



ICSSR Sponsored

ISSN: 2319-9997

---

*Journal of Nehru Gram Bharati University, 2024; Vol. 13 (2):73-81*

---

## **Role of the Libraries as Information Resources in Globalization**

**Sunita Singh\* and Chintamani Gautam**

Library and Information Science

Nehru Gram Bharati (Deemed to be University), Jamunipur-Kotwa-Prayagraj. \*Email: [sunitasingh6388@gmail.com](mailto:sunitasingh6388@gmail.com)

*Received: 08.11.2024      Revised: 10.12.2024      Accepted: 28.12.2024*

### **Abstract**

In the present ever changing information environment, libraries are encountering both opportunities and challenges. Information technology has introduced many changes in the way information is identified, procured, processed and disseminated to library clientele. Libraries and information centers are witnessing new paradigm shifts. The paper discussed about Role of the libraries as information resources in globalization world, highlighting their challenges, opportunities and future directions. It also highlights problems faced by the Library & Information Service (LIS) sector in India and achievements over the years using modern information technologies.

**Keywords:** ICT, Information Technology, Library Services, Information Resources

### **Introduction**

Libraries have been the cornerstone of knowledge dissemination for centuries. However, the rapid pace of globalization has brought about unprecedented changes in the information landscape. The proliferation of digital technologies, the rise of the internet, and the increasing demand for information have forced libraries to re-evaluate their role and functions<sup>1</sup>.

Over the past decades the world has been experiencing significant changes in which the need to acquire, utilize and share knowledge has become increasingly essential. Now, in the 21st century, the age of knowledge and information is in its higher gear. This is an age when Invisible knowledge and information take the role of prime movers leading all sector.

### **NEED FOR THE STUDY**

The information technology has influenced all the components of a library system: Information sources, services, human resources and users.

The Industry-oriented, case study methods and hands-on methods of imparting management education require management libraries to be ever responsive to the changing information needs of their clientele.

\* Transition of information sources and systems from paper to electronic media. Complexity in information needs of highly demanding clientele.

\* Increase in the cost and quality of information <sup>2</sup>.

#### *OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY*

The primary objective of the present study is to examine the "Role of the libraries as information resources in globalization" library services imparting professional education the specific objectives are to:

\* Survey the existing information technology infrastructure.

\* Study the impact of IT on library resources.

\* Study the impact of IT on information services.

Information Technology enhances easy information retrieval of documents. Retrieval of information from electronic resources and Internet is simpler, easier and faster in comparison to manual systems. The impact of Information technology in collection development is very prominent in library. The help of web, acquisition work has become very much simplified. Order placing, duplication checking, price checking etc are done very effectively using IT technique. Online bookshops and publisher's websites save the time of the librarians. For the procurement of journals, order is placed in the prescribed format to the publishers through Internet. Invoices can be downloaded from the Websites that makes service faster and avoids postal delay. E mail helps in sending reminders to the publishers, vendors and even to the borrowers of the books. IT also helps in the process of the serial control in the library.

It helps in preparing union list of serials and helps in circulating via e-mail to the libraries<sup>3</sup>. Establishing links to the most frequently used library catalogues help the librarians for authority work. With the help of OPAC, it is now very convenient for the technical staff to assign call numbers to the newly added books. IT has revolutionized the practice of cataloguing in the library. With the help of OPAC users access the holdings of the library catalogue at their desktop across the campus. It reduces the cost of maintaining a catalogue. Elimination of many paper files and decentralization is possible. Technical section provides new additions alert service to the users including the staff. Circulation, Reference, Electronic Information Service, Online Search / Literature Search, CD ROM Search, Developing Local Databases, Document Delivery Service, Patent Information Service there are so many services that we can fulfill with the help of Information technology. IT reduces labor and saves a lot of time of the staff and users too. LAN is used to link variety of different communication devices. Internet and E-mail system in library enable the students and scholars to remote access, worldwide communication.

Professional communication among library and Information Science societies has become easy with the help of E-mail<sup>4</sup>.

