

AVAILABILITY, USE AND IMPACT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN MPM GOVERNMENT FIRST GRADE COLLEGE LIBRARY, KARKALA: A STUDY***Venkatesha**

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Abstract

The Article explores the availability, use, and impact of information technology in a govt. first grade college library. For the study 118 postgraduate students were distributed questionnaires to obtain their needs and opinion. It highlights the use of different types of electronic resource and library services. The study revealed that most of the students are familiar with e resources and find it convenient to use them and also have positive attitude towards using different types of e-resources and technologies available in the library. It also analyses the various aspects of library collections usage, frequency and purpose of library visit, and satisfaction level of library services. Most of the respondents felt that application of information technologies is very useful and satisfactory.

Keywords: Information Technology, Library resources, Collection Development, Library Services.

INTRODUCTION

Information technology is the application or use of various electronic technologies for the information handling services. When information technology is applied to any library, it means that, application or use of various technologies such as computers, telecommunications, software, and other electronic gadgets to acquire, store, transmit, retrieve and processing of information. Application of various technologies in the process of a well established library is essential for any academic institution. Library is expected to cater the needs of its users as well as provide standard information resources. Academic libraries no longer restrict themselves on traditional services. The electronic technology helps to develop various library services and thus enables information access, storage, transfer and dissemination of information to the user community. IT applications in college libraries is no doubt a boon whereas its implementation is most challenging job especially for government first grade colleges as they face lot of constraints in manpower- as most of the libraries are managed by single person, lack of financial aid, storage space etc.

GFGC & postgraduate study centre, Karkala: at a glance

Government First Grade college Karkala affiliated to Mangalore University came into existence in the year 1991 is offering 3 years BBM degree course, 3 years B.Com. degree course, and also a Post Graduate course in Commerce (M.Com) The college, assessed and accredited by NAAC in August 2004 with C++ Grade (68.5%) and got recognition under section 2(f) 12(B) of the UGC Act on 26-06-2008. The college was Reaccredited by NAAC in January 2011 at B Grade with CGPA of 2.5/4. The institution is popular in the locality, as the only Govt. institution securing ranks in BBM course. This college is known for its quality education, which is evident from the results, ranks and established goodwill in and around Karkala.

Library

The college library came in operational during establishment (1991) of the college from its initial collection of less than 100 books. No permanent librarian was there until 2008. By that time collection of the library were 5000+ books. In the year 2010 e resources have been procured and added to the library collection. Library was equipped with 15 multimedia computers with internet connection and LAN Connectivity. In the year 2011, subscription to e resources started. Educational CD ROMs procured under UGC grant. In the year 2015 Smart classes were introduced in the library with Wi-Fi connectivity and through this students and staff could access audio-video classes on various subjects through Wi-Fi on their smart phones and laptops. Presently the library is equipped with 15 computers with high speed internet and LAN, one LASER colour printer and a monochrome laser printer, Wi-Fi facility, reprography facility and CC Camera, flatbed scanner, barcode scanner and book binding equipments. Library is equipped with 5KVA UPS facility. Library is computerized with Easylib software. Library has separate website and being updated regularly and with this serving the students and staff with more digital information.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are

1. To assess the level of satisfaction about library services
2. To investigate the existence of building space, furniture and fixtures, equipments and information resources
3. To study the use of services of library after introducing Information Technology
4. To know the means and suggestions for the improvement of the present condition of the library
5. To study the awareness and attitude of the students towards usage of library resources both formal and informal resources.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used for data collection for this study was by questionnaire method. The population was made up of all postgraduate students of the college. The questions were designed to collect general data on the information needs and e resources use pattern along with their attitude towards usage of e resources. Simple percentage method is used to analyze the data. Total 118 questionnaires were distributed and 112 students responded to the survey.

Analysis and interpretation of data

Details of questionnaire distribution

Type of respondents	No. of questionnaire distributed	No. of questionnaire received	Percentage of response
Post graduate students	118	112	94.9

Purpose of visit to the library:

Purpose of visit	No. of respondents	Percentages
For studying/updating knowledge	32	28.6
Doing assignment work	11	9.8
Leisure reading/ news paper/ magazines reading	22	19.6
For preparing notes	5	4.5
To use the internet	16	14.29
To borrow the books	18	16.1
To use the computer (non internet)	6	5.4
To get information for project work	2	1.8
For discussion / entertainment	0	0
Total	112	100

The above table shows that majority of the students (28.6%) visit the library for studying and updating their knowledge in their interested field. 18 (16.1%) respondents have said that they visit library to borrow the books and 22(19.6) respondents out of 112 students said that they visit the library for leisure reading such as to read newspapers magazines etc.

Frequency of the visit to library

Frequency of visit to the library	No. of respondents	Percentage
Daily	86	76.8
Once in a two days	15	13.4
Once in a week	8	7.1
Less than a week	3	2.7
Total	112	100

From the above table we can see that 76.8% respondents visit library every day, And 13.4 %student's visit once in two days.

Practical knowledge of using computer systems

Practical knowledge of using computer	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	106	94.64
No	6	5.36
Total	112	100

To make use of information technology gadgets in the library students should have good knowledge of operating computer systems and basic information handling techniques. Thus to know the computer knowledge of the students this question was asked in the questionnaire. The above table shows that 94.64% are having the computer knowledge.

