

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIAN IN INFORMATION LITERACY

Siddiqui Faraz *

* Student,
Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India

QR Code



Introduction :-

In the twenty first century information literacy has become a crucial issue for political, economic, social and cultural development in all countries. Information literacy is a globe phenomenon today.

The information literacy is a process of knowing when and why information is required, where to find it and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical way .it is the combination of all the skills that are required for the effective and maximum use of information. The term information literacy has been used as collective term covering all or several of literacy's, viz., computer literacy, digital literacy,

hyper literacy, information technology literacy, interactive literacy, internet literacy, library literacy, media literacy, and multiple literacy, network literacy, oral literacy and visual literacy etc. These literacy's need to be developed and maintained throughout life, not only information users, but also by librarians and information workers.

The information society calls for all people to become information literate which means that they should not only be recognize when information is needed but also to be able to identify locate, evaluate and the effectively information needed for decision making or fulfilling different goals. Information literacy is increasingly important in the present context of

the information explosion and concomitant uncertainties about its authenticity, validity and reliability. For the student, regardless of their discipline, information literacy skill enable them to master content and give them the confidence to proud with investigation be self-reliant and have a sense of being in control of their learning.

What is information literacy?

The term information literacy was introduced in 1974 by Zurkowske who was the president of the US Information Industry Association to refer to people who knew how to apply information literacy as a concept is still evolving various attempts have been made by experts to explain this concepts of information literacy. Often information literacy, library literacy, media literacy, computer literacy, network literacy and digital literacy are erroneously used as synonymous terms.

Information literacy is currently understood as embracing the ability to define a problem, find information solve the problem, evaluate and use of information should be taken into account and used for improving information end users. It is a set of information and knowledge of skill that enable individuals to recognize when information is needed and when it is not, how to locate, evaluate, integrate, use and effectively communicate information. In short information literacy means knowing information about information. Information literacy refers to a constellation of skills revolving around information research and use.

Why is Information Literacy

It is only a thinking community that can progress and grow. Even at the individual level, in today's increasingly complex world with an equally complex information environment. Only those who are information literate can be successful.

Importance of information literacy can be summed up in Bundy's word, "Information literacy is a prerequisite for-participative citizenship, social inclusion; the creation of new knowledge; personal empowerment; and learning for life."

Need for Information Literacy

Information is the basic requirement for every human activity and it is important as food, air and water. Information in itself has no value, but its value lies in its communication and use. The need of information literacy may be essential due to the following reasons.

- Rapid increase in the stream of librarian due to information due to information revolution;
- Advent of information and communication technologies;
- Vast variety of information sources;
- Changing shape of libraries;
- Wide dispersal of information;
- Increase in number of users; and
- Research on complex and interdisciplinary.

Benefits of Information Literacy

The following benefits of information literacy may be observed:

- Expansion of knowledge through substantive operation of knowledge creation.
- Synthesis of data and information into knowledge.
- Appropriate and critical application of information and knowledge in problems solving.
- Enhancement of the critical thinking.
- Incorporation of validated information in the personal or corporate knowledge base.
- Motivation for self-directed learning, and
- Appreciation for life long learning.

Role of librarians in information literacy

Information & Communication Technologies have changed the complete scenario in libraries. Now a day's, library has become point of resource-based learning and the role of librarian is changing radically with shifts of education paradigms. The impact of moving from text-based learning to resource based learning will involve heavier use of library materials and a demand for more and varied media resources, including print and non-print. Today information has become a major economic commodity. The librarian is responsible for locating, acquiring,

disseminating and tracking information resources of many types. It might include database searching. Interlibrary loans, monitoring internet newsgroups, or maintenance of a computerized library information system. All these tasks involve managerial expertise and information literacy. Every citizen needs to be educated for productive information use. Libraries and librarians play an important role in the education of people for effective and efficient information use by teaching them information skills at all levels of education to enable to be informed citizens of the country.

Librarians have to identify and select good age-appropriate and age-specific literature. They have to look more too online and other electronic sources to meet the information needs. Acquisitions and selection criteria take on entirely new meaning when considering access to online services. Traditional materials criteria measures have little meaning when applied to internet sites. New paradigms of selection and evaluation with new technologies and their application to the classroom and resource center. Librarians are key personnel in the implementation of resource-based programmers. They can design an information literacy curriculum, which matches readers' capabilities, because they have the expertise and knowledge to teach these skills. They are leaders in new information technologies as well as extended resources across many disciplines. Their experience with information-finding tools gives them a context for the application of new tools such as the World Wide Web. They must accept that they are good educators and knowledge

managers. Today, librarians are really in the most favorable position to be the leaders in developing an information literate community.

Thus, library & information science professionals to play a significant role to promote information literacy in society. There exists a gap between librarians and the user's information needs. To bridge this gap they need to educate and re-educate themselves to acquire new skills and competencies for a new role and need to cultivate the concept of life long learning of information literacy skills. LIS professionals need to play an important role in the education process by making people aware of a need and motivating the use of information literacy.

Conclusion

In this information age every persons have need information literacy. Because information communication technology is very vast in universe, and there are many sources of information literacy to find out information. It could be concluded that even if information seekers are able to find out the sources, they will not be in a position to form the search strategies, which are necessary to make the relevant searches. They would not be able to understand what is appropriate to the situation and with lack of information literacy concept, one would not be able to present and communicate that data and findings effectively. The successful implementation of the network services will depended to a large extent on the willingness of the participants to co-operate with each other with a sense of 'give and take'. Besides, in order to

bring the concept of information literacy as a whole, one must not forget the rural community of India.

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