



NEW SKILLS FOR LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS IN ICT ENVIRONMENT

1.Sudhir Astunkar, 2.Chandrashekhar Hanwante
Librarian, Vivekanand Mahavidyalaya, Bhadrawati
2.G.W. College, Nagbhid.

ABSTRACT :

What skills do library professionals need in today' toward ubiquitous instant information? Anecdotal evidence suggests library professionals are acquiring a wider range of information communication technology (ICT) skills. This study show the ICT skills of library professionals. The basic aim of this paper to show the core competences of Library professionals as managers of organizations. This paper outlines and discusses the professional skills and necessary technological skills needed for library science professionals and managers. We found a substantial need for Web development, project management, systems development, and systems applications. This suggests that library professionals are incorporating a significant subset of ICT professionals' skill sets.

INTRODUCTION :

Modern libraries are shifting their role from the custodian to the provider of service-oriented information resources. Usage of computers, computer networks and rapid growth of the Internet and explosion in the quality and quantity of information compelled libraries to adopt new means and methods for the storage, retrieval and dissemination of information.

The modernization of libraries and information centers enabled information transfer and access, there by establishes a network of libraries and information centres. This initiative helped in resource development, resource sharing and their utilization at various levels. Information professionals subscribe to e-journals, CD-ROM databases, online databases, web-based resources, and a variety of other electronic resources. They participate in library consortia and build digital libraries. Library and information centres are using information and communication technology (ICT) for their operations, resources, and services.





ICTs facilitate quick and easy access to a wide range of information/information resources world wide. In fact, it is now difficult to imagine a world without information technology. The provision and use of ICT is part and parcel of the entire system, to both the students, information professionals and the institutions. It is one thing to recognize the importance of ICTs and another to know if they are effectively used by professionals, students and academics.

The information age is characterized by challenges of information explosion; dynamic and rapid changes in information sources and infrastructures. It is obvious that these challenges require multidimensional approaches to tackling them. Therefore, Library professional need of training to adopt new skill and knowledge of ICT.

Objectives of This Paper

- To show the role of the library professional as manager
- Have an in depth understanding of the technical, human, conceptual skills, and communication skills between library professional and manager.
- Appreciate the different uses of skills to suit your position in an organization.

Library Professional in Electronic Library Environment

The rapid development of information technology and communication system has brought a revolutionary change in the organization and management of information. In present electronic information age, where information is treated as an economic resource, a marketable commodity and as a social wealth, the librarians are to play an active and important role in the process of information communication system. The libraries are facing new challenges, new





competitors, new demands, new expectations and a variety of information services from users. They are now to be more acquainted with the skill of handling new technologies related to collection, processing and dissemination of information. For working in the borderless digital library environment, besides gaining the professional knowledge in library and information science (LIS), the library professionals should have the knowledge of information technology and its application in library operations and services, both in theoretical as well as practical level. With the changing role and responsibility of the librarians their professional identity is also changed, they are now known as Information Officer, Information Broker, Cybernarian etc. In the borderless library, a library professional is desired to be that of a continuous learner, an alert user and an expert consultant. As the technological revolution has given raise to some innovation and innovative ideas including artificial intelligence, bar code technology, speech synthesis, neural network, digital signature, etc. the library professional must become a continuous learner. He must be keep him up to date with the latest technological changes in general and its application in library operation in particular. In a digital web environment, the librarian gets the opportunity to search different web sites, e-journals etc as well as to share ideas among the same professionals' groups using e-mails, audio/video conferences etc. Moreover, he must be an alert user of newly developed hardware as well as software required for a web-based library. Besides, the library professional must be an expert consultant too. Because of the ever-changing information technology environment, the library professional should catch up and stay with contemporary state of art of information technology. Selection of a new aspect of technology and its application to the library operation involves a huge expenditure. So he must consult with other professionals for getting and giving better suggestions before





selecting a particular technological system for the library. Moreover, in the borderless library, the librarian is to offer continuous consultancy services to its users throughout the web.

Skill for the Library Professional

Skill is an ability or proficiency in execution or performance, which is required for a person to plan and execute an action designed to achieve some goals or accomplish a particular task. A skilled person has the ability to perform any task successfully. He can face the challenges occurs in a particular profession because of the social, economic, education and technological changes. Thus in order to cope up with the ever-changing library and information science profession, the library professional must be a skilled professional. As the borderless library is fully a web-based digital library, so the library professional should be more acquainted with technological skill and so this skill should be enhanced among the working professionals.

Technological Skills

Technological skills mean those skills which are required to handle information technology and its other related fields such as computer operation, telecommunication medias, creation of online database, designing of websites, searching information from internet etc. As the borderless libraries are nothing but the advanced application of information technology on the library, so the library professional should have to familiar with the skills to handle IT and its application in the library environment in the relevant context. Technological skills needed for a library professional can be discussed as follows:

Computer and Information Technological Tools using Skill

The librarian in the cyber world must have the skill of using and other information technological tools properly. Because quality of the library services is dependent on the quality of the librarian's performance. Skill of computer operation, application of bar code technology, creation of





database and its updating, designing and updating of web pages etc are required for the web based librarians.

Skill of using Internet and Computer Communication Networks

Skills of handling different computer communication networking architectures and systems i.e. LAN, MAN, and WAN as well as using of internet and other library related networks like INFLIBNET, CALIBNET, DELNET etc are required for a modern library professional working in IT environment to tackle the problems and challenges raised in building and maintaining a digital web-based library. Speedy resource sharing and dissemination of information is possible only with the proper computer networking skills. Moreover, the library and information professionals should have the knowledge of network protocols like TCP/IP, UDP, SMTP, HTTP, FTP etc.

Information Retrieval Skill

As the web-based libraries are the database of databases, the librarian should have the professional technological skills of comprehensive retrieval of right information from a particular database in a logical and analytical manner and to provide it to its users at the right time. The librarians should be in a position to help its diversified user community by providing retrospective searches, ready reference services, bibliographic services, selective dissemination of information services etc. Besides these technological skills, the library professionals should have the some other basic skills. The following skills should be enhanced for the library professionals.

CONCLUSION

This paper identifies a complete set of skills and competencies which build the image of a new generation of Library professionals. Due to digitization of the knowledge-based society, libraries are faced with many kinds of changes with regard to technological aspects, user and learning behaviors, and social aspects. All have major impacts on the





roles, competencies, skills and knowledge of Library professionals. This paper identifies the primarily required personal skills as analytical, creative, and technical.

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