

Information Literacy: A Key

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Abstract: - *Information is a global phenomenon today. Information plays the important role to educate the users. The uncertain quality and expanding quantity of information pose large challenges for libraries. Information Literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information.” Information literacy also is increasingly important in the contemporary environment of rapid technological change and proliferating information resources. Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It enables learners to master content and extend their investigations, become more self –directed and assume greater control over their own learning. This paper defines information literacy and outlines its need and importance.*

Keywords: Library, Literacy, Information Literacy .

1. Introduction:

For the last few years dynamic changes are taking place in libraries. In today’s digital world the greatest challenge is to keep pace with the knowledge and technological expertise necessary for finding, applying and evaluating information. It is acknowledged that we live in an information society where the amount of information in the world is doubling rapidly. We get information in different sources but from this vast information, choosing useful information is very difficult work. For all these difficult tasks we need information

literacy. Therefore it is a necessity of this age to include information literacy in education. Information literacy programmes were created from 1980 in America. Information literacy is one art in which we know to use computer and also it teaches us different structure of information. With availability of internet information literacy gets special importance.

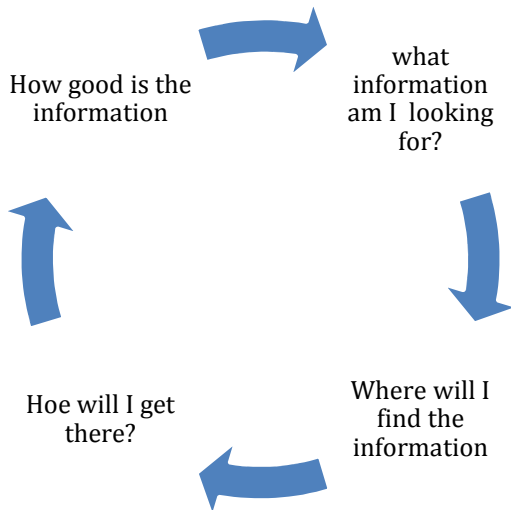


Figure 1: Basic Idea of Information Literacy

2. Definitions

Information: Information is data that has been given shape. It may be considered as processed data. Thus, information is data plus the meaning, which has to be a result of human action. (Seetharama, 1999).

Literacy: Literacy involves the ability to use language in its written form: a literate person is able to read, write and understand his or her native language and expresses a simple thought in writing. (Bawden, 2001).

Information Literacy: Information Literacy is an understanding and set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed, have the ability to locate, evaluate, use effectively the needed information and create information within cultural and social context. (ACRL, 2004; ALA, 1989; UNESCO, 2003).

Information Literacy: Information Literacy is knowledge rather than training, created through partnership between professional and is a lifelong endeavor that is contextual in field and service access. (SCONUL, 2002).

Information Literacy: “Information Literacy is knowing when and why you need information, where to find it and how to evaluate use and communicate it in an ethical manner” (Chartered institute of library and information professionals).

