

An Analytical study of the Ayurved Medical College Libraries of Maharashtra in the Age of Information Technology

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Abstract - This article is based on the use of Information Technology in Ayurved Medical College Libraries of Maharashtra in the Age of Information Technology. For electronic resources access and use for users variations among institutions in accessing electronic resources. Libraries are changing with time from mere storehouses of collection of documents to dynamic service centers. The present period is a period of digital libraries, electronic libraries and virtual libraries. All these changes demand development of modern skills to both library professionals as well as users. The electronic information resources have become the important part of today's library. This paper describes the use of the information technology by the users of Ayurved Medical College Libraries. In this case study, a survey was conducted, using questionnaire, to collect the data. Questionnaire was administered to all the library users including students, research scholars and faculty members.

Keywords: Information Technology, Digital era, Ayurved Medical College Libraries, User Studies, ICT, Medical education

Introduction:

The advent of Information and Communication Technologies and Impact of Information explosion have brought many changes in diverse field of knowledge, especially in medical sciences which had profound impact on medical professionals, practitioners, students in pursuing their research and patient care. The medical professionals require pinpointed, accurate and speedy information for updating their knowledge. Due to the elasticity of budgets and increases in journal and book prices every year, keeping in view of user needs, libraries are forced to join a consortium. Medical education aims at developing medical manpower suitable to the needs of the country. The medical manpower produced in the state of Maharashtra is in thousands. It is no exaggeration to state that libraries are one of the primary sources of knowledge to this manpower. The Medical College Libraries have a crucial role to play directly in the promotion of medical education and health care information and indirectly in various health welfare programmes.

Ayurveda Education and Ayurveda Colleges in Maharashtra (India.):

Ayurveda Education in Maharashtra is presently observed by the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), a Statutory Central Government body. Ayurveda education is mainly based on a humeral medical system. Ayurveda is not only a medicinal system it is a lifestyle. Ayurveda is a combination of senses, mind, body and soul. It deals not only with the physical aspect but also spiritual health too. The important aspect of Ayurveda is that the ayurvedic treatment cures a particular disease and also finds the root cause of disease. The fundamental aim of Ayurveda is to develop healthy and happy society free from diseases. Two most

important aims of Ayurveda are to maintain the health of healthy people and to cure the diseases of sick people. There are over 63 Ayurved colleges offering ayurved education in Maharashtra.

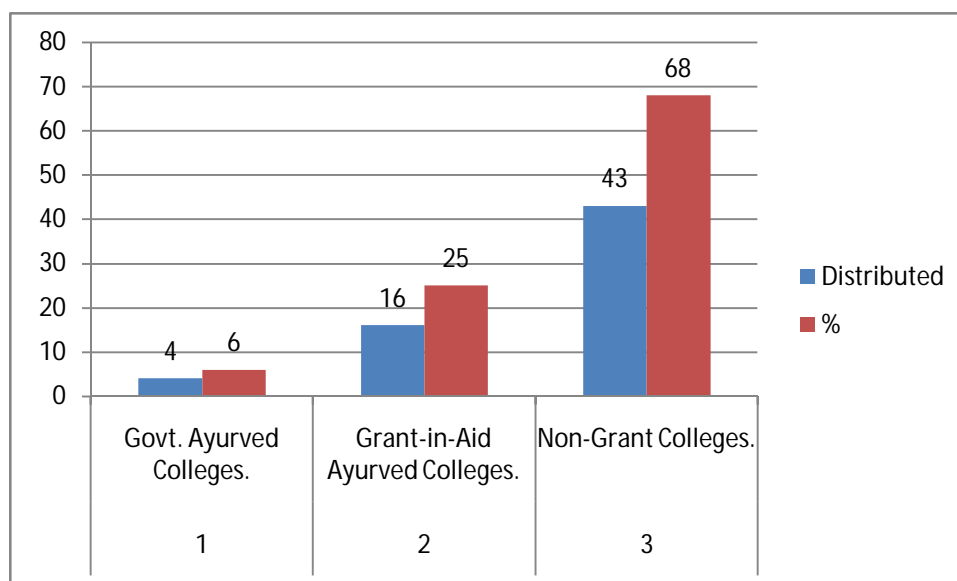
Objectives of the Study:

- To examine the present status of library services in Ayurved Medical College Libraries of Maharashtra.
- To examine the status of library resources in Ayurved Medical College Libraries of Maharashtra.
- To study the present status of human and other infrastructural facility of Ayurved Medical College Libraries of Maharashtra.
- To find out the status of IT infrastructure facilities as well as Automation status in library operations and services in Ayurved Medical College Libraries of Maharashtra.

Research Methodology:

Questionnaire based survey as well as the case study approach has been employed in the said study data was collected through the surveys based on well structured questionnaire and personal interviews, In-depth literature search on topics related to the research work was carried out in other sources also reviewed.

