Full Length Research Paper

MBA college librarians' perception of ICT in Andhra Pradesh

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The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has changed the way library professionals interact, communicate, share and acquire knowledge. However, when the computer was created it did not have features and facilities for users to interact. With the evaluation of Internet and Communication Technology, manual library has evolved into a dynamic, interactive and collaborative platform that facilitates exchange of knowledge and information amongst its users. A survey was taken among management college librarians to access their awareness of rapidly developing ICT field.

Key words: Management Colleges, LIS Professionals, ICT's

INTRODUCTION

The growth and development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is playing a vital and viable role in the process of advancement of society in general and particularly in library and information science. ICT not only saves the time of librarians and users but also processes the data accurately at a faster rate (Ojho, 1995). According to Eugine Garfield, the role of librarians will in no way be diminished by these new electronic system and services they offer. Information manager (Cherukulath and Raghuram, 1999) will gather, collate, arrange and make information available. Thus adoption of ICT's should not be considered as a library, but as an added tool to provide information (Kumar and Vashishth, 1999) services.

Some of the salient traits of ICTs in academic libraries are as follows:

1. Increased computer power leading to speeder and cheaper computer processing.
2. Cheaper data storage- optical storage media.
3. Digitization of information – text, graphics, photographs, speech, sound, video etc.
4. Better data transfer between different systems and media; improved telecommunication such as integrated services digital network (ISDN).
5. Decreased size of equipment.
6. Increased reliability of hardware and software to perform repetitive and routine jobs.

Improvement in Information and Communication Technology led to development of digital libraries; therefore awareness about ICT is very important for library professionals to cope with multifaceted and multidimensional collection management and provide accountability to institutions and patrons. Therefore a survey was taken among management college librarians to evaluate the ICT Skills among them. Information has been obtained from librarians/Head of library department of 36 management colleges in Andhra Pradesh through an online survey method. Details are carefully analyzed and presented as tables, graphs, pie charts and Venn diagram for easier comparison between various ICT aspects.

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REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Atulomah (2010) discusses a pilot study to gather information about the attitudes and knowledge of academic librarians in Southwest Nigeria concerning Library 2.0. The benefits of and barriers to installing information and communication technologies (ICT) in Nigerian university libraries are discussed. Demographic and attitudinal variables of the respondents are noted. Recommendations include the Nigerian Library Association's continuing efforts to gain global recognition, mentoring and training of young librarians by senior librarians, and solving the country's energy problem so ICT infrastructure can be developed.

Adeyinka (2009) examines the attitudinal correlates of some selected Nigerian Librarian towards the use and application of ICT in their various libraries. A total of 41 librarians from all the four censured automated libraries in Oyo State of Nigeria formed the study's population. Two research questions were developed to guide the study. The results indicate that all the four out of the five variables age, gender, educational qualifications and prior knowledge of ICT significantly correlate with librarian attitude towards ICT; while the other variable ICT anxiety correlates negatively with the librarian attitude towards ICT. Findings further show that all the 5 variables significantly predict librarian's attitude towards ICT with prior ICT experience showing the greatest predictive effect.

Dhanavandan (2008) had made an attempt to identify usage of Information Communication Tool among the library professionals in Tamil Nadu. Nearly 175 questionnaires were distributed among the library professionals in Tamil Nadu. Nearly 170 responses (97%) were received. It is found that all the respondents are using in one-way or the other various types of ICT Media tools.

Objectives

The present study has been carried out with following objectives

1. To make a survey in order to assess awareness of information and technology skills among the MBA college librarians of Andhra Pradesh.
2. To find out different types of ICTs commonly used by librarians.
3. To find out the preference of respondents in using various categories of operating systems in management institutional libraries.

Limitations of the study

1. The study covers only top 36 Management institutional library professionals, even though there are 210 institutions in Andhra Pradesh.

