

A STUDY ON STATUS OF COLLEGE LIBRARY AUTOMATION AMONG SESHADRIPURAM GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS IN KARNATAKA

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Abstract This paper is mainly discussed on the present status of college library automation among Seshadripuram Group of Institutions in Karnataka. Seshadripuram Educational Trust (SET) is one of the premier educational institutions in Karnataka, which always give importance for quality education by adopting information communication technology tools to enrich academic integrity. In this study author mainly focused on availability, applicability, utilization and services provided using library automation software. One of the greatness of the institution is that they are using MyCampuz library automation software in all its institutions to maintain uniformity among libraries of institutions. At the same time, it is found that there exist difference in adopting, utilization and service provided using same library automation software. All 8(100%) libraries use circulation, visitor management and OPAC modules to meet users and management needs. Further it is found the software is supporting for Digital Resources Management (DRM), but the use of the same 3(37.5%) is not up to the mark.

Keywords: Library Software, Mycampuz Software, Library Automation, Digital Resources

INTRODUCTION

Any educational institution's library is considered of as its beating heart. Modern educational structures are built on a solid foundation of well-equipped and maintained libraries. When it comes to giving user access to information, academic libraries are essential. Academic libraries serve as hubs for educational activity where students and teachers conduct extensive information searches. The dissemination of information, which is a significant element of every nation's educational institutions, is facilitated by libraries. The library as an organization identifies, chooses, gathers, processes, stores, and distributes information to the appropriate person at the right time. The knowledge was preserved in the form of books, monographs, manuscripts, handouts, and several other media for use now and for preservation purposes in the future.

In conventional libraries, patrons must spend a significant amount of time looking up information with the assistance of library professionals. But in the current ICT era, a computer is utilized for routine library operations, which save time, prevents work from being done twice, and improves the efficiency of library services.

ABOUT SESHADRIPURAM EDUCATIONAL TRUST (SET)

Seshadripuram Educational Trust's mission statement has remained the same during its whole existence i.e. "To educate, to empower, to enrich." Seshadripuram Educational Trust educates its children academically and inculcates values in them, carrying on its own legacy. With its dynamic attitude, it has been advancing from strength to strength throughout the years as a distinguished educational institution.

Seshadripuram Educational Trust runs 34 educational institutions ranging from kindergarten to Doctoral (Ph.D) programs. Throughout the long term, it has procured the standing of being one of the main institutions of Karnataka. Institutions situated across ideal spots of the city and inside the State, it has joint programmes with overseas universities too. The institution may proudly say that it has produced numerous alumni who have excelled in their fields and brought honour to their alma mater by making significant contributions to society. The spectrum of success includes everything from sports to politics, the world of banking to event planning, and inspirational speakers to successful business people.

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REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Harinarayana (1991) in his study “Concept of Library Automation” highlighted the concepts of automaton and automation operations in a modern library. He states that scope of library automation involves automation of routine works, services, office work and scientific management of libraries. Bansode, Sadanand and Periera, Shamin (2008) conducted a survey on the status of the library automation in the college libraries of Goa State. Pusad, Rajput and Gautam (2010) examined the status of library automation and problems in its implementation in special libraries of Indore city, Madhya Pradesh. Jayamma and Krishnamurthy (2015) has highlighted on the scenario of library automation in the college libraries of Bangalore city in Karnataka state. Kamble (2015) in his study entitled “Status of library automation in the Institutions of Higher Studies in Punjab” gives an overview of major facets of automation activity and surveys the current state of computer application in six areas of library work. For each area discussion briefly indicated the motive of automation and describes current dominant approaches citing examples of representative products and services.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To ascertain the type of library software being used by the SET Group of Institutions.
- Analyze the current status of library automation in the SET Group of Institutions.
- To find out automated areas of library functions and services rendered.
- To analyze the satisfaction of library management software used by the SET Group of Institutions.
- To provide recommendations for all libraries in SET Group of Institutions.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Under the banner of SET more than 30 educational institutions are running ranging from kindergarten to Doctoral (Ph.D) programs. But for this present study consider only 8 institutions, which offer regular undergraduate and post-graduate programs. The study excluded Seshadripuram Law College and Seshadripuram Evening Degree College. Institutions are located in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Tumkuru District. All the institutions are affiliated to four different universities.

