



IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES AFFILIATED TO GULBARGA UNIVERSITY: A STUDY

Dr. G. S. Biradar

Assistant Librarian, Gulbarga University, P. G. Centre, Raichur.

Abstract:-

This paper reveals the Need and importance of the Resource Sharing and networking of college libraries affiliated to Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. I have also tried to give some definition and strategies for resource sharing and networking in college libraries of Gulbarga University. The library resource sharing and networking helps to promote and facilitate sharing of the resources available within a group of libraries in order to provide maximum information to the users at lower operational costs and also to make optimum use of national resources. Networks enable librarians to face client's information needs beyond their local resources, to identify and obtain materials and services for those clients. The investigator sought information from the respondents to mention the importance of resource sharing and networking of college libraries.

KEYWORDS:-

Resource Sharing, Networking, Library Automation,

INTRODUCTION:-

Global information technology and communication capacity is escalating, and India, with its population of more than a billion, is fast emerging as a knowledge hub. The growth of Indian telecom and of IT skills subsequently developed leave India well-placed to use infrastructures to create centers of excellence that unite universities, colleges and research institutes as well. Libraries play a vital role to explore the large number of data and information with the use of ICT and networking with the emergence of knowledge in an education world. Libraries are no longer the storehouse of knowledge in the form of books and other reading materials: they have now become the crux of major research activities going on in the country. Now in days an importance is given to the R & D to develop indigenous technology. In this scenario, Academic libraries, especially degree college Libraries are playing a vital role in information production processing and dissemination to meet the needs of the search workers. Hence library and information professionals should adopt the latest technologies to meet their user demands as well the library's own demand. To fulfill such requirement, the libraries should have networking with each other. If, networking is there, it would be very cost effective which will really be beneficial to the management of Self Finance Institutions which ultimately benefited to the Librarian and library staff also. Before understanding the Needs of Networking, we should understand that; what is Resource Sharing, because resource sharing is the base of Networking of Libraries.

RESOURCE SHARING :

Sewell (1981) observes that resource sharing may appear to be nothing more than a new term for the familiar concept of library cooperation, but there is a significant difference in the approach. He further

Title: IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES AFFILIATED TO GULBARGA UNIVERSITY: A STUDY Source: Review of Research [2249-894X] Dr. G. S. Biradar yr:2013 vol:2 iss:7

IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES.....

observes that, the new term appears rather to assume a range of physical, intellectual and conceptual resources on the one hand and a body of people with library and information needs on the other, and covers the activities involved in organizing the one into a set of optimum relationship to meet the needs of the other. Resource sharing may be seen as a term for working out inter-institutional relationships for the benefit of users in a profession which is frequently described as changing from a materials-orientation to a client-orientation.

The concept of resource sharing involves two words i.e. Resource and Sharing. Resource means wealth or available assets and Sharing means giving, to have or use with others. Thus, resource sharing means sharing ones assets with others. Resource sharing in libraries means sharing material or function or services; any of the two; or all.

BENEFITS OF RESOURCE SHARING:

1. The reading material can be accessed which are not available in our library.
2. To have access different services which are not available in the library.
3. To economize the cost of organization and management of libraries.
4. To have integration of library and information services of system, or of a geographical area.
5. Reciprocity leading to better interaction among libraries.
6. Can have better and quality library services.
7. Saves the time, money, space, man power and effort.

RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING OF LIBRARIES:

As explain benefits of resource sharing, resource of libraries is becoming inadequate day by day, not only the increased number of users, but also due to the increased cost of the materials and the inadequate allocation of funds. The number of learned periodicals in the field of science and technology alone has now increased to triple in size at a rate of 1000 periodical per year. Several commissions like Radha Krishna commission of 1948 and the Kothari Commission of 1964 had recommended that 6.25 % to 10.0 % of the overall education budget of each college should be allotted to library. Besides lack of manpower, paucity of space and inadequate of collection owing to financial crisis, improper management and facility makes no library as self sufficient one. Under these baffling circumstances, engineering college libraries are needs to forming networks for better resource sharing to provide their level best services to the users.

SUCH LIBRARY NETWORKS IN INDIA:

The automation and networking of many universities, national institutions and other institutions of higher learning has been initiated by the national agencies dealing with information and library networks like NICNET, INFLIBNET, DELNET, CALIBNET and other metropolitan and city networks which have started developing various bibliographic databases of their holding. NICNET and ERNET have made email/internet service available to the academic as well as in government sectors. Some of the metropolitan and city library networks like ADINET, MALIBNET, CALIBNET, PUNNET, BONET etc. have been initiated and couple of them have started functioning and providing various online service through these networks.

WHAT IS NETWORK? :

Network can be defined as a group of individuals or organizations that are interconnected. The advent of computers and new developments in telecommunication technology made networking a global phenomenon. Library and information institutions are forming networks to achieve better resource sharing and to provide better service to the users.