**Materials and methods:**

The present study utilized a combination of historical analysis, literature review, questionnaires and personal interviews for data collection. Historical analysis and literature review were useful in collecting textual data from published and unpublished sources. The questionnaire method was quite useful in soliciting information from the librarians of management institutes. Hence, the data collected for this study was a combination of primary as well as secondary data.

*EMERGENCE OF INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES*

The information society has passed through four transformational stages of development, the most radical stage starting at the tail end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>6</sup>. This stage has brought a never-ending revolution, particularly with the introduction of information and communication technologies during this period, there have been unprecedented developments, profoundly affecting the social Structure.

The concept of knowledge societies is often used to denote a development in or second generation of information society. Whereas the information society aims to make information available and provide the necessary technology, the knowledge society aims to generate knowledge, create culture of sharing and develop applications that operate mainly via the Internet. The goal of knowledge society is to fill social needs, create wealth and enhance the quality of life in a sustainable manner.

The Prime Minister has given a mission of converting India into a "knowledge society" by the year 2008. Today, India is one of the largest exporters of knowledge workers<sup>7</sup>.

*ROLE OF LIBRARIES*

Libraries are no longer just physical repositories of books and journals. They have involved onto dynamic, virtual and physical spaces that provide access to a vast array of information resources.

In the modern knowledge society libraries have a new role and there are various types of library models. In the modern society, where the use of electronic services and Web-based information sources constantly increases, libraries are managed in a more democratic way, have more flexible communication system and work organization, and their service development is based on the quality and user-orientation of services.

These are as follows:

1. Traditional library as a memory institution.
2. Library as a learning and research centre.
3. Library as a cultural and communication centre.

4. Electronic library.
5. Digital library.
6. Virtual library as library without walls.

The role of libraries has expanded to include:

1. *Information Providers*: Libraries provide access to a vast array of information resources, including books, journals, databases, and digital collections<sup>8</sup>.
2. *Knowledge Hubs*: Libraries serve as knowledge hubs, providing a platform for users to access, share, and create knowledge.
3. *Learning Spaces*: Libraries offer learning spaces that facilitate collaboration, innovation, and creativity.
4. *Community Centers*: Libraries serve as community centers, providing a platform for social interaction, cultural enrichment, and community engagement.

Exchange of knowledge has always been the most important objectives of libraries. Various systems have been developed to share and exchange the records of human knowledge. Universal Bibliographic Control and Universal Availability of Publications are two major programs of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) to exchange knowledge world over. OCLC is the world leading library network in USA for sharing intellectual knowledge among academic community in all over the world. But libraries in the 21st century should fulfill more dynamic role. They should exchange knowledge and information with users inside and outside their country<sup>9</sup>.

### ***PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING LIBRARIES IN INDIA***

Library and information services are fundamental to the goals of creating, disseminating, optimally utilizing and preserving knowledge. At present, education being a state subject and coming under the perview of different apex agencies, there is no common direction or coordination among them. It is imperative that all libraries (public, academic, research and special) change gear and develop at an accelerated pace. Developments in information communication technology (ICT) have enabled libraries to provide access to all, and also bridge the gap between the local, the national and the global. There is lack of cooperation among the libraries of different organizations and which cause the lack of union catalogues at national level. The national library failed even to do this immense task. One of the major problems faced by LIS sector in India is lack of bibliographic control at national level which causes duplication in research. A considerable number of libraries had not been developed bibliographic databases of their documents for putting them on network.

### ***Challenges Facing Libraries***

Despite their evolving role, libraries face several challenges in the globalized world, including:

1. ***Digital Divide:*** The digital divide between the information-rich and the information-poor poses a significant challenge for libraries.
2. ***Information Overload:*** The proliferation of information in the digital age has made it difficult for users to navigate and evaluate information.
3. ***Funding Constraints:*** Libraries face funding constraints, which limit their ability to invest in new technologies, collections, and services.
4. ***Changing User Expectations:*** The rise of digital technologies has changed user expectations, with users demanding more flexible, accessible, and personalized services <sup>10</sup>.

