

CHALLENGES INFLUENCING OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN LIBRARIES IN :- A CASE STUDY AT NORTHERN CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Mine paper attempts to discuss the factors influencing libraries of acquisition of new resources and /or fast development of information technology and its application in the library services. Today libraries are equipped to accomplish the newly information technology based services. Involvement of information in library science will enabled services and increases the efficiency and users will get the information in right place to the right person

Key words: Information Technology, Libraries, Electronic Library, Digital Library, E-Resources, ICT

I. INTRODUCTION

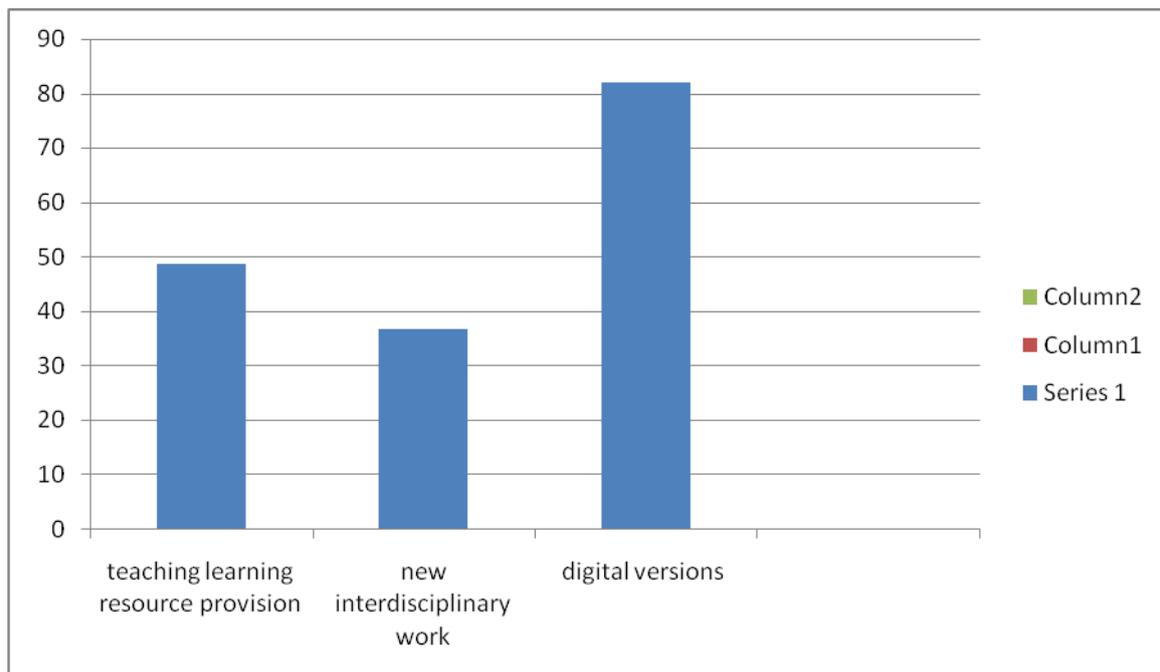
In the data analysis methods, I have chosen quantitative methods for this paper. A total of 1200 questioners were returned out of 1166 questioners distributed .Results indicated that information and communication Technology supported library facility used at northern central library's by students are computer 900 and wifi,600 and information and communication technology supported library facilities used by other staff members of universities are WAN,300 ,computer 200,photocopy machines,. The majority of the respondents indicated that they have positive attitudes towards information and communication technology provisions and there is no difference between staff members and students. the percentage of quality regarding library information may also be increase if knowledge and skills of librarians and administration staff updated regularly. After analysis of above data, we can say information is an indispensable for human development as air is essential for the survival of all living organism on our earth, which includes all human beings

1.1 Factors Influencing Libraries' Acquisition of New Resources

The availability of digital versions of print resources is the second most important driver of acquisition strategies: 48% of librarians report this to be a "strong" driver with an additional 40% reporting it to be a "moderate" one. This reflects researchers' preference for electronic information resources over print, and libraries' shortage of space to store print resources.

Finally, it is worth noting librarians' views as to the implications of an institution's research community starting new interdisciplinary or cross-disciplinary work. For 37% of librarians this would be a "strong" driver for acquiring appropriate information resources specifically to serve this new need, for 43.5% it would be a "moderate" driver. But for 15% it would be a "weak" driver. While these figures indicate the majority of librarians would take the new need seriously, it is clear that the imperative to provide for teaching and learning is more important in relative terms.

