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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE LIBRARIES OF KARNAL, HARYANA

Mehar Singh

Deputy Librarian Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology, Murthal (Sonapat) Haryana

Abstract:- Today, In India, most of the Libraries are currently at various stages of evolution in the use of Informational Technology Applications. This paper presents the results of a research study conducted to survey the Information Technology Applications in major Technical Institute Libraries of Karnal, Haryana. It describes also the current status of IT application, computer based services and in these college libraries. Some problems and difficulties are also discussed being faced by the library authorities in applying the IT applications in the technical institute libraries. Application of IT in academic environment in Karnal increased regularly in the recent decades.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to examine the information technology applications in five technical institute libraries in Karnal, Haryana by investigating the current status of IT applications, state-of-the art and present scenario, availability of information technology facilities, use of computer based services, OPAC, networking, software package used and subscription of library consortium of main objectives of the study.

Keywords: Information technology, IT applications, Technical institute libraries, Haryana.

INTRODUCTION:

The 21st century in which we are living today is the information and communication technology age, where libraries known as Digital Library. With the advent of IT applications the library has become a very common source for information seekers. It provides the remote access at worldwide level at a very faster rate. The fast growth of information and communication technology particularly in IT application the modern library has changed the traditional methods of research, storage, retrieval and communication of information. In fact, modern libraries are moving traditional to digital environment by using the information technology applications.

American Library Association glossary (1983, p. 183) has defined, “information technology is the application of computer and other technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information”.

In the epoch of information communication and technology (ICT) the concept of college library has been entirely diversified. A college library must have appropriate assets like information technology, ICT infrastructure, OPAC, internet access and other automated service, along with these services and resources the users may be served effectively and efficiently. Sharma and Singh (2011).

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to the five technical institutes libraries located in Karnal city of Haryana. These are enumerated in table as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Technical Institute/Engineering Colleges	Abbreviation
1	Doon Valley Group of Institutes	DVGI
2	Naraini Group of Institutions	NGI
3	RPIIT Technical Institutes	RPIIT
4	Karnal Institute of Technology and Management	KITM
5	MM Group of Institutions	MMGI

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

The study was conducted through questionnaire - based survey. A structured questionnaire with multiple choices questions, considered according to the objectives, was distributed to the librarians of the fifth technical institutes – DVGI, NGI, RPIIT, KITM and MMGI with a request to fill up it. The relevant data was collected from the institutes and analyzed and interpreted in appropriate method.

