

IMPACT OF ICT ON ACADEMIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN INDIA : AN OVERVIEW

Dr. Gajanan Rode

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

Introduction

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has transformed library services globally. The world is becoming global village. Various technology enabled platforms have changed the face of world by bringing people more closely than past days. So this is the need of the time to transform library services to satisfy the changing needs of the dynamic world. This can be made possible only through ICT. ICT has enabled to transform the library services in time and space.

Objectives of ICT

- To determine the usefulness of ICT resources in academic libraries,
- To determine the efficiency and effectiveness of ICT in Libraries.
- To provide skillful and knowledgeable staffs in the use of ICT resources.

Components of ICT

The ICT technologies as a diverse set of technological tools and resources use to communicate and create, disseminate, store, and manage information. ICTs encompass a range of rapidly evolving technologies and they include telecommunication technologies telephony, fax, cable, satellite, TV, radio, mobile phone, WWW, E mail, LAN, ISDN(integrated service digital network), computer-mediated conferencing, video conferencing as well as digital technologies computers, information networks internet, world wide web intranets, extranets and software applications.

- **Library management software's:-** Libraries utilize software's designed to manage different library routines and processes. Most of these software's are integrated and have modules for the different activities or tasks carried out in the library like cataloguing, statistics, acquisition processes, serials control etc.
- **Office Operations:** Word processing, accounting, database management and communication through e-mail are all enabled in the library through ICT.
- **Acquisition:-** In conventional library services acquisition was through phone calls or fax or manually. Also we were unable to check the availability of desired books or other material through conventional methods of communication. But nowadays web enabled inventory services of vendors/publishers made it

possible to look into availability of desired books. Also e-trading platform has made it possible to work the mechanisms of competitive pricing making library services more economically feasible and affordable.

- **Technical:** After acquisition we need to make proper entries of books with the help of ICT. Here software's play greater role The ICTs resources are greatly used newly added book and other material effectively in processing materials in the library services such as cataloguing and classification, indexing bibliographic checking, spine labeling etc.
- **OPAC:** This means Online Public Access Catalogue and is the computerized version of the library tool for locating materials in the library. The advantage of the OPAC over manual methods is ease of use and the fact that it saves space It provides access to the catalogues of a library on the local intranet, extranet or even the internet. Because of this service no individual need to come at library only for purpose to see the catalogue, she can access the same catalogue on her desktop in campus or even on internet.
- **New Addition Alert Service:** -Library has provides new additions alert service to the users including the staff. List of new additions in the library is compiled and E-mailed, Mobile SMS to user community regularly This service is the major impact of ICT in technical section.
- **Reminder alert services:** The material issued from any library to any user is for specific period. That material is needed to be returned to library on due date so that library can render same quality of service to all members or user community. So the reminder alert service through emails or mobile sms can work efficiently to remind the specific user about circulation period of borrowed material from library.
- **Circulation:** This component involves issuing and collecting back issued material from library. In conventional library system issue and collection of material was manual consuming enormous time and manpower. But ICT enabled services such as digital borrower card and bar coding and use of MICR scanners (magnetic ink character recognition) has made it possible to reduce time required and manpower needed by greater amount. It facilitated easy and fast

processing of books and helped in increasing circulation frequency of books

- **E-reference services:** In the reference section some services such as SDI (Selective dissemination of information) or Current Awareness Services (CAS) and virtual reference desks, announcements of new acquisitions and other reader advisory services can be provided made easier Telephone, Fax and E mail through the internet.
- **Networking:** Library users can access information of various types such as online databases, e-journals, e books, government publications digitally through networked systems. Access may be allowed online remotely through the internet or intranets.
- **Electronic Document Delivery:** Libraries may not rely anymore on postal services to send documents to users or carry out interlibrary lending. Libraries send documents through electronic networks that can deliver documents in various formats.g. PDF straight to users desktops.
- **Online user education or tutorials:** Libraries can use the internet or CD-ROMS to educate their users or carry out information literacy programmes. Virtual tours can be offered online making user education more convenient for all.
- **Library cooperation and resource sharing (inter library loans):** A central union catalogue can be better managed through ICT, thus libraries can create and share bibliographic records and other information resources in digital format.
- **Institutional Repositories:** Institutional repositories are publications that originate locally from within the university community such as theses, dissertations, reports, conference papers and seminar papers. ICT has made it possible not only to provide better access to these resources but also to ensure the preservation of the resources.
- **Social Media Networks:** Social media networks like twitter, face book and LinkedIn, are some interactive internet services that are presently serving as communication forum for librarians and their users. These networks can be deployed for educational uses. Discussion groups, list serves and communities also assist library services.
- **Library websites:** A medium of communication for libraries to their users. It is also used to promote the library and publicize it.
- **Online searching:** Searching of online databases, browsing and surfing the internet

through search engines, Meta search engines and subject directories to supplement library sources.

Impact of ICT on LIS Education

New technology has made librarians network specialists, information mediators, and system designers. If librarians are to be the first to use new technology, they must have the skills and knowledge. Those can be acquired formally or informally. LIS programs must help develop skills such as communication, interpersonal relationships, research, specialized subject knowledge, analytical ability, updated IT skills, and flexibility.

Conclusion

ICT is imperative for new world. It has transformed the face of library services. Library services now can reach not only to institutional learners or user community but also to distant remote users who cannot visit libraries on regular basis. It has reduced huge and enormous manpower to limited and skillful operators and other employees reducing library management cost. It helped to deliver standard service to all groups of people by making it more affordable. ICT is providing user friendly environment helping in inculcating strong library culture globally.

References

1. Chandrakar, Rajesh (2006). Electronic publishing model for Indian academic journals. Presented at International Conference on Digital Libraries, TERL, New Delhi, 5th-8th December 2006.
2. <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/ebrahimi.htm>
<https://futorialib.wordpress.com/2013/01/13/use-of-information-and-communication-technology-ict-in-the-library-library-automation/>
3. Mastroddi, Franco (1987). Electronic Publishing. The new way to communicate, Kogan Page, 338-352
4. Ramana, Venkata (2004). Information Technology Applications in Libraries. New Delhi: Ess Ess Publication.
5. Singh, Brijnath (1991). Information Technology and Developmental Communication. New Delhi: Today and Tomorrow Printers and Publishers.
6. Talab, Seyed Mohammad Ghaemi and Tajafari, Masoumeh (2012). Impact of information and communication technology (ICT) on library staff training: A comparative study. Annals of Library and Information Studies, 59, 7-15.