CHANGING SCENARIO OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES DUE TO THE APPLICATION OF ICT

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Abstract: *College libraries are known as the light house of knowledge and centre of teaching learning activities in the college. The college libraries are expected to support the objectives of the college. In this ICT era, the college libraries are in the phase of transition. Due to exponential rise in Information, it becomes imperative to automate the library house keeping operations and services to provide study materials to its users in short possible time. ICT application in college libraries is proved as boon to libraries for improved control over collections, for increased volume of library activities, for improved control over operations, for quality services, for preventing duplication of efforts and for quality services and for resource sharing. The efforts of INFLIBNET centre are appreciating for modernizing the college libraries with the help of ICT. . Libraries can create a separate website for libraries and an interactive blog through which readers can get maximum information about libraries, its services and its resources from remote places. In order to help readers and give those ready references, libraries should create a portal of different useful links of e-Books, journals, databases, theses, dissertations, digital libraries, news and other related information for their readers. These college librarians with appropriate competence, skills and proactive attitude can excel in their new role of knowledge navigators and facilitators in the knowledge-based society. Librarians now have to act as Cyber Librarians to keep pace with advancements in ICT in the new millennium. The role of librarian as a guide to students for information literacy is the demand of the time so as to help the students to be independent and life long learners.*

Keywords: ICT, Information literacy, Librarians, Initiatives of INFLIBNET

INTRODUCTION:

ICT has made dramatic impact on every field of life and libraries are no exemption to it. Due to fast technological changes, libraries are now in phase of transition. An ideal college library with advancement of ICT is becoming a hybrid library, a digital library or a virtual library. ICT stands for "INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES," means the communication of information through the various technologies like computer, internet, multimedia, networking etc. Academic libraries including college libraries have to reorient their activities with the help of ICT. Automation of library House keeping operations and services becomes essential due to many reasons for improved control over collections, for increased volume of library work, for improved Control over operations for improved quality of library services, for Inter Library loan and for preventing the duplication of efforts. In this changed scenario, the librarian has to act as Cyber librarians who have to provide information service from a large number of documents available in electronic form or through Internet. INFLIBNET has played a significant role in modernizing the academic libraries and their services by implementing ICT.

OBJECTIVES OF WRITING THIS PAPER

❖ To discuss the impact of ICT on college libraries.
❖ Why library Automation is required and what are the areas of library Automation in the college libraries.

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❖ To know the ICT enabled library and Information services in college libraries.
❖ Role of INFLIBNET in modernizing the college libraries.
❖ Skill competencies of librarian in this information era
❖ Librarian as a guide to students for information literacy

COLLEGE LIBRARY

College libraries are no longer known as merely a store house of knowledge in this information era but as a disseminator centre for dispersing knowledge in a fast way with the help of ICT. College library is known as centre of teaching learning activities. An institution fails to achieve it academic goals without the support of its library. College library has to provide right information to right user in right time.

GROWING IMPACT OF ICT ON COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Due to exponential generation of Information, It becomes difficult for the college librarian to handle such a large amount of data manually. So the automation of library house keeping operations becomes necessary for the effective working of the college libraries. The use of Computers, Library S/Ws, and Internet, multimedia, CDs and Communication technologies in storing, processing and dissemination of information has brought significant changes in the functioning of the college libraries. Most of libraries and information centers are using ICT due to drastic reduction of cost of hardware and software and also for increasing the efficiency of library work.

WHY LIBRARY AUTOMATION REQUIRED AND WHAT ARE THE AREAS OF AUTOMATION?

❖ According to Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science 'Automation is the Technology Concerned with the design and development of the process and systems that minimizes the necessity of human intervention in their operations. Due to information explosion, there is burden on librarian to provide the right information to Right person at right time. Above all time has became an important entity so it becomes essential to automate the library house keeping operations and services to meet the ever increasing demands of the users within the limited time. Following factors makes automation of college library essential:

❖ Capacity to handle large amount of data.
❖ Speedy processing of information and its dissemination for saving the precious time of users.
❖ Providing On line Public Access catalogue for better searching.
❖ Improved quality in performance.
❖ Avoiding duplication of work.
❖ To solve the problems of shrinking space in libraries as CDS require less space.
❖ Better availability of services & eliminating the constraints of time.
❖ To solve the problems of reducing staff.
So these are the merits of automating the library house operations. The areas of library automation are Acquisition, Cataloguing, Indexing, Circulation, Serial Control, OPAC, CD Rom searches, ILL and Networking etc.

