

Digitization Status in College Libraries of Nagaon District (Assam): A Study

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Abstract:

Digital libraries are the organized collection of digital information. It allows users to access electronic resources from anywhere in the world through a network. The users of digital library are increasing day-by-day. The present paper is showing the status of digitization in college libraries of Nagaon district (Assam). Study also describes the problems faced by librarian in each selected college while doing digitization. The study presents that 40% of libraries are already presently working on digital library. Majority of library states that lack of financial resources, lack of trained man power etc. are the main problem of digitization. The study also gives a status view of the uses of Institutional repository software packages. To find out the problems faced by the libraries of Nagaon district (Assam) in the process of digitization is another objective of this paper.

Index Terms: Digital Library, IR Software, N-LIST

1. INTRODUCTION

In the information age, information and its associated technologies are playing more important role in socio-economic development. The rapid growth in information technologies has revolutionized the role of libraries. Digital library is one of most important gift of information & web technology in Library & information science world. It gives users opportunity to access information resources from any corner of the world through a network. A digital library is nothing but the organized collection of resources/document in digital form which can be accessible by an electronic device like computer or mobile etc., on the network by using TCP/IP or other protocol. According to Gamage C. (2013), "Information seekers are no longer satisfied with only printed materials. They want to supplement the printed information with more dynamic electronic resources. Demands for digital information therefore, are increasing". Clifford Lynch (1995) defines digital library as- "System providing a community of users with coherent access to a large organized repository of information and knowledge. The digital library is not just one entity, but multiple sources are seamlessly integrated."

In Assam some colleges have already started digitization process in their library. But most of college libraries of Assam are still not fully automated. Lack of financial resources, lack of well trained staffs, etc., are the main problems in the creation of digital library. By this study a clear picture about the digital library environment in the colleges of Nagaon district of Assam will be presented. It enumerates the issues involves in establishing a digital library and point out barriers in establishing digital library and finally suggestion for developing such library.

2. OBJECTIVES

The basic objective of the study is to explain the status of digitization in Nagaon district. More specifically, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study the status of digitization in college libraries of Nagaon district.
- To study about infrastructural facilities available in those college libraries required for digitization.
- To identify the barriers, if any, to the development of digital libraries in college libraries of Nagaon district.

3. SCOPE & LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to 5(five) college libraries of Nagaon district. Those five libraries were visited and collected the data from each of them. The college libraries under study are:-

Table1.1- College libraries of Nagaon districts under study

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Name of the College Library	Year of Establishment
1	Nowgong College	Mahendranath Maihangdang Dekaphukan Library	1944
2	Anandaram Dhekial Phookan College	Central Library	1959
3	Nowgong Girls' College	Mahesh Chandra Dev Goswami Library	1962
4	Kampur College	Kampur College Library	1968
5	Nagaon Gopinath Dev Goswami Commerce College	Ratna Kanta Bora Library	1984

4. METHODOLOGY

For the collection of data from different colleges of Nagaon district, the following methods were used-

- Questionnaire method and
- Interview method

The selected 5 college libraries of Nagaon have been personally visited. For collecting data from those college libraries, a questionnaire was prepared having a number of readymade questions. Financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18 are taken for data collection.

5. LIBRARY COLLECTION

Library collection is the main strength of a library. The table 1.2 indicates that the collection of books is the major part of total library collection. With the number of 58200 (2017-18) Nowgong College is holding the 1st position in case of books collection among all five colleges of Nagaon district. Regarding periodical collection ADP College has highest 25 numbers of periodicals. Except GNDG Commerce College all colleges are maintaining bound volume of periodicals. In case of manuscript collection, only Nowgong Girls' College has 75 numbers of manuscripts. Only Nowgong College and ADP College have CD-ROM/Database collection. In case of reports ADP College has 24 numbers and Nowgong Girls' College has 25 (2017-18) numbers.

