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# **THE APPLICABILITY OF LIBRARY FIVE LAWS OVER LIBRARY AUTOMATION PRINCIPLES: A STUDY**

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## **Abstract**

Dr. S.R.Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science are applicable to all fields of library activities. Now we have entered the digital era. Information Technology is the only solution to manage all types of information which are growing rapidly. Information professionals, as well as users, are handling information technology through library automation. Despite multidimensional development in a different area of library work and service and their enrichment with the application of modern technology Five Laws of Library Science are equally applicable to library automation. The researcher has personally visited four arts and science colleges in Dindigul district, Tamilnadu, India. The College wise distribution of selected 627 sample respondents is furnished. Dr. S.R.Ranganathan's "Five Laws of Library Science" was written seventy four years back and in spite of having so many changes in Library world; these Five Laws still fits in today's context.

*Keywords:* Five Laws of Library Science, Library Automation, Five Law over Library Automation

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

IT together with Communication Technology has brought unprecedented changes in the way people communicate. The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is widespread and has become an essential tool for the efficient administration of any organization and in the delivery of services to the client. ICT can be broadly defined as a set of activities that facilitate capturing, storing, processing, transmitting and displaying information by electronics means.

- **First Law – “Books are for use”** This law focuses on the selective use of information. For proper use of information, there should be proper storage and dissemination of information. Library or information professionals have always kept in mind that, they have to serve “Right Information, to the Right User at the Right Time”. Library automation helps in computerizing library collection, where more than one user can retrieve the same information simultaneously. The OPAC of the library system helps the user in accessing the bibliographical information from anywhere.
- **Second Law is user-oriented law -“Every reader his/her book”**: Every citizen has the right to access the information (Right to Information Act, 2004). This law guides the library or information professionals to take care of information users so that they can access information without any obstacle. Here is a necessity of User Survey, User Study and User Education. User Orientation may help in acquiring the need and satisfying the purpose. Presently no information Center or Library is self-sufficient to serve all types of information to a particular client because of information explosion, budget crunches in the library and raising the cost of the primary resources. But through the networking and the consortium approach of the E-journals, E-books, help to meet the needs of users. With the advent of ICT, library routines like quick accessing, issue and return can be done immediately and perfectly on the basis of 2<sup>nd</sup> law.
- **Third Law – “Every book its reader”** is information oriented. In a modern situation, information professionals have to accept information technology to organize and manage the information. Except in rural areas, most of the academic libraries in India are automated. Few of them have taken initiatives in digitizing the collections. Now e-books and e-journals have taken place into the libraries instead of the print collections. With the help of the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) user can locate their search. Search strategy like Author index, book index is helpful in this regard.
- **Forth Law – “Save the time of reader”**: This law highlighted, how fast information can be delivered to its end users. ICT has helped users in getting their required information into their laptops, palmtop, and desktops. Today, the concept “library without a wall” has

come into the picture. Through broadband connection information professionals serve the information to its clients within a fraction of second. Day by day the internet is speedy and reaching to every user irrespective of their location and time.

- ***Fifth Law – “Library is a Growing Organism”:*** Keeping in view the information available and growth in the area, the single library to can't acquire all the information on a subject. There is space problem, staff problem and most importantly the fund problem every library has. In the present electronic age, resources are available in electronic forms, such as CD-ROM, DVD, VCD, Optical Disks. Due to availability in electronic format of the resources, space problem of the library gets no sense and smaller place can acquire billions of collection. The main problem of the library is the availability of inadequate funds. In that case, resource sharing and networking between libraries and information centers are very much essential. To short out the library budget problem, the consortium approach has come to the picture making libraries agreeing to share the resources under a common platform.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of this study are

1. The identity gender-wise frequency of visitors to the library.
2. To analyze the applicability of Five Laws over Library Automation

## **3. METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

The present research aims at collecting primary data from the respondents of the surveyed institutes. Among the different data collection methods, questionnaire method has been chosen. The researcher has personally visited four arts and science colleges in Dindigul district, Tamilnadu, India. The distributed the questionnaire to the students and faculty collected responses at different times.

## **4. STUDY POPULATION**

Library users of college libraries were selected for the study. All the users of students and faculty were provided with a Pre-tested questionnaire and the respondents were selected by a simple random sampling technique. 700 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 661 filled copies were received back. 34 questionnaires were incomplete, 627 copies of the Questionnaire were taken to the survey. The College wise distribution of selected sample respondents is furnished.

