

IMPACT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ON LAW COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN MARATHWADA REGION IN MAHARASHTRA: A STUDY

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Abstract: - In today's ICT era, computers are used in each and every library. Due to the use of computer, drastic change has occurred in the library operations like Classification, Acquisition, Cataloguing, Circulation, Library services etc.

This paper throw light on ICT and how ICT has influenced the eight (8) Law College Libraries in Marathwada. An Attempt has been made to show the use of ICT in Law College Libraries of Marathwada with help of charts, tables, diagrams.

Introduction:

Before digital era, library was considered as a mere store house of books. But the concept of library has drastically changed from what it was in the early days. ICT has changed the concept of libraries, their collection and services, there by bringing about various new terms like digital libraries, libraries without walls, virtual libraries, cloud libraries etc. Most of the libraries are undergoing automation in their process and services. Most of the traditional library practices have been automated with the help of automation software like cataloguing, circulation, bibliographic control, acquisition, indexing etc.

The academic library environment is in a state of transition in terms of resources and users, many information sources once available only in print and are now available online, CD-ROM form. The use of ICT has major role in the modernization of library practices. ICT has an impact on every sphere of academic library activities specially in the form of the library collection development, strategies, library building and consortia, networking and ICT based services. ICT presents value added information services and access to a wide variety of digital based information resources to their users.

Now days libraries are providing ICT based services to their user like Web OPAC,

Electronic document delivery, Networked information sources, digital library services, delivery of information to users desktop.¹

During past three decades, rapid changes in information technologies have drastically changed the functions and activities of information professionals in libraries. Most functions in modern libraries are being performed using software packages that are now available off-the-shelf. Several libraries have their catalogues available on the Internet with a web based search interface along with links to resources either acquired through external agencies or created in-house. Most libraries are connected to the Campus network and subscribe to electronic resources to serve the information requirement of their academic community. Several libraries have taken-up small-scale digitization projects for part of their collection.² The librarians and information professionals are required to develop skills that are required to use, develop and maintain IT-based services and products used by today's libraries. The article deals with new information technologies, their products, services and applications in libraries. It describes web-based library services (Arora, 2009).³

Research Objectives:

- 1) To ascertain the level of computerization/automation in Law College Libraries.
- 2) To determine the usefulness of ICT resources in Law College Libraries.

- 3) To study the ICT based services provided by the Law College Libraries.
- 4) To review the Law College Libraries in Marathwada.
- 5) To study the current status of information technology in Marathwada Law College Libraries.

Research Hypotheses:

Every research is based on some hypothesis. The researcher has to clarify the hypotheses that will be the basis of the research even before conducting the research.

The following hypotheses are formulated for this research paper.

- 1) All colleges have computer system in their libraries.
- 2) Some Law College Libraries are not fully automated.
- 3) ICT based services in some Law College Libraries are not Satisfactory.

Research Scope and Limitation:

The present research paper's research is related to the topic "Impact of Information and Communication Technology on Law College Libraries in Marathwada Region in Maharashtra: A Study", in which the study of Law College Libraries in Marathwada, the current condition of the libraries, the location and nature of information technology, and what ICT based services these libraries are providing etc. are included in this. For that, a study of 8 Law

College Libraries in Marathwada has been conducted.

List of Law Colleges in Marathwada:

1. **Dr. Ambedkar Law College,**
Nagsenvan, Aurangabad.
2. **Manikchand Pahade Law College,**
Sanmitra Colony, Samarth Nagar,
Aurangabad.
3. **Late. Vasantraoji Kale Law College,**
Garkheda Road, Motiwal Nagar,
Aurangabad.
4. **Department of P.G. Studies in Law,**
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathiwada
University Campus, Aurangabad.
5. **V.N. Patil Law College, CIDCO,**
Aurangabad.
6. **Maharashtra National Law
University, Aurangabad.**
7. **Mastyodari Education Institution
Law College, Ambad Road, Jalna.**
8. **Marathwada Education Broadcasting
Board Law College, Barshi Road, Beed.**

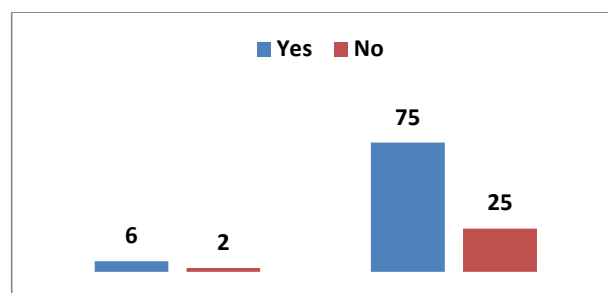
Research Methods:

Descriptive and Analytical Research methods will be used in this research. Data collection for this research paper will mainly be done through Survey method. Questionnaire technique will be used for that. Data collection will also done through interviews, published and unpublished materials, observations, etc. Also important presentation will be done through graphs, charts etc.