NEED OF THE NETWORKING:

In view of the technological changes coupled with changing user's expectations, there is a great need to study the existing resource sharing practices and to understand the librarians' views about the new ICT based services and their willingness to collectively undertaken such activities through a national level network.

Therefore, there is an immediate need to examine how the resource sharing activities can be redesigned and re-engineered for better and effective ways of sharing the library resources. Many studies in

IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES.....

the past have shown that the network approach is the most effective way of pooling and sharing resources. Therefore, in view of the above facts, there is a need to examine the feasibility of national level network for coordinating various resource sharing activities.

Technological infra-structure is the back bone of a network. Therefore the study has also attempted to find out status of library automation and existing technical infrastructure in major college libraries of GUG. The strength and weakness of the existing infrastructure will also get due exposition in the study.

Coordinating a national level network cannot be done by a single individual or a library. Therefore, an analysis of the role and activities of country's existing networks and their models need to be examined to incorporate their best practices and experience to be build a successful and user oriented social science libraries network. A resource-sharing network can succeed in its mission, provided there is an active participation by the members. Therefore, there is also a need to find out librarian's willingness to participate in the resource sharing activities.

Though there is a wealth of resources on a host of subjects (in English, Kannada and other languages) in Gulbarga University Library and Affiliated College Libraries of Gulbarga University, the situation today is as follows:

- a) There has been no means, so far, for students and faculty in these colleges to benefit from the widely held collections.
- b) A sizable user population, particularly in the rural regions served by the University, do not have access to useful resources since their college libraries do not as yet have electronic collections, many of them having been started only in recent years.
- c) There is considerable avoidable duplication of resources since the Gulbarga University library and the college libraries are not aware of the resources of each other.
- d) It has not been possible for the libraries to share expensive resources.
- e) Equally, there has been no concerted effort to develop cooperative acquisitions policies especially for costly serials.
- f) Libraries are increasingly under financial pressure and acquisitions budgets in real terms are not able to cater to the demands of all categories of users.

- Easy access to information about resources available throughout the Gulbarga University and the affiliated colleges of GUG.
- Easy access not only to metadata but also to the full text of important materials.
- Easy access to learning objects both for students and faculty
- Better sharing of resources and greater exchange of data and information among the different libraries.

Until the 1990's it was considered adequate for libraries to automate and make their collections available online. Today, however, libraries must not only automate to enable better efficiencies but also network if resources are to be made accessible equitably and shared efficiently for the benefit of students and faculty across the University. Fortunately, an academic library network is possible to be built cost-effectively using web-based technologies and the students can acquire such type of knowledge only, when they are familiar with these techniques while studying. So, keeping all these factors in mind the researcher chooses this study of Resource Sharing at graduate level and is presenting a model of networking for the Gulbarga University and College Libraries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The philosophy behind the concept of resource sharing and networking of college libraries affiliated to Gulbarga University is to provide 'access' to library resources and services of different college libraries, as a measure of economics and efficiency. It is based on the concept of 'equivalence' i.e. libraries should not only receive but also give resources. The under mentioned are the main objectives of the present study.

1. To know the existing collections, infrastructure and services offered in selected college libraries;
2. To understand the existing resource sharing activities and the methods in college libraries affiliated to Gulbarga University;
3. To explore the feasibility of introducing new resource sharing and networking activities and willingness

IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES.....

of library professionals to participate in such activities;
4. To develop models for web based resource sharing and networking tools and bibliographic databases;
5. To interface a suitable thesaurus with the data entry module, while creating records for online bibliographic database;
6. To develop a suitable pricing model for consortia-based subscription to electronic journals;
7. To propose a model for the college libraries network and how to resource sharing activities can be coordinated by it.

FORMULATION OF THE HYPOTHESIS

The study intends to test the below mentioned hypothesis:

1. The information resources in majority of college libraries are inadequate;
2. Majority of college Libraries have better IT infrastructure facilities;
3. The financial position of college libraries in Rural and Un-aided colleges are very poor as compared to urban and Government and Private Aided colleges;
4. Majority of libraries have fully computerized their house keeping operations;
5. Very few college libraries have access to e-journals;
6. Inter-disciplinary research is the most accepted reason to participate in inter-library cooperation.

METHODOLOGY:

The choice of a method is based on the nature, scope and objectives of the research. Keeping in view the objectives of the study, an effort has been made to evolve a suitable methodology for the research. The principal tool for data collection in the study is a 'survey research' with a well designed questionnaire supported by the observation on the IT applications in different libraries. Additional information was collected from various sources from published and unpublished documents. Based on the objectives of the study a structured questionnaire was designed. The printed questionnaire was sent to all degree colleges to affiliated to Gulbarga university.

The draft questionnaire was distributed to 10 college librarians, each with a different year of establishment, courses, categories, and geographical locations. The responses received by them were briefly analyzed and their suggestions were incorporated in the final questionnaire. Thus after necessary modifications and incorporations, the final questionnaire was prepared for circulation among all the 158 college libraries.

