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ICT Competencies of LIS Professionals in Karnataka Engineering Colleges

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ABSTRACT

Information and Communication Technology has become an integral part of modern library and information services. Engineering college libraries in Karnataka are expected to provide efficient access to digital resources, support academic research, and assist users in using electronic databases, institutional repositories, and online learning platforms. The present study examines the level of ICT competencies possessed by Library and Information Science professionals working in engineering colleges across Karnataka.

The study focuses on assessing the proficiency of LIS professionals in areas such as the use of library automation software, digital library systems, online databases, internet-based information retrieval, and basic troubleshooting of ICT tools. An analytical approach was adopted to understand the existing competency levels, identify skill gaps, and examine the factors influencing the acquisition and application of ICT skills. Data were collected from LIS professionals serving in selected engineering colleges of Karnataka through a structured questionnaire.

The analysis reveals that while most professionals possess basic knowledge of ICT applications, there is considerable variation in advanced skills related to digital resource management, electronic resource licensing, and the use of emerging technologies. Professionals with recent training and access to institutional support demonstrated higher competency levels. The study also highlights challenges such as limited training opportunities, inadequate infrastructure, and heavy workload that affect the continuous development of ICT skills.

The findings indicate the need for regular capacity-building programmes, institutional support, and inclusion of practical ICT modules in professional development activities. Strengthening ICT competencies among LIS professionals is essential for improving library services, supporting faculty and students, and aligning engineering college libraries with the requirements of digital higher education. The study provides useful insights for library administrators, policymakers, and professional associations in planning training initiatives for LIS professionals in Karnataka.

***Keywords**: ICT Competencies, LIS Professionals, Engineering College Libraries.*