A Study On Librarians' Experiences Related To Ict Applications In Minority Degree Colleges Of Karnataka

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Abstract

The scope of the study aims at the library professionals' perception related to the ICT Applications in Minority Degree college libraries of Karnataka. The necessary sample data was collected from the selected librarians in different colleges situated in Karnataka through a structured questionnaire in google forms. A total of 116 minority colleges were selected in the respective Districts of the state, 116 questionnaires were sent through the mail and WhatsApp media through google forms, out of which only 106 college Librarians replied with a response rate of 92%. The Major points that were discussed were the opinion relating to applying the ICT, problems faced while implementing ICT, and discussed their future plan for web applications of their respective libraries. The majority of the librarians have given the answer regarding opinion on ICT application of their respective library is 'To improve the quality of services as the first priority. 'To develop knowledge and skills and 'Increase job satisfaction' were the second and third preferences indicated by the respondents. It can be inferred that the library professionals accepted the need for training in ICT applications.

Keywords: ICT infrastructure, Librarians, web application, problems of ICT, Minority Colleges, Karnataka

1. INTRODUCTION
Nowadays every usage by humans has adopted the current technologies, based on every academic library adopting the ICT applications for all their activities. People considered that Libraries were only the places for storehouses of books but the library professionals tried to change the context of libraries from the knowledge stores along with being a new perception used within the modern Information Communication Technology (ICT) technologies. With the help of current technologies, the library activities have been carried out smoothly with great

effectiveness of library organization, library administration, library services, extension services, and other activities were processed by ICT implementation of their respective libraries. Actually, the manual works which are carried out it comes and shows many errors and it has to be rectified frequently. The adoption of ICT made it easier and more work quantitative can be done in a relaxed way. Hence now library professionals were ready to learn and implement ICT in their libraries for giving better service to users. For that, they have willing to keep learning new technologies and adopt ICT for a good impact on library organization and administration. The authorities of selected librarians also granted the funding support and avail facilities forget training about new technology's impact on libraries and their respective users. The adopted ICT in libraries is its diverse set of technological tools and resources to create, disseminate, store and manage data and information.

2.   Review of Literature :

Anaraki and Babalhavaeji **(2013)** found that the awareness and utilization level of students of ICT in the three universities were lower than the average, and those who are not aware of the existence of the IDL portal used general search engines to meet their information needs. Velmurugan and Amutha **(2014)** revealed that ICT-based resources and services are now considered the most vital part of library resources. The library professional should always be up to date to increase information resources and services. Sayeda **(2015)** conducted the sampling from PG and UG students of Arts and Social Science faculty to get an overview of the awareness and use of ICT by the users. Most of the UG and PG students of Arts and Social Science faculty are very much aware of ICT and use most of its applications of ICT.

3. Need for the Study:

The study aims at analyzing the librarians' perception of the ICT applications in their respective libraries of selected minority degree colleges in Karnataka. This study also reveals the response part of the experience by selected librarians and awareness of applying and adopting the ICT skills for their respective library services among the minority degree colleges of Karnataka. It also treats the level of using web-based technologies and tools for library organization and library services, which includes opinions about ICT in library services including familiarity with ICT, problems in using ICT, and attitude changes in the application of ICT based on their years of experience in libraries.

4. Objectives of the Study:

The following objectives are framed for the purpose of the study.

1. To classify the Librarians based on their years of experience
2. To identify the opinions about ICT application in library services
3. To identify the problems while adopting ICT technologies
4. To identify the use of Web applications in future libraries

5. Methodology:

The survey method used for this study also aims to find out the problems for an opinion on adopting ICT, what kind of problems they faced while applying ICT, and future usage of web applications among the selected librarians from the minority degree colleges of Karnataka. 116 minority colleges were found from different districts in Karnataka State. The researcher structured the questionnaire and sent it to all college librarians under study. Out of the 116 questionnaires sent, 106 librarians completely filled and responded to the questionnaire. The questionnaire was sent through the mail and WhatsApp media through Google forms. The response rate was 92%. After receiving the questionnaire, the necessary data was converted to tabular using MS Excel and analyzed by the Chi-square Test, Mean and Standard Deviation applied besides percentile analysis. APA reference manual style has been rendered in this article.

