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Study on Awareness of Library Automation Software and Information Technology Fluency Levels among Librarians in State Libraries

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Abstract: *Library is a place where knowledge and information built by the public, a building or room containing various types of books, periodicals, and at times films and recorded music where institution and public members can read and borrow books. With 4000 state run libraries of various types in the state of Tamilnadu, the Libraries constitute an important component in the civil society with an initiative dating back to 75 years. Despite having such importance, most of the state run libraries in the state of Tamilnadu are operated with manual procedures without major automation initiatives. Hence, considering the possibility of future the Library automation, the present work attempts to identify the awareness levels of the library automation software among the Librarians constituting those libraries. With sample size of 505 Librarians identified on stratified random sampling procedure, the present work established sufficient levels of association between ICT Fluency levels of the Librarians with that of their awareness on Library Management Software. Other related findings and corresponding implications constitute the outcome associated with this work.*

Keywords: *Library, Library automations, Automation Software, ICT Fluency and Software Awareness*

I. Libraries In Tamilnadu

Library is a place where knowledge and information built by the public, a building or room containing various types of books, periodicals, and at times films and recorded music where institution and public members can read and borrow books Issa and Abdulwahab, (2009). The citizens in all walks of life use the public library resources, facilities and services. These users include pupils, students, teachers, scholars, scientists, business executives, administration officials and even dropouts Basil and patience, (2012).The libraries in general can be classified as government and private libraries. While the operations of the private libraries are funded by the private entities, all the government libraries are funded by the governments. As far as the government libraries operated in the state of Tamilnadu is concerned, a state library committee, headed by the education minister for the state, governs the all central, district and rural libraries Thus, in total there are 4575 libraries (including district central libraries, branch libraries, village libraries, part time libraries and mobile libraries) all over Tamilnadu Senthur, (2013). Libraries handle varieties of resources which can be classifies as Books, Reference Sources such as Dictionaries, Handbooks. Biographical documents and Government Documents. Also, some of the other general readable resources such Newspapers, Journals, Magazines and Dissertations/Theses are provided for public usage in the libraries. In addition to these resources, modern libraries provide huge access to various digital documents and e-resources. These resources are managed within the libraries by the desiginated personnel like Librarians, Library assistants and helpers.

1.1 Library automation

The term library automation refers to the phenomenon of automation of conventional library actions, such as acquisition, serial management, cataloguing and circulation management etc. Also, the term "library automation" is used to refer the usage of computers to carry out the library actions such as information recovery, semi automatic/automatic indexing system of Library resources. "Library Automation" is usually suggested as the substitute of manual operation in libraries by computerized method. The Library automation in India can be traced back to 1970s in little special libraries and it has now reached the majority of all kinds of libraries. In these directions over the past three decades, libraries have altered the operations considerably as bibliographic utilities, online catalogues; automated movement systems and other new technologies have been implemented in bulk of library operations and services Naveen and Nagesh, (2016). In this regard, Das and Chatterjee, (2015). have listed of some commercial library automation software packages deployed extensively in various libraries. These automation software include LiMS**,** Nirmals, Koha, Vitrua, In-house EasyLib, SmartCampus, Netlib, Libsys, Libsoft, Soul, E-Granthalaya, Lib-Manager Libsuite, ie-Lib, SLIM++, Chancellor, Pal Pup, NewGenLib, YLAS and IOZEN. While these automation software were identified to have been deployed extensively in various private and specialist libraries, adoption of these automation schemes into the operations

of various state run libraries remain insignificant.. While various reasons can be attributed for such non adoption, the incorporation of IT in any workplace warrants higher fluency levels of IT among the potential employees including the library personnel of various state run libraries in the state of Tamilnadu.

1.2 Information Technology Fluency

Information technology permits the simultaneous appearance of a vast array of information, ideas, concepts, and messages enabling the operations of various work entities. Fluency in Information technology is about effectively exploiting, that expressive power of IT in various walks of Life. Thus, fluency in Information technology enables a person to achieve a variety of different tasks using information technology and to expand different ways of accomplishing a known task. It's been determined that fluency with information technology requires three kinds of capacities such as contemporary IT skills, foundational IT concepts and intellectual capabilities Herbert, (2002).

