Rural Development of Digital Libraries in Telangana

(A Study on Development Training Institutions)

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Introduction

Due to the information explosion enormous information is producing around the world every day which has become a difficult task to handle by any single library and due to the escalation of costs of printed as well as electronic resources, resource sharing networks have been established to share the information among themselves with the help of some library management softwares. These softwares mediate between different and geographically distributed information resources and different types of user communities from which digital libraries concept has been established.

Objectives:

Some of the important objectives are as follows.

1. To know the need and status of open source software of implementation in private colleges.
2. To identify the library professionals skills and abilities in develop the digital libraries.
3. To understand the problems encountered in implementing the digital libraries.
4. To distinguish the private colleges management towards the new development in libraries.

Methodology:

Survey methodology has been applied for this study. The selected library professionals were the taken for survey. The simple random sampling technique used for collect the data. 123 library professionals were given their opinion for this study and 100 sampling were taken in to the count. The data has been collected by direct visiting and over phone according to their convenience. Direct and open ended questions were included in structured questionnaire.

The study restricted for selected private colleges in Telangana state due to time and economic concern. This survey comprises the selected engineering, pharmacy, management colleges only.

Data Interpretation

Frequency count and simple percentage has been employed for gathered data for better explanation of results. Only the best hundred samples were chosen from one hundred and twenty three samples.

Development of digital library in your institution:

To access the digital resources of library, the development of digital library is essential.

Without digital library there is no access of digital resources.

In this concern, we have included a vital question to know the development of digital library in various institutions. The following table and chart has been showing there opinion.

Table 1 : Development of Digital Library

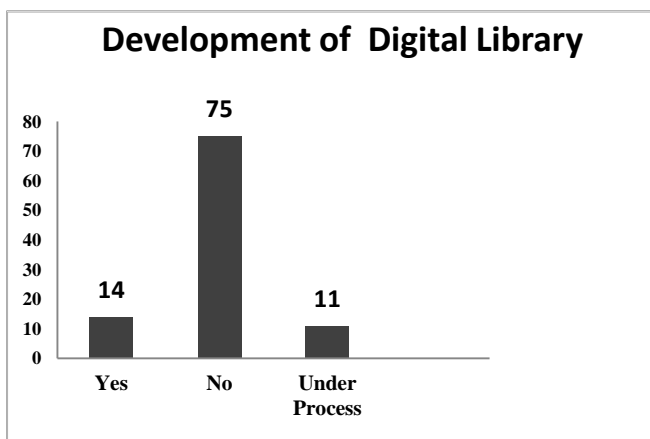| S. No	Opinion	Resp.	%
1	Yes	14	14%
2	No	75	75%
3	Under Process	11	11%
Total		**100**	**100%**

Figure 1: Development of Digital Library

The Table 1 has revealed that 75% respondents are yet developed digital library in their institutions. Only 14% respondents developed digital library and 11% respondents said digital library development is under process.

Table 2 : Type of Software Using for DL

S. No	Opinion	Resp.
1	Commercial	3
2	Open Source	18
3	In-Housed Developed	4

Type of software using for develop the digital library:

To develop the digital library; software is a essential tool. At present many software companies are providing digital library softwares with reasonable costs. But, many of the library professionals are interest adopting the open source softwares. The below table and chart disclosed the responses of library professionals.
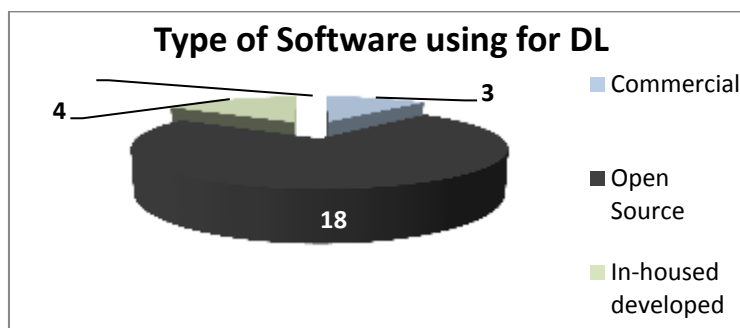

Figure 2: Type of Software Using for DL

The Table 2 has showed that 18 respondents were developed digital library by using of open source, 3 respondents developed digital library with commercial software and 4 respondents were developed digital library with support of in-housed developed software.

a. Using open source software for digital library:

Using the open source software for digitizes the library resources, depends on library professional's efficiency on ITC and hands on experience on selected software. Here the library professionals shared their opinion.

