

IMPACT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ON COLLEGE LIBRARY SERVICES TOWARDS

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Introduction :-

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have made rapid strides in the past couple of decades. Many experiments have taken place in the country and a large body of knowledge has accumulated in regard to the use of ICT in education. However, the potential of ICT in education has not been fully harnessed. The use of ICT in education remains limited and there is a need to accelerate efforts to use ICT for fostering quality education. Information explosion and the emerging ICT revolution have changed the higher education scenario and the academic libraries to the larger extent. Development and the application of the automation software and implementing the information and communication technologies (ICT) in library operation have changed the traditional activities of the libraries. Libraries are now automated i.e. all the housekeeping operations are now performed by using computers. ICT is used in libraries and information centers for the development of new information services and computerization of library services. ICT is useful in great extend. It is useful for improving productivity and efficiency of library services effectively. It provides the quality information and also saves the space of the library and save the time of its users.

ICT :-

Information Communications Technologies (ICT) - technologies that enable society to create, collect, consolidate, communicate, manage and process information in multimedia and various digital formats for different purposes i.e. computing and telecommunications technologies like the personal computer, CD-ROM, cable TV, cellular phones and the Internet.

Impact of ICT on the College Libraries :

- i. Impact of ICTs on Libraries
- ii. Anywhere anytime availability
- iii. Global reach
- iv. Cost effective
- v. Direction to the end user
- vi. Change in role of 'librarians' - as 'facilitators'

- vii. Networking and sharing of information resources
- viii. Online access & file transfer
- ix. xi) Information creation in digital formats
- x. ICT made online access and file transfer possible
- xi. Transfer of digital information from remote sites

Libraries will be not only be networked, but also stocked with core collection (multimedia). Applications of ICTs in libraries will have access to global information and will also become digital and virtual. The shift from print to digital information has a high impact on libraries, information centers and other institutions directly involved in processing information. This shift is generally attributed to the merging of computing, telecommunications technologies and other industries. Computers have permeated society because of their ability to perform high volume error-free repetitive tasks at speeds much faster than human beings, while recent and emerging developments in the area of computing; telecommunications, networking and resource sharing made access to information anytime, anywhere possible.

Impact of ICTs on Users:-

- i. Increases the level of digital literacy/ e-literacy
- ii. Increases demand for better and faster access to information
- iii. Aggravates discrepancies between the information rich and the poor

Impact of ICTs on LIS Professionals:-

The revolutionary developments in ICTs have three impacts: The implementations of ICT in libraries are very useful for users and LIS

- i. Professionals for speeding upon the accessing and maintaining of the information as well as the automation of the libraries.
- ii. As more and more information is readily available I machine readable form; there has been a fundamental shift in the concerns of the information I print form.
- iii. As computers are increasingly used for providing information, the LIS professionals must familiarize themselves with the latest technological developments in the field of ICTs.
- iv. The disruptive changes have lead the Librarians / LIS professionals /Information providers to perceive their roles as creators, collectors, communicators and consolidators in an information society. Developing profession related skills gives a good grounding to the use of ICTs and web technologies in a wider context. And hence:-
- v. There is a need for ICT knowledge, ICT skills, and Web technologies & its tools.
- vi. There is a need continuous learning in the context

Impact of digital information materials on libraries:-

- i. Digital information can be sent in multiple copies simultaneously over information networks in fractions of a minute or even of a second. There is no need for users with PCs attached to the network to physically go to the library. They can access information via their PCs.
- ii. Digital information can be cut/copied and pasted from one document into another
- iii. Digital information may be free or cheaper than print equivalents
- iv. Digital information often modifies librarians' roles in various ways

Effects of these developments on the user community :-

- i. Increases the level of technology literacy
- ii. Increases demand for better and faster access to information
- iii. Aggravates discrepancies between the information rich and information poor.
- iv. Exposed to different applications of technology in their life, users nowadays are more

Adept at its use and are expecting to have access to it in their times of need. In libraries, users that are knowledgeable in using computers and the Internet for their research demand nothing less than a computer with Internet access. However, this may not be true and not applicable to those who have no access to such technologies due to financial difficulties. Thus, two different kinds of users have emerged that libraries must cater for: the "haves" and "have-nots". Ideally a balance must be maintained in providing services for both groups so that all users will have equal access to information. This can be effectively done through the use of powerful and appropriate technologies. The emergence of powerful technologies, vast amounts of information in multimedia and other digital formats, more technologically proficient users, and the widening "digital gap" means that libraries and librarians in particular are faced with the great challenge of dealing with this information revolution.

