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BENEFITS AND LIMITATIONS OF ICT IN LIS

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ABSTRACT:

Information is now seen as a valuable resource within an organization, a resource that, if properly managed and used can stimulate for innovation, speed product development, raises levels of productivity, ensure consistent standards of quality and through all these means, raises its relative level of competitiveness. Approaching the end of twentieth century, societies all over the world are changing and the information now plays an increasingly important part in economical, social, cultural and political life by creating a goal of achieving an information conscious society. Today, the information arena is witnessing an exciting plethora of technological advances, which has been quite responsible for immeasurable enhancement in human knowledge.

KEYWORDS

Limitations , organization , Technology , research environment.

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INTRODUCTION

Technology has transformed how information is accessed, evaluated and used in an academic and research environment. Technological capability has become critical to users seeking occupational, educational and leisure opportunities to improve the quality of their lives by expanding services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats, in all types of libraries for individuals of all ages. Developing library services that provide all users access to information through local, state, regional, national, and international electronic networks has been prime objective for library and information centers in modern era.

For any research and development institution of higher learning, information is the basic resource for carrying out extensive research leading to better standard of living and prosperous development of the country. Hence, Library and Information Centers attached to the parent institutions have to play significant role in meeting the nascent information needs of the scientists to their desktops, for which information and Communication technology has to be effectively utilized in library activities and services by building strong campus network. This will enhance efficiency of libraries in extending technology based information services to the users and to satisfy the academic and research community of the university or research organization. In India, there are many University institutions carrying out research in different disciplines, in which libraries needs to extend techno-based information services to the users. This has led the investigator to study the extent of Info-tech based information services offered by the University libraries to their clienteles with a view to understand the prospects, lacunae and thereby suggest suitable model for improving the existing library system in extending Info-tech based information services in a University environment. As the University libraries are spread over India, **the study has been confined to Maharashtra state only**. This becomes more relevant in the electronic era demanding to conduct research in order to explore the techno-based information services extended to the users in an academic and research environment.

BEFITS OF ICT ENABLED LIBRARY SERVICES:-

- The greatest advantage ICT based library services is that, its provides users the needed information or data within seconds. Now the user need not hunt from libraries to libraries to get the desired information.
- Cost of accessing and retrieving information is almost negligible.
- Extracted Information can be downloaded and incorporated into a document
- Information can be searched easily, clipped saved online
- ICT enable to access reference materials various databases and library catalogues of world wide.
- It helps to review journals articles books, compute r programmes form different services and enables the user to download them on the personal system
- ICT provide latest information and that way the user can update his knowledge.
- OPAC on internet allow registered users to place reservations on items or use other services, such as checking an how many items they have on loan and accordingly renewing them.
- ICT services helps in promoting Research and Development of any organization. be it academic, research or business organization
- ICT Provides a considerable convince in reduction of the space. Space required to store information.

BENEFITS AND LIMITATIONS OF ICT IN LIS

•It helps to avoid duplication of efforts within a library and between libraries in a network.
•Allows easy integration of various library services.
•It facilities co operation and helps in brining libraries together by virtue of network.
•It helps eliminating some uninteresting and repetitive work of the librarian e.g. a database created with bibliographical information can be updated easily and unnecessary information can be deleted.
•ICT has open new opportunities of business to various service provides.
•Above all ICT has its greatest benefits in increasing the efficiency of the library. In scene that with the minimum of the efforts, maximum services can be provided apart from saving all the cost, & time

LIMITATIONS OF THE ICT BASED LIBRARY SERVICES

ICT based services however versatile and wide in application it suffers from following limitations: however these limitations do not defy the need and importance adoption of modern technologies these limitations are as follows:

•Cost of Installation is very high though it can be argued that, in terms of the benefits the cost of installation is negligible, but the cost of installation is high which organization may not afford.
•Access time depends upon network performance.
•Connection failure may cause serious problem
•Noise/Disruption in telecommunication lines can cause serious problems.
•It required expertise knowledge of the use of computer and allied devices
•Universally there is no uniformity for indexing
•Poor quality of data a lot of without proper organization and structure.
•Inadequacy of awareness although usage of online services in the context of libraries is growing, online services reach only to a fraction of the total population
•The telecommunication infrastrture is such that access internet is slow.
•The older generation is unaware of the latest facilities that are available
•Limited access participates in online services do not represent the entire community
•There is sizeable number of persons who are not comfortable with the modern technologies.
•Lack of Reliability online services must be used in conjunction with other techniques that allow user to get information quickly. Authenticity of the information posses a serious problem.
•Lack of Face to Face Interaction, Online service cannot replace meetings which allow members to share ideas and generate idea also.
•Information overloading is often a severe problem. As online services make communication easy and many user to join and the data information needed is quite many times is much more than wanted. It is thereby needed to segregate the information and which many a times is a unwanted activity.

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