Table 3 : Name of the Source Software (OSS)

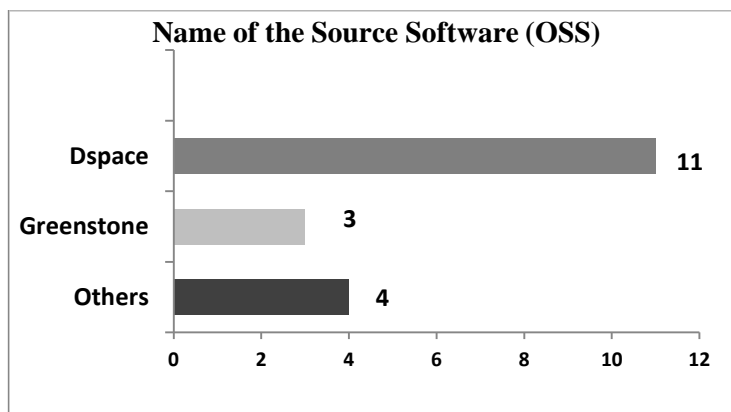| S. No	Opinion	Resp.
1	DSpace	11
2	Greenstone	3
3	Others	4

Figure 3: Name of the Source Software (OSS)

The table 3, disclosed that 11 respondents are adopted Dspace for implemented the digital library, 3 respondents has used Greenstone and 4 utilized other open source softwares for digitize   the   library.

Problems with open source software:

While installation or working with OSS many problems will arrive.

Example: Installation problems, Runtime problems, Database problems, Updating problems, No Authentic Recourse Person etc... In this connection, library professional's opinion has been taken in to this survey.

Table 4 : Problems with Open source software

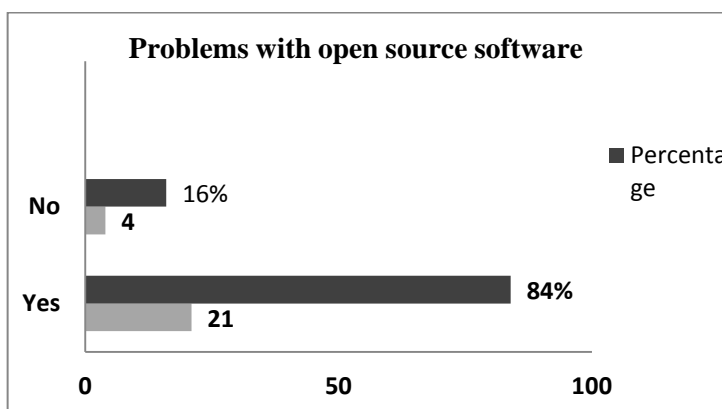| S. No	Opinion	Resp.	%
1	Yes	21	84%
2	No	4	16%
Total		**25**	**100%**

Figure 4: Problems with OSS

Above table and figure 4 has showed that 80% respondents are facing problems with OSS and 16% respondents said as no problem with open source software.

Professionals problems to develop digital library with open source software:

Actually, working with open source software is not a huge difficult. But many professionals are getting problems like proper knowledge on OSS; support from mgt and no infrastructure facilities etc… to develop digital library.

Table 5 : Professional Problems to develop digital library

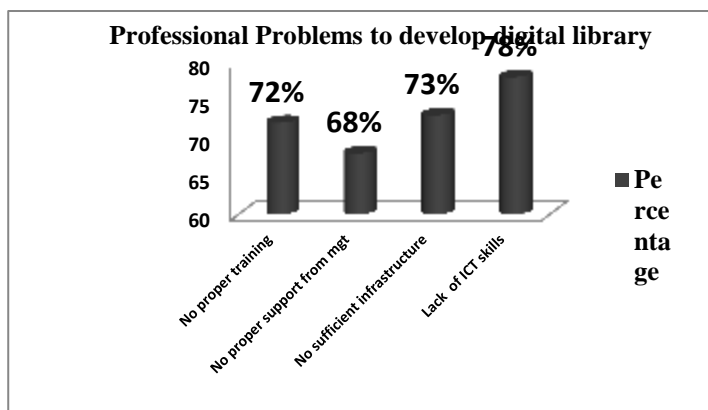| S. No	Problems	%
1	No proper training	72%
2	No proper support from mgt	68%
3	No sufficient infrastructure	73%
4	Lack of ICT skills	78%

Figure 4: Professional problems to develop DL

The table 5 has revealed that 78% library professionals are not having ICT skills, 72% were had not proper training on digital library development, along with 73% institutions not having enough infrastructure facilities and 68% opined as no support from management to develop digital library.

