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## Information Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy among Library Professionals in NIT, Trichy: A Study



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### ABSTRACT

Literacy in information and communication technology is becoming more important for professionals working in libraries in the developing knowledge society. In developed countries, librarians rapidly adopted and learned new information technologies. This research examines the Information Community Technology Literacy of Library Professionals working at NIT, Trichy. The survey found that i) 50% of the professionals are familiar with D-space Digital Library Software, ii) 30% of the professionals are familiar with both Libsys and KOHA, iii) 80% of the professionals access the internet on their own, and iv) 70% of the professionals' copy/download files from the internet on their own.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Learning about using computers and gathering information is only the beginning of what is now considered a new liberal art is known as "information literacy," which also includes critical reflection on the nature of information, its technical infrastructure, its social, cultural, and even

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philosophical context and impact (Franklin, 2012). Paul Zurkowski, former president of the Information Industry Association, is credited with coining the concept of “information literacy”. A key part of his definition of information literacy was the capacity to effectively use one's knowledge of available information resources. American Library Association states, “information literacy is a set of abilities recognizing an information need and locating, evaluating and using the needed information effectively.”

### **1.1 ICT in Libraries**

In recent times of information and communication technologies, libraries are no longer just places to keep books. Library tasks that used to be performed manually, causing a great deal of discomfort and effort, are now being executed easily and efficiently with the use of ICT. An increased quantity of work may be accomplished in a more pleasant state of mind because of improvements in library management, organisation, and other technological procedures (Griffin and Ramachandran, 2010; Fahmy and Rifaat, 2010).

### **1.2 ICT Literacy in NIT**

NIT of Trichy came in 1964-65. Initially, there were three batches of engineering at the Undergraduate level, and the college was affiliated with the University of Madras. NIT has a fully computerized, modern central library, and a computer centre with 24-hour service. Library automation and integrating information and communication technologies into library services are feasible in NIT libraries. In today's information-based culture, effectively using information and communication technologies is crucial for training future information specialists. This research examines the computer and technology literacy level among NIT librarians in Trichy.

### **1.3 Statement of Problem**

The problem is confined to Information Communication Technology (ICT) literacy among library professionals working in the National Institute of Technology Library, Trichy.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

1. To identify the demographic details of the library professionals.
2. To identify the use being made of different ICT facilities, including e-mail, pen drive, B-journals, E-books, printer etc.
3. To determine the level of ICT skills possessed by library professionals.
4. To evaluate the usefulness of ICT facilities in the library to the professionals
5. To offer suitable suggestions to improve the ICT Literacy of NIT professionals.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

In NIT Library, Trichy, 10 professionals were working at the time of the study. The questionnaire method was used for the study, and questionnaires were handed over to all the professionals; hence, the census method was adopted.

### 3.0 ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INTERPRETATION

**Table 1 – Respondents Personal Profile and Opinion towards ICT**

Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Age	26-35	5	50
	36-45	2	20
	46-55	1	10
	56-65	2	20
Gender	Male	6	60
	Female	4	40
Designation	Librarian	1	10
	Assistant Librarian	2	20
	Library Attendee	4	40
	Library Trainer	3	30
Computer Course	PGDCA	6	60
	DCA	2	20
	Short-term Course	2	20
Operating System	Windows	5	50
	Linux	2	20
	Unix	1	10
	MS-DOS	2	20
Digital Library Software	Green Stone	2	20
	D-space	5	50
	E-print	3	30
Library Automation Software	Libsys	3	30
	SOUL	1	10
	Koha	3	30
	Winisis	2	20
	CDS/ISIS	1	10
Application Software	MS-Word	3	30
	MS-Excel	2	20
	MS -PowerPoint	2	20
	Photoshop	2	20
	Coral Draw	1	10

### 4.0 MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Half (50%) of the NIT professionals are in the age group of 26-35, clearly showing that young professionals are in number in the NIT Library.
2. Majority (60%) of the respondents working in NIT are male.
3. Majority (60%) of the NIT professionals have completed the PGDCA course.
4. Half (50%) of the NIT professionals have knowledge of the windows operating system.

5. Half (50%) of the professionals are aware of D-space Digital Library Software.
6. An equal number of Library Professionals (30%) are aware of Library software Libsys and KOHA, respectively.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The survey found that the younger library staff at NIT Library had a higher level of ICT literacy than their more senior colleagues. However, the professionals working in libraries state that they use various ICT-based resources and services, with the frequency of their usage being heavily impacted by the libraries' overall ICT adoption rates. There is a challenging need for librarians to increase their proficiency in the use of digital technologies. Access to the internet and other modern information communication technology (ICT) is available 24/7 at the NIT library. There should be greater opportunities for library staff to participate in formal training in order to spread all available ICT-based materials and services that may boost ICT literacy.

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