

**A STUDY OF STATUS OF LIBRARY SERVICES AUTOMATION IN SCIENCE
COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO GONDWANA UNIVERSITY, GADCHIROLI**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Any educational institution's library is considered of as its beating heart. Modern educational structures are built on a solid foundation of well-equipped and maintained libraries (Takappa and Ramakrishna, 2017). When it comes to giving user access to information, academic libraries are essential. Academic libraries serve as hubs for educational activity where students and teachers conduct extensive information searches (Kuri 2022). The dissemination of information, which is a significant element of every nation's educational institutions, is facilitated by libraries. The library as an organization identifies, chooses, gathers, processes, stores, and distributes information to the appropriate person at the right time. The knowledge was preserved in the form of books, monographs, manuscripts, handouts, and several other media for use now and for preservation purposes in the future (Vasantha and Adithya, 2022). Automating the conventional library operations and services, including cataloguing, circulation, acquisition, serial control system, and associated tasks, is known as library automation (Ajani and Buraimo, 2022). In order to keep up with the demands of the modern information age and provide better services to its patrons, libraries must incorporate automation into their daily operations (Balaji and Krishnamurthy, 2013). Library employees get a lot of help with their daily tasks from this automation, and it also offers conveniences like simple operations via database access across geographies utilising the internet (Nayana, 2019).

In the digital age, the automation of library services has become a cornerstone for enhancing the efficiency, accessibility, and quality of information dissemination in academic institutions. Libraries, traditionally considered repositories of knowledge, are now evolving into dynamic centers of digital resources and services. This transformation is particularly crucial in higher education, where the demand for timely and accurate information is paramount for both academic and research pursuits (Iqbal et al., 2023). Gondwana University, located in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, serves as a pivotal educational hub for the region, with

numerous affiliated colleges relying on its academic and infrastructural support. The libraries within these colleges play a vital role in supporting the educational mission of the university by providing students and faculty with access to a wide range of resources. However, the extent to which these libraries have embraced automation—ranging from cataloging and circulation to digital resource management—remains an area that warrants thorough investigation. This study seeks to explore the current state of library automation in these institutions. It aims to assess the level of adoption of automated systems, identify the challenges faced in implementing such technologies, and evaluate the impact of automation on the quality of library support services. By examining the existing infrastructure, staff readiness, and user satisfaction, this study will provide valuable insights into the gaps and opportunities for improvement in library services automation (Singh and Kumar, 2022).

2. METHODOLOGY

To guarantee the study's validity, the researcher meticulously collected data. The research was carried out in three stages: surveying, collecting and analysing data, and last, interpreting the results. Given the unique aims of the research, a mixed method approach combining descriptive and quantitative methods was used in this investigation. All of Gondwana University, Gadchiroli was deemed to be part of the study region for this research activity. The state's Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts are within the University's purview. In this research a descriptive research design was used by the researcher. Descriptive research design is used to collect information on various aspects of the topic under study. There are a total of 236 academic colleges affiliated to Gondwana University, Gadchiroli. Out of these 74 are Colleges are having Science Courses.

In this study, all these 74 science colleges were considered as population. However, the data were obtained from total 65 librarians working in these colleges with a response rate of 87.8%. The initial complied through the use of a structured research method. The research instrument (questionnaire) for this study was developed using the standard approach and based on commonly acknowledged principles of instrument design (Lundberg, 2003). This research relies on secondary data culled from a variety of sources, including scholarly journals, government reports, and international organisations. The right statistical tests were used to analyse the data. Based on the data obtained, descriptive statistics were calculated and analysed using the Chi-Square test. The SPSS 18.0 program was used for the data analysis. We settled on a 5% significance threshold, which is similar to 0.05.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Automation of acquisition service

Table 1: Status of automation acquisition service of college libraries

Status of automation	Nos.	Percentage
Full	37	56.9
Partial	19	29.2
No automation	9	13.8
Total	65	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 18.59; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 5.99; p < 0.05$$

Above Table 1 presents information pertaining to status of automation acquisition service of the library of science colleges under the jurisdiction of Gondwana University Gadachiroli. Study result shows that according to 56.9% respondents acquisition services provided are fully automated while 29.2% respondents stated that this service is partially automated. Further 13.8% stated that acquisition service is not automated.