Figure4: Librarians' views on the key factors driving demand for the acquisition of new resources



1.2 Managing expectations: library funding

Librarians have a constant struggle to balance the demands for the support of research and of teaching with tight budgets. Researchers are well aware of this because for many years they have been involved in the annual round of discussions about journal subscription cancellations, new journal purchase, book budgets, and how to assign priorities for library purchasing. Researchers understand the problems faced by their libraries and that the price of current journal literature in particular has risen over the last decade or so at a rate out of line with library budget increases. Researchers are sympathetic to the plight of librarians on this issue, and concerned in particular about the increasing pressure on the provision of materials to support their research.

Funding for the library, and the priority given to this within overall institutional budgets, is a matter of concern to researchers as well as librarians. The Parry Report in the 1960s recommended that library budgets should be 6% of a university's total spending (at the time they were around 4-5%); but library budgets have tended to fall since then, and now stand at around 3% of total institutional budgets. To some researchers this comes as a surprise; they expected it to be more

Figure 5: Researchers' views the priority to be given to funding the library

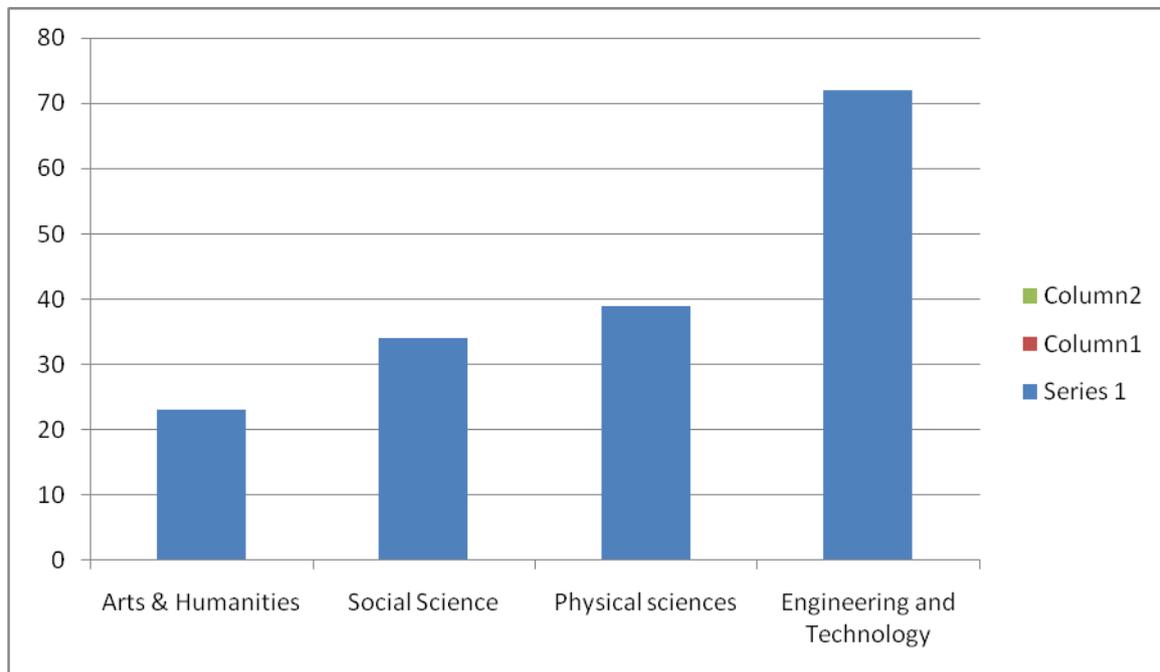


Figure 5 shows the responses gave when we asked them what priority they thought should be given to funding the library, within the context of competing demands from other parts of the institution for a finite pot of money. It shows clearly that most researchers, especially in the arts and humanities, believe that funding the library should be near the top of their institution's priority list. Support from arts and humanities researchers is perhaps unsurprising, since they make the most use of libraries. It is clear, however, that support comes from right across the research community: the majority think that their library services deserve high or top funding priority

1.3 Challenges Influencing ICTs in Academic Libraries

While new technologies have added value to library services by presenting new modes of Collecting, storing, retrieving and providing information, they have also brought new challenges and aggravated some of the challenges that faced libraries before (Emmanuel and Sife, 2008). Ferbam and Ogunjobi (2009) revealed that ICT facilities is not available due to in adequate funding, poor infrastructure, management problem and lack of qualified Personnel to manage the ICT Centre's. Ghuloum and Ahmed (2011) have indicated that Several factors such as financial factors, technological factors, human factors and cultural Factors may be a barrier in ensuring application of ICTs. These have included factors such as a lack of sufficient funds, lack of qualified library professionals, lack of motivation and Need among library staff to adopt ICT in their daily operations and the authors also Highlighted the barriers faced libraries are lack of adequate library staff, lack of ICT Training programs, and low priority of libraries within their organization. Siddike *et al.*, (2011) identified some of the barriers existing in the libraries namely lack of support high authorities, lack of computer literate among library professionals, uninterrupted Internet connection, lack of skilled manpower, lack of ICT related knowledge and lack of ICT Training.



