

Special Issue 2016, Vol. 03

ISSN 2349-3410



# PIERIAN SPRING

*Fountain of Learning*

A Bi-Annual Peer-Reviewed Multi-Disciplinary International Journal



CREATIVE WRITERS' CIRCLE  
PUBLICATIONS



[www.qr.net/QRPU](http://www.qr.net/QRPU)

*Editor in Chief*  
Dr. Jai Ram Jha

*Associate Editor*  
Kumar Sambalam



# Problems and Prospects of Library Automation in the Provincialised Colleges of Karimganj District, Assam: A Study

*Shyam Thakuria*

Librarian

Ramakrishna Nagar College, Karimganj

## ABSTRACT:

The growth and development of Information and Communication Technology is playing a vital role in the field of library and information science. This paper is showing the problems and prospects of library automation in the college libraries of karimganj district.

Automation of college libraries in karimganj district are very initial stage. Library automation is necessary for modernization of a college library. This paper highlights the current status of library automation and the problems faced by the libraries under study. This study clearly presents that 57% of the college libraries are partially automated and other 43% college libraries are initial stages of automation. Most of the college library states that lack of fund, lack of trained library staff, Lack of infrastructure etc are the major problems of automation.

**Key Words:** Library Automation, Library Software, ICT, Karimganj District

## 1. Introduction

Library is the heart of an institution. College library plays an important role in providing library and information service to the college community. Computer is used in libraries to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the library housekeeping operations and services. Development and use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) enables the libraries to save the time of the user as well as library staff. Library automation refers to the use of computer technology in the management of different housekeeping operations like acquisition, cataloguing, circulation etc.

## 2. Scope of Study

Karimganj district is located in the remote North East corner of India. karimganj is one of the 33 districts of Assam. It is located in central Assam. It was a part of the sylhet district of Assam before the partition of India. Karimganj district occupies an area of 1809 square kilometres. The total population of karimganj is 12,28,686, out of which, Male population is 6,25,864 and Female population is 6,02,822. The total rural population is 11,18,986. The average literacy rate of total population is 70.72%. The district has five nos. of Development Circles.

These are Karimganj, Badarpur, Nilambazar, Patherkandi and Ramkrishna Nagar (Data Source: 2011 Census)

### 3. Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of study are as follows:

- To find out how many college libraries have undertaken automation.
- To find out which areas are automated.
- To find out whether sufficient staff is available to carry out automation.
- To find out the barriers to automation faced by college libraries.

### 4. Research Methodology:

The data are collected through questionnaire and interview technique using survey method. Collected data has been analyzed and presented in tabular as well as graphical form.

### 5. Colleges of Karimganj District:

There are seven numbers of provincialised degree colleges in different places of Karimganj district of Assam. Most of the colleges of Karimganj district are situated in the rural areas. The seven nos. of provincialised colleges are affiliated to Assam University, Silchar. Karimganj College is the oldest college in karimganj district which was established before independence in 1946. Nilambazar College, Patherkandi College and Swami Vivekananda College were newly provincialised in the year 2013 by the Director of Higher Education, Govt. of Assam. Besides there are a good number of junior colleges, law colleges, B.Ed colleges, technical colleges like karimganj polytechnic College, Barak Valley Engineering College, Deendayal Upadhyay Model Degree College which has not taken into consideration in this study.

Table1. Name of the College Library with Year of Establishment

Sr. No.	Name of College	Name of Library	Year of Establishment
1.	Karimganj College	Karimganj College Library	1946
2.	Nabin Chandra College	Central Library	1969
3.	Nilambazar College	Nilambazar College Library	1994
4.	Patherkandi College	Patherkandi College Library	1990
5.	Ramkrishna Nagar College	Shishir Granthagar	1964
6.	Rabindra Sadan Girls College	R.S. Girls College Library	1961
7.	Swami Vivekananda College	Swami Vivekananda College Library	1991

### 6. Collection of College Libraries:

Most of the college libraries of karimganj district acquires printed books, journals and magazines, newspapers, CD-DVDs and subscribes the membership of N-LIST-E-Resources from INFLIBNET. The Table 2 shows the total collection of college libraries of karimganj district. It reveals that Karimaganj College library has the highest collection of books and Swami Vivekananda college library has the lowest collection of Books. Only three college libraries having CDs and DVDs as



