

INNOVATIVE ICT BASED PRACTICES IN COLLEGE LIBRARY : A STUDY

Mr. Arvind Ambadas Bhagat
Department of Library
M B Patel Arts & Commerce College,
Salekasa, Distt-Gondia
Email – bhagat.arvind95@gmail.com

Abstract : *The present research paper focuses on the innovative best practices that are implemented in the college library. These ICT-based practices are very useful to the students when they access the services of college library. This paper aims to focus on the need of ICT-based practices to be implemented in the college libraries, the researcher has given the examples of various best practices. One of the objectives of the paper is also to give information to the users about ICT-based practices which save their time while accessing information.*

Keywords : *ICT, Website, Computerization, Google Site, QR code.*

Introduction:

College library plays a vital role in enhancing and improving the quality of higher education. Library is a backbone of any institution, because library facilitates as a learning resource centre for the students as well as teachers. With the help of ICT-based practices students feel ease in accessing any type of information. With the advent of the ICT all the dimensions of college library have changed, the infrastructure and services of library have improved and the traditional practices got replaced by the new ICT-based practices. In traditional practices the students were made familiar with the library through orientation programmes, library guide, library brochure and then new arrivals etc. However, through the ICT-based practices the student can have a direct interaction and access to the library sources. These practices are very effective and advantageous than traditional one. Due to the changes ensued in the information need of the users, the ICT-based practices have opened new avenues to acquire quality information in minimum time and cost.

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan defines, “A library is a public institution or establishment charged with the care of books, the duty of making them accessible those who require the use of them”. College library is type of academic learning centre where users are different than public library. The college library users include students, teaching and non-teaching staff and external members.

The resource material of college library is different; it includes text books, reference books, biographies & autobiographies, books of general knowledge and competitive examination guides etc. According to National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) “Best practice may be innovative and be a philosophy, policy, strategy, program, process or practice that solve a problem or create new opportunities and positively



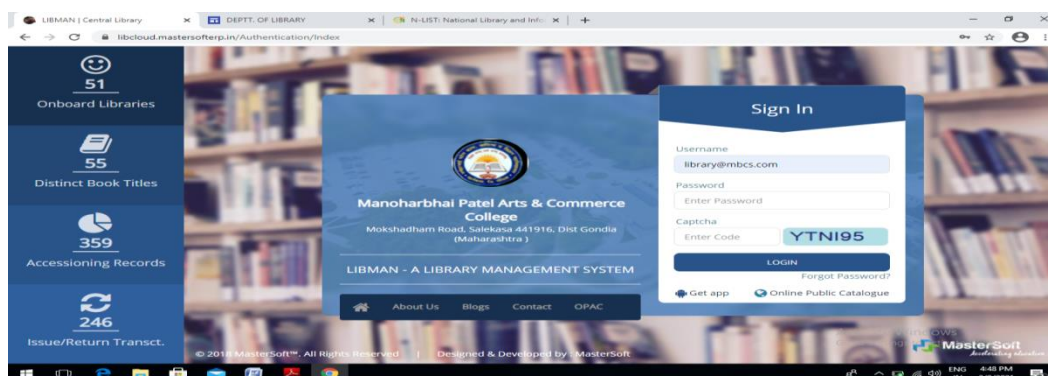
impact on organizations. Institutional excellence is the aggregate of the best practices followed in different areas of institutional activities.”

Best Practices Recommended by the NAAC:

The list of the various best practices to be implemented by the institutions are available on the website of NAAC and they provide assurance of regular updating with the consultations of contributing institutions. For the college and university libraries NAAC has developed some of the best practices in order to enhance the quality of academic information dissemination environment and its usability.

1. Computerization of library with library software—Now a days the modern library has changed the working style and working pattern of the library staff. The traditional library cannot generate huge amount of data and other information to provide value-based services. Consequently, automation is the best solution in handling huge data in lowest possible time. Many software packages are available in the field of library and information science such as Libcloud, Soul, Libsys, Koha etc.

Libman—A Library Management System is developed by MasterSoft ERP Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Lib-man is a highly integrated, user-friendly and compatible system for complete computerization of all the in-house operations of any size or type of library. The library management software is intuitive, efficient and compliant. Lib-Man is embedded with multilingual fonts, Barcode & QR Code fonts. The software developed in consultation with prolific senior library professionals, is currently being used by as many as 500 libraries.

