Use of Information Communication Technology in Library Services

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Abstract:

Library plays an important role by providing world class information resources and services to its users. The role of library is to collect, preserve and disseminate the information. Now a days this information includes printed as well as digital versions of the same. In this change Information and communication technology (ICT) plays a very important role. This article provides overview of ICT based library activities and library services. This article also explains impacts and needs of ICT tools.

Keywords: ICT, Library Automation, Information Systems, ICT-based Library services, Libraries, Library 2.0, Digital Library.

INTRODUCTION:

The emergence of ICT is one among the wonderful gifts of recent science and technology which has brought great changes within the history of Library and knowledge science. Application of ICT to library and knowledge work hand-in-hand. It has revolutionized the normal concept of Libraries from a store house of books to an intellectual information centre. Using ICT, Libraries also are playing vital role in facilitating access to worldwise information and knowledge resources. So today the power of information technology has been became true and broadly accepted.

MEANING AND CONCEPT OF ICT:

Information and Communication Technology' (ICT) first appears in the mid of 1980th decade and was defined as "All kinds of electronic systems used for broadcasting telecommunications and mediated communications", with examples including personal computers, mobile phones, video games, internet, and electronic payment systems and computer Software's etc.

Three components of important in ICTs 1.Computer technology, 2. Communication Technology; and 3.Reprographic Technology.

The ICT is formed of computer and communication technology. The computer technology is the tool for storing and processing information in digital form while communication technology helps us to transfer and disseminate digital information. Additionally ICT means a spread of technological applications within the process and communication of data. The word ICT may be a combination of two words information, communication & technology. Information means knowledge and technology means the utilization of computer & communication. Thus, ICT is the assimilation of computer applications' and

communication technology for collecting, processing, preserving and providing of information to the users. Information Communication Technology is a common term referring to the technologies used for collecting, storing, editing and communicating information in various formats. ICT has impact whole part of life and also the library on worldwide.

ICT includes the computer hardware, software, telecommunication technology applications, CDs, DVDs, projection devices, LAN, WAN, digital cameras, mobile phones, satellites, and fiber optics. Digital Technologies is not a single technology. ICT is integration of two or more than two technologies in that system.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study is designed and carried out with the view to determine the following objectives:

- ➢ To track the advancement of ICT in Libraries
- ➢ To compare old and new technologies
- ➢ To identify the reasons for introducing ICT in libraries
- ➢ To explain the functions, impacts and challenges of ICT based Library services.

ICT's IMPACT ON LIBRARY SERVICES AND ITS USERS

The past 20 years have seen great changes in libraries because of information technology. So, the computrization has brought during a really new impact to the Library and knowledge uses in Libraries. Now, libraries are changing the way during which Information is stored and disseminated to users. Another impact is user adapt their information through library by ICT.

Use of ICT in libraries enhances user's satisfaction. It provides numerous benefits to library users. Variety of the benefits are:

• Provide speedy and easy access to information

• Provides remote access to users

• Provides round the clock access to users

• Supply access to endless information from different sources

• Provides information flexibility to be used by an individual according to his/her requirements

• Facilitates the reformatting and mixing of data from different sources Libraries are also providing various ICT-based services to their user, including the next Provision of Web access to OPACs

• Electronic document delivery

• Networked information resources

• Delivery of knowledge to user desktops

• Online instructions

• Online reader's advisory services

ADVANTAGES OF USING ICT within the LIBRARY

- ICT makes library work easier, faster, cheaper and simpler.
- Supports to manage information overload as information retrieval is made easier in computerized systems.
- Remote access is enabled through networked systems.
- Computerization saves space and reduces paper.

IMPACTS OF ICT TOOLS:

Impacts of ICT mainly refers to Information, User and Library. A number of the important impacts are as follows.

- **On Information:**
¬ Greater access to a wider range of data sources via www
¬ Increased speed in acquiring and disseminating information.
- **On Users:**
¬ User prefer digital sources of data.
¬ Availing services and resources when and where needed as an impression of ICT.
- **On Libraries:**
¬ Transformation of libraries from store house to information centers also as knowledge centers.
¬ Library services are getting to fulfil user's information needs quickly.
¬ Library professionals turning up as information creators.

MAJOR ICT BASED SERVICES/ACTIVITIES IN LIBRARIES:

Technologies are changing the accessibility of data and library professionals are adapting to the evolving needs of the users. The change in traditional library services to print-computerized-digital library may be a results of growth in information and communication technology.

A number of the main ICT based services in libraries are as follows.

1. Library Circulation:

Technologies are used in the library for the day to day activities of the circulation. Basically, the subsequent duties are performed within the circulation by using ICT:

- Issue Returns
- Overdue, reminder
- Renewal
- Reservation of books/documents
- Membership registration
- User guides
- Daily check-in and check-out statistics

2. Acquisition:

With the assistance of web, acquisition work has become considerably simplified. Order placing, duplication checking, price checking etc. are done very effectively using ICT technique. Receiving suggestions or demands and placing the order for purchasing library materials became easy through the web. As publishers and vendors are available through the website, such as Amazon, Flipkart, Infibeam, etc.

