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Importance of E-Resources for Information Literacy in the Field of Library and Information Science

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Abstract

This paper mainly highlights the availability of advanced Information Communication Technologies in academic institutes. In the present digital era; the e-resources will become an active contributor to global digital library system and information literacy or research and academic libraries. The electronic resources (e-resources) have great importance in digital libraries and amongst the academic library users. In 21st century digital libraries are developing all over the world to collect, store and disseminate the information through electronic media. The user's needs and usage of e-resources are day by day increasing in India, depends on their academic need. Therefore e-resources are very important and useful to the students, faculty and research scholars, as well as Library and Information Science Professionals. Change is one reality with which individuals, groups and organizations must constantly cope in order to survive. The needs for progressive changes in student's, research scholar's, Professor's attitudes and behaviours are essential for global acceptance. The concept of ICT has transformed the world in all aspect of lives include the libraries and studies have also shown that for an effective library service in this modern age, the use of ICT should be integrated in its service. In relation to this, it has become a necessity for all academic libraries to adopt and harness from the good deeds, ICT has brought to the library services and academic research as a whole. With the development and application of ICTs, the library environment has shifted from the traditional library to hybrid library, then automated library and then digital library and virtual libraries, the structure and nature of library and side by side the LIS profession has also changed in a dynamic way. Now in the present situation the LIS professionals are playing all-round multimodal roles to satisfy the different requirements of the end users.

Keywords: E-Resources, Academic Digital Libraries, ICT, Resource Literacy, World-Wide-Web

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Introduction

The Information Communication Technology has brought changes in the concept of traditional library system, the recent trend change in the information related field in collection development and dissemination as information have resulted in to then evolution of digital libraries. Now most of the reference books like encyclopaedias, dictionaries, hand books, annual reports etc. are published in e-form, at present situation most of the research and academic libraries have been highlighted mainly on providing access to diverse digital information resource. And also so-many printed resources are now being digitized, which has given rise in increases of the availability of books and journals in the e-format. The e-books are helpful because of their easy portability and its feature of incorporating more than one book in a single hand

held device. Therefore everyone to get the information required free of cost or low of cost and bridge the digital divide. AICTE (All India Council for Technical education) was issued a mandatory subscription of e-journal packages for all engineering institution and highly discounted online databases given for INDEST (Indian National Digital library in Engineering Sciences and Technology) consortium members. A library in which a significant proportion of the resources are available in machine readable form (as opposed to print or microform), accessible by means of computers. The digital content may be locally held or accessed remotely via computer networks. Today's users expect their libraries to effectively utilize current technologies to enhance the library experience. Information Communication Technology (ICT) has brought changes in the concept of traditional library

services. In the modern era information collection, storage and retrieval system in the field of library and information science and dissemination as information have resulted in to then evolution of digital libraries. Present situation e-books, e-journals, e-news letters, and many e-resources available in the digital or electronic form in the learning resource centres. Digital libraries are the most complex form of information systems that support digital document preservation, distributed database management, hypertext, filtering, information retrieval and selective dissemination of information. This has really overcome geographical barrier offering wide range of academic, research and cultural resources with multimedia effects which can be accessed around the world over the distributed networks.

“Information Literacy” is defined as the ability to access, interpret, evaluate, organize, select, produce, and communicate information in and through a variety of media technologies and context to meet diverse learning needs and purposes. The present digital library environment is a completely integrated presentation of library automation systems, networking and new electronic technologies in modern libraries. It will be highly useful and valuable for research & academic library users. Learning environments should be structure to allow users unlimited access to multiple resources in the class room, the library media centre and beyond the College or University Centres^[1].

The information literacy is coming increasingly important in a global context due to the factors which are outlined above. This can be seen in UNESCO’S commitment to the “Empowerment of people through information and media literacy”. For example: In October 2009, U.S. President Barak Obama issued a presidential exclamation designating October 2009 Information Literacy Awareness Month^[2]. Information literacy is an integration of library literacy, computer literacy, media literacy, technological literacy, critical thinking, ethics & communication skills. The information literacy involves various steps such as:

1. Determination of the type of information needed
2. Access to such needed information effectively and efficiently by using different medias
3. Evaluation of such information critically
4. Incorporation of such information into the knowledge base
5. Usage of such information to accomplish specific purpose for which it was retrieved
6. Knowledge regarding a economic, legal social issues that have surrounded the use of that information
7. Ultimately the use of information ethically & legally. (Rockman, IF, 2004).

Methodology

A qualitative method of research was used to gather information for this study. The research skill involves the collection and analysis of non-numerical data in order to understand concepts, opinions or experiences. The study relied on the secondary sources of information.

