing, Serial Control OPAC, etc. should be conducted with care. Staff training and user education are keys to the success of the process.

SUGGESTIONS

- Library automation package can be used to increase speed, accuracy and cost effectiveness of all operations of the library.
- Library automation package helps to avoid duplication of work.
- Library automation package helps to eliminate human errors.

- Library automation package provides an excellent control over circulation and stock verification**.**

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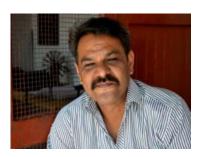
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