Soft Skills among Librarians in Degree Colleges in Kalyan Karnataka Region

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Abstract

This study deals with level of soft skills possessed by Librarians in Degree Colleges in Kalyan Karnataka Region and also to identify searching behavior of Website – Searching & accessing online databases including Inflibnet databases by covering 105 librarians. Results found that majority of librarians are possessing better soft skills in using technology based resources and still there is a need to improve their skills for better user services.

Keywords: Soft Skills, IT Skills, INFLIBNET, Search Skills

Introduction

In the recent years Internet Technology has revolutionized the concept of library. Information technology now plays an important role in improving the library facilities. With the growing popularity of internet, which provides loads of information with just a click of a mouse, one may pause to think about the decreasing relevance and importance of a library in today's world. But one should keep in mind that a person goes to a library not only to search and get information from books but also to sit and study there. The ambience and the peaceful and scholarly atmosphere then helps one to concentrate more on one's work and study. Thus, libraries will never become redundant. They will always be there to indicate the presence of a well-read and educated society.

Information technology (IT) is the modern buzz word, it has provided facilities for the free flow of information. The world has become a global village with information superhighways created through networks like Internet. This has facilitated electronic librarian-ship with the diversification of library facilities and services to its user. The concept of virtual libraries OPAC, Hypertext, and teleconferences for the purpose of library and information services have become common (Sujatha, 1999).

New technological developments have already profoundly affected libraries; almost every function carried out in a library has been altered to some extent by advances in electronics, computerization, and telecommunications. The technological evolution in libraries has been called a "quiet revolution" (Abdus-Sattar, 1997). The changes brought about by advances in technology have been so extensive that it is difficult to assess their total effect, but is clear that libraries are in the state of fundamental transformation. To achieve this, a well-established library is essential for any academic and

research institution to support teaching, learning, and research. Thus, Library and Information Services in the academic and research institutes occupy central role in enhancing the quality of learning, teaching and research activities.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are

- To determine the level of soft skills possessed by Librarians in Degree Colleges in Kalyan Karnataka Region
- To Identify the searching behavior of Website – Searching & accessing online databases including Inflibnet databases.

Methodology

Questionnaire method would be adopted for collecting data from respondents who are mainly College librarians from the six districts of Kalyan Karnataka region. A total of 120 degree colleges i.e. Government Colleges and Private Aided colleges are covered in the study, out of which 105 librarians responded.

Results and Discussion

Table 1
Gender distribution of the respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	79	75.2
Female	26	24.8
Total	105	100.0

Table 1 shows the gender distribution of the study respondents. It is found that majority proportion of the respondents, more than three-fourth (79, 75.2%) are male respondents. And, a significant proportion of the respondents, less than one-fourth (26, 24.8%) are female respondents.

Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents are male in the present study population.

Table 2
Age distribution of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
40 to 50 years	93	88.6
51 and above	12	11.4
Total	105	100.0

Age distribution of the study respondents is presented in table 2. It is found that majority proportion of the respondents, more than four-fifth (93, 88.6%) are belongs to the 40 to 50 years of age. A small proportion of the respondents, more than one-tenth (12, 11.4%) are belongs to the age group of 51 years and above.

Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents are middle aged between 40 to 50 years.

Table 3
Hardware- Use of computers

Level of competency	Frequency	Percentage
Very Good	66	62.9
Good	19	18.1
Satisfactory	20	19.0
Total	105	100.0

Table 3 reveals about the level of competency of the respondents for using computers. It is found that majority proportion of the respondents, more than three-fifth (66, 62.9%) have opined that they are very good in using computers. Small proportions of them, less than one-fifth (20, 19%) and (19, 18.1%) have opined that they are satisfactory and good in using computers respectively.

Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents are very good in using computers.

Table 4
Hardware- Use of IPod

Level of competency	Frequency	Percentage
Very Good	19	18.1
Good	30	28.6
Satisfactory	37	35.2
Poor	9	8.6
Very Poor	10	9.5
Total	105	100.0

Level of competency of the respondents for using IPod is shown in Table 4. It is found that majority proportion of the respondents, less than two-fifth (37, 35.2%) have opined that they are satisfy in using IPod. A significant proportion of them, more than one-fourth (30, 28.6%) said they are good in using IPod. Small proportion of the, less than one-fifth (19, 18.1%) opined that they are very good in using IPod. Whereas, small proportions of them, less than one-tenth (10, 9.5%) and (9, 8.6%) have opined that they are very poor and poor in using IPod respectively. Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents are satisfactory in using IPod.

