

Best Practice 2

Title: Knowledge Awaits, A smart Library Beckons

Objectives:

- Library automation and ensuring effective use of library's resources including digital resources
- To promote effective and interactive access and use of information resources for all users.
- To offer safe, comfortable, well-lighted, clean space, with adequate and appropriate seating arrangements

The Context:

The Central Library of A.C.College offers a wide range of information resources in various formats housing a collection of over 45,812 volumes of books (Except Donation books), including reference books and a rare collection of old books published between 1780 and 1930. The Library Sub-committee helps in decision making regarding collection development and overall quality enhancement of the library services.

The Practice:

- The library has been automated since 2012, first with SOUL software and then with Koha Library Management Software. Document searching facility through Web OPAC is available.
- Since 2017, it has subscribed to N-LIST along with printed journals, magazines and newspapers to support students preparing for various competitive examinations.
- A separate library webpage which offers various digital services and facilities, such as access to previous years' question papers, syllabi, library and N-LIST memberships, Ask librarian, and hyperlinks to numerous useful websites.
- One of the unique services offered by the library is QR code-based access
- Browsing space with three computers and internet connectivity are available for both teachers and students.

Evidence of success:

- Students can use the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) to search for available books in the library.
- Students can access e-resources and check the availability of books in the library anytime and from anywhere.
- The students, teachers and ex-students are immensely benefitted by getting access to the digital services and facilities available in library web page and the hyperlinks to numerous useful websites.
- The reading room and the browsing space provide teachers and students a perfect ambience for self-study.
- The journals and magazines are displayed within the reading room in a stack to catch the attention of the library users.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Shortage of staff with technical knowledge

Lack of staff in substantive posts.

Infrastructural resources required.

Although the library had subscription of N-List since 2017, it could not subscribe in 2019 and 2020 due to the pandemic and absence of a librarian.

Future Plan: To subscribe Turnitin's comprehensive plagiarism detection services for research activities of the teachers.