

# Information Management in the Self-financing Engineering College Libraries Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai - A Study

*V Rajasekar*

*G Krishnamoorthy*

*V Kalaiappan*

## Abstract

*Information Management (IM) is the collection and management of information from one or more sources and the distribution of that information to one or more audiences. Information Management was largely limited to files, file maintenance, and the life cycle management of paper-based files, other media and records. With the proliferation of information technology the job of information management took on a new light, and also began to include the field of Data maintenance. The goals of information management are getting the right information to the right person, at the right time, from the right source, in the right amount, in the right order, in the right form, in the right medium, with optimal accuracy, as quickly as possible and at the lowest reasonable cost. To achieve the objectives of the information management cooperation requires in all the disciplines. The information management disciplines include records management, archives management, corporate librarianship, knowledge management, business intelligence, document management, micrographics, and electronic records/imaging systems. The study highlights the importance of information retrieval system in the colleges for the benefit of the different end users in the libraries.*

**Keywords:** Information Management, Collection Management, Knowledge Management, Document Management, Information Explosion, Information Retrieval, Data Maintenance.

## 1. Introduction

Information management (IM) is the collection and management of information from one or more sources and the distribution of that information to one or more audiences. This sometimes involves those who have a stake in, or a right to that information. Management means the organization of and control over the structure, processing and delivery of information.

Information Management is an approach to management based on the concept that information is a valuable resource that must be preserved,

protected, controlled and planned. Hence, the IM concept tends to emphasize the organizational effectiveness of information system resource rather than technical sophistication on effectiveness of hardware and software, which is very significant.

Because today information has become a valuable and costly asset which must be treated with the same management discipline as is currently afforded financial assets, human resources, material assets and other resources, any organization utilized to achieve its aims and in so doing a major shift from preoccupation and focus on the power of technologies to a focus on the power of the information content must occur.



## 2. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out how the collection development are maintained in the Engineering College Libraries through automation and the software available in the college libraries for the effective management of the libraries.

- ❖ To study the various types of services provided
- ❖ To study the collection development
- ❖ To find out the level of automation

## 3. Methodology

A survey was conducted among 350 Engineering College Librarians. Questionnaires were distributed personally and were collected from them by giving sufficient time to fill the questionnaire. The investigator clarified the doubts raised by the respondents. Some of them were interviewed in depth and cross checks facts as provided in the questionnaire. They were assured that the data provided by them would be kept strictly confidential and used for research purpose only. The investigator visited all Engineering libraries and observed the working conditions of the library at the time of data collection.

**Table 1: Usage of information by the different purposes in the Engineering College Libraries**

Purpose	N	Percentage
Academic only	254	72.57
Academic and Research	96	27.43
Total	350	100.00

From the above table it is observed that 72.57 percent of the respondents used the information available in the for their academic purpose, 27.43 percent used for both academic and research purposes.

**Table 2: Usage of Information and services by the different types of the users in the Engineering College Libraries**

Type of users	N	Percentage
UG Students	137	39.17
PG Students	63	18.00
Research Scholars	15	04.28
Assistant Professors	80	22.85
Associate Professors	40	11.42
Professors	15	04.28
Total	350	100.00

From the above table it is observed that with regard to the type of users of the library 39.17 percent of the respondents were UG students, 18.00 percent PG students, 04.28 percent research scholars, and 22.85 percent were Assistant Professors, 11.42 percent Associate Professors and 04.28 percent were Professors who used the Information and services in the library.

**Table 3: Management of Information and services in the different sections of the Engineering College Libraries**

SNo.	Sections of the library	N	Percentage
1	Acquisition section	275	78.57
2	Technical section	280	80.00
3	Journal section	310	88.57
4.	Back volume unit	289	82.57

5.	Circulation	297	84.85
6.	Reprography	265	75.71
8.	Audio – Visual section	199	56.85
9	Reference section	321	91.71
10	Theses Unit	348	99.42

The above table shows the percentage of sections computerized in the affiliated colleges of Anna University, Chennai. It was observed that in 78.57 percent of the institutions the acquisition section was automated by the commercial software available in the market. In 80 percent of the colleges the technical sections were computerized. The journal sections were computerised in 88.57 percent of the institutions. The back volume units were computerised in 82.57 percent of the colleges. In 84.85 percent of the institutions the circulation section were computerised, 75.71 percent of the institution were computerized in the reprography section, 56.85 percent of the institutions were found computerized in the audio-visual section, 91.71 percent of the institutions reference section and 99.42 percent of the colleges computerized theses unit.

**Table 4: Availability of commercial software in the Affiliated Colleges of Anna University, Chennai**

SI. No.	Library Software	N	%
1.	AUTOLIB	140	40.00
2.	LIBSYS	34	09.74
3.	NIRMAL	13	03.71
4.	LIBASOFT	10	02.85
5.	WINSOFT	08	02.28
6.	IN HOUSE	145	41.42
Total		350	100.00

It was found from the above table that 40.00 percent of the colleges used the Autolib software for the effective management of the library, 09.74 percent of the colleges used the commercial software Libsys, 03.71 percent used the commercial software NIRMAL, 02.85 percent used LIBASOFT software, 02.28 percent used the commercial software WINSOFT and 41.42 percent of the colleges used the in house software in their colleges.

#### 4. Limitations of the Study

The study was conducted in the colleges Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai. However the results the result of the hypothesis can be generalized to other colleges, since the library operations are the same.

#### 5. Findings of the Study

The Following findings were arrived from the research

- ❖ The result concluded that there is no association between use of library automation software and nature of institution.
- ❖ Further it is concluded that there is no association between house keeping operations and nature of institution.
- ❖ The research showed that there is an association between use of library automation software and type of users.
- ❖ The findings of the research revealed that respondents from the Academic and Research students were highly satisfied with the mode of information management when compared to others.

- ❖ PG students were highly satisfied with the mode of information management followed in their colleges compared to other groups.

## 6. Conclusion

This study basically aims at finding out the basic elements of information management include accessing, evaluating, managing, organizing, filtering and distributing of information resources should be useful for end users of self-financing engineering college libraries. It is emphasized that automation in all the sections of the library are the need of the hour. The fast access to information is possible based upon the level of automation in the different sections of the library. Hence it is stressed the automation is necessary at all the affiliated college Libraries to Anna University.

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## About Authors

**Dr. V. Rajasekar**, Assistant University Librarian, University Library

**Dr.G.Krishnamoorthy**, Consultant, University Library, Anna University, Chennai.

**Dr.V. Kalaiappan, Assistant Librarian**, University of Madras, Taramani Campus, Chennai.