Data analysis was done both quantitatively and qualitatively. Numeric and qualitative methods have also been used. The presentation of information in the present research is done through tables, pie charts, and bar charts.

1. Is a Law Finder available for the reader?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	6	75
2	No	2	25
	Total	8	100%

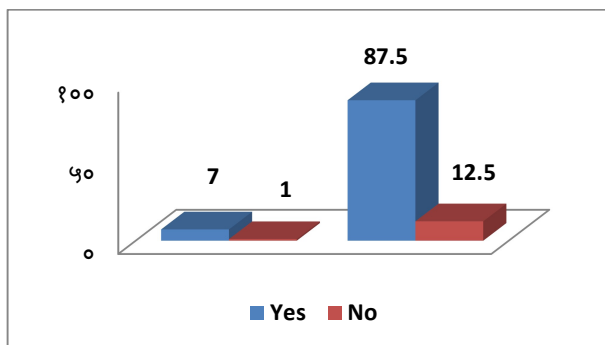


Chart/Table no. 01 it can be seen that 6(75%) Law Finder is available for readers and 2(25%) libraries do not have Law Finder available for readers.

Suggestion: Law Finder is Law software. It is called Law library. It is very important to have Law Finder available in every law college for the readers to acquire legal knowledge. Because Law Finder is ready to provide any type of legal knowledge. Every law college library should make Law Finder available.

2. Is your library fully automated?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	7	87.5
2	No	1	12.5
	Total	8	100%



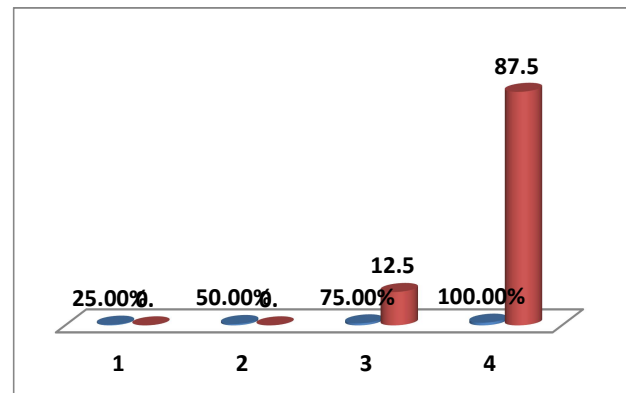
From the analysis of table no.2, the option that the library is fully automated is selected by 7(87.5%) respondents and is the highest and the option that the library is not fully automated is selected by 1(12.5%) respondents and is the lowest. This is seen from the above statistics.

Suggestion: As today's age is the age of information technology, every field has been influenced by information technology. Librarians have also started to computerize the library on a large scale. Today every library is automated and it has become the need of today's libraries. So

every law library should also make itself hundred percent automated by using computers.

3. What percentage of your library is fully automated?

Sr. No.	Percentage	Number	Percentage (%)
1	25%	0	00
2	50%	0	00
3	75%	1	12.5
4	100%	7	87.5
	Total	8	100%

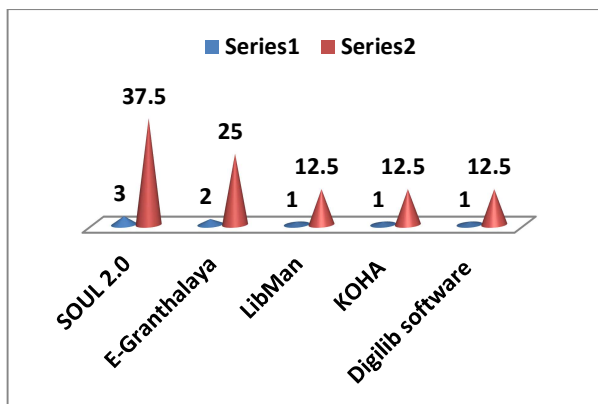


Chart/Table no. 3 shows that the option that the library is 100% automated is selected by 7(87.5%) respondents and is the highest. It is followed by the option that library is 75% automated which is selected by 1(12.5%) respondents and it is the least as seen from the above data.

