

IMPACT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ON COLLEGE LIBRARY

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Abstract: *Today libraries are equipped to accomplish the newly Information Technology based services. In the modern era libraries are able to provide right information to the right users at the right time because of Information technology. The ICT has changed all the scenario of libraries as libraries moving into the electronic world. Now the nature of collection of libraries has entirely changed and creates a challenge to the librarians and libraries as this collection is required and initial heavy expenditure, training etc. The advancement in computer application in library during the past few decades have brought fundamental changes in the way information is gathered, store organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The physical shape of document has changed due to this collection development policy of libraries has changed.*

Due to rapid advancement in computer communication as well as information technology, worldwide exchange of information is possible. Thus, Technology takes us to the globe anywhere at any time for any theme. The dimension of new information technology brings the world to anyone before they sit before the computer with internet connectivity. The Government also made possible structure to drawn to illiteracy among the rural as well as urban people via E-Learning.

Information Technology completely changed the library environment from traditionally to modern. E-Resources demands in the libraries are increasing at a higher rate. Libraries are acquiring these E-Resources to facilitate their user. In the modern times globalization, technological and manufacturing advancement is taking place at a rapid speed, along with obvious change in a society is occurring as change is the only constant factor in life. These advances are continually bringing down the cost of computer and software making sophisticated technologies within reach of more persons of society of the nation.

Key words: *Information Technology, College Libraries, ICT.*

Introduction:

Due to information explosion and the invention of printing press information is being available in the variety of forms. Library and information centres now using computer and information technology tools for better organization of information resources. Considerable advances have taken place in the field of information technology due to several new inventions emerging regularly in the areas of computers, telecommunications, reprography and Micrography etc. Information technology means application of various technologies such as computer,

Telecommunications, fiber optics, lasers, reprographics and micrographics for effective information handling. Libraries have utilized these developments for providing better and improved services to their clientele.

Best Practices:

The concept of best practices is not new to the libraries, the Five Laws of Library Science, endowed with the philosophy of best practice and the catalogue code for instance may be considered as one of the areas of best practices in Library and Information Science. Though Best practices, its tools like Benchmarking are more commonly employed in other areas and library and information science in one of them. The Academic Libraries in the country are on the threshold of facing big challenges more changes are due to globalization and liberalization trends in higher and professional education.

Challenges before libraries:

Presently libraries are the central support services of their respective organizations, which provide dynamic support for achieving the goals and vision of services to the stakeholders. Librarians are professionally committed to update the collections continuously in order to reinforce and enrich the knowledge base for assisting the end users to achieve excellence in academic, research, development, consultancy and interaction with the external environment.

Now information is everywhere available through community agencies, special interest groups, the media and of the course internet. The current explosion of information is coming through in unfiltered formats, which raises questions about the authenticity, credibility and validity of that information. People and information seekers are then relied on librarians to provide access to authoritative and reputable sources of information through carefully selected collections and the provision of reference services.

To cope with the situation and considering the needs of the society and research community Library professionals have many challenges before them.

These challenges are:

1. Shift from paper based resources to electronic resources.
2. Shift from acquisition to accessing the resources anywhere, anyone and anytime.
3. Media convergence in digital resources with seamless access to global resources.
4. Web page designing and electronic publishing issues.
5. User demands for access facilities at their desk tops
6. Resource sharing and shrinking budgetary provisions to the libraries.
7. Consortia arrangements for journal subscriptions or e-journals access.
8. Improving the bandwidth for internet access facilities.
9. Building and maintaining campus-wide network facilities with faster access.

10. Creating and maintaining large storage facilities and multi- processing systems
11. Wider and Multi – user access to CD/DVDs using the large storage devices.
12. Hardware raid for data security and auto back-up facilities.
13. Database creation and maintain quality in database.
- 14 Acquiring access rights to e-books and e-journals with the proper licensing agreements.
- 15 Working with RFID technology for self-checkout facilities.
16. Email, Internet browsing and access to online resources apart from OPAC with 24 hours access facilities to all resources.

Application Of Information Technology In Libraries:

The modern library being information centre makes the wide use of Information Technology for rendering effective services to its patrons. Today modern librarian use IT in the library activities or operations and other library services for collection, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of recorded information, the fast developing information technologies have showered almost every areas of application including libraries. The use of Information Technology in libraries is highlighted in the following areas

a) Library Management: Information Technology is being used in the routine task management of libraries such as Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing, Database creation, Database Indexing.

b) Library Automation: Library automation is possible because of IT. With the use of modern technologies in libraries user can receive the desired information with the maximum comfort and at the lowest cost. Major areas of the automation can be classified into two -organization of all library databases and all housekeeping operations of library.

c) Library Networking: Library networking means a group of Libraries and information Centres are interconnected for some common pattern or design for information exchange and communication with a view to improve efficiency.

d) Audio-Video Technology: It includes photography, microfilms, microfiches, audio and tapes, printing, optical disk etc.

e) Technical Communication: Technical Communication consisting of technical writing, editing, publishing, DTP systems etc.

There are many advantages of information technology in libraries :

- a. Easy to gather different library activities.
- b. Collaboration and creation of library networks
- c. Avoid repetition of efforts within a library
- d. Increase the range of services offered
- e. Save the time of the users
- f. Increases efficiency
- g. Speedy and easy access of information
- h. Improves the quality of library services

- i. Enhance the knowledge and experience
- j. Integration within the organizations.
- k. Improve the status of the library
- l. Improve the communication facilities
- m. More stable
- n. Helps to attract the users.
- o. Remote access to users
- p. Round the clock access to users
- q. Access to unlimited information from different sources
- r. More up to date information
- s. Information flexibility to the users
- t. Reforming and combining of data from different sources
- u. Reduce the workload of the library staff

Some of the drawbacks with the use of information technology are:

- a. Insufficient funds
- b. Operational costs are exceeding year by year.
- c. Inadequate trained staff
- d. Unemployment.

Technological Tools Used In Libraries:

- 1) Computers
- 2) OPAC.
- 3) Union Catalogue
- 4) Scanner
- 5) RFID
- 6) Tele Text
- 7) Facsimile
- 8) Photocopy
- 9) Printing Technology
- 10) Barcode
- 11) Document Delivery Services
- 12) Inter Library Loan.
- 13) Indexing and Abstracting Services
- 14) Chat services:
- 15) Current Awareness service
- 16) SDI
- 17) Scanned Copies
- 18) Bulletin Board Services.
- 19) Electronic Services and e-Resources.
- 20) Digital Library
- 21) Audio-visual Materials
- 22) Internet
- 23) Library Website
- 24) Database
- 25) CD ROM
- 25) Kindle
- 26) Eco. Alexa
- 26) QR Code
- 27) User Tracer System
- 27) email/ SMS Services

Conclusion:

Due to competitive working environment Libraries need be aware of latest technologies in order to continue and maintain the importance of their service in the present competitive era. With the introduction of Information Technology in Libraries it is now possible for the libraries to provide right information at the right time in the right place and at the right cost. Information Technology has broken the worldwide boundaries, new apparatus and methods help the library and information centre to provide better services to clients.

The digital library concepts is growing at a fast pace. Emerging technology of digital libraries is an offshoot of information revolution which can drastically improve the efficiency and effectiveness of management of physical and financial resources of libraries. The information manager's librarians have to equip themselves with the capabilities to link with global trends for the ultimate benefit of information seekers. Arrangements for managing and supporting information technology will take different.

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