Research Paper Library Science

Information Literacy: A Need of The Day

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ABSTRACT

The Information Literacy standards made available by various institutions/associations have attracted the attention of the research and academic community worldwide. In the today's context of information overload, Information Literacy and being information literate are important for every individual to become a life-long learner. It is applicable to all levels of education, all disciplines and all ages of people. It is key to provide universal access to the information. This article concentrates on the access to the literature globally at no cost to the scholars of all the fields.

KEYWORDS Information literacy, need, data, knowledge, Digital Libraries, Library.

Introduction:
'Change is Inevitable'. It is true in the area of library and information centre also library is constantly growing – not only by its collection and users but also the application of information technology (IT) and an increase in the growing needs and expectations of users. Therefore, the importance of library professionals is being felt very much in academic as well as in special libraries. In this situation, it is very important for the library & information science professionals to stand up to the expectations of the users.

Information is power
Information is power? No, -------- but

Organized information is strength

Accurate information is essential

Up-to-date information is valuable But to-days concept:

Communication is Vital

Ongoing communication is organization

Intentional Communication is organization

Expanding communication is Strategic

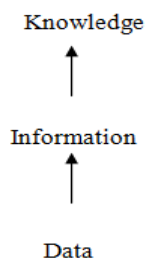
Many-to –Many communication is vibrant

Therefore--------

Intentional, ongoing expansive, many-to-many communication within the context of organized accurate, and up-to-date information is power. If you consume the required information, then it gives you the power i.e. Knowledge.

Information is recorded or communicated knowledge gained by man through experiences, observations and experiments. It has been growing in ever increasing volume and rate, particularly since the dawn of the twentieth century. Webster`s hired international Dictionary defined information as:

- Facts or figures ready for communication or use as distinguished from those Incorporated in a formally organized branch of knowledge.
- The process by which the form of an object of knowledge is impressed upon the apprehending mind so as to bring about the state of knowing. The relationship between data, information and knowledge may be viewed as part of continues in terms of decision-making process as under.



We perceive data thought our senses. Thus we become aware of the data about the event. At this juncture we suppose to have acquired information.

Information Explosion:
The growth of Internet has brought a tremendous change and improvement in every field and library & information center is no exception to this. Growth of IT and Internet has made the libraries to serve the user community with right information at the right time.

There is so much information available that it is sometime difficult to decide what to do with it. Expansion of the Internet and long distance access to e-books, e-journals and other web resources have changed the way everyone search for useful information.

Today, a daily newspaper has more print information in it than a person would come across in an entire lifetime in the 17th century – David Lewis.

"Introduction to Dying for information".

Information Service as expectation of users:

Information service comprises of library service, users service and E-learning service. It aims to assist the users in making the most effective use of services and resources available to support their information need and learning. A reader must be given with information about the various types of collection, collection for different subjects, computer facilities, and websites and other links, rare materials available and so on.

In the context of an environment driven by information and communication technologies (ICT) as a library a professional one should be thorough with the following areas of knowledge:

- Sources of Information-Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Institu-

tional and web resources.
- Medium of storage of information –print Electronic and Digital medium of information.
- Accessing information by using various search techniques – using term inclusion , exclusion and truncation searches, Using Boolean Logic, Phrase Searching, field specific search use of parenthesis and so on.
- Information Services – Indexing and abstracting services , retrieving and disseminating information –Internet, e-mail, e-groups , digital and Virtual collection of information and so on
- Network topology – being conversant with various networking technologies will help to serve the users without any interruption.
- Other services – Use news aggregator, Subscribing to email newsletter, organizing your G mail for conference alert and so on, keeping up with various ongoing and forth coming programmed, web blogs, web pages etc.

Need for Information Literacy:
- To identify the need for information – one should be able to understand that there is as need for information and the information will solve the problem.
- To locate the relevant information – one should be able to identify and locate the relevant information among the much other available information.
- To evaluate the found information – one should be able to evaluate whether the accessed information will solve the problem or not.

