A STUDY OF IMPACT OF ICT ON LIBRARY USERS AND LIBRARY SERVICES

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of ICT is one of the wonderful gifts of modern science and technology which has brought great changes in the history of Library and information science. Application of ICT to library and information work hand-in-hand. It has revolutionized the traditional concept of Libraries from a store house of books to an intellectual information centre. It has opened up a new chapter in Library communication and encouraged global access to information crossing the geographical limitations. Using ICT, Libraries are also playing a very important role in facilitating access to global information and knowledge resources. As now the power of information technology has been realized and widely accepted. The experts say that the positive changes and impacts of information technology would be visualized across the globe out there are some negative trends too. As this era has witnessed the fast development of tools and techniques of information and some may fear that human would also be come like a machine. But here we have to remember that our aim is not in the next millennium to have human in service of machine and information in stand we would like to have the components of machine and information in the service of human being.

I. INTRODUCTION

The discovery of computers and the subsequent development of information technology is one of the most significant achievements of the present country. The role of this new technology as an instrument of progress and development is also now widely recognized all over the world. There is no doubt that usage of information technology will lead to major social and economic benefits of mankind and will have an important bearing on the life style of the society at large.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) as tools: - This explosive effort on educational and excellence in the professional course raise the problem now do we tackle so many numbers. How do we tackle so many numbers? How do we ensure that the instruction and lecturers are of excellence and in abundance? It is here that the information and communication technologies (ICTs) come in to profoundly and promote the efforts required for spread of education and for attainment of excellence in teaching and learning to global standard.

First is the extension of the internet to all cities, towns and villages to contact all schools, colleges and libraries, primary health center institutions engaged in development. The for most is the necessity for a high speed broadband, digital information infrastructure based on optical fiber cables capable of using ultra dense wave division multiplexing (UP-WDM) so that we can have limitless band width and therefore in expensive for users. If the transport of information is not in expensive, then the mass use of ICTs for development can be forgotten.

ICT incorporates a range of technologies used to support communication and information. ICT includes both networks as well as applications. A holistic understanding of ICT necessarily includes consideration of telecommunication policy, information policy and human development resources policies by implication. ICTs are the technologies that enable the handling of information and facilitate different forms of communications. These include capturing technologies, storage technologies, processing technologies and communication technologies. Hence, ICT can be defined as use and application of computers, telecommunication and micro-electronics in the acquisition, storage, retrieval, transfer and dissemination of information.

Since, 1960s Libraries worldwide have been using technology in general and in computers. Every face of Library work in academic, school, public and in special Libraries are being transform as a result of technological advances. The World Wide Web became a significant vehicle for distributing information. Internal brought a tremendous change in Libraries as 1990s saw the rapidly increasing availability of access to computers.

Libraries in India have struggled with many problems but recent govt. Support for research has provided a golden opportunity for the development of Library services and increased access to information for the users. Information Library Network has played a major role in bringing the ICT culture and establishing ICT infrastructure.

II. NEED OF ICT IN LIBRARIES

The subject 'library and information science' is presently in a state of transition. The traditional boundaries of the present tree, the library science has

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been greatly eroded by branding out and spreading on to various new mathematics/statistics, information and communication science etc. Further, it has been identified in the present time as library and information science (LIS). It is currently either adopting or imbibing the advantages of the modern information technologies (IT) in order to effectively store, process retrieve or access information/data/documents. New techniques, new equipment, novel media are in use in LIS for the provision of effective information services tolls users.

There is need of ICT in libraries. A number of factors have contributed to bring a change from traditional to ICT based library operations. Basically ICT is needed in libraries for some reasons.

1. All sorts of housekeeping jobs and information works can be performed manually with less effective and less accuracy due to information explosion.
2. Library operations could take many hours to perform manually due to potential growth of information.
3. Libraries cannot think of getting additional space every year. So, the size of recorded information is ever growing whereas space available at the disposal of each library is linked.

Since, the 1950, use of ICT in libraries has basically gone through three stages.

1. Access to resources is provided outside the library.
2. Efficiency of internal operations is improved.
3. Access to local library resources is improved.

ICT is used in various fields of library activity. Some of the area where new technologies can perfectly be used are acquisition, serial management, cataloguing, circulation, Audio-Visual management, information storages and information services.

III. ICT LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE USERS

Some Library users are adopting electronic habits, making increasing use of the ICT including computers, the internet, the web and other technologies. Library users are placing new demands on their libraries. They require access to the latest information update information resources and access to ICT facilities that they could use in their work. Use of ICT in Libraries enhances user satisfaction. Library users are taking many benefits. Which are given following.

1. Speedy and easy access information.
2. Access to unlimited information from different sources.
3. Electronic document delivery.
4. Web access to OPAC.
5. Network information Resources.
6. Online reader's advisory services.

ICT based libraries are also survives and make true the rules of Library and Information Science which are given by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan. Every reader his/her books, Save the time of the readers & Library is a growing Organism.

IV. IMPACT OF ICT ON LIBRARY SERVICES AND ITS USERS

The past two decades have seen great changes in libraries due to information technology. So, the computer has brought in a new impact to the Library and information uses in Libraries. Modern ICT is impacting on various aspects of library services and its users. Advancement in ICT and the wide spread use of ICT is resulting in digital information sources and digital media replacing and becoming the dominant form of information storage and retrieval. The term Library no longer refer only to physical building located in a specific location but also to electronic libraries. Library collection consist not only physical information resources. Such as books, periodicals, videos, films and more stored in physical library buildings. Libraries are becoming one of the many information systems available to information and users. The advancement of technology has made significant impact on the growth of knowledge and unlocking of human potential. The impact is clearly visible on information resources, services and users in library. Now, libraries are changing the way in which information is stored and disseminated to users.

Another impact is information sources and services being provided by libraries to their users need to adapt to the electronics information environment being experienced by most information. In addition to the traditional library and information management skill and expertise, more so, in the use of modern information communication technologies are automated information services.

The use of ICT in libraries has raised a number of challenges.

1. More and more library users are using digital technologies and have to global information resources via the web.
2. Use of ICTs in libraries has not made the situation any better. Money is required to maintain the upgrade the equipment and software, pay software, license fee, pay for access to e-journal and online databases and pay for the internet connection.
3. Digital information resources can be copied and manipulated under pressure from information procedure. Copyright law in which the right holders are increased at the expense of users and this may affect the provision of access to digital information in libraries.

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V.   CONCLUSION

In my opinion, today computers are related to technologies. It has brought revolutionary changes in the whole world of information. Perhaps, this is the most exciting period in the history of Human race, when World's most population is shifting from techno-illiterate to techno-literate. The society is undergoing a kind of transformation. We find that information and communication Technology has affected almost every part of our life. This revolutionary change is also true in the case of libraries and information centers. Today, Library and information centre cannot function without computer and information Technology. In the modern world the library and information professions have been changed and adopted itself to the development of ICT based library. These technologies have required the do-or-die prominence. Those who go with the advance will survive and other will become obsolete. A well equipped library with the facilities of modern information technologies could satisfy the maximum numbers of library users, who have kept the demand of the present technology. So, the libraries are using information technology to automate a wide range of technical process, build data bases, network and provide better services to their users.

As now the power of information technology has been realized and widely accepted. The experts say that the positive changes and impacts of information technology would be visualized across the globe out there are some negative trends too. As this era has witnessed the fast development of tools and techniques of information and some may fear that human would also be come like a machine. But here we have to remember that our aim is not in the next millennium to have human in service of machine and information in stand. We would like to have the components of machine and information in the service of human being.

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