

Use of Information Sources in Undergraduate Colleges: An overview

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ABSTRACT

Information is everywhere. Today, with technology advances and more and more awareness for the need of progress and development, the government is taking a lot of interest in promoting research work and projects. This has become because of the technological advancements and changing information needs of the users. Technology has dominated all spheres of human activity and the libraries are not an exception one. Due to development in technological advancements, sources like electronic journals, e-books, e-databases, pre-prints, numerical and graphical data, library catalogue, educational materials, patents, standards, and so on are available on the Web Teaching is a co-operative enterprise. Teachers must have the necessary tools for teaching purposes in the shape of Librarians and laboratories. The library is the heart of an educational institution. Library plays a vital role in the Teaching, learning and research activities in the college.

Keywords: Academic Libraries, Information Sources, Degree college libraries, N-LIST, Library sources.

Introduction

Information is an important and key resource for every organization and is an essential input for all types of organizations. Libraries are organized information centers as they have limited resources with which they have to satisfy the information needs of the users. Hence, libraries have to build their collections and services to meet user's satisfaction, Tamrakar et.al. (2010). The library environment is rapidly changing from the conventional to the electronic environment. Academic libraries play a vital role in the success of the objectives of the any institution. Library is a store house of knowledge preserving and dissemination information providing different library services to the users. Therefore college libraries are essential required for the development of all activities education systems. The education systems comprises of two essential elements, which is books and teacher. The college libraries provide a valuable support to the students and teachers. At the time of any institutions is depended on good libraries. The main aim of on college libraries is to satisfy the user's needs. The education system is considered of two essential components, which is teacher and books. At the same time education institutions depended on good libraries.

The libraries can be a great instrument and source of information by making available a collection of books, magazines and audio-visual materials and facilitate reading, writing, story-telling, research; and even debate and drama. They also provide library and study skills on to find books and maximize their utility; tips on reading skills through interactive talks, video tapes and films' and promoting a variety of activities that could enhance love of reading and libraries.

Reading habits in relations to the library and mentions that the librarians' task is to find the right book for the right readers at the right time. A librarian must know his books, he must know his readers and he must know what effect will be reduced by bringing the two together. And student should develop their reading habits and librarian are to encourage them and enable students to develop their overall personality through reading material, reading courses, open shelf system, browsing rooms, organizing seminars, workshops, lectures exhibition displays etc.

The information has been the basic need of the society always but at no point of time, it has played such a crucial role as it is playing today. A rapid change world, information needs of learners and knowledge seekers have met plethora of sources. According to Dhanavandan, Mohamed Esmail and Sivaraj, (2009) "Information is considered as an important resource that contributes towards the development of a nation. It provides the core for the development of knowledge, the basis for innovations, the resources for informed citizenry, and as a result, becomes a key commodity for the progress of a society". Information is considered according to Margaret and Debbie as "a useful commodity for routine life. For any thing and every thing information is required". According to David Hawkrige, "the new information technology has enabled the library and information centers to change their mode of service from traditional to internet based services. Wilson (1999), "Information behaviour may be defined as the more common field of investigation, particularly concerned with the variety of methods people employ to discover". However, different scholars give different philosophies regarding that concept but our research gives us an idea that the most important one is the education system, which has great effect, and captures almost 70% of the mental ability to absorb the things that leads towards student's behaviour.

Role of Library in Education

Teaching is a co-operative enterprise. Teachers must have the necessary tools for teaching purposes in the shape of Librarians and laboratories. The library is the heart of an educational institution. Library plays a vital role in the Teaching, learning and research activities in the college. For this, it builds up collection in the form of print as well as non-print media and periodical access to online databases. The teachers are the main feeders of transmitting knowledge to the students. Library keeps the teachers updated regarding the progress and development taking place in their respective fields. It helps and promotes the research activities being carried out in the respective institution by providing pin pointed and relevant information.

The library performs a crucial role in the educational process. It expands and supplements circular learning. It widens the horizon. What is more important, the library even as it satisfies the quest for learning, spurs it to greater effort while passing on to the youthful generation the distilled wisdom of the human mind as it has evolved over the ages, the library sharpens the mind and clarifies concepts. It is the most durable bridge across time. The easiest way to assess the climate, temper and academic achievements of educational institutions is to visit its library and see how it is being maintained and utilized.

Concept of Information

What is information?' have, not surprisingly, occupied the thoughts of information scientists for a long time: almost certainly since before the term 'information science' was coined in 1955. Many dictionary definitions of the word. Indeed, information scientists appear to have been reluctant to propose definitions of information, preferring rather to discuss concepts: the

difference being, according to Belkin (1976) a definition 'says what the phenomenon defined is, whereas a concept is a way of looking at or interpreting the phenomenon'. In their recent paper, McCreddie and Rice (1999) review concepts of information proposed over the last fifty years. A summary of the concepts they consider is given below.