Information Literate:
An individual is said to be information literate when he/she

- Recognizes that accurate and complete information is the basis for intelligent decision – making.
- Recognizes the need for information
- Formulates questions based on information needs
- Identifies potential sources of information
- Develops successful search strategies

Seven Faces of Information Literacy (IL):
- Information technology conception
- Information sources conception
- Information process conception
- Information control conception
- Knowledge construction conception
- Knowledge extension conception
- Wisdom conception

Information Literacy Standard:
There is several information literacy standards made available by various institutions /associations. These standards are the frame works of many information literacy programmers and information Literacy standards and Indicators of school libraries, Alaska Association of school librarian's standard are some of the manor standards.

Significance of Information
There is no field of human activity wherein in information is not a component. Whether it is research and development, business and industry, government affairs, education and training; the information has to be acquired, processed, retrieved, and disseminated for communication. Indeed the effectiveness of performance in all these spheres of activity Depends largely upon the availability of information at the right time in adequate quality and quantity. All human activities result in the creation of information which are mostly communicated through various media. It is absolutely necessary for an information system to respond to environmental stimuli and acquire information to meet the requirements of user interests. Another significant and important aspect of information is the general acceptance that there should be free how and exchange of scientific and technical information without any barriers. Information is viewed as an essential resource for all economic and social change. Information is for use. It is capable of converting natural resources into artifacts and consumable products.

Information generation, dissemination, transfer and communication take place between people through diverse channels and media, in a variety of contexts and environments. In other words individuals have to operate in a information communication environment needs of users has to be made because this will alone from the primary basis for all information activities. The information needs of user groups have to be assessed for the effective provision needs of user groups have to be assessed for the effective provision of information service meeting their needs.

The information handling activities are to be based entirely on the needs of the users. The user categories have different needs for information depending upon their functions, responsibilities and duties. The user groups include government officials, legislators, parliamentarians, industrial entrepreneurs, researchers, researchers, teacher, students and skilled workers in various sectors of production, grass root level people in villages and the general public. Information needs varies distinctly among these categories of users. The matching of information needs to sources of information has to be based on the careful assessment of information needs. Use of information, use behavior in gathering information, expressed needs of information, gaps in information supply, and types of information requirements to meet variety of use has become the focus of study today.

Types of information
Information can be categorized on the basis of its use and purpose for which

it is used. J.H.Shera has categorized information into six types as under

i) Conceptual Information
ii) Empirical Information
iii) Procedural Information
iv) Stimulatory Information
V) Policy Information

The conceptual information relates to ideas, theories and Hypothesis about the relationship which exists among the variable in the area of problem. Empirical information relates to data and experience of research, which may be drawn from oneself of communication from others. Procedural information is the data in investigation, which are obtained. Manipulated and tested. It is essentially methodological and it is derived from scientific attitude. Stimulatory information is a type of information, which is motivated by oneself or environmentally derived.

Information Seeking
Information seeking is behavior of human activity such as writing a memo, driving a car or talking on the phone, since it is behavior, it is logical to propose that certain items from sources common to all behavior, psychologists try to determine why people do what they do.

Information behavior literacy
Information seeking literacy behavior can be defined as a process of construction in which a user progresses from uncertainty to understanding. It is an experience with thoughts, actions and feelings interwoven into a complex mosaic rather in a separate distinct entity.

Users
In a library or an information center the users are the last link or the recipient of the information in the communication cycle. There are a number of terms used as synonyms or near synonyms to user as patron, client, member, and customer, of these users is the preferred term. According to Whittaker a user may be defined as a person who uses one or more library's services at least once a year. Users are individuals who can be divided into different categories on the basis of tasks

to them in a library organization.

Types of users
User group may be divided as administratively into internal users and external users. Another type of classification of user community on the basis of library services they make use of the following**:**

General readers: This type of user groups, say for example, associated with public libraries generally use light reading materials.

