Automation and Networking of Academic Libraries.

Bhutamwar Sanjay S

Librarian, Sardar Patel Mahavidyalaya,Chandrapur (MS), India
Email: sbhutamwar@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Innovations have always been of interest to libraries both for the potential of increasing the quality of service and for improving the effectiveness of operations. This article discusses pictures of Automation and networking of academic libraries which are still in their formative stage due to some barriers. The academic libraries have been automated, networked and now moving towards paperless libraries. Present day libraries are transforming from traditional libraries to computerized libraries and the resent past into networking libraries. This Paper through light importance of automation and how it can important role in academic libraries.

Keywords: Automation, Networking, ICT, Resource Sharing, Databases

INTRODUCTION

The development of Automation and network technology is changing the education pattern and transforming the teaching and learning process from the traditional physical environment to the digital environment. The library should have a good number of resources for teaching, learning and research work. E-Resources offer creative possibilities for expanding access as well as changing learning, teaching and research work. The applications of IT Techniques have elevated the modern day library to improving and altering its image.

At present there is large number of Software packages developed by commercial Agencies, Government bodies etc. for use in the academic Librarie.

IT helps libraries in creating databases of their collections and making them available for easy access to users inside as well as outside through networks.[1]

LIBRARY AUTOMATION

The main purpose of library automation is to improve the efficiency of the library and to provide optimum user services. To provide E-Resources to users, the automation of the library is most important. The automated library system is always ready to handle large volumes of documents and of providing effective and timely information services to faculty, researchers and students in achieving their main goals. The present Indian libraries are in the transitional stage from traditional to modern. The Indian Library has moved from palm leaves, manuscripts, etc. to CD-ROMs and digital books.[2] Library Automation useful for:

* Faster communication and information retrieval, research results, innovations are communicated speedily to the end-users, Dissemination of information within less time, Email, data transfer, etc.
* Identification and loans of the print and non-print materials are easily tackled through bar code technologies.
* Library operations such as – circulation, acquisition, serial control, cataloging, documentation, information retrieval resources-sharing, library management, library budget, and finance control.
* Provide networking and liaison with the other libraries which help to the resources sharing among the library and information centers. Most of the integrated library automation systems are now providing a web-enabled online catalog [Web OPAC] [2,3].

LIBRARIES NETWORKING

Networking is the linkage of working procedures for the exchange of information resources. Resource sharing or networking is defined as a mode of operation, whereby information resources are shared by a number of participants having the same objectives in mind. Thus the user of one library can have his requirements fulfilled by another library if the local library fails to serve his needs. Library Networking is to promote avenues for the effective utilization of information through the sharing of resources by a group of libraries. The increasing popularity of library Networking has brought about qualitative changes in the library services. [4,5] Library Networking divided into two types 1) General Network 2) Specialized Network. Library Networks are created primarily to share information resources. The presence of a number of factors have update it improvement for the library to share information resources. There includes are

1) Increase in the number of information resources.
2) The phenomenal growth in the cost of individuals information resources particularly journal.
3) To promote resources sharing among organizations especially among libraries through computerized networking for maximum use of information by the users.
4) The constraints on the library budget.
5) Resources sharing activities in the turn depend on the availability of information about resources owned and agreement on how these resources may be scared.[6]

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Academic libraries play a vital role in political, Social, educational, cultural and economic. Academic library important intellectual resource of the academic community and helps the members in their self development to fulfill the curriculum requirements and to promote research. Academic libraries have user approach to information reflect directly their information needs. They have funded several training programs and software development projects which have played an important role in increasing awareness of the potential of the new technologies. Their main emphasis was on database development and information retrieval services. [6,7] Unfortunately, the academic libraries have made little progress in this direction. The reasons for the slow pace of automation in academic libraries are the following.

1) Academic libraries in India function in a relatively less autonomous environment.

2) Academic libraries are a comparatively smaller unit within a larger setup.
3) Academic libraries have to compete for scarce resources.
4) Academic libraries are not under as much pressure to improve their services as are scientific and technical libraries. [8,9]

LIBRARY NETWORKS IN INDIA

Major Libraries and information Networks role in resource sharing
1) INFLIBNET – Information and Library Network
2) DELNET – Developing Library Network.
3) SIRNET – Scientific and Industrial Research Network.
4) BTIS – Biotechnology Information Systems.
5) CALIBNET – Calcutta Library Network.
6) BONET – Bombay Library Network
7) PUNENET – Pune Library Network.

Automation and networking of libraries are still in their formative stages in India. Their full impact on libraries and library resources will be known in the course of time. INFLIBNET, DELNET and other metropolitan networks are providing training facilities for computer applications. The Indian Library association, IASLIC and NISSAT have jointly helped academic libraries in the choice of the software and hardware, and in manpower training. Every year INFLIBNET organizes a conference. CALIBNET (convention of Automation in Libraries) to discuss issues related to computerization of academic libraries. [9]

CONCLUSION

Using Network to provide information with research and innovations are executed for sustainable development and welfare of citizens**.** During the recent period quite a large number of libraries and information centers are forming networks. The advent of computer networking as an accepted part of the academic library in India is thus on the threshold to a new era of computer networks both for general & specific purposes for library. Automating the functions of academic libraries at a local level for

effective and efficient services to the users. Automation and networking is essential sharing of holding among libraries.

Conflicts of interest: The authors stated that no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Ramaiah, C. (2013). Electronic resource management. AlliedPublication.
2. Prabha Krishnan: Library automation: A prerequisite fire Modern library Management inGovernment, Vol.33 No.3, Oct.-Dec. 2001.
3. Prasher R.G. (2003) "Indian Libraries in IT Environment",Medallion Press, Ludhiana, 2003, P.23-32.
4. Kanamadi S. & Kumbar B.D.(2007) Building e-resources collection through consortia At management institutes in Mumbai: A survey" Information Studies, Vol. 13, Issue 3, p.139-162.
5. Krishnamurthy M (2007) "Consortia-based resource sharing and accessing e-journals" Information Studies, Volume: 13, Issue: 3, P 171to177.
6. Patkar Vivek,(2010) "Innovations in Library Practices: Prospects and Challenges" Information Studies, Volume: 16, Issue: 2, P 85-102.
7. Aruna chalam S.: India's march towards open access, science and development network. 2004.
8. Education Kolhapur: ABS Publication. pp. 238-239.
9. Materials in modern library System. IASLIC Bulletin 2004; 49 (2): P. 89-92.