Networking of Information and Communication Technology based Services among Libraries in and around Trichy: A Study

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Abstract

Developments in ICT have made significant impact on all spheres of human life. The impact has been rather prominent in case of service activities such as banking, health, transportation, education and libraries. For the Libraries, ICT's has tremendously changed the Management of Resources or House Keeping Operations as well as the way services are delivered. In this context the study has been carried out to find out the interest of libraries to network their ICT based Services among libraries in and around Trichy.

Keywords

Networking ,ICT, Trichy

Electronic access

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Introduction

Information and Communication Technologies plays an important role in Information Processing and retrieval systems. Recent days, the libraries in educational institutions are adopted to provide various services such as Web OPAC, Digital Library (DL), Database Services, Institutional Repositories etc.to the users.ICT also helps to increase the usage of library resources and services. Further, it is necessary to implement some of the technologies in the libraries by using free/Open source software eg. Digital Library, E-learning, Institutional Repositories. The important factor is that the LIS professionals are required to update their skills by means of attending workshops, conference, and seminars.

What is Information and Communication Technology (ICT)?

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) refers to technology that transmits, stores, creates, displays, shares, or exchanges information by electronic means. Libraries and librarians must adopt ICT to be a successful part of the information environment. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a diverse of technological tools and resources used to communicate and to crate, disseminate, store and manage information.

Hamlink defines ICTs are those technologies that enable the handling of information and facilitate different forms of communication. These include capturing technologies (e.g.camcoders), storage technologies (e.g.CD-ROMs), processing technologies (e.g. application software), communication technologies (e.g. LAN), display technologies (e.g. Computer monitors).[1]

Related Literature

Islam and Islam (2007) [2] studied most of the private university libraries and some special libraries are providing ICT-based service to the users. Moyo (2004)[3] explored new services and delivery modes incorporating: electronic collections, such as e-books, e-journals and databases; virtual reference services, and other online services. Innovation of new services that are peculiar to the online/web environment is the trend in modern electronic libraries. Libraries continue to harness new technologies to offer services in innovative ways to meet the changing needs of their patrons. Borang (2008)[4] reported status of ICT based services in libraries of academic institutions in Arunachal Pradhesh. The libraries under the study were providing access to Internet, e-resources and consortium activities and OPAC of their own libraries. Srinivasa (2010)[5] explained the

provision of providing Networked Services (NSs) among National Institute of Technology (NIT) libraries in India. The survey findings indicate that the majority of libraries prefer to provide communication network services (telephone, Internet, e-mail, facsimile etc), online journals (90%), automated catalog system (85%), multimedia databases (85%) and support (70%) services rather than the other services.

Objective of the study

1. To know the interest of librarians to network the ICT based Library Services among libraries.
2. To identify the interest by the qualification of the librarian while using the ICT based services.
3. To know the gender has any impact on implementing ICT based services.
4. To identify the application of ICT in libraries by the type of institutions.

Methodology

The study is carried out to find out the interest of libraries to network their ICT based Services among libraries. A well structured questionnaire was designed and administered directly among librarians who working in Arts and Science Colleges in and around Trichy to collect the data. It consists two sections like Personal Information and Networking of ICT based Library Services. A total of 65 questionnaires were distributed and 57 respondents have responded (87.69%).The data were analyzed by SPSS.

Distribution of Respondents

The data pertaining to the study were collected from the librarians and the same is given in table 1.

Table 1
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

S.No	Description		Nos.	%
1.	Designation	Librarian	57	100
2.	Gender	Male	33	57.9
		Female	24	42.1
3.	Qualifications	M.Phil	31	54.4
		MLISc	26	45.6
4.	Category of College	Govt/Govt.Aided Colleges	10	17.54
		Self-Finance Colleges	47	82.46

It is found from table 1 that the majority of respondents 33(57.9%) were male and female

respondents were 24(42.1%).It is further observed that majority of respondents were passed M.Phil 31(54.4%) in Library and Information Science and 26(45.6%) were passed MLISc.The respondents were also divided into Govt/Govt.Aided College 10(17.54%) and Self-Finance Colleges 47(82.46%).

Data Analysis and Findings

Networking of ICT based Services

The study is aimed to find out willingness respondents to network their ICT based Service. Eight services were identified and analyzed on nominal scale such as "YES" or "NO" and the same is given in table 2.

S.No.	Description	Yes	No	Total
1.	Web OPAC	50 87.7%	7 12.3%	57 100%
2.	CD-ROM Database Service	46 80.7%	11 19.3%	57 100%
3.	Online Database Service	49 86%	8 14%	57 100%
4.	Digital Library Service	47 82.5%	10 17.5%	57 100%
5.	Institutional Repository Service	49 86%	8 14%	57 100%
6.	Ask Librarian	50 87.7%	7 12.3%	57 100%
7.	E-mail / List Forum	49 86%	8 14%	57 100%

Table 2
Networking of ICT Based Services

It is found from the table 2 that 50(87.7%) of respondents are agreed to participate in the networking of Web OPAC service among other libraries and Ask Librarian, followed by 49(86%) of respondents also agreed to network the services such as Online Database service 49(86%), Institutional Repository Service and E-mail and List Forum each. It is further found that only 46(80.7%) of respondents were interested to network the CDROM Database Service.