Graph 1: Status of college.



Ayurved Medical colleges which run B.A.M.S. or post M.D/M.S. And M.phil/ Ph. D. Courses are considered for the study there Ayurved Medical Colleges run this program in Maharashtra. Questionnaires were distributed to all Ayurved Medical College Libraries.

Year of College Establishment:

Table 1: Establishment Year.

Sr. No.	Year	No. of Colleges
01	1900-1930	02
02	1931-1970	14
03	1971-2000	35
04	2001-2009	12

First Ayurved Medical College was established in British period was Seth C. M. AryanglaVaidyakMahavidyalaya, GendaMal Satara.in 1913. According to CCIMnorms institutes have to establish the central library since inception of the college, so all theAyurved Medical College Libraries were established at the time of college establishment year. Table 2explains the duration of Ayurved Medical Colleges established in Maharashtra.

Courses Offered

Table 2: Status of Courses Offered.

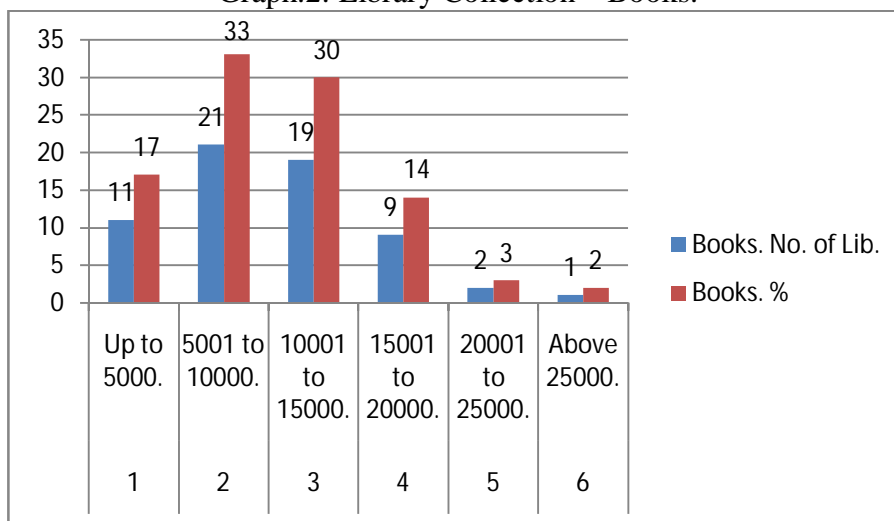
Sr. No.	Course	No. of Colleges
01	UG	63
02	PG	21
03	M.Phil./Ph.D. (Research work)	09

Table 2 indicates that 100% colleges offered the UG level course. Among the 21 colleges offeredPG courses and 09 Ayurved Medical colleges offered research programmes.

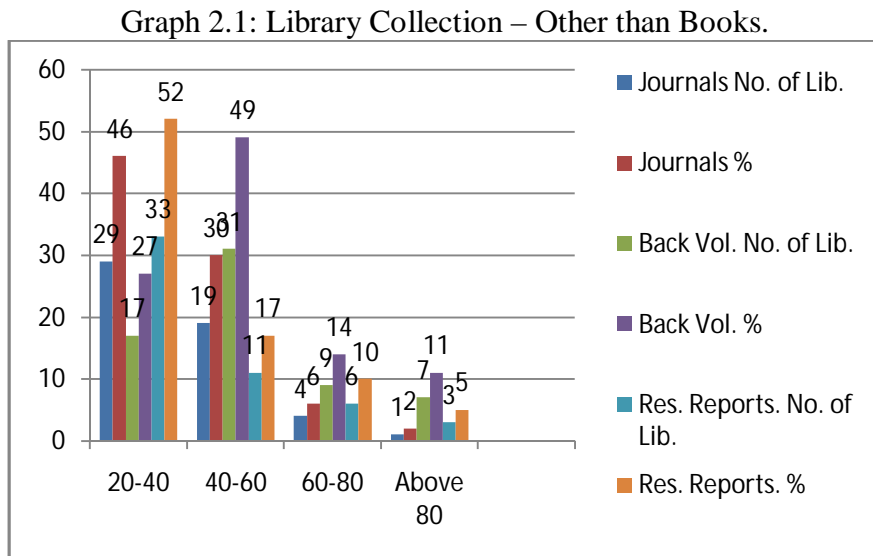
Library Collection:

Keeping in the view of collection as an important variable in the study, the respondents wereasked under major categories of documents, for the sake of clarity and convince in theinterpretation, the collection of these libraries has been classified under two broad groups: Bookmaterials and non books materials and results are presented in the following Graph2 to

Graph.2: Library Collection – Books.



