Networking and Resource Sharing of Medical College Libraries in Telangana: A Study

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Abstract

Resource sharing is an important and widely well-known concept in the field of library science. The paper discusses about the Networking and resource sharing of medical college libraries in Hyderabad, Telangana. Concept resource sharing and networking of medical college libraries are participating to share the information and resources effectively. It aids to overcome the limitations like enormous cost of purchase, bibliography handling, storage of material etc. as a result of the surprising growth in the produced information.Thus resource sharing in medical college libraries has become essential in current scenario, and it commands world-wide acceptance. The outcome of study provides the 24.90% of the ICT infrastructure facilities available in DCMS college, followed by 21.90% in MRIMS college. Majority of the 60% medical colleges using NewGenLib software and 40% of the colleges are using Koha software. Most of the 100% medical colleges are willing to participated resource sharing and networking programme.

Keywords
Resource sharing and Networking; Medical College Libraries; ICT infrastructure; Library automation;

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Introduction

Resource sharing and networking is an ever talking term in LIS Literature, which was previously known as library cooperation. The term Resource Sharing which means jointly use of resources, contain two separate term- "Resource" and "Sharing". Resource refers to the source which is used to get some work done. Resources may be physical such, documents, information etc.; or intellectual such as human resource/expertise. Sharing means a relationship between two parties, where they offer their resources to each other for mutual benefit. In context of library, Resource sharing refers to libraries sharing their resources including the sources of information, staff expertise, infrastructure and finance. As technology develops day to day, libraries have been connected each other through creating networks among them and able to overcome all the limitations. Library cooperation, networking and resource sharing are synonymous with cooperation and collaborative activities of library and information centre. The main goal of academic libraries is to fulfil its user's needs and serve them satisfactory services. Students, Teachers, Researchers are the primary users of an academic library. Always they need more effective services. Resource Sharing have been initiated between academic libraries to provide better services to its users as well as its partner's users too. Library Networks have connected libraries through internet to transmission information and share resources.

Networking and Resource Sharing

A computerized inter-library loan system overcomes these limitations. For resource sharing, the participating libraries need to come together and cooperate in two broad areas: (a) developing the collection on shared basis, and (b) developing services for exploiting such collection (Dhawan, 1999).

Review of Literature:

Prakash, I.N. (2017) In his paper "Resource sharing: A library perceptive." Explored abou the Resource sharing concept has become prime factor and playing vital role in libraries because of innovative developments in Information, Communication and Technology (ICT). ICT has made easy to establish networks among libraries and share their information resources quickly and instantly. The various reasons for resource sharing are might be cost benefits, non-availability of resources, insufficient library funds,

lack of skills etc. In this paper, the attempt has been made to understand the various aspects of resource sharing in modern library technological environment. Kamble, Sangeeta (2018) in her paper "Networking and resource sharing in academic libraries." Highlights the importance of resource sharing in academic libraries. This research study concluded that library networking and resource sharing is possible through cooperation and structure of consortium. Finally, it is concluded that to fulfil the user's expectation, libraries must face up to the reality of resources and information synergy. Prakash, I.N. & Anjaneya Reddy, N.M. (2020) explored on Digital Resource Sharing and Networking of Management College Libraries. It is observed from the field that libraries are assuming a new and innovative role for serving better to the academic fraternity. The paper highlights the various library networks established for resource sharing activities and the reasons for joining such networks, and problems encountered during its participation. Gallagher, Patricia E. (2020) in her paper "Library resources sharing and the Medical Library Center of New York." assumed the creation of the Medical Library Center of New York (MLCNY) was a significant contribution to the history of health sciences librarianship as a model for co-operative, democratic, and practical solutions to the issues of storage and resource sharing. This paper traces the evolution of the center including the creation of the union catalogue of medical periodicals and the demise of the center occasioned by changes in scholarly publishing, technology, and constituent needs. Sadiq, Muhammad, Shahzad, Khurram & Iqbal, Abid (2021) in their paper " Resource Sharing among Medical Teaching Libraries: A Resource Sharing among Medical Teaching Libraries: A Developing Country Perspective Developing Country Perspective." The sample of this study encompassed leading medical libraries of all public and private degree awarding institutions in Lahore, Pakistan. The survey research method was adopted for this study. Findings showed that resource sharing is a valuable practice. It enhances the level of user satisfaction. It adds value to library collections which is not limited to library books only. Libraries are willing to initiate resource sharing through creating union catalogues.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objectives of this study are as follows.

