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QUANTITY V/S QUALITY IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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[Two coordinated aspects of Quantity and Quality existing under the influence of anticipated sources of information have passed several challenges to evaluate perfect information management techniques. Paper discusses a few issues covering the implication of Information Technology and Measuring Information.]

1. INTRODUCTION

Fundamental changes are taking place in the outlook of libraries in the ways the users are facing the emerging Information Age. The old traditions, concepts are undergoing a sea of changes owing to the electronic industrial revolution. The Past glories of the libraries will give an insight gleaned towards the virtues of unique characteristics of knowledge preserved, processed and served exploring the important aspects of complex phenomenon of library materials conventionally to the users. The catalyst of change is intangible and all pervasive knowledge –diffused around the globe seems to move faster than the speed of light. The quantity of information available will grow with the increasing number of research in increasing number discipline. However, out of the enormous abundance of information produced, only 50% is new while the 50% is redundant. This is clearly evident when looking at the birthrate of new publications. The rapid growth of the page-charge system and enforcement of condition of membership

to publish the article in some publications contribute to duplicate publications by a single body of contributors. The monopoly of certain journals and the publishing of “rejected” articles have become major problems and have created both imbalance and indiscipline. The flow of second rate publications in the form of “Technical Reports” or “Preprints” is posing serious problem also resulting in indiscipline of production of information. Duplication of publications, debasement of quality, misleading titles, and an unplanned, uncoordinated and piecemeal growth of secondary periodicals are part and parcel of this information indiscipline.

2. Quantity V/s Quality

The increase in the output of large number of information (Scientific as well as non-scientific information) unimaginable. It is estimated that there are forty to sixty thousand journals related to scientific and non-scientific information. Three new ones appear and one disappears every day. It is estimated that there are 12 million research workers in the world producing about two million papers per year. There is clear evidence that scientists spend as much as 1/3 of their working lives devoted to scientific communication of which half is oral and half is written. Although much of this remains unpublished the vast amount of information involved call for an extensive evaluation of the ideas being published. If the rate of expression of scientific activities continues at its present speed, within a decade or so the number of scientific publications flowing off the process will be uncontrollable. Most information produced is transient, about quarter of it is never cited, and 98% is completely forgotten after ten years. Mr. Line, Librarian of Bath University of Technology has quoted “The totally unplanned, uncoordinated and piecemeal growth of these secondary tools has solved nothing at all, except in the short term for a small group of people. They do not even attempt to supercede or complete with previous systems. They have added to the number of systems to be used by the individual, but if he uses several, he will find a lot of the same references, so that each additional one he uses brings less reward for his effort. Moreover, even if he uses ten or more, he will still miss something. On the other hand, if he acts as if the new system does supercede others, he will miss a great deal, perhaps more than 50% of relevant materials. This all amounts how the quality of information produced at the global level has created a “Gordian knot” but the ultimate emphasis relates to the problem of quality Information.

3. IMPLICATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The first half of the electronic revolution has made a tremendous impact on the work of the people, play and learn with introduction of computers, word processors, micro-computers etc., benefiting a wide spectrum of humanity. The second revolution has drastically changed with the development of memory revolution. However the problem faced by the experts is to know now is general mass of information received and generated would the quality of information in the light of the following observations of IT. The general opinion expressed as follows:

1. The best of information and most powerful techniques do not give us values.
2. There is expected hope that whatever type of computer skills surfaces will not replace existing skills and surfaces.
3. Users of Computer will be a passive absorber of knowledge.
4. Measuring knowledge and valuing it is difficult.
5. Machine cannot give purity and perfection. It gives only mass heaps of goods you receive.
6. Experts want information by drips and not by lumps. In other words computer gives quantity of information whereas quality of information has to be picked up from the mass of information.
7. Literature is only indicator of use, not an accurate measure of science and Technology result.
8. Mere shiftiness, speed, and abundance are not the ultimate end of information source.

4. MEASURING INFORMATION

A cursory glance at the outset of quantity of growth of information has created a great illusion as explained above for perfect information management with qualitative analysis of resources to users. The present attempt is centering around how best the quality of information developed, diffused and can be utilized by the scientist and the policy makers. A stage has come now to design a frame of understanding the disseminating the knowledge of information. Policy makers and planners in various

professional discipline inside and outside the quality facts, guiding based on the best knowledge currently available concerning of knowledge is readily available and utilized. Disseminating and utilization of information is viewed a transfer of messages of various media between resources systems and users. This is normally gone through four channels.

Individual, Interpersonal, The organization and The Social system.

The perspective identifying areas in this phenomena are, the research, development, diffusion and adoption, social intimation, transactional analysis, information sources, the problem solving process and the various linkages in the entire framework of quality system.

It is deemed necessary to achieve the conceptional form of qualitative requirement of information to know the concept of bibliometrics, sentromterics .To know the concept of bibliometrics, sentrometrics and their methods in the overall performance of the information. It is imperative to know and analyse the multi-disciplinary nature of bibliometrics and its sub discipline for evaluating perfect quality of information.

5. STANDARDIZATION OF INFORMATION

In the context of electronic information processing system, Information Technology, Internet and Intranet etc, have drastically changed the old tradition library management. To evaluate a perfect management of quality of information the concept and application of statistical methods such as Total Quality Management (TQM), Business Process Reengineering(BPR), company Wide Quality Management(CWQM) are nowadays are frequently referred. The ISO9000 series of standards has become popular and received wide acceptance in every field of activity.

6. CONCLUSION

The study of qualitative information management is already a part of our conventional wisdom. The two coordinated aspect of quantity and quality existing under the influence of existing anticipated sources of information have pressed several challenge to evaluate a perfect information management technique. This challenges can only be sorted out with the help and use of quality management techniques like ISO9000, ISO9002, ISO9003.

7. REFERENCES

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