Automation Status in the Provincialized College Libraries of Nalbari District: A Study

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Abstract

The use of computer in library and information Centres has become a general practice today. This paper discusses the automation status in the college libraries of Nalbari district. The paper provides a report of extent of development of automation in the colleges of Nalbari district along with the impact of automation on the colleges and the obstacles found in the way of automation.

Keywords: Library Automation, College Library, Software, Nalbari

1. Introduction

In this era of development, the role of computers is inevitable at each aspect of society. Library automation refers to the use of computer technology in managing the different housekeeping activities of the library like acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, reference, serial control, etc. Today, the need of the institutions has increased by many times to perform their day-to-day activities in various fields. The users require speedy access to qualitative published information. Therefore, it is needed to automate the library functions for gaining the targeted objectives with efficiency.

Despite tremendous changes in the field of Library and Information Science, traditional manual working system still exists in some parts of India including the North-Eastern Region. Thus, studies are required to be conducted for understanding the automation status of colleges of these regions. The present study is conducted with an attempt to understand the automation status of the provincialized college libraries of Nalbari district.

2. Scope

The study is limited to the six college libraries of Nalbari district. Six college libraries were visited and data were received from each of them. The name of these six colleges are:-

- ❖ Barbhag College (Barbhag College Library)
- ❖ Kamrup College (Gauri Kanta Talukdar Library)
- ❖ M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya (Munindra N. Choudhary Library)
- ❖ Nalbari College (Trailokya Nath Goswami Library)
- ❖ Nalbari Commerce College (Nalbari Commerce College Library)
- ❖ Tihu College (Central Library)

3. Aims and Objectives

- ❖ To study the current status of library automation in the colleges of Nalbari district.
- ❖ To study the software used for automation of the libraries.

❖ To study the impact of automation in the college libraries.

❖ To identify problems faced by the library professionals during automation.

4. Methodology

The survey has been mainly conducted with the help of questionnaire supplemented by personal and telephonic interview with the librarian on the related area of the study.

5. Analysis of Collected Data

5.1. No. of Library Users

The table 1.1 shows the number of library users in the selected colleges-

995 users. The table also shows that Nalbari Commerce college has the highest number of average daily library visitors i.e. 530 visitors. Thus, it is noted that Nalbari Commerce college has the highest percentage of stake holders i.e 53% and Nalbari college has the lowest percentage of stake holders i.e. 5%.

5.2. Percentage of Automation of the Libraries

The data reveals the percentage of automation in the college libraries, which is presented in the form of some ranges it shows that in Kamrup college, the percentage of library automation is the highest i.e.76-100% and it is lowest in Barbhag college i.e. below 25%.The rest of the four college libraries are 51-75% automated.

Table 1.1: No. of Library Users

Sl. No.	Name of the colleges	No. of students	No. of teachers	No. of staff	Others	Total	Average daily visitors	% of total stake holders
1.	Barbhag College	1400	48	15	Nil	1463	257	17%
2.	Kamrup College	15,00	39	15	Nil	1554	225	14%
3.	M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya	2700	50	18	Nil	2768	200	7%
4.	Nalbari College	4450	68	Nil	Nil	4518	235	5%
5.	Nalbari Commerec College	947	13	25	10	995	530	53%
6.	Tihu College	2500	53	27	6	2586	218	8%
		12012	271	52		13884	277.5	

From the table 1.1, it is be observed that Nalbari College has the highest number of users i.e. 4518 users followed by M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya and Tihu College with 2768 users and 2586 users respectively. It is observed that Nalbari Commerce college has the lowest number of library users i.e.

5.3. Library Management Software used in the College Libraries

From the survey data it was observed that all the college libraries surveyed are using SOUL2.0 software provided by INFLIBNET Centre.

5.4 Librarians' Response about the Software

The table 1.2 shows the response received by the college librarians regarding the factors like the functionality, support of the software and total satisfaction with the software:-

Table 1.2 : Librarians' response about the Software Used (1= Poor, 2=Good, 3=Excellent)

Name of the Colleges	Functionality of the Software	Support of the Software	Total Satisfaction with the software
Barbhag College	2	2	2
Kamrup College	2	2	2
M N C College	3	2	2
Nalbari College	2	2	2
Nalbari Commerce College	3	3	3
Tihu College	2	2	2

The table 1.2 reveals that librarians' response regarding the software used in the libraries and its satisfaction level. It can be observed that the response of Barbhag College, Kamrup College, Nalbari College and Tihu College are same in case of functionality, support of the software and total satisfaction with the software i.e. good. M N C College provides "excellent" response for functionality of the software and response support with the software the response is "good". It is seen that the response of Nalbari Commerce College is "excellent" in case of all the factors mentioned.

