


Chapter 52

Usage of ICT Resources in Academic Libraries With Special Reference to Engineering Colleges

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ABSTRACT

Academic libraries in India make use of ICT as tools to meet the information need of users who in this context are students and faculty staff. Academic libraries are established to support the objectives of their parent institutions which are to promote teaching, learning, and research. Therefore, academic libraries are expected to serve the students, lecturers, and other members of the academic community. To meet the information need of users, academic libraries provide various services such as user education (orientation/instruction services), inter-library loan/connection services, abstracting and indexing services, referral services, and circulation services. The finding of the respondents problems encountered while using ICT-based resources and services reveal the fact that, out of 732 respondents, 543 (74.18%) respondents stated too few computers with internet and 421 (57.51%) lack of subscription for more foreign journals for their main problems.

INTRODUCTION

Information is not only very essential as a resource for national development, it is also very essential for the success of libraries and information centers in India. The acquisition and application of ICT facilitates access to a wide range of information resources and databases irrespective of their geographical locations, distance impedance and time. Application of ICT in libraries has helped librarians and information specialists, and researchers to improve their information products and services through

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enhanced search outcomes in terms of specificities of documents retrieval, provision/dissemination and use of requisite information retrieved or generated. ICT has become an important field for all information professionals; this is because of perceived relevance, and practical applications to tasks in libraries and information centre's (Aina, 2004). ICT therefore includes the technologies use for communication and information handling. Foremost among the ICT components that have offered these opportunities include; computers, Internet, telefacsimile C.D ROM and electronic based-devices whose users depend largely on telecommunication facilities or gadgets.

IMPORTANCE OF ICT IN LIBRARIES

The application of ICT has drastically transformed the way of collection, storage and retrieval of information in libraries. Particularly, the internet has completely transformed the traditional libraries into digital libraries. "Using the internet information may be accessed from anywhere of the universe. The arrival and proliferation of electronic resources and digital libraries have already influenced the way users use print resources and traditional libraries. It has also sparked a new wave of literature on the perception and preference of print and electronic resources" (Ziming Liu, 2006). Digital age has a tremendous change in the way of information is stored and accessed. "Many new terms viz., „digital libraries“, „libraries without walls“, „virtual libraries“ are emerging to describe the libraries of present day age. A digital library is popularly viewed as an electronic version of library where storage is in digital form, allowing direct communication to obtain material and copyright it from a master version" (Burns, 1984).

As the world is growing technologically, library operations in various locations in the world are no longer how they use to be. Libraries in India since the beginning of the 21st century have started making efforts to metamorphose from being institutions driven by manual processes into modern ones where operations are in part or wholly dependent on ICT applications. The versatility of ICT driven library operations that would adequately and efficiently meet the information needs of patrons has been widely acknowledged in extant literature to the extent that most academic libraries in India are positively inclined towards computerizing their operations. Although none of the academic libraries in the country has completely been automated or computerized, many are at varied and deferring stages of adaptation in having their operations ICT driven or ICT dependent.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Eyrich, Padman and Sweetser (2008) viewed social media to comprise of various tools like intranets, blogs, podcasts, photo sharing, video sharing, social networks, gaming, wikis, virtual universes, micro blogging/presence applications, content informing, video conferencing, PDAs, text talk, social occasion/ logbook frameworks, social bookmarking, news total/RSS and email.

Lau (2017) stated that upshot of social media use and social media performing various tasks impact the scholarly execution of university students. The exploration found that utilizing social media for scholarly reasons for existing was not an imperative indicator of educational execution as estimated by total review point normal, though utilizing social media for non-academic purposes (video gaming specifically) and social media performs multiple tasks essentially adversely anticipated academic performance.

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