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INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY & ITS IMPLEMENTATION FOR PROVIDING RESOURCES & FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF GOA STATE



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ABSTRACT:

ICT has opened new challenges and opportunities & has its impact on the other fields. Now modern Libraries adopt lot of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) applications in their day to day transaction in order to provide prompt and efficient services to its users. It also helps to fulfill the contents of Dr. Ranganathan's five law of library science. The present article discusses the impact and benefit of using ICT applications in providing library Resources and Facilities for its users in Public Libraries located in Goa State. The authors overviews the different facilities provided by using ICT application in Public libraries.

KEYWORDS : modern Libraries, challenges, opportunities, library science

INTRODUCTION:

ICT is electronically enabled technology for disseminating of information. There are two main categories: - those which process information (such as computer systems), and those which disseminate information (such as telecommunication system). It has a wider connotation for Librarians which include in addition technologies like repro-micrographic technology, technical communication technologies and database creation & use. The ICT has a wide ranging impact on Library and information work. Information activities have undergone rapid transformation from conventional methods, consequent upon introduction of new technologies. New technologies can chose to attempt to emulate existing means of functioning or to offer a completely new means of operation.

Public libraries in Goa are not lacking behind of using ICT applications in providing recourses and facilities to its users. The State central Library and District library provides most of the ICT related services for the benefit of the users. Some of the ICT applications used by these libraries are discussed in the later part of the paper.

Library Automation

The term automation was 1st introduced by D.S Hander in 1936. He defined it as the automatic handling of parts between progressive production processes in relation to engineering industries. Since then the term has been applied to a wide variety of automatic machinery and automatic systems & it's commonly used to describe any operation in which there has been a substantial substitution of controlled action for human efforts or intelligence. The term library automation is used extensively to refer primarily to the use of computers to perform some of the traditional library activities such as acquisition, serial control, cataloging, stock verification & circulation, conventionally, semi related fields such as information retrieval, and automatic indexing and abstracting, automatic textual analysis etc. which do not generally fall within the preview of library automation. Though computer play the formal roles Library automation today, yet the roles played by telecommunication technology and the reprography technology are of great significance because of the extent of support they offer to Library automation.

Computerization

The role of computer in information units has continued to develop at an even increasing face. Today, every information service relies directly or indirectly on the use of computers and in near future, integrated networks for computerized information are likely to become very common. The first computer application which focused on information retrieval and the production of bibliographic bulletins & indexes, but their range has gradually extended to all technical & administrative operations and services. Computer systems however have to be designed, maintained, fed with information & used by people. In other words they do not simply replace human beings but instead call for a high level of qualification & at least as much, through admittedly different, works for advantage to be taken of their enormous processing capacity. A computer & system comprises: - a) Specialized personal, b) Electronic data processing device (hardware), i.e. the computer & its peripheral equipments. c) Telecommunication device if needed & d) software, i.e. the programs of sets of instructions by which the machines are made to execute specific predetermined tasks.

The Electronic/Digital Library :-

It is a storehouse of information, documents audio-visual & graphic material stored in a variety of media ranging from printed books, periodicals, posters & reports, microforms, slides, films, videos

audio discs, audio tapes, optical discs, magnetic tapes, etc. Electronic libraries deals with both housekeeping operations like acquisition, catalogue creation, circulation control, serial control, OPAC & the generation of management information & information retrieval systems like external databases and associated services & products.

Impact of ICT on Libraries

The information Communication Technology has a wide ranging impact on Library & Information Work. Information activities have undergone rapid transformation from conventional methods; consequent upon introduction of new technologies use may summarize as follows:-

Information Activity	Conventional Method	New Technology
Generate, Originate	Writing ,Typing	Word processing, text editing, character recognition, Voice recognition.
Preserve, Store	Manuscript Paper-Print Media	Electronic publishing, Magnetic storage, videotext, Tele-Text, Computer Disk, ROM
Process	Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing	Electronic data processing, artificial intelligence/Expert systems
Retrieval	Catalogues, Indexes	Database Management system, Information Retrieval off-line, Online.
Disseminate/Communication	Lists, Bibliographies, Abstracts, Hard copies	Electronic Mail, Electronic Document Delivery, Computer Conferencing, Telefacsimile, View Data
Destroy	Physical Weeding	Magnetic erasers, Optical erasers, Re-Use the medium.

Benefits of computer applications in the Library:-

Computer application in bibliographical information handling has manifold advantages:-

- First & foremost; routine and repetitive jobs are handled with saving in labors & eliminating drudgery.
- Second advantage is speed, which is the purport of the 4th law of library science.
- The 3rd benefit is improving productivity. Computer application is able to restructure work, redefine jobs & in the process re-allocate resources
- Fourthly it contributes to efficiency in terms of recall & precision parameters.
- The most important advantage is the facility with computer application offers for interlinking with other libraries & information centers to form a network. The sharing of resources can be reality only on account of computer networking.