1. To assess the nature and quantum of resources available in the medical college libraries.
2. To identify the existing ICT infrastructure available in medical college libraries for networking.
3. To explore the feasibility for developing network for resource sharing in medical college libraries in Hyderabad, Telangana.
4. To find out the attitudes of the library staff towards library networking in medical colleges in Hyderabad, Telangana.
5. To find out the barriers in resource sharing and networking among medical college libraries in study area.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Present study covers all Allopathic Medical College Libraries of Hyderabad, Telangana. They are:

1. Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMSR), Hyderabad
2. Deccan College of Medical Sciences (DCMS), Hyderabad
3. Kamineni Academy of Medical Sciences & Research Center (KAMSRC), Hyderabad
4. Malla Reddy Institute of Medical Sciences (MRIMC), Hyderabad
5. Malla Reddy Medical College for Women (MRMCW), Hyderabad

METHODOLOGY

The Research method applied for the study would be a survey method covering all the private allopathic medical college libraries in the Hyderabad, Telangana. The data will be collected through a semi structured questionnaire. Besides observation and interview methods will also be used. Researcher will directly contact the librarians for conducting the interviews and collecting the required data. The provability condition in the Medical College libraries will be personally observed. Data will be analyzed and presented in tabular form. The questionnaire shall contain the issues like the information resources, the availability of ICT infrastructure needed for networking, the attitude of the librarians on networking and resource sharing, the skills and competence of librarians to undertake networking, etc.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Demographic profile of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	4	80
Female	1	20
Qualifications		
PG, B.LISc, MLISc	5	55.56
M.Phil	2	22.22
Ph.D.	2	22.22
NET/SLET	3	33.33
Age group		
26-30 years	1	20
31-35 years	2	40
36-40 years	1	20
41-45 years	1	20
46-50 years	0	0
> 50 years	0	0
Experience		
1-10 years	2	40
11-20 years	2	40
21-30 years	1	20
31-40 years	0	0
> 41 years	0	0

It is evident from the Table-1that majority of the (80%) respondents are male and remaining (20%) are female respondents. Most of the (55.56%) respondents have PG, BLISc, with MLISc, (33.33%) have NET, SLET and (22.22%) have M.Phil and Ph.D. degree. The majority of the (40%) respondents are age-group between 31-35 years, and (20%) of them are between 26-30 years, 36-40 years and 41-45 years. Most of the (40%) respondents have 1-10 years and 11-20 years experience, and only (20%) of them have 21-30 years of experience.

Table 2: Library staff

College	**Professional**	**Semi-Prof-**	**Non-Prof-**	**Total**	**%**
AIMSR	2	3	2	7	14.89
DCMS	4	4	5	13	27.66
KAMSRC	1	1	1	3	6.38
MRIMS	8	2	2	12	25.53
MRMCW	8	2	2	12	25.53
Total	23	12	12	47	100.00

Table-2 presents the library staff in selected medical colleges, the DCMS college have majority (27.66%) of the staff , MRIMS and MRMCW have (25.53%) of the staff, AIMSR have (14.89%) staff and KAMSRC have (6.38%) of the library staff.

Table 3: Library collection

Material type	Name of the medical college				
	AIMSR	DCMS	KAMSR	MRIMS	MRMCW
Printed Books	7404	22,301	8,506	4408	4808
Reference Books	408	957	426	267	302
E-books	62	190	48	68	68
Printed Journals	174	184	142	20	19
Back volumes of Journals	10217	5883	694	450	355
e-journals	278	1987	535	124	130
Reports	379	87	67	45	37
Theses/ Dissertations	1230	196	52	12	4
Databases	4	2	3	4	3
CD-ROM/DVD/ Videos	100	142	153	69	200
Standards	0	0	2	0	0

It is explains from the table-3 that the DCMS have majority 22301 printed books and 957 references book collection, MRIMS have lowest collection of 4408 printed books, and 267 reference books, DCMS have 190 e-books and the MRIMS and MRMCW have 68 lowest collection of e-books. DCMS have majority of collection in all areas of material types, MRIMS and MRMCW have lowest collection.

