

Need of ICT Knowledge for Librarians in the Changing World

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***Abstract** - Effectiveness of a library service s currently mostly depends upon the data and Communication Technology (ICT). fashionable tutorial libraries area unit a lot of powerful, dynamic and might reach their users while not the restrictions of geographical boundaries. during this web era libraries fast paced to digital mode and might be accessed universally. With the appearance of recent communication technologies libraries redesigned their services to borderless world and become lifeblood of the community. Use of ICTs in libraries has become nice advantage for its users as they open up opportunities for ability and data exchange. Users will access wide range of knowledge resources like text, sound, pictures etc consistent with their desires underneath one umbrella. Therefore, application of ICTs provides extensive impact on the method within which libraries relate to their user communities and become a necessary a part of evolving data society. The study endeavors to spot varied elements of ICT that area unit used or being employed in libraries and data systems.*

Keywords: ICT application; ICT services; value of applying ICTs; academic library resources; e-learning; grey literature; scholarly community; librarians' role

INTRODUCTION

The humanistic discipline professionals should be well-trained and up-to-date within the best and economical management techniques utilizing the foremost effective technologies. continued skilled development is an important to the library employees in enjoying a significant role for making, access, spreading and storing of knowledge in trendy society. attributable to lack of the fundamental skills university libraries not capable to supply economical services within the areas of ICT.

Technological changes have resulted in librarians constantly questioning their future and the competencies they will need to survive professionally (Woodsworth 1997). Job advertisements today give some clues as to the skills required. A study conducted by Zhou (1998) which investigated the market change regarding the demand for computer literacy for librarians in academic and public libraries in the United States from 1974 to 1989, revealed that computer applications have changed in many aspects the ways by which libraries provide services. As a result, computer literacy has gradually become an important competency for librarians in many positions. Continuing Professional Development is an essential part of the modern library information professionals successful career planning and prospects. The LIS professionals with better personal, professional and technological competencies have great opportunities and bright

future in the modern libraries. Application of new ICT in to the libraries immediately requires improvement of different kind of skills and knowledge in library information science professionals. Continuous staff training on emerging technologies is essential to learn, improve and develop various kinds of professional skills, knowledge and competencies.

DEFINITIONS OF ICT

The term 'Information and Communication Technology' (ICT) initial appeared within the middle Eighties and was outlined as "All varieties of electronic systems used for broadcasting telecommunications and mediate communications", with examples together with personal computers, videogames, cell phones, net and electronic payment systems and pc etc. The ICT is created of pc and communication technology. the pc technology is that the tool for storing and process info in digital kind whereas communication technology helps North American nation to transfer and publicize digital info. in addition ICT suggests that a spread of technological applications within the method and communication of knowledge. The word ICT may be a combination of 2 words info, communication & technology. info suggests that data and technology suggests that use of pc & communication. The term ICT is outlined as "the integration of computing, networking and data process technologies and their applications" (Riyasat & Fatima, 2008). Thus, ICT suggests that a mix of pc applications' and communication technology for gathering, processing, storing and dispersive of knowledge.

ICT IN LIBRARIES

The first and foremost ICT component, which can be adopted in the libraries, is the computer for library automation and to have an in-house database of library holdings in electronic form. As many primary journals and being published in CD form, it becomes necessary to equip the libraries to optimize the use of information. E-mail, online retrieval networking, multimedia and internet are the other important technologies, which can be used for faster access to information. ICT enables one:

- To capture, store, manipulate, and distribute information among the user, researchers, staff and faculty
- To introduce and provide new services, revitalize the existing services by providing faster access to the libraries resources, by overcoming the space and time barriers
- To have large number of databases in CDs, online Journals, Achieves, E-books etc.
- To utilize the staff for providing better information m. To improve the efficiency of library functions; and services
- To develop/upgrade the abilities of professionals, To provide need- based, (tailor made), browsing and retrospective search services to the users.
- Application of ICT in Libraries
- To encourage networking and resource sharing at local level
- To have access to a number of national and international journals which are being published only in machine readable form

- To digitize the documents for preservation and for Selection and Purchase of Library space saving; Automation Application Software

ICT KNOWLEDGE FOR LIBRARIANS

Latham (2000) argues that every librarian should be familiar with all components of an office suite: word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and scheduling programmes. Further, librarians should be able to choose the appropriate application for the anticipated result, that is, a database for lists repeating the same type of information, spreadsheets for tracking numerical data, word processing for forms, for instance. Library staff, for that matter, should be able to make use of the extended capabilities of an application: to create charts, import graphics, and attach files, and so forth. They should know what is attached to their CPU, and how it is attached, and they should be able to perform basic troubleshooting functions: power source, monitor adjustments, reboots, printer response, and how to write down error messages.

Librarians who are Webmasters need to have a working knowledge of HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language), tables, browsers, graphic placement, CGI (Common Gateway Interface) programming, UNIX and Java (Saunders McMaster 1997). The challenge facing libraries is to get their librarians up to speed and to master the tools they use in working with electronic information. According to Marmion (1998) while many individuals, and even some institutions are already there, as a profession librarianship is not. Many research libraries, even, are not. Ongoing training is necessary if today's libraries are to keep up with changing technology. Most of the professional are not trained with ICT based services. In most of the University or institutions the ICT based services are being maintained by one or two trained library professionals or computer professional and remaining library professionals do not get an opportunity to be familiar with ICT services or they mostly unaware of the facilities in their own institution.

AREAS OF TRAINING NEEDED BY LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS

1. Provided training by the senior library staff, who already well trained in the libraries.
2. Sending staff to the web-based training programmes for the knowledge online electronic and digital resources.
3. In-house training conducted frequently at least once in a year by experts in latest IT technology.
4. Sending all the library staff irrespective of the cadres to the conferences, seminars and workshops in India.