6. Limitations of the Study:

The findings of this study were based on the information provided by selected librarians from minority degree colleges in Karnataka and they do not represent other institutions. 116 minority colleges were found in Karnataka. The necessary data collected from December 2021 to February 2022 from minority degree colleges in Karnataka are represented in the study.

7. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

7.1 Distribution of questionnaire to Librarians by Their working Experience

Questionnaires were distributed to 116 librarians in Karnataka State of minority degree colleges and the responses received from them are given in Table 1. Questionnaires were distributed to Librarians from the selected minority degree colleges in Karnataka. Out of 116 colleges, 56 were in Bangalore district followed by 37 colleges in Dakshin Kannada, 6 colleges were from Udupi, 4 colleges from Dharwad, three colleges each from Belgaum and Mysore, and two colleges each were from, Bijapur and Bidar, and one college each from Kalburgi (Gulbarga), Tumkur and Mandya districts respectively. The majority of minority colleges were identified from Bangalore and Dakshina Kannada .districts (Mangalore & Udupi)

Out of the responded 106 colleges, 51 were from the Bangalore district, 31 colleges from Dakshina Kannada and only four are from Udupi, and the remaining districts' college libraries did not respond back to the questionnaire. It is pointed out that the majority of the respondents who replied were from Bangalore, Dhakshina Kannada, and Udupi Districts respectively.

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaires and working experience by selected Librarians

Sl.	Districts	No. of	Receive	1 – 3 yrs	4 – 6	7 – 9	10 – 12 yrs	>13 yrs

No.		College s	d		yrs	yrs		
1	Bangalore	56	51	5	8	15	18	5
2	Dakshina Kannada	37	34	3	5	7	13	6
3	Udupi	6	4	-	-	1	2	1
4	Dharwad	4	4	-	-	1	1	2
5	Belgaum	3	3	-	-	-	1	2
6	Mysore	3	3	-	-	1	1	1
7	Vijayapura (Bijapur)	2	2	-	-	-	1	1
8	Kalaburgi (Gulburga)	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
9	Bidar	2	2	-	-	-	1	1
10	Tumkur	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
11	Mandya	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
	Total	**116**	**106 (92)**	**8(7.6)**	**13 (12.3)**	**25 (23.6)**	**38 (35.9)**	**22 (20.8)**

The library professionals who are working in the minority degree college libraries in Karnataka are categorized by their years of experience. It is observed that in the categorized years of experience from librarians the largest group of respondents had '10-12 years' in selected sample districts.

7.2 Opinion about the ICT Application in Their Library

The researcher tried to get the opinion about the ICT application in their respective libraries among selected minority degree college librarians in Karnataka. The collected data has been analyzed based on the responses by the respondents from Librarians are shown in Table 2.

Table2. Opinion about the ICT Application in Their respective Library

Sl. No.	Attitude	SD	DA	Av erg e	Agre e	SA	Total	Ran k
1	Facilitates quickly to retrieve the available current information	6	14	27	112	285	444	6
2	To improve the quality of library services	2	8	18	132	310	470	1
3	To develop knowledge and skills	5	10	30	112	295	452	2
4	Increases the level of job satisfaction	3	12	33	128	275	451	3

5	To improve communication	4	8	36	136	265	449	4
6	Develop the Library status	2	6	45	164	230	447	5
7	Reduced workload and manpower	8	20	21	96	290	435	7

It is observed from **table 2** analyzed that the respondents were chosen based on a five-point sale rank, 'To improve Quality of Library Services' as the highest influence of ICT application in their respective libraries. Followed by the opinions on 'To develop knowledge and Skills' and 'increase the level of job satisfaction are the second and third preferences. The least preference was given to 'Reduced the workload and manpower.

7.3 Problems Faced When Using ICT

The researcher has made a query for what kind of problems were faced while trying to apply ICT of their respective libraries for that received from respondents' data has been represented in **table 3.** The faced problems had been analyzed by a five-point scale measurement based on Strongly disagree, Disagree, Average level, Agreed, and Strongly Agree.