(a) Contemporary IT skills

This is the ability to use today's computer applications, enabling people to apply information technology immediately. In the present labor market, IT skills are an essential component of job readiness. Mostly, IT skills provide a store of practical experience on which an individual can a build new competence.

(b) Fundamental concepts

This refers to the foundations on which information technology is built. The concepts are fundamental to information and computing and are enduring in the sense that new concepts may become important in the future as qualitatively new information technologies emerge, but the presented list of fundamental concepts will be augmented rather than replaced by new concepts.

(c) Intellectual Capabilities

Some of the intellectual capabilities that form the basis in establishing the IT fluency levels of an Individual include the traits such as Engaging in sustained reasoning, Managing complexity, Testing a solution, Managing problems in faulty solutions, Organizing and navigating information structures and evaluating information, Collaborating, Communicating, Expecting the unexpected, Anticipating changing technologies and the ability to think about information technology abstractly.

II. Review of Literature

The initial reference position for the present work can be established through the various previous studies which are grouped under the following two categories such as studies on Library automation and studies on Information Technology Fluency

2.1 Studies on Library automation

Ahmad and Iqbal (2009) studied on Library Automation of Al-Barkaat Institute of Management Studies, Aligarh with the help of Alice for Window (AFW) Library Software. The study found that ABIMS Library was the first fully automated library among all self financing Institutes available in Aligarh, which is providing, Online services to its users through Inter Library LAN System were users can access the library database from the Online Public Access (OPAC) and also help the library staff to provide good reference service to staff and students.

In a study conducted by Bansode and Shamin (2008) on library automation in college libraries in Goa to find out whether libraries have undertaken automation, areas of automation, whether sufficient staff is available to carry out automation and barriers to automation faced by the libraries. The study has thrown the light that majority of the college libraries have no qualified librarians as per UGC guidelines. Of the 23 libraries with automation, as the findings show, only one has specialized staff in ICT. The study also suggested that library staff should be sent to training courses to upgrade their IT skills, so that they can become competent to automate their libraries.

The concept of automation has changed the scenario of library management. In this regard, while discussing library automation, its problems and prospects Bhanja and Barik (2009) highlighted that success of library automation mostly depend upon nature of software used for the purpose and emphasized on selection of good library software for automation in libraries for successful automation.

Francis (1998) discussed standard requirements of library software in Indian context and provide a broad guideline for the same. As the study reveals, standard software should be issued and suggested to establish a constant mechanism to make library professionals aware about the development in the field of issuing of guidelines for standard library software.

Joshi and Nikose (2011) while discussing problems and prospects in automation and networking of libraries in India, highlighted some of the scientific and technical libraries working and leading in library automation under such as R&D institutions like CSIR, ICMR, ICAR AND DRDO. The study also described networking as the linkage of working procedures for the exchange of information resources and revealed some

of the barriers of networking. Potentialities of INFLIBNET, as the study shows, are still not known to many academic libraries. Further, the above study observes insufficiency in to providing appropriate funds to academic libraries for automation initiatives.

Mulla and Chandrashekara (2010) carried out a survey of engineering college libraries that have computerized their operations and services. The survey provided an implicit view of the professional experiences of the engineering college librarian in computerizing their house keeping operations. Further findings of the study reveals, that 14 percent of the libraries in engineering colleges still remain manual for reasons such as Lack of computer facility, financial problems, lack of trained manpower and inadequate library collection.

2.2 Studies on Information Technology Fluency

Sardone (2011) conducted a study on using a causal-comparative research method, data from 120 undergraduate students studying computer concepts were analyzed to determine the relationship between learning environment, IT fluency, and course satisfaction. The purpose of the above research was to examine the relationship, if any, between traditional and constructivist learning environments to the development of IT fluency and course satisfaction in a course in which students were learning to become IT fluent under a revised definition. The above study is among the few quantitative studies designed to analyze the factors influencing IT fluency in the general college undergraduate population. Results suggested that in learning environments based on active learning strategies, IT fluency was achieved and course satisfaction was significantly higher regardless of preferred learning style. The above research can be used as conceptual model of how current college students prefer to learn IT to determine how undergraduate programs might change existing curricula to better prepare their students for the rapidly changing workplace. Overall, the above study findings add to an understanding of higher education learning environments, student characteristics, and how IT fluency is achieved. The results of the above study has implications for designing learning environments and usage associated instructional methods that foster learning IT concepts in undergraduate programs. Further, these results provided additional support to the constructivist learning theory and its execution in higher education classrooms where IT concepts are taught to non-technology majors.