Table 2: Collection of different college libraries of Karimganj District

Sr. No.	Name of College	Library Collections		
		Printed	Non-Printed	Total
1.	Karimganj College	35000	50	35050
2.	Nabin Chandra College	15965	35	16000
3.	Nilambazar College	6433	NA	6433
4.	Patherkandi College	2500	NA	2500
5.	Ramkrishna Nagar College	8200	30	8230
6.	Rabindra Sadan Girls College	18000	NA	18000
7.	Swami Vivekananda College	1700	NA	1700

### Services Provided by the College Libraries:

Most of the college libraries providing traditional library services such as circulation, reference service, Current awareness service, bibliographic service to the college community. The following table shows the services provided by the college libraries of karimganj district

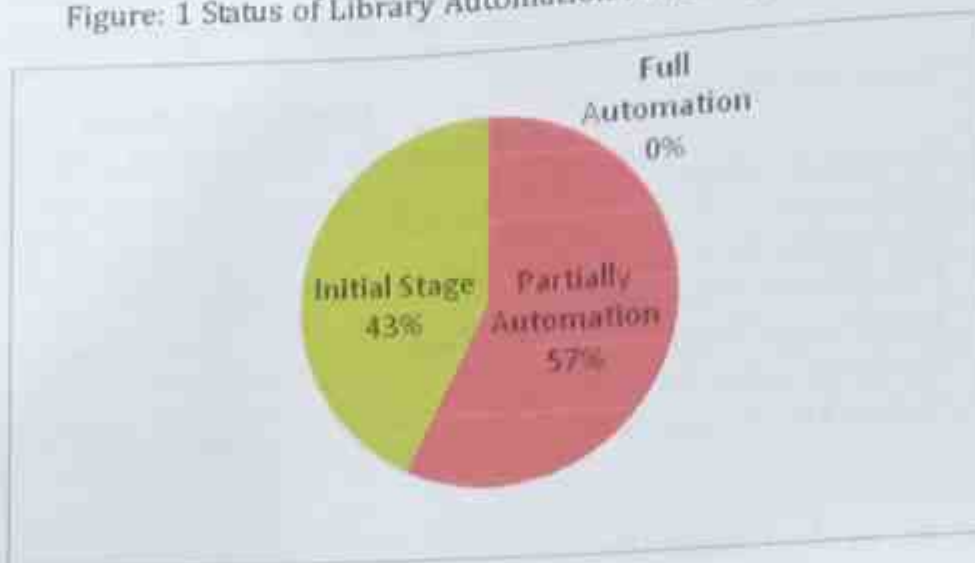
Table 3: Services provided by the surveyed college libraries

Sr. No.	Name of College	Library Services					
		REF	CAS	SDI	Internet	Repro	Book Bank
1.	Karimganj College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.	Nabinchandra College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.	Nilambazar College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
4.	Patherkandi College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
5.	R.K. Nagar College	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
6.	R.S. Girls College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.	Swami Vivekananda College	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-

### 1. Status of Library Automation:

Automation is the basic need for modernization of any library. Library automation refers to the use of computer to automate the typical procedures of libraries such as cataloguing and circulation. Library management software required for library automation process. There are different library management software available for automation. Some are vendor software and some are open software. The status of Library automation in the college libraries of karimganj district has been shown in the following pie diagram.

Figure: 1 Status of Library Automation in karimganj district



The above pie diagrams shows that no one college library is fully automated while three (57%) college libraries are partially automated and other three (43%) newly provincialised college libraries are in initial stage of automation. Out of seven college libraries four libraries working with the help of SOUL software and other three newly provincialised colleges are planning to install shortly open source software due to financial problem.

#### 9. Areas of Automation:

Areas of library automation are nothing but the housekeeping operations of a library which includes all operations such as administration, acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, OPAC etc. Following table depicts the areas of automation performed by the surveyed college libraries in karimganj district. Two college libraries automated their cataloguing and circulation module and data entry works is going on the other two libraries.

Table: 4: Areas of Automation in college libraries of Karimganj District

Sr. No	Name of College	Adm	Acqui	Catalog	Circulatio	Serial Control	OPAC
1.	Karimganj College	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
2.	Nabin Chandra College	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Nilambazar College	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Patherkandi College	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Ramkrishna Nagar College	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
6.	Rabindra Sadan Girls College	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
7.	Swami Vivekananda College	-	-	-	-	-	-

# 10. Hardware used for library Automation:

Minimum hardware such as computer, printer, scanner UPS are the prerequisite for library automation. The following table presents that all seven college libraries are using computer, printer and UPS facilities for automation process. Only four college libraries have scanner and two college libraries are using Barcode Technology for library automation.

