Library Professionals' Awareness, Knowledge and Use of Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS) in Engineering College Libraries of East Godavari District Affiliated to JNTUK – Kakinada: A Survey

Mr.M.Akhil Kumar
Research scholar
Dept of Library and Information Sscience
JNTUK- Kakinada

B.R.Doraswamy Naick
Associate Professor
Dept of Library and Information Sscience
JNTUK- Kakinada

K.Somasekhara Rao
Professor
Dept of LIS, Andhra University
Visakhapatnam

Abstract - *The study was conducted to know the library professional's awareness, knowledge and use of integrated library management software (ILMS) in engineering college libraries of E.G.Dt affiliated to JNTUK – Kakinada. The study is adopted a questionnaire method to collect the data from the respondents. The survey mainly focused library professional's awareness, knowledge and application regarding technologies related to automation, automated library services. The study discussed level of knowledge and use of library professionals on software installation and functional modules. The paper also discussed which type of ILMS packages are preferred by the library professionals and criteria followed for the selection of the software.*

Keywords: Library professionals, ILMS, Automation, Engineering college libraries

Introduction:

The library plays a critical role in our society it is an important component of any educational institution, which is focal point of the teaching, and learning activities where students, researchers and teachers can explore the vast resources of information. In the age of information communication technology, computers are being used for day-to-day housekeeping activity of the library which saves the time of the end users, and library professional also and at the same time avoid duplication of work and make the library service smooth and effective. In the age of ICT library scenario has been drastically changed in terms of collection, organization and services. Simultaneously, user's demands and attitudes have changed in its kinds. Also the information seeking behavior of user has dynamically changed. They want relevant, authentic information very quickly within a single place at their hand .This concept has posed challenges for library professionals for quick delivery of library services and information. This development in library field has brought the idea of Library Automation.

Review of related literature:

Ansari (2008) studied on Libsys ILMS software packages used in AMU central library, New Delhi regarding software modules such as circulation, cataloguing, serial control, OPAC, Acquisition and Administration with functional features. **Okewale and Adetimirin (2011)** studied on two library management software packages used in 4 Nigerian University libraries. The study focused on use of various ILMS modules regarding Acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, OPAC, Serial control and Administration. For the study questionnaire method was adopted to elicit the data from the users of the library both students and faculty. **Dhanavandan (2012)** described library automation facilities in engineering college libraries and use of ILMS software's. Questionnaire method was adopted for data collection from library professionals. The study found most of the colleges are using commercial library software packages than in-house software packages. **Eguavoen, O.E.L (2011)** The author studied attitudes of library professionals in the application of ICT in the library of Kenneth dike of University of Ibadan, for this questionnaire method was adopted to elicit the information use of ICT in libraries. **Sahu (2013)** the author explained the skills and competencies of the library professionals regarding use of ILMS packages in libraries. The study found that library professionals should acquire required skills towards library automation for smooth functioning of the ILMS. **Saxena (1998)** Studied evaluation process of ILMS packages such as Granthalaya, Suchika, Libsys and Basisplus. For this the author designed some parameters for evaluation of ILMS packages.

Objectives of the study:

- To find out the awareness, knowledge and use of technologies and services towards library automation among the library professionals of east Godavari district engineering college libraries.
- To ascertain the knowledge level of library professionals towards functional modules and software installation.
- To know the criteria which are mostly followed by library professionals in the selection of integrated library management software.

Scope of the study:

The study focused on 20 engineering college libraries in east Godavari district affiliated to JNTUK- Kakinada. The study investigates library professional's awareness, knowledge and use of integrated library management software

Methodology:

Printed questionnaire was distributed in person to all 29 engineering college libraries in east Godavari district affiliated to JNTUK, Kakinada and simultaneously the same soft copy was sent to the e-mail ID's of librarians and Assistant librarians. About 20 colleges were responded to my questionnaire these are automated, the response rate of the questionnaire is 68.96%.