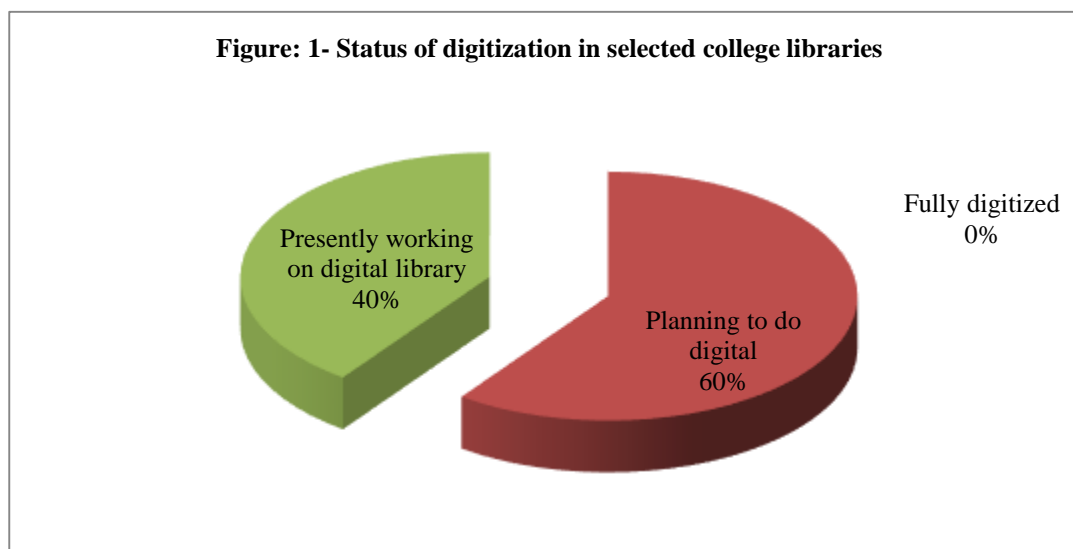
Table 1.2- Total collections of selected libraries

Name of the colleges/Various collections	Nowgong College		ADP College		Nowgong Girls' College		Kampur College		GNDG Commerce College	
	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Books	56600	58200	46456	48003	43,002	43103	28624	31075	14398	15613
Periodicals (Print)	16	16	25	25	19	19	18	18	11	11
Periodicals(B.vol)	68	68	353	423	125	175	4	6	X	X
Manuscripts	X	X	X	X	75	75	X	X	X	X
Rare Books	165	165	24	27	349	364	6	8	9	9
Audio Cassettes	X	X	15	15	45	48	8	12	X	X
CD-ROMs/Database	25	25	123	123	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reports	X	X	24	24	18	25	X	X	X	X

(ADP= Anandaram Dhekial Phookan; GNDG= Gopinath Dev Goswami; B.vol. = bound volume)

6. STATUS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

At the survey time, the librarians of selected college libraries were asked about the digitization status of their libraries. The Figure: 1 indicates present digitization status of selected college libraries. It is seen that, among five colleges 40% are presently working on digital library and 60% of colleges i.e. three colleges are planning to do digital their library.



7. NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

Network connection (locally), internet connection etc. are required infrastructure for establishing a digital library. The table-1.3 indicates that all the selected libraries have LAN facility and internet connectivity. In case of model of internet connectivity, 40% colleges have wifi connection. Again, one college has broadband connection, one college has leased line connection and only one college has dial-up connection.

Table 1.3- Availability of network connectivity

Sl.No.	Name of College	LAN facility	Internet facility	Model of connectivity	UPS facility of the library
1	Nowgong College	Yes	Yes	Broadband	Online
2	ADP College	Yes	Yes	Wifi	Offline
3	Nowgong Girls' College	Yes	Yes	Dial-Up	Online
4	Kampur College	Yes	Yes	Wifi	Offline
5	GNDG Commerce College	Yes	Yes	Leased line	Offline

LAN= Local Area Network; UPS= Uninterruptible Power Supply

8. DIGITAL LIBRARY SOFTWARE

Table 1.4- Institutional repository software in libraries

Sl.No.	Name of College	Name of the software
1	Nowgong College	Dspace
2	ADP College	GSDL
3	Nowgong Girls' College	Not using
4	Kampur College	Not using
5	GNDG Commerce College	Not using

Institutional repository (IR) software is required for establishing digital library and smooth functioning of it. In IR software we can easily store subscribed e-documents and through it user can easily find their required e-documents. From the table- 1.4 we get information about particular software used in the selected libraries for digitization. From table 1.4- it is cleared that Nowgong college is using Dspace software and ADP college is using GSDL (Greenstone Digital Library) software. Remaining three colleges are still not using any digital library software because they are planning to do digital their library.

9. ALLOCATION OF FUND FOR DIGITAL LIBRARY

For establishing a digital library we need a well designed building, various digital library tools like- UPS, scanner etc. For all these we need a good amount of fund. From table 1.5 it is cleared that 80% colleges are getting fund from Government of Assam for developing digital library. ADP college is getting fund from RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) for developing digital library. For smooth functioning of a digital library, staff should be well educated and well trained also. But, here we can see that none of colleges has given importance on training of staffs. As, three colleges i.e. Nowgong Girls' College, Kampur College and GNDG Commerce College have not started digitization process, so amount for developing digital library is not given by those three colleges.