Areas of computer application in Libraries

1. Database Activity
2. Library Work
3. Management information system/Decision support System.
4. Data communication & Networking
5. Other applications

Goa Public Library System & Application of ICT

Public library system was established way back in 1832 in Goa and now is looked after by Directorate of Art & Culture, Government Of Goa. According to report of Directorate of Art & Culture, Govt. of Goa. There are 1 State Central Library, 1 District Library, 7 Taluka Libraries, 4 Govt. village Libraries, 82 Non Govt. Organization Libraries & 42 Libraries run by village panchayats. The following below mentioned ICT applications and its services are provided by these Public libraries to its users in Goa State:-

Software:

The State Central library, Panjim, District library, Navelim & all 7 Taluka libraries use LIBSYS software for their library automation and routine work. LIBSYS is the most comprehensive library software package available in India. It is fully integrated multi-user system design to run on super/micro/mini computers under UNIX/VMS/LAN platform. It is easy to operate. LIBSYS support almost all activities relating to acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, articles alerts. It can be modified to operate on any preferred database such as ORACLE, INGRES, etc. LS Mert and LS premia is been used for Union catalogue of Goa Public Libraries and RFID technology at State Central Library respectively.

RFID Technology:

The State Central library is the only library in the State of Goa having the Radio Frequency Identification technology for their day to day issue and return of books facility. The book drop box facility is also provided by this library for 24 hours a day. This facilitates the returning of books without any hurdle. By using this technology we can do the shelf management and stock verification through hand held RFID readers. It also helps the library in multiple item processing and security.

Audio visual section:

A well equipped Audio visual hall is set up to enhance the co-curricular activities of the young/student reader in the Goa State central library. This hall has the facilities of biggest T.V. (104 inch) with home theater sound system. There are more than 2000 CD ROM on different topic of current issue. This section attracts lots of student community to the State Central Library.

Kids internet browsing center:

Both i.e. State Central Library and District library has the facility of kid's internet browsing facility for its young users. Children's make the utmost use of the section for their school assignment and other co-curricular activities. The popular sites like Face book, Blogs, etc are blocked from using. As different facilities are available in this center, more and more kids visit in this section day by day.

Internet browsing center:

State Central Library, District library and all the Taluka libraries provides the facility of Internet browsing to all its users. Here also all popular sites are blocked from using. People make the best use of this facility for getting information relating to their topic of interest. Due to this center, library earns some revenue for the government even though Public library provides other services free of cost to its reader.

Data Imaging center:

The State Central Library has the facility of scanning of document for preservation. The old books, Newspaper and other reading materials is scanned and kept for use in the digital library. This facilitates the library to provide the old material to its users online as well as in hard copy also. The old newspapers are also scanned and kept in the soft copies format.

Microfilm/CD ROM browsing center:

State central library has around 10 lakh pages in the microfilm/ CD Rom forms. These pages are from different books and other reading materials. The user when need arise uses this center. This center is well connected with all the ICT applications for use.

Fumigation Chamber & Preservation laboratory:

A well equipped fumigation chamber has been set up to protect the reading material from insects and other related enemies of this material. A hi-tech preservation laboratory with latest methods and technology is being made available in this section to treat the books and other reading materials and preserve them for national posterity.

E-Resources:

Goa State Central library is a member of DELNET Consortium. Through this consortium the library subscribes its World e-Book library. Where in 90, 00,000 unabridged eBooks, Journals & articles on more than 50 subjects originally scanned from the shelves of the top 50 University libraries in the world which support academic research at all levels and subject areas. It also subscribes 106 DELNET Engineering/ Technological e-journals and 131 DELNET proquest Management e-journals. It also provides the facility of about 140 Open Access e-journals, 116 e-Books & around 31 e-databases with its URL to the users. It also has 05 Kindles having 180 titles for its users.

Online Public Access Catalogue

The State Central library, Panjim, District library, Navelim & all 7 Taluka libraries provides 24 hours Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) facility to its users. This makes easy for users of above mentioned library to select the book without actually going to the library thereby saving their precious time and energy.

Research Scholar Cubicles

A separate/individual air conditioned study rooms/cubicles are provided for those who are pursuing their research or any other study with their own reading materials/laptop. There are 9 research cubicles with all the ICT facilities like Computer, Internet and Printer etc. They can make use of these cubicles for 24 hours of the day. For this the scholars have to pay minimum amount of Rupees 1000/- for a year. At present all these cubicles are reserved by Research Scholars in various field of

knowledge.

CONCLUSION:

Advances in Information Communication Technology and its application in the libraries have spurred changes within library services/facilities. Information is the only raw material used for the development of any activity and thus application of ICT in the public library helps people to get more and more advance facilities in less time. Goa public libraries are not far behind in applying most of the ICT based services and its applications in the library for user community even though they are in a small state like Goa. Due to the implication of ICT applications in the libraries, more and more user's visit these libraries for their day today's work on their subject of interest.

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