THE IMPACT OF ICT ON PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

The library was evolved with a basic purpose of preservation of recorded knowledge which eventually helped in prospering culture and for betterment of society. Indian library and information sector can be divided into five major areas: the National library sector; Academic library sector; the Special and Scientific library sector, Government library sector; and the Public library sector due to various factors the scientific and special library sector is much more developed and modernized than the other four sectors. The potential of digital library is to help grow our economy and can be essential resource for human learning and development. Digital technology can make the works of man or needed information accessible to all whether they live in a village or in an urban area. Networking of already developed sectors to ultimately set up a digitized National library system may prove to be better solution. This can help to move the nation toward realizing the enormously powerful vision of 'anytime, anywhere' access to the best of human thought so that individual is isolated from the knowledge resources.

KEYWORDS: Digital library, Type of Libraries, ICT, Electric Libraries

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1. INTRODUCTION

Libraries, archives and museums are memory institutions that contain the memory of peoples, communities, institutions and individuals, scientific and cultural heritage, and the products throughout time of our imagination, craft and learning. They connect us to our ancestors and legacy to future generations. It is used by the scholar, the citizen, the business person, the tourist and the learner. Memory institutions related directly and indirectly to prosperity through support for learning, commerce, tourism, and personal fulfillment. (Dempsey 2000). A knowledge based societies will move up the knowledge chain fast if knowledge of previous generations is available to them but knowledge in manuscripts, palm leafs etc is disappearing rapidly. UNICT task force identifies universal access to information as enabling solution to overcome the Scrawling Digital Divide.

In the present day, there is a felt need to preserve and propagate inherited knowledge and culture alongside the acceptance of universal knowledge through globalization in this age of technological developments. The oriented environment of IT has bring opportunities of a revolutionary nature in archiving and accessing knowledge in the digitized form which were known to exist in on conventional libraries mainly in the print form India has undertaken many inventiveness to digitize its documented knowledge base and set up digital libraries for better access to its diverse clientele. India desires well planned and policy based on digitization efforts to be effective in the present situation of acute digital divide between the urban educated techno savvy and the enormous majority who are not so fortunate.

The information/document is reaching the people through digital libraries, information centers and similar agencies that we consider ourselves true beneficiaries of technological advancements.

2. ROLE OF LIBRARIES

The library was evolved with a basic purpose of preservation of recorded knowledge which eventually helped in prospering culture and for betterment of society. Traditionally libraries were collections of books, manuscripts, musical scores, or other literary and artistic materials are kept for use but not for sale. It is an institution oriented towards collections and custody, where people may make use of the facilities. Digital library is a computer based system for acquiring, collection, organizing, discovering and distributing digital materials for end user access. Digital library is not network-based but designed to capable of being attached to a network. The digital library is not only a collection of material in electronic form which includes a browser interface and perhaps a virtual space and society. The data can be made obtainable through communication networks to anyone anywhere, while facilitating searches with speed. The digital library is related to the resources of many such collections.

The library is constantly required to meet the challenges of information explosion in modern times. Assimilating resources and reconstructing practices to process the large data volumes both in the print and digital form held across the globe, therefore, becomes very important. The libraries to application of successive forms is called Digital Library Technologies (DLT) has been the imperative The Open Archives Initiative (OAI) is a development that is expected to assist the libraries to partner in setting up virtual learning environment and integrating research on a near universal scale. In future of this concept is envisaged to be that of grid computing. The Open Archives Initiative (OAI) driving the 'Grid' would let people share computing power, Database, and other on-line tools securely across institutional and geographic boundaries without sacrificing the local autonomy.

Traditional Library to Digital Library

Traditional methods of collecting, processing, storing and accessing information have undergone a massive transformation due to the growth of virtual libraries, digital libraries, online database, and library and information networks. In a digital library, digital technology, internet connectivity, the physical content can now be dovetailed. The digital libraries and the digitalization of print materials can preserve resources in art and culture, education, science and technology, literature and humanities, media and entertainment, and cultural heritage and history. The development and growth of libraries and use of technologies have reamed these through functioning, management and services as "Automated Library", "Electronic Library" and "Digital Library". The popularity of "Digital Library" has been primarily for three reasons, (A) Access: The unlimited access to information resources by the users anywhere, any time and any format, (B) Content: Variety ad huge quantity of contents, (C) Cost: Eliminating Duplication of money, manpower and material. The Digital Library, initiatives undertaken by NISCAIR (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library), Parliament Library, Indian Institute of technology- New Delhi, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi are very much commendable in providing information resources and services to users at huge free of cost. The open archive initiatives by individual institution in proving open access to information resources is confirms.

