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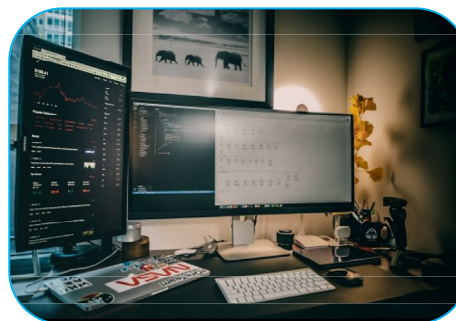
AUTOMATION OF LIBRARY AND VERITY

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ABSTRACT:

This work offers a comprehensive ontological perspective on library automation. The paper not only described the steps involved in library automation, but it also demonstrated the good influence the new trend had on reducing illiteracy and promoting educational growth, particularly in developing countries. In comparison to hurdles to actual library automation, the essay discussed unique capabilities of library automation, such as boosting librarian morale/prestige, job creation/labor division, and so on. However, as the report noted, it is a global time bomb since it has universally spanned the educational development gap that exists between the most developed technical states and the rest of the world.



KEY WORDS: *Library Automation, Advantages of LA, Financial difficulties, etc.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The concept of library automation began decades ago in more technologically advanced countries such as the United States of America, Canada, and the United Kingdom. As a result, it has been observed that the trend has steadily spread to other parts of the world, with the impulse being strongest in developing third-world countries such as Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

Library automation is the process of effectively utilizing computer hardware, software, and related facilities such as networking cables, software packages, and scanners to assist pointes in performing library duties that were formerly conducted manually by librarians. "[...] computers have transcended the status of ordinary computing to communication," [1] "since the uses of computers globally are mostly for communication data in networked systems."

The first step in computerizing library functions and services is to:

- planning processes; selection of hardware and software;
- acquisition of selected hardware and software;
- training of library personnel on the use;
- maintenance of these novel systems;
- networking of computer terminals (interlinking of computers);
- retrospective conversion of library collections, i.e. printed materials and artifacts records, into machine readable options by means of computer software

These steps appear simple, but in recent years, the increase in the rate of publications, which is attributed to the universal growth of human knowledge in relation to the justifiable growth in social, economic, industrial, and educational development, has precipitated the problem of information management, which is a function of all libraries around the world, particularly in Africa and Asia. This issue, namely, adequate information provision and management, has hampered the advancement of education standards in underdeveloped countries.

Surprisingly, the gap in educational advancement between developed and developing countries in terms of technological infrastructure appear to be closing. This is because successive breakthroughs in educational sub-sectors such as libraries have been created in emerging countries such as India, Nigeria, and others. These have resulted in an increase in the use of libraries by students and staff in academic institutions in recent years in areas such as computer application to information management in libraries, teaching of ICTs use and application in library schools attached to educational institutions, and increased educational funding, to name a few.

Today's libraries have evolved from traditional libraries where people consult and borrow books and other printed texts. [2] "That computer technology is becoming an integral aspect of much library employment, particularly in this twenty-first century, when the role of technology in information services is rapidly expanding." Furthermore, the Internet is available exclusively through the use of information technology and communication in libraries. Many libraries have created websites to collect and advertise information links both internally and externally. It's worth noting that automation has enabled libraries all over the world to create complicated and easy worldwide accessible pages listing hours, locations, and available resources, while others have created web layouts in a variety of languages. [3]

It is not an exaggeration to say that library automation is a positive shift. "Academic library patrons face an information landscape that is radically different from the sheltered havens that we experienced as patrons," says the author. "By contrast, our patrons will work in electronic environments where the boundaries between scholarly information, popular resources, and outright misinformation will be blurred." This has been proven to be true, as the government's efforts to provide tangible and clear educational standards to its citizens have increased dramatically in recent years. The government and its agencies have run out of patience with the conventional methods of acquiring, managing, and distributing information resources.

2. REVIEW OF AUTOMATION OF LIBRARY AND VERITY:

The federal government has also released a large financial allocation for the completion of the second phase of the Bayero University Kano Library, which has become a cynosure of all eyes since its completion. Though it is true that the existence of ICTs in libraries, such as computers and internet access, rather than the physical structure, makes a library better suited in current information era. This is true since ICTs have proven to be an effective tool in the fight against illiteracy in both developing and developed countries, particularly in places where illiteracy is a problem, such as Australia and Bulgaria. In the Antarctic, the automation of libraries enables the flow of knowledge across physical geographical barriers with less time and effort, so increasing individuals' information skills in international states. [4]

3. ADVANTAGE OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION:

The usage of computers in libraries across India has shown to be a generous addition to the overall educational betterment of all people, regardless of their social, economic, religious, or racial affiliations. As a result of library automation, the following has occurred: [5]

