USE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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Abstract:
In this paper the researcher highlights the importance of Information communication technology in libraries and information centre. The scholar community tries hard to adopt the existing and catch up with the newer forms to facilitate their business of learning. librarianship not to be left behind as is the tradition strives to achieve new competencies and skills as well as explore how these can be put into use for furthering library and information service

Keywords: ICT, Library Automation, Digital Library

Introduction

Information Communication Technology is a diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicates and creates, disseminates store, and Mange Information. We can define ICT as the use and application of computers telecommunication and microelectronics in the acquisition, storage, retrieval, transfer and dissemination of information. ICT Has impacted on every Sphere of academic library activity especially in the form of the library collection development strategic, library building and consortia. ICT presents an opportunity to provide value added information services and access wide variety of digital based information resources to their clients. Academic libraries are also using modern ICT to automates their core functions, implants efficient and effective library cooperation and resource sharing networks implement management information systems develop institutional repositories of digital local content and digital libraries and initiate ICT based capacity building programme for library users. ICT Provide an excellent opportunity for library professionals to manage themselves better application of ICT have made a great impact on libraries and information centres. It is one of the key components of Modern library which facilities the rapid growth and development of a Lis Education.

Need of ICT in Libraries

The application if Information technology in libraries results in increased operational efficiency. The IT increase productivity of library staff. It relieves professional staff form mundane jobs that involves a lot of duplication so that they can be fruitfully used for users oriented library service. It improves quality of services rendered by the library. Use of Information technology ensure ease of functioning, accuracy and economy with grater speed. The exponential growth of information has made manual system redundant giving way to computerized information storage and retrieval tools. Effective and efficient handling of huge quantum of information is only possible by using computers which have the added advantage of being highly accurate and efficient that add value to information. The new information technology facilitates improved management of physical and financial resources. The advances in technology and its availability at lower cost has also raised expectations of users form librarians and libraries. The new information technology on one hand facilitate wider access to information for the library users on other hand it facilitates wider dissemination of

information products and services generated by the library. the availability of networks facilitates resources sharing and high-speed communication with other libraries.

Component of ICT

ICT is broad term that covers wide range of technologies. It is the convergence of computer, communication and microelectronic based techniques. The Technologies and devices like radio, telephone, telegraph, Fax TV, telegraph, Mobile Phone, Internet, WWW, LAN, Videoconference and satellite communication techniques are major part of ICT. With the help of LAN, CUSAT community easily share the information. Telephone and other devices play important role in library services like SDI, inter library loan, reference service and online information retrieval.

Advantage of ICT

ICT reduces labour and saves a lot of time of the staff and users too. LAN is used to link a variety of different communication devices. Lan provides cost effectiveness in various services in library. It allows secured resources sharing in library. Internet and email systems in library enable the students and scholars to remote access, worldwide communication. Professionals communication among library and information science societies has become easy with the help of Email.

Disadvantage of ICT

Impact of ICT made various problems in online publishing. In case of E-Journal and online database, the library loses its access after stopping the subscription. The publishers do not give access to the issues which were subscribed. Besides these ICT has some advantages like expensive Need expertise, socio technical issues, information insecurity, more technology dependence, less use of Human Brain.

ICT Based Services in Library

A library web page facilitates single window access to various web enabled library services. A URL could be as simple as library web page listing the services with some link to catalogue and external free and subscribed resources or many includes advances feature like interactive helps and value-added services such as subject gateway, self-help tools and

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frequently asked questions and information about the library such as timings, rules etc can be hosted on the library website. Apart from the ICT based services libraries are making use of potential of internet and computing power to provide new and innovative services.

E Journals: Libraries have been exploring easy to cope with the problems of ever-increasing prices of the journals, space requirements and decreasing level of usage as the journal get older. Libraries are required to maintain back issues of the journals usually in bound form. Electronic journal helps the librarian in addressing these problems to great extent without significantly affecting the service levels. Electronic Journals can be accessed via internet from any web enabled PC. Depending on the type of subscription one or more users can access the service, either directly from an independent web enabled PXC or in a local area network through consortia of libraries at much lower rates. INDEST and INFLBNET are two such consortia operating in India. Access to articles in electronic journals can also be made trough aggregator services which offer searchable database of contents of journal form several publishers and links to journal site for full text access. Emerald, OCLC and J- Gate are some example of e-Journal aggregator services.