Suggestion: In the era of modern information and communication technology, every sector is automating itself by using information technology. All the libraries should also focus on how to provide maximum service to the users by automating themselves 100% and save their time and the time of the libraries.

4. Which Software is used in the library?

Sr. No.	Software	Number	Percentage (%)
1	SOUL 2.0	3	37.5
2	E-Granthalaya	2	25
3	LibMan	1	12.5
4	KOHA	1	12.5
5	Digilib software	1	12.5
	Total	8	100%

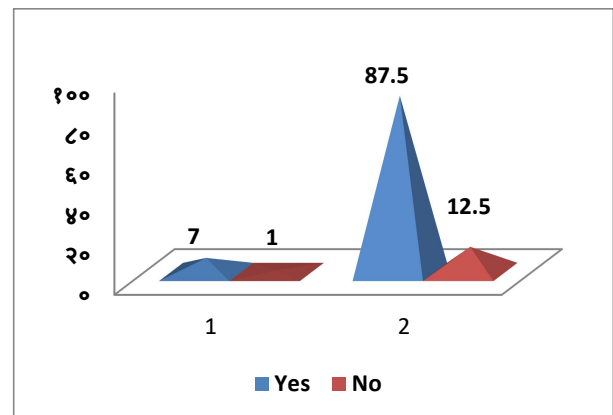


Chart/Table no. 4 shows that SOUL 2.0 is used in the libraries. 3(37.5%) option is selected by the respondent and it is the most. E-Granthalaya is followed by 2 (25%) respondents each. Then KOHA and Digital Software are selected by 1 i.e. (25%) respondents each.

Suggestion: Today every library has made itself self-sufficient by using ict in the library. For that, libraries have saved their own and readers' time by using various types of software. Library should select appropriate software and automate their libraries fully that is 100%

5. Are all reading materials in the library is barcoded?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	7	87.5
2	No	1	12.5
	Total	8	100%

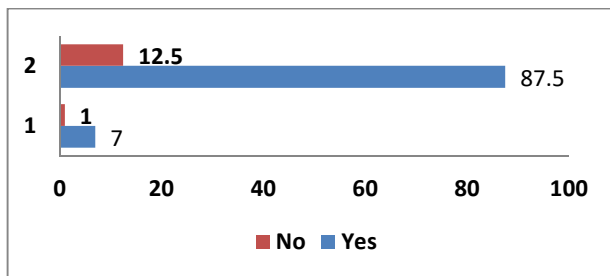


Chart/Table no. 5 shows that 7(87.5%) libraries all reading materials is to be barcoded and this is the highest number. 1(12.5%) of all reading materials in the library is not barcoded and it is the least as seen from the above data.

Suggestion: As barcoding is one of the most important works in the library, every reading material in the library must be barcoded. This saves time for both readers and staff.

6. Are library purchases, records and transactions computerized?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	7	87.5
2	No	1	12.5
	Total	8	100%

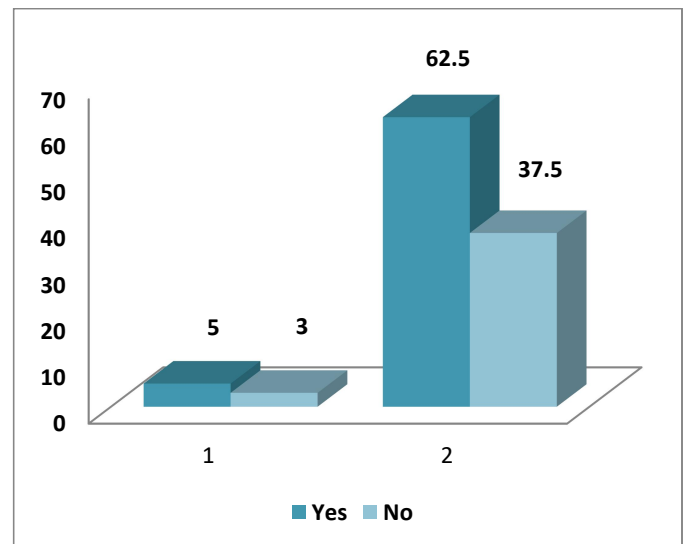


Chart/Table no. 6 shows that 7(87.5%) libraries selected the option of library procurement, their records exchange, which is computerized, and 1(12.5%) library select the option of library procurement, their records, and exchange is not computerized.

