
The ICT Skills among Library Professionals in Select Engineering Colleges in Tamil Nadu: A Study

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Abstract

The present study deals with the Information and Communication Technology Skills of Library Professionals selected in North Zone wise Engineering Colleges of Tamil Nadu: A Study. The finding of the study using the ICT skills of working as a Engineering Institutions of the Library professionals. Today requires much type of skills, one of the skills of Information and Communication Technology oriented in the field of library science. The occupy anywhere in ICT skills important role of the library profession. The study concludes the majority of the library professionals in North Zone wise Engineering Colleges using the ICT Skills (84.80%).

Keywords

Information and Communication Technology Skills,
Academic Library and Electronic resources

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INTRODUCTION

In the Libraries, ICT's has tremendously changed the Management of Resources or House Keeping Operations as well as the way services are delivered. While general IT application tools and Integrated Library Management Systems are largely used in housekeeping operations, like acquisition, cataloguing, circulation control, serials control etc; Internet has been used extensively as a resource as well as a tool to deliver the Library and Information Services.

“Library is a growing organism” – so states one of the laws of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. As libraries grow, changes are inevitable. Changes sweeping across libraries have never been so pronounced as seen in recent times with the advent of ICT applications in libraries. Phenomenal changes are seen in the way user's access information and how libraries are managing their information resources in the present era. These changes are also affecting library and information science (LIS) professionals in new ways as never before.

Skills

Skill is an ability to execute a task, which is required for a person to plan and implement goals or accomplish a particular work. A skilled person can face the challenges that occur in a particular profession because of the social, economic, educational and technological changes. Thus in order to cope with the ever-changing library a practice and information science profession, the library professional must be a skilled professional. The librarians are facing new challenges, new competitions, new demands, new expectations and a variety of information services from users. In the present scenario they need to be more acquainted with the skill of handling new technologies related to collection, processing and dissemination of information.

The concern that gave rise to the study being reported was whether librarians were satisfied with their ability to perform a group of skills recommended for the new millennium and whether their geographical environment was either an impediment or an asset to their current skills capability and their continued professional development.

ICT Skills

It is information technology, which generates the most vigorous debate in relation to the changing role of the librarian. The technological advances continue to ask questions of the support services, including the library. The Library services examined on the balance between collection development and the accessing of information electronically To keep up to date with subject –based knowledge and accompanying its developments. To play an advisory role in guiding students and staff through the diverse range of electronic sources, formats and services.

- To train library staff and users.
- To access to electronic sources of information including for various academic activities.

Developments in the ICT have made profound changes in each and every field. These developments are also known as Computer/Information /Communication/Internet /Multimedia revolution, binary age, information age, information society, information superhighway, and digital age. The changes are evident all over the world, and its effects being felt in every walk of life and in every field of knowledge also there is a change in the needs and interests of the readers. Hence, the role of library and information professionals has also changed dramatically.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Murugan and Dhanavandan.(2016) presented the paper “ Use of ICT Faced by the challenges in the Library professionals selected in Tirunelveli Area. We are living with online environment to access any place or anywhere connected through internet. The library professionals are required ICT based technologies and required skills of the digital environment. This article indicated the most of the library professionals are use of ICT Faced by the library professionals are 82.81 percent. Narasappa and Dharani Kumar.(2016) carried out “ICT Skills for LIS Professional in the Digital Environment.”Libraries are growing emphasis on use of information technologies have undergone major structural changes in terms of their collections, organizations and services. As the changes occurred in library environment the library and information science professionals should be acquaintance with different skills.Selvantony (2014) reported on “A Study on Skills of Library Professionals in Engineering Colleges of Tamil Nadu.The purpose of the study was examining the various skills of library professionals in Engineering Colleges of Tamil Nadu.

The study was conducted using surveying method with sample of 617 respondents to determine level of skills like low, high and moderate among library professionals. I in all the categories of Library staff are found more in the moderate skills and found less in the high skills among Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Library Assistant.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives of the study are below:

- To analyze the ICT skills by the library professionals in North Zone wise Engineering Colleges: A Study
- To find out the Library Professionals according to Gender
- To explores the Awareness of ICT Skills
- To identify the using ICT Tools
- To explore the Using ICT Skills and
- To investigate the Purpose of Using ICT Tools

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study was found that only Five region of the North Zone of the Engineering colleges surrounding area of Tamil Nadu. The present study is totally 125 questionnaires distributed and 106 are responded in the survey.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology was used in the questionnaire - based survey was conducted to find out ICT skills among of library professionals and the professionals were classified under three categories namely Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Library Assistant.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Table.1:Distribution of the North Zone wise Engineering Colleges

S. No	Name of The Zone	Distribution of the Questionnaire	Received the Questionnaire	%
1	Chennai	25	25	23.58
2	Dharmapuri	25	18	16.98
3	Kanchipuram	25	22	20.76
4	Dharmapuri	25	20	18.86
5	Thiruvallur	25	21	19.82
Total		125	106	84.80

Table.1 gives the Distribution of the North Zone wise Engineering Colleges questionnaires were distributed to 125. 106(84.80 per cent) responded to the survey.