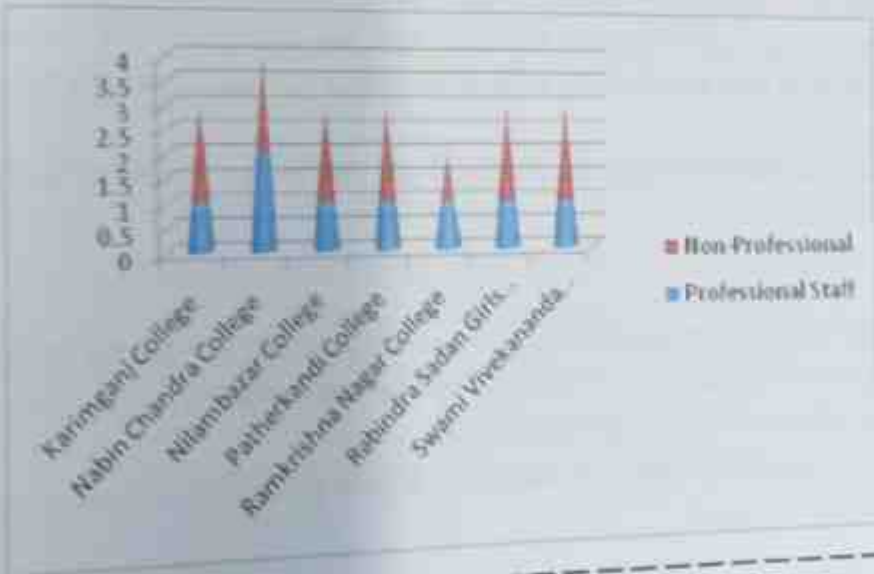
Table: 5 Hardware used in the college libraries

Sr. No.	Name of College	Computer	Printer	UPS	Scanner	Any Other
1.	Karimganj College	06				
2.	Nabin Chandra College	11	01	06	01	-
3.	Nilambazar College	01	02	11	01	-
4.	Patherkandi College	01	01	01	-	Barcode
5.	Ramkrishna Nagar College	02	01	01	-	-
6.	Rabindra Sadan Girls College	03	01	02	01	-
7.	Swami Vivekananda College	01	01	01	01	Barcode

# 11. Staff for Library Automation:

Success of library automation mainly depends upon the trained professional staffs having better computer knowledge. Only single professional is working in most of the college libraries of Karimganj district. The following table clearly indicates that existing position of professional and non-professional staff in the college libraries. Most of the college libraries, there is one professional staff and two non-professional staffs are working. Single professional staff cannot complete library automation work within a short period of time. Only Nabin chandra College library has two professional staffs.

Figure: 2 Staff working in the surveyed college libraries





## 12. Problems of Library Automation:

Table: 6 Problems faced by the college libraries

Problems	Frequency (N=7)	Percentage (%)
Lack of Fund	6	85.71%%
Insufficient Staff	7	100%
Lack of Infrastructure	5	71.42%
Lack of Training	4	57.14%
Lack of support from Authority	5	71.42%

The above table clearly presents that most of the college libraries of Karimganj district are facing lots of problem for their library automation. Out of 7 college libraries, 6 (85.71%) college libraries are facing financial problem, all (100%) libraries are facing staff problem, 5 (71.42%) libraries are facing infrastructure problem as a barrier of library automation, 4 (57.14%) college libraries, professionals are not trained well and 5 (71.42%) college libraries are getting less support from the authority. Overall in this table clearly shows that majority of the college libraries are facing multiple barriers/problems for their library automation.

## 13. Findings of the Study:

Following findings are identified during study:

- It is observed that out of seven college libraries, No (0%) library is fully automated, three (57%) libraries are partially automated and other three (43%) libraries are in initial stages of automation.
- It is seen that three libraries are using Soul 2.0 version, while one library is still using Soul 1.0 version. One library is recently converted bibliographic data from Soul 2.0 to Koha.
- Two college libraries have already automated Circulation and OPAC module whereas two libraries are doing data entry in Cataloguing module.
- Most of the college libraries, librarian himself doing data entry work, Two college libraries having data entry operator.
- It is noticed that sufficient staff is not available to carry out library automation in karimganj district. The existing non-professional staffs are also not trained up for automation.
- It may be mentioned that most of the college libraries having infrastructure problem for automation.
- Lack of support and interest from the authority are the major problems found in most of the College libraries.

