SMART LIBRARIANSHIP AND ICT LIBRARY

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In centuries gone by, librarians were seen as keepers and custodians of books. This perception also affected the image of the library, this was because many people saw the library as a room with stacks of books where individuals particularly students who wanted to read beyond the scope of what they were taught in class found shelter. No wonder, the field was regarded as library science and not library and Information science or library and Information technology as we have it recently.

Change is the law of nature, one who accepts the challenges of change, always proceeds on the road of success to spend smart life. Libraries also in an attempt to respond to change and growth based on the fifth law of librarianship introduced the use of computersand other technologies into their day-today operations. Therefore, operations such as acquisition, cataloguing and classification etc shifted from the manual method to the automated method. The introduction of technology also brought about the developmentof certain concepts such as e-resources, e-libraries, digitalization etc. Development in ICT has made a significant impact in all domains of human life. ICT has transferred the entire world into the global village. Today ICT is the vital component of information access, information dissemination and information communication across the globe. For the libraries, ICT is extremely changing the management of resources, housekeeping operations as well as the way services are delivered. ICT has empowered users to avail many services without any human involvements. Today librarians have to accept the challenge of change and to serve as an information professional of the fast changing Hi- Tech society.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Communication Technology is a common term referring to the technologies used for collecting, storing, editing and communicating information in various formats. ICT means use of computer based technology and the Internet to make information and communication services available in a wide range of users. ICT Isa Hardware and Software that enable society to create, collect, consolidated and communicate information in multimedia format and for various purposes. The term ICT includes any communication device or application, encompassing, radio, TV, cellular phones, computers and network, hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as the various services and application associated with them. ICT is playing a vital role in the current and future development of society and nation. ICT has affected all spheres of life and also the library.

ICT IN LIBRARIES

Now a days there are several information communication technologies for various housekeeping, management and administrative functions of the library, different electronic and digital media, computer aided electronic equipments, networks and internet has provided significant role in retrieval and dissemination of information and playing a vital role for upgrading of libraries main of them are:

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☐ **Automation:** Automation is the concept of reducing the human involvement in allthe library services so that, user can get the desired information with the minimum efforts. Main areas of the automation can be classified into two-organization of all library i.e. databases and all housekeeping operations of the library.

☐ **Networking:** Networking means a group of Libraries and Information Centers are interconnected for common pattern for information exchange and communication to improve the efficiency.

☐ **Management:** Management includes the activities like Classification, Cataloging, Indexing, Database creation, Database Indexing, which will positively be geared up by the use of these fast ICT developments,

COMPONENTS OF ICT IN LIBRARIES

Although information technology is a standalone concept, there are other components associated and conjoined with it. Islam and Islam (2006) have identified some of these as follows:

1. Software technology: this has to do with the development of computer programs that could aid library operations. Softwares used in library operations include: Microsoft packages, tinlib, Alice for Windows etc.

2. Media usage and development: this has to do with managing information resources available in digital formats such as CDs, projectors, microfiches etc.

3. Artificial intelligence: this entails the development of machines to emulate human qualities such as learning, reasoning and teaching.

4. Microchips: these are technologies that contain silicons and other electronic components. They are usually used to protect and secure library materials from been stolen.

5. Workstations: these are specialized computers that help to distribute large amounts ofdata from a central source known as a server to other computers within the same network.

6. Emails and hypertext: e-mails (electronic mails) are messages sent over the Internet.They are usually used for current awareness and selective dissemination of information.

Hypertext on the other hand is links which serve as pathways to other sources of information.

LIBRARY & ICT

Libraries are a vital part of a learning society, devoted towards intellectual upliftment of every individual through continuous, informal and lifelong education, thereby developingthem as ideal citizens with disciplined minds, high intellect, moral caliber, and democratic attitude.

The internet has revolutionized the concept of the library from the boundaries to borderless, storage to access, traditional to global, paper based to paperless and from physical to virtual library. Modern libraries perform user specific functions in the context of automation, computerization, immediate retrieval, rapid dissemination and online feedback. ICT has become the important part of modern libraries in order to keep up withthe present information needs.

ICT BASED USER SERVICES

Now a day most of the library users are adopting electronic habits, making increasing useof the new ICT, including computers, the Internet, the Web, Intranet, Extranet and other technologies. They require access to the latest information, updated information resourcesand access to ICT facilities that they could use in their work.

Use of ICT in libraries improves user satisfaction. Because of the use of ICT lots of benefits are for the users.

