



COMPUTER BASED SERVICES AMONG THE COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY: A STUDY

Dr. R. PRABU

Librarian, YMCA College of Physical Education, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India.

Abstract

The purpose of this present study was to identify and examine the computerized library and information services in the colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University. The scope of the study was to identify the computerized library and information services towards developint library networking and resource sharing programme. To Identify this Questionnaires were distributed among the colleges affiliated to the Bharathidasn University librarians. A total 70 questionnaires were received and taken for analysis and interpretation. To ascertain the library services among the libraries, ten variables were taken up for the study. These parameters are evaluated further by means of nominal scale such as yes and no. Since the weight-age was given for the nominal scale is from least to highest and ranks were assigned from least to highest. The computerized services were further evaluated between autonomous and non- autonomous institutions also the arithmetic mean calculated between autonomous and non- Autonomous institutions further it ranked based on arithmetic mean. The findings of the present study reveals that computer based services are predominance in lending services, reference services and current awareness services. Least importance has been given to computer based document delivery services.

Keywords: Computer based services, Affiliated Colleges, Bharathidasan University..

1. INTRODUCTION

Today in an environment of information and publication explosion, it has become practically impossible for any library to remain self-reliant. In a situation of growing demands of the users and depleting levels of financial resources, no library is able to obtain all the material on demand. To overcome the situation, computerization of library resources and services is the only suitable way to solve the information explosion. Computer based library and Information services are essential in the modern environment to deliver the information products and services to the user community. The computer based library services would pave the way for library networking and resource sharing among the nearby institutions. This study also intent to understand in what extent the college libraries affiliated to Bharathidasan University has computerized the library operations.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To assess the computer based library services in the colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University.

3. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- There is a significant difference in computerized services among the libraries of 'autonomous', and 'non-autonomous' institutions.
- There is a significant difference in ICT skills among librarians of 'Government ', 'Government Aided' and 'Self-financing' institutions.

4. COMPUTERIZED SERVICES

To ascertain the computer based services among the libraries seven variables were taken up for study. These parameters are evaluated further by means of nominal scale such as yes and no. The same is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
COMPUTERIZED SERVICES

S.No	Descriptions	Yes	No	Mean	Rank	Std.
1	Lending Services	26 (37.1)	44 (62.9)	1.6286	1	.48668
2	Reference Services	17 (24.3)	53 (75.7)	1.7571	2	.43191
3	Alerting Services	14 (20.0)	56 (80.0)	1.8000	4	.40289
4	Current Awareness Services	16 (22.9)	54 (77.1)	1.7714	3	.42294
5	Document Delivery Services	9 (12.9)	61 (87.1)	1.8714	7	.33714
6	Bulletin Board Services	12 (17.1)	58 (82.9)	1.8286	6	.37960
7	OPAC	13 (18.6)	57 (81.4)	1.8143	5	.39168

From the above table 1 it can be seen that 37.1% of libraries are providing computer based lending services to their user community. It is followed by reference service (24.3%) and current awareness services (22.9%). Least importance has been given to document delivery services (12.9%), bulletin board services (17.1%) and OPAC (18.6%). The standard deviation indicates that there is a least deviation in the opinion among the librarians since the standard deviation lies below 0.48.

5. COMPUTERIZED SERVICES Vs STATUS OF INSTIUTIONS

The services were further evaluated between autonomous and non- autonomous institutions and the same is shown in Table 2 arithmetic mean calculated between autonomous and non- autonomous institutions is also shown in Table 2 and it has been ranked based on arithmetic mean.

TABLE 2
COMPUTERIZED SERVICES Vs STATUS OF INSTITUTIONS

S. No.	Descriptions	Autonomous (n=16)				Non- Autonomous (n=54)				Chi-Sq.
		Yes	No	Mean	Rank	Yes	No	Mean	Rank	
1	Lending Services	9 (56.3)	7 (43.8)	1.43	1	17 (31.5)	37 (68.5)	1.68	1	3.243
2	Reference Services	5 (31.3)	11 (68.8)	1.68	6	12 (22.2)	42 (77.8)	1.77	2	.547
3	Alerting Services	7 (43.8)	9 (56.3)	1.56	3	7 (13.0)	47 (87.0)	1.87	4	7.312

4	Current Awareness Services	6 (37.5)	10 (62.5)	1.62	4	10 (18.5)	44 (81.5)	1.81	3	2.522
5	Document Delivery Services	4 (25.0)	12 (75.0)	1.75	7	5 (9.3)	49 (90.7)	1.90	7	2.730
6	Bulletin Board Services	6 (37.5)	10 (62.5)	1.62	4	6 (11.1)	48 (88.9)	1.88	5	6.051
7	OPAC	7 (43.8)	9 (56.3)	1.56	2	6 (11.1)	48 (88.9)	1.88	5	8.695

From the above table it is revealed that 56.3% of autonomous institutions are providing computer based lending services to their user community where as (31.5%) non-autonomous institutions are providing computer based lending services. It is followed by OPAC services (43.8) by autonomous institutions and (22.2%) non-autonomous institutions providing reference services. Least importance has been given for

6. COMPUTERIZED SERVICES Vs CATEGORIES OF INSTITUTIONS

The services were further evaluated between 'government', 'government aided' and self-financing'

document delivery services (37.5%, 9.3%) by both institutions. The chi-square test is also administered to test the hypothesis that there is a significant difference in computerized services among the libraries of 'autonomous', and 'non-autonomous' institutions. The calculative value (8.695) for parameter is above than the table value (5.991). Hence the hypothesis is not significant.

institutions and the same is shown in Table 3 arithmetic mean calculated between government, government aided and self-financed institutions is also shown in table 3 and it has been ranked based on arithmetic mean.