IMPACT OF ICT ON LIBRARIANS

With the developments and application of ICT, whole scenario of libraries has changed. There is shift from traditional libraries to hybrid libraries. We see emergence of libraries with different nomenclatures operating in the universe of knowledge. Libraries are experiencing a significant impact of IT on information processing, sources and services. Presently ICT has impact on

different levels of librarians. Improvement in ICT and the extensive use of ICT result in electronic information sources and digital media collections and archives becoming the supreme form of knowledge storage and retrieval. ICT also sustains and makes new roles for librarians. ICT, with its significant knowledge sources and easy approach, ensures the benefits that users will demand. It also increases and elucidates the librarian's demand for library development. It is effective source for information centers.

Traditional libraries: These libraries are using different procedures operated manually for performing different activities. Patrons of libraries were / are approaching personally to the library professionals in the premises of the library for availing different services.

Electronic Libraries: These libraries are possessing information sources in electronic format like CD-ROMs, DVD's etc. Thus for making use of these information sources, we need equipment and without these equipment's, one cannot use these sources of information in an effective and efficient manner.

Library 2.0: In the web 2.0 environment library and information professionals are taking measures whereby users of the library participate with LIS professionals for making library services more effective and efficient. Library users as customers are able to tailor library services in such a manner whereby it is possible for library authorities to fulfill their information needs. Library Professional can activate Blogs, RSS at any Research Area, so that they can keep up-to-date to their self.

Automated Libraries: In these libraries some of the house keeping operations are being performed with the aid of mechanical devices. The graphic records are still print –on paper publications (Sharma, 2005). In automated libraries each and every book should be labeled and having a barcode, which can be scan through a scanner.

Digital Libraries: A library in which a significant proportion of the resources area available in machine readable format accessible with the aid of computers. In the words of Wikipedia “A digital library is a library in which collections are stored in digital formats (as opposed to print, microform, or other media)and accessible via computers. The digital content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks. A digital library is a type of information retrieval system (Digital Library, 2013). Type of information sources in these libraries may be e-books, e-journals, e-zines, ETD's etc. According to Wiederhold “A digital library is popularly viewed as an electronic version of a library where storage is in digital form, allowing direct communication to obtain material and copying it from a master version(Wiederhold, 1995).”

Virtual Libraries: These are also known as libraries without walls. The access points as well as the graphic records are in electronic/digital form and when these electronic/digital libraries are connected via various networks, particularly the INTERNET, this is called virtual library. 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. These libraries provide online library services to the library patrons.

Hybrid Libraries: These libraries are possessing the features of both traditional as well as other types of libraries whether electronic libraries, automated libraries or digital/ virtual libraries. In hybrid libraries information sources may be in both printed format as well as in electronic/digital format.

BENEFITS OF ICT KNOWLEDGE FOR LIBRARIANS

Before embarking on an elaborate discussion of the issues involved in library training by deploying ICT, it is essential to understand the advantages of ICT in a Library situation. These advantages include:

- Opportunities to deploy innovative methodologies and to deploy more interesting material that creates an interest in the librarians;
- Enables better management of library a librarian thereby improving the productivity of the tutor as well as the taught; and also save the time of their patrons, as well as us.
- Enables the librarian to concentrate on other tasks such as research and consultancy;
- To make all library services better and easy access without any boundaries than traditional library services.
- Enables optimum utilization and sharing of resources among institutions thereby reducing the costs of implementing ICT solutions
- Introduced new services
- Improved efficiency of library operations
- Improved quality of existing services
- Improved accuracy and control
- Increased ability to share resources
- Improved users satisfaction
- ICT facilitates sharing of resources, expertise and advice
- Greater flexibility in when and where tasks are carried out
- Gains in ICT literacy skills, confidence and enthusiasm.
- Easier planning and preparation of lessons and designing materials
- Access to up-to-date pupil and school data, any time and anywhere.
- Enhancement of professional image projected to colleagues.
- Students are generally more 'on task' and express more positive feelings when they use computers than when they are given other tasks to do.
- Computer use during lessons motivated students to continue using learning outside school hours.

DISADVANTAGES OF ICT

One of the major barriers for the cause of ICT not reaching its full potential in the foundation stage is teacher's attitude. According to Hara (2004), within the early years education attitudes towards ICT can vary considerably. Some see it as a potential tool to aid learning whereas others

seem to disagree with the use of technology in early year settings. Blatchford and Whitebread (2003:16), suggests that the use of ICT in the foundation stage is “unhealthy and hinders learning”. Other early years educators who are opposed to offering ICT experiences within the educational settings take a less extreme view than this and suggest that ICT is fine, but there are other more vital experiences that young children will benefit from, (Blatchford and Whitebread, 2003). In theory some people may have the opinion that the teachers who had not experienced ICT throughout their learning tend to have a negative attitude towards it, as they may lack the training in that area of the curriculum. Another important drawback to using ICT in schools is the fact that computers are expensive. According to the IT learning exchange (2001), in most schools ICT will be the single largest curriculum budget cost. This may be seen as a good thing but on the other hand there will be little money left over for other significant costs.

CONCLUSION

ICT is changing the work of libraries and information centers. More than ever, the libraries of Bangladesh need this technology. An increased number of users, a greater demand for library materials, an increase in the amount of material being published, new electronic formats and sources, and the development of new and cheaper computers are some of the reasons for the growing need for ICT in India. The country's libraries have not made equal progress in this area. Librarians, library patrons and supporters, and, above all, the government, must help develop ICT-based libraries to meet the changing demands of the users.

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