ICT Tools in Academic Libraries: Problems and Challenges

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Abstract:

This Abstract focuses on the use of ICT tools in academic libraries. The article highlights the benefits of adopting digital libraries, E-resources sharing and computer system to improve the library services to the users. ICT in libraries has changed the mode of information storage and retrieval, acquisition, cataloguing and classification, circulation of materials, serials control, management statistics and administrative activities such as budgeting. And the challenges faced by the academic libraries in implementation of ICT Tools and the steps to be taken to overcome with these barriers.

Keywords: E-Resources, Digital Library, ICT Tools.

Introduction:

ICT stands for information and Communication Technology. As the name suggest tools that handle information and produce, store and disseminate information. It exists in multiple forms like Audio, Video, Audio Visual and Text, it refers to latest technologies and a repository of simple audio –Visual aid. Tremendous development has been seen in the field of Library and Information Science due to the faster growth in technology. In past few decades with the use of internet and Technology, the library work has become very fast. To satisfy the needs of users, speed and accuracy is the two most important dimensions. Emerging ICT's have changed traditional libraries into knowledge Centre's. Basically, ICT is used in Libraries, efforts to provide services such as access to OPAC, Library Database, Automation, Circulation of library materials etc. Hence, ICT Services have greatly impact on each sphere of academic activity.

Meaning and Definition:

According to Blurton ICT is defined as "A diverse set of technologies, tools and resources used to communicate, create, disseminate, store and manage information".

The longman dictionary of Contemporary English described information technology as a "The study or use of an electronic process for storing information and making it available".

It is well known that all the success depends upon the satisfaction of the library users. So, in the present scenario the quickest library service is more approachable through the World Wide Web and Internet (Berners-Lee, Caillian Groff and Pollermann, 1992)

Objectives of the study:

➢ To provide an awareness of Information Communication Technology for quick library services.
➢ To find the problems and challenges of library services through ICT based devices.
➢ To find out the solution to overcome the problems.
➢ To establishment of well storage and retrieval system.

ICT Tools in Academic Libraries Services:

1. **Barcode Technology:**
   A Barcode reader is an electronic device for reading printed barcode. This device is used for circulation of books and other materials like CD'S. Stock Verification is become easier and more effective with this technology.

2. **Electronic Resources:**
   The Commonly available electronic resources are accessed electronically through traditional medias like CD ROM's or through internet as electronic journal, online database, e-books or in the form of OPAC, blogs, Wikis etc.

3. **Library Management Software:**

Library management software is an effective management tools for all library activities such as administration, acquisition, cataloging, Transaction, documentation, barcode printing, Statistic, OPAC etc.

4. **Smart card for member identification:**

Smart cards can provide identification, authentication, data storage and application processing. A smart car is a card with an embedded chip on which data is stored.

5. **Internet:**

Internet is refers to interconnection of two or more computer network. Internet is described as a worldwide network of computer and people. It is an important tool for global online services. Internet connects universities, college, schools and other educational institution for information sharing and exchange.

6. **Information Communication Technology:**

Email is the most effective way of formal communication; it is the best system to exchange the message and information in electronic format. This tool can be used to provide the required information at the right time.

7. **Library website:**

A library website provides a library with a website to offer its service and features. Library website is a single window access to various web enabled library services

8. **OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog):**

ICT has changed the practice of cataloging in the library. Using OPAC the User can see the holding of the library collection. OPAC is the easiest way to get information of collection, weekly, Dailies, Question Papers, New Arrivals and other addition to the library.

9. **Social Media:**

Social Media like Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, YouTube etc. were used by the libraries promotion and marketing of their E-Resources. Facebook has become most useful ICT Tool for every kind of information dissemination and plays a very significant role for telecast the current ongoing programs.

10. **Remote Control Technology:**

Remote Control Technology is a greater development in the field of technology. By using this Technology, one can easily implement any kind of services sitting for away from the destination. ICT is generally used for remote control online meeting, desktop sharing, web conference and file transfer from one computer to other. Example of remote access is Team Viewer, Any Desk.

11. **RFID Technology:**

RFID Technology is a new technology for library transaction (check in and check out). Libraries are providing ICT based library services to increase the fast and user-friendly environment. RFID Technology provides an effective and efficient library service which fulfils the fourth law of library science.

12. **CCTC Closed Circuit Technology:**

This technology plays an important role in library management. It helps the Librarian to supervise the whole activities of the library. And also, it helps to look after the staff as well as users.

13. **QR Code:**

QR Code Stands for "Quick Response" many libraries have QR Code for their library website giving many online services just by scanning QR Code, decoding of information can be done by any mobile camera.

Problems and Challenges:

- Lack of Finance: Lack of finance or poor funding of libraries is a serious challenge to the development of ICT in libraries.
- Lack of technical skill: Lack of technical skills in library professional to work on these technologies.
- Lack of Internet Connectivity: Poor internet connectivity and low bandwidth.
- Random powder supply: Over dependence on public power supply which is mostly uneven

- Lack of ICT Knowledge: Lack of digital literacy among users

Suggestion:

- Training should be given to library staff for better usage of ICT oriented libraries.
- Adequate financial support should be given to libraries for better development of ICT tools in libraries.
- Libraries should have alternative source of power supply like UPS, Inverter.
- A separate internet line with fast high speed should be provided.

Conclusion:

ICT tools are much used to create standardization and better Academic environment in educational institutes. Academic Libraries plays an important role in cater the informational need of students and faculties of institution. So, it is necessary to provide adequate finance technical support and training to library staff for usage of ICT based facilities efficiently and effectively.

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