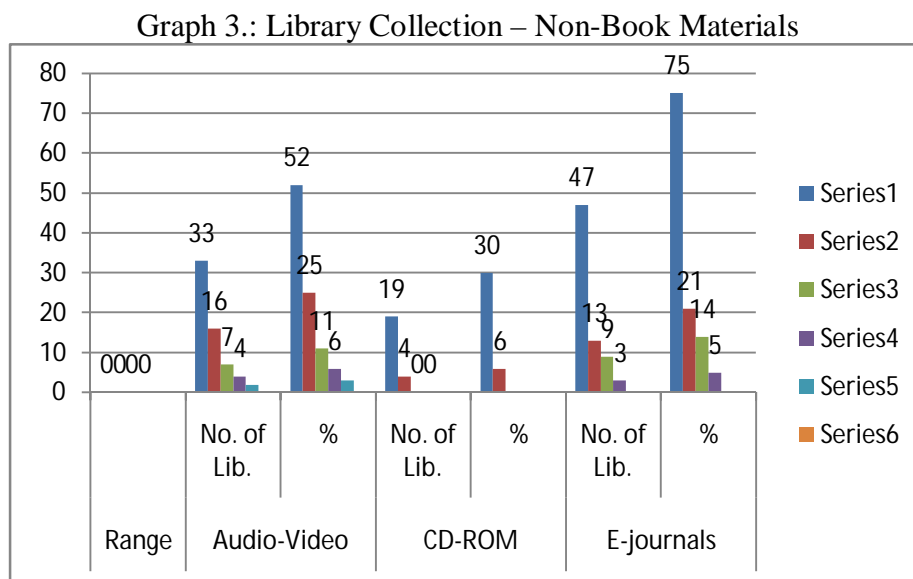
Graph 2 presents data about availability of books and handbooks /reference books in different Ayurved Medical College Libraries. It is also observed considerable numbers of resources available to serve health science professionals.



Graph 2.1 presents data about availability of different learning resources like current journals, backvolumes, research report, thesis and dissertation and conference proceedings. It is also observed that considerable numbers of resources are available to serve health science professionals and it is also highly preferable in area of Medical Education.

Non-book Material:

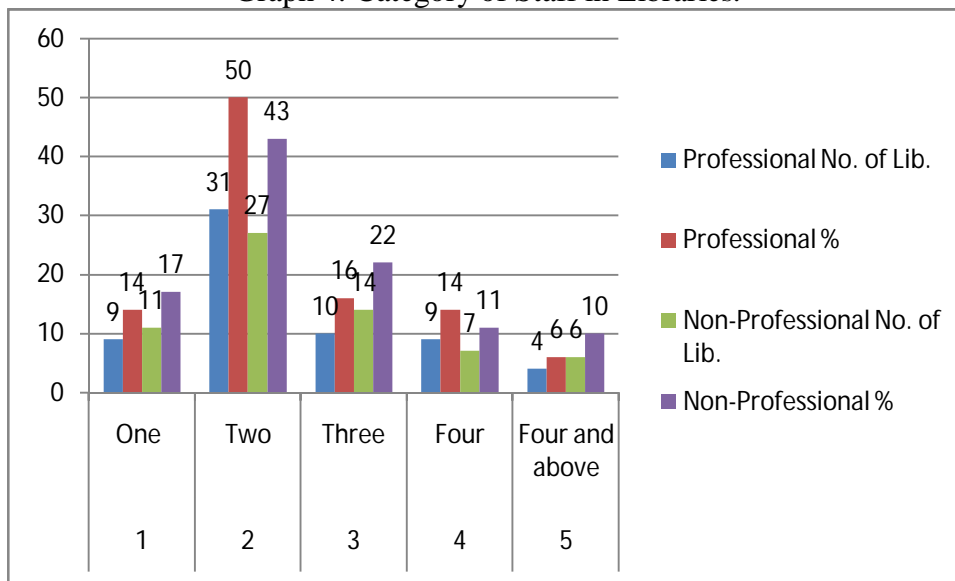
Non book material is an integrated part of the modern health science libraries and comes in a variety of shapes. In order to ascertain the state of non book materials and their relative share in the collection of these Ayurved Medical College Libraries.



During personal visit it is observed that, all libraries do not have all types of non book materials. Government Ayurved Medical Colleges are having very good online e-resources due to fund availability by state government.

Human Resources:

Graph 4: Category of Staff in Libraries.



Graph 4 indicates that the strength of professional and non professional staffs in the Ayurved Medical Colleges of Maharashtra. Majority of Medical Colleges have inadequate staffs for library services.

