



Computerisation in Govt. public Libraries of Gujarat State

KEYWORDS

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Preface:

Computer is an important invention in this era of technological development. We also call this era as 'Computer Era'. Basically, computer was invented decades ago and gradually it kept developing. It has got extraordinary work capacity beyond other scientific gadgets. It has become now possible for even a common man to do gigantic works with the help of computers.

In the present era there isn't a single field where computer technology does not exist. It has established its importance in the fields like industries, business, electricity, rail-way, aviation, govt. and semi-govt. offices, banking, insurance, transportation, co-operative institutes, medical, education, printing & publication, fine arts, law and order etc. Anything can be done without wasting man-power and within the least time and best results can be obtained with the help of the computers, A person with little knowledge of computers can also use computer easily in the areas of his concern It can surely be said that the day to day progress of computer technology owes to the new inventions in the field of technology.

Computer technology covers almost all aspects of life. In the next generation, computer may replace man-power, which will not be a thing of astonishment. All these owes to the day to day researches in the field of computer technology.

Contribution of Computers in the field of Library:

Present era is an era of information boom. A new research is taking place in any corner of the world each minute. In this era of information boom, present libraries have become meager in providing necessary information to the people. At this point of time the primary obligation of the library is to provide the targeted information, reading material to the people from the library itself or from other library or other information centre. Formerly it was believed that library means a huge collection of books. But present era is the era of information. With the emergence of computer technology e-books, e-journals, Audio-Video cds, internet etc. Medias have replaced the traditional books. It is necessary for the libraries to equip themselves with such e-materials. For this computer technology is must. Each library has accepted this fact by heart. Now a days, like other sectors, libraries are also using computer technology, adequately and all libraries are committed to provide the materials sought by the people.

Application of Computer Technology in Public Libraries of Gujarat State:

With a view to providing library facilities, free of charge to the people the state government has established a separate office of the library which is functioning under the guidance of Sports, Youth and Cultural Activities Department of the State Government in Gujarat. The said office is function towards the development of activities pertaining to the public libraries. The Government libraries are functioning at district and taluka levels under the guidance of the said office of the libraries. At present, there are two central libraries i.e. at Gandhinagar and Vadodara, 26 District Government Libraries at district level, 33 Swarnim Taluka Government Libraries in 33 talukas, 3 libraries for women, 7 mobile libraries in same district, State Art and Culture Library at Ahmedabad and State

Central Reserve Library at Mehsana. In the same way, with a view to providing the facilities of public libraries at village level, 142 Rural Library cum cultural centres and 4534 grant-in-aid libraries of various levels are functioning, with the assistance of State Government local panchayats, municipalities and voluntary organizations. Library facilities are provided to the people, free of charge, through these libraries.

In this age of information technology, with a view to providing the latest library facilities to the people, with the help of computers the office of the library of the State Government has implemented a scheme of computerization of the services of all the Government public libraries in the state since 2001-2002.

The computersation of services of two central libraries, State Central Reserve Library, State Art and Cultural Library and 26 other libraries functioning at district level have been completed till 2010.

With a view to providing the material sought by the reader through public libraries of Gujarat, the software 'SOUL' is selected. This software is developed by an institute of the Govt. of India, called 'INFLIBNET'. The said 'SOUL' software is known as 'Software of University Library'. Actually, this software is developed for the educational institutes. Some changes have been made in this software with joint efforts of office or library and 'INFLIBNET' to cater the needs of public libraries. At present, all the district level libraries of Gujarat the computerised and connected with 'SOUL'.

It has been planned to computerise the services of 10 to 15 Government Libraries of taluka level every year from 2012 to 2018. It is being implemented in phased manner.

As a part of application of computer technology, the State Central Library, Gandhinagar has been equipped with R. F. I. D. system. RFID means 'Radio Frequency Identification Device System. This system facilitates the reader to get the book issued and return it him/her self. Moreover, a 'Knowledge Centre' is to be established at State Central Library in the year 2012, Wherein the people will have internet access available at this centre. More than 20 lakh e-books, more than 2 thousand e-journals will be available to the people through internet in this centre from July-2012. All the 26 district libraries shall be connected with ONLINE NETWORK with 'GSWAN' connectivity and internet, with State Central Library, Gandhinagar and thereby people will have accessibility of e-books and e-journals at district libraries also.