3. Library Classification:

There are many online catalogue records available from where one can get the entire bibliographic record of the library resources. Along with the record, we will also get the classification number within the catalogue record. British Library catalogue, Trove-National Library of Australia's catalogue, Library of Congress's online catalogue can be used to search the catalogue record and data can be copied for own catalogue preparation. These libraries provide classification details in their catalogue record, but there also are some online resources where library resources/materials are often classified. OCLC classify, LOC classification web and WebDewey are the samples of online classification tools.

4. Library Cataloguing:

Online cataloguing has increases the usability of catalogues, OPACs have expanded usability more than traditional card formats. The web catalogue doesn't have to be sorted statically; the user can choose author, title, keyword, or systematic order dynamically. Most online catalogues offer an enquiry facility for any word of the title is reached even better.

5. Library Bibliography:

Bibliographic services became convenient.Bibliographic software like EndNote, RefWorks, Zotero and Mendely are considerably helpful to compile the list of references for the research work. Bibliographic services includes compilation of bibliographies, reading lists etc. are vital parts of library work, particularly in research and academic libraries.

5. Stock-taking/Verification:

The verification of the stock is administered with the storage of library through the database within the computer. Stock available in the library is scanned through RFID reader/barcode scanner and data are collected. In this way, what percentage books have lost we will determine.

6. OPAC and Web OPAC Service:

Online public access catalogue (OPAC) when available on the online is named as Web OPAC. Web OPAC's have provision of Boolean operators. While searching library collection using OPAC, user can use these operators to form their search more specific.

7. Web 2.0 Services:

Web 2.0 and the normal World Wide Web is greater collaboration among Internet users, content providers and enterprises. Originally, information uploading on websites, and users are viewed, gathered or downloaded the content. Blogs, wikis, social networking sites these ICT tools of Web 2.0 are often used for provide information to library users.

8. Resource Sharing:

ICT are often used for resource sharing among libraries and knowledge centres. It provides an excellent prospect for sharing both the human and material resources of a library with others library. The role of technology is extremely much significant for cooperative acquisition, cooperative processing (cataloguing and classification), exchange of data materials (e-resources), joint publication, networking, joint training of personnel, interchange of staff for seminars, and workshops (Igwe, 2010)

9. Reference/ILL Service:

The computer has provided an excellent promptness to reference section. Followings are the role of technology in reference services:

• Library staffs fulfill the demands of the users through various electronic resources like database, library catalog database, directories etc.

• In reference services are also provided regarding information available on the internet after getting delivered through the computer to the users.

10. Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service:

Hensley (1963) stated "SDI involves the utilization of the Computer to pick from a flow of latest documents, those of interest to each of a number of users. This process could also be thought of because the inverse of data retrieval. In information retrieval, a user precipitates an enquiry of a file of documents.

Through the pc, the profile and document of user are prepared and aligned. As per the necessity of the users or area of interest, various online databases, electronic resources and other materials are viewed and selected; finally required information is sent to library users.

11. Document Delivery Service:

It's difficult for the library to acquire every sort of resources published across the world due to financial constraints. So, the exchange of library resources like books, journals, etc. among the libraries are very much essential. To overcome these problems computer and therefore the internet have gotten an excellent contribution in DDS. By this medium first document are converted into digital format and then that can be received by the user at any place through e-mail or other electronic way. Besides, the storage reading like electronic periodicals, documents etc. can be disseminated to users on demand.

12. Translation Service:

Mechanical translation is administered with the assistance of ICT. For this purpose, various online tools like Bablefish translator and Google translator can be used to make translation from foreign languages to English and vice-versa.

Needs of ICT tools for Library:

• To enhance services of library.

• Achieve improvement in performance.

• To save lots of time of library users.

• Provide remote access to users.

• Provide quick access of data.

• To fulfil information needs of library users.

• To simply accept the challenges posed by new technology and knowledge explosion.

CHALLENGES OF USING ICT IN LIBRARIES

• Poor funding of ICT infrastructures
• Constant change of software and hardware
• Erratic power supply
• Insufficient bandwidth
• Lack of IT knowledge by library staff
• Copyright and property rights management

CONCLUSION:

The conclusion of Article is that, imagination of World without ICT is very difficult. Nowadays ICT has totally changed the concept of library and knowledge center because it had been in youth. Libraries are adopting ICT for performing both housekeeping operations also as for providing services to the library patrons. With the help of ICT libraries are literally marching towards achieving the goal of providing pinpointed exhaustive and expeditious information to people that are in need of that information. Information and communication technology is applied for providing information services which are more convenient, better accessible and price effective.

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