



Enhancing Library Services: The Role Of ICT

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Abstract

The dissemination of knowledge and academic research has long been led by libraries. Embracing digital transformation, libraries have incorporated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) advancements to improve their services. This essay will explore the effects of ICT on library services, the difficulties encountered in adopting ICT, and methods to enhance the use of ICT in libraries.

KeyWords : ICT

Introduction:

By making it easier to integrate digital catalogs and manage resources effectively, ICT has completely transformed library services. Libraries around the world can now offer online databases that give users simple access to a wide range of information by digitizing their collection. For instance, millions of books, manuscripts, and images have been digitally preserved by the Library of Congress in the United States, making these resources accessible to users from a distance. Additionally, automation solutions like RFID technology have been used into libraries to improve overall efficiency and user experience by streamlining procedures like inventory management and self-checkout procedures.

ICT adoption in libraries is hampered by some issues, notwithstanding its advantages. Financial limitations frequently prevent libraries from acquiring and maintaining the ICT infrastructure required for modernization. Furthermore, a major barrier is the opposition to change among library employees and users. Some patrons can oppose the move to digital platforms because they value traditional library services more. Strong cyber security measures are also required since worries about data security and privacy in the digital sphere raise legitimate issues regarding the handling of digital material in libraries.

There are a number of tactics that can be used to improve the integration of IT into library services. To guarantee that library staff members are using digital technologies effectively and to increase their ICT literacy, training and assistance are essential. Working with IT specialists can assist libraries with system

upkeep and integration, guaranteeing the seamless running of digital services. ICT adoption in libraries can also be boosted by interacting with users through user-friendly digital interfaces and services, including mobile apps for catalog browsing or virtual reference services.

The use of information and communication technologies has become indispensable in daily life. ICT is essential to the government, corporate, and small business sectors. Everybody's life has changed tremendously as a result of this ICT notion. Similar events occurred in the field of library and information science. The changes in data gathering, preservation, and dissemination are attributed to information technology.

ICT has evolved into a fantastic gift for libraries and librarians in general. Conventional methods are replaced by new ones, such as disseminating information, preserving information in tiny chips, and accessing information online.

Concept of ICT

Technology that facilitates information-related activity is known as ICT. Data collection, processing, storing, and presenting are some examples of these tasks. These activities increasingly include teamwork and communication. As a result, information and communication technology, or ICT, has replaced IT. Combining informatics technology with other related technologies—specifically, communication technology—is known as information and communication technology, or ICT.

Literature Review

In 2013, Kumar and Rajendra concentrated on identifying and focusing on the many ICT components that are utilized in information systems and libraries. The research outlines the appropriate justifications for utilizing computers and other technology in library settings. The text elucidated the function, significance, and difficulties associated with an information communication technology-driven library system. Today's libraries face a variety of challenges and opportunities as a result of the fast increasing ICT, as Bendkar, Y. (2013) explored in his study on the role of ICT in libraries and its association with various concerns. Making the switch to digital collecting is the newest trend in the world. Libraries nowadays are working hard to digitize their traditional collection and are preparing for subscription-based online acquisitions.

The function of a librarian was examined by Venkata and Ramana P. in 2006. Based on quick, revolutionary developments, Venkata, Ramana P. (2006) examined the role of librarians in new information communication technologies. One of the most difficult careers in the knowledge society is library service. It is necessary for library workers to acquire professional abilities in order to embrace constantly evolving technologies.

Benefits of ICT Use in Libraries:

- ICT facilitates quicker, easier, less expensive, and more efficient library work.
- As information retrieval is made easier in computerized systems, it aids in managing information overload.
- Networked systems facilitate remote access.
- Computerization minimizes paper use and saves space.

ICT in libraries has a number of difficulties, including:

Inadequate funding for ICT infrastructures;

Frequent software and hardware changes;

Unstable power supplies;

Insufficient bandwidth;

Staff members' lack of technical IT expertise;

Copyright and intellectual property rights management.

- Collection management is just one of the many areas of library operations that have

changed as a result of information and communication technology (ICT). ICT is therefore beneficial for managing library collections. When it comes to obtaining, organizing, preserving, and providing access to a broad range of resources, libraries face both new opportunities and difficulties in the digital age. The incorporation of ICT has not only altered traditional approaches to collection management. Technology has, meanwhile, also presented libraries with fantastic new chances to enhance their services and meet the evolving needs of their users. Digital Resource Acquisition and Access: The use of ICT has made it easier to obtain digital resources like online databases, e-books, and e-journals.

- The range of librarians' collections can now be increased by purchasing and accessing digital content from publishers and vendors. Improved Organization and Metadata: Libraries have benefited from the use of ICT by using cataloging systems and metadata to better organize their collections. Librarians can easily classify and categorize both digital and physical documents with the use of ICT-based cataloging systems, which makes it easier to locate and retrieve materials.
- Digital Preservation and Archiving: The preservation and archiving of priceless resources has been made possible by ICT. Libraries can protect digital content from deterioration and obsolescence by using digital preservation strategies. Rare and delicate materials can be conserved in digital formats through digitization programs, guaranteeing their survival and accessible for future generations.

- Resource Sharing and Interlibrary Loan (ILL): The services of resource sharing and interlibrary loan have been extended by the integration of ICT. Libraries can now work together on a worldwide scale, exchanging digital collections and giving users access to a greater variety of resources. ICT-based ILL systems have sped up processing times and increased user efficiency for both library employees and users.
- Open Access Resource Integration: The use of ICT has made it easier to incorporate open-access resources into library holdings. Research papers and scholarly articles are examples of open-access content that are publicly accessible online. By curating and granting access to these resources, librarians can increase the amount of scholarly literature that is accessible to users without requiring payment.

User-Centric Services: Information and Communication Technology has made it possible for libraries to implement user-centric collection management strategies. Libraries are able to provide customized suggestions based on user interests and preferences by means of online portals and personalized interfaces. In addition to saving searches and receiving alerts for new resources that fit their interests, users can build personalized profiles.

Conclusion:

information and communication technology (ICT) is essential to improve library services because it makes resource management more efficient, increases information access, and streamlines operations. Libraries may use ICT to provide more dynamic and user-centric services by using techniques like staff training, working with IT specialists, and engaging users. These strategies can help libraries overcome obstacles including financial limits and reluctance to change. Libraries must adopt ICT if they want to remain relevant in the digital era and carry on being needed.

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