## 5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The gender-wise distribution of the respondents during the study period, 45.10% of the respondents are male. 54.90% of the respondents are female. Analyzing the age-wise distribution of the respondents during the study period, 78.20% of the respondents are blow 20 years old.

**Table 1 Designation wise User Opinion on Applicability of First Law over Library Automation**

Designation	Level of Impact					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Faculty	38	24	8	13	11	<b>94</b>
	6.06%	3.83%	1.28%	2.07%	1.75%	<b>14.99%</b>
Student	188	188	57	50	50	<b>533</b>
	29.98%	29.98%	9.09%	7.97%	7.97%	<b>85.01%</b>
Total	<b>226</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>627</b>
	<b>36.04%</b>	<b>33.81%</b>	<b>10.37%</b>	<b>10.05%</b>	<b>9.73%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
CHI-SQUARE TEST	<i>Table Value p0.05</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Calculative Value</i>		<i>Results</i>	
	09.4777	4	5.21		Significant	

Source: Primary data

The given table 1 reveals the designation wise user opinion on the applicability of first law over library automation. 38 (6.06%) faculty and 188 (29.98%) student respondents' go with strongly agree, 24 (3.83%) faculty and 188(29.98%) student respondents' give their opinion as agree. 8 (1.28%) faculty and 57 (9.09%) student respondents' opinion is Neutral 13(2.07%) faculty and 50(7.97%) students' respondents opinion is disagreed, 11(1.75%) faculty and 50(7.97%) students' respondents opinion is strongly disagreed. The information furnished in the table states that most of the respondents strongly agree with the applicability of library first law 'Books are for use' over library automation. The chi-square table indicates different designation wise user opinions on the applicability of first law over library automation. It is inferred that the calculated chi-square value is less than the theoretical value at 0.05 levels, so it is significant. Thus the hypothesis has been accepted.

**Table 2 Designation wise User Opinion on Applicability of Second Law over Library Automation.**

Designation	Level of Impact					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Faculty	35	24	10	13	12	<b>94</b>
	5.58%	3.83%	1.59%	2.07%	1.91%	<b>14.99%</b>
Student	282	77	56	69	49	<b>533</b>
	44.98%	12.28%	8.93%	11.00%	7.81%	<b>85.01%</b>
Total	<b>317</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>627</b>
	<b>50.56%</b>	<b>16.11%</b>	<b>10.53%</b>	<b>13.08%</b>	<b>9.73%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
CHI-SQUARE TEST	<i>Table Value p0.05</i>		<i>df</i>	<i>Calculative Value</i>		<i>Results</i>
	09.47		4	11.08		Insignificant

Source: Primary data

The table 2 point out the designation wise user opinion on the applicability of second law over library automation. 35 (5.58%) faculty and 282 (44.98%) student respondents go with strongly agree with the user opinion to the applicability of the second law over library automation. 24 (3.83%) faculty and 77(12.28%) student respondents give their opinion as agree. 10 (1.59%) faculty and 56 (8.93%) student respondents' opinion is neutral, 13(2.07%) faculty and 69(11.00%) student respondents' opinion is disagree. 12 (1.91%) faculty and 49(7.81%) student respondents' opinion is strongly disagreed. The information furnished in the table states that most of the respondents are strongly agree with the applicability of second law 'Every reader his/her book' over library automation. On top of the chi-square table indicates the different designation wise user opinion on applicability of second law over library automation. It is inferred that the calculated chi-square value is more than the theoretical value at 0.05 levels, so it is insignificant. Thus the hypothesis has been rejected.

**Table 3 Designation Wise User Opinion on the Applicability of Third Law over Library Automation.**

Designation	Level of Impact					Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Faculty	17	48	13	8	8	<b>94</b>
	2.71%	7.66%	2.07%	1.28%	1.28%	<b>14.99%</b>
Student	76	290	87	40	40	<b>533</b>
	12.12%	46.25%	13.88%	6.38%	6.38%	<b>85.01%</b>
Total	<b>93</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>627</b>
	<b>14.83%</b>	<b>53.91%</b>	<b>15.95%</b>	<b>7.66%</b>	<b>7.66%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>CHI-SQUARE TEST</b>		<i>Table Value p0.05</i>		<i>df</i>	<i>Calculative Value</i>	<i>Results</i>
		09.47		4	1.48	Significant

Source: Primary data

The given table 3 reveals the Designation wise user opinion on applicability of Third law over library automation. 17 (62.71%) faculty and 76 (12.12%) student respondents do strongly agree with the applicability of Third law over library automation. 48 (7.66%) faculty and 290(29.98%) student respondents give their opinion as agree. 13 (2.07%) faculty and 87 (13.88%) student respondents' opinion is Neutral 8(1.28%) faculty and 40(6.38%) student respondents' opinion is disagree and strongly disagree. The information furnished in the table states that most of the respondents are strongly agree with the user opinion on the applicability of Third law over library automation. The chi-square Table indicates the Designation wise user opinion on applicability of Third law 'Every book its reader' over library automation. It is inferred that the calculated chi-square value is less than the theoretical value at 0.05 levels, hence, it is significant. Thus the hypothesis has been accepted.

