


IT Applications in Pakistani University Libraries: Barriers and Action Plan

By

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Introduction

- The paradigm shift in teaching and learning environment.
- Impact of IT on library processes and products .
- Libraries turned out to be more and more hybrid institutions.
- Technological developments in higher education institutions in Pakistan.
- University libraries (UL) being a hub of information and knowledge resources and services are using IT.
- Automation activities started in the late 1960s and, since 1990, the main focus of LIS profession in Pakistan.



Objectives of the Study

1. Found out the problems in using information technology.
2. Developed a plan of action for the effective use of information technology.

Design of the Study

Research Method

- A combination of qualitative and quantitative research methodology.

The study is completed in three stages

- An in-depth literature review.
- Development of data collection tools & data collection.
- Analysis of data.

Design of the Study

Library Survey: Population

- Ninety one chartered universities .
- Finally 82 university libraries comprised the population for this study.

Questionnaire Construction and Pilot-Testing

- Semi structured questionnaire divided into thirteen sections for library survey.

Reliability of Instruments

- Cronbach's alpha coefficient

Questionnaire Administration

Conclusions

- Major problems in the effective use and implementation of IT in the ULs of Pakistan are:
 - Lack of training opportunities
 - Interrupted power supply
 - Lack of IT expertise among library users
 - Inadequate IT infrastructure
 - Lack of financial resources
 - Non-availability of technical support
 - Lack of marketing strategies of e-resources and services
 - Lack of IT skills among library staff deputed in reader services

Conclusions

- ❑ Lack of IT skills among LIS professionals who graduated before the introduction of computers
- ❑ Discouraging attitude of library staff in the use of e-resources and services
- ❑ Lack of legal framework and standardization for university libraries
- ❑ Absence of IT policy
- ❑ Fear of recurring costs involved in IT based projects
- ❑ Insufficient IT literate/experienced LIS professionals
- ❑ Lack of adequate in-house planning
- ❑ Lack of commitment regarding IT implementation from university management and head librarians

Conclusions

- ❑ Lack of consultancy services
- ❑ Lack of visionary and competent library leadership
- ❑ Lack of project management skills among head librarians
- ❑ Lack of formal information literacy programs
- ❑ Resistance against change among senior professionals
- ❑ Non-availability of standard integrated library software on affordable price
- ❑ Lack of awareness about free and open sources software

Conclusions

- ❑ Lack of experience sharing among LIS professional
- ❑ Lack of university library network
- ❑ Lack of appreciation for competent human resources
- ❑ Lack of IT infrastructure in library and information science schools
- ❑ Extraneous curricula of LIS schools
- ❑ Lack of competent faculty members in IT applications at LIS schools
- ❑ Pakistani UL have not capitalized the benefits of IT. Few ULs are excellent in both public and private sectors, but majority of them are still at the stage of infancy in adopting IT.

Proposed Plan of Action

Socio-political Action Lines

Action Line 1: Change in Mindset and Attitude

Action Line 2: Appropriate Funding

Action Line 3: Coordination between University Library and IT Center

Action Line 4: Constitution of Inter-University Center for Libraries and Resource Sharing Networks

Action Line 5: Availability of Standardized Integrated Library Software

Action Line 6: IT Policy and Strategic Planning

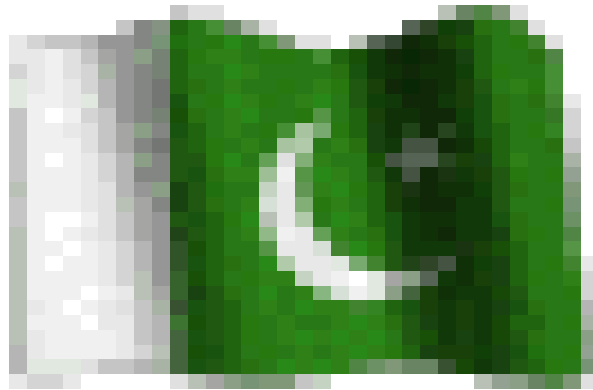
Action Line 7: Formal Information Literacy Program

Action Line 8: Constitution of Professional Association of University Libraries

Proposed Plan of Action

Technical Action Lines

- Action Line 9: Capacity Building of LIS Professionals
- Action Line 10: ICT Infrastructure: A Foundation for Hybrid Library and Information Services
- Action Line 11: Expansion in IT based Resources and Services
- Action Line 12: Digitization of Indigenous Collections
- Action Line 13: Marketing of Electronic Resources and Services
- Action Line 14: Constant Power Supply



Thanks