

Automation in Academic Libraries: A Study of TTD College Libraries

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***Abstract** - In the present Information and Communication Technology Era almost all academic libraries are transforming into automation as it is compulsory according to the UGC norms and to achieve NAAC grade. Automation plays a key role in maintaining the library with effective and efficient services to its users with advanced as well as quick services. This article aimed to study the automation of library in TTD run SGS Arts college using the software.*

Key words: Computerization of Libraries, Software, Hardware, Library Automation, OPAC, TTD Libraries

Introduction

Library is regarded as the heart of every educational institution. The management of the educational institutions take special care to strengthen the library of their institution. In the present era of information and communication technology library authorities need to transform their services traditional library services into computerized services. To meet the requirements of its users the staff in library must be ready to serve with advanced information from time to time. In this aspect automation plays a key role in maintaining the library with effective and quick service to its users. The word automation has been derived from the Greek word automose. The term 'Library Automation' is being practiced extensively in library science to implement the application of computer to perform some of the traditional library activities such as acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, stock verification etc. Library automation can be defined simply as the use of computer and networking technologies in the library.

Definition of Library Automation

Library automation may be defined as the application of automatic and semiautomatic data processing machines (computers) to perform traditional library house keeping activities such as acquisition, circulation, cataloguing and reference and serials control. Today "Library Automation" is by far the most commonly used terms to describe the mechanization of library activities using the computer. (Uddin, 2009). According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary of English Languages, automation is, "the techniques of making an apparatus, a process or a system operate automatically". In other words, it is the machinery that mathematically manipulates information storing, selects, presents and records input data or internally generated data.

Objectives of present study

- The prime objective of this study is to implement the standard software for automation.

- To identify the problems in implementing the automation process
- To maintain all the records and materials in a computerized form.

Review of Literature

Nayana (2019) carried out a study on a study on library automation status among the aided colleges libraries in Bangalore with an objective to find out what softwares are being used in Automated Libraries in Bengaluru city. The study identified that majority of the colleges are semi automated and they faced technical problem while implementing. The study suggested that the computers and related hardware should be made available to the libraries. The librarian should demand these facilities from their authorities, which is the basic requirement to initiate automation.

Veeranjaneyulu (2017) studied the present status of library automation and digitization of Agricultural University libraries in India. The parameters investigated include the status of automation, status of digitization, membership in KrishiKosh institutional repository, membership in AgriCat Union Catalogue and implementation of RFID technology in the agricultural libraries. The study reveals that 80% of the libraries are automated in agricultural University.

The present status of SGS Arts College in automation

The library is having nearly 50000 collection apart from back volumes of magazines and journals. The entire collection of books are being computerized. Offline e resources are available to the users. A well established traditional library services are being available to the users on all working days.

Requirements for Library Automation

The following essential equipment and computer accessories are required to acquire library software and to make automation.

Software: There are two kinds of software available in the field of library science for automation. These are namely a) In house developed software such as students or faculty of computer science can develop a software for the purpose of library use based on the requirements of library. B) Commercial software which is designed and maintained by the standard software companies

Hardware

Hardware is the next important element in automation process as the entire process needs to be run through hardware. When we purchase standard and high configuration computers with required accessories we may run the software without any interruption.

Proposed modules to be used in the Library

After completion of library automation the following modules are planned to use in the library. These are Acquisition, cataloguing OPAC circulation, serial control system.

Man power requirement for automation

Well trained and basic computer literacy sub staff are required to run the library automation process and to make transactions without any interruption to the users. It is also identified that the orientation programmes have to be conducted with in the organization to all staff as well as to the students and other users regarding the utilization of advanced automation activities.

Conclusion

It is concluded that library automation is very essential to all libraries in the present ICT era. It is obvious fact that library automation is very essential to the educational institution to have NACC grade as well as to serve the best services with advanced information to its users. In the present era Library automation is very essential for all the libraries. Based on their budget availability the Libraries started using automation softwares. Most of the academic libraries use proprietary software, because they will get enough support and regular updates from the vendor, whereas in open source software the Library staff should update themselves with the help of technical staff.

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