

THE ROLE OF CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) IN THE MODERN LIBRARY

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Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of CCTV in libraries. The security of materials and information in a library is quite essential. This paper discusses the use of CCTV cameras for surveillance in libraries to safe guard its possession of books and information. This paper presents the various types of CCTV cameras, their functioning and uses. Finally the author recommends that the libraries in India should initiate the implementation & surveillance of the libraries by using CCTV cameras.

Keywords: Closed Circuit Television/ Cameras/ Functioning/ Surveillance

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1. Introduction

Academic libraries are the heart & temple of the learning community, providing a place for students and faculty to do their research and advance their knowledge. However, one major challenge that academic libraries have been faced with is security problems, that is, how to secure their valuable resources collected over time. We are familiar with the slogan Beware; these premises are under CCTV surveillance or video surveillance on duty at all times, where Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is used. Now-a-days, CCTV's are usually used in many public as well as private institutions as a surveillance facility. Over the years the CCTV became less expensive and hence both large scale and small-scale organizations are able to install cameras to detect the on-going activities. CCTV has many industrial and scientific applications in the world of surveillance, electron microscopy, medical imaging and robotics. The uses of CCTV include live onsite displays for special occasions such as conventions, sports, concerts, etc. Closed Circuit Television not only provides live picturing but also video or digital recording, which can be used to detect crime, violence and anti-social behavior in the preview of CCTV cameras. It can be used to monitor town centers, public transport, domestic and commercial premises, etc. Its use in libraries can enhance the ability to control the book thefts and tearing off the pages from the books and magazines in addition to creating a feeling in the users of the library that their activities are being watched. With the use of any one of the biometric methods in the library, the user's identity can be verified authentically and to a great extent the misuse of lost or stolen membership cards and passwords to use the Internet, etc. can be reduced. Since the prices of CCTV cameras are in an affordable range, the libraries in India should use these methods to monitor and control the activities in the library, which results in better management of the libraries.

2. What is CCTV?

CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) uses a video camera to transmit a signal to a specific or limited set of monitors. It is used for surveillance in areas like - Banks, Airports, Railway stations and City centers, etc. where strict security is of utmost importance.

3. Different Types of CCTV Cameras and Their Purposes



Professional Box Camera



Dome Style Camera



Bullet Style Camera



P/T/Z Camera



Network Camera



Hidden Camera

- A. **Bullet Type Cameras** are designed for capturing images in a fixed area. These cameras are recognized by their thin and cylindrical design. There are also classifications of Ultra Bullet distinguished by their smaller size and cheaper price.
- B. **Dome Cameras**, named after the shape of their housing are designed for in-store installations. It works in two ways as it is unobtrusive but visible, thus, it warns people that the area is protected by a CCTV network and gives comfort to its clients for its security.
- C. **Discreet CCTVs** are cameras in disguise, they could look like a fan or any other thing that would not seem suspicious in the area.
- D. **Infrared Cameras** are designed for evening lookouts. It captures images with the help of its infrared lighting surrounding its lens.
- E. **Day/Night Types** are used for 24/7 installation, these cameras compensate light conditions with its wide dynamic range to function in glare, direct sunlight, reflections and strong backlight.
- F. **Varifocal Cameras** are designed to allow zooming in and out without losing focus on the image.
- G. **Network Cameras** allow transmission of images through the internet with controlled bandwidth.
- H. **Wireless cameras** are cameras that may or may not be connected to the internet. These cameras use signalling devices to transmit images from camera to viewing area.

I. **PTZ Cameras** or pan-tilt-zoom are cameras that can moved. There are variations of these cameras that are programmable and are manually controllable. This allows viewers to have more freedom and control on viewing things.

J. **High definition cameras** are often used in casinos or high risk establishment. With its high resolution lens, capturing images are possible giving viewers a finer detail on taken images.

4. Securing the Library Using CCTV.

The CCTV systems serve as a way to monitor and record security, deter crime and ensure safety. Advances in CCTV technology and reduction in cost have also made video surveillance a cost effective management tool for library facilities. The CCTV systems are quickly becoming one of the most important and economic security and safety tools available to libraries. The key steps when considering the designing a CCTV system for library are as below.

- *Determine the primary application of the CCTV system
- * Define the layout and characteristics of the control area(s) of the library building
- * Decide on camera type and features
- * Determine the best location for viewing monitors
- * Determine the best method of signal transmission
- * Decide on the type of recording/archival equipment for the system

These surveillance motion detection imaging and camera can be used to monitor the following places in the library premises:

- * Monitor driveway to the library building
- * Monitor the parking area of the library
- * Monitor the library shelf areas
- * Monitor the library equipment, such as library computers located in each offices
- * Monitor the movement of staff and users within the library
- * Monitor the exchange of materials within the library, etc.

5. Problems of Using CCTV.

The CCTV systems has greatly helped the libraries to provide maximum security for their resources and equipment, so also, there are problems and difficulties faced by libraries and information Centre's on the use of CCTV systems. The problems are:

Inadequate fund: Libraries and information Centre's lack the financial; resources to purchase and install the CCTV systems and devices that can help to protect the level of security required as a result of the budgetary allocations from their parent organization.

Lack of literate or skilled personnel: libraries and information Centre's lack skilled personnel that can operate, teach and instruct the use of these CCTV systems even when they are made available in the library.

Poor power supply: These CCTV systems need electricity to power them and due to the poor power supply, these CCTV systems often time are not working and as such are incapable of performing their expected task of securing the library and its collection.

Hardware and software failure: This is major threat to the use of CCTV system in the library. When there is software failure or hardware breakdown that may require the need for an engineer who may not be available to put them in place as at when due, then the library system and its collections is at risk.

Libraries in remote areas do not have access to CCTV system because they cannot afford the money to purchase the CCTV and cannot adequately cater for them.

6. Solving Problems with the Use of CCTV

The factor militating against the effective use of CCTV systems can be subdued in the following ways:

a. Enlightening the parent organization on the importance of using CCTV systems in the library: The librarian and information experts should take out time to educate their parent

organization on the benefits associated with libraries and information Centre's in the use of CCTV systems so that the library parent body can release adequate fund which will be used for the purchase of CCTV in the library.

b.Education: This is very important, because most of the staff do not know how to operate CCTV; especially the CCTV system requires extra skills. As a result of these, there is need for user education so that all library staff will be taught on how to operate these CCTV to how they are mounted and where.

c.An organizational based engineer should be made available who will always be available to take up issues in case of hardware breakdown or software failure.

d.Making available in the library alternative power supply i.e. a stand-by generator that can serve the whole library when there is failure in power supply.

CONCLUSION

The use of CCTV in libraries in India is in its infancy, it is necessary for all the libraries to switch over to these methods as early as possible.

However, the use of CCTV system require budgetary management support, staff support, software development and hardware upgrade for the attainment of the set goals thereby appealing to the library management to release funds that is needed to accomplish this task. Based on this, the researchers advice libraries to:

- a. Ensure that sufficient/adequate is allocated to libraries for the purchases, development and maintenance of CCTV systems.
- b. Organize user education programme and in-service training for the staff on how to use CCTV system to secure library.
- c. Organize seminars, workshops, conferences etc. for the board members, directors, administrator and management of libraries and information Centre's in other to create awareness among library authorities about the advantage and benefits of using CCTV systems.

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