Interest to learn the implementation procedure the digital library:

Library professional's interest and initiation is most important thing to implement the digital library. In this information era, library professionals must have enthusiasm to take any challenge for providing quality services to users.

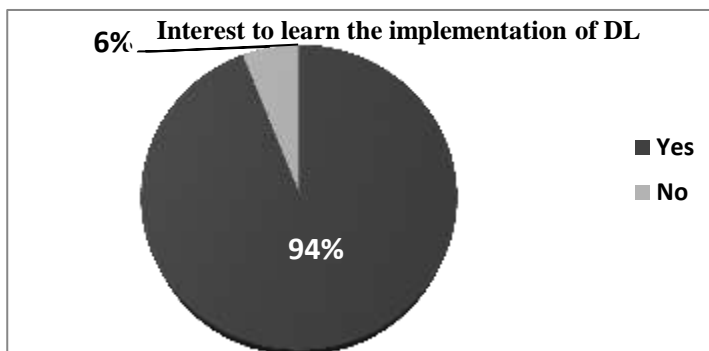| S. No	Opinion	%
Table 6: Interest to learn the implementation of DL		
1	Yes	94%
2	No	6%
Total		**100%**

Figure 5: Interest to learn the implementation of DL

The table 6 has exposed the interest of library professionals towards the implementation of digital library by using open source. In this concern 94% are ready to learn the development techniques of digital library, at the same time 6% library professionals are not interest to learn the implementation of digital library.

Training period for digital library development:

To develop the digital library, training is essential for library professionals. The training should be minimum one week and maximum on month. It must be included software installation, customization and troubleshooting etc.

Table 7 : Training period for DL

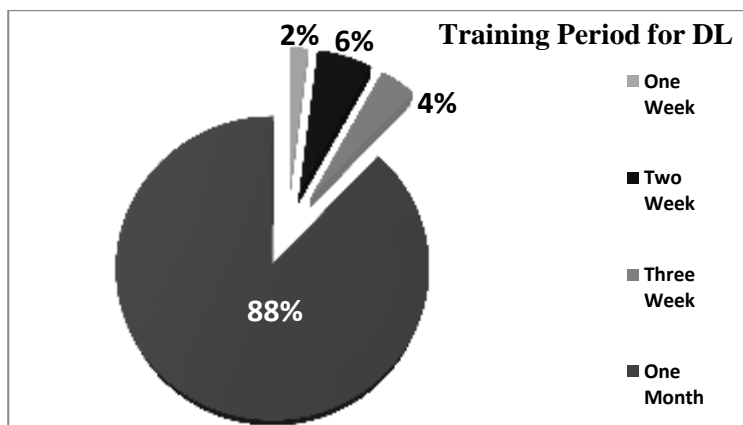| S. No	Problems	%
1	One Week	2%
2	Two Week	6%
3	Three Week	4%
4	One Month	88%

Figure 7: Training period for DL

The table 7 has given opinion of library professionals on training period for development of digital library; 2% respondents were said that they want one week training, 6% said they need

two week training, followed them 4% respondents need three week training and 88% respondents said they want one month training for development the digital library.

Findings

The major findings of this study are as follows:

1. 75% private colleges hasn't been developed the digital libraries and only 25% colleges are developed digital library. Most of the developed digital libraries by using open source software.

2. 73% colleges are used Dspace software for digital library.

3. 84% library professionals are facing many problems with operating of digital libraries.

4. 78% library professionals haven't ICT skills, 73% colleges haven't sufficient infrastructure facilities and 68% colleges' management is not supporting to develop the digital libraries.

5. All most all library professionals (94%) are ready to take training on implementation of open source software.

6. Training is very essential on open source software for library professionals and most of them (88%) wish to take one month training on open source software for implementation.

Suggestions:

Access of the digital resources is possible through digital libraries only. In this connection, development of digital library is very crucial at present information age. Hence, some of the suggestions have made according to this study as follows.

1. Library professionals must improve their ICT skills from time to time.

2. Private colleges' management should support to their library staff.

3. Library associations try to organize on library workshops in place of seminars/conference on open source softwares.

4. Government/Universes colleges must conduct one month workshops on open source softwares.

5. Practical sessions must be included on open source softwares for UG and PG students of library & Information Science.

Conclusion:

This study exposed the present status of the development digital library in Telangana state. It reveals the library professionals drawbacks in implementation of open source software also. The training on open source software is essential to library professionals for providing institutional repositories. The private colleges' management should have positive approach towards the development of digital libraries. State/central government must develop a digital library software and provide with free of cost to all colleges. Finally, library professionals also required to take initiation for providing digital resources access to their users.

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