Suggestion: The purpose of library computerization will be achieved only if the library purchases, their records and transactions should be done through software only. The survey found that some libraries keep the library computerized in name only and the library purchases, records and transactions are carried out in an old fashioned way.

7. Does the library have internet connectivity at all locations?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	5	62.5
2	No	3	37.5
	Total	8	100%

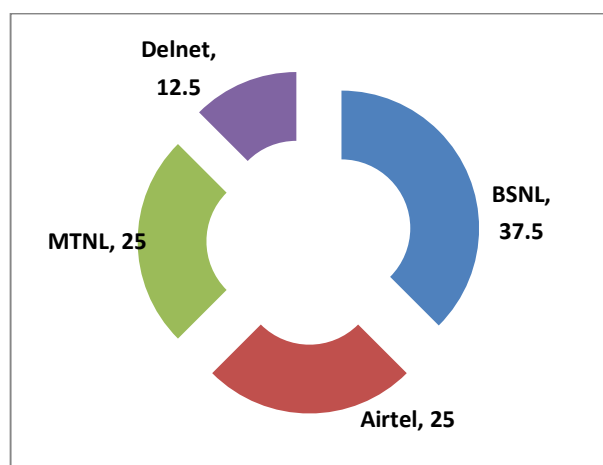


Chart/Table no. 7 shows that there is internet connectivity in all places in the library is selected by 5(62.5%) libraries and it is the highest followed by no internet connectivity in all places in the library. From the analysis of the above table/table it is seen that such option is the least selected by 3(37.5%) libraries.

Suggestion: If the library is to be computerized, it is not only computer, software or other tools that can be used to collect the material, it is very important to have an internet connection. Even today, many libraries can be seen to have computerized libraries. But the internet connection will not appear. Internet connection in the library can be seen only when the committee of NAAC or other committees come to visit the library. For that, the library must have internet connection for twelve months and at all locations of the library.

8. What network does your library belong to?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	BSNL	3	37.5
2	Airtel	2	25
3	MTNL	2	25
4	Delnet	1	12.5
	Total	8	100%



Chart/Table no. 8 shows that 3(37.5%) libraries are covered in BSNL network. 2 libraries each are covered in Airtel and MTNL network and its ratio is (50%). Then 1(12.5%) libraries are included in Delnet network.

Suggestion: Today there are different types of commercial companies in the market to provide Internet services, whether it is BSNL, Airtel, MTNL, Delnet or other companies, from which we have to decide which company can provide good service and which one cannot, it depends on us by deciding which connection to get. Connection must be taken.

9. Information about library hardware and equipment?

Sr. No.	Hardware & Software	Numbers
1	Computers	29
2	CCTV	13
3	Printers	11
4	UPS	10
5	Server	9
6	LCD Projector	8
7	Scanner	8
8	Barcode Machine/Scanner	8
9	Modem	7
10	Video Conferencing System	7
11	Laptop	6
12	Xerox Machine	6
13	Computer Terminal	5
14	Television	5
15	CD Tower	5
16	Water Filter	5
17	RFID	4
18	Inverter	4
19	AC	4
20	Webcam	4
21	Fax	3
22	Micro Film Reader	1
23	Intercom Phone	1

Table no. 9 shows that information about hardware and tools in the library. This information is shown in the figures. The above table shows that the number of computers in

Marathwada Law College Library is 29 followed by CCTV 13, Printer 11, UPS 10, Server 9, LCD Projectors, Scanners and Barcode machines/scanners 8 each total 24, modems and video conferencing systems 7 each total 14, laptops and xerox machines 6 each total 12, computer terminals, televisions, CD towers and water filters each No. 5 Total 20, R.F.I.D., Inverter, A.C. and web camera 4 each totaling 16, fax 3, micro filmreader 1, and intercom phone 1 as shown in the table above.

Suggestion: What is the most important problem of library today is software, hardware and other electronic devices whether they are related to library. For this the libraries have to depend entirely on the college committee or the institution manager and remind them about the facility from time to time. If better service is to be provided by the library then the libraries should first be made self-supporting only then the purpose of the libraries will be achieved.