Willis (1995) in a study stated that forceful imposition of information technology on faculty was not conducive to learning, Further, placing pressure on faculty to adopt information technology may actually have a negative effect on faculty's willingness to adopt new IT methods.

Mackey and Jacobson, (2011) et al. stressed the need for spreading IT literacy a compulsory skill to be achieved by everyone. The above study differentiated IT literacy and IT Fluency.. Social media environments and online communities are innovative collaborative technologies that challenge traditional definitions of information literacy. Meta literacy is an overarching and self-referential framework that integrates emerging technologies and unifies multiple literacy types. This redefinition of information literacy expands the scope of generally understood information competencies and places a particular emphasis on producing and sharing information in participatory digital environments.

Gayol and Boubsil (2009) conducted a study on digital fluency pointed out that in less than four decades, information and communication technology (ICT) has changed the way people work, communicate and learn. Digital competencies are now essential in the knowledge society and universities all over the world are adopting ICT standards to enhance these competencies regardless of the instructional modality used (online, blended or face-to face).

Digital fluency has become a strategic goal in education, since knowledge workers are required to intensively use information technology products and services. A vast amount of literature assessing instrumental ICT skills is available at all levels of education and training. However, reports exploring digital competencies related to academic tasks in graduate education are scarce, particularly those addressing ICT fluency beyond the notion of technical literacy. The above study reports the level of digital fluency found amongst faculty of a graduate distance education institution. The ability of faculty to access and communicate with students at a distance is explored. A customized survey evaluating the ICT skill levels associated with specific mentoring tasks was designed and applied to a random sample of faculty at three graduate colleges. The analysis of the institutional context provided a strong foundation for professional development and policy making in the three graduate colleges.

Caruso and Caruso (2005) reported that over 70 percent of the undergraduate students interviewed in the ECAR study indicated a preference for at least a "moderate" use of IT as a means of instruction. In a survey, faculty in the Department of Leadership expressed an even stronger preference, with over 80 percent preferring at least "moderate" use, and the majority of those indicating a preference for the "extensive" use, of technology in the classroom. Although, the DL faculty did not assess the level of impact on their students' learning as highly as was described, they did indicate a general liking for IT as an instructional tool, felt it had a positive impact on their teaching, and, for the most part, expressed confidence about their abilities to use IT well. While

the ECAR students rated "convenience" as the chief benefit offered through IT, the DL faculty gave their strongest scores to the ways in which IT has helped them communicate better with their students.

III. Objectives and Methodology

3`1 Objectives

1. To identify awareness of the Library Management Software among the Librarians
2. To measure the ICT fluency levels among the Librarians
3. To find out the association between the ICT fluency levels and awareness of the Library Management Software among the Librarians

3.2 Measurement scale details

Questionnaire was framed for the present study comprising the measurement schemes for measuring the factors (a) Demographic Profile of the respondents (b) List of Library management software and (c) ICT fluency components. Out of the above three factors, the ICT fluency components are measured with 5 point liker scale. The data collected were analyzed with Statistical package for Social Science (SPSS) with descriptive statistics and chi-square analysis.

3`3 Sampling details

The primary data for the present work is collected among the librarians working in Government libraries of Tamilnadu in 6 districts out of 32 identified on random basis. The districts constituting the sampling procedure include Madurai, Sivagangai, Cuddalore, Coimbatore, Erode, and Tirunelveli. In order to measure the accurate response, the questionnaire employed was translated in Tamil Language appropriately and was subsequently administered to 550 Librarians representing 550 libraries in the above listed sampling areas on random manner. The filled up response could be collected successfully from 505 respondents on random basis. Since, the filled up sample could be obtained successfully from 505 librarians out of 4000 total libraries in the state of Tamilnadu, the sampling sufficiency norms of more than 5 percent of the total population is ensured in the above survey and hence, the sufficiency of samples for the present study could be ensured. The primary data for the present study is collected between the period May 2016 and July 2016. Based on the sample identification procedure carried out and stated above, the sampling procedure for the preset study could be categorised as Stratified Random Sampling method.