1. Collaboration and creation of library networks
2. Reduction of staff workload

3. Round the clock access to library services by users.

4. Efficient and effective service delivery to library clientele

5. Access to unlimited information from different sources

6. More up to date information

7. Availability of information in different formats

8. Remote access of information.

9. Greater and easier retrieval of information

10. Information available to anyone, anytime, anywhere, and at users' desktop.

11. Easy to capture, store, manipulate and distribute information.

12. Information creation on digital format.

13. Information communication through e-mail.

14. Removal of all the barriers of communication, distance and time.

15. Online access and file transfer through Internet.

16. Enclosures sharing of information.

17. Quicker efficient and effective library services to a wide range of users.

18. Optimum utilization and sharing of resources among institution in cost effectivemanner.

19. Simple and prominent collection development through web.

20. The available information can be provided through the homepage.

21. Online book shopping and publisher's website help in quality collection development and are time, money and labour saving.

22. Online orders through the Internet, downloading from website avoids postal delay.

23. Reminders may be sent through e-mails.

ICT IMPACT ON LIBRARY AND LIBRARIANS

The computer and information technology has brought in a new impact to the library services and information usage. In libraries, information technology has assisted LIS professionals to provide value added services and give more remote access to available information resources. Information technologies provide faster retrieval of stored information and reform our traditional library to a modern information center. Recent ICT is impacting on various facets of libraries and the information profession. Advancements in ICT and the widespread use of ICT is resulting in digital information sources and digital media replacing and becoming the dominant form of information storage and retrieval. ICT also survives and makes true rules of Library Science "Every reader his/her book/information", "Save the time of the reader", "Library is a growing organism". ICT with its great information sources, fast transmission speed and easy access guarantees the satisfaction of the user with multifaceted demand, overcome the distance barrier and reduced the time required and guarantee the right information to the right reader at the right time. It also rises and resolves the library's demand of collection development. It is really an outstanding tool for the Library information centers.

ICT EMPOWERS LIBRARY

1. To capture, store, manipulate and distribute information.

2. To introduce and provide-new services, revitalize the existing services by providing faster access to the resources, by overcoming the space and time barriers.

3. To provide need-based (tailor made), browsing and retrospective search services to the users.

4. To utilize the staff for providing better information services.

5. To develop/upgrade the abilities of professionals;

6. To encourage networking and resource sharing at the local level.

7. To digitize the documents-for preservation and for space saving.

8. To support library housekeeping operations.

9. To access library catalogue, databases of other libraries through library networks.

10. To improve the efficiency of library functions; and improve the cost effectivenessof library operations.

Thus the adoption of ICT should not be considered as a luxury, but as an added tool to provide the information, services, effectively to fulfill the complex needs of the users.

ICT USED IN LIBRARIES

1. Computers
2. Internet
3. Library Housekeeping software
4. Consortia
5. CCTV
6. RFID
7. Institutional Repository
8. Web design
9. e-resources

CHALLENGES BEFORE LIS PROFESSIONALS

ICT has created complex challenges for LIS professional they have to redesign their positions to meet evolving needs. Professionals have to manage the change by adopting latest ICT, thereby improving performance. They need to improve the skills and knowledge of the new technologies to provide quality library services.

CONCLUSION

The library is an important part of the learning society that surrounds it. It is formed and improved by many of the same forces that shape other types of institution. Librarians need to identify the changes that have already taken place in libraries, and to be aware of the methods in which larger social changes are affecting the other institution. Though the fundamental job has remained, to facilitate and give access to information and knowledge, the processes, tools and techniques have undergone significant changes. However, access alone is of course not enough, it is also about extending services, methods, and practices and developing innovative approaches to guarantee free and universal access to relevant

knowledge. Libraries should ensure that the world's citizenry has access to the world's knowledge. 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. Outdated technologies that were first acquired are merely guarding our libraries, thereby creating systemic complexities that are increasingly becoming difficult to sustain. It should be noted that technological changes take place very often and there is a clear need to keep abreast of the changes when they occur without losing out on quality. However, this process is either not well established or if established it is riot enforced, hence and its introduction and application will improve the quality of service to users. This would enable 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.

SUGGESTIONS:

The field of librarianship does not go into extinction, all hands must be on deck. Apart from that, the following must be put into place in order to bridge the identified gaps:

1. Libraries must constantly train their staff to be IT compliant. This will reduce the rateat which their jobs are given to other individuals not within the purview of librarianship. These include database management, web design, software management and installation.

2. Librarians in training must be exposed to entrepreneurial opportunities in the field of library and Information Science. Such opportunities include indexing and abstracting, research assistance,

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research analysis, database management etc.

3. Librarians must not depend on only what they learn in school. Their tentacles of knowledge must spread to other disciplines. Librarians should be "Jack of all trades, master of All". In essence, they should have certain amounts of knowledge on all discipline of human endeavor.

4. Leveraging of information retrieval skills.

Librarians must constantly update their information retrieval skills. The skills of yesterday might not suffice for today's challenges. Since information management is one that gets complex day-by-day, librarians must update their skills and be able to sieve the "wheat "from the "shaft" and it will make librarians knowledge creators rather than knowledge consumers. This will help to increase the value of libraries, librarians and librarianship altogether 5. Effective lobbying and advocacy is necessary in order to raise funds to maintain information technologies.

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