Objectives of the Study

The following factors are the objectives of Information Accessing through Academic, Special and Research Library and Information centres in the society:

1. To acquaint the users with the specific view of internet in modern era
2. To provide an indication as to what is there on internet related to the area of study and research

3. To show how web resources could be of immense use in their needs pursuit and research
4. To show the usefulness of various multimedia resources on web in science/social science/humanities research
5. To promote the use of subscribed databases in their needs and research
6. To describe specific features of various databases subscribed by the library
7. To acquaint the users with use of various search techniques to retrieve relevant information
8. To recognize the need for information, organize, interpret and communicate information in all its formats
9. To establish a direct interaction between users and library professionals

Types of Library Services in the Field of Library and Information Science (LIS)

Library is called as a storehouse of information. Due to impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) or internet/Information technology libraries are acquiring different approaches to provide the best services. Hence, different types of libraries have served in the Society, Such as:

Hybrid Library Service

The hybrid library is a term used to describe libraries containing a mix of traditional library resources and the growing number of e-resources. Hybrid Libraries are mixes of printed books and magazines, as well as e-materials such as audio books, electronic journals, e-books etc. Hybrid Libraries are the new norm in most public and academic libraries.

Automated Library Service

Library where each and every activity, housekeeping operations are Computerized. There are certain factors responsible for the automation of the libraries:

1. Information explosion has increased user’s demand.
2. Labour intensive nature of work
3. Changing concepts of documents.

By the application of modern management techniques reduced response time and need for resource sharing are important elements to be noted by the Librarian and work on automation of their libraries with the using tremendous capabilities of computer. Already libraries are started using computers for the in-house operations like Acquisition, Cataloguing, Circulation, and Serials Control etc. Librarians should choose by evaluating the facilities available in software” in market and open source software systems” and then go for its installation and working.

Digital Library Service

A library in which a significant proportion of the resources are available in machine-readable form (as opposed to print or microform), accessible by means of computers. The digital content may be locally held or accessed remotely via computer networks.

Virtual Library Service

In virtual library the access point as well as the graphic records are in electronic or digital form and these electronic or digital libraries are connected through various networks. It is a “Library without walls”. In which the collections do not exist on paper, microform, or other tangible form at a physical location but are electronically accessible in digital format via

computer networks. Such libraries exist on a very limited scale. In most traditional print-based libraries in the United States. Catalogues and periodical indexes are available online, and some periodicals and reference works may be available in electronic full text. Some libraries and library systems call themselves “virtual” because they offer online services.

Mobile Library Service

Mobile Libraries are collections of books arranged in vehicles and so staffed as to provide a library service capable of being directed to communities which are often though not exclusively, rural.

Towards New Paradigm

Now a days the Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals are engaged in different sectors such as Content developer, Knowledge manager, Librarian and so on. This is due to the change in the information world. The information world is now undergoing through a transitional period. Now the world is shifting from a library-centred to an Info-centred society. Resources are shifting from paper-based documents to predominantly digital documents that are using search engines, online databases, data mining etc. LIS professionals are facing three major changes, namely the transition from print to electronic and multimedia resources; increasing demand for accountability [3].

E-Resources and Digital Libraries in Research and Academic Environment

E-Resources: E-resources are those which include documents in e-format that can be accessed via internet in digital library environment. These may be delivered on CD-ROM /DVD, over the internet and so on. Providing access to e-resource is a service to help academic library users to find e-databases, e-journals, e-magazines, e-books, e-audio, e-images, data, GIS, Digital Library Projects, e-subject guide, e-news letters, e-white papers, e-conference proceedings and web search tools on a range of topic. Many of the e-resources are freely available to anyone over internet access but some are commercial resources.

Digital Library Service: Digital repositories are essential organs of any library website in the developed countries and in some parts of developing world. Library is expending its digital past paper collection using Green Stone Digital Library software (GSDL) and digital thesis and under graduates. Report collection with displace the library had started exploring the benefits of GSDL however with popularization of other OSS (Open Source Software) it has used D’ Space as an experiment. Various service considered to design digital library using free open source tools are web, mail, message, media, cloud service etc.

Methods of Accessing E-Resources/Online Data Bases The Academicians Commonly Accessed Online Data Base/E-resources are

- Science Direct
- Web of Science
- IEEE/IEE/IEL online
- J-gate
- Springer
- INSIGHT
- Nature
- Pro-Quest Science and etc.