Information as a representation of knowledge: Information is stored knowledge. Traditionally the storage medium has been books, but increasingly electronic media are becoming important.

Information as data in the environment: Information can be obtained from a range of environmental stimuli and phenomena; not all of which are intended to 'convey' a message, but which can be informative when appropriately interpreted.

Information as part of the communication process: Meanings are in people rather than in words or data. Timing and social factors play a significant role in the processing and interpretation of information.

Information as a resource or commodity: Information is transmitted in a message from sender to receiver. The receiver interprets the message as intended by the sender. There may be added value as the information is disseminated or exchanged.

Information is recognized as a vital sources and the basic need, for the progress of humanity and the development of a nation, as a whole. It means that every piece of information should be extracted from wherever it is available and provided to the users at the right time, in the right proportion, without delay of time. Only then, can that piece of information be put to its maximum use.

Today, with technology advances and more and more awareness for the need of progress and development, the government is taking a lot of interest in promoting research work and projects. All these activities revolve around information." Information is everywhere. We have to categories it organize it and at the same time let the users know about which source contains what information. Only, when the research scholars know about the contents and whereabouts of information can they use it ease, without having someone to assist them. Now-a-days, subjects are multi-disciplinary in nature because of which, they have become complex. Simultaneously, with the growth in literature there are a number of sources that let us know of the earlier as well as latest developments in a subject. As a result of this growth, the problems of literature explosion have been felt. This tremendous expansion of literature is difficult to be handled or consulted. To make this process easier, attempts have been made to categories to documents, containing information.

Library Sources

The information plays vital role in this digital environment. This has become because of the technological advancements and changing information needs of the users. Technology has dominated all spheres of human activity and the libraries are not and exception one. The new storage media have appeared after the invention of storage devices like microforms, magnetic tapes, compact discs etc. have found their places in modern libraries and are playing vital role in storage and dissemination of information. Since the mid-eighties, development in computer technology has established a new platform for the use of information technologies for libraries and information centers. These developments includes spreading of high performance and cost effective computers, local area networks, high bandwidth of internet of

internet, digitization of printed information, and high-density storage and distribution media such as CD-ROM's/DVDs. Due to development in technological advancements, sources like electronic journals, e-books, e-databases, pre-prints, numerical and graphical data, library catalogue, educational materials, patents, standards, and so on are available on the Web. Apart from providing lot of information, the web also provides lots of information services like table of content page, electronic document delivery reference service over the web, database access, indexing and abstracting, referral service, bibliographic search and so on. The availability of information in the electronic media has created an opportunity for global access to information.

E- Resources:

Resources are nothing but digital collection meant to provide solution to regular and control the fast rating information explosion in then the recent year. More ever electronic recourses consist of materials that are computer controlled including materials that requires the use of a peripheral attached to computer. and resources are those resources, which is stored electronically and that can be accessible through electronic system and networks there are several types of electronic resources available and these e-resources consists of wide varieties of materials includes information in any electronic form such as CD-ROM, online, data bases, e-Journals e-books, ETD, OPAC, internet resources and any type of digital resources.

N-LIST Programme for colleges

N-LIST is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resources Development, funded by the University Grants Commission. The main aim of this Programme is to subscribe and provide access to selected e-resources to Universities and colleges through the two consortia namely UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium and to act as a Monitoring Agency for colleges. This Programme provides cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and UGC INFONET resources for technical institutions; and access to selected e-resources to colleges. From the year 2014, N-LIST Programme is included under UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium as a college component. The colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing) in India are eligible to get access to the e-resources under the Programme. The programme is meant to extend the availability and access of e-resources to the students, researchers and faculty of colleges and other beneficiary institutions across the country through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. It also provides Internet bandwidth, a prerequisite for delivery of scholarly content subscribed through the Consortium. The authorized users from colleges can access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre.

Conclusion:

College library serves as an invaluable aid in the conservation of knowledge and ideas by acquiring and processing reading materials. It plays a vital role in the teaching programmes through direct assistance to the faculty members and students. The user community of college library consists of mainly graduate, postgraduate and faculty members. Among them students use of the library is crucial to their academic work and also students consult the various categories of reading materials to acquire more knowledge. Generally the student community

is larger in size compared to other user communities of college library. The students require information for preparing course which they are studying, preparing for competitive examinations and to develop communication and soft skills. College libraries are providing various kinds of information sources and services by spending of these sources and service provided by these libraries.

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