Information Resources and Services of the Libraries in Arts Colleges Affiliated to Sardar Patel University: A Study

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***Abstract*—Libraries play a vital role in supporting higher education by providing access to a wide range of information resources and services. This study investigates the information resources and services available in the libraries of Arts colleges affiliated to Sardar Patel University, Gujarat. The objectives are to examine the collection, facilities, ICT adoption, and user-oriented services provided by these libraries. A survey method was adopted, and data were collected through structured questionnaires from librarians and faculty members. Findings reveal that while traditional resources such as books and periodicals remain central, the adoption of electronic resources, digital services, and modern facilities is gradually increasing. The study highlights the need for strengthening ICT infrastructure, training, and innovative services to meet the information needs of students and faculty.**

***Index Terms*—Academic Libraries, Information Resources, Library Services, ICT, Sardar Patel University**

I. INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries serve as the backbone of higher education institutions. They provide access to books, journals, e-resources, and a variety of user services to promote teaching, learning, and research. In the era of information technology, libraries are transforming from being mere storehouses of books to hybrid and digital learning hubs.

Sardar Patel University (SPU), located in Gujarat, has a large number of affiliated Arts colleges. The libraries in these colleges play a crucial role in supporting humanities, social sciences, and languages. However, variations exist in terms of resources, services, and infrastructure. This study attempts to examine the current status of information resources and services in these libraries.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the types of information resources available in Arts college libraries affiliated to Sardar Patel University.
2. To examine the services provided to the users.
3. To evaluate the use of ICT and e-resources.
4. To identify challenges faced by these libraries.
5. To suggest measures for improving resources and services.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Several studies have been conducted on academic library services in India, highlighting the importance of ICT adoption, e-resources, and user-centered services. Research by Kumar [1] emphasized the shift towards digital services in college libraries, while Patel and Shah [2] studied the resource adequacy in Gujarat colleges. However, limited research exists specifically on Arts college libraries affiliated to Sardar Patel University.

IV. METHODOLOGY

- Research Design: Descriptive survey method.
- Population: Arts college libraries affiliated to Sardar Patel University.
- Sample: 15 colleges were selected randomly.
- Data Collection: Structured questionnaire distributed to librarians and faculty members; interviews and observation methods were also used.

- Analysis: Data analyzed using percentage and tabulation methods.

V. FINDINGS

1. Information Resources:
   - All libraries possess textbooks, reference books, and periodicals.
   - 70% of libraries subscribe to newspapers and magazines.
   - Only 40% provide access to e-journals and online databases.
2. Library Services:
   - Circulation service is available in all libraries.
   - Reference and referral services are provided in 65% of libraries.
   - Internet and digital services are available in 50% of libraries.
   - User orientation programs are conducted in only 20% of libraries.
3. ICT Adoption:
   - 60% of libraries are partially automated using software like SOUL or SLiMS.
   - 40% lack sufficient ICT infrastructure.
4. Challenges:
   - Inadequate budget allocation.
   - Lack of trained staff in ICT.
   - Limited awareness among users regarding e-resources.

VI. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that Arts college libraries affiliated to Sardar Patel University are still dominated by print resources, though digital services are gradually emerging. There is a pressing need to strengthen ICT infrastructure, provide adequate training to staff, and create awareness among students regarding e-resources. Collaboration among libraries, better funding, and continuous user-oriented initiatives will help in transforming these libraries into modern academic support systems.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

1. Increase budgetary support for ICT and e-resources.
2. Conduct regular user orientation and information literacy programs.
3. Promote networking and resource sharing among affiliated college libraries.
4. Provide training to library staff in digital tools and reference management.
5. Introduce innovative services like OPAC, current awareness services, and institutional repositories.

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