5.2. Networking of ICT based Services by Gender

Networking of ICT based Services were further ascertained by gender and the same is given in figure1.
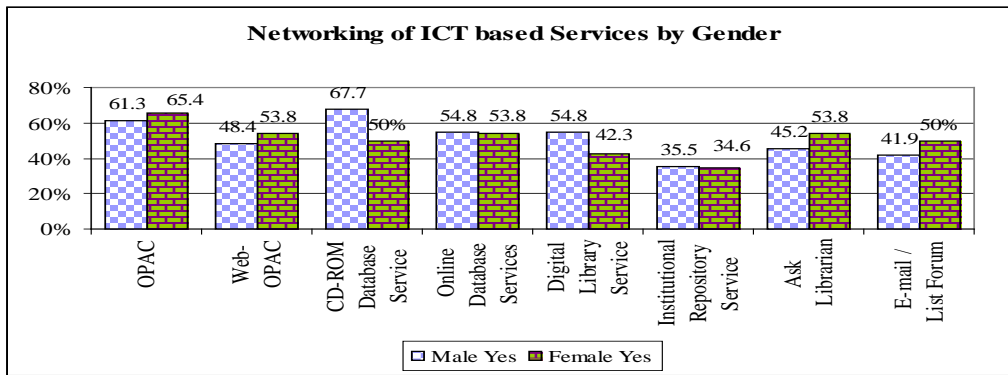
Figure1.Networking of ICT based Services by Gender

It is found is found from the figure 1 that majority of male respondents (67.7%) are interested to network the CD-ROM database service whereas majority of female respondents (53.8%) are interested to network the services such as Web OPAC, Online database service, and Ask Librarian each. It is further analyzed that a good number of male respondents (54.8%) are also interested to network the online database service and Digital Library Service. It is only less number of male (35.5%) and female (34.6%) are interested to network the Institutional Repository Service.

5.3. Networking of ICT based Services by Qualification
The study is further ascertained to find out the interest of respondents to network of ICT based services by Qualifications and the same is given table

Table 3
NETWORKING OF ICT BASED SERVICES Vs QUALIFICATIONS

S.No	Description	M.Phil n=31		MLISc n=26	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	Web-OPAC	23 74.2%	8 25.8%	15 57.7%	11 42.3%
2.	CD-ROM Database Service	4 12.9%	27 87.1%	7 26.9%	19 73.1%
3.	Online Database Services	16 51.6%	15 48.4%	17 65.4%	9 34.6%
4.	Digital Library Service	15 48.4%	16 51.6%	19 73.1%	7 26.9%
5.	Institutional Repository Service	18 58.1%	13 41.9%	7 26.9%	19 73.1%
6.	Ask Librarian	23 74.2%	8 25.8%	16 61.5%	10 38.5%
7.	E-mail / List Forum	16 51.6%	15 48.4%	13 50.0%	13 50.0%

It is found from table 3 that MLISc qualified respondents are interested to network the Web-OPAC 23(74.2%) and Ask Librarian 23 (74.2%) whereas majority of M.Phil qualified respondents are interested to network the Online Database Service 17(65.4%)

5.4. Networking of ICT based Services by Institution
The study is also ascertained to find out the interest of respondents to network of ICT based services by institution and the same is given table 4.

Table 4
NETWORKING OF ICT BASED SERVICES Vs INSTITUTIONS

S.No	Description	Govt/Govt.Aided Colleges n=10		Self-Finance Colleges n=47	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	WebOPAC	1 10%	9 90%	41 87.2%	6 12.8%
2.	CD-ROM Database Service	2 20%	8 80%	38 80.9%	9 19.1%
3.	Online Database Service	6 60%	4 40%	19 40.4%	28 59.6%
4.	Digital Library Service	6 60%	4 40%	24 51.1%	23 48.9%
5.	Institutional Repository Service	2 20%	8 80%	41 87.2%	6 12.8%
6.	Ask Librarian	4 40%	6 60%	23 48.9%	24 51.1%
7.	E-mail / List Forum	1 10%	9 90%	7 14.9%	40 85.1%

It is found from table 4 that majority of Govt & Govt.Aided Colleges are interested to network Online Database Service 6 (60%), Digital Library Service6 (60%), followed by Ask Librarian 4(40%) and CD-ROM Database Service whereas majority of Self-Finance Colleges are interested to network WebOPAC 41(87.2%) and Institutional Repository Service 41(87.2%), followed by Ask Librarian 23 (48.9%), Online Database Service 19(40.4%).It is further observed that only less number 1(10) of Govt./Govt.Aided Colleges and Self-Finance Colleges 7(14.9%) are interested to network WebOPAC and E-mail/LIS Forum Services each.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The networking of library services will increase the use of library resources at local and global levels. It also provides easy access to the resources available in other participating libraries. The libraries should participate in the networking programme to help other libraries to provide the service which are not available in a particular library. The Institutional Repository is another digital resource which every institution will produce. The Librarian has to collect the intellectual works from the teachers and create Institutional Repository and make it available in the networked environment.

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