

Chapter 5

A Study on Information and Communication Technology Skills of LIS Professionals in Management Institutions of Tamil Nadu

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ABSTRACT

The importance of information and communications technologies (ICTs) as powerful tools for socio-economic development is now widely acknowledged not only among large corporations but small business enterprises as well. However, for ICT to be effectively deployed as engines of economic development existing IT skills gap both in developed and developing countries must be addressed. The present study covers the library and information science (LIS) professionals of 90 management institutes of Tamil Nadu. The present study attempts to study the ICT skills of LIS professionals working in these institutes.

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INTRODUCTION

ICT's stand for information and communication technologies and are defined, for the purposes of this primer, as a "diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate, and to create, disseminate, store, and manage information." Information and Communication Technology (ICT), often used interchangeably with Information Technology (IT), encompasses methods and techniques for automated information handling and retrieval, including computers, telecommunications, and office systems. It not only encompasses business data, conversations, still images, video, and multimedia. IT sector will probably continue to expand into other professions and fundamentally affect the operations of library and information services. The application of ICT to library operations has made feasibility for electronic cataloguing and online reference services, along with other library operations, such as digital information, online access and file transfer, networking and sharing of information resources. ICTs have been implemented in information handling and processing because of the increased workload involved in coping with information explosion. ICT makes it possible for an individual to access information rapidly and easily across local, national, and international borders in contributing to revolutionary changes that include the academic library. Information and Communication Technology is an umbrella, which includes all technologies for the manipulation and communication of information.

ICT (information and communications technology - or technologies) is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning. ICTs are often spoken of in a particular context, such as ICTs in education, health care, or libraries. Thus ICT is the implementation of different branches of technology in information and communication processing. It is the use of science and technology for the purpose of collecting, storing, processing and transmitting information. It has become an essential support tools for the activities carried out by researches. ICT concerned with communication, manipulation of information, networking, data storage, transmission of data, audio and visual. The quality of teachers and their continuing professional education and training remain central to the achievement of quality education. ICT professional development is seen as a vehicle to enable transformative change in teachers' practice. They have produced significant transformations in industry, agriculture, medicine, business, engineering and other fields. For education to reap the dull benefits of ICTs in learning, it is essential that pre- service and in service teachers have basic ICT skills and competencies.

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