



REVIEW ARTICLE

ROLE OF ICT ON ACADEMIC LIBRARIES : AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

In the past libraries were regarded as store, houses of books they were not for use. Information is indispensable for any human activity aiming at social progress. ICT has developed to such a stage that it has given access. To information at fingertips. Developments in ICT have made significant impact on all spheres of human life. ICT libraries are also playing a very important role in facilitating access to global information and knowledge resources.

INTRODUCTION

The Term information technology is sometimes said to have coined by Jim domsic of Michigan in November 1981. Information is dynamic and unending resource that affects all disciplines and all walks of life. ICT has revolutionaries the field of library and information services. ICT has developed to such a stage that it has given access to information at fingertips. Developments in ICT have made significant impact on all spheres of human life. The impact has been rather prominent in case of service activities such as banking, health, transportation, education and libraries. The shift form print to digital information has high impact on all components of the academic library system in India especially the users service and staff. There are not much studies conducted about the effects of information communication technologies on the professional activities of library professionals in the universities library. It is important to evaluate whether progress in ICT has had any impact on the library profession in these highest educational institute. Using ICT libraries are also playing a very important role in facilitating access to global information and knowledge resources. In a academic environment, libraries act as facilitators to provide right information to the user at the right time.

Objective of ICT

ICT tools and now they are in a position to provide better services to the students, Researchers, teachers and other users

community effectively. Briefly, the objectives of the study are summarized as follows:

- To evaluate the professional development activities of Library professionals in the Universities libraries.
- To study whether ICT has influenced professional development.
- To study the attitudes of library professionals towards continuing education programmes.
- To study whether ICT has influenced the educational and information needs of library professionals
- To study whether library science education has helped to attain necessary skills for library professionals.
- To suggest topics to be included in library science curriculum

Components of ICT

- Fax
- TV
- Mobile
- WWW
- Telephone
- LAN
- Radio

Limitation of ICT

Impact of ICT made various problems in online publishing. In case of e-journals and online databases, the library loses its

access after stopping the subscription. The publishers do not give access to the issues which were subscribed. Librarians were requested to identify the problems faced in implementing ICT based services in the University Libraries and it is represented in the Majority of the Librarians suggested that inadequate staff trained in ICT application is the main problem in ICT application. Though all library professionals are well qualified, a basic knowledge of ICT applications is essential to provide services in the present day environment. Second valid reason was lack of sufficient funds. Third important problem suggested was lack of support from authorities. Lack of initiative on the part of library staff was cited by a librarian as another problem for ICT application. Lack of ICT knowledge on the part of users and lack of standard library management software were also pointed out as a barrier in ICT application. From the survey, it is clear that the hardware and software facilities available in University Libraries are not satisfactory.

ICT sources

The library professionals were asked to indicate their preference for different information sources to support their educational and information needs. It is clear that there is an inclination towards use of internet sources to satisfy the information requirements of the professionals. Some ICT Sources in following:

- Current Awareness Service (CAS)
- Internet Connectivity
- Online Journals

Services of ICT Libraries

The type of services that are generally needed for resources sharing purpose would be fore:

- Inter-library loan
- Acquisitio

- Cataloguing
- Personnel
- Information Services
- Development of special collection
- Cooperative storage etc.

Conclusion

Even though librarians are facing challenges for new and emerging skills, the most important aspect of this change is to be able to adapt the existing skills, many of which are traditional librarianship skills and the ability to remain flexible in a working environment that is constantly changing. The rapidly changing environment of academic libraries needs attention of the authorities that manage LIS education in the country. Information technology competencies demanded by most of the institutions require particular emphasis in our LIS curriculum. Library must also understand the risk and challenges of ICT sourcing.

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