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The Role of Information Literacy in the Learning Resource Centres

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Abstract

This paper mainly focused to the role of information literacy in the learning resource learning centres such as Public Libraries, Academic Libraries and Special libraries. Information literacy is to produce users who are actively literate in their learning, innovative and research activities. Who are able to take the techniques useful in one environment and apply them to unfamiliar environments. In other words Information Literacy aims at the creation of critical thinkers. Developing lifelong learning is central to the mission of higher education by public libraries, special libraries and higher education institutions. In this way special and public libraries, academic libraries should provide the foundation for continued growth through-out their careers. The Information revolution has greater impact on the world than the earlier two revolutions of cultivation and industrial revolutions. The emergence of Information and Communication Technology and innovation of digital system paved a way to a revolution that has fundamentally changed the way of life of the people. Their behaviour, communication system and even live hood. The one who acquires the skills for searching, evaluating, analyzing, integrating, managing and communicating the information in an effective way are successful in solving problems, providing solutions and producing new ideas for future endeavours which is a continuous process of learning. This is how one becomes Information Literacy.

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Introduction

The learning resource centres are an academic, research, innovative division of the specific reader or user community in the society. These centres to serve the knowledge and information needs of that particular reader. To become effective users must have frequent opportunity to handle all kinds of information. Locating, analysing, synthesizing, evaluating and communicating information should become a part of subject across the curriculum and the view. Resource based learning calls for all members of the educational and progressive learning and researching community to become partners in a shared goal, providing successful learning experiences for all readers. Learning environments should be structure to allow users unlimited access to multiple resources in the class room, the library media centre and beyond the public domain, specific research centre and college or university centres ^[1]. Information Literacy becoming 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 Barack Obsama issued a presidential exclamation, designating "October 2009 Information Literacy Awareness Month" ^[2].

Information Literacy is a an integration of library literacy, computer literacy, media literacy, technological literacy, critical thinking, ethics and 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 and legally. (Rockman, I F, 2004).

Methodology

A qualitative method of research has 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, service delivery were reviewed through document analysis; the document analysis of published reports and scholarly articles were beneficial to this study.

Objectives of the Study

Below mentioned important features are objectives of information literacy through learning resource centres:

1. To acquaint the users with the academic power of internet
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 academic pursuit and research
4. To show the usefulness of various multimedia resources on web in Science or Social Science or humanities research
5. To promote use of subscribed databases in academics 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 promote that Information Literacy is for participants academic and vocational success and for lifelong learning
10. To establish a direct interaction between users and library professionals

Dimensions of Information Literacy in Learning Resource Centres

Following factors are the important dimensions of Information Literacy in Learning Resource Centres. They are:

1. Total Literacy
2. Resource Literacy
3. Social- Structural Literacy
4. Research Literacy
5. Publishing Literacy
6. Emerging Technology Literacy
7. Critical Literacy^[3]

User Skills Needed for Information Literacy in Learning Resource Centres

The following features are user skills needed for Information Literacy in Learning Resource Centres. They are:

1. Distinguish between scholarly and popular sources
2. Know how to integrate primary and secondary sources in research
3. Understand the structure of scholarly publications in a discipline
4. Use fundamental reference sources
5. Identify and use databases (bibliographic, numeric, or full text) in a discipline for formulating successful research strategies

6. Be able to navigate e-resources, including the www and apply critical evaluation to selection of appropriate sources for a specific assignment
7. Know how to locate sources in a learning resource centre
8. Be familiar with procedures for obtaining materials from remote locations by interlibrary lending or other document delivery services

Benefits of Information Literacy in Learning Resource Centres:

The following benefits are playing a vital role in the integration Information Literacy in learning resource centres. They are:

1. Supporting Basic Skills
2. Accessing Bibliographical Information
3. Developing Citizenship
4. Supporting Community
5. Development Independent Learning
6. Supporting higher academic attainment
7. Enhancing Digital Inclusion
8. Enhancing Employability

Examples of Information Literacy Sessions in Learning Resource Centres

Information Literacy program is involved in the following procedures or activities in the Learning Resource Centres.