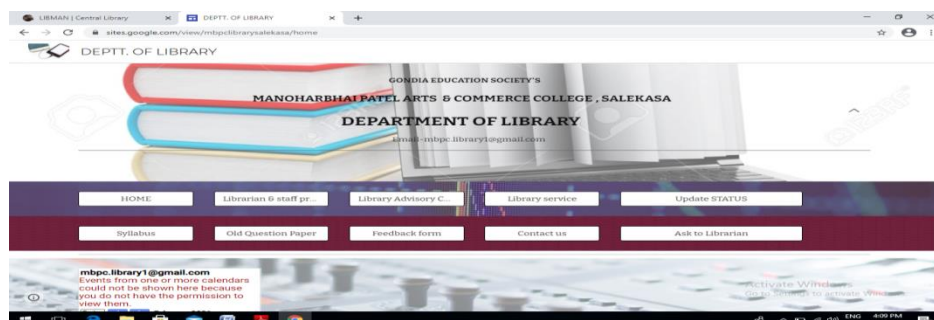


Source -<https://libcloud.mastersofterp.in/Homepage/Index/ESTllyGgcY=>

Library software helps to maintain record update, and facilitate the students' involvement with the help of OPAC. Library software minimizes the human power and brings accuracy in work.

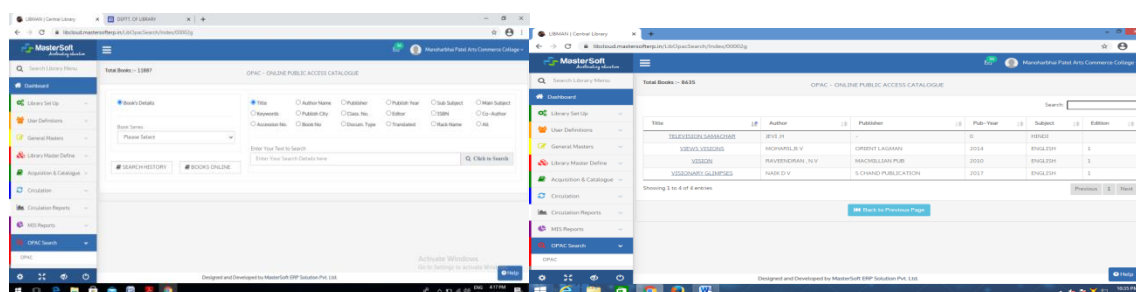
2. Library Website—Library website plays a variety of roles. It serves as the workstation in which both users and the librarian have access. Library website acts as an agent for archiving, retaining information and also as a communication tool for library and its users. Library website is a platform which informs the students about the functioning and the resources available in the library. It shows the present status of the library, details of the library staff, total stock, list of magazines and journals, various services offered by the library resources and Competitive Examination Alert section. The Google website of library of our

college <https://sites.google.com/view/mbpclibrarysalekasa/home> created during the COVID 19 pandemic period proved extremely helpful in providing information and e-resource of the library. This is the best practice offered by department of library in pandemic situation as all the physical and manual sources of providing information were unavailable during that period, the website acted as a guide to deliver information about all the online e resources.



Source - <https://sites.google.com/view/mbpclibrarysalekasa/home>

3. Online public access catalogue- OPAC is a Software module, through which students can search the particular textbooks and reference books. There are various options of searching we can search. By the name of author, title, publisher, publishing year, subject, sub-subject, keywords, class number, editor, co-author, accession number and book number etc.

