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Abstract

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has provided plenty of opportunities and challenges to the Librarians. This paper discusses the cost effective ICT methods that have been implemented at Sri Sarada College for Women, Tirunelveli. The case study method has been adopted to study the purpose. Sarada Library has implemented library automation with barcode facility, institutional repository, library consortia, library 2.0 tools, coordinate NPTEL courses and conducted information literacy skill development programmes. Sarada library has implemented successful cost effective ICT methods and provided technological services to the end users.

Keywords: *Library ICT Implications, Library Automation, Institutional Repository, Web 2.0 Tools for Library.*

Introduction

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has provided plenty of opportunities and challenges to the Librarians. New technologies are emerging daily. Information explosion is kept on increasing day by day. Librarians have to provide technological service to cope up with information explosion. Financial constraint is an important issue to build up technological library services. Still, low budget libraries also can provide world class services by the current technological growth. This paper explores the cost effective information communication technology implementation in Library.

Methodology

Best Institution only can change and adopt new technologies for better services in Library. Thus, Sri Sarada College for Women, Tirunelveli has implemented information communication technology in their Sarada Library. The period of the study is 7 years (2009 – 2016). Cost effective best technologies have been implemented in the library. The case study method has been adopted to study the ICT implementation at Library.

Library ICT Implications

The operations of a library get a quantum jump with the introductions of computers. The computers help to provide fast and reliable access to the resources available in the library as well as elsewhere. The application of computers in the library operations avoids repetitive jobs, saves the time of user and staff, speeds up operations, and increases use of library resources. Computers are not only used as a tool for processing the data, but also for data storage and accessing. Libraries enhanced with ICT can help and promote research activities, research publications, scholarly communication of scholars and academicians.

Library Automation

Library Automation refers to the use of computers to serve the needs of library users. It is computerization of library regular routine works such as acquisitions, accessioning, technical processing, cataloguing, serials control, circulation, report generating and reference services.

Koha is a promising full featured open source ILS (integrated library system) currently being used by libraries all over the world. As it is open source software, it is available online. It is running on Linux operating system. At Sri Sarada College, Ubuntu (Linux version) and Koha has been installed by library professional. As the Library has been already computerized with DELPLUS Software, the product of DELNET, all data has been exported in to Koha. Library staffs have participated in the Koha workshop to learn more about using Koha. Local area network systems can have windows operating system. This software is simple to learn and easy to use with browser interface. Librarians need system with internet connection to install library automation software for their library.

Barcode Technology

Barcode technology enables quick library operations. Barcode labels have to be generated, printed and pasted in each library book. These labels can be readable by barcode scanners. It saves the time of library staff and students or user community during circulation of books. Barcode technology helps in stack verification also. At Sarada Library this barcode labels have been generated by "glables" with the guidance of library professional. Library has to bear the cost of barcode scanner and simple normal A4 size laser printer alone. Sticker (65 stickers in one sheet) has to be bought along with this.

Institutional Repository

An institutional repository (IR) is a digital archive of intellectual product created by the faculty, research staff, and students of an institution and accessible to end users both within and outside of the institution. An institutional repository is an electronic system that captures, preserves, and provides access to the digital work products of a community. An IR may provide a place for faculty's publication, student theses and dissertations, question papers, study materials, e-journals and so on.

The idea of "institutional repositories" will definitely present many opportunities and challenges to libraries. Successful Institutional repositories would elevate the libraries visibility

and importance not only at the institutional level, but also at the national and global levels. Establishing an institutional repository indicates that a library seeks to move beyond a custodial role to contribute actively to the evolution of scholarly communication. Libraries are best-suited to provide much of the document preparation expertise to help authors to contribute their research to the institution's repository. The libraries have to take the lead in establishing and operating an institutional repository.

DSpace has been implemented at Sarada Library. This software is open source software. It has been installed by library professional. It is challenging to collect papers from authors. Software is little difficult to use full-fledged. Library has used little features to create, to search and to retrieve. As for now DSpace has limited access at library only. In future, library will make it online for the benefit of user community.

