Library Resources and Services in the Selected Engineering College Libraries Of Karnataka, India-A Survey

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Abstract - This paper describes the role of selected Engineering college libraries in Karnataka, India in higher education and research of Engineering. This paper comprehensively studies the functioning, the resources and services of these libraries. The collection development, library membership, staff position, working hours, services offered and e-resources subscribed by these libraries are also discussed.

Keywords: Engineering libraries, resources and services, automation, information needs, Karnataka

INTRODUCTION

Engineering libraries play a vital role in the achievement of the objectives of the Institution. It is an integral part of the teaching learning process at the academic level. In order to successfully play its role in the Engineering system a library must have appropriate resources like information resources, staff, space, etc. The Engineering libraries make efforts to better serve the users by providing maximum service with their available means or resources. In the light of this, the library can serve its users effectively only when it knows their specific requirements. The Kothari Commission in its report on education and national development (1964-66) further emphasized that, 'No Engineering, college or department should be set up without taking into account its library needs in terms of staff, journals, space, etc. Nothing could be more damaging to a growing department than to neglect its library, the library should be an important centre of attraction on the college or Engineering campus.'

This study is an attempt to present a comprehensive and up to- date overview of library services and their resources in the state of Karnataka, India. The present study covers the below mentioned 3 Engineering colleges. The rationale behind the selection of the Engineering libraries is two fold–first, two state level Engineering libraries are compared with a Private Engineering library in terms of resources and services. Second, a random selection of the colleges are made on the basis of year of establishment i.e., recently established Engineering college libraries, which are operating from independent buildings.

Description of Engineering Colleges.

(1) Sri Jagadguru Chandrashekaranatha Swamiji Institute of Technology (SJCIT) imparting technical education since 1986. The college is situated on Bangalore – Hyderabad National Highway-NH7, 45 kms from Bangalore city about, 20 kms from Kempe Gowda International Airport (Bangalore International Airport) and about 5 kms from Muddenahalli, the birth place of Sir M. Visvesvaraya. SJCIT is affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belgaum. The Institution is recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi, Accredited by NBA and ISO 9001:2008 certified.

(2) **'Adarsha'** signifies the resolve of the Management to develop it as a model Engineering College with best faculty, infrastructure and placements. It is a college started in 2013 under **'Sharada Education Trust'** by a group of well educated philanthropists with 'Service' as their motto. The Management aims to develop AIT-B as a benchmark institution with excellent academic results and placements. It also aims at providing affordable quality education with a number of **scholarships**. **Encouragement for sports & cultural activities** by providing numero-uno facilities and training is also given at AIT-B.

(3) M. S. Engineering College is a Bengaluru based Engineering College promoted by M. S. Educational Trust. The college offers quality Education to students to achieve their goals of becoming much sought after professionals. Spread over an area of 25 acres, M. S. Engineering College is equipped with the best of infrastructure and has highly accomplished professionals who form part of the teaching and the administrative staff.

All Programmes offered by M. S. Engineering College are approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), an apex body of the Government of India. The college is affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University. (VTU), Karnataka. The college is ISO 9001:2008 Certified

Table 1. Selected Engineering libraries

S. No.	Name of the Engineering	Abbreviation	website address	Year
1.	S.J.C.INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY P.B.No. 20, B.B.Road, Chickballapur - 562 101	SJCIT	www.sjcit.ac.in	1986
2.	ADARSHA Institute of Technology Kundana, Bangalore Reural – 562 110	AIT-B	http://www.ait-b.edu.in	2013
3.	M. S. Engineering College Navarathna Agrahara, Bengaluru - 562 110	MSEC	http://www.msec.ac.in/	2002