**Table 4 Designation Wise User Opinion on the Applicability of Fourth Law over Library Automation.**

Designation	Level of Impact					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Faculty	50	21	7	9	7	<b>94</b>
	7.97%	3.35%	1.12%	1.44%	1.12%	<b>14.99%</b>
Student	238	110	35	90	60	<b>533</b>
	37.96%	17.54%	5.58%	14.35%	9.57%	<b>85.01%</b>
Total	<b>288</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>627</b>
	<b>45.93%</b>	<b>20.89%</b>	<b>6.70%</b>	<b>15.79%</b>	<b>10.69%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
CHI-SQUARE TEST		<i>Table Value p0.05</i>		<i>df</i>	<i>Calculative Value</i>	<i>Results</i>
		09.47		4	5.26	Significant

Source: Primary data



The given table 4 reveals the Designation wise user opinion on the applicability of Fourth law over library automation. 50 (7.97%) faculty and 238 (37.96%) student respondents do strongly agree with the applicability of fourth law over library automation. 21 (3.35%) faculty and 110(17.54%) student respondents' opinioned as agree. 7 (1.12%) faculty and 35 (5.58%) student respondents' opinioned Neutral 9(1.44%) faculty and 90(14.35%) student respondents' opinion is disagree. 7 (1.12%) faculties and 60(9.57%) student respondents' opinion is strongly disagree. The information furnished in the table states that most of the respondents are strongly agreed with the applicability of Third law "Save the time of reader" over library automation. The chi-square Table noticeably Designation wise user opinion on the applicability of Fourth law over library automation. It is inferred that the calculated chi-square value is less than the theoretical value at 0.05 levels, hence, it is significant. Thus the hypothesis has been accepted.

**Table 5 Designation Wise User Opinion on the Applicability of Fifth Law over Library Automation.**

Designation	Level of Impact					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Faculty	29	21	6	25	13	<b>94</b>
	4.63%	3.35%	0.96%	3.99%	2.07%	<b>14.99%</b>
Student	156	122	42	125	88	<b>533</b>
	24.88%	19.46%	6.70%	19.94%	14.04%	<b>85.01%</b>
Total	<b>185</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>627</b>
	<b>29.51%</b>	<b>22.81%</b>	<b>7.66%</b>	<b>23.92%</b>	<b>16.11%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>CHI-SQUARE TEST</b>		<i>Table Value p0.05</i>		<i>df</i>	<i>Calculative Value</i>	<i>Results</i>
		09.47		4	1.00	Significant

Source: Primary data

The given table 5 unmistakably reveals the Designation wise user opinion with the applicability of Fifth law over library automation. 29 (4.63%) faculty and 156 (24.88%) student

respondents go with strongly agree in the user opinion to the applicable for regarding the library automation and library fifth law like 'Library is growing organism'. 21 (3.35%) faculty and 122(19.46%) student respondents give their opinion as agree. 6 (0.96%) faculty and 42 (6.70%) student respondents' opinion is Neutral 25(3.99%) faculty and 125(19.94%) student respondents' opinion is disagree. 13 (2.07%) faculty and 88 (14.04%) student respondents' opinion is strongly disagree. The information furnished in the table states that most of the respondents are strongly agreed with user opinion with the applicability of Fifth law "Library is a Growing Organism" over library automation. The chi-square table noticeably Designation wise user opinion on the applicability of Fifth law over library automation. It is inferred that the calculated chi-square value is less than the theoretical value at 0.05 levels, so it is significant. Thus the hypothesis has been accepted.

## 6. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Due to Information Technology, there are so many changes happened in the world. Information is growing rapidly. Information Technology is the only solution to manage and organize the information in a proper way. Today ICT application supports all human information dissemination activities. Dr. S.R.Ranganathan's "Five Laws of Library Science" was written seventy four years back and despite having so many changes in the Library world; these Five Laws still fit in today's context.

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