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**APPLICATION OF ELECTRONIC SECURITY SYSTEMS IN SELECT LIBRARIES  
IN INDIA: A STUDY**

**ABSTRACT**

In the ICT era, the libraries are facing unprecedented challenges in terms of providing security to data, materials, and services from natural and human-made destructions. The libraries are also prone to various external and internal factors that can damage their property and premises. For tackling such a pervasive problem, library professionals have opted various traditional measures, such as manual security, simple or electric barricading, multilevel locking, etc., as well as, modern electronic security systems (ESSs), such as burglar alarm, biometrics, CCTV surveillance, RFID based instruments. The combined use of such approaches has brought substantially improved the overall efficiency of a working library and thus increased the return on investment (ROI).

In view of the above aspects in mind, the present study has been taken up to know the application of electronic security systems and their impact on the academic environment as well as the problems faced while using these technologies in studied university libraries.

The study has been conducted to investigate the security of materials and challenges in studied libraries and their possible solutions besides keeping the financial constraints in check concerning the economic conditions of a region. It also presents librarians' overview of the application of RFID technology and CCTV surveillance systems and the factors that deal with the adoption of other advanced ESSs for enhancing and improving the security and services of library materials in libraries under study.

This research work is relevant as it adds significant values to the studied university/institute libraries for information security, because, the security of information assets of libraries is generally an underestimated area. Hence, the present study will undoubtedly help librarians to understand their role and responsibilities, including immediate challenges in achieving a balance between access and security and how they are providing ESSs based security and services.