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## Role of ICT in Libraries – A Special Reference To VCRI Library Namakkal (TANUVAS),Tamil Nadu

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### Abstract

Libraries play a critical role in bridging the digital divide by providing access to ICT resources and training to users, especially undergraduate students in Veterinary Science. Despite challenges such as the digital divide, information overload, and cost constraints, libraries are adapting to new trends and technologies. Future trends such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, open access, and collaborative spaces are reshaping the landscape of library services. To remain relevant and effective, libraries must continue to innovate, collaborate, and evolve in response to changing user needs and technological advancements. By embracing ICT and addressing challenges proactively, libraries can continue to be valuable resources for education, research, and community engagement.

Keywords: ICT, VCRI Library, Veterinary Science, Digital Technologies, TAUNUVAS

### 1.Introduction

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has revolutionized the way libraries operate and provide services to users. ICT refers to the technology used to manage and communicate information electronically, encompassing hardware, software, networks, and other digital tools. In libraries, ICT plays a crucial role in improving efficiency, enhancing access to information, and expanding the range of services offered to patrons. One of the key aspects of ICT in libraries is the digitization of resources. Libraries have digitized their collections, making books, journals, manuscripts, and other materials accessible online. This has not only increased the availability of resources but also facilitated remote access, allowing users to access materials from anywhere at any time.

Another important application of ICT in libraries is the automation of library processes. Library management systems, integrated library systems (ILS), and library automation software have streamlined

tasks such as cataloging, circulation, and inventory management. This automation has reduced manual workloads, minimized errors, and improved the overall efficiency of library operations.

ICT has also transformed the way libraries provide services to users. Online catalogs, electronic resources, and digital libraries have made it easier for users to find and access information. Libraries now offer services such as online reference assistance, virtual book clubs, and digital literacy programs, expanding their reach and relevance in the digital age.

### Objectives of the Study

- To identify the different types of ICT that are currently being used in libraries
- To analyze the benefits of using ICT in libraries, including increased accessibility to information, improved search ability, and enhanced user experience
- To assess the challenges libraries face in implementing ICT
- To recommend strategies to overcome the challenges
- To suggest to enhance user awareness and training on ICT resources

### Review of Literature

**Gartner (2016)** states that integrating technology into library services can improve access to information, enhance user experience, and facilitate effective communication between library staff and users.

**Perera and Chandra (2010)** listed some of the types of ICT tools as: Computing technology (hardware/software); Communication technology; Network and Internet technology; Web world; Printers/Publishing technology; and Reprographic and micrographic technology.

**Gambari and Chike-Okoli (2007)** described ICTs as computer based tools used by people to work with information and communication processing needs of an organization.

**Olakulehin (2007)** as cited by Edom (2010) refers ICTs as the range of technologies that are applied in the process of collecting, storing, editing, retrieving and transferring of information in various forms.

### Materials and Methods

Here overview the areas in which ICT helps to improve the library services to the users of the library ICT plays an important role in **Library management, Library automation, Digital Libraries, Online databases, remote access of e resources** etc.

#### 1. Role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in library management

The role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in library management is significant, as it helps streamline operations, enhance services, and improve access to information.

Here are some key aspects of ICT in library management:

- ✚ **Cataloging and Classification**
- ✚ **Acquisition and Collection Management**
- ✚ **Circulation service**
- ✚ **Inter library loan Service**

- ✚ **Reference and Information Services**
- ✚ **Digital Libraries and Archives**
- ✚ **User Management and Engagement**
- ✚ **Reporting and Analysis**

## **Discussions**

The Library was established on 02.01.1987. It started with a small collection of books mainly transferred from Madras Veterinary College, Chennai and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Over the years the library has accumulated a vast collection of literature on Veterinary Science.