2. Although 50 questionnaires were distributed only 36 responded. So the survey is limited to 36 responses.
3. The study covers only Librarians/Head of the Department of management libraries, and not other library staff members viz Asst.Librarian, Library Asst etc.

METHODOLOGY

There are total of 210 management institutions in Andhra Pradesh, of which top 50 institutions were taken under survey. The present study was carried out to evaluate the responsiveness of Information and Communication Technology Skills among management institutional Librarians in Andhra Pradesh. Research method followed was an online survey method; structured questionnaire tool was used to collect the data. The online questionnaire was e-mailed to 50 librarians and only 36 (72%) filled in questionnaires were received (Table 1). Figure 1 represents response rate of respondents.

Analysis of Data

The received questionnaires were carefully edited tabulated and analyzed. To make the data analysis statistically sound, necessary statistical techniques (SPSS) and diagrams are used.

Mode of acquiring ICT skills

Questions were asked in the context of resources of acquiring information and communication technology skills among librarians. The analysis of responses are tabulated in Table 2; it is observed that 27.77% librarians gained ICT Skills through academic education, 5.55% were trained by suppliers of computers and software packages, whereas 36.14% acquired ICT skills through private training programmes and 8.33% by attending workshops and seminars, 13.88% through self study and 8.33% librarians by online LIS groups and forums.

Level of computer literacy

Realizing the importance of computer knowledge to assess ICT proficiency, data were collected in the present study which reveals that most of the respondents are computer literate and possess basic knowledge on computers and other Information Technology tools. Further, attempts were made to know about the degree of knowledge of respondents which have been presented as a bar diagram (Figure 2).

It is depicted from Figure 2 that, according to their own assessment, maximum respondents (59.63%) have average knowledge on computer and Information Technology tools. It is followed by good knowledge (34.23%), poor knowledge (6.14%) and it should be noted that none of them have responded of having excellent access over computer and IT tools.

Usage of different data storage devices

Various data storage devices such as CD/DVD, Pendrive, and Floppy disk can be used for preserving and transferring data. The study attempts to know frequency on usage of data storage devices by librarians and the result is summarized in Table 3.
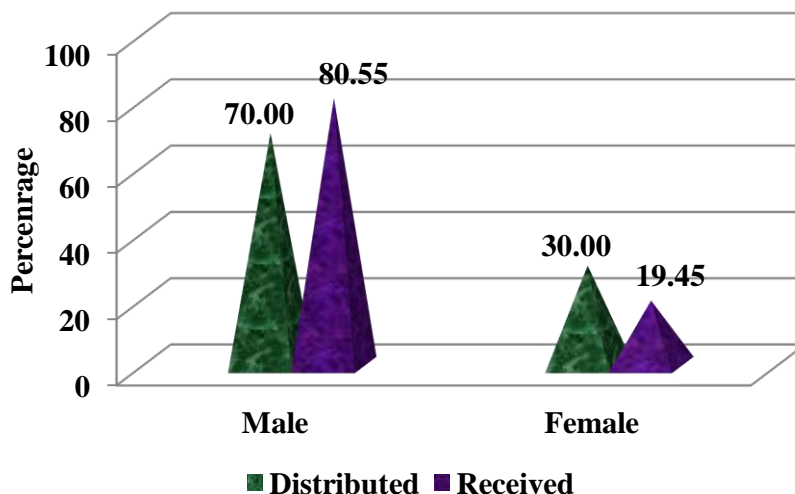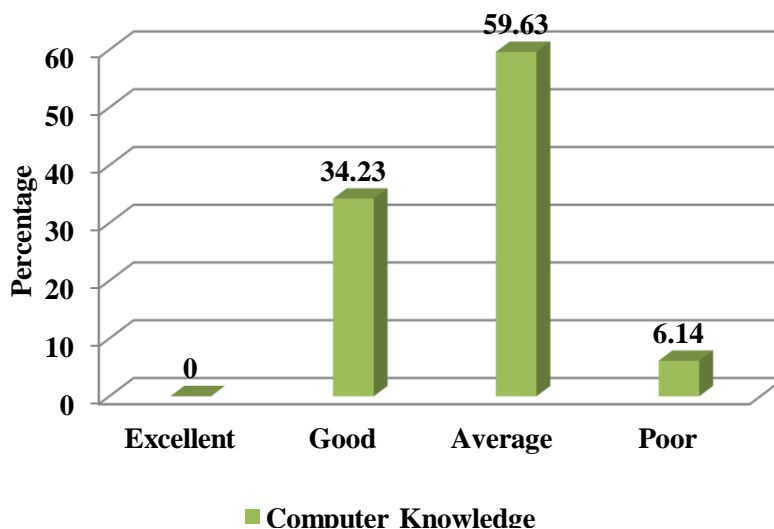
Figure 1. Response rate.