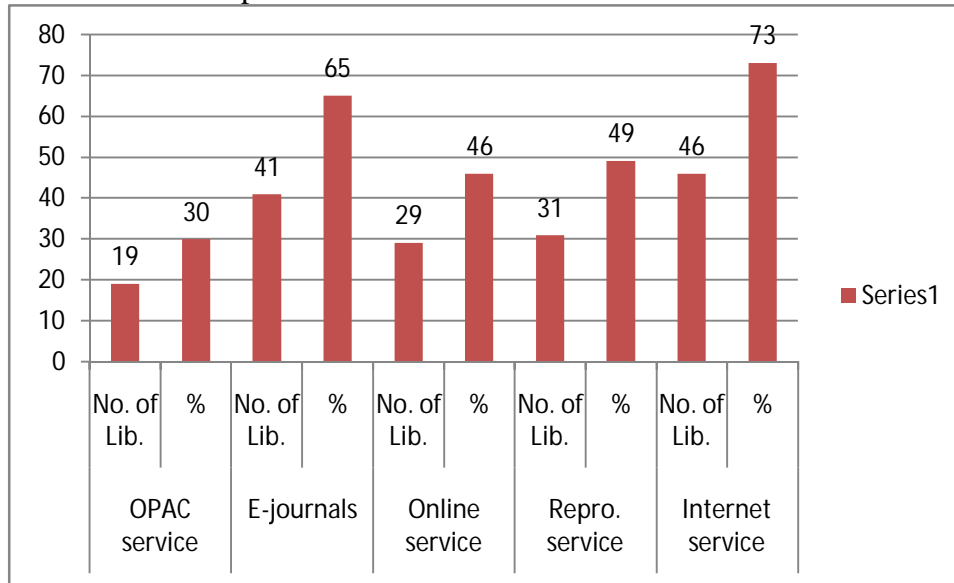
Library Services:

Table 3: Types of Services offered by Libraries.

Sr.No.	Services	No. of Lib.	%
01	Transaction services	63	100
02	Inter Library Loan	19	30
03	Reference Service	63	100
04	Referral Service	37	59
05	Abstracting Service	5	8
06	Indexing Service	7	11
07	S.D.I.	9	14
08	C.A.S.	11	17
09	E-journals.	41	65
10	Online Service.	29	46
11	Reprography Service.	31	49
12	Clipping Service.	60	95
13	Translation Service	--	--
14	Internet service	46	73

During the personal visit it was observed that lending is the main service offered by these libraries where as most of them are also providing reservation services. Most of libraries are Open Access. However, Table 3 discloses that.

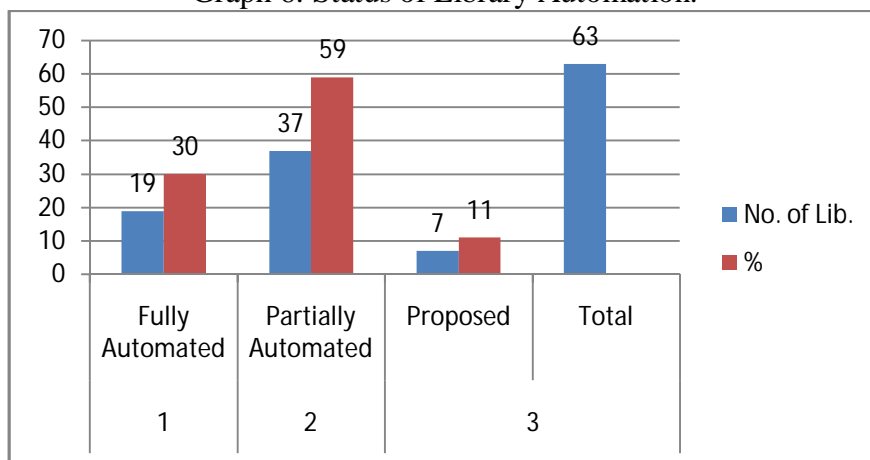
Graph 5: Services based on Electronic Media.



Library Automation:

The first step towards availing benefits of IT is the automation of library activities. Hence, librarians were asked about the status of automation in their libraries the response of librarians is mentioned in frequencies.

Graph 6: Status of Library Automation.



Graph 6 shows the difference in the percentage of fully, partially, and proposed automated Libraries. It means that there is significant difference in the percentage of libraries, which are automated at different levels. It is also evident of from the above table Ayurved Medical College Libraries in the Maharashtra have taken a long period in starting library automation of their services.

Conclusion:

Ayurveda Education in Maharashtra is presently observed by the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), a Statutory Central Government body. Ayurveda education is mainly based on a humeral medical system. Ayurveda is not only a medicinal system it is a lifestyle. Some college offered M.Phil/Ph. D. courses is good for ayurveda education. Many

ayurved collegelibraries give various library services for students and faculty. Availability of different learning resources like current journals, back volumes, research report, thesis and dissertation and conference proceedings. It is also observed that considerable numbers of resources are available to serve health science professionals and it is also highly preferable in area of Medical Education.

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