Table 5
Hardware- Use of Scanners

Level of competency	Frequency	Percentage
Very Good	47	44.8
Good	38	36.2
Satisfactory	20	19.0
Total	105	100.0

Table 5 reveals about the level of competency of the respondents for using scanners. It is found that majority proportion of the respondents, more than two-fifth (47, 44.8%) have opined that they are very good in using scanners. A significant proportion of them, less than two-fifth (38, 36.2%) said they are good in using scanners. Small proportion of the, less than one-fifth (20, 19%) opined that they are satisfactory in using scanners.

Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents are very good in using scanners.

Table 6
Software- Installation of operating system

Level of competency	Frequency	Percentage
Very Good	38	36.2
Good	19	18.1
Satisfactory	29	27.6
Poor	10	9.5
Very Poor	9	8.6
Total	105	100.0

Table 6 reveals about the level of competency of the respondents for installing operating system. It is found that majority proportion of the respondents, less than two-fifth (38, 36.2%) have opined that they are very good in installing operating system. A significant proportion of them, more than one-fourth (29, 27.6%) said they are satisfactory in installing operating system. Small proportion of the, less than one-fifth (19, 18.1%) opined that they are good in installing operating system. Whereas, small proportions of them, less than one-tenth (10, 9.5%) and (9, 8.6%) have opined that they are poor and very poor in installing operating system respectively.

Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents are very good in using installing operating system.

Table 7
Software- Installation of library automation software

Level of competency	Frequency	Percentage
Very Good	29	27.6
Good	26	24.8
Satisfactory	23	21.9
Poor	9	8.6
Very Poor	18	17.1
Total	105	100.0

Table 7 reveals about the level of competency of the respondents for installing library automation software. It is found that majority proportion of the respondents, less than one-fourth (29, 27.6%) have opined that they are very good in installing library automation software. Significant proportions of them, less than one-fourth (26, 24.8%) and (23, 21.9%) said they are good and satisfactory in installing library automation software. Small proportion of the, less than one-fifth (18, 17.1%) opined that they are very poor, whereas a small proportion of them, less than one-tenth (9, 8.6%) have opined that they are poor in installing library automation software.

Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents are very good in installing library automation software.

Table 8
Website – Searching & accessing online database

Level of competency	Frequency	Percentage
Very Good	29	27.6
Good	29	27.6
Satisfactory	47	44.8
Total	105	100.0

Level of competency of the respondents in searching and accessing online database is shown in Table 8. It is found that majority proportion of the respondents, more than two-fifth (47, 44.8%) have opined that they have satisfactory level of competency in searching and accessing online database. And, significant proportions of them, more than one-fourth (29, 27.6%) and (29, 27.6%) have good and very good level of competency in searching and accessing online database.

Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents have satisfactory level of competency in searching and accessing online database.

Table 9
Skill in using INFLIBNET Services

Level of competency	Frequency	Percentage
Very Good	58	55.2
Good	19	18.1
Satisfactory	28	26.7
Total	105	100.0

Table 9 reveals about the level of competency of the respondent's skill in using INFLIBNET. It is found that majority proportions of the respondents, more than two-fourth (58, 55.2%) have opined that they have very good level of competency skill in using INFLIBNET. A significant proportion of them more than one-fourth (28, 26.7%) have satisfactory level of competency skill in using INFLIBNET. Small proportion of them less than one-fifth (19, 18.1%) have good level of competency skill in using INFLIBNET.

Therefore, it is clear from the above table, that majority of the respondents have very good level of competency skill in using INFLIBNET.

Conclusion

Rapid technological development makes skills depreciate faster than in the past while new technologies generate gaps in workers' skills and call for the acquisition of appropriate skills and lifelong learning. Proper skill mixes for future jobs include strong cognitive skills, basic information and communication technology, and analytical skills, as well as a range of non-cognitive skills such as creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication. Results are encouraging but still there is a need to improve further to facilitate in better IT gadgets in the Library and to extent technology based services to the users in the college environment.

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