
GUJARAT VIDYAPITH LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROBLEMS & PERSPECTIVES

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Background

Gujarat Vidyapith is an institution, imparting higher education and was established by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920, as a Rashtriya Vidyapith. Education should be given in vernacular language in an agriculture based country like India. It should fulfill the needs of this country. Gujarat Vidyapith is having a continuous education system, beginning from 1st standard to the awarding of Doctorate Degree. It is having a very rich and potential library.

Introduction

Library is having at present the collection of 4,25,000 publications. It is having mainly the book collection in English, Hindi and Gujarati. The library is rich mostly in Humanities and Social Sciences. It acquires 900 serials. The library has a resource of non-book materials also.

This library serves the purpose as University Library and also as Public library, as it is open to the public, This library is designated as a State Central Library by the Govt. of Gujarat. Thus it is a unique example of combined library setting namely, University Library, Public library, State Central Library and Depository library.

The maximum use of resources is done by Faculty & Students. This is to be facilitated by the computer-based library services to further satisfy adequately the variety of Information seeking behavior. The management of library adopted library automation programme.

Computer System

Thus the reason for the process of computerisation was mainly on account of the keen desire of the Gujarat Vidyapith authorities to make available the rich and potential literature of the library to its users

and researchers. Computer system of NELCO FORCE 20 selected by expert committee is purchased and installed in the Gujarat Vidyapith Library in 1987.

The support for hardware came from the University Grants Commission

Library Software

The software was developed in-house by the department of computer science. in consultation with the Librarian of Gujarat Vidyapith.

Library Database

First priority is to create database of library catalogue of resources. The library faced the problem of standardisation of format. The Gujarat Vidyapith library created database in its own created format. The library has created the bibliographic database of 3.6 lakhs record.

Library House - Keeping:

With the Installation of computer system, library has started the work of house keeping operations and creation of database.

The module of serials control was taken first, then circulation system started, cataloging cards according to AACR II generated, acquisition system and Information retrieval system has also worked out. Thus the library has become fully computerised.

Hardware and Software Problems :

Hardware has become obsolete (NELCO FORCE-20),

Unify RDMS has become obsolete,

Back-up failed due to hardware problem,

as GIST technology was not available in mini system in 1986.

Database was corrupted due to power problem.

RISC or Pentium based system will be selected now and hence data conversion and rewriting of software in new RDMS.

The Language Problems

English is always the prime language for computer, and hence the books in other languages posed the problems of feeding the information to the computer. As GIST technology was not available in mini system in 1986, the technique of transliteration was adopted.

Books Shifting & Reshelving

Another problem was how to feed the information, whether directly from the book or from Accession register. The information was

fed from the Accession register as well as from the books directly. The work of carrying out the books from the stack to the computer department, and back to stack was very severe. Because of this situation the arrangement of the collection became a serious problem and the readership suffered on account of these problems.

Problem of Data-feeding of Old Books

Approximate 7000 books published before 1900 A.D. are in a deteriorated condition. The problem, we had to confront, is of feeding the information of the old books.

Problem of Same Accession Numbers.

The Gujarat Vidyapith Library has a collection of more than 5 sectional libraries. The same accession numbers repeat on the books of different sectional libraries. In many books only the language numbers are found & not the accession numbers. Such problems were very difficult to solve

Training :

Professionals & Non-Professionals

It was quite necessary to provide training to staff members in regard to use, data entry and retrieving the information from the system. Some of the staff members picked the process of using the computers immediately, while others are very slow or hesitating to work on computers.

Users :

The readers or users are quite unfamiliar to the computer environment. They are also to be trained for getting the information from the database. The process of making familiar to the readers is on-going and it will go on for benefit of the new members .

Future Planning :

G.V. Library has accomplished the task of computerising and solving many complex problems of library, users and management; still many problems remain unsolved.

The following things are to be introduced:

- > Using optical technology, the full content pages of books to be fed in the computer.
- > To introduce the Bar-code technology, for circulation work.
- > To install three or more terminals for users.

- > To provide terminals to each section of library.
- > LAN environment is to be introduced.
- > To train the employees to use the systems properly and effectively.
- > To develop the information retrieval system for the users more efficiently.
- > To give Key-Terms of the subject, which can be useful in locating the materials on particular subject.

New Computerised Services to be Started

- > Bibliographies on regular basis for new acquisitions to the faculty & students.
- > Content alert service to periodicals
- > CAS & SDI Services are to be provided
- > Indexing of Articles from periodicals

Summing Up :

Gujarat Vidyapith has given priority in completing the work of computerisation, even though, we have to confront with many problems in future. We are in the midst of a great paradox - spinning wheel and modern technology of computer based services . Gujarat Vidyapith has reconciled with both types of approaches and successfully fulfilling the task of age old relic and modernisation.

The Vice-Chancellor of G.V has categorically emphasized that computer is there to modernize the library services and so both the departments, computer and library, work in close cooperation for fulfilling the Gujarat Vidyapith goal- dream comes true.

The Computer section has also taken up the teaching programmes in DCA/MCA and now it is emerged as an independent department.

The enlightened management of Gujarat Vidyapith and especially the keen interest and support of our V.C. have played a paramount role in making this great library fullycomputerised,thereby helping and creating an atmosphere for deep study and research for its users.

Now the only problem in future to be faced is the replacement of the new computer system against an old one. So that this challenging task can be fulfilled by Gujarat Vidyapith library and computer center of Gujarat Vidyapith.