

IT SKILLS FOR LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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Introduction

Currently, instead of attending to school, the education system will foster creativity, self-learning, and informal learning with an emphasis on values, qualities, and quality. With measured risk and opportunity, technology has created a new services environment that has pushed limits far beyond. Traditional libraries are being replaced by digital libraries, and new libraries are progressively becoming digital. In the LIS context, ICT plays a crucial role. It fundamentally alters the LIS profession's system and services. Professionals working in such libraries must continue to learn new skills and acquire core

competencies so that they do not become outdated in this rapidly changing environment.

Library Professional in Electronic Library Environment

The fast growth of information technology and communication systems has resulted in a radical shift in the way information is organised and managed. Libraries are confronted with increasing difficulties, competitors, demands, and expectations, as well as a wide range of information services from users. Library professionals must obtain theoretical and practical expertise in library and information science

application in library operations and services in order to operate in the borderless digital library environment. He needs to stay up with the most recent technical developments in general, as well as their application in library operations in particular.

In a digital online environment, the librarian has the ability to search many web sites, e-journals, and communicate ideas with other professionals via e-mail, audio/video conferencing, and other means. He must also be a vigilant user of newly created technology and software necessary for a web-based library.

Need of IT skills for LIS Professionals

LIS workers are learning that they need to learn IT skills in order to use library software. Because of the three primary causes listed below, libraries have been undergoing significant change since the twenty-first century :

- This change has been influenced by new types of work organisation such as user computing, work teams, downsizing, and re-engineering.
- The shift from paper to electronic media as the primary medium for storing data.
- Obtaining and disseminating information. This shift is influenced by the convergence of many media, such as text, images, and sound, into multimedia resources.
- A emphasis on quality customer service performance assessment, benchmarking, and continuous improvement is drawing more attention to responsibility.

The current IT-based environment has necessitated new work needs, new responsibilities, appropriate competence, and a variety of abilities from experts, all of which will aid in the development of new products and services in response to new developments.

The need to properly equip them with IT tools so that they can undertake jobs more effectively, in particular :

- Library-related jobs
- Developing new and improved information-handling techniques
- Access to other libraries' information resources
- Optimisation of available resources
- Increased efficiency in information management
- Information services to users

Essential IT abilities required of LIS Professionals.

the most essential IT skills required LIS professionals are given below:

- Web site design and Development
- Automation Skills
- Digital Library Management Skills
- Different Searching Techniques
- Knowledge of Servers, Networking and Softwares
- Social Media Marketing
- Etc...
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Conclusion

The dawn of a new age The librarian will take on the role of digital information protector and facilitator for maintaining democratic access to information. Evaluation, collection, organising, sharing, and dissemination of information in all media, including books, magazines, and internet services such as internal works product document and database resources, are all essential components of work. As a result, having a good understanding of IT and how it can be used in libraries, as well as a positive attitude, may make all the difference between the real and intended scenario. As a result, all professions should be IT-savvy.

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