Table 1.5- Details of fund for digital library

SLNo	Name of Colleges	Sources of Fund	Amount(in lacs)	Areas of Spending the amount (If given by the Librarian)						
				Computer Hardware	Scanner	UPS	Networking	Software	Room Structure	Training (Staff)
1	Nowgong College	Govt. of Assam/ UGC	18.27 lacs	27 (10 lacs)	2 (1.37 lacs)	25 (3 lacs)	1.4 lacs	2.5 lacs (customization)	-	-
2	ADP College	RUSA	15 lacs +	6 (2.5 lacs)	1 (30000)	6	√	√	√	-

3	Nowgong Girls' College	Govt. of Assam	Not Given	√	√	√	-	-	-	-
4	Kampur College	Govt. of Assam	Not Given	√	-	√	-	-	-	-
5	GNDG Commerce College	Govt. of Assam	Not given	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

10. E-RESOURCE SECTION

10.1. E-resource consortia

Library consortium is an association of group of libraries who partner to coordinate activities, share resources and combine expertise. In North-East region N-LIST project was initiated for providing access of free e-resources to colleges under UGC. From Year 2014, N-LIST Program is subsumed under UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium as college Component. The table 1.6 highlights the information about membership of all selected college libraries in N-LIST.

Table 1.6- N-LIST Availability in selected college libraries

Sl. No.	Name of College	Availability of N-LIST		Year of Registration
		Yes	No	
1	Nowgong College	√	-	2011
2	ADP College	√	-	2010
3	Nowgong Girls' College	√	-	2012
4	Kampur College	√	-	2017
5	GNDG Commerce College	-	√	N/A

From table 1.6 it is seen that 80% of surveyed colleges already registered in N-LIST program. Only GNDG Commerce college has no membership in N-LIST till today.

10.2. Computers for e-resource section

To access e-resources, a library must have computers. Through computers users can able to get required information from various sources.

Table 1.7- Availability of computers in e-resources section

Sl.No.	Name of College	Below 3	3 to 7	7 to 10	Above 10
1	Nowgong College	X	X	X	√
2	ADP College	X	X	X	√
3	Nowgong Girls' College	X	X	√	X
4	Kampur College	X	√	X	X
5	GNDG Commerce College	X	X	X	X

In the table 1.7 it is seen that 40 % of colleges have more than 10 computers in e-resource section for users. Only one college has no computers in e-resource section for users.

11. BARRIERS OF DIGITIZATION

Table 1.8- Problems in library digitization

Problems	Frequency N= 05	Percentage (%)
Lack of number of hardware	02	40%
Software is not user friendly	00	0%
Lack of financial resources	05	100%

Inadequate trained staffs	05	100%
Lack of support from authority	05	100%

The table 1.8 states that college libraries of Nagaon district are facing lots of problems while doing digitization. All selected libraries need more trained staffs to work in digital library. 40% of colleges mentioned that they need more hardware infrastructure in case of digitization. It is seen that inadequate trained staff, lack of support from authority are the main barriers in case of digitization in selected college libraries.

12. FINDINGS

Objectives 1- To study the status of digitization in college libraries of Nagaon district.

To establish a digital library, the library should be fully automated. In this survey, we noticed that except Kampus College and GNDG Commerce College other college libraries are fully automated. In case of digitization, Nowgong College and ADP College are presently working on digitization.

Objectives 2- To study about infrastructural facilities available in those college libraries required for digitization.

All the selected college libraries are getting fund from various to establish a digital library. Some college Librarians doesn't know about exact amount they are getting for digital library. All libraries have internet facilities and each library is connected through LAN. Only three college libraries have enough computers to access e-resources. In case of software, 40% of libraries are using IR software.

Objectives 3- To identify the barriers, if any, to the development of digital libraries in college libraries of Nagaon district.

Inadequate funds, lack of importance given by college authority etc., are the main barriers in case of establishing a digital library in selected colleges. All surveyed college libraries are getting fund from Government of Assam. But some libraries have no information regarding fund for digital libraries. Inadequate trained staff is another major problem in those libraries in case of digitization.

13. CONCLUSION

In this digital age, libraries, information centers must have digital environment. Digitization process in libraries will change the whole library scenario in Assam also. Librarians of the selected libraries think that digital libraries are important for collegiate education and they all are fully aware of this concept. Automation is the first requirement for digital library. After that they must have software as well as hardware. Scanner, digital camera is necessary to convert print copy to soft copy. Most important, they must have digital library software like Dspace, GSDL etc. According to most of the Librarian of the surveyed libraries, the major barriers for creation of digital library in the colleges are the lack of the importance given by the Authority as well as unavailability of trained staff. Therefore the Librarians as well as the rest of the staff of the college libraries should go through proper training. In the survey time it is seen that only a few colleges are presently working in digital library. We do hope that in future all remaining colleges will start digitization process so that user will be benefitted from it.

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