Learning Resource Centre for Visually Challenged in Mysore University Library: A Study

Somashekara Y. L. & Dr. R. Jayanna

1Selection Grade Assistant Librarian Mysore University Library Mansagangothri, Mysore-6, Email. ylslib@rediffmail.com
2Library Project Assistant, Mysore University Library, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysore-570 006
Email: jayannar71@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

The Five Laws are fundamentals of Library science, According to S R Ranganathan the second law suggests that every member of the community should be able to obtain materials needed. S R Ranganathan felt that all individuals from all social environments were entitled to library service; Librarians should have excellent first-hand knowledge of the people to be served. Collections should meet the special interests of the community, and libraries should promote and advertise their services extensively to attract a wide range of readers. In this context Mysore university library establish a visually challenged persons learning resources center. So the second law very relevant this special service to special community.

2. LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Mysore university library at Manasagangothri has set up an innovative Learning Resource Centre for Visually Challenged" and has acquired latest Assistive Technologies, enabling visually impaired persons to access, study and create scholarly resources. One can search internet, access and send email, read full text e-books, e-journals, e-thesis, etc. The University has also taken up UPE holistic Project "Center for Education of Visually challenged

- State-of-the-Art Assistive Technologies for Visually Challenged
- Jaws Talking Software, Sara Book Reader, Angel Book Reader, Plex Talk, and CD Reader
- Zoomex and Prisma Readers, Bonita Mouse for low vision persons
- Magic Key-board, Braille Key-board
- Braille Printer, Graphic Embosser
- E-mail, Internet search facility
- Seamless access to E-journals and E-books

3. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Assistive Technologies are the new age devices and software that provide support to the disabled to overcome their disability and perform their tasks in abnormal environment efficiently to compete on level playing field with their non-disabled peers. Different Assistive Technologies that help the persons with various disabilities perform in each of these categories. A simple task of writing and sending email is done easily by simply using the mouse to open the outlook express program and write the message and with the use of the mouse quickly send the same. The blind will use the Jaws search Reading Software. Low Vision persons will use the Magic Screen Magnification Software.

3.1. JAWS Pro Talking Software (Version 10.0)

JAWS (Job Access With Speech) is a computer screen reader program for Microsoft Windows that allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen either with a text-to-speech output or by a Refreshable Braille display. JAWS are produced by the Blind and Low Vision Group of Freedom Scientific, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA.

Screen reader’s works with a system and provide Internet to access software for applications. The conversion of a normal PC into a talking PC to enable the blind to operate computers independently including Internet access and solve to train visually challenged on using the computer. A May 2012 screen reader user survey by Web AIM, a web accessibility company, found JAWS to be the most popular screen reader worldwide.

3.2. Magic Magnifications Software Program.

The low vision solution to computer screen access - with speech! MAGic screen magnification software helps people with low vision view text and images on a computer screen in large size, while hearing the content spoken through a speech synthesizer. The easy-to-learn software magnifies the screen as much as 16 times its normal size and also includes many powerful features that allow you to customize the screen display for the most efficient and comfortable use. In our library provide this facility and most of the user can enlarging the screens from 2x to 16x enabling Low vision students to view monitor screen as well as use the add-one support tools for enhancing visibility.

3.3. Talking Typing Teacher Program.

Talking typing tutorials specially designed for the blind with complete guidance & practice lessons for learning keyboarding skills & developing typing speed in a systematic manner. Since the program also has a complete display of all lessons, even the low vision students can read and learn to type.
3.4. Prisma Magnification Device for Low Vision
The Prisma simply connect your PC, domestic HD TV set and a rich, vibrant and crisp image is at your control. Having a superb range of magnification levels from 2.5x to 100x on a 32" screen and a simple to operate feature set including semi-colours, the Prisma delivers a premium solution for a large range of low vision conditions including Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma, Cataracts, Retinitis, Pigmentosa and Diabetic Retinopathy. Let the Prisma assist with your freedom to read and write with comfort and ease, when and where you want. It can also be connected to a PC using a TV tuner or VGA converter.

3.5. Zoom-Ex Instant Text Reader
Zoom-Ex is a small portable device that uses the new generation Motion Sensor technology in combination with its proprietary Zoom Office software to make scanning & instant reading of text fast and easy. Place a book under the highly sensitive camera and start reading or listening instantly and that too with an Indian Accent Voice! and which every time from a page, the camera takes a snapshot of the page automatically. It then converts these photographic images to readable text. A book of 200 pages is ready in 8 minutes! Now read it at your own pace for long hours. These instruments readers can use NEWSPAPER reading, Note Books and Text book reading. It is very much use full to any type of Blind persons.

3.6. Index Basic D Braille Embosser
Index Basic D low cost, High Speed, Double Sided Tractor feed contiguous sheet, new generation technology Braille embosser. Important features are, it produces two pages (both Sides) at a time. It uses Tractor feed paper which can be spiral bound using plastic wire making it very economical, does not require any special binding equipment. The acoustic cabinet is very important for reduction of noise level during printing as well as protection of the printer from heat and dust. It also enables collection of the paper in an orderly manner.

3.7. Freedom Sciences SARA
Freedom Sciences SARA (Scanning and Reading Appliance) is an affordable and easy-to-use solution for reading a wide variety of printed material including books, mail, newspapers, Magazines and so on much more. SARA uses the latest in advanced optical character recognition technology to scan text and then read it aloud in crisp, clear speech. SARA automatically stores and remembers the contents of hundreds of thousands of scanned pages.

4. MYSORE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY USAGE
The Assistive technologies above explained equipment and software are already working properly and every day two to four members visit to our library and utilized properly form our staff assistance and guidance they are happy and actively utilized the Assistive technologies equipment. We are care to each one of the user because when he/she enter library we care and giving help hand to help and up to entry to exit level we care the users.

This facility Started from August 2012 onwards with support of Honorable Vice Chancellor of Prof. V G Talwar. Then it is day to day user community grown up.

Table: Visually Challenged Persons Visits in Month wise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months of 2012</th>
<th>Visually Challenged Persons Visits</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>22.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above table shows the each month wise Visually Challenged Persons are visit and utilize the facility in the initial stage it is very slow growth 30 (18.07%) times are utilize the facility but in November month around 40 times (24.10%) utilize the facility. This data based on or collected from Learning Resource Center for Visually Challenged Visitors record.

5. CONCLUSION
Library is one of the main centers for all type of user may be normal readers, Physically Challenged Persons and Visually Challenged persons can utilize our library. Mysore University library first time establish this type facility for Visually Challenged Persons. This study analyzed very regularly two to three member will come to our center and utilized but they are regular user. Around per month 30 to 50 Users are utilized the facility. Library should expose and disseminate the available facility to entire departments and advertised the available service to Visually Challenged Persons..

REFERENCES
3) http://www.abisee.com/products/zoom-ex.html accessed on 2nd April 2013
4) http://library.thinkquest.org/11799/data/blind.html
5) http://crl.du.ac.in/icarl09/papers/index_files/icarl-104_215_458_2_RV.pdf accessed on 26th March 2013
6) Mysore University Library LRCV Center Visitors record
7) http://www.uni-mysore.ac.in/library/Welcom.html accessed on 4th April 2013
8) http://www.uni-mysore.ac.in/library/Library%20History.html accessed on 4th April 2013