Advantage of ICT for Smart Librarianship

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Abstracts:
Rapidly developing ICT are creating new opportunities and challenges for traditional librarianship, it changes the library into digital and virtual with global approach. ICT has become the first need for the smart librarianship. Change is the only constant and should be accepted by the librarians so as to provide quality services, round the clock to endless users by breaking the boundaries of libraries.

1. Introduction

Change is the law of nature, one who accepts the challenges of change, always proceeds on the road of success to spend smart life. Development in ICT has made a significant impact in all spheres of human life. ICT has transferred the whole world into the global village. Today ICT is the vital component of information access, information dissemination and information communication across the globe. For the libraries, ICT has tremendously changed the management of resources, housekeeping operations as well as the way services are delivered. ICT has enabled users to avail many services without any human interventions. Today librarians have to accept the challenge of change and to serve as information supreme of the fast changing Hi-Tech society.

2. Information & Communication Technology

Information Communication Technology is a common term referring to the technologies used for collecting, storing, editing and communicating information in various formats.

ICT means use of computer based technology and the Internet to make information and communication services available in a wide range of users.

ICT also refers to the merging of the telephone network with computer networks through a single cabling or linking system.

ICT is a Hardware and Software that enable society to create, collect, consolidated and communicate information in multimedia format and for various purposes.

ICT includes a range of technologies, including telephones and emerging technology devices. Central to these is the Internet, which provides the mechanism for transporting data in a number of formats including text, images, sound and videos.

The term ICT includes any communication device or application, encompassing, radio, TV, cellular phones, computers and network, hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as the various services and application associated with them.

ICT is often used as a synonym for Information Technology (IT), but it slightly differs as it usually stresses the role of telecommunications in modern e-society. It covers all these technologies used for handling information and also the communication media like telephone, broadcast media and all audio / video devices used in processing and dissemination of information.

ICT is playing a vital role in the current and future development of society and nation. ICT has affected all spheres of life and also the library.

3. Library & ICT

Libraries are a vital part of a learning society, devoted towards intellectual up-liftment of every individual through continuous, informal and lifelong education, thereby developing them as ideal citizens with disciplined minds, high intellect, moral caliber, and democratic attitude.

The internet has revolutionized the concept of the library from the boundariesto borderless, storage to access, traditional to global, paper based to paperless and from physical to virtual library. Modern libraries perform user specific functions in the context of automation, computerization, instant retrieval, prompt dissemination and online feedback. ICT has become the essential part of modern libraries in order to keep up with the current information needs.

4. ICT Enables Library
- To capture, store, manipulate and distribute information.
- To introduce and provide-new services, revitalize the existing services by providing faster access to the resources, by overcoming the space and time barriers.
- To provide need-based (tailor made), browsing and retrospective search services to the users.
- To utilize the staff for providing better information services.
- To develop/upgrade the abilities of professionals;
- To encourage networking and resource sharing at the local level.
- To digitize the documents-for preservation and for space saving.
- To support library housekeeping operations.
- To access library catalogue, databases of other libraries through library networks.
- To improve the efficiency of library functions; and improve the cost effectiveness of library operations.

Thus the adoption of ICT should not be considered as a luxury, but as an added tool to provide the information, services, effectively to fulfill the complex needs of the users.

5. Advantages of ICT
- Remote access of information.
- Greater and easier retrieval of information
- Information available to anyone, anytime, anywhere, and at users' desktop.
- Easy to capture, store, manipulate and distribute information.
- Information creation on digital format.
- Information communication through e-mail.
- Removal of all the barriers of communication, distance and time.
- Online access and file transfer through Internet.
- Enclosures sharing of information.
- Faster efficient and effective library services to wide range of users.
- Optimum utilization and sharing of resources among institution in cost effective manner.
- Simple and prominent collection development through web.
- The available information can be provided through the homepage.
- Online book shopping and publisher's website help in quality collection development and are time, money and labour saving.
- Online orders through the Internet, downloading from website avoids postal delay.
- Reminders may be sent through e-mails.

6. ICT Used In Libraries
- Computers
- Internet
- Library Housekeeping software
- Consortia
- CCTV
- RFID
- Institutional Repository
- Web design
- e-resources

7. Challenges before LIS Professionals
ICT has created complex challenges for LIS professional they have to redesign their positions to meet evolving needs. Professionals have to manage the change by adopting latest ICT, thereby improving performance. They need to improve the skills and knowledge of the new technologies to provide quality library services.

8. Conclusion
The winds of technological change have been blowing in our direction not only in the universities, but even at secondary and primary education. The IIC now is playing a momentous role in the development of libraries, Even though, the technological absorption has

slow and full of hitches; understandable because of the differences between developed and developing countries. It can be said that much of what ICT has to offer and its potential for the higher education libraries has not yet been fully deployed and exploited in Indian education system. Lack of funds has been a serious impediment in the course of ICT acquisition, adoption, utilization, and management.

Outdated technologies that were first acquired are merely guarding our libraries, thereby creating systemic complexities that are increasingly becoming difficult to sustain. It should be noted that technological changes take place very often and there is a clear need to keep abreast of the changes when they occur without losing out on quality. However, this process is either not wellestablished or if established it is riot enforced, hence and its introduction and application will improve the quality of service to users. This would enable the integration of a range of ICT's in the enhancement of activities into the library operation with a range of multimedia resources, as well as through a web environment.

9. References

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