Table-1: Respondent rate of the questionnaires

Questionnaires distributed colleges	Respondent	Percentage
29	20	68.97%

Table-2 List of JNTUK Affiliated Engineering College Automated Libraries in East Godavari District

S.no	Estd	Name of the college	Place	Use of the software
1	1997	BV Chalamayya Engineering College (BVCE)	Odalarevu	Bees campus soft
2	1998	Godavari Institute of Engineering and Technology (GIER)	Rajahmundry	Ez School
3	2000	Lenora college of Engineering (LENO)	Rampachodavaram	E-Cap
4	2001	Adity Engineering College (ADTP)	Surampalem	Ez School
5	2001	Kakinada Institute of Engineering and Technology (KIET)	Korangi	Bees Campus soft
6	2001	Pragati Engineering College (PRAG)	Surampalem	KOHA
7	2001	Sri Prakash College of Engineering (SPCT)	Tuni	E-Cap
8	2002	Bonam Venkata Chalamayya Institute of Technology and Science (BVTS)	Amalapuram	Bees Campus soft
9	2004	Sri Sai Aditya Institute of Science and Technology (SISS)	Surampalem	Ez School
10	2005	Chaitanya Institute of Science and Technology (CHKN)	Kakinada	E-Cap
11	2005	GIET Engineering College (GITE)	Rajahmundry	Ez School
12	2008	Rajamahendri Institute of Engineering and Technology (RIET)	Rajahmundry	E-Cap
13	2008	Sri Aditya Engineering College (SACS)	Surampalem	Ez School
14	2008	BVC College of Engineering (BVCR)	Rajahmundry	Bees Campus soft
15	2008	Ideal Institute of Technology (IDEL)	Kakinada	Libsys
16	2008	Kakinada Institute of Technology and Science (KTSP)	Divili	SOUL
17	2008	Kakinada Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women (KIEW)	Korangi	Bees Campus soft
18	2008	Adarsh College of Engineering (ACEE)	Chebrolu	E-Cap
19	2009	GIET College of Engineering (GIET)	Rajahmundry	Ez-School
20	2009	Srinivasa Institute of Engineering and Technology (SRIN)	Cheyyeru	E-Cap

Table 2 presents list of engineering colleges which were automated. About 20 engineering college libraries were automated in east Godavari district out of 29 established.

Gender-Wise Distribution: A detailed analysis of the data and its interpretation is presented below in the form of tables

Table-3: Gender -Wise Distribution of Respondents

Gender	No of respondents	Percentage
Male	30	90.90%
Female	3	9.10%
Total	**33**	**100.00%**

It is shown in table-3, about 30 (90.90%) library professionals working in East Godavari engineering college libraries are male, only 3 (9.10%) female candidates are working.

Table-4: Designation-wise distribution of respondents

Designation	No of Respondents	Percentage
Librarians	20	60.60%
Assistant Librarians	13	39.40%
Total	**33**	**100.00%**

It is shown in table -4, Professionals are working in librarian designation in all 20 engineering college libraries, and remaining 13 professionals are working with Assistant librarian designation in 7 engineering college libraries.

Librarians were asked about the awareness, knowledge and use of the following automated technologies and their responses are shown in the table -5

Table-5: Awareness, knowledge and use of the technologies

S.No.	Technology	Awareness (N=33)	Knowledge (N=33)	Use (N=33)
1	Internet Technology	33 (100.00%)	32 (96.97%)	30 (90.90%)
2	Digital Technology	28 (84.85%)	22 (66.67%)	20 (60.60%)
3	Mobile Technology	29 (87.88%)	19 (57.58%)	17 (51.51%)
4	Barcode Technology	32 (96.97%)	24 (72.72%)	23 (69.70%)
5	Bio-Metric System	23 (69.70%)	10 (30.30%)	9 (27.27%)
6	RFID Technology	17 (51.52%)	4 (12.12%)	0 (0.00%)
7	Cloud Computing	12 (36.36%)	8 (24.24%)	1 (3.03%)
8	Hardware	24 (72.72%)	20 (60.60%)	15 (45.45%)
Total		**198 (75.00%)**	**139 (52.65%)**	**115 (43.56%)**

Table-5 presents the respondents level of awareness, knowledge and use of technologies in the automated library environment. It is found from the table that the respondents, all the library professionals are fully awareness, knowledge on internet technology and also usage is good. Majority of library professionals are not having awareness and knowledge of latest emerging technologies like RFID and cloud computing and as well as usage also. Most of the automated libraries were using barcode technology so library professionals are having good awareness and knowledge on barcode technology and usage is moderate. Now days mobiles are frequently using in library operations for fast dissemination of library information such as e-resources access and circulation information, although library professionals are having good awareness on mobile technology their knowledge and usage level is moderate.