Conversion of Traditional to Digital Libraries

In the past, if we look the development of libraries and reading rooms in particular, it is apparent that they came into of necessity rather than by compulsion. There are no statistics showing how many libraries there are worldwide, but details of libraries in the developed countries and a few from developing countries are available. It is a similar case for the number of people using libraries and the number of books and periodicals each library has accumulated over a period of time, and the total number of librarians working ad their staff. Constitutionally libraries in India are included in the state list. The central government has jurisdiction only over libraries it has established and institutions declared to be of national importance. For the literate population of about 500 million, which is more the one and a half times the population of the USA, there are more than 71,069 libraries: 8267 academic, 54,845 public, 1,200 science and technology, 450 social science, 800 government departmental, 500 art/culture/humanities , seven national and 5,000 industrial and private institutional libraries(Kaul, 1998). But they cannot be called libraries in the usual sense, for more than 90 percent of them are simply reading rooms.

3. TYPES OF LIBRARIES

Electric Libraries

The term electronic library (e-library) refers to a system in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and networks. It provides collection and/or service is e-format using various types of media, such a optical video disc, CD-ROM, online databases, internet resources, etc. Electronic materials included here would be basically in variety of analog formats.

Virtual Libraries

Virtual library system depends for their existence on a rapidly maturing area of technology, known as Virtual Reality (VR). VR has often been described as the ultimate multimedia experience', the simplest form of which is known as 'telepresence'. Such experience depend on the ability of a computer to create highly realistic simulations and surrogations in which user can become totally immersed. VR technology has been use successfully to create virtual landscape, cities, buildings and offices.

Digital Libraries

The term 'Digital Library' is of recent origin which has different meaning for different peoples. Although, such libraries are in existence for the last 2-3 decades, but, in India, the concept is in its infancy. These libraries have integrated various technologies, like hardware, software, network, imaging, web, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), library techniqes and other developing technologies for information transfer and dissemination. Digitization is making it possible to use compound sources of recorded knowledge which include hypertexts (finding aids embedded in the text), mixed and image documents, and multimedia documents. Key feature of a digital library is to provide seamless access to geographically distributed digital information to its geographically scattered users.

Gateway Libraries

Today, a lot of literature is available on Internet so, one needs to spend a lot of time in information searching by going through vast amount of junk information. To solve this problem, a lot of research has been done by information professionals and subject experts who have created subject gateways. They are also referred to as gateway libraries in include high quality user relevant resources only. The gateway provides access to internet resources via an online catalogue where each resource has been classified and described by information professionals (Hiom, 1998).

Polymedia Libraries

The term 'polymedia of hybrid' has been used to denote the use of several different independent media for the storage of information and knowledge, ranging from paper and microfilm to magnetic tapes, compact disc, etc. All these are the containers of knowledge and each one of them represents a physically different storage technology. However, taken together, they constitute and example of polymedia storage facility. Thus, 'polymedia library' is an institution that stores information and knowledge on a variety of media. These libraries resemble conventional libraries for having information stored on conventional books. At the same time, they have audios, Videos, CDs, microfilms, videodisc, computer software and so on and resemble electronic digital libraries. Thus, these are fit to be called 'polymedia hybrid libraries'.

4. CONCLUSION:

Indian library and information sector can be divided into five major areas: the National library sector; Academic library sector; the Special and Scientific library sector, Government library sector; and the Public library sector due to various factors the scientific and special library sector is much more developed and modernized than the other four sectors. The potential of digital library is to help grow our economy and can be essential resource for human learning and development. Digital technology can make the works of man or needed information accessible to all whether they live in a village or in an urban area. The term electronic library (e-library) refers to a system in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and networks. It provides collection and/or services in e-format using various types of media, such as optical video disk, CD-ROM, Online databases, Internet resources, etc. Electronic materials included here would be basically in variety of analog formats. For example, videotapes are in analog format, requiring an electronic equipment to view. Digital technology has raised the hopes and expectations of people to face the challenges of not only bridging that gap between the information rich and the information poor in the country, but also uplifting the level of development in all its different facets.

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