

Impact of Information Technology and Role of Libraries in 21 Century

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Abstract:

Information Technology is mainly concerned with collection classification and dissemination of the information of knowledge. It is currently taking center stage and has transformed the whole world into global economy. The enormous advantages it has in easing the delivery of information around the world the impact of IT and role of Libraries in the age of knowledge and information societies. It also highlights the problem faced by library and information service (LIS) sector in India achievements over the years using modern information technology.

Keywords: Information technology, Knowledge society, Libraries.

Introduction:

Information Technology has transformed the world into global village which is a global economy. Which is increasingly dependent on the creative management and distribution of information? Over the past decades the world has been experiencing significant changes in which the need to acquire, utilize and share knowledge has become increasingly essential. Now in the 21st century, in the knowledge and information is in its higher gear. This is an age when invisible knowledge and information take the role of prime movers landing all sectors (1). The World Bank has used the metaphor Knowledge Development. Lack of knowledge is largely responsible for underdevelopment (2) In a knowledge and information oriented society, creative brains become leaders of economy and knowledge can be equated with development. The wider the knowledge gap the broader the development gap.

Emergency of Information and Knowledge societies

Some 10,000 years ago the early ancestor of mankind, subsisted by hunting and gathering, started to build agrarian societies. Began their transitions to industrial societies in mid-18th centuries (3) Expansion of intellectuals in industrial societies. Such industrial

production international trade and transaction and technological advancement. Stimulated mass distribution of education and creation of libraries. Industrial societies continued their enormous materials developments thought the 20th century. The information society has passed through four transformation stages of development, the most radical stage of development. The most radical stage starting at the tail end of the 20th century

Role of the Library

In the modern knowledge society libraries has a new role and there are various types of Library models in the modern society. where the use of electronic services and web based information sources constantly increases, libraries are managed in a more democratic way, have more flexible communication system and work organization and their service development is based on the quality and user-orientation of services. In modern Knowledge society libraries have a new role and there are various types of library models. These are follows

1. Library is a Learning and research center
2. Library is a cultural and communication center
3. Electronic library
4. Digital Library
5. Virtual library as library without walls

Libraries had been performed many important roles in the past agrarian and industrial societies. But those roles were limited in scope. In the 21 century libraries have to performed pivotal roles in disseminating and sharing the culture knowledge. In the age of knowledge libraries should be repositories all of the knowledge and information accumulated by human kind. They will have to store all kinds and forms of material and information and disseminate beyond the geographical boundaries. To days advanced information technology is enabling libraries to accomplish this immense task

Exchange knowledge has always been the most important objectives of libraries. Various systems have been developed to share and exchange the records of human knowledge. Universal bibliographic control and universal availability of publications are two major program of IFLA to exchange is the Knowledge over OCLC is the world leading library network in USA for sharing intellectual knowledge among academic community in all over the world. But Libraries

in 21 century should fulfill more dynamic role. They should exchange knowledge and information with users inside and outside their country .thus going beyond their traditional reference and landing services. This world possible when libraries agreed to expand their roles beyond the geographical boundaries by using state of art technologies

The Modern Libraries certainly cannot be passive repository for books and other printed materials .The opposite requirements of storing increasing collection in various forms and of maintaining easy access to most part of it can only be balanced by developing information and communication technologies libraries should upgrade their service by digitizing their recourse for online use. These service should be accessible to anyone regardless of time or location though digital communication devices. Libraries can play significant role in providing a good education and knowledge of high quality. Can access whatever knowledge and information they need by visiting libraries via the internet such as the library of congress

Problems and opportunities Facing Libraries India

Library and information are fundamental to the goals of creating, disseminating society in to an egalitarian, progressive knowledge-based society. It's well known that in India. Most of libraries are Factions in Government sector. These are in academic and research institution and under the public library system. Which is again under the state and central governments? At present education being state subject and coming under the purview of different apex agencies there is no common direction or coordination among them. It is imperative that all libraries (Public Academic research. and special) change gear ad develop at an accelerated pace. Development in information communication technology (ICT) have enabled libraries to provide access to all; and also bridge the gap between the local the national and the global. yet the library and information services (LIS) sector in India has not kept pace with the paradigmatic changes taking place in society. There are few libraries which are using state of art technology to their respective user community. There is lack of cooperation among the libraries of different organization and which cause the lack of union catalogues at national level. The national library failed even to do this immense task. One of the major problems faced by LIS sector in India is lack of bibliographic control at national level which causes duplication in research. A considerable number of libraries and not been developed bibliographic database of their documents for putting them on net work

To summarize the major constraints faced by the libraries which militate against effective dissemination and use of information are

- A Considerable percentage of the population is illiterate or functionally literate making libraries of minimal use to them
- Poor resource allocation for infrastructure improvement and collection development for public libraries
- Lack of sufficient sanctioned posts. Forcing most service to be operated by voluntary nonprofessional staff, which damages information organization and services
- Lack of national Policies promoting ICT as a tool for development of library systems and services
- Lack of adequate trained manpower in the use of IT
- Lack of funds for acquiring necessary hardware and software facilities
- Resistance on the part of library staff to change from their traditional practices to the use of IT

Despite the above problems LIS sector in India has got remarkable achievement, ICT and to build electronic information sources. Besides INFLIBNET is national level information providing center to support University and college libraries. A number of other national networks and various library networks have also been developing including NICNET, ERNET, CALIBNET, ERNET, CALIBNET and DELNET etc. A number of educational institutions are members of such networks. These networks, especially INFLIBNET and DELNET, are engaged in compiling union catalogs creating various databases of experts providing training to library staff, ILL online facilities reference service, assistance in retrospective conversion etc.

Conclusion

The acquisition of Knowledge has therefore been thrust area throughout the world. The economy of present times depends no longer on visible resource and capital goods but on invisible knowledge and information. Therefore poor nations as well as poor individuals can create wealth through active contacts and use of knowledge and information. Libraries of 21 Century can help fight poverty and narrow the gap between rich and poor. For the first time in history poor are getting opportunity to enhance their wealth through the creation and use of Knowledge and Libraries are taking a central role in this notable movement.

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