Table 3. Problems faced while implementing ICT in Libraries

Sl. No.	Attitude	SD	DA	Average	Agree	SA	Total	Rank
1	Lack of interest on the part of users	28	64	60	48	75	275	10
2	No support from the administration in training library professionals	33	44	69	44	90	280	9
3	Lack of support from IT dept.	4	16	39	72	320	451	3
4	Lack of cooperation from staff	5	14	42	64	325	450	4
5	Lack of sufficient Time for adopting ICT	4	8	48	128	255	443	5
6	Lack of funding support	5	14	27	84	325	455	2
7	Feels heavy work than traditional	4	14	33	84	320	455	2
8	Lack of IT skill maintenance and rectifying	5	14	24	88	325	456	1
9	Inadequate training in ICT applications	25	30	66	92	105	318	8
10	Lack of ICT infrastructure for adopting	18	26	45	88	190	367	7
11	Lack of support from authorities	9	30	54	96	200	389	6

	for implementing ICT applications in library						
12	Lack of interest to learn about current technologies	46	56	45	32	45	224	11

(SD- Strongly Disagree, D-Disagree, Average, A-Agree, SA- Strongly Agree)

It is observed from **Table 3** that the respondents identified 'Lack of IT skill maintenance and rectifying' as the first. 'Lack of funding support' and 'Feels heavy work than traditional' is the second rank indicated by the Librarians. 'Lack of support from IT dept.' has the third rank position of the faced problems while applying ICT on their respective libraries. The lowest selection was 'Lack of interest to learn about current technologies' respectively.

7.4 The Use of Web Applications in Future Libraries

The selected respondents mentioned the priorities of web applications for future library developments in their planning. Sample data has been analyzed based on the responses received from Librarian and is represented in **table 4.**

Table 4: Use of Web Applications in Future Libraries

Sl. No.	Attitude	SD	Disagree	Ave	Agree	SA	Total	Rank
1	Used web OPAC	7	16	45	132	220	420	10
2	Open-source Software	6	14	42	92	325	479	1
3	Content management software for LMS	5	8	48	128	285	474	2
4	E-Library Digital archives	4	14	33	96	325	472	3
5	Find out the user's demand	5	16	39	80	320	460	4
6	Creating library users' profiles	5	12	24	88	330	459	5
7	Implementing RFID	3	16	30	92	315	456	6
8	Providing mobile-based information services	4	14	27	84	325	454	7
9	Library Website / Web page	6	16	42	120	260	444	9
10	Databases subscribe	6	14	42	144	200	406	12
11	Users' feedback and taking action immediately	5	16	45	148	205	419	11
12	Institutional Repositories	4	20	48	152	225	449	8

It is observed from **Table 4** that the majority of respondents have chosen 'Open-Source

Software' as the highest priority and stood in the first rank position of their future plan. 'Content management software for LMS' and 'E-Library Digital archives' are the second and third preferences indicated by the selected librarians. 'Find out the users' demand' as the fourth rank. 'Creating library users' profiles' stood fifth rank position of their preferences for future plans about their libraries. The least preference was given to 'Users feedback and taking action immediately' respectively.

8. Conclusion

Computer applications have played a vital role for every individual, and in every activity, hence now a day's more library professionals are well qualified and possess expert training for applying ICT in their respective libraries. By observing the results from the above study, the majorities of Librarians have depth knowledge of utilized ICT and implemented it in their library, but due to some reason, they can't act independently in applying ICT. The Librarians and other library professionals are able to assist/help the users with times assistance to retrieve any kind of information from anywhere at any given time. The library services rendered with the adoption of ICT-based are easier and more effective in timings. The ICT used for libraries to create databases, organized information, disseminate knowledge, retrieved information, manage and protect the library documents, and information production will emerge as the superpower. It concludes from this study, that the majority of minority degree college librarians in Karnataka have given an opinion that applying ICT to their respective library is used for 'To improve the quality of Library services', majority of librarians have mentioned that the major problems faced while implementing ICT is 'Lack of IT skill maintenance and rectifying', and their major future plan is in using open-source software for library automation and extension library services of most demanded users.

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