Automation of Academic Libraries: Barrier and its Solution

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Abstract:

The main objective of this paper is to find out the important of library automation in this information technology environment. It can be help to the save the time, space and man power of administrative and library user. The benefits of Library automation are both to the library staff and the users as it level of job stress on the staff timely provision of up to date information to the users. These papers are to portrait the level library automation and reveal the problems faced by the librarians. The technology, both hardware and software would be expensive and unaffordable. The cost of hardware and software depends on the level of automation. From the user point of view cataloguing system is most important and also forms the base for other library activities. This paper disused on, meaning of automation, what is library automation, barriers for library automation and its solution.


Introduction:

Library Automation is the most important Subject in the today’s world. The word Automation is derived from Greek word ‘Automose’. Automation means automatic handling of parts between progressive motility processes. Library automation the early 1960 several countries like the USA and UK began to using computers. In this era computerization was improved and better understanding was made between librarians and computer specialists. The main objective of library automation is to free the librarians and library staff and allow them to contribute more meaningfully to disseminate knowledge and information. In fact when we use Computers for collection, Processing, storage and retrieval of information and to other types of works of library with the help of computers is called library automation. Library automation is possible with the help of software and hardware.

Today in this information technology era there are many software and hardware available in the markets. But both are very costly, and not easy to handle to library staff as well as to the users. So, due to the lack of library budget it is most important to select and paches those software which is not costly and easy to handle to the library staff and its users.

Meaning of Automation

According to Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, “automation is the technology concerned with the design and development of process and system that minimize the necessity of human intervention in operation”. (Kent, 1997)

According to Webster’s Third new International Dictionary of English Language Automation is defined as “automatically controlled operation of an apparatus, processor system by mechanical or electronic device that takes place of human organs of observation, effort and decision”. (Gove, 1966)

According to Webster’s Third New International Dictionary of English Languages, automation is, “the techniques of making an apparatus, a process or a system operate automatically”. In other words, it is the machinery that mathematically manipulates information storing, selects, presents and records input data or internally generated data. Mechanization of library house-keeping operations predominantly by computers is known as library automation. (Gove,1986).

Form the above definitions Automations means ‘automations is the process of using mechanical or electronic devices for system operate automatically and help to saving the time and human power.

Library Automation:

Library automation can be defined simply as the use of computer and networking technologies in the library. The use of computer Technology for the library Housekeeping operation and information storage and retrieval is known as library automation. Library automation machineries for Collection, Processing, and storage retrieval Information types of works of library with the help of machineries are called library automation. Library automation refers to use of computer hardware and software to easy work.

According to Oxford English Dictionary, Automation is application of automatic control to any branch of industry or science by extension, the use of electronic or mechanical devices to replace human labor (Simpson & Weiner, 1989)
Advantages of Library Automation:
The major advantages of library automation are:
- Save the time and power
- Easily to Search Information
- Speedy Commutation
- Helpful in Stock Verification
- Easily working with the help of automation
- Helpful in resource Sharing
- It motivate to library staff as well as the users
- Development of manpower resources
- Labor saving
- Cost benefit
- Easy to use any time any where
- User friendly

Disadvantages of Library Automation:
There are some disadvantages of library automation such as:
- More number of computers should require.
- Good quality of internet.
- Security Problems
- Power supply facility should be there.
- Skilled and well trained staff should require.
- Digitize their resources for online access to information.
- Library orientation required at a specific interval.
- The electronic devices should be in working condition
- No error in Barcode.
- No error in RFID.

Barrier of Library Automation:
- Lack of Cost
- Hardware and software Costly
- Lack of Knowledge of Hardware and software
- Financial Constraints
- Lock of Staff to Handle Technology
- Lack of Automation Policies
- Lack of Telecommunication Facility
- Data Validation Work
- Utilization of Automation Fund for other Purpose
- Power Backup System
- Lack of skilled manpower and assignment of other duties to staff
- Computer Training and job Assignment
- Lack of Support from college Authority
- Mindset of Library Staff
- Switch over to new technology
- Assessment of electronic publications
- Eyestrain Problem
- Ownership of the electronic Publications
- Training of Professional and end users

From this all Problem the major Problem are as Follows:
**Lack of Cost:**
In India there is luck of Problem to provide the financial support to the academic organization.

**Hardware and software Costly:**
Majority of the hardware & software not development in India that way this software & hardware very costly library cannot Parches the costly hardware & software.
Lack of Knowledge of Hardware and software:
The hardware & software not have born in our country, the people not aware about the technology so they don’t know how to use this devise.

Lock of Staff to Handle Technology:
The present staff of the library is not knowledge about technology they cannot handle easy this technology.

Lack of Automation Policies:
The Library staff not aware about Automation Become there of Policies about the automation of library.

Utilization of Automation Grant for other Purpose:
This is a main Problem of library automation the library fund properly not provided to library this fund used for other purpose.

Lack of skilled manpower and assignment of other duties to staff:
For the automation library are manpower should be well skilled so due to the lack of skilled manpower they assignment of other duties to staff.

Costly equipment:
For library automation the all equipment is very costly such as computers, machineries, etc.

Solution of Library Automation:
Need of provide the Economical help for buy best hardware, software and other equipment to the library from Central agencies, (UGC), State, local Government. Libraries should conduct training program time to time for development of library staff. There should be usable on a large variety of machines and be capable of handling different activities in the library. User awareness and orientation is very much needed. The users comprise managerial policy makers as well as the research scholar and regular clientele of a library. All the data or information should be secure with the help difference security tool such as user of antivirus, firewalls and taking a backup of data time to times. Inverter should be used for power backup.

Conclusion:
In this digital Era the library has moved to information Technology Environment. In this era we are going though digital library, electronic library, Web 2.0, tools, Hybrid library, Using the new Technology for library resource Management and Sources. For providing the good library Services and well resource management these is need to provide the skilled management and Economical help for Propose best hardware, software and other equipment which are needed library automation.

Reference:
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