

# Library Services in Digital Era.

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## Manuscript Details

Available online on <http://www.irjse.in>  
ISSN: 2322-0015

## Cite this article as:

Sable Mahendra Shantaram. Library Services in Digital Era, *Int. Res. Journal of Science & Engineering*, February 2020 | Special Issue A7: 701-704.

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## ABSTRACT

The use of Information Communication Technologies has caused a transformation in the users' perception from what is being hosted in the library to how and when services are rendered to fulfill their requests. Consequently, libraries are becoming less important for the material they collect or house. Instead, their importance is being measured in respect to the fulfillment of the users' requests.

**Keywords:** ICT, library, information service.

## INTRODUCTION

The use of computers for library operation avoids respectively jobs and saves considerable amount of time, resources and labor. It also speeds up technical processing and information services. ICT has been a means to bring quality services. Systematic planning of its introduction and application will assure that the technology based information services are sustainable, and enhances the ability of library. Computer has brought in a new impact to the library and information usage. In libraries, information technology has assisted library professionals to provide value added quality information service and give more remote access to the inter-nationally available information resources.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

UNESCO defines Information Technology as "The scientific, technological and engineering disciplines and the managerial techniques used in information handling and processing; their applications;

computers and their interaction with men and machines and associated social, economic and cultural matters".[5]

According to ALA Glossary "Information Technology as the application of computers and technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information".[1]

## CONCEPT OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

ICT is a term used to describe a range of equipment (hardware: personal computers, scanners and digital cameras) and computer programs (software: database programs & multimedia programs), & the telecommunications infrastructures (phones, faxes, modems, video conferencing equipment and web cameras) that allow us to access, retrieve, store, organize, manipulate, present, send material and communicate locally, nationally & globally through digital media.[2]

### Benefits of ICT- Based information Services:

Some library users are adopting electronic habits, making increasing use of the new ICT including computers, the Internet, the Web, Intranet, Extranet and other technologies. As a result, library users are placing new demands on their libraries. They require access to the latest information, updated information resources and access to ICT facilities that they could use in their work. Use of ICT in libraries enhances user's satisfaction. It provides numerous benefits to library users.

Some of the benefits are:

1. Provide speedy and easy access to information
2. Provides remote access to users
3. Provides round the clock access to users
4. Provides access to unlimited information from different sources
5. Provides information flexibility to be used by any individual according to his/her requirements
6. Provides increased flexibility
7. Facilitates the reformatting and combining of data from different sources.[3]

### Application of ICT for library Information services:

ICT is a broad term that covers wide range of technologies. It is the convergence of computers, communication and microelectronic-based techniques. The technologies and devices like Radio, Telephone, Telegraph, Fax, TV, Telephone, Mobile phone, Internet, WWW, Email, LAN, ISDN, Videoconference and Satellite communication Techniques are major part of the ICT. With the help of LAN, CUSAT community easily shares the information. Telephone and another devices play important.[5]

### ICT has impacted on libraries in the following ways:

**Electronic Information Resources:** E-Resources in various formats like CD-ROM, DVD-ROM Databases, On-line databases, e-journals, Internet or online access resources, the content of these sources varies from bibliographic or factual to full text.

1. **CD-ROM databases:** Uses of CD-ROM databases are increasing day to day in almost all over field due to their many advantages in information storage and retrieval. Majority of publishers of books and journals, on line vendors and various learned powerful, users-friendly retrieval software- Electronic information resources in CD format include abstracting and indexing services, encyclopedias, dictionaries, directories, yearbook, back volumes, patents, standards and many others reference works. The CD ROM technology has given ample opportunities for information professionals to introduce more information services to end users.
2. **Online databases:** The recent growth of internet and the popularity and ease in use of web are making libraries to subscribe to online information services. The uses of online databases against their CD-ROM counterparts have to be evaluated and decided on the basis of cost effectiveness and timelines.
3. **E-Books:** An electronic book is the content of the books made available to the reader in electronic form. According to encyclopedia of library and information science, electronic book is "a term used to describe a text analogous to a book that is in digital format to be displayed on the computer

screen". Electronic books or e-book are book in computer file format and read on all types of computer including handhelds device, design specifically for reading e-books.

4. **E-Journals:** E-Journals are most important with the emergence of internet. "Many publishers are choosing WEB as an access medium using HTML to mark up the journal content so that it can be read using a web browser. These are also called as networked e-journals. Other publishers have chosen to use additional access software in conjunction with the WEB, the most popular being adobe acrobat and its associated PDF file".[4]

#### **Creation of OPAC:**

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is the computerized form of the library catalogue (that is the library holdings). OPAC is very easy to use, save space and can be used to access even catalogues of other libraries Networking: ICT enables libraries to network. Networking can be local (LAN) or wide (WAN).[6]

#### **Library Resource Sharing and Library Consortium:**

ICT can enhance the creation of a central union catalogue which allows libraries to share from their resources. Library consortium is a "Community of two or more information agencies which have formally agreed to co-ordination, co-operate or consolidate certain function" to achieve mutual objectives. Like UGC-INFONET, INDEST-AICTE, N-LIST.

#### **Institutional Repositories:**

Institutional repositories are compilation of publications that originate from scholars within an academic institution. These include theses, dissertations, conference and seminar papers, curriculum vitae, reports, inaugural lectures and any other publication emanating from individual scholars within academic institutions.

#### **Library Electronic Security system:**

ICT enhances library security through the use of Radio Frequency Identification Detector (RFID). RFID is the latest technology used in libraries for theft

detection. RFID is a combination of radio frequency used technology and microchip technology.

**Creation of a virtual library:** ICT promotes the establishment of a virtual library. A virtual is a library that exists without any regard to a physical space or location. Virtual libraries which can be made possible by ICT have numerous advantages over traditional libraries.<sup>5</sup>

#### **ICT based Library Services should be provided by library -**

The following are some of the ICT facilities or resources that can be used for effective library operations and services:

Bar-coding technology, Bulletin board services, CAS & SDI services, Chat services, Computer technology, Database services, Document scanning services, Electronic books, Electronic document delivery services, Electronic journals, Electronic mail (e-mail), Electronic resources, Fax (facsimile transmission/ Tele fax), Indexing and abstracting services, Institutional repositories, Internet, Library management software package, Library retrieval systems, Library website, Micrographic & reprographic technology, Networked electronic information resources, Networking technology, NPTEL services, Online full text service, Online instructions, Online public access catalogue (OPAC), Online readers' advisory services, Open source software, Printing technology, RFID technology, Smart card for member identification, Storage technology, Tele text service, Teleconferencing, Video conferencing, Videotext services, Voice mail, Web technology.[3]

Today's highly sophisticated information technology to facilitate the storage of huge amounts of data or information in a very compact space. Information technologies promise fast retrieval of stored information and revolutionize our concept of the functions of a traditional library and a modern information center. Recently technological developments have dramatically changed the mode of library operations and services. Modern ICT is impacting on various aspects of libraries and the information profession.

**Conflicts of interest:** The authors stated that no conflicts of interest.

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