Furthermore, the recent developments in the capability of computers to store, locate, retrieve and transfer huge amounts of digital data at high speed have contributed to the evolution of an information-based society. Libraries must respond to this development in order to remain relevant and important to the society they aim to serve. However, libraries and librarians must first educate and equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills before they can deal with this enormous challenge.

Trends in the Development of Libraries :

The library will:

- i. be networked
- ii. be stocked with a core collection that is multimedia
- iii. have access to global information
- iv. become digital
- v. become virtual

Libraries now and in the future will be quite different from the traditional libraries that we know today. We may still see books and other printed materials within the vicinity but many materials will be available and accessible in electronic format. These resources can be easily accessed and shared through LANs (local area networks) and WANs (wide area networks), of which the best example is the Internet. Most of the collections will be in multimedia and various digital formats. The libraries' collection will not be limited to what is inside the libraries since access to information globally is readily available. Eventually, digital libraries will become common and most of the resources will be digitized and available to anyone, anytime, anywhere. There is even a prediction of virtual libraries wherein all information resources and the library itself will no longer exist physically but will exist digitally in the virtual world.

6. Advantages of Information and Communication Technology :

- a. a) Easy to gather different library activities.
- b. b) Collaboration and creation of library networks
- c. c) Avoid repetition of efforts within a library
- d. d) Increase the range of services offered
- e. e) Save the time of the users
- f. f) Increases efficiency
- g. g) Speedy and easy access of information
- h. h) Improves the quality of library services
- a. Enhance the knowledge and experience
- i. j) Integration within the organizations.
- j. k) Improve the status of the library
- k. l) Improve the communication facilities
- l. m) More stable
- m. n) Helps to attract the users.
- n. o) Remote access to users
- o. p) Round the clock access to users
- p. q) Access to unlimited information from different sources
- q. r) More up to date information
- r. s) Information flexibility to the users
- s. t) Reforming and combining of data from different sources
- t. u) Reduce the workload of the library staff

7. Disadvantages of Information & Communication Technology :

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

8. Challenges to libraries :

- a. Collection development

- b. Resource sharing through networking
- c. Faster direct communication among scientists and researchers
- b. Virtual vs. onsite reference service: push and pull technologies
- c. Better document delivery systems
- d. Better abstracting and indexing systems
- e. Availability of full-text materials on the Internet
- f. Information management vs. collection management.

Conclusion :-

The library today, is a technologically driven one that uses the principles of traditional library services to organize knowledge and communicate same to clients in the global community essentially by electronic means. ICT has fulfilled its promise in academic libraries, there is a remarkable rise in the use of ICT, and many of the library activities are now ICT driven. This has led to the speed of acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination operations. ICT has also helped to curb the problem of information explosion in this information era. Libraries and librarians must cope with the demands of an information society. Librarians must have the knowledge, skills and tools in handling digital information to be efficient creators, collectors,

Consolidators and communicators of information. Librarians with the knowledge, skills and tools required of information professionals in an information society will constitute the key success factor in enabling the library to perform its role as an information support system for society. Technology alone is not the solution to efficient and effective information delivery, although it is the major contributor to the development of multimedia information and networks. ICT are powerful tools that can only be used effectively if the users – administrators' librarians and patrons in this case - have acquired adequate knowledge and skills and a certain level of competency according to their needs. The integration of a range of ICT's in the enhancement of activities into the library operation with a range of multimedia resources, as well as through a web environment will improve the quality of service to users.'

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