Table 4: Availability of ICT infrastructure facilities

ICTinfrastructure	AIMSR	DCMS	KAMSR	MRIMS	MRMCW	Total
Modem	1	1	1	1	1	5
Server	1	1	1	1	1	5
Printer	2	1	1	2	1	7
Document scanner	1	1	1	1	1	5
Photocopier	1	1	1	1	1	5
LCD projector	1	1	1	1	1	5

CC cameras	12	14	6	13	12	57
Barcode printer	1	1	0	1	0	3
Barcode scanner	2	2	2	2	2	10
UPS	1	1	1	1	1	5
Comp. Work stations	16	22	8	18	18	82
RFID	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internet connection	1	1	1	1	1	5
Wi-Fi connectivity	1	1	1	1	1	5
E-book reader	1	1	0	0	0	2
Consortia membership	1	1	1	1	0	4
Telephone	1	1	1	1	1	5
Total	44	51	27	46	42	210
Percentage	20.95	24.29	12.86	21.90	20	100

Table-4 illustrates the availability of ICT infrastructure in all 5 private medical colleges. The majority (24.90%) of the ICT infrastructure facilities available in DCMS college, followed by (21.90%) in MRIMS, (20.95%) in AIMSR and (20%) in MRMCW and only (12.86%) of the ICT infrastructure facilities available in KAMSR.

Table 5: Availability of ICT information services

S.No.	ICT Information Services	No. of Colleges	Percentage
1	Abstracting service	6	6.90
2	Bibliographic services	9	10.34
3	CD-ROM access	9	10.34
4	Circulation of books and journals	9	10.34
5	Current awareness service	7	8.05
6	Inter-library loan/document delivery	2	2.30
7	Internet browsing	9	10.34
8	Online databases	9	10.34
9	Reference service	9	10.34
10	Reprographic services	9	10.34
11	Online SDI service	5	5.75
12	Wi-Fi	4	4.60
13	Any other, please specify	0	0
	Total	87	100

Note: Multiple responses are recorded

Table- shows the availability of ICT information services medical college libraries of Hyderabad. The most of the (10.34%) of colleges are providing Bibliographic services, CD-ROM access, Internet browsing, Online databases, Reference service and Reprographic services. (8.05%) of the colleges providing Current awareness service, (6.90%) providing abstracting service, (5.75%) providing Online SDI service, (4.60%) providing Wi-Fi service, and (2.30%) college are providing Inter-library loan/document delivery.

Table 6: ICT skills among librarians

ICT skills	High	Medium	Low
Operating system	1(20%)	4(80%)	0(0%)
Library automation & networking	2(40%)	2(40%)	1(20%)
Digital library	2(40%)	240%)	1(20%)
Web Technologies	1(20%)	2(40%)	2(40%)
Office automation	1(20%)	2(40%)	2(40%)
Content management system	0(0%)	2(40%)	3(60%)

Table-4 shows the ICT skills among librarians, majority (80%) respondents expressed their opinion that they have medium range skills on operating system, (40%) of the respondents have high and medium range skills about library automation and networking, overall (40%) of them have medium range skills about digital library, web technologies, office automation and content management system and (60%) of them have very low skills on content management system

Table 7: Internet, LAN facility and separate website

Internet, LAN & Webpage	AIMSR	DCMS	KAMSR	MRIMS	MRMCW
Internet facility	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
LAN connectivity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Separate webpage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

It is evident from the table-7 that almost all the medical colleges have Internet, LAN connectivity, and separate webpage for library.

Table 8: Software used for library automation

Automation software	AIMSR	DCMS	KAMSR	MRIMS	MRMCW	Total	%
E-Lib	×	×	×	×	×	0	0
Koha	☐	☐	×	×	×	2	40
NewGenLib	×	×	☐	☐	☐	3	60
SOUL	×	×	×	×	×	0	0
Total	1	1	1	1	1	5	100

Table-8 shows the software used for library automation, majority of the (60%) medical colleges using NewGenLib software and (40%) of the colleges are using Koha software.

Table 9: Status of library automation

S.No.	Areas of Automation	Fully automated	Partially automated
1	Initial stage	5(100%)	(0%)
2	Acquisitions	3(60%)	2(40%)
3	Cataloguing	5(100%)	(0%)
4	Circulation	5(100%)	(0%)
5	Serial Control	2(40%)	3(60%)
6	OPAC	5(100%)	(0%)
7	Administration	3(60%)	2(40%)

Table-9 shows the status of library automation, most of the (100%) automation completed initial (Installation stage) of the automation, Cataloguing, circulation and OPAC fully automated. (60%) of colleges are fully automated in acquisitions and administration and partially automated in serial control, (40%) of the colleges are partially automated in acquisitions and administration modules.