10. Information about e-reader facility in library?

Sr. No.	Hardware and Tools	Numbers
1	OPAC	8
2	Free Internet	8
3	CAS	8
4	Library Website/Link to College Website	8
5	Xerox Service	8

6	Remote Access	7
7	FDI	7
8	Periodical/indexing services	6
9	LAN	5
10	Free Downloading and Printing	5
11	Online reference service	4
12	Free Wi-Fi	4
13	Abstract Service	3
14	WhatsApp facility for library information dissemination	3
15	Inter-Library Loan Service	2
16	Web OPAC	2
17	Intercom Service	1
18	Cloud Basic	1

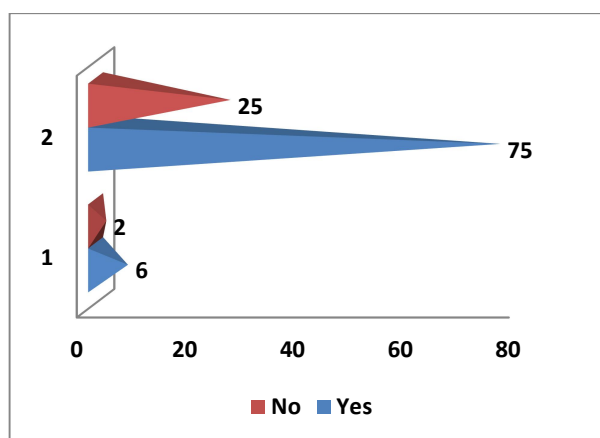
From Table no. 10, it is observed that when information is asked about e-facilities of the readers in the library, it seems that the number of OPAC, free Internet, CAS and Library Website/link to college website are provided in Marathwada law library is 8 each which is the highest. Then Xerox Services, Remote Access and SDI. This service is provided in 7 libraries each. Thereafter Periodical/Index service is provided through 6 libraries. After that LAN and free downloading and printing services are provided from 5 libraries each. After that Online Reference Service and free Wi-Fi are provided by 4 libraries each. After that, the service is provided by 3 libraries each and WhatsApp facility for dissemination of library information. After that, Inter-library loan facility and Web OPAC Service

is provided by 2 libraries each followed by Intercom Service and Cloud Basic Service by 1 library each.

Suggestion: The main purpose of library computerization will be achieved when you provide the e-Services required by the readers. This will be achieved when our library is hundred percent automate. So first of all libraries should make themselves hundred percent automated.

11. Do you offer remote access services to readers?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	6	75
2	No	2	25
	Total	8	100%

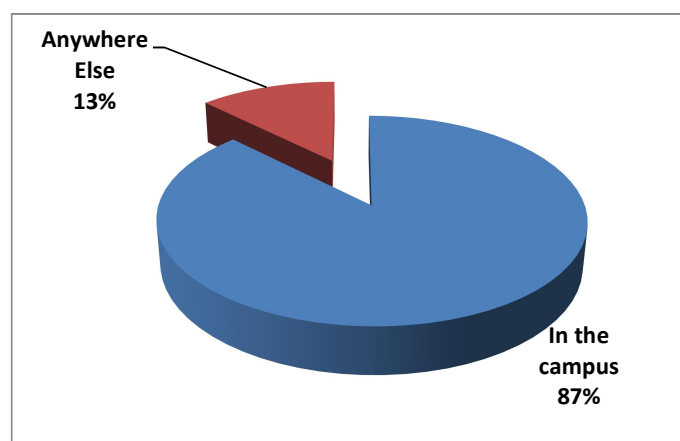


Chart/Table no. 11 shows that 6(75%) libraries provide Remote Access Service to the readers is the highest followed by 2(25%) libraries which do not provide Remote Access Service to the readers from the above table and this is the least.

Suggestion: Remote access services fall into both internal services and external services in the library. Every library should provide this service to the readers. Only then one of the main goals of library computerization will be achieved. Some libraries provide remote access service to readers only for a few days when NAAC committee or other library committee visits the library. Libraries should provide this service to every users if they want to attract users.

12. Where do you provide remote access services to readers?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	In the campus	6	85.71
2	Anywhere Else	1	14.29
	Total	7	100%

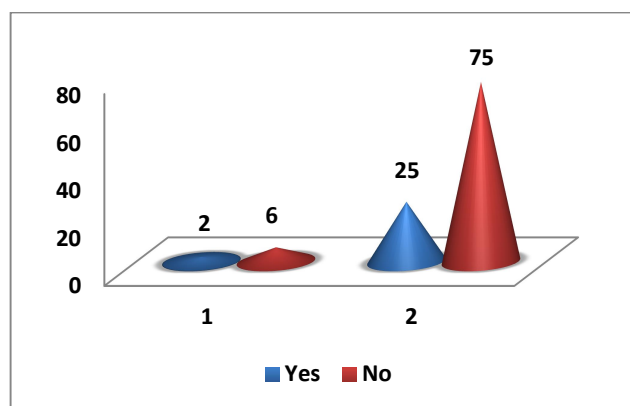


Chart/Table no. 12 shows that Remote Access Service to readers is provided in the campus by 6(85.71) law college libraries and elsewhere in 1(14.29%) college library.