1.4 Financial Factors

Libraries require sufficient funds to acquire modern ICT facilities such as computers, Servers, scanners, photocopiers, software as well as paying for online and offline services Such as e-journals and digital libraries. Most of these ICT facilities and services are very Expensive and can be purchased from developed countries. On the contrary, experience Reveal that most university libraries in Africa and other developing countries get very little Funds from their parent institutions and the government for support of their activities (Mutula and Wamukoya, 2007). This situation is attributed to among other factors, the poor Perception of library services by top leaders and other stakeholders in the parent Institutions. In addition, the little funds received fall far below the standard costs of ICT facilities and services.

Academic libraries just like other departments in institutions of higher learning require sufficient funds in order to acquire modern ICT facilities such as computers, servers, scanners, photocopiers, software as well as buy or subscribe to online or offline resources Such as e-journals, e-books and digital books among other resources. Amutabi (2009) pointed out that with the decreasing financial donor support situation it is unlikely that things will improve much Kamba (2011) pointed out that libraries which became fully automated in the 1990s but could not afford to migrate, find their current software very limiting and unless one could afford to migrate onto new and updated systems, the early start could be a disadvantage. He adds that the fully automated libraries are those that either started late with donor assistance or have secured funds to migrate to up-to-date systems

1.5 Technological Factors

Low bandwidth is the main problem that affects the accessibility of information in time. Bandwidth refers to the amount of information that can be carried in a given time period (usually a second) over a wired or wireless communication link, expressed as bits per second (Emmanuel and Sife, 2008). The higher the bandwidth, the more data can be transferred in bits per second. Whenever there are few data transferred in bits per second (low bandwidth), users get frustrated as it takes long to retrieve information from the Internet. Inadequate technological infrastructure to support the integration of ICTs in the library functions has been cited by several authors as one of the major challenge that academic libraries face. Kamba (2011) noted that ICT is not very well spread and utilized in African institutions of higher learning, mainly because of poor communication network, limited access to ICT hardware and software. This refers to issues as poor or lack of ICT policy, low Internet connectivity, inadequate supply of electricity, inadequate number of PCs, etc. A study by Rosenberg (2005) showed that 85 percent of the libraries provide less than one computer for every 100 students and 36 percent provide less than one computer for every 500 students. Despite the poor students computer ratio, Kamba (2011) added that there is a serious neglect of ICT resources acquired over a period of years, which need upgrading or are out of usage and this increases the complexity of managing the ICT resources.

The organization culture, library leadership and trained library personnel play a pivotal role in determining the role and status of academic libraries. Several authors (Emmanuel and Sife, 2008; Odero-Musakali and Mutula, 2007) have identified that lack of trained Personnel and negative attitude of university management on Information and Communication Technology as major factors that impede effective adoption of ICT in



university libraries. Emanuel and Sife (2008) add that many libraries have inadequate qualified ICT personnel with most traditional library staff having low ICT skills and sometimes have technology phobia. Without adequate supply of appropriately trained and skilled personnel, the ability to provide quality information services may be inhibited.

1.6 Cultural Factors

Socio-cultural aspects like cultural values, regional priorities, institutional relations, political dynamics, and educational background influence the perception of potential user groups, and therefore have an impact on the adoption and use of the technology (Hagenaars, 2007).

In their study, Gould and Gomez (2010) found out that in most countries, libraries are still being regarded as a place to study or store books thus many users doubt whether it is a 'cool' place to go, and whether it responds to their needs, such as providing current information. Many people still think that computers can only be found in cyber cafes and computer labs but not inside libraries. There is need for library management and library personnel to change this notion in order to encourage more users to visit the library and utilize ICT resources.

1.7 Human Factors

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II. CONCLUSION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the means of accessing or receiving, storing, transferring, processing and sending ideas, perception or information through computers and other communication facilities. Academic libraries are all those libraries that are established and run by academic institutions like the universities and other tertiary institution to support teaching, learning and research.

This paper was to assess Information and Communication Technology utilization at Various Central University libraries with the objective of finding out the Information and Communication Technology supported library facilities available at Northern Central Universities libraries and used by students, instructors and library staff.

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