Table 2: Distribution of Library Professionals according to Gender

Library Professionals	Gender				Total	%
	Male	%	Female	%		
Librarian	31	40.26	11	37.94	42	39.62
Assistant Librarian	25	32.47	9	31.03	34	32.07
Library Assistant	21	27.27	9	31.03	30	28.31
Total	77	72.64	29	27.36	106	100

Data in Table.2 reveal the distribution of Library Professionals according to Gender. Out of 106 respondents, Male library professionals is in the top most level (72.64%) followed by females are (27.36 %.).

Table 3: Distribution of Library Professionals Awareness of ICT Skills

Library Professionals	Awareness of ICT Skills				Total	%
	Yes	%	No	%		
Librarian	39	40.63	3	30	42	39.62
Assistant Librarian	32	33.33	2	20	34	32.07
Library Assistant	25	26.04	5	50	30	28.31

Table 5: Distribution of Library Professionals Using ICT Skills

Library Professionals	Using ICT Skills					Total
	Computer Operating Skills	Library Software Skills	Open source Software Skills	Online resource Skills	Maintain of Computer Skills	
Librarian	13	10	5	9	5	42
	30.95	23.8	11.9	21.42	11.93	39.62
Assistant Librarian	9	8	6	7	4	34
	26.47	23.53	17.66	20.58	11.76	32.07
Library Assistant	7	5	8	5	5	30
	23.36	16.66	26.66	16.66	16.66	28.31
Total	29	23	19	21	14	106
	27.37	21.69	17.93	19.81	13.20	100.00

Table 5 possess the status of majority of faculty members are using ICT Skills are Computer Operating Skills (27.37%), followed by Library

Total	96	90.56	10	0.94	106	100
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The above Table 3 reveals the distribution of Library Professionals Awareness of ICT Skills. Out of 64 respondents, Librarian are awareness of ICT skills on the top most level (90.56%) followed by non using ICT tools are (0.94%).

Table 4:Distribution of Library Professionals Using ICT Tools

Library Professionals	Using ICT Tools					Total
	Computer	Laptop	Mobile Phone	Printer	Scanning	
Librarian	9	5	18	7	3	42
	21.42	11.93	42.85	16.66	7.14	39.62
Assistant Librarian	7	7	13	5	2	34
	20.58	20.58	38.23	14.73	5.88	32.07
Library Assistant	6	2	14	6	2	30
	20	6.66	46.68	20	6.66	28.31
Total	22	14	45	18	7	106
	20.75	13.20	42.47	16.98	6.60	100.00

Table 4 explained, the status of majority of faculty members are using ICT Tools are Mobile (42.47%), followed by Computer (20.75%), Printer (16.98%), Laptop (13.20%) and Scanning (6.60%). The most of the Faculty Members are using ICT Tools are regularly.

Software Skills (21.69%), Online resource Skills (19.81%), Open source Software Skills (17.91%) and Maintain of Computer Skills (13.20%).

Table.6 Distribution of Library Professionals purpose of Using ICT Tools

Library Professionals	Purpose of Using ICT Tools				
	To Commu- nication	Access of E- ournals	To Career Develo- pment	To Update Knowle- dge	Total
Librarian	12	17	8	5	42
	28.57	40.47	19.04	11.92	39.62
Assistant Librarian	8	8	7	11	34
	23.52	23.52	20.58	32.38	32.07
Library Assistant	5	10	8	7	30
	16.66	33.35	26.66	23.33	28.31
Total	25	35	23	23	106
	23.58	33.02	21.70	21.70	100.00

Table 6 find out the library professionals are using ICT Tools are Access of Electronic Journals (33.02%) followed by Communication (23.58%), To Career Development and To Update Knowledge are both (21.70%).

MAJOR FINDINGS

The majority of the library professionals in North Zone wise Engineering Colleges using the ICT Skills (84.80%).

The majority of the Male library professionals (72.64%) and females (27.36 %.).

The majority the awareness of ICT skills (90.56%) using the library professionals.

The majority the using of ICT Tools are using Mobile Phone (42.47%)

The Computer Operating skills are using the majority of the library professionals (27.37) and

The accesses of Electronic Journals are (33.02%) in the Library professionals.

CONCLUSION

The development of Information and Communication Technology has major role of the libraries and library professionals. The recent year's growth of various technologies and using various skills. The library professionals ready to focus the challenge and motivate in recent and future year of engineering institutions. The major role of the library as the knowledge centre of engineering and related using the online resources.

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