Special readers: These types of users concentrate their use of library Material on a subject field, the field they are working or specializing.

Special readers: The users placed in this group are those with special needs, the result of Disabilities of one kind or another physical or mental disability may be distinguished.

Non-Reading Users: Non reading users are made up of subgroups who Make use of library materials, but not reading materials. A user coming into the library just to borrow a video is an example of non-reading user. Another classification of personal users, surrogate users and corporate Users. Personal users are those who use library services for their own individual needs. A user who uses a library service on behalf of someone else is known as Surrogate user. The corporate user is also one who uses the library's services on behalf of another. In the case of such a user it is the organization belongs to that Sends him into the library-Dr.S.R.Ranganathan has grouped user community on the basis of various types of services enunciated by him. There are; the Fresh man, ordinary inquirer, specialist inquirer and general reader. Here the freshman is the new member of library, ordinary inquirer is ordinary reader, and specialist inquirer is one who specializes in a narrow field whereas general readers are the assorted group of users which are not included in any of the above groups. In order to satisfy these four groups, Ranganathan has suggested four type of services such as initiation or orientation, ready reference service, long-range reference service and general help to general readers respectively. The study of Libraries and information centers is essentially concerned with the transfer of information, which has a direct impact on the development, as importance of information needs no emphasis for the socio, economic and industrial development process. Information is available in different channels, formats, languages and sources. Whatever may be the form and industrial development process? Information is available in different channels, formats, languages and sources. Whatever may be the form and channel in which the information is available? It is essential for LIS Professionals to know to what extent, these are useful to the user community, in meeting their requirements. In order to find answer to this question, a user study is required.

Impact of Information Literacy on Libraries:
The meaning of the "Library" has changed in recent times. So far, this word has been used for organized collection of books for consulting and reading purposes. Now it can be described as the organized collection of books, documents and non-book materials, viz. microfilms, micrographs, pictures, facsimiles, floppies, CDs,etc.Which can act as depositories as in the case of national libraries or a library system of country. A Library whether public, national, academic or special its main objectives and functions are to collect, organize and dissemination information to the users effectively.

Present states of Libraries in India
The tradition of having libraries by rulers continues from ancient time of India. During the medieval period the libraries flourished under royal patronage. The British government 'played a dominant role' in setting up the imperial library, which is now known as the National Library. After independence, with the establishment of several institutes of learning and a chain of R&D Laboratories, he growth of libraries picked up the momentum. Prominent among these are the information of national importance like NASSDOC, DESIDOC, BARC, ISRO, CMR and IARI. The quality of information rarely improves with the quantity. So he problem gets complicated further.

Information Technology Literacy:
Information technology literacy deals with "an understanding of the technology infrastructure that underpins much of today's life: an understanding of the tools technology provides and their interaction with this infrastructure: and an understanding of the legal, social , economic and public policy issues that shape the developments of the infrastructure and the applications and use of the technologies."

There are two general perspectives on Information Technology literacy,

The first emphasizes skills in the use of tools:

- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Basic operation of computers and
- Internet tools such as web browsers and electronic mail

It needs to encompass a rather broad view of the technology infrastructures that support our society, including
- Computing
- Telecommunication
- Broadcasting
- Publishing
- Electrical power distribution
- Transportation
- Financial Infrastructure

Conclusion:
Though many institutions and universities offer IL programmer in foreign countries, it is only in suggested level of Indian institutions due to various reasons. The reasons may be lack of knowledge among the library professionals, unwillingness among the library professionals, and lack of support from the management and so on. However, in the age of information explosion, the information is growing in an exponential rate. At the same time. The demand for the right information and the need for information literacy is also become pertinent. Hence the job of the library professional is to teach the users to use the information effectively and efficiently. In other words, it is the responsibility of the library professionals to make their users information literates in the information society.

Information Age provides both opportunities and Challenges for future of education and future of society.

Information Literacy and Information Technology as a theme provides a means to bring about the revolutionary transitions in Economics & Education.

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