Internet Improve Independent Lifelong Learning Skills

Lifelong learning skills are the activities which need to learn whole life. These activities improve knowledge and skills relevant to profession and day to day activities. Internet improves their lifelong learning skills because they can access and retrieve any information through the internet. Doctors indicated that online surgical videos enhanced their all time learning skills. In addition librarians, bankers, teachers, and students said, they can easily learn and run new software without attending workshops and consultation of teachers through online demos and tutorials. Hence these are the important source for increasing learning skills. Furthermore, Graphic representations of any topic and animations also improve learning skills by exploring the topic.

The Internet makes possible the access to the information without going to the library. It provides books and other literature free of cost. Printed materials take time to publish but the internet gives access to the current, up to date and recent information. Teachers, researchers, and doctors require the latest research, accessible journals, current and up to date literature, information about social changing and rapidly economic condition. The Internet provides all these information and increases their independent lifelong learning skills.

Following Features are Identified E-resources of Lifelong Learning Skills for Academic Libraries in Digital Environment, They are

- “Learning attitude of computer graphics with the help of tutorials”.
- “Identified, information about other field subjects confidently”.
- “It makes possible to connect the further world”.
- “Internet improves independent lifelong learning skills when we know about tools, techniques, and resources to retrieve the information from the online sources”.
- “Online lecture and video build everyone’s concept about the topic for the preparation of exam”.
- Pointed out “Online lectures enhanced everyone’s ability to deliver the lectures” [4].

Reading on Internet Improves Professional Skills

Reading on internet improves their professional skills. Every profession has different professional skills. Teachers indicated that when they read on the internet they get information about teaching methodology across the world. Video lectures and information on current research articles of the whole world improved their professional skills. The Internet presents multimedia type information i.e videos, pictures, graphs and maps which help to explain the topics. These various form of information help the history teachers to explain and make understandable the topic. In this way, the teaching of history improves. A History teacher told. “Information available on my subject field for example ancient history and civilization in the forms of pictures, graphs, and maps, these help me to improve my teaching”.

Researchers pointed out, internet-enhanced their research skills by studying the research articles and their research methodology. “It can explain their research in a better way due to online articles”. Online research articles and their scholarly language improve researcher’s language. It identified that online research articles enhanced writing skills. Many articles on one topic provide a large number of words and their synonyms through which they better their scholarly writing.

“When we read writing of other writers on the internet it improves our writing skills”. Librarians identified they learn to use different databases with the help of online tutorials and demos. Also, know methods of getting free of cost e-journals and e-books. They provide better services to its users. By this way, their professional skills enhance. “Our professional skills increases through internet because online tutorials and demos helps me to learn and run new software.” Internet improves their communication skill by providing different methods to communicate with administration and management persons, moreover publishers and users. “As a librarians we have to communicate with our administration staff and publishers and through internet we can get different formats and methods of correspondence”. Variety of information on internet helps to do project works with the help of available worldwide online projects. Additionally, online Forums, blogs and educational networks enhance their skills. It gives current and up to date information about their profession. It increases their professional skills. “Online our professional forum enhanced our professional skills because through it we can get current, up to date information about our profession.”

Advantages of Electronic Resources

Following Features are Advantages of Electronic Resources (E-resources) they are

- E-resources user friendly interface
- 24/7(Any Time Information available). Library users don't have to wait for the library to open to access them.
- E-resources can be accessed by several users simultaneously.
- E-resources are peer reviewed information sources.
- E-resources are huge information reservoirs
- E-resources are multidisciplinary approach
- Articles published in electronic journals can be updated and corrected even after publishing
- Electronic journals provide advanced searching facilities.
- E-journals can provide access to articles in multiples formats and languages
- E-journals offset the missing issue problem
- Articles are displayed and printed clearly an easily to read format
- Articles can be downloaded and printed simultaneously by more than one reader depending on access rights and permission
- E-resources save physical storage space. A single CD ROM can contain many volumes of a particular journal and thousands of full text articles with graphics.
- E-resources provide quick information, up to date information, easy citations, various search options and special services like SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information), Alerts etc.
- Users can search e-resource to find articles on a particular subject from many different publications at the same time without having to search each publication separately.

An electronic resource is lot quicker to browse or search, to extract information from and to integrate that information into other material and to cross-search or reference between different publications

- E-resource will allow the user to approach the publications to analyze its content in new ways by click of the mouse on search mode.

- E-resources may include international reach, unlimited capabilities, reduced cost, convenience, search ability and thinking
- E-Journals get published or reach the subscribers much before their counterpart. Its also reaches all its subscribers simultaneously, where as there are many factors, mainly geographical and procedural, which case delays in case of print journals.
- Multiple and remote access makes it available at one's desk. This is a boon for a huge campus where there are hundreds of readers with many departments available.

