

Status of ICT infrastructure and Automation in College Libraries of Golaghat District of Assam: a case study

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Abstract: *In recent years, technological advancement has made a drastic change in all the professions. Library and Information centres and their similar organizations are also not an exception to this. With the event of Information Technology and its intervention, the profession has been changing from traditional to hi-tech services. During the last few years, technology became a major factor on the library scene. The present study tries to highlights the status of ICT infrastructure in college libraries of Golaghat district of Assam and tries to find out the clear picture of automation status in surveyed libraries. The paper also identified the problems and measures to be taken for development of the library system.*

Key Words: *Information and Communication Technology (ICT), College libraries, Automation, Internet Connection*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The revolutionary impacts of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) affects the way people live learn and work. Libraries and Information Centres and other similar organizations are also not an exception to this. The ICT has far reaching impact on the modern libraries without hardware no library provide web based services to its users. Use of ICT and computer technology made library services more effective towards fulfillment of academic requirements.

At present context of higher educational academic system, a modern college library plays a vital role in educational process. As a vital sub-system of college component it should be well equipped with modern technologies. Therefore, Development of ICT and its uses is the demand of the time to fulfill the information needs of users. The present study tries to find out a clear picture of development of ICT infrastructure and its uses and automation status in some selected college libraries of Golaghat district of Assam affiliated to Dibrugarh University.

2. Objectives of the study:

The major objectives of this study are as under:

- ❖ To find out the present status of ICT infrastructure in selected college libraries of Golaghat district.
- ❖ To find out the details of internet connection, connectivity types and power back-up systems in selected college libraries of Golaghat district.
- ❖ To examine the status of automation in the surveyed libraries.
- ❖ To find out the problems and prospects of application and use of ICT in selected surveyed libraries.

3. Scope and Limitations:

The study is limited to the nine college libraries located in Golaghat district of Assam affiliated to Dibrugarh University and the data are collected as on October 2016.

4. Methodology:

Data are collected from college website and conversation over telephone with librarians of concerned college libraries.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

The data collected by different methods are arranged according to the year of establishment of colleges and presented in the following tabular forms and finally data are analyzed and interpreted.

5.1. Basic Information about the colleges and college libraries of Golaghat district:

Table 1: Basic Information about the colleges and college libraries of Golaghat district

Sl. No.	Name of the college	Year of Estd.	Year of Library set up	Staff Strength of the Library			Stream
				Total staff	Prof.	Non prof.	
1.	Debraj Roy College	1949	1949	5	2	3	Science, Arts
2.	Dergaon Kamal Dowerah College	1962	1962	7	2	5	Science, Commerce, Arts
3.	Jogananda Deva Satradhikar Goswami College	1964	1964	4	3	1	Commerce, Arts
4.	Hemprova Borbora Girls' College	1969	1969	3	2	1	Arts
5.	Sarupathar College	1970	1970	4	2	2	Commerce, Arts
6.	Kamar Gaon College	1972	1972	3	1	2	Arts
7.	Golaghat Commerce College	1972	1972	4	3	1	Commerce, Arts
8.	Furkating College	1981	1981	3	1	2	Science, Arts
9.	Joya Gogoi College	1991	1992	2	1	1	Arts

The basic information of all the colleges and college libraries of Golaghat district covered under this study has been given in the Table 1. It presents a list of the selected colleges and college libraries according to their year of establishment, their staff strength and stream. Debraj Roy College is the oldest higher educational institution in Golaghat district. From the table it has observed that Golaghat District College library has equal number of professional library staff in comparison to non- professional staff. Dergaon Kamal Dowerah College has maximum number of library staff, i.e., 7 followed by Debraj Roy College, i.e., 5 whereas the Joya Gogoi College has least number of library staff, i.e., 2. Library staffs are very few in numbers in most of the college libraries.

5.2 Adequacy of Basic ICT Infrastructure (Hardware):

Table 2: Basic ICT infrastructure (Hardware) level of Golaghat district college libraries

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Total no. of Computer	Total no. of Scanner	Total no. of Barcode Scanner	Total no. of Printer	Total no. of Projector	Total no. of Xerox	Use of Telephone	Use of Fax
1.	Debraj Roy College	7	2	1	3	1	1	Yes	No
2.	Dergaon Kamal Dowerah College	26 (E-corner-22, Library-4)	3	1	2	1	1	Yes	No
3.	Jogananda Deva Satradhikar Goswami College	15 (E-Corner-10, Library-5)	1	1	3	NIL	1	Yes	Yes

4.	Hemprova Borbora Girls' College	10	1	2	1	1	1	No	No
5.	Sarupathar College	2	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	No	No
6.	Kamar Gaon College	4	1	3	1	NIL	1	No	No
7.	Golaghat Commerce College	4	1	1	1	NIL	1	No	No
8.	Furkating College	10 (E-Corner, Library)	2	2	2	NIL	1	No	No
9.	Joya Gogoi College	8	1	1	1	NIL	1	Yes	No

The ICT has far reaching impact on the modern libraries without hardware no library provide web based services to its users. Table 2 highlights the basic ICT infrastructure (Hardware) level with regard to Computer, Scanner, Barcode Scanner, Printer, Projector, Xerox, use of telephone and Fax of surveyed libraries. The table shows that the Dergaon Kamal Dowerah College library has highest number of computers in comparison to other libraries. Sarupathar College library has least number of computers, i.e., 2. Dergaon Kamal Dowerah College Library, Jogananda Deva Satradhikar Goswami College Library, and Furkating College Library have a standard computer laboratory (E-Corner) for Internet browsing and E- resource access to the users of the library. It has been found that except Sarupathar College library other College libraries have comparatively adequate ICT infrastructure.