Figure 2. Degree of knowledge on computer and information technology tools.

The analysis of the data in Table 3 reveals that most commonly CD/DVD (97.23%) is used by librarians, followed by 61.21% that uses Pendrive; 52.76% uses Hard/Portable Hard disk, 19.43% use SD /Mini SD Card, 5.54% uses Floppy disk and only 2.78% respondents opined for usage of Audio/Video Cassettes. Ratings were given by respondents for each data storage devices, where CD/DVD ranked first and Cassettes ranked last which indicates Cassettes are lastly preferred by librarians.

Awareness on handling operating system

As mentioned in Table 4 most of the librarians covered in the present study have reported positively for awareness on handling windows operating system (88.89%). Very few librarians have mentioned positive response towards handling UNIX (2.78%) and Linux (8.33%) system respectively, and none of them reported for handling Mac Operating System and Sun Solaris.

Skills on usage of ICT packages

The librarians were asked question about skills on usage of ICT Packages. It is observed that most of the librarians were aware on usage of MS-Word (33.34%), MS-Excel (19.45%) and MS-Power Point (13.88%) respectively. 8.33% of library personals are aware of all the ICT packages. The details are depicted in Figure 3.

Usages of Search Engine

Study was carried out to know the knowledge regarding usage of search engines like Google, Yahoo, AltaVista, Dogpile, and Infoseek etc. The analysis is presented in Table 5.

From Table 5, it is observed that 92.67% librarians are aware of Google, while 38.89% are aware of yahoo and 19.45% has knowledge about AltaVista followed by 11.10% for Dogpile and 5.54% for Infoseek; finally, 8.32% reported having knowledge about

Table 1. Sample size.

S.No	Gender	Questionnaire distributed	%	Questionnaire received	%
1	Male	35	70.00	29	80.55
2	Female	15	30.00	7	19.45
Total		50	100	36	100

Response rate: 72%.

Table 2. Mode of acquiring ICT skills.

S.No	Mode of acquiring ICT skills	No of librarians	%
1.	Though academic education	10	27.77
2.	Training by suppliers of computers and software packages	2	5.55
3.	Private training programmes	13	36.14
4.	Attending workshops and seminars	3	8.33
5.	Self study	5	13.88
6.	Online LIS Group / LIS Forums	3	8.33

N=36.

Table 3. Usage of various data storage devices.

S.No	Data storage devices	No of librarians	%	Rating
1.	CD-ROM / DVD	35	97.23	1
2.	Hard / Portable Hard Disk	19	52.76	3
3.	SD / Mini SD Cards	7	19.43	4
4.	Pendrive	22	61.21	2
5.	Audio / Video Cassettes	1	2.78	6
6.	Floppy Disk	2	5.54	5

N=36.

Table 4. Awareness on handling of operating system.

S.No	Operating system	No of librarians	%
1.	Windows	32	88.89
2.	Unix	1	2.78
3.	Linux	3	8.33
4.	Mac OS	0	0
5.	Sun Solaris	0	0

N=36.

other search engines.

Knowledge about library automation software

Regarding familiarity about various library automation software, a question was asked to the librarians. The responses are tabulated in Table 6.

