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Web Overload and Role of LIS Professionals in Information Literacy

Jagtap Dagadu Arjun*

INTRODUCTION

In the present society knowledge has become the most important asset for the most economies in the world. The generation and the distribution of knowledge drives all activities of human being around the globe. This process of has been accelerated by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolution, which has dramatically changed the flow of information.

Knowledge-based countries and organisations increasingly encourage their people to pursue life-long learning, investing heavily in research and development and technology to promote knowledge exchange and to drive innovation.

Many developing countries seek to access information and gain knowledge to design and implement sound policies, establish strong governance system and encourage investment.

WEB OVERLOAD

Due to tremendous changes in the field of information and communication Technology (ICT), there is a tremendous investment in the field of research and development because of free flow of information in every subject arena on the internet. There is a huge and complex net of information resources on internet on variety of subjects. There are in number of websites on different subject area are developed on internet to provide the global access to the information. Because of this in number websites on the internet the nature of the website and the access of information on these websites is become very complex and tedious. The huge number of websites is also became a barrier in availability of information on the internet. So to overcome this problem it becomes essential to develop an active mechanism to make easy the task of access the information on internet to the user. Before the problem is arises due tremendous development in ICT there are tools like list of books i.e bibliographies, Catalogues, list of publications, OPAC, etc. to find out the source of information but there is not an active tool to find out a source on internet to find out the source of information through the huge web resources i.e. Webliography.

WEB RESOURCES

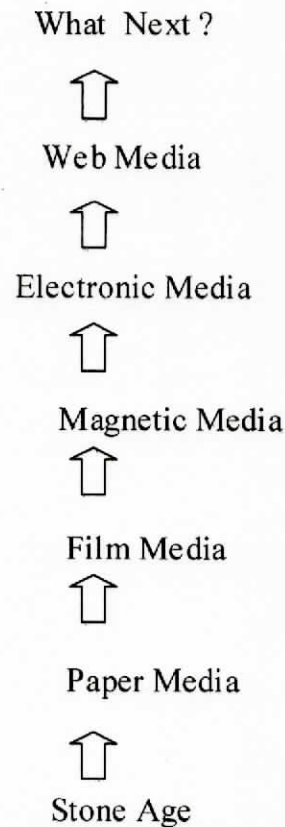
Web resources are important because

- Significant changes in higher educational system
- Cost effectiveness
- Change in Teaching, Learning and Research activities
- Increase large scale campuses
- Significant investments in IT and ICT
- Budgetary crisis

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- These challenges has paved the way for serious thinking on the competition to compensate for reduced budget.
- E-resources / Web resources are of the emerging toolkit for library and information centres to survive in present networked environment.

EVOLUTION OF INFORMATION STORAGE MEDIA



- Web resources is a huge reservoir of information filled with billions of documents.
 - Information sources over the web can be classified in number of ways-
1. Personal to Institutional
 2. Research to Academic Information
 3. From publication such as books, Journals, to databases and digital libraries.

Types of Web resources

1. Open Web
 - Any thing online that can be found freely with search engine.
2. Gate Web
 - Online resources accessible by subscriptions.
3. Invisible web-
 - Databases that are not found by search engines that can be accessible through particular page or front end.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Definition

Bundy, A. defines «Information literacy is and intellectual framework for recognising the need for, understanding, finding, evaluate and using information. These are activities which may be supported in part by fluency with information technology, in part by sound investigative methods, but most importantly through critical discernment and reasoning. Information literacy initiates, sustains, and extends lifelong learning through abilities that may use technologies but are ultimately independent of them.»

Need

Information literacy is a survival skill in the information age. Instead of retrieving the abundance of information through ennumber of resources, information literate people know how to find, evaluate and use the retrieved information effectively to solve a particular problem or make a decision. The information that they retrieved from the book, library, web resources or form any other possible resources.

Knowledge of resource type, evaluation of access tools etc. has given rise to need of information literacy. IL aims to develop both critical understanding and active participation. It enables people to interpret and make informed judgements as users of information and thereby to become more powerfull participants in society. IL is about developing people's critical and creative abilities.

- Information Literacy (IL) is a natural extension of the concept of literacy in our information society.
- IL education is the catalyst required to transform the information society of today into the learning society of tomorrow.
- IL is generally seen as pivotal to the poursuit of life long Learning & central to achieving both personal empowerment and economic development.
- IL competency ensures maximum utilization of information resources as well as optimisation for information handling capabilities.
- IL competency extends learning beyond formal classroom setting and provides practical with self directed investigation as individuals more into internships, first professional positions, and increasing responsibilities in all areas of life.
- Because of IL arguments students competency with evaluation, managing, and using information, it is now considered by several regional and descipline-based accreditations as a key outcome for college students and for «on campus» students.

INFORMATION LITERACY ENSURES

An information literate individual is able to-

1. Determine the extent of information needed.
2. Access the information effectively and efficiently
3. Evaluate information and its sources critically.
4. Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base.
5. Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
6. Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and access and use information ethically and legally.

IL and Academic Libraries

Information literacy standards for libraries aims at:-

1. Moving away from « how to use the library» towards teaching the information process-recognising a need, meeting it, evaluating the result.



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2. Moving away from limited and discrete library assignments towards integrated instruction with classroom teachers.
3. Moving away from basic technology skills towards information problem-solving skill that may or may not involve technology.

Why IL is important for Academic Libraries?

1. Student need their own internal navigation system to manage the information rich environment that now surrounds them.
2. Without the ability to shift, process, and evaluate information, students will be literally unable to function.
3. IL requirements are being integrated into state and national curriculum standards.
4. Academic librarians are the natural in-house experts for teaching both students and colleagues how to find, evaluate and use information effectively.

Role of LIS professionals in Changing Information Environment

The LIS professionals can play a vital role in this changing information environment with following aspects:-

1. The LIS professionals can defines the actual need of information of the users.
2. The LIS professionals can help the users to find out the required information.
3. The LIS professionals can initiate the search process in order to get the require information to the user.
4. The LIS professionals can help in identify and evaluate the potential sources of information and develops search strategies.
5. The LIS professionals can save the time money and efforts by analysing the information requirement, navigating it through cyberspace information, access it and provide it to the users

CONCLUSION

There is a tremendous overflow of the information through the web channels and humanly it becomes very difficult to handle such vast mass of literature and provide required information to the proper user in proper time. In this complex information environment information literacy is key aspect to provide effective and efficient information services. Information Literacy is indispensable to navigate access and provide the information to the users through this complex vast information environment in the cyber space where the LIS professionals are always at front.

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