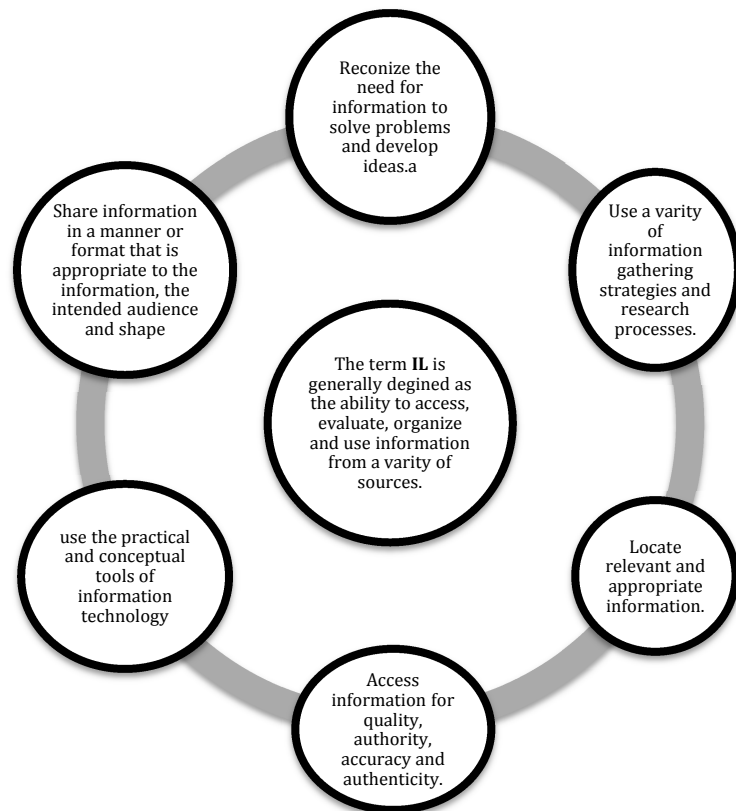


Figure 2: Definition of Information Literacy

3. Objectives

- To recognize an information gap.
- To construct alternative strategies to reduce the information gap.
- Recognition of importance and responsibility for information.
- To store the information for future use.
- To acknowledge the sources of information and ideas.
- To select strategy.
- To access the effectiveness of a strategy.

4. Need

This is the age of globalization, industrialization and liberalization the world has become a global village. Anyone can access information by sitting in the corner of his/ her house through internet. Books in the libraries are now available in digital form. In this era the libraries should understand the changes. The libraries provide information through various ways. Availability of information in abundance in various forms and formats and is free of any geographical boundaries. There are significant changes in information environment and content which are affecting information users in several dimensions. Information Literacy, which involves educating users to use Information Technology and to take advantage of wealth of resources currently available, is becoming an important objective for learners of all ages. Skills of Information Literacy would train beneficiaries to

take a logical path in their search for and application of information.

5. Importance

- Motivation for self-directed learning.
- Synthesis of data and information into knowledge.
- Enhancement of critical thinking.
- Incorporation of validated information in the personal or corporate knowledge base.
- It is important for academic success and for lifelong learning.

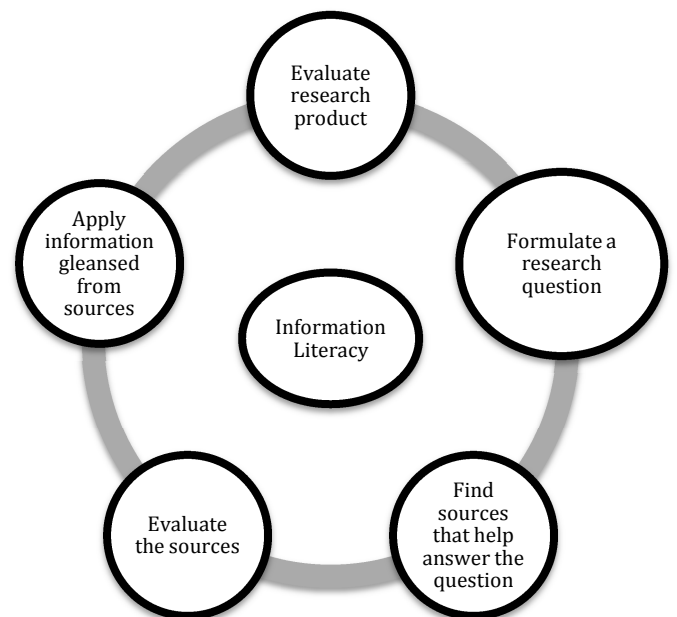


Figure 3 Importance of Information Literacy

6. Conclusion

In today’s world of expanded electronic access to information and the impact ubiquitous internet searching has had on students entering or returning to education, new strategies must be

employed to facilitate instruction that goes beyond procedural skills. The conceptual aspects of information literacy and critical thinking must come to the forefront of library instruction. Information literacy is an essential skill in the 21st century and forms the basis of learning. Libraries and librarians are information literacy agents. The librarians are well equipped to teach such skills. Information literacy is part of the basic entitlement of every citizen, in every country in the world. Information literacy is a survival skill in the information age.

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