IV. Analysis and Interpretation

4.1 Awareness of library automation software

The details of awareness of Library Management Software among the librarians are provided in table-1, where it can be inferred that the Library Management Software like LiMS, Nirmals, Koha and Vitrua are identified to be known to more than 60 percent of the Librarians.

Table 1: Details of Librarian's Awareness on Library Management Software

S.no	Details of library management software	Librarians awareness on library management software		
		Those who have awareness		Those who do not have awareness
		422 (83.56%)		83 (16.43%)
		Librarians Familiarity with the software		Total No. of Respondents (N)
		Those who are Familiar	Those who are Unfamiliar	
1	LiMS	75 (14.85%)	430 (85.14%)	505 (100%)
2	Nirmals	66 (13.06%)	439 (86.93%)	505 (100%)
3	Koha	64 (12.67%)	441 (87.32%)	505 (100%)
4	Vitrua	62 (12.27%)	443 (87.72%)	505 (100%)
5	In-house	49 (9.70%)	456 (90.29%)	505 (100%)
6	EasyLib	47 (9.30%)	458 (90.69%)	505 (100%)
7	Smart Campus	40 (7.92%)	465 (92.07%)	505 (100%)
8	Netlib	38 (7.52%)	467 (92.47%)	505 (100%)
9	Libsys	37 (7.32%)	468 (92.67%)	505 (100%)
10	Libsoft	32 (6.33%)	473 (93.66%)	505 (100%)
11	Soul	31 (6.13%)	474 (93.86%)	505 (100%)
12	E-Granthalaya	27 (5.34%)	478 (94.65%)	505 (100%)
13	Lib-Manager	8 (1.58%)	497 (98.41%)	505 (100%)
14	Libsuite	7 (1.38%)	498 (98.61%)	505 (100%)
15	ie-Lib	3 (0.59%)	502 (99.40%)	505 (100%)
17	SLIM++	0	0	505 (100%)
18	Chancellor	0	0	505 (100%)
19	Pal Pup	0	0	505 (100%)

20	NewGenLib	0	0	505 (100%)
21	YLAS	0	0	505 (100%)
22	IOZEN	0	0	505 (100%)

However, the Library Management Software like Lib-Manager, Libsuite and ie-Lib are identified to be known to less than 10 percent of the Librarians. Also, the Library Management Software like SLIM++, Chancellor, Pal Pup, NewGenLib, YLAS, IOZEN are identified to be not known to any of the Librarians constituting this study. Around one third or more number of Librarians have reported their awareness on Library Management Softwares like In-house, EasyLib, Smart Campus, Netlib, Libsys, Libsoft, Soul and E-Granthalaya. While 83 percent of the Librarians have reported their awareness on Library Management Software, the details provided in the table-1 confirms the unawareness of Library Management software among 16 percent of the Librarians. Thus, the existing higher level of awareness on Library Management Software is viewed with higher level of importance towards automating the Libraries in the near future.

4.2 Details of ICT Fluency level of the library staff

The details of Information Communication Technology (ICT) expertise among the librarians are provided in table-2, where it can be inferred that more than 80 percent of the Librarians are identified to have expertise in ICT Fluency components such as Internet surfing, Word and Power point applications.

Table 2: Details of ICT expertise among Librarians

S.no	General ICT Fluency Components	Librarians Familiarity with the Information Communication Technology		
		Those who have Expertise	Those who do not have Expertise	Total No. of Respondents (N)
1	Expertise in surfing Internet	477 (94.45%)	28 (5.54%)	505 (100%)
2	Expertise in using (M.S power point)	411 (81.38%)	94 (18.61%)	505 (100%)
3	Expertise in using (M.S word)	408 (80.79%)	97 (19.20%)	505 (100%)
4	Expertise in using applications (M.S Excel)	378 (74.85%)	127 (25.14%)	505 (100%)
5	Expertise in carrying out e-Commerce transactions	375 (74.25%)	130 (25.74%)	505 (100%)
6	Expertise in doing Internet voice chatting	366 (72.42%)	139 (27.52%)	505 (100%)
7	Expertise in availing E-mail facilities	361 (71.48%)	144 (28.51%)	505 (100%)
8	Expertise in using net banking applications	358 (70.89%)	147 (29.10%)	505 (100%)
9	Expertise in using Data base applications	346 (68.51%)	159 (31.48%)	505 (100%)