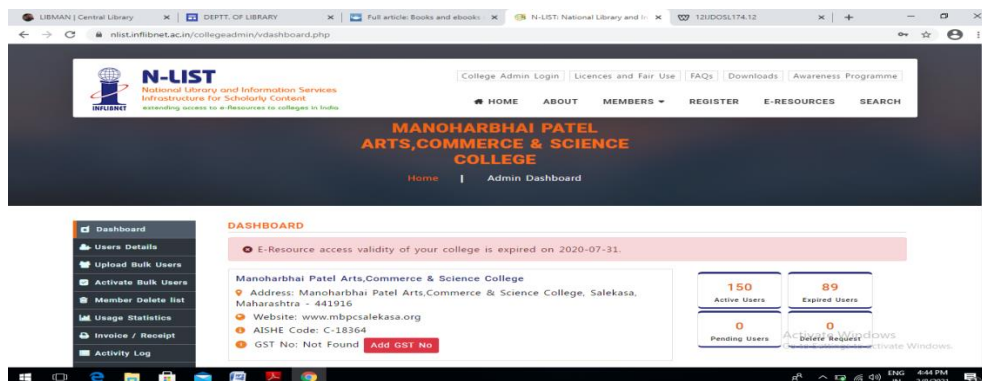


Source - <https://libcloud.mastersofterp.in/LibOpacSearch/Index/00002g>

4. E-books and E-journal—Change in the teaching and learning process in higher education has brought considerable change in the needs of the students, here role of the library to cater the changing needs of the students has become important. Library through e-books and e-journals facilitates the requirement of flexible access to information resources. In future the collection and creation of electronic resources will be the fundamental duty of libraries. Information explosion, shrinking budget are reasons for the development of consortia. The printing cost incurred through the print version is eliminated by providing e-journals and e-books. It enhances the efficiency of libraries imparting immediate access to information. Today, various consortia like N-List, e-Shodh Sindhu, UGC-INFONET, CSIR E-JOURNAL CONSORTIUM, CERA CONSORTIUM and INDEST-AICTE CONSORTIUM are available for the users.

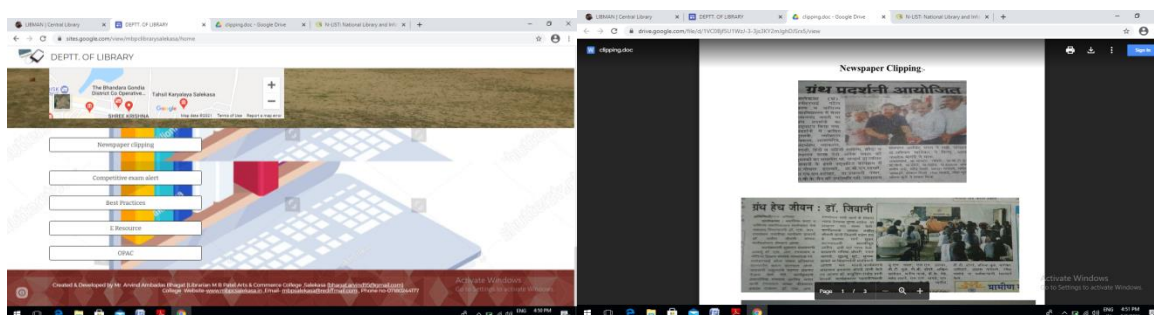
N-List Consortia - National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content is jointly run by E-Shodh Sindhu Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and INDEST AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi. The Colleges have become members of N-List consortia since the academic session 2012-13. All the colleges have been covered under the

Sections 12(B) and 2(f) of the UGC Act and Non-aided Colleges are eligible to access selected e-resources subscribed for the colleges under e-Shodh Sindhu. These resources include 6,150 e-journals and 31,64,309 e-books.



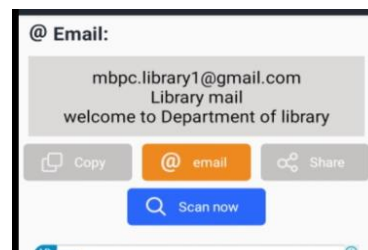
Source - <https://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/collegeadmin/vdashboard.php>

5. Newspaper Clipping Service -Newspaper clipping services help in reaching out the users wherever they are and save their time. Following images taken from the library site will help to understand the functioning of these services.



Source - <https://sites.google.com/view/mbpclibrarysalekasa/home>

Library Guides in Use of QR Code - To offer ICT-based best services researcher has created a QR code of Google site for the department of library. Google site of the department is deeply concerned with the improvement of teaching learning process in the college. Taking the consideration of this objective, the Department of Library and Information Science of M.B.Patel Arts and Commerce College, Salekasa has designed a dynamic Google site for the students of the college. The Google site acts as a digital platform to search and download the required study material. The QR code of this Google site has been created which has been proving very helpful to the students for accessing information. Following information is available on the Google site.- library update, e-journal, e-books, question papers and study material. library guides show to access full text databases, download article files, ask a librarian through SMS service, link of library exhibition etc.



Conclusion- Implementation of ICT-based practices is a key to the success of library in the world of information technology. In this research paper researcher has systematically discussed and provided guidelines on how to develop ICT-based best practices in the institution. Thus computerization and website of the department of library act as a guide which give proper information to the users. This paper has discussed how to provide maximum information to maximum users in minimum time.

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- <https://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/vabout.php>