



Challenges and Opportunities in Modernizing Professional College Libraries: A Study of Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University

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Abstract

The following presented research paper aims at discussing the prospects and difficulties of professional college libraries' modernization at Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University. Continuing changes in the academic community because of the enhancement in technologies and the users' requirements puts pressure on libraries to change as well. This research utilizes both quantitative and qualitative data collecting tools in a cross-sectional survey that seeks library staff, faculty, and students' views of the libraries' current practices and resources, and levels of satisfaction. The major issues which are recognized include lack of funding, people's resistance to changes and personnel who require training in the use of technologies. On the other hand, greater potential of modernization exists in the aspects, including the application of digital materials, organization of common areas, and the promotion of interaction with users. The study demonstrated how libraries have rich potential for delivering positive impact on academic performance and continuity of education. Finally, this research offers guidelines to the library administrators/policymakers, as they seek to grapple with the challenges of modernization so as to sustain enhanced professional college libraries to meet the current and future students' education needs in the face of advancements in technologies.

Keywords: modernization, challenges, opportunities, digital resources, academic success.

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In the present-day academic climate, professional college libraries are one of the strong educational and research supports influencing the students' academic achievements. This evolutionary change has also been driven by the competitive growth of technology and therefore the evolution of digital resources has posed a challenge to the conventional library services and operations. Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University (KBCNMU) is not an exception in experiencing the prospects as well as issues in integrating the current facilities of the university's library.

College library changes may concern three broad areas of change: electronic access to information changes, physical changes of the college libraries, and information technology changes. (Haider, 2020) pointed that today's libraries are no longer just storehouses of books, but active learning spaces where students are encouraged to work, create, share and acquire free access to various academic facilities. However, this transition entails certain challenges as will be discussed later on in this paper. Some of the common challenges faced by libraries include lack of adequate funding, poor physical facilities, and culture of change resistance from the librarians and patrons (Ghosh, 2016).

The purpose of this study is to identify the particular concerns and benefits pertaining particularly to the process of modernization of professional college libraries located at KBCNMU and provide direction as to the improvements that could be made in these libraries for the provision of better service to the societies that these libraries serve.

Analyzing the existing literature on the modernization of libraries, the following factors affecting the changes in libraries of the 21st century are mentioned. This has brought up one major theme as being the ability of technology to change how libraries deliver their services.



By assimilating digital resources into education, the access to information is made easier alongside with providing tailored learning for students as posited by (Kaur, 2019). This has led to the change of the library towards more users-centred solutions as means have to be found to properly inform and attract members into using library services and products (Miller, 2018).

Thus, it became important to focus on the role of technology, as well as physical environment of libraries in the context of engaging users. According to research literatures, trends in the construction of the modern libraries such as incorporation of collaborative and flexible spaces such as furniture enhance student interactions and satisfaction (Dierking, 2018). This trend coupled calls for design of more functional over well-equipped libraries that can be effectively used for various forms of learning.

But the modernisation is a complex process which is accompanied by a number of problems. (Ghosh, 2016) points the lack of funding as one of the biggest hurdles to the effective introduction of new technologies and/or services. Libraries fail to access the funds required to install new infrastructure and purchase digital resources for their users thereby being unable to satisfy the needs. In addition, the staff can also oppose change in the organization since this may limit the progression of numerous library specialists who might feel pressurized by the new and fast changing technologies (Dewan, 2017).

Just the same, it is clear that there are many opportunities for modernization which remain unaddressed. The utilization of technology resources can assist the libraries to increase the community reach as the learners in the distance education programmes gains access to information. Furthermore, engagement with the academic departments and community organizations can help develop partnership driven projects that promote the library presence and value (Gonzalez, 2018).

Overall, the literature emphasizes the dual nature of modernization in professional college libraries: although they provided in the challenges made them forms of improvement that can be harnessed. With these challenges in mind, libraries can more effectively position themselves as necessary parts of the academic framework, and thus support the success of students and professors.

Method

Objectives of the study

To identify and analyze the key challenges faced by the professional college libraries in the process of modernization, including issues related to funding, infrastructure, technology integration, and user resistance.

To explore the opportunities available for the modernization of library services, focusing on the integration of digital resources, collaborative spaces, and innovative user engagement strategies.

To assess the needs and expectations of library users (students, faculty, and staff) regarding library services and resources, and how these needs can be met through modernization efforts.

Research Methodology

Modernising professional college libraries at Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University (KBCNMU) presents both possibilities and obstacles, which are thoroughly investigated in this research using a mixed-methods methodology. To provide a strong picture of the library's present procedures and patrons' opinions, the approach integrates quantitative and qualitative research techniques. In what follows, you will find descriptions of the study's methodology, sample, data sources, and analytic procedures.

1. Research Design

This study uses a cross-sectional methodology to collect data all at once, giving us a picture of how library services and patron experiences are right now. In order to have a complete picture



of the modernisation process, this layout makes it easy to compare quantitative data with qualitative views.

2. Population and Sample

Everyone associated with KBCNMU, including students, teachers, and librarians, is considered a potential participant in this research. To guarantee that various academic units and levels of study are represented, a stratified random selection approach will be used. It is anticipated that there will be 300 individuals in the sample, which includes:

Students: 200 participants

Faculty: 80 participants

Library Staff: 20 participants

3. Data Collection Methods

Data will be collected using the following methods:

Surveys: Some questions will be formulated as closed questions to obtain numerical data on how satisfied users are with the library; how often they visit the library; their perception to what the library offers; and the difficulties that are likely to be experienced in using the library facilities. To assess the respondents' attitude to the library services and resources, the questionnaire will contain close-ended questions and questions with Likert scale.