SKILL COMPETENCIES FOR COLLEGE LIBRARIANS IN INFORMATION ERA

Academic libraries are changing dramatically in electronic environment. Paradigm shift has been taking place in all activities related to print   to e environment, new job requirements, new roles, adequate competence and different kinds of skills from the professionals, but also from the existing staff. They must be trained and need to update their professional competencies through development programmes to sustain with the latest user requirements, products services. These college librarians with appropriate competence, skills and proactive attitude can excel in their new role of knowledge navigators and facilitators in the knowledge-based society.

NECESSITY OF CREATING LIBRARY PORTAL AND BLOG

Not all readers are internet savvy and information literate. The internet provides voluminous information and the information retrieved needs to be evaluated and filtered according to the requirement of the users and, in addition, all the information available is not authentic information. Libraries can create a separate website for libraries and an interactive blog through which readers can get maximum information about libraries, its services and its resources from remote places. In order to help readers and give those ready references, libraries should create a portal of different useful links of e-Books, journals, databases, theses, dissertations, digital libraries, news and other related information for their readers.   The library website should be dynamic and provide seamless access facility to users and should also include library OPAC and links to useful resources available globally. The website

should be updated from time to time with new arrivals, placement, research and scientific news, current updates in different fields and education, notices, etc. It should be made interactive so that readers can communicate with the librarian and take help for information anytime from anywhere. It enables readers to familiarize themselves with the library activities and access the library catalogue through remote access. Libraries can get feedback from the readers through the library homepage.

ICT ENABLED LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

The academic libraries including various colleges and universities libraries engaged in both Teaching and Research activities have developed to a greater extent for delivering quality services to increased user groups in recent times. The use of ICT has not only induced new ways of information handling but also brought change in the ways to provide library services to users.

- ❖ Internet Access.
- ❖ Web OPAC
- ❖ Access to E-resources like E-books and Journals.
- ❖ Access to ETD.
- ❖ Subject gateways.
- ❖ Digital archives
- ❖ New services like wikis, web logs, twitters, web OPAC, etc.

ROLE OF INFLIBNET AND SPECIALLY N-LIST PROJECT IN MODERNIZING THE COLLEGE LIBRARIES.

The Role of INFLIBNET Centre is unimaginable in changing the scenario of college libraries by providing library automation techniques and ICT enabled library services. INFLIBNET Centre is an autonomous inter university Centre of UGC under the ministry of MHRD, Govt. of India. The major contributions of INFLIBNET Centre are automation of university and college libraries, Development and installation of SOUL S/w in universities and college libraries, man power development by organizing workshops and training programme for S/W and other ICT technologies, development of union databases and Shodhganga program under which the PhD thesis of different universities are available in Electronic form.

N LIST is National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly content being jointly executed by UGC- INFONET and INFLIBNET Centre. This programme provides access to more than 91000 e Books and 6000 e-Journals to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institution through server installed at INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad. The authorized users from member colleges can access these resources by using their user name and passwords issued to them at any place and at any time having Internet connection & download articles required by them directly from publisher's website.

MISSION of N-LIST PROJECT IS

- ❖ Access to scholarly Information for all educational institutions.
- ❖ Bridging digital divide and moving towards information rich society.
- ❖ Provide access to subscription based scholarly information (e-Books and e-Journals) to all educational institutions.
- ❖ Provide access to scholarly content available in open access through subject portals and subject gateways.

LIBRARIAN AS A GUIDE FOR INFORMATION LITERACY IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES: NEED OF THE TIME

According to American Library Association (1989), IL is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information.

The information literacy concept is perceived to prepare students for lifelong engagement in an information literate community and in the general information society. What librarians seek in instruction sessions is to bring about learning in students. Learning implies a change from a previous behavior to a different one, from a previous belief to a new one and from a previous way of thinking to a new one. This mindset places additional demands on instruction librarians as teachers. This teaching role provides them with an opportunity to demonstrate an information literacy approach to life. The challenge, therefore, is to use teaching methods and approaches that model information literacy practices (Oberman, 2002).

Information communication technology (ICT) has inducted the library into the electronic information age. However, models of information literacy instruction service delivery have not changed. Librarians should have an understanding of the institutions programs of study, as this is the foundation for designing content and the teaching of

information literacy.

CONCLUSION

It is evident that ICT has a great impact on the college libraries. Benefits of use of ICT in library services & operations can be calculated in terms of 4Es namely Economy, Ease, Expansion and Efficiency. In college libraries, Library automation activities are gaining momentum throughout at the global level even in the developing countries also. But only technology cannot bring the required change, Librarians should be prepared to meet the challenges. They should acquire adequate knowledge and training for the various technologies to keep pace with the time. Maximum college libraries should subscribe to N-LIST Programme so that users can access E-resources. ICT use in the libraries is in proportion with the thoughts of S.R. Ranganathan by disseminating the Right Information to Right Reader breaking the limits of time and boundaries.

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