The urban libraries located in urban areas of Gujarat and run by voluntary organization e.g. libraries at Petlad, Navasari, Modasa, Ankaleshwar, Bidada-Bhuj, Ahmedabad, Anand, Nadiad, Surat, Rajkot, Visnagar etc. will be equipped with 'SOUL' software and thus the works of their copmputerisation will be completed.

After completion of computerisation of public libraries of the State Government, so many works of libraries are carried out on computer. They are as follow:

(1) Retro conversion :

Details of all books, magazines and dailies of any library can be availed within very short period.

(2) OPAC: (Online Public Access Catalogue)

People will have easy access of the books available, names of authors of the books, subjects of books, number of books available for particular subject, e-library materials etc. of any library through this "OPAC" system.

(3) Book Issue Return :

Books can be issued and transaction of books becomes easy and it saves the time of the people and at the same time other library services can also be provided to people as the bar-code system is adopted in this regard. Apart from that Readers-card can also be issued and transaction of books becomes easy due to bar-code system.

(4) Member Entry :

It becomes very easy to issue identity cards to the members of library. Within very short time.

(5) Reader Awareness :

Due to computerisation the list of new arrival books can be displayed easily for the reader. New members of the library can be aware about their areas of interests and books of readers interest can be purchased on priority basis on the basis of the feedback of the members/readers.

(6) Books/Member Status :

Important reports like how many books are there in the library, how many books available, at present, how many books are issues, how many books are kept reserved, which reader has read which books etc. can be retrieved easily.

(7) Technical Process :

Technical process like indexing of the books available with the library, can be prepared easily. Catalogues as per the designed process can be obtained. Apart from this, the process like withdrawal of useless books, confiscate the deposits of non-active members of library, maintain the stock of books, recover the price of books lost by the readers etc. can be taken up very easily.

(8) Administrative Works :

All the administrative works of library like accounting, pay bill and consolidation of information of the reader etc. can be taken up easily.

(9) Book-date entry :

Data entry of list of all books available with the library can be done easily. As a result, the library Accession Register is generated automatically.

(10) Periodicals Entry :

Regular register of magazines and dailies can be maintained, which reflects the list of irregular magazines and dailies. At the same time it becomes helpful in remaining the schedule of subscriptions to be maintained.

Planning of extension of computer services :

The works of computerisation of all the district level Govt. libraries under the office of the libraries have been completed in Gujarat State. The State Government has planned to connect all district level libraries with 'GSWAN' connectivity. This will facilitate the readers of these library with following facilities and library services.

- ❖ Reader of the library or any other person would be able to access information about books, e-books, e-journals available in district libraries through ON LINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE COPAC.
- ❖ They will also come to know about the books available for issuance in the various district libraries.
- ❖ They would be able to see online, the books issued on their name, how many and which books they have read during the year and which libraries they have used during the year from their home.
- ❖ It has been planned to provide various services to the reader in future with the application of computer technology.
- ❖ prerequisites for effective implementation of computerised services of Govt. public libraries of Gujarat.

- (1) All the employees working with the Govt. libraries of the state may be provided training of computer software/hardware, periodically.
- (2) As there is Open Access System in the Govt. libraries of the state, it is necessary that all the books are put at proper places on day to day basis. So that, the reader can find the book easily.
- (3) It is obligatory to give maintenance and service contract regularly for the computer hardware/software of the libraries.
- (4) Adequate financial provision may be made in budget of library for the computer hardware/software of the library.
- (5) It is necessary to provide A/C rooms for the proper maintenance of computer hardware/software of the library.
- (6) Library staff may be properly trained to make the materials available to the reader as per his/her requirement with the help of computer.
- (7) Some times, the libraries have to face the cut of electricity supply. Hence, there may be some attractive arrangements (generators) where computers are used. It will not allow disruption of computer services.
- (8) It is necessary to adopt the updation in computer technology at regular intervals and there by keep the computer technology updated.
- (9) It is necessary to have data backup schedule for library data in every Govt. libraries.
- (10) It is necessary to appoint data entry operator for the assistance of the staff. So that, the data of latest arrivals of books and magazines can be entered and uploaded immediately for the use of the readers.

If adequate planning is made considering the above points in mind for computerisation of the Govt. libraries, the computerised services provided to the reader may become more

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