

## USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BETTER MENT OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY SERVICES

**Dr. Gajanan Rode**

Librarian, Mahatma Phule Arts and Science College Patur, Dist. Akola

### ABSTRACT

*Information technology has become essential for survival and growth in the knowledge society and for the advancement in the library and information. Information technology changes the path of libraries in digital era. Each and every library service may be provided with the help of information technology. IT is a key factor to change the library services. It helps to fulfill needs of library users.*

**Keywords:** *Information Technology, Library, Library Services, Collection Development*

### Introduction

Information Technology is increasingly becoming a source of inspiration and hope for higher institutions of learning that are grappling with the increasing numbers of enrolled. There is an urgent need to improve the access, processing and dissemination of available information. Information Technology can change knowledge and the way it is accessed. It is often believed that the use of IT is gender neutral and even offers more opportunities to the female, than before. Information Technology has brought radical changes in every possible field of life including libraries. The world has seen automation and digitization of libraries as some of the inevitable changes that took place in recent years. Global changes particularly in ICT have had a tremendous impact on the functioning of college Libraries affecting all aspects of library operations, information resources and services and staff skill requirements. The developments in ICT have changed the users expectations from the college Libraries in different ways. Many functions of any library are to collect organized and disseminate information to its users efficiently and effectively. Libraries and information centers are the places where the problem of information management is alarming. To cope up with this problem the computer technology is very essential in the

libraries. The traditional ways of the library information dissemination have going dynamic changes with the advent of computerization and the patterns of accessibility. In 21st century internet and IT applications to libraries will convert present libraries to digital and virtual libraries.

### Definition of Information Technology

Information technology is electronic technology used for collection storage, processing, dissemination and use of information by computer system and telecommunication system. According to ILA Glossary "information technology is the application of the computers and other technologies to the acquisition organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information." According to UNESCO information technology as "scientific, technological and engineering disciplines and the management techniques used in information handling and processing information their application, computers and their interaction with man and machine and associated social, economic and cultural matters."

### Need of Information Technology in Libraries

The basic motto of the academic library is to provide the right information to the right user at the right time. In a conventional library, search and retrieval is easy because the collection is maintained in an organized way. With the rising cost of print based information and limited library budgets, conventional libraries are not able to satisfy the entire needs of the users; the need of information technology are as follows;

- Advantages like speed, accuracy and reliability in the process of information due to introduction of information technology.
- Increasing prices of the books, journals etc.
- Literature in almost all the fields is increasing tremendously in multidimensional way. It is posing a major problem to have bibliographic control on the basis of manual operations. This is only possible through computer technology.
- Needs of the users are also changed, to cater the needs of the user's storage capacities of information as well as retrieval techniques should be applied to supply them with modern information.
- To cope with increasing demands
- To improve existing services
- To provide the right information available to the right user at the time, in the right form at the right cost, in the right place, to take the right action
- Vast publication of the literature

### **Areas of Information Technology relevant to Libraries**

The advent of information technology has resulted in reducing the size of libraries. In fact, these small modern academic libraries have rich potential of information. It has been possible due to the digitization of information. The digital and electronic information is based on digitized data/information, which has gradually replaced paper-based records. As the

visual information system in comparison to text-based information system is getting more and more popular these days, the traditional libraries are becoming hybrid libraries as they are in the process of doing digitization of their documents and moving towards to become digital libraries. Internet has become an unavoidable requirement for every educational institution of higher learning.

The areas of information technology relevant to libraries may be;

#### **Library technologies**

Classification  
Cataloguing/indexing  
Database  
Creation  
Current awareness service  
Selective dissemination of information

#### **Computer technologies**

Database  
Organization and management  
Library management

#### **Communication technologies**

Library networks  
Information networks

#### **Reprographic technologies**

Photography  
Microfilms  
Optical/digital  
Audio/video

#### **Technical communication technologies**

Technical writing, Editing, Publishing

### **Impact of Information Technology on Libraries**

The impact of information technology on libraries has given below;

#### **Collection Development**

Changes the concept to accessibility  
 Numerous documents are accessible on internet.  
 Helpful for financially starved library  
 Application of consortia approach for collection development.

### Acquisition

Simple and speedy acquisition of information sources, and documents like books, journals and electronic publications.  
 Purchase of books, journals from publisher's catalogue published on their website on internet.  
 Links available through internet.  
 Association of learned and professional society publisher.

### Cataloguing

Access bibliographical information from other institution.  
 OPAC is popular source of bibliographic information.  
 Databases of bibliographic comprehensive source of information.

### Classification

Affects traditional classification system.  
 Cyber Dewey classification to organize and navigate resources on the www.  
 Generation of readymade class number.

### Circulation

New books arrival on OPAC can be circulated to users within time as they demand.  
 User can access E-journal from their department or offices without taking pain of visiting library.  
 Access of bibliographical database via OPAC from libraries of other institution worldwide

### Information/ Reference Service

Current awareness service (CAS)  
 Selection dissemination services (SDI)  
 Information services at minimum cost and time.  
 Availability of reference sources like Encyclopedia, dictionary, bibliographic index, abstract, maps helps better reference service.

### Resource Sharing

It creates cooperative network.  
 Growth in cost of material creates resource sharing.  
 All networked libraries can share resources available on internet.  
 Formation of Inter library loan system.

### Conclusion

Information technology offers tremendous opportunity to librarians, its duty of librarians to provide the right information to the right user at the right time.

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