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conducted a study on 'Status of State Libraries in Karnataka, and revealed that the state public libraries in Karnataka are not in a good condition. The Library services are ill supported, undernourished, unappreciated and under staff, struggling to provide minimal service. There has been growth in some limited areas, but it is only a beginning and there is still a long way to go before the public is assured of satisfactory library service. There is a great challenge before the state government to nourish these state libraries in order to strengthen the knowledge base of the people of Karnataka. reported in his study on "Library Resources and Services in Indian Institute of Technology" that each IIT library has a well-resourced Central Library to support their academic and research mission. On the technology front, Central libraries in IITs have multipurpose space, better infrastructure, service areas,

reading areas and other utilities. Singh[1] found in his study on 'Information technology applications in Technical Institute libraries of Karnataka' that all the technical institute libraries have a membership of library consortium. The majority of the libraries has the membership of DELNET to use the online journals. None of the College Libraries have UGC-INFONET consortium. All of the libraries are paying an amount for subscription of consortium.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to:
- Get the current status of the available information resources in the selected Engineering college libraries of Karnataka
- Find the status of e-resources in the Engineering college libraries
- Determine the types of services being provided by the libraries to its patrons
- Find out about the physical infrastructure of the Engineering college libraries
- Suggest the ways and means for effective use of resources and services in the Engineering College libraries.

METHODOLOGY

The study was intended to know the current status of selected Engineering college libraries in Karnataka. A questionnaire was prepared and personally administered to the librarians of the respective Engineering colleges and responses of three selected libraries were received, which was subjected to analysis. The response rate was 100 %.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The data obtained through the questionnaires is presented and compared using tables and figures method and analyzed by using the simple calculation method subsequent sections for easy comprehension:

Library Resources

The library collection is a sum total of library materials that makes up the holding of a particular library. Through this study an attempt has been made to analyze the collection strength of the selected Engineering college libraries. The findings were as here under.

Table 2. Status of collections

(a) Books collection	SJCIT	AIT-B	MSEC
Text books	28630	4000	20237
Reference collection	4200	1200	2000
Book Bank collection	8000	1000	-
Total	40,830	6200	22237
(b) Journals collections			
Indian journal subscribtion	56	15	23
Foreign journal subscribtion	15	06	12
Back volumes	650	320	410
Total	721	341	445

Table 2 shows that SJCIT library has the largest number of print materials including text, reference and book bank books, i.e., 40,830 followed by MSEC library with 22,237 and AIT-B library has the lowest number of book collection i.e., 9000. It has been noted that no book bank facility is provided by SJCIT and AIT-B library.

Table 2 also shows that all the Engineering libraries provide the facility of printed journals. SJCIT library has the largest collection of printed journals i.e., 650 back volumes, 56 Indian and 15 foreign current journals are subscribed during the current year. This is followed by the MSEC library with 410 back volumes, 23 Indian and 12 foreign journals are subscribed during the current year. AIT-B library has the least collection of printed journals

Library Membership

Engineering college libraries offer free membership to its academic users. This study tried to look into the user base of the libraries and got an overview of the current types of members being catered by the Engineering College Libraries.

Table 3. Library membership

Category of members	SJCIT	AIT-B	MSCE
Faculty	160	35	80
Research Scholar	26	4	10
Students UG+PG	4600	160	3500
Non-Teaching/Tech. Staff	50	12	30
Total	4836	211	3600

Table 3 highlights the library membership. Faculty membership (including visiting faculty) is maximum160 in the SJCIT followed by 80 in the MSEC and minimum 35 in the AIT-B. The student membership is maximum in the SJCIT i.e., 4600 followed by 3500 in the MSEC and the lowest 160 in the AIT-B. Library members of technical and non-teaching staff are maximum 50 in the SJCIT followed by 12 in the AIT-B and 30 in the MSEC.

Library Staff and Timings

In the current scenario the pace of change in higher education is quite rapid. As the learning and development and research experience become more interactive with technology, it is imperative on libraries to must adapt themselves accordingly. Human resource plays a prominent role in the successful management of any institution. Hence, library staff also plays and important role in collection, storage and dissemination of the information in the swift and user friendly manner to its patron.