5.3 Internet Connection, Connectivity types and Power back-up Systems:

Table 3: Internet Connection, Connectivity types and Power back-up systems in Surveyed Libraries:

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Internet Connection	Wi-Fi Facility	Connectivity types	Power back-up system
1.	Debraj Roy College	Yes	Yes	BSNL Broadband, Reliance 4G	Generator, Online UPS
2.	Dergaon Kamal Dowerah College	Yes	No	BSNL Broadband	Online UPS
3.	Jogananda Deva Satradhikar Goswami College	Yes	Yes	BSNL Broadband, VPN	Generator, Inverter
4.	Hemprova Borbora Girls' College	Yes	No	Dongle	Generator, Online UPS
5.	Sarupathar College	No	No	No	Generator, Online UPS
6.	Kamar Gaon College	Yes	No	VSAT, Dongle	Generator, UPS
7.	Golaghat Commerce College	Yes	Yes	BSNL Broadband	Generator, UPS
8.	Furkating College	Yes	No	BSNL Broadband	Generator, UPS
9.	Joya Gogoi College	Yes	No	BSNL Broadband, VSAT, Dongle	Inverter

Internet Connection, Connectivity types and Power back-up Systems play a major role in providing services and accessing of E-resources in libraries. A good internet connection, connectivity types and proper power back-up systems always helps to users in quick accessing of E-resources in a short period of time. Table 3 shows that Debraj Roy College Library, Jogananda Deva Satradhikar Goswami College Library and Golaghat Commerce College Library provide Wi-Fi facility within the libraries. All most all the college libraries have internet connection except Sarupathar College Library. Most of the Colleges have Combine UPS, Generators, Inverters but the functional level of these power back-up systems are not sufficient to fulfill the requirement.

5.4 Status of library automation:

Table 4: Status of library automation in the college libraries of Golaghat district:

Sl. No.	Name of the Colleges	Status of Library Automation	Software Used	Software Functioning Areas	Satisfactory level of Librarians	Total no. of books	Records in Database
1.	Debraj Roy College	Partially Automated	SOUL 2.0	Cataloguing, Circulation, OPAC	Good	35,973	14,903
2.	Dergaon Kamal Dowerah College	Partially Automated	SOUL 1.0	Cataloguing, Circulation, OPAC	Good	34,674	17,352
3.	Jogananda Deva Satradhikar Goswami College	Partially Automated	SOUL 1.0	Cataloguing, Circulation, OPAC	Good	22,946	12,580
4.	Hemprova Borbora Girls' College	Partially Automated	SOUL 2.0	Cataloguing, Circulation, OPAC	Good	16,900	12,592
5.	Sarupathar College	Partially Automated	SOUL 2.0	Cataloguing	Poor	17,000	11,000
6.	Kamar Gaon College	Partially Automated	SOUL 2.0	Cataloguing, Circulation, OPAC	Good	17,500	17,500
7.	Golaghat Commerce College	Partially Automated	SOUL 2.0	Cataloguing, Circulation, OPAC	Good	28,000	24,000
8.	Furkating College	Partially Automated	SOUL 1.0	Cataloguing, Circulation, OPAC	Good	17,203	15,000
9.	Joya Gogoi College	Partially Automated	SOUL 2.0	Cataloguing	Poor	10,947	1,200

Library automation reduces the work stress of library staff and helps in getting information quickly within a short period of time. The current status of library automation in selected college libraries of Golaghat district has been shown in the Table 4.

The table shows that all the college libraries are partially automated and use SOUL software for library automation. Except Sarupathar and Joya Gogoi college library, other college libraries are adopting cataloguing, circulation and OPAC modules in their libraries and satisfactory level of librarians are good. From the above table it is clear that in comparison to other college libraries only Kamargaon college library has enlisted all the books in SOUL software.

6. Findings:

After a critical analysis following findings were found during the study:

- ❖ The colleges located at the town areas are in better position than in the rural areas.
- ❖ Though Broad band connectivity is available in six colleges under study, it is found to be disturbing. Moreover, irregular power supply is another complex issue for availing internet services.
- ❖ Though, librarians are professionally qualified, their level of using modern technology devices is found to be very limited.
- ❖ A limited number of colleges have extended Barcode facilities.

7. Suggestions:

- ❖ The infrastructural facilities like high speed internet/local connectivity by optical fiber etc., increased numbers of computers should be incorporated and renovation of old library buildings or extension of the old library to incorporate all the modern facilities as per requirements of library users and employees.

- ❖ Workshops, In-service trainings should be organized time to time in library automation and on other areas for library professionals. Assam College Library Association (ACLA) can also take a special initiative in arranging such workshops, training programmes in collaboration with INFLIBNET centre in different parts of the state.
- ❖ Specific fund should be allotted for automation process.

8. CONCLUSION:

At present context, ICT has far reaching impact on the modern libraries without hardware no library provide web based services to its users. Use of ICT and computer technology made library services more effective towards fulfillment of academic requirements. The present study reveals that except two or three colleges, most of the college libraries of Golaghat districts are not properly equipped with latest Information and Communication Technology. In few colleges computers are there but not sufficient in terms of users. In some colleges there is small numbers of staffs as compared to users. In comparison to the establishment and geographical area, colleges located in town area have better level of infrastructure development in ICT compared to rural colleges. As a result, in most of the college's automation process is not fully done due to proper planning, lack of fund, lack of hardware, lack of manpower, skilled library staff, and lack of training. To overcome these constraints librarian and college authority can take innovative ideas and formulate proper planning for the development of their libraries. Hence library professionals need to take right initiatives in right direction at right time.

Assam College Library Association (ACLA) is a professional body of college librarians of Assam, which can also take a special initiative in arranging some workshop, training programme on library automation for library professionals in collaboration with INFLIBNET centre in different parts of the state.

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