The Veterinary College and Research Institute Library plays a vital role in the collection, development and dissemination of information on Veterinary Animal Science to meet the present and future needs of the staff and students. The Library has been computerized by using the software KOHA-Integrated Library management System and also provides OPAC facilities to the users. The Library has a rich collection of books, E - books, Journals E- Journals and non-book collections in the field of Veterinary and Animal Science. Library has a mission to make it as a vibrant Centre to support the academics, research and development activities. It is committed to support and contribute to the quality of academic and research excellence for the prosperous development of society and the nation building activities

## **Competitive Examinations Cell**

Specialized and updated collection for UPSC civil service , UGC NET/ JRF and other competitive examinations are made available for students in addition other competitive examinations. Documents required for preparing to various recruitments, common entrance examinations and competitive examinations also have been collected and updated regularly

## **Local Gateway For Theses**

The Ph.D. and M.V.Sc. theses available in the Library are being scanned and saved in PDF with search provision. These digitized theses are available in 563 CD-ROMs.

## **Reprographic Facilities**

Three photocopiers are available to cater the reprography both mono and colour needs of Library users at nominal charges. Two scanners are also available for the use of students and staff.

**Online Printing:** Network printing facility both mono and color is provided to staff and student with nominal charge.

## **Users Feedback Through Online**

Staff and students can register their feedback regarding Library resources and rendering services through online software for getting valuable inputs for smooth running of the Library

## **Internet Kiosk**



Fibre optical Internet facility with 25 nodes is provided to the staff and PG students of this College at free of cost.

### System, Classification and Cataloguing

1. Open Access system
2. On line Catalogue
3. Classified catalogue
4. Dewey Decimal Classification system through open source software

### Issue of Books

KOHA - Integrated Library Management Software is being used for the transactions of book Self issue and return Kiosk has been installed at Library. Now, the users can borrow and return the books through self - issue and return device without help from circulation desk.



### Touch Screen Kiosk For OPAC Access





The resources of the VCRI Library such as of books, back volumes of the journals, M.V.Sc. and Ph.D. thesis and other reports can be accessed through Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) of the Library.

### **Electronic Surveillance System of CCTV Network**

A surveillance system with CCTV network had been installed at the Library to enhance and tighten the security system. In this network, 16 nos. of cameras were installed at appropriate places of Library for recording the movements which will occur during working hours of the Library on all working days. The backup facility of Digital video recorder (DVR) has more than 20 days. The recording of 16 nos. of cameras are being displayed on the screen of Desktop computer at a time with 16 slots which is placed at the counter section to monitor the movements of users and the same is being recorded in DVR also. The same display is also projected through wall mounted TV kept at the reading room.

### **Face Recognition Cum Finger Print Biometric Attendance System**



Fig.3 Face recognition cum finger print biometric attendance system has been followed to record the staff and students attendance at Library.

### **Radio Frequency Identification Technology**



Fig. 4 RFID technology has been installed to monitor the transactions of book issue to staff and students and tighten the security system also.

### **Smart Identification of Books through Electronic Display**

Smart identification of books through Electronic display has been installed to run as Virtual OPAC system and New book Alert service for staff and students



### WIFI Inventory Control System



Fig.5 A WIFI inventory control system is used for stock taking ,finds the misplaced books in the book shelf and shelf rectification purpose.

### CeRA – Consortium for e Resources in Agriculture

In addition to its own collections, the library has access to Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA), an online journal consortium funded under NAIP of ICAR. CeRA provides access to about 3000 online journals covering various disciplines of Agricultural Sciences including Veterinary and Animal Sciences.

### Remote access of E resources: My Library On Finger Tips (MyLOFT)

All kinds of e resources such as e books, e journals, online databases, Krishikosh- An institutional depository can be accessed by all students through on premises and off campus access.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has revolutionized library services and operations, offering numerous benefits but also posing challenges. Libraries play a critical role in bridging the digital divide by providing access to ICT resources and training to users, especially undergraduate students in Veterinary science.

Despite challenges such as the digital divide, information overload, and cost constraints, libraries are adapting to new trends and technologies. Future trends such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, open access, and collaborative spaces are reshaping the landscape of library services.

To remain relevant and effective, libraries must continue to innovate, collaborate, and evolve in response to changing user needs and technological advancements. By embracing ICT and addressing challenges proactively, libraries can continue to be valuable resources for education, research, and community engagement.

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