

## Application of Information Communication Technology in Libraries: An Overview

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### Abstract:

*Library professionals need distinct information tools (Information Communication Technology) for daily routines tasks as well as for research and academic activities. The latest devices for information communication technology have resulted in the rapid circulation of knowledge and have transformed the information handling activities in research and academic libraries in India. Information is an indispensable for human development as air is essential for the survival of all living organisms on earth, including human beings. The pace of change brought about by new information technologies has a key effect on the way people live, work, and play worldwide. The increasing role played by information technology in the development of library services for an active reaction to the challenges of the information service providing. The paper attempts to discuss the fast development of Information Technology and its application in the library services. Today libraries are equipped to accomplish the newly Information Technology based services. Information Technology enabled services fulfill the information needs of the users at the right time in the right place to the right person.*

**Key words:** Information Technology, Libraries, Electronic Library, Digital Library.

**Introduction:** Information is the key factor of any kind of research and development. Information is a fundamental resource which is essential for survival in today's competitive and wired world. The information itself and way it is accessed have undergone changes owing to the developments in information and communication technology. It is a vital ingredient for socioeconomic and cultural development of any nation or individual. According to Kemp "Information is considered as the fifth need of man ranking after air, water, food and shelter" The value of information in every human endeavor cannot be overstressed. Quick and easy access to every required information is a supreme importance especially for libraries. Information technology application and the techniques are being used by the libraries for information processing, storage, communication, dissemination of information, automation etc. Further, origin of internet and the development of World Wide Web revolutionized the information communication technology. Recognizing the advantages application of information technology the libraries are essential to provide the facilities to their user community.

**Information:** Information is universal- it is known to all men in all languages, there may or may not be precise or apt word in a language to describe the term 'information' but surely it is there. We receive the information throughout the day.

According to Shannon and Weaver "Information is any stimulus that reduces uncertainty". Another definition by Ching- Chin Chen and Peter Hemon defines information as "all knowledge, ideas, facts, data and imaginative works of mind which are communicated formally and or informally in any format".

**Information Technology:** According to the Webster's new encyclopedia, "Information Technology is the collective term for various technologies involved in the processing and transmission of Information they include computing telecommunications and microelectronics" [7]. According to ALA Glossary "Information Technology as the application of computers and

technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information" [8]. According to the 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.

**Components of information communication technology:** Technological change is becoming a driving force in our society. Information technology is a generic term used for a group of technologies. Following are the major components of information technologies as most relevant in modern library and information system.

- Data
- Information
- Computer
- Networking
- Software

**Application of information communication technology in library:** The library is the main information centre which can make use of the fast development IT for the benefits of mankind as a whole. The librarian's preference of IT should include all those technologies which are expected to be used in the library activities operations and other library services for collection, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of recorded information, the fast developing information technologies have showered almost every areas of application including libraries. In case of libraries, these are good use in the following environments.

**Library management:** Library management includes the following activities which will certainly be geared up by the use of these fast IT developments: Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing, Database creation, Database Indexing.

**Library automation:** Library automation is the concept of reducing the human intervention in all the library services so that any user can receive the desired information with the maximum comfort and at the lowest cost. Major areas of the automation can be classified into two -organization of all library databases and all housekeeping operations of library.

**Library networking:** Library networking means a group Libraries and information Centers are interconnected for some common pattern or design for information exchange and communication with a view to improve efficiency.

**Audio-video technology:** It includes photography, microfilms, microfiches, audio and tapes, printing, optical disk etc.

**Technical Communication:** Technical Communication consisting of technical writing, editing, publishing, DTP systems etc

**Information Communication Technology based services**

- OPAC
- Printing technology
- E-Resources
- Inter library loan
- current-awareness service
- Selective dissemination of information

- > Library website
- > Audiovisual materials

**Advantages and Disadvantages of Information Communication technology in Library:**All computer based systems should be user friendly and should satisfy as many of the following factors as possible:

**Advantages of information Communication technology**

- > Easy to gather different library activities.
- > Collaboration and creation of library networks
- > Avoid repetition of efforts within a library
- > Increase the range of services offered
- > Save the time of the users
- > Speedy and easy access of information
- > Improves the quality of library services
- > Enhance the knowledge and experience
- > Integration within the organizations.
- > Improve the status of the library
- > Improve the communication facilities
- > Helps to attract the users.
- > Remote access to users
- > Round the clock access to users
- > Reduce the workload of the library staff

**Disadvantages of information Communication technology**

- > Insufficient funds
- > Operational costs are exceeding year by year.
- > Inadequate trained staff
- > Unemployment

**Conclusions:** Today Computer and related technology has brought revolutionary changes in the whole world. As eventual remarks, it is reminded that libraries are operating in a quickly changing situation, they should be aware of latest technologies to continue and maintain the importance of the service offerings. Utilization of Information Technology in present libraries is optimistic to gain right information at the right time in the right place and at the right cost. Information Technology helps to progress the rank of the library and it condense the work stack of the library professions. Information Technology has broken the worldwide boundaries.

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