Table-10 Opinion on Resource Sharing & Networking Programme, all the 5 medical colleges are willing to participated resource sharing and networking programme.

Table 11: Attitude towards Library Networking & Resource Sharing

Parameter	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
It Provide up to date Information	4(80%)	1(20%)	0
It Provide Adequate facility & Services	5(100%)	0	0
Increase of Library usage	5(100%)	0	0
Improvement in the Library Services	4(80%)	1(20%)	0
It increase the research output in the colleges	5(100%)	0	0
It require more manpower in the library	3(60%)	1(20%)	1(20%)
It increase the workload of library	5(100%)	0	0
It supports for the fulfilment of the users need	3(60%)	1(20%)	1(20%)
It creates positive attitude among users towards library	5(100%)	0	0
It is difficult to implement in libraries	2(40%)	2(40%)	1(20%)
It affects library routine work	2(40%)	3(60%)	0
It increases ICT tools infirmary	2(40%)	2(40%)	1(20%)

It is evident from table-11 that the (100%) of the respondents expressed their opinion agree with attitude towards It Provide Adequate facility & Services, Increase of Library usage, It increase the research output in the colleges, It increase the workload of library and It creates positive attitude among users towards library. (40%) of them agree with It Provide up to date Information and Improvement in the Library Services, (30%) of them It require more manpower in the library and It supports for the fulfilment of the users need, and (20%) of them It is difficult to implement in libraries, It affects library routine work and It increases ICT tools infirmary. (60%) of the disagree with It affects library routine work, (40%) disagree with It is difficult to implement in libraries and It increases ICT tools infirmary and (20%) disagree with It require more manpower in the library, It supports for the fulfilment of the users need, It Provide up to date

Information and Improvement in the Library Services. (20%) of the neutral with It require more manpower in the library, It supports for the fulfilment of the users need, It is difficult to implement in libraries and It increases ICT tools infirmary.

Table 12: Barriers of Resource Sharing and Networking

Parameter	Yes	No
Traditional/ Institutional barriers	5(100%)	0
Physical and geographical barriers	4(80%)	(20%)
Discouragement from past experience	3(60%)	2(40%)
Lack of ICT Infrastructure	1(20%)	4(80%)
Lack of Budget	3(60%)	2(40%)
Lack of Trained staff	3(60%)	2(40%)
Lack of Management support	4(80%)	1(20%)
Lack of ICT applications training	4(80%)	1(20%)
Lack of Awareness of the networking programme	3(60%)	2(40%)
Lack of co-operation & Co-ordination	4(80%)	1(20%)
Lack of Legislative measures	5(100%)	(20%)

Table-12 explains about the barriers of resource sharing and networking of medical college libraries in Hyderabad. (100%) of the respondents expressed opinion on Traditional/ Institutional barriers and Lack of Legislative measures, (40%) of them expressed 'Yes' about Physical and geographical barriers, Lack of Management support, Lack of ICT applications training and Lack of co-operation & Co-ordination and remaining said 'No', (30%) of them said 'Yes' about Discouragement from past experience, Lack of Budget, Lack of Trained staff and Lack of Awareness of the networking programme and remaining said 'No', (20%) of them said 'yes' about Lack of ICT Infrastructure remaining (80%) of them said 'No'

Major finding of the study

1. Majority of the 80% respondents are male and remaining (20% are female respondents. Most of the 55.56% respondents have PG, BLISc, with MLISc,
2. Majority 27.66% of the staff , MRIMS and MRMCW have 25.53% of the staff, AIMSR have 14.89% staff and KAMSRC have (6.38%) of the library staff.
3. 24.90% of the ICT infrastructure facilities available in DCMS college, followed by (21.90%) in MRIMS college.
4. The most of the 10.34% of colleges are providing Bibliographic services, CD-ROM access, Internet browsing, Online databases, Reference service and Reprographic services.
5. Majority 80% respondents expressed their opinion that they have medium range skills on operating system.
6. Majority of the 60% medical colleges using NewGenLib software and 40% of the colleges are using Koha software.
7. Most of the 100% automation completed initial (Installation stage) of the automation, Cataloguing, circulation and OPAC fully automated. 60% of colleges are fully automated in acquisitions and administration and partially automated in serial control

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