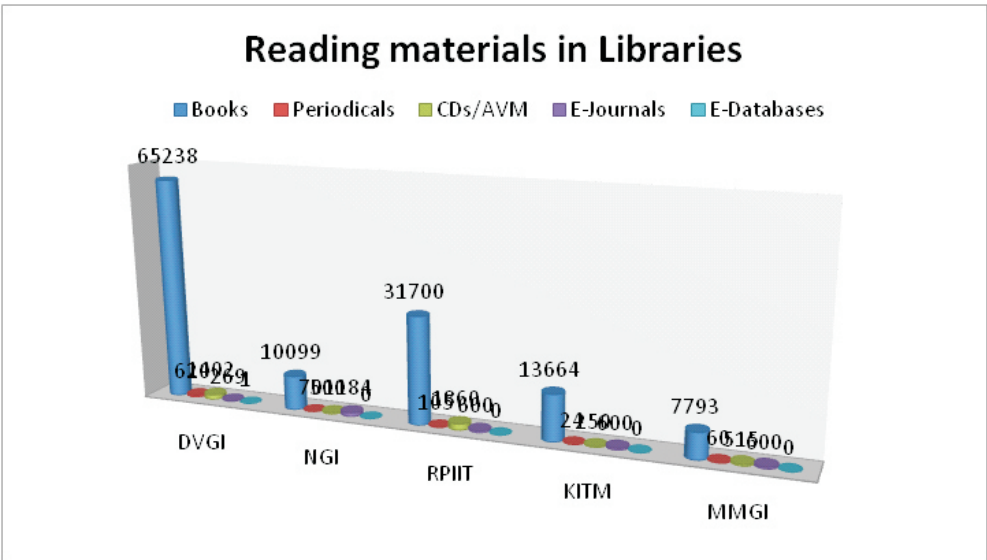
RELATED LITERATURE

Sharma and Bala (2012) conducted a study on the application of information technology in engineering college libraries of Kurukshetra, Haryana. The data was collected through questionnaire based survey. The study indicates that all the respondents use some kind of IT tools, particularly the internet. Most of the college libraries are using window 2003 except NIT library. The majority of the respondents (80.48%) used the computer based service i.e internet browsing. The result shows also that the majority of the engineering colleges have UGC Info-net library consortium. Kumar and Biradar (2010) explored the use of ICT in college libraries in Karnataka, India. The data gathering tool used included questionnaire, observations and informal interview with selected college librarian. The survey has provided a useful summary of ICT infrastructure, current status of library automation barriers to implementation and also librarian's attitudes towards the use of ICT. The survey confirmed that the application of ICT in India has not reached a very high level. The lack of budget, lack of manpower, lack of skilled staff and lack of training are the main constrain for not automating library services. The library professionals have shown a positive attitude towards the use of ICT applications. Sharma and Kumar (2010) conducted a study on Status of Textile Engineering College Libraries in Haryana, India. A structured questionnaire was designated to collect the data. They found that total collection of Technological Institute of Textile and Science library is nearly three times more than Panipat Institute if Textile & Science library. They also found that both the librarians are satisfied with the available budget. Raza and Nath (2007) measured the use of information technology the use of hardware and software facilities in the university libraries of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh (India) with an ulterior objective to establish some co-relation between quality in libraries and use of information technology. They also highlighted the access of networks, information services and barriers in information technology applications. Haneefa (2007) conducted a study to investigate the application of information and communication technologies in special libraries in Kerala, India. The analyzes revealed that though the libraries had hardware, software, and communication facilities to some extent, ICT-based resources and services were not reaching the users to the expected extent. Most of the libraries were loaded by lack of funds, lack of infrastructure, and lack of skilled professionals to embark on automation of all library management activities and application of ICT Library automation in special libraries in Kerala. Cholin (2005) provides an overview of information technology implementation in different university libraries in India that provides effective access to resources available within universities and elsewhere. This study was an attempt to understand the use of information technology in university libraries by studying the status of information technology applications in Indian university libraries at various levels. The survey method was used to study the application of information technology in the Indian Universities. The factors studied include IT infrastructure-hardware, software, network tools, database development, etc. The study reveals that the university libraries in India are at various stages of development in the application of information technology tools in their day-to-day activities.

DISCUSSION

The data obtained through the questionnaire and from various technical institute libraries and analyzed here under. The data is presented and compared using tables and figures using with percentage method.

Figure -1. Reading materials in Libraries



(Figure – 1)

Figure - 1 reveals that the DVGI library has the largest collection of books i.e. 65238, followed by RPIIT with 31700 books, KITM with 13664 books, NGI with 9526 books and MMGI has the collection of 7793 books. The maximum periodicals are found in DVGI library with 620 periodicals followed by RPIIT with 105, NGI 70, MMGI with 60 and KITM has 24 periodicals only. Maximum CDs are found in RPIIT library with 1860 followed by DVGI with 1402 CDs, MMGI with 515 CDs, NGI with 500 CDs and KITM library with 250 CDs. The NGI library has the largest collection of e-Journals i.e. 1184, followed by RPIIT, KITM and MMGI libraries has the same collection with 600 and DVGI library with only 269 e-Journals. NGI, RPIIT, KITM and MMGI libraries have no electronic database except DVGI library. In the same way (William, 2006) found that for effective collection development requires understanding the research needs of patrons and the selectors would have subject expertise.

Table - 1 Operating System used in Libraries

Name of Institutes	MS-DOS	Window 7	Window XP	UNIX	LINUX	Any other
DVGI	---	Yes	Yes	No	No	---
NGI	---	Yes	Yes	No	---	---
RPIIT	---	Yes	Yes	---	---	---
KITM	Yes	Yes	Yes	---	Yes	---
MMGI	---	Yes	Yes	---	---	---