Also, more than 70 percent of the librarians have expertise in net banking, e-mail usage, and voice chatting over Internet, carrying out e-Commerce transactions and in data processing applications. In terms of lack of expertise among the Librarians around 30 percent of the Librarians lack expertise in some of the essential ICT fluency components such as Net banking and Data base applications.

Association between library automation software awareness and ICT Fluency levels

Table 3: Results of Chi-Square Analysis of Association between ICT Fluency Levels and Awareness on Library Management Software

Awareness index of Library Management Software	ICT Fluency levels						Total	
	Low IT Fluency		Medium IT Fluency		High IT Fluency			
Those who are unaware	33	6.53%	27	5.34%	23	4.55%	83	16.43%
Those who cited one software	85	16.83%	**139**	**27.52%**	**81**	**16.03%**	305	60.39%
Those who cited two software	37	7.32%	**27**	**5.34%**	**23**	**4.55%**	87	17.22%
Those who cited three software	5	0.99%	**5**	**0.99%**	**5**	**0.99%**	15	2.97%
Those who cited four software	5	0.99%	**5**	**0.99%**	**5**	**0.99%**	15	2.97%
Total	165	32.66%	203	40.18%	137	27.11%	505	100%
Result of Chi-Square Test								
	Value	**Df**	**Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)**					
Pearson Chi-Square	14.121	8	Significant at 5 Percent level					
N of Valid Cases	505							

The kind of association that exist between librarians ICT Fluency levels and their Awareness index of Library Management Software was defined in the hypothesis X taken up and its results are shown in table 3 as an outcome of Chi-Square analysis and corresponding cross tabulation. It can be observed that 60 percent of the librarians have awareness about only one Library Management software, whereas 6 percent of them have awareness about three or more number of such software. Further, 33 percent of the Librarians have low ICT fluency levels, 40 percent of them are having medium ICT Fluency levels with 27 percent of them having high ICT Fluency levels. Also, from the results shown, it can be inferred that the Chi-square value of 14.21 with 8 degree of freedom has been found to be significant at 5 percent level. Hence, the hypothesis X is rejected and

this establishes significant levels of association between librarians ICT Fluency levels and their Awareness index of Library Management Software Also, the corresponding cross tabulation established between the different levels of ICT Fluency and Awareness index of Library Management Software is shown along with the table 3, where a significant pattern of association can be identified between higher levels of awareness index on Library Management software and ICT Fluency levels. More specifically 57 percent of librarians are found with this association pattern. This result forms the basis to relate ICT Fluency levels with that of awareness index of Library management software among the librarians.

V. Findings

The major finding of this work is the existence of association between ICT fluency levels and the awareness index of Library Management Software among the Librarians. Further, 57 percent of the librarians are identified to be with this association and thus, forms the basis to take-up hassle free automation initiatives in various state run libraries. This finding made in this work can be substantiated by the following other findings;

1. Library Management Software like LiMS, Nirmals, Koha and Vitrua are identified to be known- to more than 60 percent of the Librarians.
2. 83 percent of Librarians have awareness on at least one of the Library Management Software. 17 percent of them do not have awareness on any of the Library Management Software.
3. 80 percent of the Librarians are identified to have expertise in ICT Fluency components such as Internet surfing, Word and Power point applications.
4. 70 percent of librarians have expertise in net banking, e-mail usage, and voice chatting over Internet, carrying out e-Commerce transactions and in data processing applications.
5. 30 percent of Librarians lack expertise in some of the essential ICT fluency components such as Net banking and Data base applications.
6. 60 percent of the librarians have awareness about only one Library Management software, whereas 6 percent of them have awareness about three or more number of such software.
7. 33 percent of the Librarians have low ICT fluency levels, 40 percent of them are having medium ICT Fluency levels with 27 percent of them having high ICT Fluency levels.

