The Role of ICT in Rural area Libraries

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Abstract- From day to day the information technology is changing and growing at speedily, knowledge of peoples is becoming more complex, competitive and depending on technological changes. The need of e-information to the users are also growing and becoming very essential. Fast-paced change in technology especially the origin of ICT & social modifications forced to updating the traditional libraries is necessary for twenty-first century. Libraries play the vital role in making max use of ICT for the benefits of users efficiently and effectively. The primary objective of this paper is to awareness of ICT in the library by the students, faculty of rural area.

Keywords: ICT, E-content; Digital resources; E-books; Audios and Videos.

I. Introduction

Traditional Libraries, whether they be public libraries or academic libraries suffer due to the inherent limitations of learning resources in printed form. Starting from the book procurement from a distantly located bookseller to storage, to provision of adequate copies to the users to shelving, - books in physical format pose many challenges. However, the revolution in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) post-1990 has forced the traditional libraries to rethink about the nature of acquisition and circulation of learning resources to the library users. The purpose document of National Mission on Education Through Information and Communication Technology of Government of India laments that 'for most of the students and learners, the library culture has gone missing either because of insufficient library facilities or because of a paucity of time with the students or due to the procedural hassles and availability of fewer copies of books to be issued or non-issuance of reference books'. Resources in digital format offer a one-stop solution for most of the, if not, all these maladies of a conventional library. All these points underscore the need for the traditional academic libraries to transform themselves into hybrid libraries with a right blend of printed books and digital resources.

Education at all levels primary, secondary, and higher education has been challenged to develop digital resources for the enhancement of teaching and learning. Multimedia resources facilitate Teaching and learning. Those sources can provide motivation and interest in the study for students.

II. Objectives

The purpose of this paper is to impart in-depth knowledge on the use of information and communication technology in libraries as well as to develop students to work in a fully automated library that subscribes to resources in print as well as in electronic format or to set-up a modern library on their own.

III. Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Within a short time, ICT has become one of the primary building blocks of a modern society. The term ICT is now also used for the confluence of audio-visual and telephone networks with computer networks through an individual cabling or link system.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) is a phrase used to describe a range of equipment like hardware: Scanners, personal computers, and digital cameras, and computer programs like software: database programs & multimedia programs, & the telecommunications infrastructures like phones, faxes, modems, video conferencing tools and web cameras that allow us to store, organize, access, retrieve, manipulate, present, send material and communicate locally, nationally & globally through digital media.

ICT is being frequently used in the library for the acquisition, processing of information. ICT is broadly recognized as essential resources for socio-economic development.ICT facilitate the process of identification, storing, collection, disseminating and processing of the information. The library and information science professionals are using ICT to keep

pace with the problem of information explosion. The benefit of instant access to digital information is the most distinguishing attribute of the information age. In traditional libraries ICT transformed, current library into digital and virtual, printed documents into electronic documents, card catalogs into OPACs, register system into barcode system, closed access to open access, manuscripts into digitized documents, reduced efforts of handling volumes and workforce utilization for check in, check out, etc.

IV. ICT Services at Libraries

In every sector, technology is growing up. In libraries, the development and availability of ICT have increased and widened the influence of information resources, but also laid more emphasis on effective and efficient services.

The following are ICT services in libraries:
1. Automated library services
2. Internet
3. In-house databases
4. CD-ROM databases
5. Subscribed databases
6. Library network links
7. Multi-media facilities