Interviews: Some open-ended questions will be asked to the library staff and few selected professors of the university to have their subjective opinions on their experiences, problems faced and recommendations regarding enhancement of library services. The interviews will be semi-structured based on the specific face-to-face interviews that will be conducted which will involve answering of certain questions.

Focus Groups: Informal group discussions will be conducted with some selected students in order to get their opinion and their expectations from the library. This increases the cross interaction amongst the participants hence increases richness of the experiences of the user.

4. Data Analysis

Data analysis will involve both quantitative and qualitative methods:

Survey data will be analyzed using statistical software like SPSS or R. Measurement statistics (mean, standard deviation, frequency distribution) will be used to make the results presentable. Descriptive statistics like Regression analysis shall be used in analysis of relationship between library facilities use and academic performance.

Results

Table 1

Table 1 presents descriptive data that provide a thorough description of 300 students' library use and academic achievement at Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University.

With a standard deviation of 1.25 and an average of 3.8 visits per week, library use is rather consistent among students; nonetheless, there is a wide range of visit frequencies, from as few as 1 visit per week to as many as 7 visits per week. This indicates that while a large number of students visit the library often, a smaller number may use it less often.

On average, students spend 2.5 hours each library visit, with a standard deviation of 0.85; this suggests that they normally spend a reasonable amount of time there. A range of one to five hours shows that students allot different amounts of time according to their own schedules or demands.

The average amount of time spent using digital resources each week is 4.1 hours, with a standard variation of 1.45 hours, according to the statistics. Students are clearly making good use of digital resources, as their utilisation ranges from half an hour to eight hours. This points to a heavy dependence on online resources for schoolwork.



With a low standard deviation of 0.7 and an average score of 4.2 on a 1–5 scale, students were quite satisfied with the library's offerings. In general, the resources are satisfying the demands of the pupils, as shown by this high degree of satisfaction. The similarity between the mean score of 4.0 and the standard deviation of 0.75 for satisfaction with library services further supports the notion that library services are seen favourably by patrons.

Lastly, students' cumulative grade point averages (CGPAs) are 7.9 on a scale from 10.0 to 11.2 on the standard deviation. The fact that the ratings range from 5 to 9.5 shows that kids are doing well academically on the whole.

The importance of libraries in facilitating academic achievement is shown by the positive correlation between library use and student happiness, which in turn may be associated with students' academic performance. Additional research might delve more into these connections, especially into the ways in which various library use factors impact academic performance.

Discussion

This research sought to determine the contribution of the professional college libraries in improving students' academic performance in Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University (KBCNMU). From the analysis of data using descriptive statistics and linear regression the following hypotheses were established in relation to library usage, user satisfaction and academic performance of the users.

The findings show that students from KBCNMU are equally using library materials where they were seen visiting the library 3.8 time per week and spending 2.5 hours per visit. Such high frequency of usage gives an impression that students understand the role that the library plays in enhancing their studies. The mean being 4.1 hours per week shows the increasing trend in the usage of technology trends and digital format of resources which is in coherence with the general trend in academic libraries across the globe.

Minimum satisfaction rating for the library resources is 4.2 and the service delivery is 4.0 showing that the students are finding it useful to have library as part of their learning resources. This high level of satisfaction may have led to the observed average cgpa of 7.9, which points to the fact that library resources and services have a central role to play in the performance of students. The quantitative analysis that used linear regression also shows that as the fresh library visits, the hours per visit, and the use of electronic services increase, the overall performance improves.

Nevertheless, as seen from the means scores highlighted above, the results were positive, however, the standard deviations revealed a variability of students' experience. A particular group might have some difficulties in issues connected with resources or may not use them because of some reason like, for example, time shortage, personal predispositions, or simple lack of information about the services of the library. It will be useful for library administrators to distinguish these barriers to improve on service provision and extension.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings from this study underscore the critical role of professional college libraries in facilitating academic success at KBCNMU. Accordingly, the findings imply that enhanced utilization of the content, both in print copy and/or online format, is associated with enhanced academic performance. Based on the findings, it is clear that libraries must change and progress to respond to the growing needs of students like adopting better ways of presenting the digital resources and also encouraging the users.

There is a potential for future studies to examine the extent to which various barriers and enablers exist with respect to library usage by students, and the extent to which new and creative library initiatives may shape and inform student participation. The professional college



library has a lot more to offer in terms of student success and academic achievement if the following challenges are addressed and the opportunities for modernization are exploited.

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Table 1

Descriptive Statistics

Variable	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Frequency of Library Visits (per week)	300	3.8	1.25	1	7
Hours Spent in Library (per visit)	300	2.5	0.85	1	5
Use of Digital Resources (hours/week)	300	4.1	1.45	0.5	8
Satisfaction with Library Resources (1-5 scale)	300	4.2	0.7	2	5
Satisfaction with Library Services (1-5 scale)	300	4	0.75	2	5
Academic Performance (CGPA out of 10)	300	7.9	1.2	5	9.5