5.5. Activity wise of Library Automation in the Colleges

The table 1.3 displays the automation of various activities in the college libraries-

Table 1.3: Areas of library automation (Acq= Acquisition, Cir = Circulation, Cat = Cataloging, S.C. = Serial Control, Bud = Budgeting)

Sl. No.	Name of the Colleges	Acq.	Cir.	Cat.	S.C.	Bud.	OPAC
1	Barbhag College	×	√	√	×	×	√
2	Kamrup College	×	√	√	√	×	√
3	M N C College	×	√	√	×	×	√
4	Nalbari College	×	√	√	×	×	√
5	Nalbari Commerce College	√	√	×	×	×	√
6	Tihu College	×	×	√	×	×	×

The table 1.3 shows that the automation of the library activities is highest in Kamrup college, where automation is properly done in circulation, cataloguing, serial control and OPAC. It can be observed that the automation of the library activities is lowest in Tihu College, where automation is done only in cataloguing.

5.6   Facilities available in the Libraries

From the survey data it was observed that Kamrup college has the highest number of computers i.e.18 and Barbagh college has the lowest number of computers i.e. 5. Kamrup college and Nalbari college have 2 servers and the rest colleges have 1 server each. Nalbari Commerce college has highest 13 number of UPS. Barbagh college, M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya and Nalbari college have 1 UPS each. In case of printers, Kamrup College and Nalbari Commerce college have same number of printers i.e

2 and MN C Balika Mahavidyalaya does not possess printer. In case of Xerox machines all the colleges have 1 machine each. Regarding scanner and bar code, Kamrup college possesses 3 scanners and Barbagh college does not use scanner and barcode. It is observed that no college is using RFID technology. Thus, we see that Nalbari Commerce college has the highest number of equipments i.e. 32 followed by Kamrup College i.e. 31 and Barbagh college has lowest number of equipments i.e. 9.

5.7.   Internet Connectivity

Data revealed that all the selected colleges of Nalbari district have internet connectivity in the library. Kamrup College, M N C College and Nalbari Commerce College have broadband and wireless connectivity, while Barbhag College and Tihu College have only broadband connectivity and Nalbari college has wireless connectivity.

5.8.   No. of Documents and their Entry in the Library Management Software

Table 1.4 shows the number of data entered in library software-

Table 1.4 Records Entered in the Software

Sl. No	Name of the College library	Text Books	Reference Books	Journals	Others	Total	Data Entered in the software	% of Data Entry
1	Barbhag College Library	30121	-	11	-	30132	20204	76%
2	Kamrup College	32630	3150	20	100	35900	35800	99%
3	M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya	34777	-	-	-	34777	34777	100%
4	Nalbari College	60230	4215	1	26	64472	21673	34%
5	Nalbari Commerce College Library	10425	1335	2	10	11772	11772	100%
6	Tihu College	35000	-	19	12	35031	19000	54%
		203183				212084	143226	77.17%

It can be observed from the table that M N C college and Nalbari Commerce college have the highest percentage of records entered in the software with 100% followed by Kamrup college, which stands at 99%. The percentage of data entered is lowest at Nalbari college with 34%. Total 77% of data is entered in the software in all these six colleges.

5.9. Automation Related Facilities Available in the Library

The table 1.5 displays the various automation related facilities available in the college libraries-

Table 1.5 (Int Sec= Internet Section, Dig Lib = Digital Library, Com Lab= Computer Lab, ORS = Online Reference Service, OSDI= Online selective Dissemination of Information, ORSh = Online Resource Sharing)

Sl. No.	Name of the Colleges	Int Sec	Dig Lib	Com Lab	ORS	OSDI	ORSh
1	Barbhag College	×	×	×	×	×	×
2	Kamrup College	√	√	√	√	√	√
3	M N C College	√	√	√	×	×	×
4	Nalbari College	√	√	×	×	×	×
5	Nalbari Commerce College	√	√	√	√	×	×
6	Tihu College	√	√	√	×	×	×

The table 1.5 shows that Kamrup college library has all the automation related facilities like Internet section, digital library, etc. Barbhag college library does not provide any of the above mentioned facilities. Except Kamrup college library, no library provides all the above mentioned facilities.

