Role of Information Literacy in Technical Institute's Library and Resource Centers

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Abstract

Learning is never ending process, it is an act of acquiring new skills and develop knowledge of human being. It can be developed through any mode like education, training, workshop etc. The library and information Centre has invested a huge amount of money in acquisition and dissemination of printed and non-printed resources for its clientele. These resources should be utilized properly to fulfil the needs of users. In this context, library should conduct orientation programs to its user for utilizing these resources properly. This article highlights the role of information literacy in technical institute's library and resource centers.

Keywords

Information literacy; Technical education; User education; Library; Resource centre

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INTRODUCTION

According to G. W. Carver "*education is the key to unlocking the golden doors of freedom*". Education in very important for every human being in this world, it enhance the knowledge of the human. In today's competitive world, education is the necessity for a man after food, clothing, and shelter. Education is that which transforms a person to live a better life and even in a social well-being. Without education a person is incomplete, education makes man/women a right thinker, great decision maker and overcome superstitions. An educated person is much more aware and utilises of the latest technologies, innovations and all the changes that are taking place in the world.

WHAT IS LITERACY?

Literacy means ability to read and write the numbers, letters or sentences. Now the meaning of literacy is extended that not only ability to read and write, but rather in an individual's capacity to put those skills to work in shaping the course of his or her own life (Barbanell, 2008). It also includes knowledge about the computer, cultural, design, emotional, film, financial, geographical, health, information, mathematical, media, scientific. According to National literacy trust, literacy is that people with good literacy skills are more likely to have a higher self-esteem, better health, better jobs and higher wages than those with poor literacy skills. They are more able to take advantage of the opportunities that life may offer them. It is set of skills which allows an individual to engage fully in society and in learning, through the different forms of language, and the range of texts, which society values and finds useful.

WHAT IS INFORMATION LITERACY?

The term information literacy first pronounced in the year 1974 by Paul Zurkowski, he used phrase techniques and skills for information literacy. It is for utilizing the wide range of information tools as well as primary sources in molding information solutions to their problems (Klinger, 2010). Information literacy competency is the ability to identify information needs, seek out resources to meet those needs and then analyse, evaluate, synthesize and communicate the resulting knowledge (Phatak and Bandodkar, 2015). However, Bruce and Candy (1994) noticed that the information literacy as a systematic information behaviour that involves: task definition, development of information seeking

strategies, locating and accessing information, using information & synthesizing and evaluating information. Information literacy is knowing when and why we need information, where to find it and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner (CILIP, 2015).

According American Library Association, Presidential Committee report on Information Literacy - "Ultimately, information literate people are those who have learned how to learn. They know how to learn because they know how knowledge is organized, how to find information, and how to use information in such a way that others can learn from them. They are people prepared for lifelong learning because they can always find the information needed for any task or decision at hand." Lakehead University suggested three benefits of information literacy. They are:

1. Students learn to find, evaluate and synthesize information thus developing critical thinking skills which hopefully leads to better research.
2. Better research lead to more success in studies thus increasing the retention rates of students.
3. The skills they develop in information literacy program are transferable to their eventual workplace making students more marketable.

Seven pillars of Information Literacy: The Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL) working group on information literacy introduced seven pillars of information literacy. They are:

1 *Identity* - Able to identify a personal need for information
2 *Scope* - Can assess current knowledge and identify gaps
3 *Plan* - Can construct strategies for locating information and data
4 *Gather* - Can locate and access the information and data they need
5 *Evaluate* - Can review the research process and compare and evaluate information and data
6 *Manage* - Can organise information professionally and ethically
7 *Present* - Can apply the knowledge gained: presenting the results of their research, synthesising new and old information and data to create new knowledge and disseminating it in a variety of ways

Standards for Information Literacy: The association of College and research librarian (ACRL) introduced five standards for higher education at the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) in San Antonio. They are as follows:

1. The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
2. The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
3. The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.
4. The information literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
5. The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

ROLE OF INFORMATION LITERACY IN TECHNICAL

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has introduced pliantly of rules and regulations for technical educational for development of technical education in the country. The standards for library and resources centers like number of books to be purchased every year, national and international journals and online databases requirements are build the healthy collection development in the library.

The proliferation of information technology and communication tools in transforming the present society into knowledge based society where in the basic input in information and knowledge. The capability to access, organize, manage and disseminate knowledge will be the key factors in this society. The role of Library professionals is changed radically with shifts of education paradigms. The impact of moving from text-based learning to resources based learning will involve heavier use of library resources and a demand for more and varied media resources, including print and non-print. These changes creates plenty of new challenges for library and information centres like Information explosion, Information and Communication Technology, Growth and usage of web resources, Use of digital resources, User's expectations, Virtual learning

environment, Virtual educational institutions, Development of digital, virtual, and hybrid libraries, Online bookshops and information services (Ramana, 2006). To overcome these challenges library should conduct information literacy programs in their parent organisation. Sadlapur and Patil (2015) noticed that information literacy programs are organised to promote library services effectively, to familiarize different types of library resources, to make aware of different types of databases like e-journals, e-books & research databases, to teach how to make use of databases effectively, to teach skills to library OPAC and digital library, improve on users search strategies and techniques, to develop cordial relationship with users, aware the users on copyright issues of information.

Tools of Information literacy in digital environment:

There are number of tools are available, but below listed tools are very important in the digital environment.

Orientation program: Orientation program is to create awareness among the users about library resources, services, good reading habits and activities for maximum utilization of the library. In other words enlighten the fresh students at the beginning of each academic year about the importance of the library, thereby exposing the students to its various sections of the library, the library resources and the various library services. It also helps to spread the awareness among students community.

Moocs: It is one of the online educational tool utilised in the recent time. MOOC means Massive Open Online Course platform in a public online teaching mode. These are developed in web-based medium for course delivery and learning. It allows unlimited learners to participate in the course with high quality content and interactive tools for training and education (Bellary and Naik, 2015). It is an e-learning interactive learning in which the learning content is available online and provides automatic feedback to the student's learning activities.

Information brochures: Information brochures are very important for library and users, this will provide complete information about library services, sources and all sections of the library. Broacher should provide screenshots of databases subscribed in the library and what are the search strategies to be follow while accessing the database.

Exhibition: Library should arrange book display / exhibition regularly on particular subject or themes in the library. This will help library users identify the different resources available on the particular subject in the library.

Bulletin boards: Bulletin boards are also known as message boards used as an electronic notice board which attract library patron's eyes and mind towards important information. The bulletin board should be update regularly to enhance the use of library resources and services.

CONCLUSION

Information literacy is critically important because we are surrounded by a growing ocean of information in all formats. The prime purpose of the information literacy is to foster co-operation in the development of information skills education in all the types of libraries. The basic function of any library is to provide the right information to the right user at the right time in right manner. Tipnis (2014) suggested that with the advances in information and communication, the traditional concepts of user orientation, bibliographic description and dissemination of information are to be fine-tuned to the new environment to fulfil the requirements of the library users.

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