3.2. Automation of cataloging

Table 2: Status of automation cataloging service of college libraries

Status of cataloging	Nos.	Percentage
Full	41	63.1
Partial	12	18.5
No automation	12	18.5
Total	65	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 25.885; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 5.99; p < 0.05$$

Above Table 2 presents information pertaining to status of automation cataloging service of the library of science colleges under the jurisdiction of Gondwana University Gadachiroli. Study result shows that according to 63.1% respondents cataloguing services provided are fully automated while 18.5% respondents stated that this service is partially automated. Further 18.5% stated that cataloguing service is not automated.

3.3. Automation of library member management

Table 3: Status of library member management service of college libraries

Library management	Nos.	Percentage
Full	35	53.8
Partial	13	20.0
No automation	17	26.2
Total	65	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 12.681; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 5.99; p < 0.05$$

Above Table 3 presents information pertaining to status of library member management service of the library of science colleges under the jurisdiction of Gondwana University Gadachiroli. Study result shows that according to 53.8% respondents library member management services are fully automated while 20.0% respondents stated that this service is partially automated. Further 26.2% stated that library member management service is not automated.

3.4. Automation of circulation

Table 4: Status of circulation service of college libraries

Status of circulation	Nos.	Percentage
Full	38	58.5
Partial	21	32.3
No automation	6	9.2
Total	65	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 23.669; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 5.99; p < 0.05$$

Above Table 4 presents information pertaining to status of circulation service of the library of science colleges under the jurisdiction of Gondwana University Gadachiroli. Study result shows that according to 58.5% respondents circulation services are fully automated while 32.3% respondents stated that this service is partially automated. Further 9.2% stated that circulation is not automated.

3.5. Automation of serials control

Table 5: Status of serials control service of college libraries

Status of serials control	Nos.	Percentage
Full	23	35.4
Partial	28	43.1
No automation	14	21.5
Total	65	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 4.648; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 5.99; p < 0.05$$

Table 5 above presents information pertaining to status of serials control service of the library of science colleges under the jurisdiction of Gondwana University Gadchiroli. Study result shows that according to 35.4% respondents serials control services are fully automated while 43.1% respondents stated that this service is partially automated. Further 21.5% stated that this service is not automated.

3.6. Automation of inter library lending process

Table 6: Status of inter library lending service of college libraries

Inter library lending	Nos.	Percentage
Full	17	26.2
Partial	23	35.4
No automation	25	38.5
Total	65	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 1.6; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 5.99; p < 0.05$$

Above Table 6 presents information pertaining to status of inter library lending control service of the library of science colleges under the jurisdiction of Gondwana University Gadachiroli. Study result shows that according to 26.2% respondents inter library lending services are fully automated while 35.4% respondents stated that this service is partially automated. Further 38.5% stated that this service is not automated.

3.7. Access to online public access catalogue

Table 7: Status of online public access catalogue service of college libraries

Status of catalogue	Nos.	Percentage
Full	40	61.5
Partial	13	20.0
No automation	12	18.5
Total	65	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 23.299; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 5.99; p < 0.05$$

Above Table 7 presents information on the status of online public access catalogue service of the science colleges library under the jurisdiction of Gondwana University Gadachiroli. Study result shows that according to 61.5% respondents access to online public access catalogue is fully automated while 20.0% respondents stated that this service is partially automated. Further 18.5% stated that this service is not automated.

4. CONCLUSIONS

1. Automation of acquisition service: The study's findings make it clear that most scientific college libraries within Gondwana University Gadachiroli's authority make use of a completely automated acquisition service.

2. Automation of Cataloging: The majority of the libraries of scientific colleges linked to Gondwana University Gadachiroli offer completely automated cataloguing services, according to the study's findings.

3. Automation of Library Member management: The study's findings show that the majority of scientific college libraries connected with Gondwana University Gadachiroli provide a completely automated member management service.

4. Automation of Circulation Process: The study's findings make it clear that most scientific college libraries connected with Gondwana University Gadachiroli provide completely automated circulation services.

5. Automation of Serials control: The study's findings show that most scientific college libraries connected with Gondwana University Gadachiroli provide a completely automated serials control service.

6. Automation of Inter library lending process: A large number of scientific college libraries affiliated with Gondwana University Gadchiroli provide a completely automated interlibrary loan service, according to the study's results.

7. Access to online public access catalogue: The majority of the scientific schools associated with Gondwana University Gadchiroli provide a public access catalogue service that is entirely online, according to the study's findings.

5. REFERENCES

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