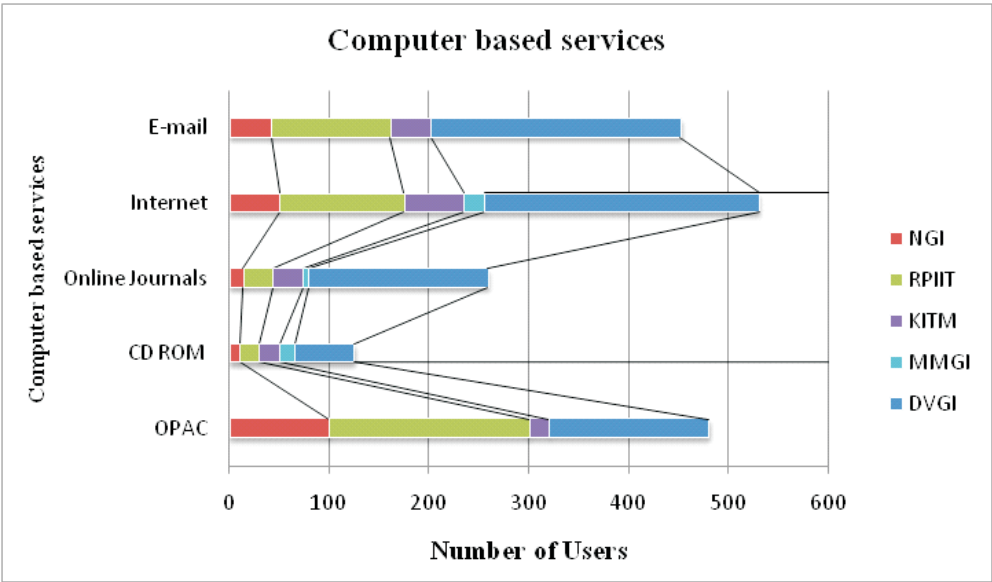
Table 1 shows KITM library uses the MS-DOS operating system. All the technical institute libraries have window based operating system. None of the college libraries have UNIX system. KITM library has the facility of LINUX operating system.

Table – 2. Use of Computer house-keeping Operations

Technical Institutes	Acquisition	Classification	Cataloguing	Circulation	Serial Control
DVGI	v	v	v	v	v
NGI	v	v	v	v	v
RPIIT	v	v	v	v	v
KITM	v	v	v	v	---
MMGI	---	---	---	---	---

Table – 2 shows that the majority of the technical institute libraries are using computer for acquisition work, classification for various documents and circulation activities except MMGI. DVGI, NGI and RPIIT libraries are using computer in serial control except KITM and MMGI.

Figure – 2. Computer Based Services



(Figure – 2)

Figure – 2 highlights that the users of most of the technical institute libraries except MMGI are using OPAC services in the libraries. The users of all the technical institutes are using computer based services i.e. CDs ROM, online Journals, internet and e-mail. The details are mentioned in figure 2 with the number of users. MMGI is not using the OPAC and e-mail facility in the library. Similarly Sharma and Bala (2012) found that the majority of the respondents (80.48%) used the computer based service i.e internet browsing in engineering college libraries of Kurukshetra.

Table - 3. Library Automation

Name of Institute	Is Library Automated?	Year of Library Automation	Which Activity Automated First?
DVGI	Yes	2006	Acquisition, OPAC & Circulation
NGI	Yes	2010	Acquisition
RPIIT	Yes	2012	Acquisition
KITM	Yes	2008	Acquisition & Circulation
MMGI	No	---	---

Table – 3 shows that all the technical institute libraries have automated all its house-keeping operations except MMGI library. DVGI library was the first who started library automation in 2006 followed by KITM library in 2008, NGI in 2008 and RPIIT is the last one to start library automation in 2012. DVGI and KITM automated their acquisition, OPAC and circulation. NGI and RPIIT automated their activity of acquisition.

Table - 4. Use of Software Packages

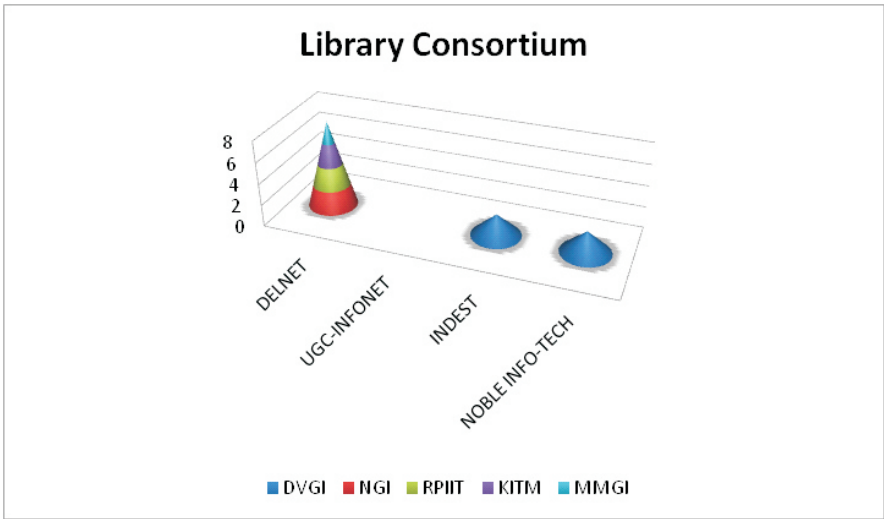
Name of Institute	Specific Library Software Package				General Purpose Software Package		
	CDs/ISIS	Libsys	Alice for window	Any other	MS-Office	D Base III/IV	Any other
DVGI	---	---	---	The Library	Yes	Yes	---
NGI	---	---	---	iLib	Yes	---	---
RPIIT	---	---	---	E-Granthalay	Yes	---	---
KITM	---	---	---	DELSOFT	Yes	---	---
MMGI	---	---	---	---	Yes	Yes	---

