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The Need of Information Literacy in Conventional Libraries in Modern Digital Era

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Abstract

Information Literacy is a gateway to seeking information. Without adequate ICT knowledge users cannot reach their information needs. There most important thing to have well literate about the ICT concept. Information users can get easy access to information sources with the support of information technology. The information resource person is a guide on that way where to start searching for information, what, where, and how to access them and compare retrieved information and how to communicate their information. Libraries and Information Centers have responded by acquiring information technology and encourage computer literacy. The information that is available through libraries, community resources, special interest organizations, media and Internet comes to individuals in unfiltered formats, rising question about its authenticity, validity and reliability. In addition, information available through multiple media poses new challenges for individuals in understanding the landscape of information and to acquire knowledge of how to gather, evaluate and use information in today's world. Information literacy therefore, is increasingly important in the contemporary environment of rapid technological change and proliferating information resources. This paper mentions definition of information literacy, information technology and information literacy, components of information literacy, characteristics of information literacy, objectives of information literacy, need for information literacy and role of information literacy in libraries and about the information literacy in the context of librarianship.

Keywords: Information literacy, technology, models, etc.

Introduction

In the information world, library users have access to diverse and abundant information choices. However, the uncertain quality and expanding quantity of information pose major challenges. Librarians have played an important role working in all types of libraries, they trying to help their communities become information literate. The role of the librarian is to teach how to get information to users from available sources. Information literacy is a core part of an information society in educating the users of libraries on various information and documentary resources, The information resource person is a guide on that way where to start searching for information, what, where, and how to access them and compare retrieved information and how to communicate their information. Information literacy is important particularly in this age because it allows us to cope by giving us the skills to know when we need information and where to locate it effectively and efficiently. There should include the technological skills needed to use the modern library as a gateway to seeking information. Information literacy is a concept that defines the literacy of users concerning informatics.

Definition of Information Literacy

- The American Library Association (ALA) Presidential Committee on information literacy, final report states that “to be information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information”.
- “Information literacy 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

Components of Information Literacy: Information Literacy has a bunch various literacy in terms of components which include-Basic Literacy, Library Literacy, Media Literacy, Computer Literacy, ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Literacy, Visual Literacy, Publishing Literacy, Network Literacy, Emerging technology Resource Literacy, Digital Literacy, Network Literacy and Scientific Literacy etc.

Characteristics of Information Literacy

Information Literacy enables the students:-

- To recognize the perfect and complete information on the basis for intelligent decision-making and Resource management.
- To recognize the exact need of information users.
- Formulate the questions based on information needs.
- To identify the potential information source.
- To develop and establish an appropriate search strategy.
- To access information sources with the support of information technology.
- To evaluate information.
- Organize information applications on a practical basis.
- To integrate new information into the existing fabrics of knowledge.

Objectives of Information Literacy

An objective of the Information Literacy program includes the development of skills and competencies that enable students:-

- To recognize an information gap and Awareness.
- To construct alternative strategies.
- To act on a strategy for the dissemination of information.
- To store information in applications for future use.
- To justify access and effectiveness of the strategy.
- To become a more self-instructed infrastructure.
- To enable learners to master content and extend their investigations.

Need for Information Literacy: Information Literacy may be essential due to the following reasons:-

- Rapid increases in the stream of information due to the cloud of information revolution.
- The advent of Information, Communication, and Techniques.
- The vast variety of Information Sources.
- Changing the shape of Libraries.
- The wide dispersal of information.
- Accessing information by users will Increase in number.
- Research on complex and interdisciplinary topics.

Information Technology and Information Literacy

The growth of information getaways and information services has already enabled learners at all levels to share resources, and the collaboration of electronic information sources is a result of information literacy. We need both technology infrastructure and Information Literacy that thing has must provide to use information sources effectively. Information Technology is a tool for writing papers, communicating with colleagues worldwide, and exchanging experiments, ideas, and programs internationally. As community Information institutions are considering distance learning and updating technologies to their effective curriculum.

Doyle, C.S...Final Report to National Forum on information literacy, 1992.

Role of Information Literacy in Libraries: The need for information in academic library systems due to the following reason:

- There is example evidence that newly admitted students often find the library a confusing place as they do not have any idea how to make effective use of library Sources for their curricular needs as well as for subject knowledge.
- In some cases frequently observed that even teachers themselves did not make systematic use of the library and

its service. They fail to guide properly on how to make effective use of library sources.

- The entire users are not acquainted with the use of different techniques and methods for the storage of dissemination of information in the library and the application of IT in library operations.
- Further many users are not aware of the different types of resources and services available in the institutions.

Role of Librarians in Information Literacy

In every institution librarians play an important role as knowledge resource persons they provide the facility in the education process by making students aware of the need and motivating the use of information. The librarians are really in the most favorable position to be the leaders in developing information literate to communicate. For this, the librarian has to undertake this core activity effectively to meet their needs. Educate and re-educate them to acquire knowledge, skills, and competencies. Cultivate the concept of Life-long learning through information Literacy skills. Prepare them to become effective students and teachers through the information Literacy program.

Benefits of Information Literacy in Libraries: The outcome of Information Literacy from Libraries is the Motivation for Self-directed Learning, Appreciation for Life-long Learning, Enhancement of Critical Thinking, Appropriate and critical application of information and knowledge in problem-solving, Synthesis of data and information into knowledge, etc.

Suggestions

- The off period in the timetable can be utilized for information Literacy in general.
- As a librarian is treated/considered as a teacher, he can engage off periods to guide the students regarding the importance and searching techniques of reference books.
- As a librarian is supposed as a teacher, he can't be kept away from the teaching work or sessions.
- Hence to justify the above role he can be engaged for at least a period a week to guide information Literacy and the provision of incentives should be given to library literate students by the librarian in the form of marks.

Conclusion

Information Literacy promotes the vision of the librarianship profession. They should include the teaching of key competency and efficiency about Information Literacy in the academic curriculum as well as library Orientation programs. Information Literacy is an ever-on-going process. There is no way to have a complete knowledge of information Literacy due to the information explosion. The librarian's vision in this information era is based on the competencies of scholars to effectively access, and dissemination of information and apply ideas for users' needs. Students are having low awareness and lack of knowledge about their information needs.

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