Librarian's Attitude Towards Information Communication Technology in Colleges affiliated to Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University: A Study

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Abstract

Now a day's libraries have deployed the ICT facilities, along with high speed internet connectivity, photo- copiers, and soft copy drop facilities via USB drives, DVD R-W, micro SD drives, fax, scanners and computers. When all such facilities are backed by Government aids, the support of a trained librarian having very right orientation and attitude becomes very important. The organizational infrastructural facilities and the mentality of library professionals are to go hand in hand to utilize the ICT applications. The research derives that sometimes unawareness and techno-phobia about the implementation of advance technologies are the hurdles in providing ICT based LIS services.

Keywords: Information Communication Technology (ICT), Librarians - Attitudes, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University

1. Introduction

Implementation of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in libraries is totally depend upon the proper attitude of an ICT trained Librarian. ICT media had widened the limits and reach of library services. Now it is confined to library premises only, but gamut of knowledge is open to whole world of knowledge through Internet media (Sakarkar, 2011). Further, compilation cataloguing, information retrieval services, use of CD Rom Databases, USB drives, Micro SD cards, e-mails, SMS, MMS, blue tooth, infrared connectivity had been helping to touch new horizons Thus, availing such third generation facilities at fascinating speed and affordable costs is no more a mere dream in this 3G ICT era. This article is trying to convey that the mere requirement in this scenario is that, the proper attitude of librarians who can crave with thirst for knowledge and their dedication to their professional duties.

2. Related Works

O.E.L. Eguaroen (2011) in his study found that librarians from University of Ibaddan, Nigeria have positive attitude towards the use and implementation of ICT and having knowledge of ICT and training did influence the positive attitude towards ICT. Muhammad Ramzan (2004) discussed about the factors affecting librarians' attitudes toward ICT application in libraries and found their role in IT-related decision making, their ownership of IT application in libraries and for success of library IT projects and innovations. Sachin D. Sakarkar (2011) who has surveyed the automation status of college libraries provides some practical suggestion for the use of ICT in college libraries.

3. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this study is to identify general characteristics and patterns that exist with regard to the innovativeness of librarians as it relates to the adoption of ICTs. Specifically, the study addresses the following questions:

♦ How innovative are librarians in relation to their peers in the adoption of information and communication technologies?

♦ Do demographic variables affect librarian innovativeness?

♦ What implications might the innovativeness of librarians have on the diffusion of innovations within libraries?

Objective of this study can be describes as below

1. To find out professional awareness of librarians towards Information Communication Technology applications.

2. To study the attitudes of librarians towards the use of Information Communication Technology.

3. Methodology:

Assuming the nature of the research and to know the facts about the attitude of librarians towards implication of ICT in their business environment, the researcher has selected a descriptive survey method. As a data collection tool, the questionnaire was distributed to the respondents. The questionnaire was sent to ninety two respondents. However, sixty one respondents have given their opinions which are taken into consideration for the present study.

The instrument used for the collection of data on this study was a modified version of Igberia and Chakrabarti (1990) used for their study computer anxiety and attitude towards microcomputer utilization (CAATMU) scale and librarians' attitude questionnaire developed by researcher. This Research tool is in three parts.

Part 1: Demographic variables of the respondents: The items included in this part were respondent's gender, age, highest educational qualification, department/section/division and length of service.

Part 2: ICT Perceptions of Librarians: This part contains various items assessing librarian ICT experience and training relating to queries - languages known, library software packages, operating systems, knowledge of computerization, network facility, use of databases, collection, computerized activity areas, different facilities, constraints faced by librarians, participation in design and implementation of ICT, and method of acquiring ICT experience.

Part 3: Attitude toward ICT: This part of the survey contains ten items measuring librarians' attitudes toward the use of ICT in libraries. They relate to both positive and negative effects of ICT in automated libraries. Respondents were asked to rate their belief about ICT applications to library practices on a 5-point scale: 5.Strongly disagree, 4.Disagree, 3.Undecided, 2. Agree, 1. Strongly Agree.

4.   Population and Sample

The study was targeted libraries in colleges affiliated in SGB Amravati University, Amravati. A short structured questionnaire was filled up by the researchers through librarians in various institutions in SGB Amravati University, Amravati.