V. ICT Facilities in Libraries

1. Meets the requirements of the students to be smart consumers of managers of information, media and active producers of their ideas using the powerful multimedia means of a global media society.
2. Retains students: bringing the world of media into the classroom combines learning with "real life" and authorizes their media culture as a rich environment for learning.
3. Provides students and teachers alike a common approach to critical thinking that, when internalized, becomes second nature to life.
4. Provides an opportunity for combining all subject areas and creating a common vocabulary that applies to all disciplines.
5. Increases the ability and skill of students to communicate (express) and distribute their thoughts and ideas in a large-scale (and expanding) range of print and electronic media forms - and even international venues.
6. Learners gain the ability to analyze any message in any media by concentrating on process skills instead of on content knowledge and thus are enabled for living all their lives in a media-saturated culture.
7. Not only benefits single students but benefits society by supplying methods and tools that promote polite discourse that tends to mutual understanding and builds the citizenship skills needed to participate in and contribute to the public debate.
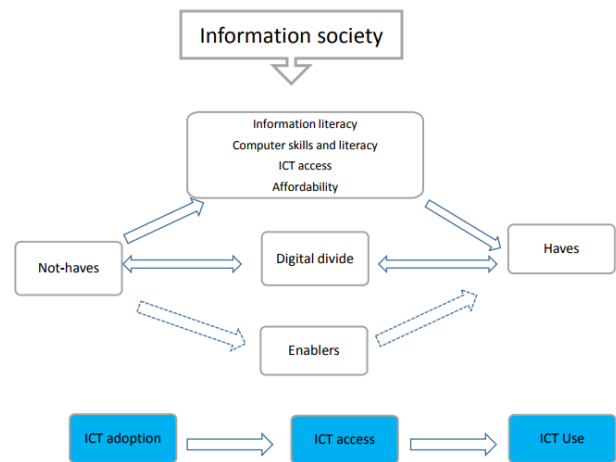
VI. Conceptual Framework of ICT in Libraries

Fig.1

VII. Application of ICT in libraries

Information Technology is very helpful for libraries in creating databases of their owned and meeting them available to users through networks. It also enables libraries to give effective and efficient services. Most of the library operations like book acquisition, circulation, office management, information services, etc. are interrelated, interdependent and together supportive for the overall administration of the library. The modern technologies, i.e., Information Technology gadgets which are convergent and highly relevant for application in current library and information system can be grouped into four areas, as follows:
1. Computer Technology.
2. Communication Technology
3. Reprographic Technology
4. Printing Technology

VIII.   Impact of ICT on Libraries

With the discovery of Information and Communication Technology, libraries now use different types of technologies to assist the services they provide. Every day new technological advances influence the way information is handled in libraries and information centers. The consequences of new technologies are considered by libraries in every aspect. Communication technology, computing technology, and bulk storage technology are some of the areas of continuous development that reshape the way that libraries store, manipulate access, retrieve and disseminate information to users. The academic library has been from its inception an integral part of institutions of higher learning, rather than an appendix or adjunct.

Presently ICT has an impact on several levels of libraries. Improvement in ICT and the ample use of ICT results in electronic information sources and digital media collections and archives becoming the best form of knowledge storage and retrieval. ICT also sustains and causes new roles for librarians. ICT, with its vital knowledge sources and mere approach, ensures the benefits that users will demand. It also increases and elucidates the librarian's demand for library development. It is the preeminent source for information centers.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has caused unusual changes and transformation to academic library and information services, conventional LIS such as bibliographic services, OPAC, users services, reference services, current awareness services, Document delivery, interlibrary loan, Audiovisual services and customer relations can be provided more efficiently and efficiently using ICT, as they give suitable time, place, cost-effectiveness, faster and most up-to-date propagation and end users reflection in the library and information services process.

IX. Emerging ICT Technologies for Library Services

Global-level information retrieval is fast and in recent years, increasingly more user-friendly for library end users. The following ICT technologies have been used by many of the rural area libraries: ‹

Approach by touch –

- Disseminate library services. ‹
- Cellular Technology ‹
- IOS Technology ‹
- Smart card Technology ‹
- Talking Computer Library – Robot ‹
- Social Networking ‹
- RFID and Smartcard ‹
- CDROM Searching ‹
- Online Networking ‹
- Photostat ‹
- Online Information services ‹
- News Clipping Scanning Services ‹
- Online –Reservation Services ‹
- Database Searching Services ‹
- Audio Visual Services ‹
- Internet Access ‹
- E-Journals ‹
- E-Books ‹
- E-Lists ‹
- Barcode technology ‹
- Printing Technology ‹

X. Conclusion

Changing the reading habits of the students from conventional methods and habituating the reading of digital content is the immediate challenge in front of academic libraries, especially in case of rurally located ones in the developing countries. ICT has transformed almost every sector of our life. This revolutionary change is also true in case of libraries. In the modern world, rular area libraries have been changed and adapted itself to the development of ICT.

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