

USE AND CURRENT AWARENESS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN MUZAFFARPUR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR) : AN OVERVIEW

Dr. Asha Galundia

Assistant Professor, Department of Library Information Science
Pacific University, Udaipur

Kavita Sharma

Research Scholar, Pacific University, Udaipur

ABSTRACT

Today, the use of computers in libraries and information centres has become a standard practice. In modern libraries, information and communication technologies play an important role, especially in the area of library modernization. The current paper shows the status of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the library of Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology (MIT), Muzaffarpur, Bihar. The paper provides a report on the extent of automation growth in the MIT library, the awareness of ICT. The study also deals with the status of use of software packages in selected institute library, its areas of library automation, etc.

Keywords: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Library Automation, Software packages, MIT library.

INTRODUCTION

A library is considered as the heart of any organization. It is a sacred place of knowledge. Earlier, libraries were considered to exist within the four walls, but in this new generation the libraries have exceeded its boundaries, it has totally changed from an old conventional library to a new modern library which can be presented to its users at any place, any time and any hour of the day.

In this modern world the ICT tools and technologies are growing day by day. Even in our daily life people are making use of modern technologies either to fasten up their work or to make it more easy or convenient for them. Similarly, libraries should also make use of these modern ICT technologies in order to cater their users' needs, to function efficiently.

These ICT technologies have grown at a rapid speed in this modern age thereby giving a lot of opportunities as well as ideas to library professionals. Therefore, the library professionals should adopt these technologies in order to maintain pace with the other developing fields.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study are as follows-

- To identify the current status of ICT in the MIT institute library;
- To find out which areas are automated in the institute library;
- To study the online services provided by the institute library;

- To find out the type of software packages used in the institute library.

METHODOLOGY

The current detailed study has been performed with the help of a survey method. A set of structured questionnaire was prepared by the researcher and subsequently data was collected from the selected institute library. Apart from the questionnaire personal interview and observation method were also used by the researcher for the collection of data from the institute librarian/ library-in-charge.

SCOPE

The scope of the present study is confined to only Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), Muzaffarpur, Bihar. It is considered as a premier institute of technical education in the eastern part India. Established in 1954, MIT is one of the oldest technical institutes working under the administrative control of Department of Science and Technology and wholly funded by Government of Bihar.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Table No. 1 Seating capacity in the library:

| Name of the College | 1 to 50 | 51 to 100 | 101 to 150 | Above 200 |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| M.I.T.C. | | √ | | |

The table above shows about the seating capacity available in the MIT library. Therefore, it is clear that the seating capacity in the selected institute library is 51 to 100.

Table No. 2 Availability of Non-Print materials:

| S.No. | Types of Material | Total |
|-------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. | Floppies | 70 |
| 2. | DVD | 700 |
| 3. | CD-ROM Database | 302 |

| | | |
|----|------------------------|-----|
| 4. | E- Books | 48 |
| 5. | Current E- Journals | 52 |
| 6. | Audio-Visual Materials | 430 |
| 7. | Any Other | - |

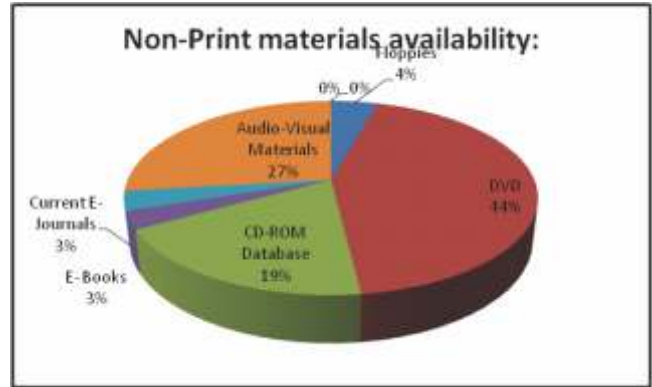


Figure 1

The table above represents about the type of non-print materials available in the selected institute library. It is clear that 44% DVD, 19% CD-ROM Databases, 27% Audio-Visual materials, 4% Floppies and 03% E-books and E-Journals are available in the MIT library.

Table No. 3 Details of Library staff available:

| S. No. | Library Staff | Number |
|--------|---------------|--------|
| 1. | Technical | 02 |
| 2. | Non-Technical | 04 |
| 3. | Total | 06 |

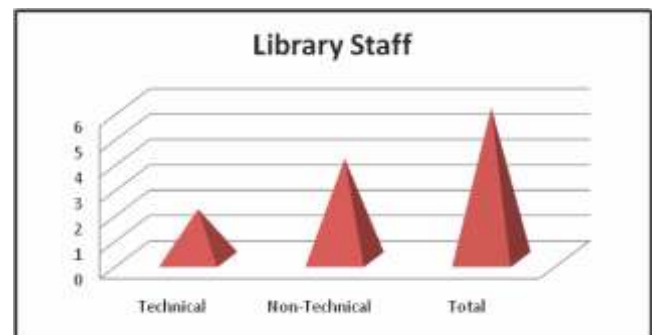


Figure 2

The table shows about the library staffs available in the institute library. It is clear from the figure that 02 technical and 04 non-technical staffs are available in the MIT library.

Table No. 4 Type of Software application used:

| S. No. | Software Application | Yes/No |
|--------|----------------------|--------|
| 1. | Soul | - |
| 2. | Libsys | - |
| 3. | Sanjay | - |
| 4. | E-granthalaya | - |
| 5. | Koha | Yes |

The table above represents the type of software applications used in the MIT library. It is clear from the table that MIT library uses KOHA library management software for their activities and services.