Library Consortia

A Consortium could be described as a group of organizations who come together to fulfill a combined objective that usefully requires co-operation and the sharing of electronic resources. A library Consortium formation can be local, regional, state, national and inter institutional level. The proliferation of E-publishing across the world has brought in a revolution in scholarly journal publication, subscription, access and delivery mechanism. E-Resources offer a range of potential advantages to libraries and end-users: multiple simultaneous access to the same issue, remote access, in-built searching facilities, multi-media capabilities and reduced storage concerns. As a result of the above, libraries today buy licenses for an ever-increasing number of E-Journals from a range of different publishers and providers. By forming a consortium among libraries, it becomes possible to purchase information in stabilized and reasonable prices.

Sarada library has subscribed National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST), being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi provides for i)

cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and UGCINFONET resources for technical institutions; and ii) access to selected e-resources to colleges. The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty.

Library Blog

Library blog has been created and it updates library activities, photos of the events, links for open access resources. Students enjoy their activities are being published over the world through the internet. They can access open access resources through library blog. Thus the Library vibrant reaches their home also at any time.

Information Literacy

The term information literacy, sometimes referred to as information competency, is generally defined as the ability to access, evaluate, organize, and use information from a variety of sources. Being information literate requires knowing how to clearly define a subject or area of investigation; select the appropriate terminology that expresses the concept or subject under investigation; formulate a search strategy that takes into consideration different sources of information and the variable ways that information is organized; analyze the data collected for value, relevancy, quality, and suitability; and subsequently turn information into knowledge. This involves a deeper understanding of how and where to find information, the ability to judge whether that information is meaningful, and ultimately, how best that information can be incorporated to address the problem or issue at hand.

Information literacy is a critically important need because we are surrounded by a growing ocean of information in all formats. Not all information is created equal: some are authoritative, current, reliable, but some are biased, out of date, misleading, and false. The amount of information available is going to keep increasing.

At Sarada Library, information literacy classes have been arranged for small group of 5 to 10 students at their convenient timings. So that students can get clarifications immediately. Sometimes, it is being organized for all second year or first or third year students. Information

literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments, and to all levels of education. It enables learners to master content and extend their investigations, become more self-directed, and assume greater control over their own learning. Thus the library empowers students with new sources of knowledge.

NPTEL Programme:

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras offers National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL). NPTEL is a joint initiative of the IITs and IISc. Through this initiative, they offer online courses with video lectures by IIT faculty and certification in various topics.

Our students were encouraged to participate in these programmes and to write examinations and certification. Library provides facility and help to access these programmes and to coordinate these programmes. So that students learn to download lessons, to handle various types of files and especially to attend the IIT classes with high standard and get certification from IIT.

Library and information science email forums

Library and information science email forums meant by Librarians from various places of the country and also other countries are connected by email. Library professionals can discuss about subject, events, innovative practices and they could share documents. So that this forum helps to retrieve e journal papers, e books with full text for research purpose of faculty from the member libraries. It provides opportunity to connect with other librarians to ask any queries in the subject. Librarian helped faculty members to join in their respective subject forums. So that, they can get connected with their subject experts.

Limitations of Cost Effective Method

Though these are cost effective methods, technology is rich. Technical knowledge is necessary to handle the technological service. Librarians cannot get any technical support or

annual maintenance service. Librarian has to face the challenge of increasing technological developments daily. He/She has to be updated regularly with these developments.

Conclusion

With the system and internet connection, Librarians can build their library as Electronic Library. This paper highlighted the methods which have been implemented at sarada library. Role of ICT in libraries offer an important perspective for the development of policies, standards and practices related to critical issues such as online education, open access, copyright and fair use, mass digitization, data curation, digital preservation, metadata, and student learning. To fulfill these needs, librarian positions require subject, language, technological and/or other domain area expertise in addition to professional values, technical skills, and pedagogical abilities. Thus librarians could provide world class services to their end users by learning and adopting technology in their libraries. Sarada library has implemented successful cost effective ICT methods and provided technological services to the end users.

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