Table- 4 reveals that the facilities of specific library software package CDs/ISIS, Libsys and Alice for Window are not available in the entire technical institute libraries. All the libraries except MMGI have in-house built software i.e DVGI with The Library, KITM with DELSOFT, NGI with iLib and RPIIT with e-Granthalay. In general software package all the college libraries are using MS-Office. Dbase III/IV facility is available only in DVGI and MMGI.

Table - 5. Use of Networking in Libraries

Name of Institute	LAN (Yes/No)	Type of Network	Media Used	Nos. of Ports on hub
DVGI	Yes	LAN/WAN (wifi)	---	7
NGI	Yes	LAN	Cat-6	5
RPIIT	Yes	LAN	Patch Code	8
KITM	Yes	LAN	---	8
MMGI	Yes	LAN	---	2

Table-5 shows that the LAN facility is available in all the technical institute libraries. DVGI library is using both LAN and WAN networking facility. NGI library is using cat-6, RPIIT is using with patch code cable and DVGI library use wifi media for networking. Maximum number of ports (8) on hub are found in RPIIT and KITM followed by DVGI with (7) ports, NGI with (5) ports and MMGI with (2) ports.



(Figure – 3)

Figure -3 highlights that all the technical institute libraries have membership of library consortium. DVGI has INDEST and Noble Info-tech consortium, NGI, RPIIT, KITM and MMGI 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 amount for subscription of consortium. Sharma and Kumar (2010) found in their study that the textile engineering institute libraries of Haryana are the members of INDEST-AICET Consortium.

FINDINGS

Highest reading materials including books, periodicals, CDs/Audio visual material and electronic database are available in the DVGI library.

All the technical institute libraries are using window based operating system.

The majority of the technical institute libraries are using computer for in library for house-keeping operations and minimum in KITM library. MMGI library has not used the computer for house-keeping operation.

Most of the technical institute libraries except are using computer based services and minimum in MMGI library. MMGI library is not using the OPAC and e-mail facility in the library.

Maximum technical institutes have automated their libraries to improve the quality of services given to the users. Only MMGI has not automated his library so far.

No one any library is using standardise library application software. Only in-house built library application software is using most of the libraries except MMGI.

General software package MS-Office is used by all the technical institute libraries. Dbase III/IV facility is active only in DVGI and MMGI.

Maximum ports (8) on hubs are set up in RPIIT and KITM.

Most of the technical institute libraries are having DELNET membership. Only DVGI library is having the membership of INDEST Consortium.

None of the college libraries have UGC-INFONET consortium.

SUGGESTIONS

Special fund provision should be made in the annual budget for IT and used it accurately. The high-quality software package with anti-virus should also be properly installed in the libraries as well as computer centre. The power backup tool should be provided as it save the user's data for the duration of an unexpected power cut. There should be no time limit and users should freely access to the internet even in their free times. The Wi-Fi facility should also make available in the libraries. The subscription of e-Journals should be enhanced so that the information need of the users can be fully satisfied. A well qualified and experienced technical staff should be there in the internet section as well as computer centre to solve the user's problems.

CONCLUSION

The main purpose of this exploration has been to identify the status of the application of information technology in technical institute libraries located in Karnal, Haryana. It can be concluded the information technology applications in different sections of house-keeping operations, OPAC, Library automation and networking activities performed in these college libraries. It covers also software package used and subscription of library consortium by the libraries. Today, there is no area which has not been influenced by information technology applications. IT applications mainly help to provide the timely information and facilitate the remote access to database. The result of the study point towards there is awareness of information technology in the libraries, although the available facilities are not satisfactory.

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