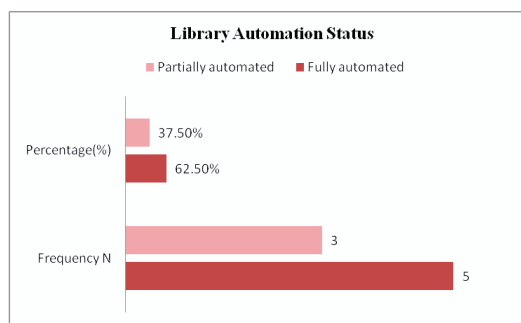
METHODOLOGY

More appropriate for this research was the survey method. As a result, the survey method was supported for the current assignment. Both the questionnaire and the interview tools were used to gather data. The primary tool in this study is

a questionnaire. However, this has been supplemented by casual interviews conducted as and when needed. For the study, we adopted quantitative research approach.

EVALUATION OF THE STUDY

For this present study primary data collected through questionnaire and casual interview methods, thus collected data is analyzed and interpreted using simple percentage (%) and presented in the form of Tables and Figures.



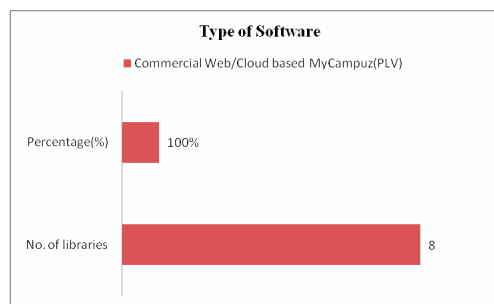
Source: Primary data.

Chart 1: Library Automation Status

It is observed from the above Chart-1 that out of 8 libraries 5(62.5%) libraries are automated fully and 3(37.5%) libraries automated partially. It shows that all of the SET libraries are automated. Above data indicates the management of SET has given importance for libraries to provide best academic services to the society.

Types of Software

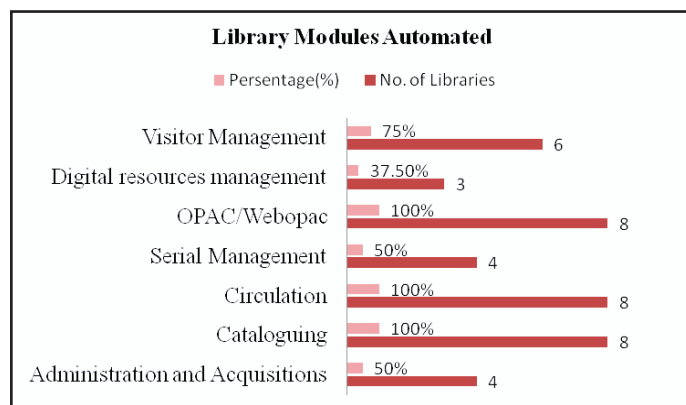
Library automation means use of computers for library in-house operations, such as acquisitions, circulation, serial control etc... Based on the library requirements management of the institution or library advisory committee of the college will decide the software. Usually there are three types of software 1. Open source, 2. Commercial and 3. In-house developed software. Institution may adopt any one type software for its group of institutions. The architecture of the software is concerned we generally know one is client or server based and another one is web or cloud based software, below table describes the types and nature of the library software used by SET Group of Institutions.



Source: Primary data.

Chart-2: Types of Software

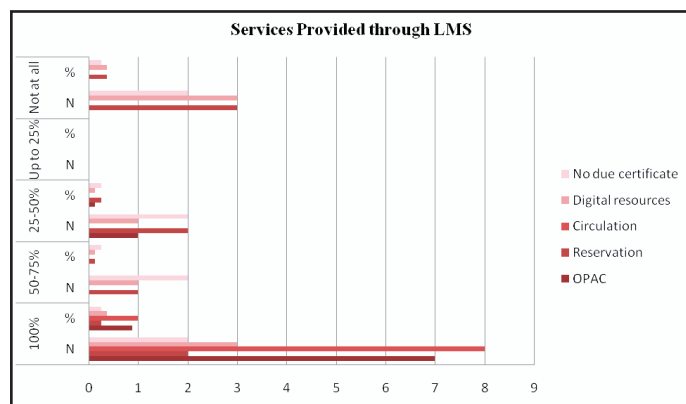
It is observed from the Chart-2 that all the 8 participating institutions of Seshadripuram Education Trust are using same software for their library automation which is MyCampuz, software developed by PLV global private ltd. It is basically cloud based, commercial library management software. Earlier charts clearly elucidates that all eight participating institutions are using software for library in-house operations. Keeping in mind of above table now we will discuss the actual usage of the software because objective of this study is to identify the kind of modules are being used in libraries.



Source: Primary data.