It is observed that 24.14% are aware of Libsoft and 13.87% librarians are able to handle New ZenLib, 22.21% has knowledge about SOUL, and the report says 39.78% uses other software and none has got idea about CDS/ISIS, Libsys and Koha Software.

Knowledge of other online services

A question was asked to librarians in order to trace the importance of online services. The responses are shown in Table 7.

It is observed that 41.67% of librarians reported of having knowledge about online LIS Group and Network, while 30.55% opined of having knowledge about online LIS Forums and only 16.67 Librarians had knowledge about online LIS Blogs.

Acquaintance about YouTube

It is observed from Figure 4 that 86.88% Librarians from different MBA colleges do not watch video on You Tube and other video sharing, downloading and only 13.12% are aware of You Tube applications.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

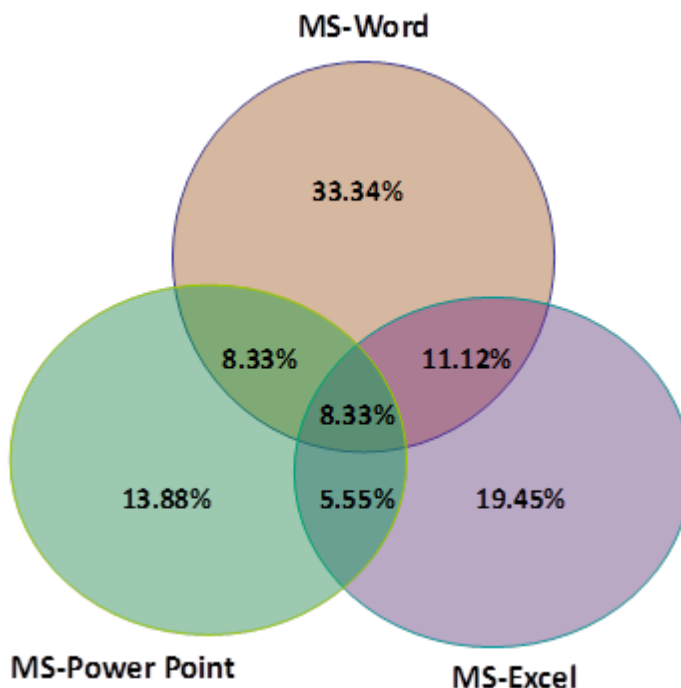1. Most of the librarians are computer literates and have

Figure 3. Skills on usage of ICT packages.

Table 5. Usages of search engine.

S.No	Search engine	No of librarians	%
1.	Google	33	92.67
2.	Yahoo	14	38.89
3.	AltaVista	7	19.45
4.	Dogpile	4	11.10
5.	Infoseek	2	5.54
6.	Others	3	8.32

N=36.

Table 6. Knowledge about library automation software.

S.No	Name of software	No of librarians	%
1.	CDS/ISIS	0	0
2.	SOUL	8	22.21
3.	Newzenlib	5	13.87
4.	Libsoft	9	24.14
5.	Libsys	0	0
6.	Koha	0	0
7.	Others	14	39.78

N=36.

Table 7. Knowledge of online services**.**

S.No	Online service	No of librarians	%
1	Online LIS Group	15	41.67
2	Online LIS Networks	15	16.67
3	Online LIS Forums	11	30.55
4	Online LIS Blogs	6	16.67

N=36.

average knowledge on computer and Information Technology related tools which is not a healthy sign towards the use of ICTs**.**

2. A good number of the library professionals had acquired ICT skills by attending private training programmes rather than academic education.

3. Huge number of librarians tends to use CD/DVD for preservation and Data transfer, and study reveals that Pendrive has also been used by them, but still this ratio could be improved in the near future.

4. The majority of respondents are versatile on handling Windows Operating System; the trend must be altered on usage of other Operating Systems such as Linux in terms of Security and Virus effect.

