



IMPACT OF ICT ON LIBRARIES

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ABSTRACT

This paper traces the impact of information communication technology (ICT) on libraries. It elaborates new technology and trends arising in libraries. Libraries have always been about sharing knowledge, culture and skills. These technologies based new services are just one way of engaging with users' and providing them with best services to help them and make their lives easier. Library professionals can create a new roadmap by learning new skills and competencies. They should always be willing to embrace the changes that confront them. Libraries should make consistent efforts to fit in twenty-first century librarianship.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries are universally recognized as important social institutions and no community is considered complete without a library system. However, libraries are facing change due to impact of ICT, changing users' needs, changing information environment. There is a transformation in the need of library users' and due to ICT; there is a change in the resources, services and products of the libraries. Every institution is now trying to compete in the national and international rankings and with the changed roles and services; the libraries and librarians are playing key role.

The term ICT- Information and Communication Technology had been used by academic researchers since the 1950s. ICT has induced traditional libraries to transform into digital libraries. The libraries have transformed from close-access libraries of earlier times to the present day hybrid, digital, and virtual libraries. Librarians have been changed from mere storekeepers to that of information officers who encourages use in the vast ocean of reading or information material. With the use of ICT, libraries provide quicker and user oriented



services. Librarians are busy satisfying their users who want information anytime, any format and anywhere.

Concept, meaning and definition of ICT

According to Indian Library Glossary, "ICT is the application of the computers and other technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information. Libraries are expected to use ICT to provide information more quickly. The fourth law of library and information science "Save the time of reader/staff" has great relevance in the context of use of ICT. Considering the increased impact of ICT on libraries, UGC, AICTE, NAAC, and NBA also developed the norms for the use of ICT in the institute, college or university libraries. In the traditional libraries, users have to spend more time searching a small piece of information and for that have to depend mainly on the library staff. But in the age of ICT, the Internet and computers are being used for day-to-day housekeeping activity of the library which saves the time of the end users and library professionals also and at the same time avoid duplication of work and make the library service smooth and effective. Ayodele (2002) defined ICT as electronic-based technology generally used to retrieve store, process and package information as well as provide access to knowledge. The digital revolution driven by ICT's innovation has transformed libraries completely. Development in the software has generated powerful knowledge management software which has transformed the way; knowledge is organized, stored, accessed and retrieved.

Advantages of ICT to Library

1. ICT has provided new media, modes of storing and communicating information.
2. ICT provided many services to library to speed up their activities.
3. It helps to remove barrier of communication, distance and time. The advances in technology will continue to improve the effectiveness of libraries. Help to transfer data to communication network like the Internet anywhere. It provides enormous search speed and facilities. It helps to strengthen communication and collaboration among research, government and educational institutions.
4. The worldwide librarians made their catalogues available online which have online public access catalogues (OPAC) generally available free of cost. These are useful for finding books for acquisition, bibliography, data verification and to search holdings of periodicals and monographs.
5. The available information present in the libraries can be fed to home page and made available to users anywhere. Jain, P. B. (2010).



Impact of ICT on Library

ICT has affected and impacted the library services in many ways.

- Collection Development
- Circulation
- OPAC
- Reference and Information Services
- Resource sharing
- E-Journals
- Periodical Control
- CAS/SDI Services
- Referral Service
- RFID Service
- E-Database Service
- E-Book Service
- User Education Service
- In-House Personal Training

Libraries which were considered only as the storehouses of knowledge have got a new outlook in this modern era. The activities which were carried out manually in libraries with so much pain and strain are being carried out smoothly with the help of ICT effectively. Library organization, administration and other technical processing have become easier and more quantum of work can be done.

CONCLUSION

The impact of ICT is affecting all the aspects of library operations, information resources and services, staff skills requirements and users' expectations. ICT provides a wide variety of technology that has changed the duties, responsibility, and functions of the library professionals. The changing environment forces the librarian to become ICT skilled, dynamic, ready to accept the changes and challenges and outfit the requirements of library users, because, without change, library could not be survived. In the age of technology, users have multiple sources of information such as the Internet, commercial and non-commercial information service providers. As a result, the library is not the only source of information provided for readers. Libraries are adapting to fit with a world that is increasingly digital and although we can explore trends, there is no guarantee as to how this will evolve. In coming years, we could see libraries with completely paperless reading areas, touchscreen information portals and robotic assistants as guides. The real innovations remain to be seen.



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