5.10. Benefits for Colleges Libraries

The table 1.6 shows the benefits received by the colleges through automating the library-

Table 1.6: Benefits received through library automation by the colleges (1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree)

Sl. No.	Name of the colleges	Satisfied User	Satisfied Staff	Satisfied Administrator	Cost Saving	Time Saving	Others
1	Barbagh College	3	4	3	2	3	-
2	Kamrup College	5	5	5	3	4	-
3	M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya	1	4	5	2	5	-
4	Nalbari College	3	3	4	1	3	-
5	Nalbari Commerce College	5	5	5	4	5	-
6	Tihu College	3	4	2	4	6	-

From the table 1.6, it is found that regarding satisfied user through library automation Kamrup College and Nalbari Commerce College strongly agree, where M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya strongly disagrees. Regarding satisfied user, Kamrup College and Nalbari Commerce College strongly agree. Regarding satisfied administrator, Kamrup College, M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya and Nalbari Commerce College strongly agree. Regarding cost saving, both Nalbari Commerce College and Tihu College agree to saving. M N C Balika Mhavidyalaya and Nalbari Commerce College strongly agree to time saving.

5.11. Problems faced during the Library Automation

After analyzing the data it was found that Kamrup College is facing lack of infrastructure as a barrier in automating the library. Barbhag College, M N C College and Tihu College are facing financial constraint for automating the libraries, rest of the colleges didn't respond.

6. Findings

The following points reflects the findings of the study based on the objectives of the study-

Finding 1: It can be observed that majority of the colleges surveyed fall under 51-75% range of automation including M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya, Nalbari college, Nalbari Commerce college and Tihu college. Amongst all the colleges surveyed, Kamrup college has attained the highest percentage of automation i.e. 76-100% and Barbagh college has attained the lowest percentage of library automation i.e.26-50%. The study shows that the automation of the library activities is highest in Kamrup College, where automation is done in circulation, cataloguing, serial control and OPAC. It can be observed that

automation of the library activities is lowest in Tihu College, where automation is done only in cataloguing. None of the selected colleges has fully completed automation of all the activities It can be observed that it is found that Nalbari Commerce college has the highest number of equipment i.e. 32 followed by Kamrup College i.e. 31 and Barbagh college has lowest number of equipment i.e. 9. Regarding automation related facilities available, it has been found that Kamrup college library has all the automation related facilities like internet section, digital library, etc. Barbhag college library does not provide any such facility. Except Kamrup college library, no library provides the automation related facilities.

Finding 2: It is clear from the study that all the colleges surveyed are using SOUL 2.0 provided by INFLIBNET Centre.

Finding 3: It is found that regarding satisfied user through library automation, Kamrup College and Nalbari Commerce college strongly agree, where M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya strongly disagrees. Regarding satisfied user, Kamrup College and Nalbari Commerce College strongly agree. Regarding satisfied administrator, Kamrup College, M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya and Nalbari Commerce College strongly agree. Regarding cost saving, Nalbari Commerce College and Tihu College agree. M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya and Nalbari Commerce College strongly agree to time saving. This indicates that library automation has a positive impact on the users, staff as well administrators.

Finding 4: It can be observed that Barbhag college and M N C Balika Mahavidyalaya, and Tihu college are having problems in library automation due to financial constraint or non-availability of adequate

funds, where Kamrup college claims lack of infrastructure as a barrier in the way of library automation in the college library

7. Suggestions

1. It is observed that automation of various library activities in the colleges has not been achieved completely. Thus library professionals should put emphasis on automating all the library activities like acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, etc.

2. It is found that the college library of Nalbari district does not possess all the necessary equipment for automation like scanner, barcoding, etc. RFID has not been introduced in any of the libraries surveyed. Thus library professionals should try to put emphasis on increasing the number of equipment and also introduce new equipment in the library.

3. The study reveals that the data entered of the library documents in the library software is incomplete. Thus, the library professionals should try to keep a complete record of all the documents possessed by the library.

4. The various automation related facilities like Internet section, digital library, computer lab, etc have not been introduced in all the college libraries survey questionnaire. In this respect the name of Barbhag College is mentionable, which lacks all the facilities asked. Thus professionals and authorities should put emphasis on such lack of facilities.

5. Financial constraint and lack of infrastructure are found to be barriers in automation. Thus, these areas should be properly emphasized. A fixed budget of money should be provided for library automation.

8. Conclusion

It can be concluded that the automation status of the college libraries of Nalbari district the automation of the libraries is at a developing stage and a lot more is yet to be gained. The INFLIBNET Centre Gandhinagar is providing NLIST subscription free of cost to all the college libraries of NE India which are under 2F/12B section of UGC. Still not all the colleges have registered for this service and the numbers are also not encouraging. So it is the need of the hour that all college libraries of the region must avail these facilities. The challenges of the 21st century, the college libraries will have to acquire more perspectives and new competencies. In the modern age of information revolution and information explosion, the libraries and information Centres are facing a number of challenges to strive with the very ethics of librarianship that is to extend maximum service to its clientele. The successful implementation of automation in this part of region was far behind from the reality some years ago. But today with the gradual development of IT and its allied areas, it has become possible to implement library automation in North East Region.

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