Table 1: Sample Selection

Sr. No.	Regions in SGB Amravati University, Amravati	Number of Librarians surveyed	Number of Librarians Males	Number of Librarians Females	Educational Qualification of Male Librarians		Educational Qualification of Female Librarians	
					PG	Ph.D	PG	Ph.D
1	Amravati	17	13	04	11	2	02	02
2	Akola	13	09	04	8	1	03	01
3	Buldhana	12	08	04	7	1	04	0
4	Washim	08	06	02	6	0	02	0
5	Yavatmal	11	08	03	7	01	03	0
	Total	61	44	17	39	5	14	3

The table depicts that the total respondents are 61, amongst them 44 are males and 17 are females. The male librarians having Ph. D. are 5 and females are 3 as well as 39 and 14 males and females librarians are post graduates respectively.

Table 2: Age wise Distribution of Sample

Sr. No.	Age	Male Librarians	Female Librarians	Total Responses	% of Respondents
01	Under 30	04	04	08	13.11
02	31-40	20	07	27	44.26
03	41-50	15	04	19	31.14
04	51-60	05	02	07	11.43

It is evident from the adjacent Table that number of respondents in group 4, is meager to the tune of 11.43, while as the number of respondents in group 2 is substantial i.e. 44.28 which is fairly indicative of the facts.

5.   Attitude of Librarians

Analytical results of the study are as follows

Sr.No.	Statements	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
1	Library is important for learning	55 (90.16%)	06 (9.83%))	00
2	Library is important for teaching	41 (67.21%)	08 (13.11%)	12 (19.67%)
3	ICT provide to overcome challenges of information explosion	45 (73.77%)	02 (3.27%)	14 (22.95%)
4	Online databases provide more up-to-date Information	47 (77.04%)	01 (1.63%)	13 (21.31%)
5	ICT helps in making specific information available	49 (80.32%)	04 (6.55%)	08 (13.11%)
6	ICT enables most effective ways of resource sharing	43 (70.49%)	03 (4.91%)	15 (24.59%)
7	The utility of ICT in my institution is good	33 (54.09%)	08 (13.11%)	20 (32.78%)
8	Computers brought more works stress on librarian	20 (32.78%)	07 (11.47%)	34 (55.73%)
9	Computers has made librarians work difficult	17 (27.86%)	02 (3.27%)	42 (68.85%)
10	Computers has made librarians work easy	44 (72.13%)	06 (9.83%)	11 (18.03%
11	ICT save the valuable time of user	51 (83.60%)	00	10 (16.39%)
12	ICT save the valuable time of librarian	48 (78.68%)	02 (3.27%)	11 (18.03%)
13	ICT improve the quality of library service	52 (85.24 %)	05 (8.19%)	04 (6.55%)
14	ICT influence librarians role in information dissemination support	46 (75.40 %)	05 (8.19%)	10 (16.39%)
15	ICT offers faster access to information in learning	49 (80.32%)	01 (1.63%)	11 (18.03%)
16	ICT makes both study and teaching more efficient	50 (81.96)	06 (9.83%)	05 (8.19%)
17	Though all the information in study and teaching are available online, I think that the existence of library is necessary	59 (96.72%))	02 (3.27%)	00
18	In ICT era also libraries play important role in learning and teaching	53 (86.88%))	00	08 (13.11%)
19	Computer creates health and environmental Problems	37 (60.65%))	11 (18.03%))	13 (21.31%)

The above table shows that the approach of the librarians under consideration as regards the ICT is positive, for which experience, expectation and demands of society had provoked the librarian to change

their approaches as well as attitude towards ICT compatibilities of library. It is also noteworthy that co-operation of librarian and providing ICT amenities could make the library better oriented to serve the demands of the readers better.

It was observed that, 90.16 % respondents were agreed that library is important for learning. 78.68 % were agreed that Information Communication Technology save the valuable time of librarian, while 86.88 % of the librarians agreed to that, even in this ICT era, libraries play an important role in learning and teaching, which means librarians have play their roles efficiently. But on the other side, 55.73% respondents mentioned that, computers brought more works and stress on librarians. While 68.85% of respondents mentioned that, computers has made librarians work difficult.

This clearly shows the need for more emphasis on improving librarians' attitudes toward technology. Librarians' knowledge in IT, experience in computer use, level of awareness of technologies and updates via ICT training are the key factors impacting their attitudes toward information technology. Library administrators need to address these factors while planning and implementing any IT based project in libraries.

6.   Conclusion

Trainings play a crucial role in creating an ideal atmosphere for ICT orientation of Librarians to evolve their attitudes favoring ICT amenities. This would certainly reduce the fear of Digital Divide amongst society and librarian could become an ideal guide to all expectant readers to avail broad spectrum of knowledge available at an affordable time. The ICT implementation is very much safe and progressive to the society under the guidance of a well-trained and positive librarian.

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