Librarians were asked about the awareness, knowledge and use of the following automated library services and their responses are shown in the table -6

Table-6: Awareness, Knowledge and providing the following automated library services

S.No	Services	Awareness (N=33)	Knowledge (N=33)	Providing (N=33)
1	Information Retrieval (Database)	33 (100.00%)	25 (75.75%)	25 (75.75%)
2	Electronic Document Delivery System	31 (93.94%)	19 (57.58%)	14 (42.42%)
3	Abstracting Service	27 (81.82%)	8 (24.24%)	3 (09.09%)
4	Indexing Service	27 (81.82%)	9 (27.27%)	5 (15.15%)
5	Current Awareness Service (CAS)	33 (100.00%)	31 (93.93%)	28 (84.84%)
6	SDI Service	23 (69.70%)	13 (39.40%)	10 (30.30%)
7	Digital Reference Service	22 (66.67%)	11 (33.33%)	7 (21.21%)
8	Online Bibliographic Service	26 (78.79%)	15 (45.45%)	8 (24.24%)

Table-6 deals with the awareness, knowledge and its application on library automated services, librarians got 100% awareness on the information retrieval and current awareness services, and also good knowledge in providing same automated services to the library users. Librarians got less knowledge on abstracting services (24.24%), indexing services (27.27%), digital reference services (33.33%), SDI services (39.40%) and online bibliographic services (45.45%) and these automated services were providing very less to the users due to lack of knowledge of many library professionals.

Librarians were asked about knowledge on automated housekeeping operations and their responses are shown in the table 7.

Table-7: Knowledge on functional modules

S.No	Module	Fully (N=33)	Partially (N=33)
1	Acquisition	14 (42.42%)	19 (57.58%)
2	Cataloguing	14 (42.42%)	19 (57.58%)
3	Circulation	19 (57.58%)	14 (42.42%)
4	Serial Control	11 (33.33%)	22 (66.67%)
5	OPAC	18 (54.54%)	15 (45.46%)
6	Administration	15 (45.45%)	18 (54.55%)

It is evident from the table that, about 57.58% of the library professionals having fully knowledge on circulation module, where as OPAC (54.54%), Administration (45.45%), Acquisition and Cataloguing modules (42.42%) and Serial control module is 33.33%). Most of the library professionals haven't sufficient knowledge in use of serial control module.

Library professionals were asked towards which type of software packages are preferred and their responses are presented in table-8

Table-8: Preference on type of ILMS package

S.no	Type of software	Number (N=33)	Percentage (N=33)
1	Open source software	5	15.15%
2	Commercial software	26	78.79%
3	In house developed	2	6.06%

Most of the librarians 78.79% are show interested in use commercial software packages due to having major features and good functionalities and error free maintenance, followed by open source software 15.15% and In-house developed 6.06%.

Librarians were asked knowledge on software installation and their responses are presented in table 9.

Table-9: Knowledge on Software Installation

Knowledge level	Number (N=33)	Percentage
Fully	3	09.09%
Partially	12	36.36%
No	18	54.55%

The knowledge level on software installation, about 36.36% of the library professionals got partial knowledge on software installation, it is found that 54.55% of the library professionals were not get any knowledge on installation. Only 9.09% of library professionals well knowledge on installation process.

Table-10: Knowledge on evaluation of Software packages

Response	Number (N=33)	Percentage
Yes	20	60.61%
No	13	39.39%

Evaluation is basically a judgment of worth; in selection of the suitable software for library evaluation is important, librarians possessed knowledge to evaluate the software packages, it is evident from the table that, most of the library professionals 20 (60.61%) possessed knowledge to evaluate library automation software packages, only 13 (39.39%) haven't evaluation knowledge.

Librarians were asked about the criteria on library software selection and their responses are shown in the table -11

Table-11: Criteria prefer for selection of ILMS

S.No.	Criteria	Number (N=33) (1-6)
1	Evaluation of each module	4 (12.12%)
2	Using demo/Trail version of the software	3 (09.09%)
3	By reference from other college librarians	10 (30.30%)
4	Vendor approaches	6 (18.18%)
5	Cost effectiveness of software	2 (06.06%)
6	Reputation of software	8 (24.24%)

Table- 11 presents criteria on library software selection in preference order; about 30.30% of library professional's choose as first option by reference from other college librarians as a criteria for selecting the best software, where as reputation of software (24.24%), vendor approaches (18.18%), evaluation of each module (12.12%), using demo (9.09%) and cost effectiveness of software (6.06%).

