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A Study on Challenges of Implementing Information Technology in University Libraries of Gujarat

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Abstract: *In this article, the current situation of university libraries in state of Gujarat regarding implementing latest information technology in their libraries has been studied, as special about challenges and scope. University libraries suffering from so many challenges to implement latest technology in their library and related services. In Modern era, technologies are broadly using in every parts of society, academic era, industry and business, entertainment, and many more things. In Academic era Libraries are one of them. Now a days Library users are more aware and convenient with technology based information services. Because of its time saving, easy to use, access from anywhere and latest. So its biggest responsibility for university libraries to implement technology based information services for their users like students, research scholars, professors and academics act.*

Keywords: *University Libraries, Information Technology, Gujarat, Technological challenges, Library and Information Science.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Today we live in Information explosion society. Due to explosion of information and recent development with faster changes in information technological trends, more difficulties created for information managers as well as librarians for procurement, organization and dissemination of information. Every part of societies rigidly accepting technological tools and their support to growth and work efficiently and timely, libraries also not out of from them. In this age huge amount of data store in computers to building the libraries. Libraries routine operational works also going to automated. The computer and related technologies started to replace all manual documentation work. Libraries are accepting automation software for their routine activities as well as for building digital libraries using institutional repository software. Libraries also started to implementing more and more technology base services like OPAC (Online public access catalogue), Broadcast searching, Reference linking, Personalized portals, Virtual reference services, Library industry standards (MARC, Z39.50), Encoded archival description, Open archive initiative, open URL, Dublin core, Metadata Standards (METS, MOA2), Open source wi-fi implementation, Mobile and wireless services, Links to E-learning and digital asset management, Implementation of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) etc. In this regard University libraries in state of Gujarat facing so many challenges which are describe here.

II. CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING IT

- 1) **Lack of Finance:** As we everybody knows that finance is prime source to implement new devices, tools and techniques. University libraries getting high amount budget to run library and related services. But for implementing technology and related tools, they don't have maximum provision to using budget for this particular area. Afterwards IT related tools also too much expensive and high maintenance requirement. So lack of finance is a prior and big challenge to implementing IT in libraries. But there are some solutions also to fulfil the requirements like; 1. Provision to use some present of budget from library main budget. 2. Allotted special budget. 3. Request and convince to management for increase the budget. 4. Through library income sources.
- 2) **Lack of Administrative Support:** Some of Universities facing this challenge due to unsupportive behaviour to upper management regarding implementing IT. The main reason of that is they haven't aware with library related technologies and their usefulness for development. Library professionals also failed to convince them, and that's why the works still pending. Here are some basic tips to impress the management and start-up to implementation of IT Like; 1. Developing a positive impact in-front of administrators. 2. Take a respectively permission for the work. 3. Continuing remind to management. 4. Work by personal efforts or getting help from other LIS Professionals.

- 3) *Lack of Trained staff, helpers, time and efforts:* Most of the university libraries having this common issue for everywhere. Even many more university libraries have not permanent librarian. Without sufficient library staff no possibilities to do anything. Afterword's for implementing of IT in libraries their staff also enough to know and aware with current technological trends in particular filed. Its biggest responsibility for university libraries to provide timely services for their users, so library professionals mostly busy with routine works and activities. So it's also tough to taking time and provides extra efforts for do something new. But regarding this some solutions also available like; 1. Recruitment of new trained staff. 2. Provide training to library professionals. 3. Help from Outsource agencies and other libraries for more staff. 4. Choosing the vacation time period for this work. 5. Every LIS Professionals spending their some time and efforts from daily working hours.
- 4) *Lack of Proper Training:* As we know that when we are going to implementing something new, training is the base for productivity and quality of work. If University libraries having all the support and facility to implementing latest technology in libraries, but if they don't have trained staff to do this it is not possible to complete the goal. So for implementing latest IT tools in libraries library professional should well train and also updated with latest current trends. In this regards we have to: 1. Organizing training program for library professionals. 2. Library professionals went outside for systematic training. 3. Motivate Library professionals for participating in Seminars, Conferences and workshops. 4. Library professional share their knowledge and experience in-between. 5. Motivate to library professionals for self-learning and development.
- 5) *Lake Of Proper Planning And Leadership Policy:* Planning and organization is base of any type of work. Every work and plan required a good planning and organizational system. When libraries started to implement technologies in their system, it must require to plan once. But some libraries facing this challenge due to improper planning system or un-ability to plan it in proper way and that's why they does not implement IT techniques in their systems and services. But these are some useful guidelines to solve it; 1. Clarity in objectives, proper organization and system analysis before work. 2. Appoint a committee for implementation of IT. 3. All the works done by outsources agencies. 4. Taken the help from subject experts and other LIS Professionals. 5. Before start prepared pre-report of work under the leadership of librarian.
- 6) *Lack Of Support From Library Professionals; They Also Not Aware About Advantages And Important Of It In Libraries:* Personal interest and enthusiasm is very important in every work. Without it work quality is not maintain and it should not complete in proper way. But there are many LIS Professional who going to retired in nearest timing, that's why they don't involve developing and learning new things. Also for some, this work is very uninterested and unnecessary, so it's very important to change their attitude regarding IT. Here are some tips to develop it; 1. Provide a positive guidance to library professionals for the same. 2. Explain the advantages and important regarding IT to library professionals. 3. Visiting to library professionals from well-equip libraries. 4. Motivate to library professionals for attend seminars and conferences.
- 7) *Fear Of Modern Techniques With Personal Bias And Lack Of Confidence Among Library Professionals:* Many of the library professionals having fear to learn and accepting new things in job place. So it's also a disadvantage for them. It is very important to motivate library professionals before work begin start. So they accepting it very easily and developing more. Here are some important things to develop confidence among LIS Professionals; 1. Provide proper guidelines and built a positive impact among professionals. 2. Explain the advantages and important of IT to professionals. 3. Organizing a systematic training program for professionals. 4. Appreciate the efforts of professionals and making a positive attitude.
- 8) *Lack of Co-Ordination And Co-Operations Among Library Professionals:* Some time groupism is required for work ability and maintenance. Library is a one system and its work with together, so it's very important to co-operate with each other's and run it very smoothly. But many of the libraries facing this challenge due to lake of co-operation among professionals, but here are some tricks to solve it; 1. Develop a co-operation policy among LIS Professionals. 2. Motivate to library professionals for something new. 3. Provide a group tasks/work to library professionals. 4. Organizing Group talks and meetings periodically in library.
- 9) *Library Professionals Do Not Have Basic Knowledge Of It And Current Touch With Modern It Techniques:* Sometimes library professionals more busy with their routine job profile, and that's why they not involve learning or doing something new. Afterwards some professionals does not having a basic knowledge of computers and they only involve with manual library work. So it is very important for implementing IT in libraries that LIS professionals should have basic knowledge of computers and they also involve with current activities and trends of information technology. Here are some useful things to develop it; 1. Provide a basic training of computers for library professionals. 2. Permit to library professionals for attending CCC Classes. 3. Organising CCC Classes in university campus. 4. Motivate to library professionals for participating in seminar and conferences.
- 10) *Lack Of Inter Communication Among LIS Professionals:* Internal communication is must require for any of the vibrant system. It's useful to work smoothly and run library very accurately, and also help to finding some problems, errors in job place.