- Increased patronage and usage of information resources at various information centers, particularly the library, in comparison to the global increase in personnel information quotient. This is because the installation and use of computers and other peripherals in libraries has transformed them into digital studios where information can be easily edited and collected. Furthermore, this unique trend of library automation draws visitors to the library for a variety of reasons, including sightseeing,

recreation, and study. It has been observed that library usage, particularly at universities, has expanded dramatically worldwide, including in India, where people seldom used libraries in the early 1990s. The situation has altered, with librarians and library management increasingly employing methods to reduce overcrowding in their libraries, particularly in university (academic) libraries, such as the use of RFID tags. Clientele at Bayero University's library desire to use, touch, or feel like they're in a computerized digital library.

- Morale and status of library professionals have improved. The concept of who a librarian is, to the layman outside, was subjectively demeaning to library employees in most African states: they were perceived merely as bookkeepers/book dealers of little social significance. Recent cosmic events have spawned the innovative concept of the information era, which requires all humans to live, eat, and sleep with information. It was recognized that in order to conveniently obtain this information in the age, the library's technological capabilities needed to be strengthened, resulting in the gradual transition from manual to computerized methods of executing all library activities and services. As a result, the existence of these equipment's in libraries attracted people to librarians, who are now seen by patrons as technologists or specialists in controlling these equipment's, while also being above the library employees. On their own, the librarian's egoistic characteristics have grown since they now see themselves as information scientists/managers rather than book keepers.
- Streamlining and simplifying library functions, services, and activities. Book selection and procurement, bibliographic searching and reference services, interlibrary loans and collaboration are just a few of the library functions that were formerly done manually, requiring a lot of time and effort. Recent library automation trends have reduced these tasks to a child's fun. This is because "[...] computer application to library has made library job easier and faster to accomplish" [6]. When successfully implemented, library automation has the potential to breach globally recognized physical limits. This is a truism, because libraries that use the international network system can participate in resource sharing activities amongst themselves, reducing the amount of money spent on physical information resources.
- Job opportunities within the library are being created. The presence of computers and their accessories necessitates this. In less than a decade, the library has evolved from a focal point of only a facility where books are maintained to the pinnacle of an organization. Web developers, computer teachers, maintenance officers, and ICT managers/officers, to name a few, are new masculine job categories in libraries nowadays, particularly academic libraries.
- The automation of libraries has made purchasing information resources for their libraries more affordable. This is because other techniques, in which libraries must employ manual procedures to pick and acquire their resources, are more expensive and require more human effort. As a result, libraries may now obtain information resources via the World Wide Web and the Internet, making it more affordable for them to obtain more current information resources such as journals, which are very expensive to obtain in physical format.

Though these notable new tendencies, which are the outcome of library automation, have gone a long way toward influencing and stabilizing the educational aims and objectives of all international states. There are still certain roadblocks in the way of proper library automation. Among them are: [6]

Financial Difficulties:

Although it has been reported that library administration and librarians are willing to make adjustments from traditional library methods to new trends, the lack of funding is a limiting factor. This element has been considered as a result of library management's lukewarm attitude toward library development over time. As a result, management maintains a tight grip on funding for the acquisition of new library technology and tools.

There is a scarcity of qualified competent librarians:

Libraries, particularly in underdeveloped nations, are staffed by a variety of people who are not qualified librarians. As a result, these library workers lack the ability to perform correctly in a library environment, resulting in the library's underdevelopment in terms of function and services provided.

Librarians' lackadaisical approach toward providing service:

The ability of librarians to cooperate with teachers is critical to the future of libraries. To accomplish so, the librarian must be treated on a same footing with faculty. Today's librarian should be aware of her library's and the library's culture; they should live and participate in the intellectual conversation that is so important to the university community; and they should be continually engaged in academic research. This will dispel many people's misconceptions about what a librarian is.

Once these obstacles are overcome, librarians and libraries all around the world will breathe a sigh of relief as a result of the pleasant environment generated by library automation.

4. CONCLUSION:

So far, the journey has focused on the global impact of library automation. Although it is cost-effective, the end result is seen as attractive. Interestingly, all libraries' modus operandi is to free mankind from the clutches of the evil mechanism of illiteracy and misinformation, as it is noticed that people are naturally information sick until they are properly taught (schooled) in the art of information extraction and utilization.

In this age of information explosion, any library that relies on manual means of rendering services will be unable to achieve this goal. Though this study correctly highlighted that effective library automation is the only way to fully elevate librarians and clients to the level of information consciousness. The requirement for a balance between technology knowledge and traditional library practice is critical. As a result of the universal improvement of information literacy, a greater balance between all countries is achieved.

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