

A Survey of Library Automation in Medical and Dental College Libraries Affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai.

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Abstract: - *The study present status of the review status of automation in Medical College and Dental College libraries Affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R Medical University, Chennai. The uses of Information and communication Technology (ICT) facilitate easy & immediate access to Information. During the process of Automation understanding and analyzing the various problems faced by the Management and the staff. The methodology adopted for the present study is survey using a structured questionnaire. It was observed that 18 (33.34%) of the Medical and Dental College libraries were not automated for reason such as, Lack of computer facilities, Inadequate finance, Lack of IT skilled Manpower; Management is not interested in library automation, collection from library is very less, tentativeness and lack of attitude towards automation and unsatisfactory library software problems are the major hindrances to speedy automation. Only` 66.66% of Medical and Dental College libraries are automated to show that the libraries must be updated on the current scenario and the other libraries will follow these updates. This study also gives a status view of the software packages used by different medical and dental college libraries and the opinion of the librarians & staff about the performance of software use.*

Key words: College libraries, Automation, ICT skill, Library softwares.

Introduction

Automation means computerization of all actions. In the Information era the libraries are expected to effective use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to provide information more expeditiously and exhaustively than before. Automation process of great change has been taking place today in libraries due the impact of information technology and application of computers in library work. We learn a lot about library automation in libraries and library automation is nothing but application of machines viz., computers to the routine library

housekeeping operations such as acquisition, serial control cataloguing and circulation. Before proceeding into the depth of library automation, it is necessary to know the historical background of automation.

Scope of the Study

The Tamilnadu Dr.M.G.R Medical University is situated southern part of Chennai in the state of Tamilnadu, India. It is established in the year 1987, it aims to achieve and maintain uniformly high standards of needs – responsive medical education in the state of Tamilnadu. The University has provided affiliation to 643 undergraduate colleges, 85 colleges are conducting post graduate courses, 14 colleges conducting post graduate diploma courses and 11 colleges are offering super specialty courses in the field of health sciences like medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy, homeopathy and paramedical. Ph.D / D.Sc research programs are conducted in the areas of medicine, dentistry, nursing and paramedical. As per the TNMGRMU web site dated 21.10.2015, 35 Medical colleges, 19 Dental colleges are affiliated to the Tamilnadu Dr.M.G.R Medical University, Chennai.

1. The current study is based on Library Automation and Networking in Medical and Dental Colleges Libraries Affiliated to Tamilnadu Dr.M.G.R Medical University, Chennai.
2. The scope of the study includes all Medical and Dental college libraries in Tamil Nadu state.
3. The aim of automation in various housekeeping operations and the services provided due to automation is studied in these college libraries.

Objectives of the Study:

1. Find out how many libraries have automated.
2. To know the areas are automated.
3. To find out ICT skill staff is available to carry out automation.
4. To find out the barriers to automation faced by libraries.

Methodology

The present study is a survey using a structured questionnaire as a tool. The address of institutions in the area was collected through formal and informal sources. A short structured questionnaire was sent to these institutions.

Population Area

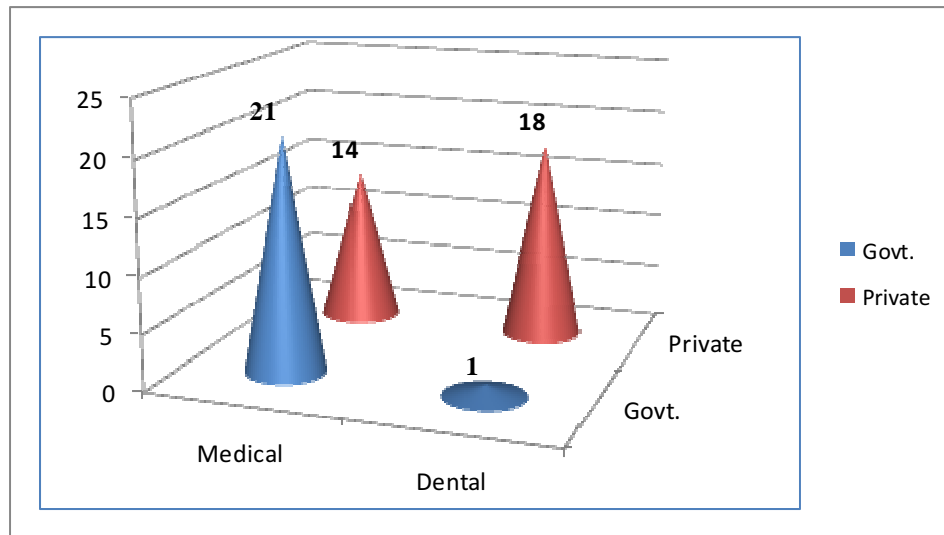
The research is based upon the Affiliated 54 Medical and Dental colleges of the Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R Medical University, Chennai which consist of varied nature of status of the college libraries, courses, Resources strength, faculty strength and facilities in libraries.