E-books: E- books has been described as text analogous to a book is in digital form to be displayed on computer screen. E Books can be read just like a paper book, using dedicated E- book reader such as gem star e book or on a computer screen after downloading it. There are also some newer technologies developing such as electronic paper which is much like paper, except that the text can be changed. And talking books in MP 3 format. E-book offer advantages like portability, 24 /7 access, text search, annotation, linking and multimedia and self-publishing possibilities.

Blogs: A blog is a website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commentary displayed in reverse chronological order.

Blogs are considered as light weight publishing tools. Blogs provide control to an individual or group of individuals for publishing content or making commentary on it. Technologically blogs are easier to use platform independent, and accessible online over the internet. Broadly blogs can be said to be online diaries however thousand of blogs are maintained by experts in different subject areas who are willing to share their knowledge, understanding and opinions with other people. Michael Casey Who Coined the term library 2.0 for example maintains a blog on library 2.0 called library crunch. . The Most Obvious application of blogs for libraries is to use it as a tool for promotion, publicity and for outreach services.

Wikis: A Wiki is a collection of web page designed to enable anyone who access it contributes or modify content, using a simplified mark-up language. Libraries can use wiki as communication tool to enable social interaction among librarian and patrons. users can share information ask and answer questions a librarian can do the same within a wiki. Moreover, a record of these transaction can be archived for purity. Transcript of such question answer sessions would serve as resource for the library to provide as reference. Furthermore, wikis will ultimately involve into multi media environment, where both synchronous and asynchronous audio and video collaboration will take place.

Electronic Database: Most of the publishers now provide access to their full text Journals through their website or through other electronic publishing platforms. While there are a number of public domain database, most online database requires annual subscription for accessing them.

Electronic These and Dissertation: Dissertations and thesis produced at universities are important and knowledge for further research. A Large number of Universities have converted their thesis and dissertation in to digital collection and have made it available on internet for global access. A number of universities have also implemented Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Programme Where Researcher submit thesis in Electronic Format. The Sodhganga Have Lakhs of thesis on various subject at free access online. NDLTD in development of web-based union catalogues of ETS Submitted Over 100 libraries throughout the world are worth mentioning.

Patents: Many patent issuing authorities now have made their complete full text patent record online. For eg.. United State patent documents can be searched and downloaded such as Derwent also provide downloading of full text patent form either an online database vendor or directly from their site to the subscribers.

Subject Gateways: Preparing Subject guide or path finders has been an intellectual activity for reference librarian such guide is normally prepared in consultation with the subject experts or by a subject librarian who picks up the sources after careful evaluation. Random surfing of the internet may be popular pastime, but is an inefficient use of bandwidth and time. One of the most useful ways to discover quality resources in a particular subject area is use of subject based internet gateway and directories. A subject gateway thus is a facility that allows easier access to web-based resources in a defined subject area. these are basically a dynamic catalogue of predominantly online resources though some libraries include information on print resources as well.

Digital Library; Many libraries traditionally have ben repositories of local information and heritage documents such as manuscripts, rare books, maps, photographs and painting etc. Archives or record management is also part of LIS Function, particularly in business and research organization. In other cases, such as university libraries, documents generated in house such as dissertation and thesis, research report etc represent the intellectual strength of the institution. Libraries are developing digital repositories of such resources and providing internet or intranet access to theses. Digital Libraries are a natural progression form electronic sharing.

Conclusion

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Implementation of ICT in library Operations is very complex stressful and continuous process. Most of the libraries are not following a systematic plan in using ICT. It requires an imaginative intelligent planning and huge investment of fund including the skilled human resources. Libraries are changing in terms of their collection, facilities and service owing to consent changing scenario of Information on account of Information and Communication Technology application and information seeking behaviour of clientele. Libraries are no longer considered as store house of knowledge rather they now act as Learning Resource Centre

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