Findings:

1. Majority of library professionals 26 out of 33 (78.79%) showed interest to use commercial software packages as part of automated activities in their libraries.
2. Most of the library professionals 18 (54.55%) haven't knowledge on installation of library software, where as partial knowledge 12 (36.36%) and Fully 3 (9.09%).
3. Most of the library professional's are having the awareness is 75%, knowledge (52.65%) and application is only 43.56% in all the 8 technologies related to automation in the libraries.
4. Most of the library professionals having good knowledge in providing services on current awareness service and information retrieval service, professionals have less knowledge in providing the services i.e. abstracting and indexing services and application also same.
5. Majority of library professionals encompass partial knowledge in using of library software functional modules.
6. Library professionals 20 out of 33 (60.61%) obtained knowledge to evaluate the library software packages.
7. Most of the library professionals choose criteria as reference of other college librarians for selection of library software.

Suggestions:

- Library professionals should be encouraged and deputed by the authority to attend seminars, workshops, conferences, training programmes on library management software, IT tools, Search techniques.
- Before selection of the library management software, library software should be demonstrated to the library professionals by a team of vendor/ software professionals for effective management of a library from all aspects.

Conclusion:

Now a day library automation has become a buzz word in library profession and has become a bare necessity for any libraries. An automated library can provide better library services to their users and can maintain the library more properly. The success of any library automation programme depends upon its awareness, knowledge of library professionals in related to automated technologies. For that trained manpower is required. Hence library professionals should be trained properly with requisite knowledge for making the automation programme successful.

References:

1. Sindhav,Rajnikanth & Patel, Umesh A.(2014). Library automation in academic libraries: Need and purpose. International research journal of mathematics, Engineering and IT, 1(2), 28-34.
2. Seena, S.T & Sudhier Pillai, K.G. (2014). A study of ICT skills among the library professionals in the Kerala University library system. Annals of library and information studies, 61(6), 132-141.
3. Owusu-Ansah Christopher Mfum & Mprah Richard Kwadwo. (2014). The impact of library automation on the job satisfaction of library staff. European journal of Business and Social sciences, 3 (9), 100-113

4. Okpe, I.J & Unegbu, V.E. (2013). Appraisal of integrated library management software in selected Nigerian university libraries. International research: Journal of Library and Information Science, 3(1), 146-162.
5. Sahu, mahendra K. (2013). Skill, competences and current practice of library professionals in engineering college Oddisha: An analytical study. International research: Journal of Library and Information Science, 3(4), 631-647.
6. Kemdarne, Suryakant B & Khot, Namita B, Birje, Sunil R (2012). Perspective on library automation and networking of dental college libraries in Bangalore: Status, Problems and prospects. International journal information dissemination and technology. 2(2), 77-85
7. Dhanavandan,S. (2012). Library automation software in self financing engineering college libraries: A study. Journal of Advances in library and information Science, 1(1), 14-18
8. Okewale Oluwatoyin and Adetimirin Airen (2011). Information use of Software packages in Nigerian University libraries. Journal of Information Technology Impact, 11(3) 211-224
9. Eguavoen, O.E.L (2011). Attitude of library staff to the use of ICT: The case of Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Ozean Journal of social sciences 4(1), 1-9.
10. Mulla, K.R & Chandrasekhara, M. (2010). Use of integrated library software: A survey of engineering college libraries in Karnataka. International journal of information science and management, 8(2) 100-113.
11. Bansode, sadanand Y & Periera Shamin. (2008). A survey of library automation in college libraries in Goa state, India. Library philosophy and practice, 1-8.
12. Ansari, Mehtab Alam. (2008). Application of Library Management Software in Aligarh Muslim University. www.infotoday.com. November-December 2008, 14-17
13. Ansari, Mehtab Alam. (2008). Application of Library Management Software in Aligarh Muslim University. www.infotoday.com. November-December 2008, 14-17
14. Yogendra singh. (2003). Library automation in academic libraries in India: Problems and Prospects. CALIBER.
15. Saxena, S.C and Srivastava, R.K (1998). Evaluation of library software packages available in India. DESIDOC Bulletin of information technology. 18 (5), 9-17