## 14. Suggestions:

The following suggestions may be made for library automation in karimganj district:

- College administration needs to provide basic ICT infrastructure to the college libraries so that library can start automation process easily.
- IQAC Cell of the respective colleges should given higher priority for library automation for NAAC accreditation purpose.

College Librarian needs to complete their library database for providing better service to the college community.

The newly provincialised college libraries should install free or open source software (Koha or e-Granthalaya) in their college libraries as soon as possible.

LIS background staff should be engaged in the library instead of general office staff.

Vacant post of Librarian and library assistant needs to be filled up to support library automation works.

Govt should provide special grant for library automation purpose in all provincialised college libraries of Assam.

Assam College Library Association should support in automation works in the college libraries of Karimganj District.

Hand on training, workshops should be organised in the college libraries.

### 15. Conclusions:

Library automation brings great changes in the functioning of the library and providing effective and efficient services. Library Automation is an expensive, complex and continuous process involving various problems faced in its implementation. Lack of fund, lack of ICT infrastructure, lack of sufficient staff and lack of initiative from the college authority are found responsible for unsatisfactory result of automation. The automation status in the college libraries of karimganj district is in developing stage. INFLIBNET is providing SOUL software to the college libraries of the North Eastern Region free of cost. INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad is also organizing PLANNER for the development of academic libraries in North Eastern Region.

### REFERENCES:

1. Prem Singh & J.K. Khanna (1994). Information Technology in the Libraries, Pragati Publication, Delhi.
2. Rajani Kanta Barman and Sanjay Kumar Singh, HRD Aspects of Library Automation in College Libraries of Guwahati: A Study, Planner, 2007.
3. Nave C.L & Nargesh, R (2016). Status and Problems of Library Automation in Govt First Grade College of Hassan District, Karnataka: A Study. International Journal of Library and Information Science, 5(1), pp. 28-35.
4. Sadanand Y. Bansode (2008). A Survey of Library Automation in College Libraries in Goa State, India, Library Philosophy and Practice.
5. Sinha, M.K (2012). Status of ICT Infrastructure for Computerization of College Library Services in the State of Assam: An Evaluative Study of College Libraries of Barak Valley, South Assam. Library Progress (International), 32(1), January-June, 2012, 29-59





College Librarian needs to complete their library database for providing better service to the college community.

The newly provincialised college libraries should install free or open source software (Koha or e-Granthalaya) in their college libraries as soon as possible.

LIS background staff should be engaged in the library instead of general office staff.

Vacant post of Librarian and library assistant needs to be filled up to support library automation works.

Govt should provide special grant for library automation purpose in all provincialised college libraries of Assam.

Assam College Library Association should support in automation works in the college libraries of Karimganj District

Hand on training, workshops should be organised in the college libraries.

### 5. Conclusions:

Library automation brings great changes in the functioning of the library and providing effective and efficient services. Library Automation is an expensive, complex and continuous process involving various problems faced in its implementation. Lack of fund, lack of ICT infrastructure, lack of sufficient staff and lack of initiative from the college authority are found responsible for unsatisfactory result of automation. The automation status in the college libraries of karimganj district is in developing stage. INFLIBNET is providing SOUL software to the college libraries of the North Eastern Region free of cost INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad is also organizing PLANNER for the development of academic libraries in North Eastern Region.

### REFERENCES:

1. Prem Singh & J.K. Khanna (1994). Information Technology in the Libraries, Pragati Publication, Delhi.
2. Rajani Kanta Barman and Sanjay Kumar Singh, HRD Aspects of Library Automation in CollegeLibraries of Guwahati: A Study, Planner, 2007.
3. Nave C.L & Nargesh, R (2016). Status and Problems of Library Automation in Govt First Grade College of Hassan District, Karnataka: A Study. International Journal of Library and Information Science, 5(1), pp. 28-35.
4. Sadanand Y. Bansode (2008). A Survey of Library Automation in College Libraries in Goa State, India, Library Philosophy and Practice.
5. Sinha, M.K (2012). Status of ICT Infrastructure for Computerization of College Library Services in the State of Assam: An Evaluative Study of College Libraries of Barak Valley, South Assam. Library Progress (International),32(1), January-June,2012,29-59