VI. Implications and Conclusions

The findings on the existence of association between ICT fluency levels and the awareness of library management among the librarians gives scope for taking up automation initiatives without much hassle in state run Libraries. Further, the higher levels of ICT fluency components among the Librarians are an encouraging aspect in devising a training program for ICT adoption in Libraries. More specifically, the incorporation of digital contents and other e-resources can be conveniently carried out through the existing Library infrastructure of the state. Also, the existing ICT expertise levels of Librarians in the State run Libraries gives scope for incorporating certain e-governance initiatives in the Library premises other than the existing such facilities.

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APPENDEX
QUESTIONNAIRE
SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

1. Name (optional):----------
2. Designation: ----------
3. Department: ----------
4. Gender:

(a) Male	(b) Female

5. Age: (in Years)

(a) Less than 21	(b) 21 – 30	(c) 31 – 40	(d) 40 – 50	(e) Above 50

6. Educational Status:

(a) School dropouts	(b) Up to 10^{th} or 12^{th} STD	(c) Diploma or technically certified	(d) Graduate	(e) Post-graduate

7. Total family Income per month:

(a) Up to Rs.5000	(b) Rs.5000 to Rs.15000	(c) Rs.15000 to Rs.25000	(d) Rs.25000 to Rs.35000	(e) Above Rs.350000

8. Marital Status:

(a) Single	(b) Married

9. Income Earners:

(a) Dependent or single earning	(b) Married, one income	(c) Married, two income	(d) Married, three income	(e) Others

10. Occupational Status:

(a) Self employed	(b) Private employee	(c) Government employee	(d) Employed in MNC	(e) Others

11. Total Family Members:

(a) 1	(b) 2	(c) 2-4	(d) 5	(e) Above 5

12. Total work experience:

a) below 5 yrs	b)[ ] 5-15 yrs	c) [ ] 15-25 yrs	d) [ ] 25-30 yrs	e)[ ] 30 yrs & above

13. Experience in the present organization:

a) below 5 yrs	b)[ ] 5-15 yrs	c) [ ] 15-25 yrs	d) [ ] 25-30 yrs	e)[ ] 30 yrs & above

14. Distance between residence and workplace:

a)[ ] below 02 km	b)[ ] 02-10 km	c) [ ] 10-25 km	d) [ ] 25-30km	e) above 30 km

SECTION 2:
The Following Section captures the General Information of libraries in which you are employed

G S.NO	**GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE LIBRARY**	**Library Resources**	**Pl Please Tick**
15 (A)	Mention the library resources that are handled in your library	Books	
		E-books	
		Journals	
		News Paper	
		Magazines	
		If Others (Please Specify)	
15 (B)	Mention the library management software your are aware about	**Software**	**Please Tick**
		Libsys	
		Koha	
		Nirmals	
		Soul	
		Vitrua	
		Libsoft	
		EasyLib	
		In-house	
		Netlib	
		Smart Campus	
		LiMS	
		ie-Lib	
		E-Granthalaya	
		Libsuite	
		SLIM++	
		Chancellor	
		Pal Pup	
		NewGenLib	
		YLAS	
		IOZEN	
		Lib-Manager	
		If Other (Please Specify)	
		I am unaware of the above software's	**YES [ ]**

SECTION 3:
The following section captures your IT fluency levels

S.NO	GENERAL ICT FLUENCY COMPONENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	neither agree nor-disagree	disagree	Strongly disagree
16(A)	**I have expertise in surfing Internet**					
16(B)	**I have expertise in availing E-mail facilities**					
16(C)	**I have expertise in doing Internet voice chatting**					
16(D)	**I have expertise in using net banking applications**					
16(E)	**I have expertise in carrying out e-Commerce transactions**					
16(F)	**I have expertise in using (M.S word)**					
16(G)	**I have expertise in using (M.S power point)**					
16(H)	**I have expertise in using applications (M.S Excel)**					
16(I)	**I have expertise in using Data base applications**					
16(J)	**I have expertise in Programming language**					

The Survey ends*