

## Best Practices of Information Literacy Programmes in Government Engineering College Libraries

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**Abstract** - *The present study attempted to examine the best practices of information literacy programmes in Government Engineering College Libraries. The main objectives of the study is to examine the type of services provided by the libraries in Government Engineering Colleges in Karnataka, to know how literacy programmes effectively impacts on library usage, services and facilities provided for the users, to examine what are problems faced by the libraries while conducting Information Literacy Programmes. The questionnaire method was used for data collection and the study covered 7 Government Engineering College Libraries. The findings of the study show that the designation of all respondents of the libraries was 'Librarian'. The majority of the respondents have completed the Master degree in Library and Information Science accounting 5 (71.42%). The 'Circulation of Books' was major kind of the services provided by the all libraries accounting 7(100%). 'Reference' and 'CAS/SDI' services were next in order in the libraries accounting 6 (84.14%) each. The highest number of the colleges 5 (71.42%) have been conducting the information literacy programmes at beginning of the academic year. In all libraries, Librarian or Assistant Librarian has been conducting the information literacy programmes in the libraries. 6 (85.14%) libraries developed ILPs in the libraries by team of the library professionals. The highest number of the libraries 6(85.14) agreed that IL Programs helped in increased visits to the library by users and only one library stated strongly agree for said statement. 6 (85.14%) libraries faced the problem of lacking of awareness about ILPs for effective delivery of ILPs for the users.*

**Keywords:** Literacy, Information Literacy, Libraries, Library services, Engineering colleges.

### INTRODUCTION

'Information' is the main soul for all education, research and development activities. Plenty of information/data is available in both print and electronic format, but the problem is that all these data are available in unorganized form. However, now days in all engineering colleges have very good collection of resources. The budding engineering graduates, staff and

research scholars needs right information at right time for their academic growth. From lack of awareness, these users are failed to get the available information in the library. Therefore, Librarian should organize the available resources in library and they should nurture information literacy to help the library users learn to make decisions about their information needs and how to fulfill. Finally, to fulfill all these needs Librarian and Information professionals should implement the Literacy programmes as best practices in their library. In this connection, the present study has been conducted to know the best practices of information literacy programmes in government engineering college libraries in Karnataka.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Many studies conducted on best practice of information literacy programmes in various college libraries but there were very limited studies on information literacy programmes have been done with respect to engineering college libraries. Nyamboga (2004) find out in their study that the training opportunities for library and information professionals in India and how a selection of Indian university libraries are providing information skills and information literacy programmes for their users. And also they suggests that the need for training students, researchers and staff to make appropriate use of resources made available in libraries is recognized. Also suggested the library professionals should develop the new courses as new ways for providing resources. Mohsenzadeh & Isfandyari-Moghaddam (2009) concluded that in their study they have worked on application of information technologies in academic libraries and they have selected the Kerman academic libraries, Iran. From this study they suggested and find out the result that, about 70 percent of librarians in Kerman academic libraries have participated in related training courses, the most serious difficulty in using information technology is still the lack of educated librarians. Harris (2003) described in his study that, despite the best intensions of accreditation and the learning standards movement, many students exposure to libraries and information literacy programs is poor to nonexistent. Burkhardt (2007) found form his study that after implementation of Information Literacy programs for under graduate students, the analysis result showed that students' skills were acquired and improved overall.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This study has been carried out with the following objectives,

1. To examine the type of services provided by the libraries in Government Engineering Colleges in Karnataka.
2. To investigate how the libraries develop the information literacy programmes for the users.
3. To find out the status of the library automation in the libraries.
4. To know how literacy programmes effectively impacts on library usage, services and facilities provided for the users
5. To examine what are problems faced by the libraries while conducting ILPs.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The main purpose of this study is to examine the information literacy programmes adopted by Government Engineering College Libraries come under Visveshwaraya Technological University. The present study employed the survey research for collection data. The structured questionnaire with five point likert scale was designed for data collection. The

researcher distributed questionnaire to 10 Government Engineering College Libraries, there were 7 filled questionnaires were received back. This constituted overall response rate of 70%. Microsoft excel was employed for analysis of the data.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 1. Designation wise Distribution

Table 1 reveals that the designation wise distribution of the respondents. It may be seen from the Table that the designation of all respondents of the libraries was 'Librarian' accounting (100%). The table clearly shows that the all Government Engineering Colleges' libraries were headed by the Librarians.