Chart 3: Library Modules Automated for Regular in-house Operations

It is found that all the 8(100%) college libraries are using the cataloging, circulation and OPAC/WebOpac modules followed by 6(75%) college libraries are using visitor management module. 4(50%) libraries are automated their serial management section, 3(37.5%) libraries are using Digital Resources Management (DRM) module too.



Source: Primary data.

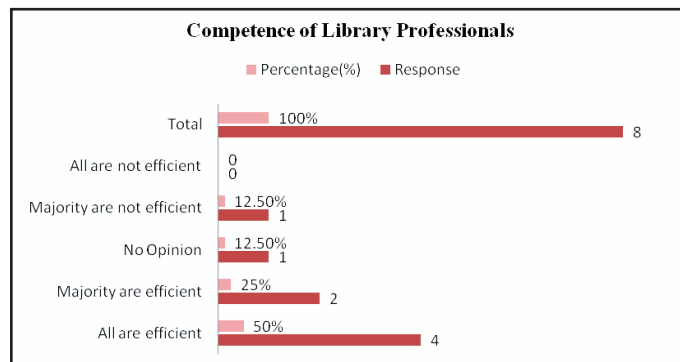
Chart-4: Services Provided through LMS

The above table shows that all 8(100%) libraries provide book lending service through library management software. Followed by 7(87.5%) libraries provide OPAC services, 3(37.5%) libraries using library management system to provide digital information to their respective users and

2(25%) each libraries using library automation software for book reservation as well as to generate no due certificate for users.

Competency of Library Professionals

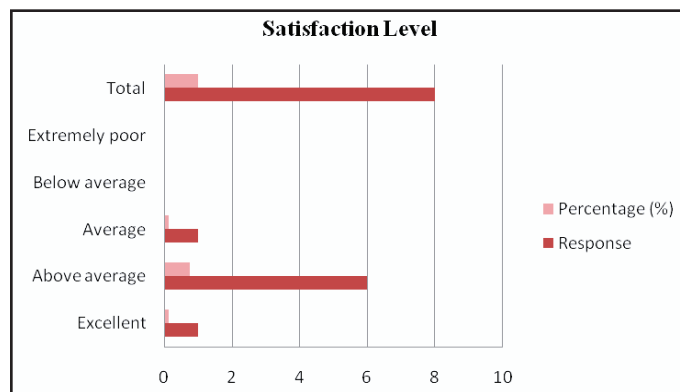
The ability of library professionals to handle computerized system is very much important. If library staff are not skilled to takeover automation, then the whole system and effort which is taken by management is completely meaningless, so that below table describe the competency of SET library professionals.



Source: Primary data.

Chart- 5: Competency of Library Professionals

It is observed that out of 8 participating institutions 4(50%) colleges have skilled library professionals followed by 2(25%) libraries also having good number of efficient staff for effectively run automated library. Only 1(12.5%) library is not having efficient library staff and 1(12.5%) library has not given opinion about their library staff ability.



Source: Primary data.

Chart-6: Satisfaction Level of Your Library Management Software

It is found that 6(75%) librarians are satisfied opined that library automation software is above average. 1(12.5%) library professionals said MyCampuz library automation software is excellent and 1(12.5%) librarian opinion about MyCampuz library automation software is average.

RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

- Seshadripuram Educational Trust provides same library automation software for all its institutions. It shows the uniformity in providing facility to its institutions.
- It is found that all eight participating institution libraries are automated using Mycampuz library management software.
- All 8(100%) college libraries are using the library modules like cataloguing, circulation and OPAC/ Webopac areas are fully automated. 06(75%) college libraries are automated visitor management.
- It is found that 3(37.5%) libraries are using Digital Resources Management (DRM).
- Majority 6(75%) libraries have efficient, skilled manpower for the successful running of automated library.
- It is found that 7(87.5%) libraries are satisfied with the MyCampuz library automation software.

SUGGESTIONS

- Due to cloud/web-based software, provide more IT infrastructure to compatible with the software.
- Hands on job training is required for few library professionals to upgrade them to maximum utilize of software.
- It is suggested that still many of SET librarians are not using Digital Resources Management (DRM) module, hence recommended to use the same to provide effective service to the users.
- Usually web based library management software provide WebOpac, so that give orientation for users to maximum utilization of the same.

CONCLUSION

The status of college library automation among Seshadripuram education trust group of institution is quite good. Management of SET had given equal importance for library and information centers like other departments. Activities of library automation are gaining momentum throughout SET institutions. Librarians should prepare themselves to meet the requirements of the users' needs

and challenges in the field. SET library professionals must acquire suitable skills about options available in the software. Regular monitoring on library automation activities is needed for improvement and meeting future requirements.

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