

The role of Management Information System (MIS) in the Libraries and Information Centres (LICs) in Iran

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The purpose of this research was to study the role of MIS in LICs in the universities of Iran.

Usage of MIS in LICs, advantages of MIS applications in LICs, disadvantages of MIS application, effects of MIS upon organizational culture were the key problem tested.

Research method in this study was descriptive and research instruments for collecting data were documents, published articles, and library resources.

It was found that: 1. LICs in the universities of Iran have several sub-systems: membership affairs, collection management, equipments, space and buildings, finance, human resources, education, research, development, integrated system of the related libraries to university. 2. Advantages of MIS in LICs include implementing basic tasks and facilitate operational functions, internet auditing and control, 3. Disadvantages of MIS include political opposition, technological difficulties, and resistance. 4. There is no doubt that management information and DSSs can have profound effects on libraries organizational structure and processes. Such effects will be beneficial only if the integration of the new system into organization is thought through by management before implementation takes place. If this is done, MISs can represent a major opportunity for senior management to influence and improve the way in which the organization operates and to make it more effective in achieving its goals. Libraries rightly place great emphasis on the professional and human skills of their staff, while MIS design has tended to emphasise the technical wizardry of modern communication and data processing systems. The challenge is to coordinate change in such a way that technological strengths can be combined with human skills to provide improved managerial performance and more effective and efficient libraries.

Key words: MIS, Organizational culture, Library and information centres, University, Iran

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