Sources of information used by the respondents

Sources of information	No. of respondents	Percentage
Text books/reference books	48	42.86
Internet	39	34.82
e-resources	13	11.6
Library website	5	4.5
other	7	6.3
Total	112	100

The above table shows that students are searching information from various sources. 42.86% students refer text books and reference books for the required information where as 34.82 % respondents make use of Internet.

User services

Sl.no.	User services	Always	Mostly	Sometime	Never
1	Library staff treat me fairly and without discrimination	98	8	6	0
2	Library staffs are professional in their dealings with me.	110	2	0	0
3	Library staff are friendly	89	11	12	0
4	Library staff take an interest in me and my needs	74	22	13	3
5	Library staff provide quality services	88	14	10	0
6	Library staff are difficult to approach	3	8	12	89

The above table shows the 98 respondents out of 112, say that library staff are impartial in rendering services, and 110 respondents feel that library staff are professional in dealings with respondents. Out of 112 respondents 89 were say that library staff are friendly and only three respondents out of 112, said library staff are difficult to approach.

Resources:

Library resources	Always	Mostly	Sometime	Never
1 Resources are appropriate for my course needs	76	14	10	12
2 Resources are up-to-date and relevant	82	18	9	3
3 Resources are easy to find	91	13	8	0
4 Borrowing facility are good	65	38	9	0
5 You usually find resources you need	52	27	22	11

Out of 112 respondents 76 respondents say that library resources are appropriate for their studies and course needs. 82 respondents feel that collection in the library is up to date. 91 respondents out of 112, said that arrangement of the resources in the library are easy to find and access. 65 students say that borrowing facility is good.

Library facilities

Facilities	V.Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
1 Computer facility (Internet)	66	16	24	6
2 Printing facility	26	32	43	11
3 Photocopying facility	4	39	68	1
4 Cleanliness	2	68	32	10
5 Library space	8	41	51	12
6 Opening hours of library	13	36	61	2
7 Study space in library	1	13	32	66
8 Library lighting and ventilation	27	53	17	15
9 News papers and magazines	14	79	17	2
10 Subject Journals	9	67	23	13
11 e-recourses	18	48	11	35

Above table shows that out of 112 respondents 66 students feel that computer facility with internet connectivity is very good. 43 respondents are satisfied with printing facility. Overall cleanliness in the library is good according to 68 respondents. 51 students are satisfied with the library space. Library opening hours are convenient for 61 respondents. Whereas 66 respondents said that reading area or study space in the library is poor.

Benefit from the computer application

Benefit from the computer application	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	98	87.5
No	14	12.5
Total	112	100

Above table reveal that 87.5 % users are benefited from the computer application in the library. Only 12.5 % respondents opined that they are not much benefited from the use of computers in the library.

Student's opinion about library automation

Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	112	100
No	0	0
Total	112	100

The above table shows that all respondents are in favour of library automation and feel that it is very essential.

Influence of internet on the image of library

Image of library use	No. of respondents	Percentage
Decreased the library use	13	11.6
Increased the library use	29	25.9
Use remains same	70	62.5
Total	112	100

Above table reveals that 62.5% respondents say that, because of internet the library use remains same, and only 13 respondents out of 112, feel that library use has decreased because of availability of information on internet. 25.9% respondents say that library use increased with the emergence of internet.

Impact of information and communication technology on library services

Sl.No.	Opinion	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree
1	ICT improves the quality of library services	68	43	1
2	Saves the time	55	39	18
3	Helps to access e- resources	71	25	16
4	General perception on the library increases	75	31	6
5	It has positive effect on library services	53	56	3

The above table shows 68 respondents strongly agree that application of ICT improves quality of library services. Majority of the respondents opined that general perception on library services increase on application of ICT and it has positive effect on library services. 71 respondents strongly agree and 25 agree that it helps to access e-resources.

FINDINGS

The analysis of the data collected from questionnaire method resulted in certain findings. It can be summarized as follows:

1. The college library established in the year 1991
2. Library started application of modern technologies, especially information technology in the year 2010.
3. Study reveals that IT applications established in the library are used effectively, and most of the postgraduate students have basic computer operation knowledge and need no much training in using computers.
4. 100 % respondents feel that computerization of library operations are essential and benefitted from library automation.
5. Large percentage of students opined that computer application in the circulation section is good and services are excellent
6. Large no of respondents say that internet facility in the library is very good.
7. All documents in the library are bar-coded; library members have been issued bar-coded identity cards which helps speedy service in document issues, return, renewal and reservation.
8. Majority of the respondents said that reading room space is insufficient in the library.

Suggestions

Library has no separate building and accommodated in the second floor of the main building which makes its access difficult to students especially physically handicap students. So separate functional library building is needed for the easy access to users. Separate spacious reading room should be there. Library working hours should be extended especially during examination times. Well-balanced collection plays a very important role in providing library facilities and services. Text book collection and reference book collection is inadequate and recommended to have more number of printed as well as e- resources.

Conclusion

Introducing information technology in the libraries is the functional need of the day. The main aim of any library is to provide best services to its users. In order to provide good library services library professionals have to think, learn and adopt the new technologies and train the users, how to use these new technology related services. A wholesome automation of the library services will ease the library operations and make library service more efficient and effective. MPM Govt. First Grade College Karkala Library is effectively using information technology in its all kind of services and users are effectively using it and majority of the users are satisfied with the services even though there are inefficiency in some areas like, improper library reading area, lack of reading materials etc. finally it could be concluded that with whatever the negative aspects and drawbacks, this study would help both management and librarian a good chance to provide essential and effective library services.

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