**Table 1: Designation wise Distribution**

Sl. No.	Designation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Chief Librarian	0	0.0
2	Librarian	7	100
3	Assistant Librarian	0	0.0
4	Others	0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

### 2. Educational Qualification

**Table 2: Educational Qualification**

Sl. No.	Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
1	Ph.D	1	14.28
2	M.Phil	1	14.28
3	MLISc	5	71.42
4	BLISc	0	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

Educational qualification of the respondents of Libraries of the Government Engineering Colleges were analysed in the Table 2. The table depicts that the majority of the respondents have completed the Master degree in Library and Information Science accounting 5 (71.42%). Two respondents have obtained top ranking degree of higher education 'PhD' (14.28%) and 'MPhil' (14.28%) each in the field of Library and Information Science. It may be observed from the table that the librarians who are working under the Government Engineering Colleges were academically well qualified.

### 3. Types of Services Provided

Table 3 depicts that the various types of the services provided by the libraries of the Government Engineering Colleges for the users. The service 'Circulation of Books' was major kind of the services provided by the all libraries accounting 7(100%). 'Reference' and 'CAS/SDI' services were next in order in the libraries accounting 6 (84.14%) each. Around 60% of the libraries are providing the services of 'Circulation of periodicals', 'Internet based services', 'Reprographic service' 'Newspaper clipping' each. The remaining services 'Indexing & abstracting' and 'Translation' services were provided by the least number of the libraries. It may be observed from the table that the libraries of the Government Engineering

Colleges were providing the diversified services for different user group for fulfilling the academic needs.

**Table 3: Types of Services Provided**

Sl. No.	Services	Frequency		Percentage	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Circulation of books	7	0	100.0	0.0
2	Reference service	6	1	85.14	14.28
3	Inter library loan	2	5	28.57	71.42
4	Reprographic service	4	3	57.14	42.85
5	Circulation of periodicals	5	2	71.42	28.57
6	Newspaper clipping services	4	3	57.14	42.85
7	CAS/SDI services	6	1	85.14	14.28
8	Internet based services	5	2	71.42	28.57
9	Indexing & abstracting services	1	6	14.28	85.14
10	Translation services	1	6	14.28	85.14

#### 4. Library Automation Status

Status of the Library Automation of the libraries in Government Engineering Colleges is shown in the Table 4. The majority of the libraries 4 (57.14%) were fully automated their libraries house-keeping activities. 3(42.85%) libraries were not automated their house-keeping activities and they have been managing the activities by traditional method.

**Table 4: Library Automation Status**

Sl. No.	Automation Status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	4	57.14
2	No	3	42.85
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 5. Frequency of Conduction of Information literacy programmes

Table 5 shows that the frequency of Literacy Programme conducted in Government Engineering Colleges' libraries. It may be seen from the table that the highest number of the colleges 5 (71.42%) have been conducting the Information literacy programmes at beginning of the academic year. 4(57.14%) libraries have been conducting ILPs once in a year and 4(57.14%) libraries have been conducting as and when situation warrants. The only 2 (28.57%) libraries have been conducting ILPs as a regular feature.

**Table 5: Frequency of Conduction of Information literacy programmes**

Sl. No.	Frequency	N=7	Yes	No	Total
1	As a regular feature	F	2	5	7
		%	28.57	71.42	100.0
2	Once in a year	F	4	3	7
		%	57.14	42.85	100.0
3	Beginning of the Academic Year	F	5	2	7
		%	71.42	28.57	100.0
4	as and when Situation Warrants	F	4	3	7
		%	57.14	42.85	100.0

## 6. Conduction of ILPs

Table 6 indicates that the person who conducts the Information literacy programmes in the libraries of the Government Engineering Colleges. It may be seen from the table that in all libraries, Librarian or Assistant Librarian have been conducting the Information literacy programmes in the libraries. In addition, some of the libraries have been conducting ILPs by Teaching Staff (1, 14.28%), Guest Lecturers/Visiting Professors/Invited Speakers (2, 28.57%) and Publishers/Agents (3, 42.85%). The table clearly shows that the libraries involved various person who has special knowledge in the area of ILPs for conducting ILPs for the users.