Table No. 5 Operating system installed with the server:

| Name of College | Windows (XP,95/98, 2000,NT) | Unix | Linux | Any other |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------|-------|-----------|
| M.I.T.C | - | Yes | - | - |

The table above clearly shows that the operating system installed in the MIT library is UNIX.

Table No. 6 Library networking facilities:

| S. No. | Networking facilities | Yes/No. |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1. | LAN | Yes |
| 2. | Internet | Yes |
| 3. | Dial up | Yes |
| 4. | Leased line | No |
| 5. | BVSAT | No |
| 6. | V-SAT | Yes |

The table above clearly shows about the networking facilities available in the MIT library. Therefore, according to the table it is clear that LAN, Internet, Dial up, V-SAT facilities is available in the MIT library.

Table No. 7 E-resource databases subscribed by the library:

| Name of College | EBSCO | J-GATE | JSTOR | Pro Quest | Any other |
|-----------------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| M.I.T.C. | NO. | YES | NO. | NO. | - |

The table above represents about the type of e-resource database subscribed by the MIT library. It is clear that MIT library subscribes J-GATE database.

Table No. 8 Type of library networks associated with the library:

| Name of College | DEL-NET | INFLI-BNET | CALI-BNET | MANL-IBNET | Other |
|-----------------|---------|------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| M.I.T.C. | YES | - | - | - | - |

The table above shows the association of library networks with the MIT library. So, it is clear from the table that MIT library is associated with DELNET.

Table No. 9 Number of staffs working in the e-resource section:

| Name of College | No. of professionals with computer knowledge | No. of professionals without computer knowledge | No. of non-professionals |
|-----------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| M.I.T.C. | 05 | 01 | 07 |

The table above clearly shows that MIT library has 05 professionals having computer knowledge, 01 professional without computer knowledge and 07 non-professionals working in the e-resource section of the MIT library.

Table No. 10 Status of computer and automation in the library:

| Name of College | Automation Status | Type of Computers in use | No. of Computer |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| M.I.T.C. | Fully Manual | PC | 22 |

The table above represents that MIT library has 22 numbers of computers in its library and it works in full manual mode of functioning.

Table No. 11 Computer based services/sections in the library:

| S. No. | Computer Based Services/Sections | Yes/ No |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Computerized Circulation System | Yes |
| 2 | Computerized Catalogue/ OPAC | No. |
| 3 | Computerized Acquisition System | Yes |
| 4 | Computerized Periodical System | Yes |

| | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 5 | Computerized Documentation System (E-CAS or SDI) | Yes |
| 6 | Computerized Indexing/Abstracting System | No. |
| 7 | Computerized Reference System | Yes |
| 8 | CD-ROM/ Online Databases | Yes |
| 9 | Internet Services | Yes |
| 10 | E-Journal Services | Yes |
| 11 | Automation status | Auto- mation under process |

The table above clearly shows the computer based services/sections available in the MIT library. However, the status of automation in the library is said to be under process.

The table above clearly represents the budget allotted to the MIT library section wise during the year 2012 to 2017.

Table No. 12 Library budget allotted section wise during the last five years (in rupees):

| Name of College | Years | Books | Periodicals | E-resources | ICT expansion | Any other |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| M.I.T.C. | 2012-2013 | 81,034 | 12,500 | Don't know | | |
| | 2013-2014 | 65,500 | 13,000 | Don't know | 65,000 | - |
| | 2014-2015 | 30,029 | 11,000 | Don't know | 30,525 | - |
| | 2015-2016 | Don't know | 9,500 | 43,000 | 52,000 | - |
| | 2016-2017 | 72,596 | 12,075 | 25,000 | 22,000 | - |

FINDINGS

The findings of the study are as follows:-

- The seating capacity in the library was found to be 51-100, that is very less there should be more seating capacity for the users in the library.
- The non-print materials found in the library such as floppies, CD-ROM database, DVD, E-Book, E-Journal, Audio-Video materials, etc. were moderate in numbers.
- The number of library staffs (technical and non-technical) in the library was found to be 06, which is very less. There should be more staffs available in the library. Moreover, the professionals having computer knowledge were 05, professionals without computer knowledge was 01 and 07 non-professionals are working the e-resource section of the library.
- The software application used in the library is KOHA library management software.
- Operating system used in the library was found to be UNIX.
- The library networking facilities available in the library was LAN, Internet, Dial up and V-SAT.
- J-GATE database for e-resource services is being subscribed by the library.
- The MIT library was found to have associations with DELNET library network.
- The number of computers was found to be 22 in numbers in the MIT library.
- The computer based services/sections found in the library were circulation section, acquisition section, periodical section, documentation section, reference section, online database section, internet services, etc. Apart from all these computerized services provided by the library, its status of automation is under process.
- Irregular library budget is provided to the MIT library, which can be considered as the major

drawback in the functioning of a library or its existence.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the present study, there are a few suggestions which can be given:-

- There should be more skilled and professional staffs working in the library.
- Library should have basic ICT facilities/infrastructure such as- a good number of computer systems with better online facilities, a good internet connection, security systems, etc., make proper use of library management software, scanner and all other hardware and software requirements for automation.
- The library should convince its authorities to provide them with good financial support and their other requirements so that they can work in a better way.
- Librarians/Library-in-charge should initiate automation in their library so that they can provide better services to their users efficiently.

CONCLUSION

In the present study the researcher has performed a descriptive study of the MIT library along with the impact of ICT, its awareness and use. With the help of data presented above the researcher has tried to put forth the true condition of the MIT library. Although it was quite a difficult task to gather exact information from the selected library but still the researcher has tried her best in making this research fruitful.

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