

## **Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Medical College Libraries of Assam**

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***Abstract** - Advent of information and communication technology (ICT) has changed almost all the field of knowledge. Computerization is one of the significant functions of ICT in libraries. The study tries to find out the status ICT application in the medical college libraries of Assam. It also evaluates the status of automation, availability of internet connectivity, and infrastructure facility in the libraries.*

**Keywords:** ICT, Medical college libraries, Library Automation, MCI , Assam

### **Introduction:**

Information and communication technology (ICT) has changed the traditional concept of libraries and at the same time it creates a great challenge for the library professionals. ICT has provided libraries a new opportunity to improve their resource & services. In the age of 21<sup>st</sup> century all libraries in general and medical libraries particularly are engaged to modernize their activities and operations to provide fast and effective services among the users. The medical professionals require accurate and speedy information for updating their knowledge. In this information age medical science is developing very speedily. So in that situation library professional working in the medical organization faced the challenges to meet the ever increasing demand of the medical practioners. Application of ICT in medical libraries has become inevitable in the era of information explosion and widespread use of digital resources "In today's information-intensive healthcare industry, information and communication technology (ICT) and informatics are integral for any system to meet the needs of patients and providers and improve the quality and safety of the clinical environment" (Poe, Abbott, & Pronovost, 2011).

### **Objectives of the study:**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the current status of library automation in the medical college libraries
2. To examine the status of library resources in medical college libraries
3. To Know the IT infrastructure in the medical college libraries
4. To study the infrastructural facility of medical college libraries
5. To know about the software used in the library automation

### **Limitation of the study:**

The study is limited to the five medical college libraries of Assam viz .Gauhati Medical college libraries (GMCH), Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College(FAAMCH), Barpeta, Silchar medical college libraries (SMCH),Silchar, Tezpur medical college libraries(TMCH) and Jorhat medical college libraries(JMCH).

### **Methodology:**

The study is a Questionnaire based survey. For the survey a well structure questionnaire was design and distributed among the libraries to collect the data.

### **Data Analysis:**

**Table 1 : Year of Establishment and Status of the institution**

Sl No.	Name of the libraries	Year of Establishment	Status
1	GMCH	1960	Government
2	SMCH	1968	Government
3	JMCH	2009	Government
4	FAAMCH	2011	Government
5	TMCH	2013	Government

Table 1 show that all are government medical college. From the table it is found that two medical colleges were established in the 1960s. Three medical colleges are newly established from 2009 to 2013. According to the norms of Medical council of India (MCI) all the college have established the library from the beginning of the college.

**Table 2 Status of course offered**

Sl No	Courses	Number of colleges	Percentage
1	MBBS	5	100%
2	PG	3	60%

Table 2 indicates that 100% colleges offered the MBBS course. Out of 5 college 3 colleges offered Post Graduate (PG) courses.

**Table 3: Library Collection**

Colleges	Books	Journals	E-book	e-journal	CD-ROM
GMCH	26547	137		137	
SMCH	26092	28	50	241	250
JMCH	7500	88	----	----	250
FAAMCH	7000	100	----	----	30
TMCH	3200	26	----	----	----

Table 3 shows the data about availability collection of books, thesis, e-books, e-journals, CDROM in different medical college libraries. Among the 5 libraries GMCH is the highest collection of books followed by SMCH and other libraries. SMCH have the largest collection of e-journals followed by GMCH. From my survey it is found that GMCH and SMCH libraries have been connected with the National Medical Library to access the e-journals through ERMED consortium.

**Table 4: Classification scheme used**

Schemes	Number of libraries	Percentage
DDC 21 <sup>st</sup>	5	100%
AACR2	3	60%
MARC	2	40%

Table 4 shows that all the libraries use DDC 21<sup>st</sup> edition to cataloguing the books. Out of 5 libraries 3 libraries follow the AACR2 and 2 libraries follow MAC format.

**Table 5 Software used for Automation**

Software used for automation	Number of libraries	Percentage
KOHA	2	40%
LIBSYS	1	20%
SOUL	---	

Table 5 depict that out of 5 college libraries, only 3 libraries used the Software for automation. Out of 5 libraries only 2 (40%) libraries are using KOHA as library automation software (Open Source Software) and only 1 college libraries are using LIBSYS as library automation software

**Table 6 : : Status of automation**

Automation Status	Number of libraries	Percentage
Fully automated	1	20%
Partially automated	2	40%
Proposed	2	40%

Table 6 shows that only 1 library is fully automated, 2 libraries are partially automated and other 2 libraries have submitted the proposal to automate their library.

**Table 7 : Areas and module for automation**

Modules	Number of libraries	Percentage
Circulation	1	20%
Cataloguing	3	60%
Serial control	1	20%
OPAC	2	40%

Table 7 represent that 3 (60%) libraries are automated in the areas of cataloguing and only 1 library provide circulation system and 2 libraries provide OPAC facility.

**Table 8: Availability of Internet Facility**

Availability of internet connectivity	Number of Libraries	Percentage
Yes	5	100%
No	--	--

Table 8 indicates that 100% libraries have internet facility to access the resources.

**Table 9: Infrastructure Facility (Hardware)**

Hardware	GMCH	SMCH	JMCH	FAAMCH	TMCH
Computer	53	15	6	26	30
Printer	3	3	2	3	1
Scanner	1	1	1	1	1
Barcode Printer	1	1		1	
Barcode Scanner					
LCD projector	1		1		1
Fax	1		1		
UPS	1	1	1	1	1

GMCH libraries have the largest number of computer followed by TMCH and FAAMCH libraries. All the libraries have their own server, printer and scanner. Three libraries have their own projector and fax.

### **Conclusion:**

It is well-known fact that information and communication technologies are the part and parcel for the library and information centres specially medical libraries. Medical libraries are an important part of health care organizations. In the field of medical science development or invention is growing day by day. So the library professionals of the medical organization should be well informed about the latest technology to provide the latest information effectively and efficiently among the medical communities.

From the study it is found that newly established medical college libraries are still in an initial stage. ICT infrastructure is needed for the development of the libraries. There is a lack of e-resources in most of the libraries. Training is one of the essential factors regarding ICT application. All the medical libraries should be the member of medical consortium to access the e-resources. All the libraries should have provision of sufficient hardware, quality library software, and adequate fund to improve the condition of the libraries. Therefore Planning should be necessary to implement the ICT in the libraries.

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