TABLE 3
COMPUTERIZED SERVICES Vs CATEGORIES OF INSTITUTIONS

S. No	Descriptions	Govt. Colleges (n=11)				Govt. Aided colleges (n=16)				Self Finance Colleges (n=43)				Chi-Sq.
		Yes	No	Mean	Rank	Yes	No	Mean	Rank	Yes	No	Mean	Rank	
1	Lending Services	1 (9.1)	10 (90.9)	1.90	1	10 (62.5)	6 (37.5)	1.37	1	15 (34.9)	28 (65.1)	1.65	1	8.208
2	Reference Services	0 (0)	11 (100.0)	2.00	3	6 (37.5)	10 (62.5)	1.62	4	11 (25.6)	32 (74.4)	1.74	2	5.087
3	Alerting Services	0 (0)	11 (100.0)	2.00	3	7 (43.8)	9 (56.3)	1.56	2	7 (16.3)	36 (83.7)	1.83	4	8.763

4	Current Awareness Services	0 (0)	11 (100.0)	2.00	3	6 (37.5)	10 (62.5)	1.62	4	10 (23.3)	33 (76.7)	1.76	3	5.20 9
5	Document Delivery Services	0 (0)	11 (100.0)	2.00	3	4 (25.0)	12 (75.0)	1.75	7	5 (11.6)	38 (88.4)	1.88	7	3.78 7
6	Bulletin Board Services	1 (9.1)	10 (90.9)	1.90	2	5 (31.3)	11 (68.8)	1.68	6	6 (14.0)	37 (86.0)	1.86	5	3.05 2
7	OPAC	0 (0)	11 (100.0)	2.00	3	7 (43.8)	9 (56.3)	1.56	2	6 (14.0)	37 (86.0)	1.86	5	9.82 3

From the above table it is revealed that 9.1% of government colleges, 62.5% of government aided and 34.9% of self-financing colleges are providing computer based lending services in their libraries. It is followed by bulletin board services (9.1%) in government colleges, (56.3%) government aided colleges are providing both alerting and OPAC services. (25.6%) self-financing colleges are providing computer based reference

services. All the categories of institutions have given least importance to document delivery services. The chi-square test is also administered to test the hypothesis that there is a significant difference in ICT skills among librarians of 'Government', 'Government Aided' and 'Self-financing' institutions. The calculative value (9.823) for parameter is above than the table value (5.991). Hence the hypothesis is not significant.

7. COMPARATIVE STUDY OF COMPUTERISED SERVICES BY RANK WISE ANALYSIS

TABLE 4
COMPUTERISED SERVICES Vs RANK WISE ANALYSIS

S. No.	Descriptions	Overall Rank	STATUS		CATEGORIES		
			Autonomous	Non-Autonomous	Government	Govt. Aided	Self-Financing
1	Lending Services	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	Reference Services	2	6	2	3	4	2
3	Alerting Services	4	3	4	3	2	4
4	Current Awareness Services	3	4	3	3	4	3
5	Document Delivery Services	7	7	7	3	7	7
6	Bulletin Board Services	6	4	5	2	6	5
7	OPAC	5	2	5	3	2	5

From the above table it can be seen that computer based services are predominance in lending services, reference services and current awareness services. Least importance has been given to computer based document delivery services.

8. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The study found that 37.1% of libraries are providing computer based lending services to their user community. It is followed by reference service (24.3%) and current awareness services (22.9%). Least importance has been given to document delivery services (12.9%), bulletin board services (17.1%) and OPAC (18.6%).
2. The study revealed that 56.3% of autonomous institutions are providing computer based lending services to their user community where as (31.5%) non-autonomous institutions are providing computer based lending services. It is followed by OPAC services (43.8) by autonomous institutions and (22.2%) non-autonomous institutions providing reference services. Least importance has been given for document delivery services (37.5%, 9.3%) by both institutions.
3. The study found that 9.1% of government colleges, 62.5% of government aided and 34.9% of self-financing colleges are providing computer based lending services in their libraries. It is followed by bulletin board services (9.1%) in government colleges, (56.3%) government aided colleges are

providing both alerting and OPAC services. (25.6%) self-financing colleges are providing computer based reference services. All the categories of institutions have given least importance to document delivery services.

4. From the study it can be understood that computer based services are predominance in lending services, reference services and current awareness services. Least importance has been given to computer based document delivery services.

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