Population of the Study

The data were collected from 35 medical college libraries and 19 dental college librarians of these libraries affiliated to Tamil Nadu Dr M.G.R Medical University, Chennai. This data is collected for the period of February 2015 to October 2015.

Types of Affiliated Colleges

Sl.No	Type of College	No.of Colleges	Percentage
1	Government (Medical Colleges)	21	60%
2	Private (Medical Colleges)	14	40%
3	Government (Dental Colleges)	1	5.26%
4	Private (Dental Colleges)	18	94.73%



The data analyzed in the above table 1 and pie-diagram chart 1 shows that highest number of medical college is government i.e 21 (60%) and highest number of dental college is Self Financing i.e. 18 (94.73%). The results shows that is well established medical college in government similarly is well established in dental colleges for self financing management. It fact that private participation in dental education is high compared to medical colleges.

Qualification of Librarian

Sl.No	Qualification	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Ph.D	6	11.11
2	M.Lis with M.Phil	21	38.88
3	M.Lis	27	50%

The analysis of data as shown in the above table 2, chart 2 shows the distribution of libraries based on qualification out of 54 libraries. It shows that there are 27 (50.%) librarians are having Master degree in Library and Information Science, 21(38.88%) librarian has Master degree with M.Phil in Library and Information Science and 6 (11.11%) librarian has Ph. D doctoral degree.

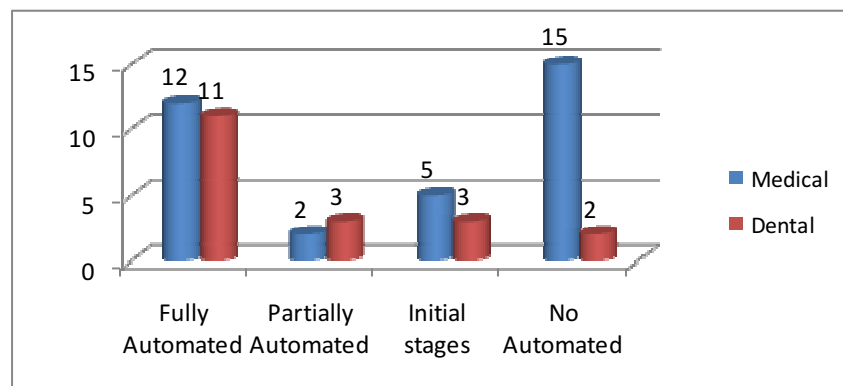
Total library collections

It is observed from the analysis of the data that these libraries mainly hold the collections such as: books, inclusive of reference books, textbooks, book bank, Subject periodicals, back volumes, CD-ROM, E resources and some of the libraries major collection like e- resources, technical reports and back volumes CD's.