The test the suitability, reliability and relevance, a pilot study was found necessary. The first draft of the questionnaire was distributed among 10 librarians working in Degree College libraries. Based on the feedback received, the questionnaire was then adequately and suitably modified and mailed to the selective samples of 195 librarians working in different colleges affiliated to Gulbarga University. A regular follow-up was done and repeated reminders for non-respondents were sent from time-to time, over postal mail and e-mail. Personal visits were also made to libraries in cities such Gulbarga, Bellary, Bidar, Raichur and Koppal.

Among the total samples of 195 librarians, 158 librarians (81.03%) responded to the survey. Given the relatively high responses rate, it is reasonable to assume that the answers represent the views of all the college librarians of Gulbarga University. The responses received were analyzed by using different statistical methods.

The comprehensive literature review presently undertaken covers a rich wealth of documentary sources giving the details of resource sharing and networking activities among various college libraries of the Gulbarga University. The review has identified previous and present research projects on resource sharing methods employing ICT and library networks. These studies assisted to gain a better understanding of the complexity and reviewed in Chapter-2. The qualitative information required for the study was collected by visiting various libraries and interacting with the professionals.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The scope of this study is confined to the Degree Colleges affiliated to Gulbarga University as on 2008. The present study does not cover Women's Degree colleges, Law Colleges, since the said institutions have separate university viz, Karnataka State Women's University and Karnataka State Law University. The Study is based on the primary data collected from librarians, and it does not covers the user opinion in view of the vast geographical area as well as the large number of users population.

IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES.....

University Grants Commission has also launched an ambitious programme to bring about a qualitative change in the academic infrastructure. UGC is modernizing the university campus with state-of-the-art campus wide networks and setting up its own nation wide communication network. So, in the present study I have covered the few of Gulbarga University colleges.

Prerequisites for Networking of Libraries:-

- Paper work and planning for initiate the same.
- Agreement for implementing cooperation with proper format.
- Establishment of facilities for sorting little used materials
- Agreement to share the currently owned materials, with protocols, limitations and priorities carefully spelled out
- Schemes for intelligent organization of data/documents
- Methods of adequate delivery of resources to users (the output media)
- The subject interest area should be a common one among the centers being connected
- Compatibility between the computing systems available with the organizations to be netted is essential
- To ensure the ability of network among the resource sharing libraries, a compatible record format is highly desirable
- Standardization of policies and procedures across the network and adhered to by all participants in order that these tasks could be performed and shared in efficient manner.
- Adequate means of information dissemination
- Formal established organizational cooperation
- Established and functioning communication links (telephone, telex, fax, satellite communication channels, or any high configured communication facility through which communication can be done easily)
- Deep study of copyright law for resource sharing the reading material.

CONCLUSION:-

Network resource sharing is an important factor in the growing era of information explosion. Information and Communication technology today has made resource sharing a reality. Therefore, it is necessary to build a Resource sharing and Networking for college libraries in India. India has basic infrastructure for creating of a resource sharing network. Today Internet making the whole world as a global village, this internet also has the capability to integrate all the libraries of world to a single global library with the development of resource sharing network .

REFERENCES:

1. Balakrishnan, Shyam. (2000). Networking and the future of libraries. New Delhi: EssEss.
2. Basandra, Suresh K. (1999). Computer today. New Delhi: Galgotia.
3. Jha, Pawan Kumar. Library networks and network based information services in India. <<http://pawankumarjha.tripod.com/dissertation/chapter3.html>>
4. Kaul, S. Information resource sharing models in developing countries: a network emerging from the World Bank supported environmental management capacity building project. <<http://www.fh.potsdam.de/~IFLA/INSPEL/01-1kasu.pdf>>
5. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. (1975). Towards a national progress for libraries and information services: goals for action. Washington: Govt. Printing Office.
6. Prasad, Kiran. (2004). Information and communication technology. New Delhi: BR Publishers.
7. Ramamurthy, C.R. (2003). Globalisation and library information networking. New Delhi.
8. Raman Nair, R. (2003). Information technology for participatory development. New Delhi: Kaveri.
9. Satyanarayana, R and Rajan, T.N. (1984). Information networks: structure and operation with reference to India. In: International Information Communication and Education, pp. 156.
10. Harries, Steve (1993). Networking and Telecommunications for Information Systems: An Introduction to Information Networking. London: Library Association Publishing.
11. INFLIBNET Memorandum of Association and Rules (1996). New Delhi: UGC.
12. INFLIBNET Review Committee Report. New Delhi: UGC.
13. Kaul, H.K. (1992). Library Networks: An Indian Experience. New Delhi: Virgo Publications. Kaul, H.K. (1999). Library Resource Sharing and Networks. New Delhi: Virgo Publications.