

Study of Printing and Publishing Technology Professionals in Academic Libraries

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Abstract

The importance of higher education and the role of libraries are discussed. The impact of information technology particularly the knowledge on printing and publishing technology is studied. The awareness of computer printing technology, computer printers, DTP, Page Makers and e-Publishing are detailed. Library staff's should be encouraged to learn the technologies necessary to satisfy the user as well as administration.

Keywords: Assessment of printing; Publishing service; Computer - printing technology; Administration.

Introduction

The society realized the importance of education, particularly higher education and its necessity in order to solve the basic problems, such as food, shelter, etc. in universities, libraries are needed to support teaching. (Roley Jannifer 1983) To answer the queries of users and satisfy the administration, suitable reports have to be generated. This situation led the professionals in academic libraries to have knowledge on printing and publication technology (Dhiman 1997). With the assistance of information technology, printing and publication are made easy and simple. Therefore, the professional staff in academic libraries should have knowledge of these items to succeed in their libraries.

Objectives

1. To understand current status of the academic wave of recent development in the field of information technology.
2. To know the knowledge, opinion and attitude of the library professionals on printing publication technology.

Methodology

Keeping in mind the objectives, a sample survey has been undertaken in the two cities of Karaikudi and Madurai 185 academic libraries were identified. Out of 145 academic libraries, 87 (i.e.60%) libraries were studied for this purpose.

Academic Libraries and Professionals

- i. Universities : University Librarian and Deputy Librarian Assistant Library Assistant, Other Professionals, (i.e. Professionals Assistants, Semi-professional,

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	Junior Library Assistants)
P.G. Colleges	: Librarian and Assistant Librarian
ii. Professional Colleges	
a. Engineering College:	Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Library Assistant
b. Medical Colleges :	Librarian and Assistant Librarian
iii. Degree Colleges :	Librarian and Assistant Librarian (Govt. & Aided only)
iv) Other Institutions :	Librarian and Assistant Librarian (Training Colleges)

Printing and Publishing Technology

Information technology have brought revolution in printing and publishing technology. The typewriters and electronic typewriters have already given way to the computer printers (Bayne, 1993). Presently there is variety of computer Printers ranging from Dot Matrix to Laser jet printers maintaining speed and quality output. These advanced printers facilities the users with mono and multi colour printings. Desktop printing and the use of Page Maker packages have already become popular. (carter, Roger 1987).

Consequent upon these changes, Printing has become easier, Books, magazines and leaflets are also undergoing rigorous transmission at every stage. The use of computer, scanners and printers has enabled major part of the publishing work faster, accurate and also economical. E-publishing or

electronic publishing is a recent advancement. (Nair R Raman, 1999) In its broadest sense, electronic publishing includes both the electronic desktop publishing systems and the electronic dissemination of information on desk (or) via tele communication links. It embraces dictionaries and encyclopedias on compact disk as well as view-data systems and other on - line databases. The e-journals and e-books have become important in the field of information technology and became a source of information in libraries. (Klobbas, Jones,1990)

Few questions relating to the familiarity and availability of facilities for printing and publishing at workplace and the need felt for training in these areas have been included in the survey questionnaire.

Awareness of Computer Printing Technology, Desk Top Printing, Page Maker Package and also awareness of Electronic Publishing, knowledge of computer and printers as reported by the library professionals covered in the present study are discussed here.

Knowledge of printing and publishing technology

All the respondents were asked to mention whether they know about computer printing technology, computer printers, Desk Top Printing, Page Maker Package and electronic publishing. The responses obtained are presented below.

It can be seen from the table that knowledge levels on all aspects are a little higher among the staff from PG Colleges/Universities. Knowledge of Computer printing Technology is found varying from 45 percent in Degree Colleges to 59 percent in PG Colleges / Universities. The percentage of knowledge of computer printers varied from 52 percent in Degree Colleges to 62 percent in PG.

Colleges/Universities. Awareness of Desk Top Printing (DTP) ranged from as low as 29 percent reported in degree Colleges to a high

Table 1: Knowledge of Printing and Publishing Technology

Respondents are aware of	Academic Libraries (N=185)	
	No.	%
Computer Printing Technology	102	55.1
Computer Printers	107	57.8
Desk Top Printing (DTP)	84	45.4
Page Maker Package	51	27.6
Electronic Publishing	59	31.9
i) e – Journals	75	40.5
ii) e-books, etc.	50	27.0

Table 2: Levels of Knowledge on these Aspects among the Staff of Different College Libraries are Presented Below

Respondents are aware of	Type of College									
	PG / University		Professional		Degree		Other institution		Total	
	N = 91		N = 42		N = 31		N = 21		N =185	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Computer Printing Technology	54	59.3	22	52.4	14	45.2	12	57.1	102	55.1
Computer Printers	56	61.5	23	54.8	16	51.6	12	57.1	107	57.8
Desk Top Printing (DTP)	41	45.0	21	50.0	9	29.0	13	61.9	84	45.4
Page Maker Package	29	31.9	11	26.2	4	12.9	7	33.3	51	27.6
Electronic Publishing	36	39.6	8	19.0	9	29.0	6	28.6	59	31.9
(i) e-journals	44	48.4	15	35.7	10	32.3	6	28.6	75	40.5
(ii) e-books, etc.	31	34.1	9	21.4	6	19.4	4	19.0	50	27.0

Desk Top respondents studies like and e-Book. e-journal browse and e required ers require uation, the ofessionals efore, the o learn the and other

are reported more by the staff of PG Colleges / Universities.

printing encouraged to learn the electronic publishing techniques and other printing technologies necessary to satisfy the user as well as the administration.

Conclusion

The knowledge of computer printing

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