5. Greater number of librarians feels comfortable with various search engines especially Google.

Conclusion

1. In most of libraries of Andhra Pradesh, library personnel's are working manually; even though the library is computerized, circulation of books/periodicals are done physically; so they are not aware about emerging
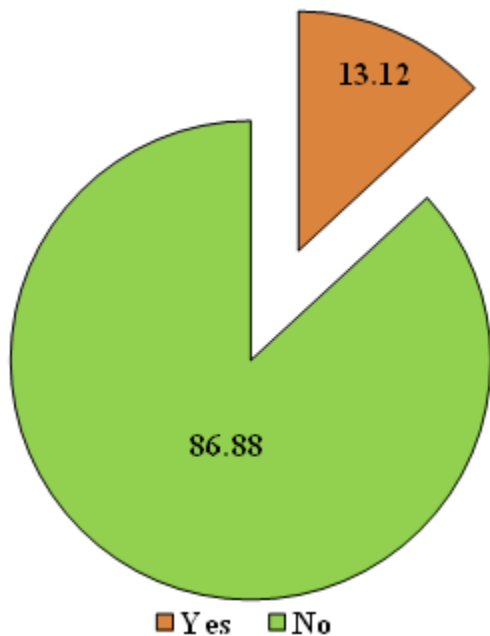
Figure 4. Usages of You Tube sharing and downloading.

technologies and latest advancement in the field of computer and information technology incorporate new and latest technologies in their routine works.

2.   Some of the upcoming libraries are not provided with computers, networking, internet and other basic requirements to modernize a library; despite librarians having knowledge on ICTs, they are unable to implement their skills on modern library.

3.   Training and orientation programme is the key to update with the latest and emerging technologies. But in Andhra Pradesh, these kinds of activities are not being organized in libraries in a routine manner; therefore library personnel are not being trained with new technologies.

It is concluded from the study that the MBA college librarians in Andhra Pradesh are aware with the modern perception of Information and Communication Technology. They use these concepts. But they hardly implement it as for as rendering of library services are concerned. Based on these findings, it is recommended that libraries in the developing countries should conduct workshops and training programmes for receiving updated innovative skills on ICT's in order to improve their high-quality approach towards the application of ICT in their libraries.

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Appendix

MBA college librarians' perception of ICT in Andhra Pradesh

Name	:
Sex	:
Designation	:
Address	:
Phone / Mobile No	:
Email	:

Q.1

S.No	Mode of Acquiring ICT Skills	Yes	No
1	Though Academic Education		
2	Training by Suppliers of Computers and Software Packages		
3	Private Training Programmes		
4	Attending Workshops & Seminars		
5	Self Study		
6	Online LIS Group / LIS Forums		

Q.2

S.No	Level of computer literacy	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
1	Knowledge for Computer Literacy				

Q.3

S.No	Which Data Storage Devices Used	Yes	No
1.	CD-ROM / DVD		
2.	Hard / Portable Hard Disk		
3.	SD / Mini SD Cards		
4.	Pendrive		
5.	Audio / Video Cassettes		
6.	Floppy Disk		

Q.4

S.No	Awareness of operating system	Yes	No
1.	Windows		
2.	Unix		
3.	Linux		
4.	Mac OS		
5.	Sun Solaris		

Q.5

S.No	Usage of search engines	Yes	No
1.	Google		
2.	Yahoo		
3.	AltaVista		
4.	Dogpile		
5.	Infoseek		
6.	Others		

Q.6

S.No	Name of Software	Yes	No
1.	CDS/ISIS		
2.	SOUL		
3.	Newzenlib		
4.	Libsoft		
5.	Libsys		
6.	Koha		
7.	Others		

Q.7

S.No	Online Services	Yes	No
1	Online LIS Group		
2	Online LIS Networks		
3	Online LIS Forums		
4	Online LIS Blogs		

Q.8

S.No	Awareness of YouTube	Yes	No
1	Knowledge of YouTube		

Q.9

If any suggestions

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Thank you sir,