Suggestion: Libraries may offer Remote Access Services either in the library or outside the library. Libraries must provide Remote Access Services both in the library and outside the library to save the time of the readers.

13. Is Web Opac facility available for readers?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	2	25
2	No	6	75
	Total	8	100%

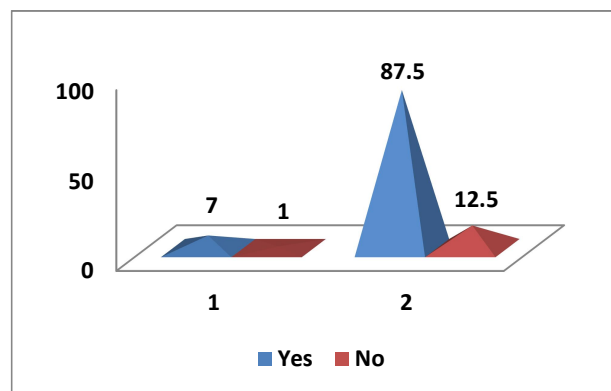


Chart/Table no. 13 shows that 6(75%) Law College Libraries does not have Web Opac facility available for Readers and 2(25%) Law College Libraries have Web Opac facility available for Readers from the above table/table analysis.

Suggestion: Web OPAC facility is an important service provided by libraries in the ICT era. Every library should provide Web OPAC facility to the readers. Readers can check what reading materials are available or not in the library even when they are not in the library to save their time.

14. Does the library have a strong ICT infrastructure to provide ICT based information services?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	7	87.5
2	No	1	12.5
	Total	8	100%

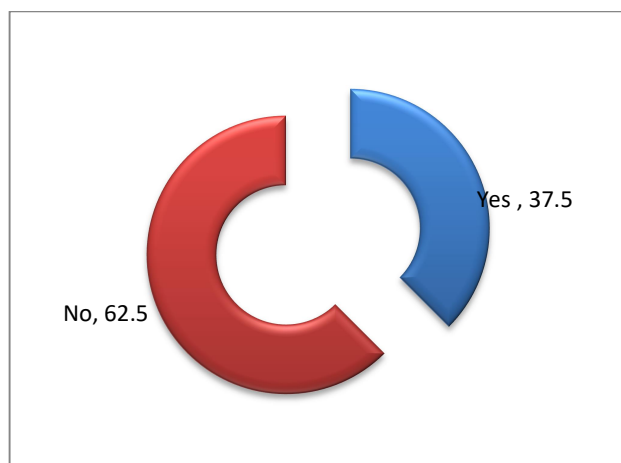


Chart/Table no.14 shows that 7(87.5%) libraries have strong ICT infrastructure to provide ICT based information services and 1(12.5%) libraries do not have ICT infrastructure to provide ICT based information services.

Suggestion: Libraries should have ample ICT infrastructure to provide ICT based services to the readers. Such as Software, Hardware, and other electronic items required for the library. Only then libraries can become 100% automated and provide better e-services to readers.

15. Have you created a database of library holdings?

Sr. No.	Response	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	3	37.5
2	No	5	62.5
	Total	8	100%



Chart/Table no. 15 shows that 3(37.5%) libraries have holdings database has been prepared and 5(62.5%) libraries has not database prepared from above Chart /table analysis.

Suggestion: Database of holdings is an important function of libraries in the ICT era. Every library should create a database of its library holdings and make it available online for information to the readers.

Conclusion:

The study has sincerely attempted to evaluate the implementation and impact of ICT on Law College Libraries. The availability and use of ICT infrastructure in Law College Libraries in Marathwada has become necessary in meeting their day to day requirements of their users. Most of these college libraries pointed out that shortage of staff, lack of trained staff and budget is the major hurdles in expansion of ICT application in libraries.

The college libraries of the 21st century are challenged to be digitized through the application of ICT facilities in their libraries. This is aimed at

ensuring quick and easy access of the large number of library users to provide relevant, accurate and current information from both remote and immediate databases to facilitate learning and teaching in the colleges.

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