Library is one system with many objective and work procedures which are link with each other. So it's must that every professionals aware with each other duties, work procedures and requirements. It is possible only and only with internally support and communication. Here are some points to improve it in organization; 1. Provide a group tasks to library professionals. 2. Respectively changes in work and responsibilities among library professionals. 3. Organizing talk saws for library professionals. 4. Organizing seminar and conferences by library professionals. 5. Improve positive attitude with communication skills among professionals.

- 11) *Lack Of Technical Support In Troubleshooting Of It Problems In The Library:* Library professionals are related to Library science field, it's necessary that they having basic knowledge of computers, able to work with information and communication related technologies. But they are not experts in computer and electronics science. So they always need a support when, they working with technology and facing any error with that. Here are some topics discuss to do that; 1. Help to professionals in any technical trouble shooting of IT problems. 2. Trained LIS Professionals by providing systematic training. 3. Appoint a special technical staff regarding this. 4. Help from other LIS professionals and libraries regarding this. 5. Motivate to professionals for participating in seminar and conferences.
- 12) *Library Users Are Not Interested To Use It Base Services:* In some of libraries users are always demand print materials and manual base services. That time we will try to convince them and also advising with IT base services, usage and importants. We will try; 1. Organizing orientation programs for library users. 2. Trained and motivate library users for using IT base services. 3. Appoint a special staff for help and guidance of library users. 4. Attract library users via innovative library services. 5. Displaying manual, guidelines regarding the same.
- 13) *Lack Of Building Infrastructure Of The Library:* Some of university libraries having a very old library building. And it is very difficult to implementing latest technologies with that. They are facing some basic challenges and requirements to implementing IT. But they try to salve it with; 1. Built a new library building. 2. Renovate the library building. 3. Changing the work areas in library. 4. Making a needful suitable change in library. 4. Developing the library building.
- 14) *Expensive Tools and Hardware's Of It Include Their High Maintenance Cost:* Technological tools are very expensive, and its maintenance cost also high. Afterwards library having not sufficient budget to use with that purpose. So in this case we use some policies to solve it; 1. Provision to use some percent of budget from library main budget. 2. Allotted special budget. 3. Tender system for buying the equipment's. 4. Manage the cost by using the regular income source of library. 5. Management and university take all the financially responsibility for development.
- 15) *Lack of Proper Guidelines, Information's, Motivations, Directions, Assistance:* Library is system which have proper guidelines too run. For implementing of IT in libraries it should having some proper guidelines to work, accurate information to manage it, Motivate to library professionals as well as direct them and providing them assistance. For this we have to do; 1. Provide manuals, booklets before they start. 2. For suitability of professionals provide them assistants. 3. Provide systematic work to professionals based upon them capabilities. 4. Help and assistant to professionals for critical and tough tasks. 5. Guide to professionals from subject experts and trainers.

III. CONCLUSION

Thus, University libraries of state of Gujarat facing above challenges to implementing information technology in their libraries and related services. Many University libraries take some necessary steps and solve it via described deployment policies.

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