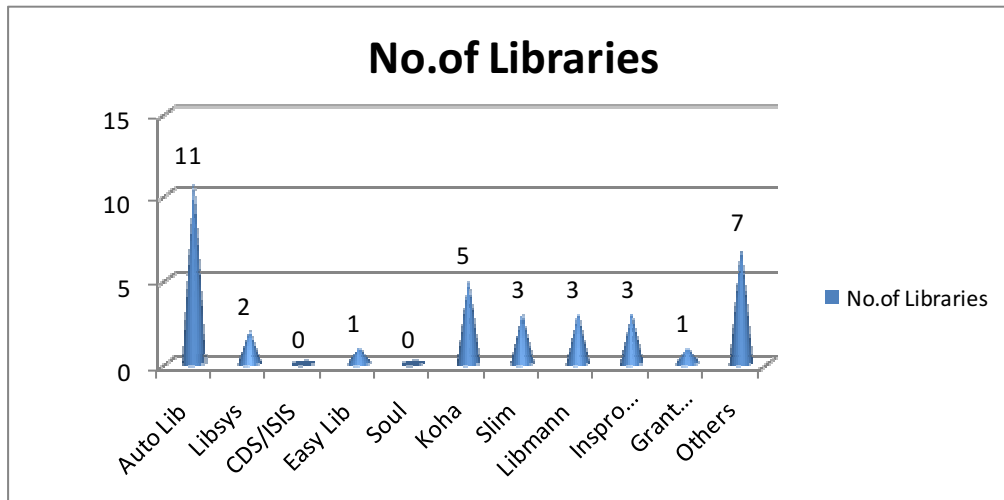
S.No	No.of Collections	No.of Libraries	Percentage
1	1 – 2000	0	0%
2	2001 - 4000	1	1.85%
3	4001 – 6000	5	9.26%
4	6001 – 8000	7	12.96%
5	8001 – 10000	5	9.26%
6	10001 – 12000	7	12.96%
7	12001 – 14000	3	5.55%
8	14001 – 16000	3	5.55%
9	16001 – 18000	2	3.70%
10	18001 – 20000	3	5.55%
11	20001 – 22000	0	0%
12	22001 - 24000	2	3.70%
13	24001 – 26000	0	0%
14	26001 – 28000	3	5.55%
15	28001 – 30000	2	3.70%
16	30001 – 32000	2	3.70%
17	32001 – 34000	0	0%
18	34001 – 36000	0	0%
19	36001 – 38000	0	0%
20	38001 – 40000	1	1.85%
21	40001 & above	4	7.40%

Library Automation

The chart shows that 19 medical colleges, 17 dental college libraries are automated. The Other 18 college libraries are not automated and services provide to the users in a traditional way.



Software Used for Automation



The majority of college libraries in use AUTOLIB, software and similarly 7 college libraries are used various software's which is not mentioned..

Barriers Faced by the Library

Barriers to automation are tabulated in the following table.

Barrier	No. of Libraries
Shortage of fund sources	14
Inadequate Trained staff	15
Lack of IT Knowledge on the part of users	12
Lack of support from the management	10
Power Interruption	15
Lack of space	12

Findings:

Some of the findings are identified from the present study. Out of 54 college libraries, 36 (66.66%) libraries are automated and use the library software's and it has been found that 18 (33.34%) libraries are not automated. It has been found that out of 54 libraries 23 (42.59%) libraries are completely automated and 5 (9.26%) libraries are partially automated. 8 (14.81%) library is in initial stage of automation and 18 (33.33%) have not provided information regarding automation. It has been found that I.T skills staff for automation and networking 15 (27.77%) libraries have sufficient, 39 (72.22%) libraries do not have sufficient staff for automation and networking. A total of 207 Professionals and other library staff are working in 54 libraries. It has been found that 54 (26.08%) staff working as Librarian's, 78 (37.68%) staff working as Assistant Librarians, 37 (17.87%) working as Library Assistant, 12 (5.79%) staff working as Library Clerk and 54 (26.08%) staff working as Library Attendants. It is investigated that a (63.88%) of the colleges were having OPAC facilities and a remaining (33.12%) of the colleges were not having

OPAC facilities. It was found that a (40.74%) of the colleges are run by government and (59.26%) are run by self financing colleges.

Conclusion

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. Retrospective conversion, OPAC, circulation and serials control, etc., should be conducted with care. Staff training and user education are keys to the success of the process. Library automation invites realistic approach. Here, those institutions which freed their visions from the traditional shackles of financial insecurities and fears of making proper decisions can only set the pace of journey to excellence. Academic achievement of a student is closely related to his/her ability to find, evaluate and use the required information according to the curriculum needs. An automated dental library with a variety of resources and user orient services can lead them to the goals.

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