Impact of Information Communication Technologies on Academic Libraries to Develop Modern Library

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Abstract: This paper focused the changing role of the academic libraries in ICT environment. It presents the disadvantages of the traditional libraries and impact of changing scenario of information technology. It describes the digital era and importance of the digitalization in academic libraries. Nowadays ICT plays important role to make libraries modern and connected to users anywhere and anytime. The traditional library renovate using action plan which discuss in the paper.

Keywords: Traditional Library, ICT, Academic library, Digital Libraries, NAAC

Introduction:
Libraries are the center of knowledge and form an integral part of education. An academic library is a library which serves an institution of higher learning such as a college or a university. According to Senthur Murgan (2013) library support the academic curriculum and research scholars. The traditional libraries provide printed material (books) as per syllabus o photocopies of appropriate journal article. Libraries have a long history, starting with the chained and closed-access libraries of earlier times to the present-day hybrid, digital, and virtual libraries that use the latest technology for provision of information through various services. Modernization is a continuous process of change for the through technological inputs, which is taking place in every field due to extensive use of ICT application. Libraries are backbones to all the activities carried out in education research, training etc. Libraries assist users in developing proper background and base for the development of information society.

Objectives:
1. To assess the available traditional libraries.
2. To discuss the use of ICT in the academic libraries
3. To suggest the plan for design academic library as modern library

Methodology:
The study of uses of ICT in academic libraries collect data from the different journals articles, NAAC guidelines provided in the UGC websites, different librarians orally giving opinions, conferences proceedings. It is helpful to analyze the data and prepare the action plan for modern library using Information Communication Technologies.

Traditional Libraries:
Traditional libraries had manuscripts and printed materials which was kept in an organized manner in the libraries by using Cataloguing, classifying, indexing. The information available in the libraries was made available to the user on demand. The libraries are mainly function as store house information and developed the information to users on demand.

The weaknesses of traditional libraries
- Information available only in print
- Services based on available collection of a single library only
- Information access was through secondary sources
- Maintenance of the physical library was a challenging task and costly affair involving manpower
- Catalogue has limitation to handling
- Need more manpower and finance maintaining stack
- More repetitive task involved in library functions and operations which need more staff

To remove these barriers applications of new technologies are very effective.

The NAAC gives suggestion to develop libraries. Academic libraries NAAC have developed the following set of best practices:
- Computerization of library with standard software.
- Inclusion of sufficient information about the library
- Compiling student / teacher statistics
- Displaying newspaper clippings and a clipping file maintained periodically
- Career/ employment information services
- Internet facility to different user groups

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- Information literacy programmes
- Suggestion Box
- Displaying New Arrivals
- Conduct book exhibition on different occasions
- Organizing book stalls
- Organizing competitions annually
- Conduct user survey periodically

The following set of practices too should have been included in it.

- Making of a Path Finder to the library
- Keeping the library premises neat and clean
- Compiling a list of Current Serials/ catalogue of journals.
- Updating and maintaining library website
- Maintaining useful statistics regarding the use of the library and displaying them on the library walls
- Compiling checklists on different subject/topics as a part of documentation service
- Library Committee formation
- Distribution of useful handout

Use of ICT in libraries:

The library profession is constantly changing since the past two decades due to emerging trends, technologies and techniques which are used in libraries for information handling and providing services to users. It is possible for libraries to use the information resources available over the internet in digital form. Books and journals are already available in electronic form along with other resources on the net. Due to this change, libraries are also shifting their collections, services, facilities and practices based on resources.

Hamelink(1997) defines the ICT(information communication technologies) are those technologies that enables the handling of information and services in different forms of communication.ICT includes capturing technologies ,storage technologies(CD ROM),processing technologies(Application software) ,communication technologies(COMPUTERS).Information technology changed scenario and overcome on traditional libraries.

The major benefits are use of ICT in libraries:

- Pinpointed information delivery covering both current retrospective information quickly in e-form various resources.
- More usage of internet and network based information resources.
- Development of databases and their integration for resource sharing
- Online search facilities of international databases
- OPAC and Web OPAC development
- Preservation of the rare documents in e- form with hyperlink
- Better and efficient management of information and information services to users

The impact of all round technologies development is visible in the academic, reasearch and special library systems, where current and retrospective literature provided for the research and educational improvements. User needs are now shifting and academic libraries have to play an important role in the educational process and independent learning methods, where more e-resources may need to support user needs like digital class room, chat room and discussion room etc.

Mallapur and Naik (2009) pointed out importance of library are growing since use of ICT and modern technologies. His opinion the library is not only storehouse of knowledge but in the age of information technology, libraries have turned into information centers or learning resources centers. Academic libraries no longer restrict themselves to print media services such as collection development, cataloguing, classification, circulation, reference services, current awareness and other bibliographic services but have extended their efforts to interdisciplinary concept like computer hardware, software, telecommunication and other technologies.

Due to ICT application changes reported in the profession is development of electronic, digital and virtual libraries.

1) Electronic libraries: This library uses of electronic media in libraries makes libraries amenable for transformation from traditional libraries to electronic libraries. Using computers and library management software, libraries automated for store and retrieve data whenever needed. This automation has many advantages developing g database, saving manpower, maintenance, housekeeping operations.

2) Digital Libraries: Today’s libraries are trying to move advanced stages which cross the levels of automation. The trends LIS are now shifting towards digital library developments .the advantages are maximum use of e-publication, internet resource usage, resource sharing, library network development, online searching.

3) Virtual Libraries: Use of internet and virtual imaging advancement in web technology makes the library modern. The real imaging is playing an important role in the field of library helps in data
and information transfer over the net quickly. Virtual libraries are benefited in collecting information instantly. Thus the information technology helps LIC’s and Libraries of special, university, academic and colleges are to be modernized.

To develop the modern library needs action plan:

The library is to deliver quality, user oriented services in response to information needs of the users, proper management. Based on the needs and trends an action plan prepared for modernizing library.

The library needs to develop an action plan covering:

- Review the present existing libraries
- Take the suggestion from experts to prepare model plan
- Prepare modern layout of the library(desk top libraries)
- Develop plan for reorganization for e-library system using technology
- Implement phase the physical infrastructure needed
- Automation, RFID
- Digital library and library portal
- Remote access

In other words action plan summarized as:

1) Analysis of existing library structure
2) Identified area to be modified
3) Define modernization strategy plan in phases
4) Estimate cost for management
5) Justify to authorities
6) Evaluates technology and library trends
7) Estimate resources
8) Floor plan

Conclusion:

Traditional libraries have many problems regarding to maintain, time consuming. The upcoming technology gets impact on every process of libraries makes easy and instantly. The existing libraries need to be re engineering to suit the needs of modern society. The action plan discuss for develop the library traditional to modern. The modern libraries are beneficial for students, faculties and researchers.

References: