



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2017; 3(8): 526-529
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 15-06-2017
Accepted: 16-07-2017

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Problems and prospects of Govt. college libraries of Guwahati with special reference to e-resources: A case study

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Abstract

The main task of library services for the past, present and in favor is to help the users and to meet their needs by library professionals. But the recent years the characteristics and needs of the libraries users are constantly changing in the response to social changes, with integration of new equipment and technology of ICT in the field of Library and Information sciences. Modern library functioning are more complex because of science and technology in the context of timely organizing, communication and dissemination of information. This paper trying to find out the status of the problems and prospects of the E-resources of college libraries of Guwahati city.

Keywords: E-resources, ICT (information and communication technology), automation, Guwahati

1. Introduction

Guwahati is the centre of socio-cultural, political and economic activity of the entire north-eastern region. Since the inception of the colleges, the libraries are playing a vital role in the field of academic education and supporting its parent institution. Though there are almost 40 colleges in the Guwahati including govt. and private, only the UGC recognized colleges in Guwahati are included in this study. Almost all the colleges are hub of higher education and equipped with well stocked libraries with sufficient collection. Till the last part of 20th century College libraries management and services were following manual methods of housekeeping operations. As in the case of college libraries of Guwahati, the increasing demand of documents by the user & environment of modern ICT tools, the manual method of performing housekeeping operations is gradually transforming into automated.

2. Aim and Objectives

The main aim and objectives of the study are as follows

- To find out the status of ICT infrastructure management in college libraries of Guwahati.
- To find out barriers of ICT infrastructure services in the college libraries of Guwahati

3. Methodology

To study the present topic and objectives and for gathering data mainly a survey has been conducted through a structured questionnaire. All selected govt. aided twenty two college libraries of Guwahati are affiliated to Gauhati University. Collected data were tabulated and analyzed using appropriate statistical method.

4. Analysis of Surveyed Data

- Among the 22 number of college libraries which were served during the pre-defined questionnaire, 21 number of college libraries responded to the same. The percentage rate of response was 95%. Table 1 shows the general information of the 21 college libraries.

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Table 1: General Information

S. No.	College Name	Abbrev.	Y.O.E	Name of the library
1.	B. Borooh College	BBC	1943	Hem Barua Library
2.	Beltola College	BC	1983	Beltola College Library
3.	Cotton College	CC	1901	Dr Surya Kumar Bhuyan Library
4.	Dispur College	DC	1978	Dispur College Library
5.	Gauhati Commerce College	GCC	1962	Dr Brinchi Kumar Baruah Library
6.	Guwahati College	GC	1964	Guwahati College Library
7.	Handique Girls' College	HGC	1939	Rajabala Das Library
8.	K.C. Das Commerce College	KCDCC	1983	K.C. Das Commerce College Library
9.	K.K. Handique Govt. Sanskrit College	KKHGSC	1970	K.K. Handique Govt. Sanskrit College Library
10.	K.R.B. Girls' College	KRBGC	1971	K.R.B. Girls' College Library
11.	Kanya Mahavidyalaya	KM	1977	Kanya Mahavidyalaya Library
12.	Karmashree Hiteswar Saikia College	KHSC	1988	Uma Charan Bania Library and Education Centre
13.	Lalit Chandra, Bharali College	LCBC	1971	Lalit Chandra Bharali College Library
14.	Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya	NAM	1991	Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya Library
15.	North Gauhati College	NGC	1962	North Gauhati College Library
16.	Pandu College	PC	1962	Pandu College Library
17.	Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	PGM	1978	Bipin Chandra Baruah Library
18.	Pragjyotish College	PJC	1954	Pandit Tirthanath Sarma Library
19.	R.G. Baruah College	RGBC	1978	R.G. Baruah College Library
20.	S.B. Deorah College	SBDC	1984	S.B. Deorah College Library
21.	West Guwahati Commerce College	WGCC	1992	West Guwahati Commerce College Library

Note: Y.O.E= Year of Establishment

Note: From the next table abbreviated form for the colleges defined in Table 1 will be used in place of complete name.