**Table 6: Conduction of ILPs**

Sl. No.	Resource Person	N=7	Yes	No	Total
1	Librarian/Asst. Librarian	F	7	0	7
		%	100	0.0	100
2	Teaching Staff	F	1	6	7
		%	14.28	85.14	100
3	Guest Lecturers/Visiting Professors/Invited Speakers	F	2	5	7
		%	28.57	71.42	100
4	Publishers/Agents	F	3	4	7
		%	42.85	57.14	100

## 7. ILPs for Different Category of Users

Table 7 depicts that the conduction of Information literacy programmes for different category of users. It may be seen from the table that all 7(100%) colleges were conducting the ILPs for Undergraduate Students. 'Teaching Staff' and 'Postgraduate Students' were benefited of ILPs in the some libraries accounting 4(57.14%) and 2(28.57%) respectively. Very least number of libraries was conducting ILPs for 'Research Scholars' and 'Non-Teaching Staff' representing 1(14.28%) each. It may be clearly seen from the table that the libraries provided ILPs for different kind of the users group.

**Table 7: ILPs for Different Category of Users**

Sl. No.	Category of Users	N=7	Yes	No	Total
1	Undergraduate Students	F	7	0	7
		%	100.0	0.0	100.0
2	Postgraduate Students	F	2	5	7
		%	28.57	71.42	100.0
3	Research Scholars	F	1	6	7
		%	14.28	85.14	100.0
4	Teaching Staff	F	4	3	7
		%	57.14	42.85	100.0
5	Non-Teaching Staff	F	1	6	7
		%	14.28	85.14	100.0

## 8. Development of ILPs

Table 8 reveals that who develops the Information literacy programmes in Libraries. It may be seen from the table that the majority of the libraries 6(85.14%) developed ILPs in the libraries by team of the library professionals. 2(28.57%) libraries involved the ILPs through mixed team of library professional, IT staff and Administrative staff for developing ILPs for the users. Only 1 library includes external expert team to develop ILPs in the library for the users. The Table clearly shows that the libraries of the Government Engineering Colleges involved various professional in developing information literacy programmes in the libraries.

**Table 8: Development of ILPs**

Sl. No.	Resource Person	N=7	Yes	No	Total
1	Team of library professionals	F	6	1	7
		%	85.14	14.28	100.0
2	Mixed team of library professionals, IT staff and administrative staff	F	2	5	7
		%	28.57	71.42	100.0
3	External Expert team	F	1	6	7
		%	14.28	85.14	100.0

## 9. Assessment of Information literacy programmes

**Table 9: Assessment of Information literacy programmes**

Statements	N=7	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
IL Programs helps in increased visits to the library by users.	F	0	0	0	6	1	7
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	85.14	14.28	100.0
IL Programs are necessary for effective utilization of library materials.	F	0	0	0	5	2	7
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	71.42	28.57	100.0
IL Programs should be evaluated to check user satisfaction.	F	0	0	1	4	2	7
	%	0.0	0.0	14.28	57.14	28.57	100.0

Table 9 indicates that assessment of information literacy programmes conducted in the Government Engineering Colleges' Libraries. The highest number of the libraries 6(85.14%) agreed that IL Programs helped in increased visits to the library by users and only one library stated strongly agree for said statement. 5(71.42%) libraries agreed that IL Programs were necessary for effective utilization of library materials. IL Programs should be evaluated to check user satisfaction statement was agreed by 4(57.14%) libraries and was strongly agreed by 2(28.57%) libraries. The table clearly shows that conducting information literacy programmes effectively impacted on library usage, services and facilities provided for the users.

## 10. Problems Faced for Effective Delivery of ILPs

Problems faced for effective delivery of information literacy programmes to the users by the libraries is shown in Table 10. The majority of libraries 6(85.14%) faced the problem of lacking of awareness about ILPs for effective delivery of ILPs for the users. 5(71.42%) libraries faced the problem of lacking of support from the Management/Principal/ Head of the Institution and 4(57.14%) libraries had the problem of lacking of interest by user community

for effective delivery of information literacy programmes. Only two libraries had the problem of non co-operation of teaching staff for effective delivery of ILPs for the users.

**Table 10: Problems faced for effective delivery of ILPs**

Problems	N=7	Yes	No	Total
Lack of awareness about ILPs	F	6	1	7
	%	85.14	14.28	100.0
Lack of support from the Management/Principal/ Head of the Institution	F	5	2	7
	%	71.42	28.57	100.0
Lack of interest by user community	F	4	3	7
	%	57.14	42.85	100.0
Non-co-operation of teaching staff	F	2	5	7
	%	28.57	71.42	100.0

## CONCLUSION

The present study investigated best practice of best practices of information literacy programmes in government engineering college libraries. The findings of the presents study revealed that librarians who are working under the Government Engineering Colleges were academically well qualified and they providing the diversified services for different user group for fulfilling the academic needs. The study clearly showed that conducting information literacy programmes effectively influenced library usage, services and facilities provided for the users.

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