Table 4. Staff in the Engineering libraries

S. No.	Position	SJCIT	AIT-B	MSEC
1.	Librarian	1	1	1
2.	Deputy Librarian	1	0	0
3.	Asstt. Librarian	6	1	2
4.	Library Assistant	3	0	2
Total		11	02	05

Table 4 deals with the library staff available in the Engineering Libraries. The maximum number of staff is in the SJCIT library i.e., 11 while the other 2 libraries AIT-B and MSEC

have 02 and 05 professional staff members respectively. Though it is a very good sign that all of the selected Engineering

Library Services

Library services help in using the collection in the best possible way. Library buildings are W_i -F_i enabled, which facilitates users to bring laptops to have seamless access to their e-resources through IP range. The OPAC is one of the most heavily used services in the selected Engineering libraries. A detailed list of library services offered by the selected Engineering libraries has been given in the Table 5.

Table 5. Services offered by the Engineering libraries

Services provided	SJCIT	AIT-B	MSEC
Current Awareness Services	√	√	√
Selective Dissemination of information	√	√	√
Bibliographic Services	√	√	√
Photocopy Service	√	√	√
Reference Service	√	√	√
Circulation	√	√	√
Membership	√	√	√
Book Bank	√	√	√
OPAC/Web OPAC	√	√	√
Departmental Library	√	X	X

Table 5 shows that all of the Engineering college libraries offer a range of services including CAS, SDI, photocopy service, bibliography service, document delivery service, reference service, circulation, membership, OPAC/ Web OPAC services. The SJCIT and AIT-B libraries offer book bank service toothier students and only the SJCIT is having departmental library services.

Purpose of Library Visit

Table 6. Reasons for library visit

Reasons for library visit	Graduates	Post graduates	Research scholars	Total	% of total respondents
	(N=72)	(N=88)	(N=60)		(N=220)
Study	68	81	41	190	86.36
Use of library materials	40	47	26	113	51.37
Borrow books	44	61	24	129	58.63
Use the computers/copiers	22	32	17	71	32.27
Research	14	26	45	85	38.63
Leisure reading	13	22	8	43	19.54
Reference work	6	9	26	41	18.63
Group study	17	15	17	49	22.27
Instructed by teacher	17	11	9	37	16.81
Use of audio-visual facilities	2	5	4	11	5

Table 7 shows that most of the respondents i.e., 190 (86.36 %) visited the library for study purposes, followed by 129 (58.63 %) to borrow books, followed by 113 (51.37 %) using different library material. Further almost all graduates & PG students i.e., 68 out of 72 and 81 out of 88 respectively visited the library for study purpose. It was also noted that use of A-V aids is the least preferred reason opted by students for library visit. Out of 60 research scholars, 45 (75 %) were among top respondents for visiting library for research purposes. Reference work was also one of the preferred reasons for research scholars for library visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the data gathered from the respondent libraries, the following suggestions are to improve and maximize the usage of the Engineering college libraries.
(a) It is necessary to prepare the library staff through appropriate training. Rediscovery may be as important as the creation of knowledge itself in view of the development in information technology.
(b) Though the user base of the AIT-B library is less yet the services provided are up to the mark and cater up to the maximum. State Engineering authorities should adopt a mechanism to raise their service standards.
(c) Special funds provision should be made in the annual budget to improve the status and non-book materials in the state Engineering libraries. The subscription of e-resources should be increased.
(d) The new technological invasion has drastically affected the education system. Most of the core schools are using technology for effective dissemination of information and they have seen the results in positive directions only. Hence, AV sections may be envisaged in advance by the Engineering authorities.
(e) Libraries should join more consortia in order provide vast and current information to its users.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Engineering college libraries are valued by the users for their support in academic and research through user services, highly skilled staff and easy to use collection. The present survey was aimed to study the condition of engineering college libraries in the context of resources, services and Library automation activities. To conclude, the Engineering college libraries need support from higher authorities in terms of constant financial support, trained personnel and better infrastructure, it may play a vital role in raising the efficiency in library services. With the advent of new technologies in every sphere of life, it has become mandatory in technical or non-technical academic institutions to access and check their strength and weakness. This comparative study of the libraries not only brought out their relative strengths and weaknesses, but also will serve as a launching pad for further in depth study. The survey highlighted the resources and services of the selected Engineering college libraries in Karnataka and will be somewhat helpful to the society in imparting rational education to their younger generation for a better tomorrow.

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