4.1 Automation Status of Library, Software Usage and Creation of catalogue Database in College Libraries of Guwahati.

Table 2: Automation Status, Software Usage and Creation of Catalogue Database

S. No.	College Name	Automation Status			Catalogue database/ OPAC
		Started	Commencement Year	Library Software	
1.	BBC	Yes	2003	SOUL1.0	Yes
2.	BC	No	×	×	×
3.	CC	Yes	2004	SOUL2.0	Yes
4.	DC	Yes	2005	SOUL1.0	Yes
5.	GC	Yes	2010	SOUL2.0	Yes
6.	GCC	Yes	2003	SOUL2.0	Yes
7.	HGC	Yes	2006	SOUL2.0	Yes
8.	KCDCC	Yes	2003	SOUL2.0	Yes
9.	KHSC	Yes	2012	NIL	No
10.	KKHGSC	No	×	×	×
11.	KM	No	×	×	×
12.	KRBGC	Yes	2011	SOUL2.0	Yes
13.	LCBC	Yes	2009	SOUL2.0	Yes
14.	NAM	Yes	2012	NIL	No
15.	NGC	Yes	2004	SOUL2.0	Yes
16.	PC	Yes	2000	SOUL1.0	Yes
17.	PGM	Yes	2007	SOUL2.0	Yes
18.	PJC	Yes	2003	SOUL2.0, Library Management(Third Eye)	Yes
19.	RGBC	No	×	×	×
20.	SBDC	Yes	2003	SOUL2.0	Yes
21.	WGCC	No	×	×	×

The responses regarding automation status, commencement year, software usage and creation of catalogue database are tabulated in Table 2. It shows that 16 (i.e. 76.19%) college libraries have started automation activity for automating their library housekeeping operations and on the other hand 5 (i.e. 23.81%) college libraries have yet to undertake automation activities.

Out of 16 college libraries which have started automation, 11(i.e.68.75%) libraries are using SOUL2.0 software and 3(18.75%) libraries are using SOUL1.0 software. Locally developed software Library Management (Developed by third eye) is being used by 1(6.25%) library i.e. Pragjyotish College (PJC) Library which is also using SOUL2.0. One

more interesting fact is that 2(i.e.12.5%) college libraries are not using any library software package.

In case of creation of catalogue database/OPAC out of 16 college libraries 14(i.e.87.5%) college libraries have created their catalogue database.

4.2 Details about ICT Infrastructure services of the College Libraries

For implementing cloud computing based services in an academic library, ICT infrastructure of that college library is an inevitable necessity. Following table shows the ICT infrastructure of the 16 college libraries of Guwahati.

Table 3: Details about ICT infrastructure

S. No.	College Name	Serv.	PC	Printer	Scanner	LAN	Internet	TC	Speed		
									556KBs	1 MBps	>5 MBps
1.	BBC	1	9	2	1	Yes	Yes	B	×	✓	×
2.	CC	1	13	7	5	Yes	Yes	L	×	×	✓
3.	DC	1	6	3	0	Yes	Yes	B	×	✓	×
4.	GCC	1	20	3	1	Yes	Yes	B	×	×	✓
5.	GC	1	5	3	1	Yes	Yes	B	×	×	✓
6.	HGC	1	23	4	3	Yes	Yes	B	×	✓	×
7.	KCDCC	2	9	4	3	Yes	Yes	B	×	×	✓
8.	KRBGC	1	3	2	1	No	Yes	B	×	✓	×
9.	KHSC	1	2	0	0	Yes	Yes	B	✓	×	×
10.	LCBC	1	5	4	4	Yes	Yes	B	×	×	✓
11.	NAM	0	1	0	0	No	No	×	×	×	×
12.	NGC	1	4	3	1	Yes	Yes	B	×	✓	×
13.	PC	1	4	3	3	Yes	Yes	B	×	✓	×
14.	PGM	2	4	1	1	Yes	Yes	B	×	✓	×
15.	PJC	1	6	1	0	Yes	Yes	B	×	✓	×
16.	SBDC	1	6	5	2	Yes	Yes	B	×	✓	×

Note: TC= Type of Connectivity; B=Broadband; L=Leased Line

From Table 3 it can be seen that Handique Girls' College(HGC) library has highest number computers (i.e.23) which is followed by Gauhati Commerce College(GCC) library having 20 computers and Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya(NAM) Library has lowest number of computers (i.e. 1). Again in case of printers and scanners Cotton College (CC) Library has the highest number of printers and scanners i.e. 7 printers (including general printers and barcode printers) and 5 scanners (including general scanner and barcode scanner). In case of LAN and Internet connectivity 14(i.e. 87.5%) college libraries have LAN connectivity, 15 (i.e. 93.75%) college libraries have internet connectivity. Among 15

college libraries having internet connectivity, 14(i.e.93.33%) college libraries have broadband connection and 1(i.e.6.66%) college library has leased line connectivity. In case of internet speed 9(i.e.60%) libraries have 1MBps, 5(i.e.33.33%) libraries have more than 5MBps and 1(6.66%) library have 556KBps.

4.3 ICT Infrastructure problems faced by the College Libraries

A list of few probable problems were framed out and hence asked to response to the same. Following responses were provided by the concerned 21 college libraries when asked to response to the following options.