Those example sessions are:

1. Evaluation of the quality of a website
2. Finding full-text articles and e-journals
3. Finding funding opportunities for researchers
4. Finding online encyclopaedias and dictionaries
5. The Internet: Searching beyond Google
6. Googlization and Web of Knowledge
7. Introduction to e-books
8. Introduction to legal research
9. Scopus-an introduction
10. Journal quality measurements
11. Searching for directions and guidelines of geographical identification
12. Supporting cultural and educational (learning, teaching, research activities) community activities in the learning resource centres^[4].

Role of Learning Resource Centres in Information Literacy

Information Communication Technologies have been changing the complete scenario in Learning Resource Centres. Now a day, Learning Resource Centre has become point of resource-based learning the role of Learning Resource Centre's professionals are changing radically with skills of education paradigms. The impact of moving from text based learning to resource based learning will involve heavier use of resource materials or Learning Resource Centre's materials and a demand for more and a varied media resources, including print and non-print. Learning Resource Centre's professionals are responsible for locating, acquiring, disseminating, and tracking information resources of many types^[5].

It might include database searching; inter library loans, monitoring internet new groups or maintenance of a computerized Learning Resource Centre information system. Learning Resource Centres and Information Science and Management Learning Resource Centres professionals play an important role in educate by learning, teaching, and research of people for effective and efficient information use

by teaching, learning and research them information skills at all levels of education, to enable to be informed citizens of the country [6].

Challenges of Information Literacy in the Learning Resource Centres

In the present situation we have been facing so-many information accessing and retrieval problems or challenges in the Information Literacy proceedings in the Learning Resource Centres:

1. Learning Resource Centre issues are to find information where this is buried
2. Continuous improvement process demands to use tools like internet world-wide
3. Preservation Challenges
4. Valuable information covered by copyright, and wherever copyright has expired, the information is not digitized, thus not on web
5. Web lacks standards and methods to validate or authenticate information

Suggestions

Information Literacy is becoming increasingly important in a global context of lifelong learning attitude. Achieving methods of the term Information Literacy in Learning Resource Centres learning environment is a challenging task. Therefore, the following features are playing vital role in the learning, teaching, and researching involvement in the achieving methods of Information Literacy in the learning environment.

1. By collaborating with colleagues at the premises of the learning resource centres to integrate Information Literacy into learning, teaching (academic), and research (Innovative and Scientific) activities
2. By promoting the use of learning resources in all formats, in as much as familiarity with both print and electronic formats are essential
3. By providing instruction formally and informally, to individuals and to sessions, in person and online
4. By providing programmatic instruction that addresses the needs of the reader community
5. By working to make every interaction at the Learning Resource Centre, especially reference questions, a learning opportunity for specific readers
6. By evaluating the effectiveness of our approaches and regularly renewing our own skills
7. Learning Resource Centres staffs' (Library and Information Science Professionals) empowerment is a way to measure of performance and is a management technique.
8. Performance of Learning Resource Centre depends on the quality of human response
9. Today's Learning Resource Centres often serve as a hub for cultural, educational and innovative or research activities, but also through lifelong learning skills
10. Use of internet to learning, teaching, and research largely depends upon the knowledge of search techniques, be it public domain resources or subscribed databases.

Therefore, Presentations can be made on

- Role of www in academic, scientific, and innovative specific research
- Use of internet world-wide
- Features of web resources
- Types of resources on the web

- Importance of e-resources in academic, scientific, and innovative specific research
- How to find relevant and précis information
- Recall, relevance and precision in web search

Conclusion

Learning Resource Centres a learning, teaching and research centre which is actively involved all aspects of higher education learning, teaching, and research and community service. A Learning Resource Centre is characterized by its commitments to instructing students, faculty, and staff with public domain and specific information user, which encourages lifelong learning to maintaining a collection, which stimulated inquiry to making the Learning Resource Centre, the cultural centre for the location of learning, teaching, research, scientific, innovative and specific reader community, and engaging in research to improve Learning Resource Centre services.

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