Disadvantages of Electronic Resources

Following Features are Disadvantages of Electronic Resources (E-resources) they are

- **Lack of Basic Infrastructure:** basic infrastructure like sufficient computers, Internet and power in some remote areas.
- **Difficulty in Reading Computer Screens:** Electronic journal is the limitations of the computer monitor, this leads to problem with reading and long reading from screen can cause eyestrain.
- **Less Permanent:** Electronic version of online journal is easy to lose and their reliance on soft wares and hard wares makes them impermanent
- **Higher Cost:** Retrieve some electronic articles need more cost.
- **License/Copyright issues:** Issues regarding revision of the licenses and copying and distributing of resources [5].

Importance of E-resources in LIS Profession

- It gives a wide area of digital/electronic library and library automation
- This facility is available easily anywhere and anytime.
- It is always not possible for a library to purchase or access to full range of research literature on payment basis while E-Resources/online databases publishing model has added a lot to library collection indirectly.
- For libraries, E-Resources/online databases access offers a variety of new opportunities and challenges.
- Understanding of digital library concept is hampered by terminology.

In the light of the present study following recommendations can be made for the smooth development of e-resources in research and academic libraries.

- The college library should have a clearly defined set of selection criteria that can help the librarian in the selection process of e-resources.
- The academic librarians should choose co-operative acquisition and resource sharing to reduce the cost and thus manage the tight budget.
- The LIS professionals should take more initiative in participating online consortium for fulfilment of information needs of users and thus develop the e-resource collection of the library. Since every library faces the problem of limited budget, less staff and time with ever changing needs of users, the consortia can assist librarians to provide the required information to the users with minimum expenditure.
- Ongoing Training should be provided to the library staff for effective use of e-resources.
- The college library should have a proper user education programme. The librarian should make sure that the users

are aware of the availability of e-resources and also teach them how

- To use it effectively. As far as possible, the librarian should try to impart hands on training to the users for the optimal use of e-resources.
- The catalogue of e-resources should be available to the users. An integrated catalogue of both print and e-resources will serve the user in a better way.
- The librarian should try to link the e-resource through the OPAC.
- A well drafted license agreement should be made before acquiring e-resources. This will facilitate the fair use of e-resources.

Result/Discussion

According to J. A. Langford, importance of libraries and its services to society- "the only true equalisers in the world are books; the only treasure-house open to all comers is a library; the only wealth which will not decay is knowledge; the only jewel which you can carry beyond the grave is wisdom". To assemble, organize, preserve, socialize and serve all expressed thought embodied as manuscripts, books, periodicals, their constituent's documents, however minute and every other similar document produced as a means for communication, and by this means.

1. To help in the transmission of knowledge of the earlier generations to the later ones, and by this mean
2. To help in accumulation and further building up of knowledge from generation, and in a similar way
3. To help in the contemporary development of knowledge by unintended and purposeless repetition of effort and the consequent wastage in the research potential of humanity and further.
4. To conserve the research time of humanity by the separation of literature search from positive search and also.
5. To help in the perpetual self-education of one and all, and further.
6. To collect together all available recorded information particularly in the form of reference books and to socialize and serve freely all such information to each according to his needs at the moment and by all such mean.
7. To increase the economic resources of humanity to the extent necessary to maintain the ever increasing population in comfort and free from want of any kind; and also.
8. To help in the mutually co-operating and mutually tolerant peaceful co-existence of individuals, communities and nations; and further.
9. To help in the elevating, self-dependent use of leisure with the aid of freely served books, pictures, sound records and other similar materials; and also.
10. To help in increasing the opportunity for the spiritual awakening of one and all the members of humanity.

Conclusion

In the digital era, access to electronic resource (e-resources: e-books, e-journals, etc.) is very much useful to both libraries and users as problems of missing issues or delay in receipt of issues can be overcome. Online resources make their appearance on the net much before the print copies reach the subscribers; therefore users get the resources at earliest and their time is saved. Electronic resources do not occupy a great deal of physical storage space, and can be accessed remotely.

The increasing the e-resources subscription bring more satisfaction to users about the library services.

Library and Information Science professional communities are being affected by a range of ICT developments and find their roles changing world wide. In the field of LIS, the user needs evaluation gives the specific ideas for serve to the specific readers. Whether the readers of the facilitation centres (Library and Information centres) are satisfied or not. If satisfied to what extent and what further improvement can be achieved with the alternative approach. If they are not satisfied what went wrong and which steps are necessary for the improvement. So by eliminating unnecessary steps and modifying the existing systems only we can satisfy the readers in a better way.

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