

Impact of Information Technology in Libraries

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ABSTRACT

Due to invention of printing press there has been an explosion in the recorded knowledge .This explosion has needed to arrange the documents. Documentalist and computer expert make a system to arrange the document. These documents spread over the world through computer technology .This technology known Information Technology. Information Technology is currently taking center stage and transforming a whole world into a global village with a global economy. Information Technology reduce the time, distance, space, and so many things. This paper discussed the impact of Information Technology in libraries.

I INTRODUCTION

In ancient time the libraries were considered as store house of books, but now a days the definition of libraries has been changed. Libraries are shifted from macro documents to micro documents. The method of information storage are also changing from book form to electronic form. Recently the libraries are shifted from traditional to digital, electronic, virtual libraries. The present day is characterized by reducing distance, shortening of time zone, digitized storing and manipulation of information. Now a days the research is shifted from print documents to digital resource of information.

(a) Information Technology

- (i) Information is the data which can be transmitted between individuals and each individual can make whatever use he can of it.¹
- (ii) Information means a part/bit/para/page of knowledge which is use full to users or desire by users.
- (iii) Technology means use of computers for storing, retrieving and transmission of data.
- (iv) Information Technology means the application of computer technologies for storing, gathering, processing, retrieving and dissemination of knowledge/information.

According to Webster's New Encyclopedia—"Information Technology is the collective term for various technologies involved in the processing and transmission of information they include computing, telecommunication and microelectronics."²

According to A L A Glossary—"Information Technology as the application of computers and technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information."³

According to British Department of Industry – It defines "Information Technology as The acquisition, processing, storage and dissemination of vocal, pictorial, textual, and numerical information by microelectronics based combination of computing and telecommunication."⁴

Information Technology includes Computers, Fax, Bar-Coding, Web Camera, Networking, Disc, E-mail, Reprographics etc.

(b) Information Technology in Libraries

Now a day a lot of technologies has been developed for various type of work of libraries. Acquisition, classification, cataloguing, circulation, distribution of budget, bar-coding, remaindering, bill-payment, stock verification, are the works of library done by Information Technology.

(c) Internet

The internet is a global network of computers that communicate using a common language. Internet may also be termed as network of several globally dispersed LAN'S that follows different protocols. The internet is a system of linked networks that are worldwide in scope and facilitate data communication services such as remote login, file transfer, electronic mail, world wide web, and news group. Internet is an ideal technology for carrying multimedia information across the network at high speed.

(d) Library Network

Two or more libraries and other organizations engaged in a common pattern of information exchange for some functional purpose. They exchange their data for research and provide latest information to the users of library. Through the network users gets the desire information at one place. Library network is used by computer experts, engineers, researchers, scientist, librarians, professors, and all of the person who have knowledge of computer. Now a days library network is very essential for research and development.

(i) There are two type of network exist :-

(ii) LAN –Local Area Network

(iii) WAN :-Wide Area Network

(iv) In LAN a large number of computers are directly connected with in a building or in a adjacent building. LAN helps to resource

sharing such as data in hard disk/CD-ROM/Optical disk.

- (v) WAN is characterized by the long distance over which they operate. WAN involves electronic communication among remote users.

II IMPACT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN LIBRARY

The IT has wide ranging impact on library and information work. Information activities have undergone rapid transformations from conventional methods, consequent upon introduction of new technologies. This summarized with the help of a table.⁵

Table 1

Sl. No	Information Activity	Conventional Method	New Technology
1.	Generate, Originate	Writing, Typing	Word Processing, Text editing, Character Recognition, voice Recognition
2.	Preserve, Store	Paper-Print Media	Electronic Publishing, Magnetic Storage, Videotext, Tele-text. Computer disk, ROM
3.	Process	Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing	Electronic data processing, Artificial intelligence/ Expert systems.
4.	Retrieval	Catalogues, Indexes	Database management system, Information retrieval off-line, On-line.
5.	Disseminate/ Communicate	Lists, Bibliographies, Abstracts, Hard Copies	Electronic mail, Electronic document delivery, Computer conferencing, Telefacsimile, View data
6.	Destroy	Physical weeding	Magnetic erasers, Optical erasers, reuse the medium
7.	Verification	Manually or check list	By Barcoding

III INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INDIA

India is emerging as a power full country in the field of Information Technology. In comparison to other countries India is producing maximum literature in computer science in the world. India has bypassed Japan to become the worlds third largest internet user after China and United States. Internet users are significantly younger than those of other emerging economies, global digital measurement and analytics firm COMSCORE has said in a report.

IV CONCLUSION

After introducing of information technology in the libraries the working capacity and Quality of libraries has been increased. The services provide by libraries are become more easier and more economic. Information technology decrease the time zone and increase space in the libraries. Research and development units become more strong. Application of information technologies in libraries avoid duplication of work and providing users need base services. The author view that all the libraries should be computerized and share their resources through internet. In India some libraries are providing the internet services such as ERNET, DELNET, ALBINET, BONET, INFLIBNET, OCLC etc.

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