Table 4: Barriers Faced by the College Libraries

Option	No. of College Libraries	Percentage (%)
Insufficient Fund	10	47.62
Lack of Trained Staff	10	47.62
Insufficient Staff Training	7	33.33
Shortage of Staff	13	61.90
Lack of Adequate Infrastructure	9	42.86
Less Interest from Authority	2	9.52
Lack of Space	9	42.86
Frequent Power Cut and Lack of Alternate Source for Electricity	7	33.33
Any other	0	00

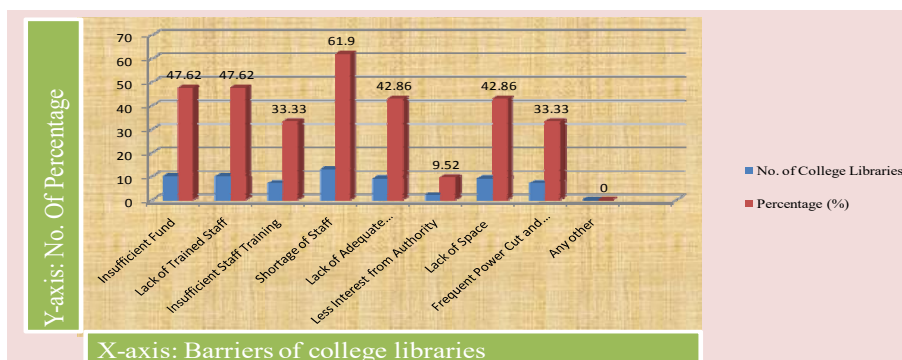


Figure2: Barriers faced by the college libraries

From Table 4 it can be observed that highest 13(i.e.61.90%) libraries have faced the problem “Shortage of Staff” in case of proper implementation of technology which is followed by 10(i.e.47.62 %) libraries facing the problem “Insufficient Fund” and “Lack of Trained Staff”. 2(i.e.9.52%) libraries have agreed to the problem “Less Interest from Authority”. 7(i.e. 33.33%) libraries agree to the problem of “Insufficient Staff Training” and “Frequent Power Cut”. 9(i.e.42.86%) libraries have agreed on to the problem “Lack of Adequate Infrastructure” and “Lack of Space”.

5. Result and findings

According to the proposed objectives of my study topic following are the important findings that has been summarized as follows:

1. Among surveyed 21 college libraries covered shows that only 16 (76.19%) college libraries have started automation. Therefore these 16 college libraries may opt for ICT services.
2. Out of 16 college libraries 68.75%libraries are using SOUL2.0 and 18.75% libraries are using SOUL1.0 software, 12.5% libraries are not using any library software package. These type of software differences may be minimized with the help of ICT.
3. In the creation of catalogue database/ OPAC out of 16 college libraries 14 (87.5%) college libraries have created their catalogue database.
4. Regarding LAN and internet connectivity 87.5% libraries have LAN connectivity and 93.75% libraries have internet connectivity. Therefore minimum requirement for ICT infrastructure is having to some extent.
5. Among 15 college libraries having internet connectivity 93.33% college libraries have broadband connection and 6.66% college library has leased line connectivity. In case of internet speed 60% libraries have 1MBps, 33.33% libraries have more than 5MBps and 6.66% library have 556KBps.
6. Mainly the problems faced in case of implementation of cloud computing technology is shortage of staff, ICT skilled manpower and insufficient fund. 61.90% libraries have agreed shortage of staff as a barrier which is followed by 47.62% libraries agreeing to insufficient fund and lack of trained staff as barrier.

6. Discussion & Suggestions

1. The college libraries can opt for common web hosting services on shared basis instead of becoming part of web hosting service individually. This will lower cost of maintaining hardware, software and security maintenance.
2. Alternatively the college libraries of Guwahati can opt for common database server which can be administered by a higher regulatory body like Gauhati University.
3. ICT Infrastructure of college libraries of Guwahati is not very much satisfactory. So infrastructure should be developed for providing better services.
4. Library personnel should be trained in the field of ICT implementation for better implementation of cloud computing technology.
5. There is need for training in electronic resources managing for library staff.

6. User education /educational programme on the use of e-resources should be conducted regularly for interested users.

7. Conclusion

Infrastructure and use of ICT of e-resources in college libraries are in developing stage of Guwahati. Implementation of ICT in libraries is going to change the whole environment of the libraries and their users. However lack in the infrastructure, proper planning and supervision and frequent change in ICT are the basic hurdles in successful development of ICT in college libraries of Guwahati. The no. terminals, Higher speed of bandwidth, consortium are very necessary for every college libraries. Skill full human resource, support from administration for finance etc. needs to developed the ICT based libraries. The major benefits and prospects of ICT are increasing of e-resources in the libraries.

College libraries of Guwahati can be part of this new age cloud computing technology by taking part and sharing hardware, software and data rather than installing or hosting it individually. This will reduce cost of managing hardware, software and database and definitely enhance data security and library services in optimum level. Assam Government also takes initiative for digitalization of library.

8. References

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