### ***Opportunities for Libraries***

Despite the challenges, libraries have several opportunities to leverage their role as information resources in the globalized world, including:

1. ***Digital Inclusion:*** Libraries can play a critical role in promoting digital inclusion, providing access to digital technologies and training users in digital literacy skills.
2. ***Collaboration and Partnerships:*** Libraries can collaborate with other organizations, such as museums, archives, and community centers, to provide users with a more comprehensive and integrated information service.
3. ***Innovation and Entrepreneurship:*** Libraries can provide users with access to innovation and entrepreneurship resources, such as makerspaces, incubators, and accelerators.
4. ***Cultural Preservation and Promotion:*** Libraries can play a critical role in preserving and promoting cultural heritage, providing users with access to cultural resources, such as digital collections, exhibitions, and programs.

## ***ENHANCEMENT OF LIBRARY WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY***

There are various electronics computer-based information which is available for the libraries like online and offline resources compact disk (CD's) and the Internet and due to this development in current scenario application of I.T. seems must for libraries. Creation database is the foremost step in application of I.T. in libraries. Software package, keeping in mind the day-to-day activities of libraries via, acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control OPAC, administration, indexing, abstracting, current activities services, (CAS) and selective dissemination of information (SDI) etc. To cope up with the current development, and fulfill the thirst of the users. The various factors which have contributed the application of information technology in libraries are:-

1. Rapid growth in the information output and its usage has made it impossible to store and organize information using conventional methods. Now a day's most of the documents are available in machine- readable format therefore the application of Information technologies is necessary.
2. It is no longer possible for any library to collect all the published information. So with the help of I.T. resources sharing can be done easily.
3. By using modern Information technology in the libraries, efficiency of the staff can be increase and better advanced services may be provided to the users.
4. Implementation of barcodes and RFID based services; libraries can satisfy maximum no of users in very short span of time.
5. Due to Information explosion literature search using manual methods is a very difficult, tedious and time consuming job where as computerized storage and retrieval of information make it faster and efficient.
6. Now in libraries, it is very difficult to provide, inter library loan, translation, Anticipatory services including preparation and annotated lists, abstract bulletin board, news summaries and other information retrieval services manually.

### ***MODERNIZATION OF LIBRARIES***

Earlier library used to handle and disseminate the information which consisted of books, journals, monographs etc. by the help of catalogue, reference service, referral service etc. These are some points that highlight the various aspects of modernizing libraries, from infrastructure and technology to services, staff development and partnerships <sup>12</sup>.

1. **Renovation and Expansion:** Upgrading physical spaces to accommodate new technologies and user needs.
2. **Sustainable Design:** Incorporating eco-friendly and energy-efficient design principles.
3. **Accessibility Features:** Implementing accessibility features for users with disabilities.

### **Technological Advancements**

1. **Digital Collections:** Developing and providing access to digital collections, such as e-books and online journals.
2. **Automation and RFID:** Implementing automated systems, such as RFID and self-checkout machines.
3. **Wireless Connectivity and Charging:** Providing wireless connectivity and charging stations for users' devices.
4. **Virtual and Augmented Reality:** Incorporating virtual and augmented reality technologies for immersive learning experiences.

### **Innovative Services**

1. **Makerspaces and Innovation Labs:** Creating spaces for hands-on learning, creativity, and innovation.

2. **Digital Media Labs:** Providing access to digital media equipment and software for content creation.
3. **Collaborative Workspaces:** Designing spaces for collaborative work, study, and research.
4. **Community Outreach and Engagement:** Developing outreach programs and services to engage with the community.

#### **Staff Development and Training**

1. **Digital Literacy Training:** Providing staff training on digital literacy, technology, and emerging trends.
2. **Customer Service and User Experience:** Focusing on customer service and user experience to improve library services.
3. **Leadership Development:** Developing leadership skills among library staff to drive innovation and change.

#### **Partnerships and Collaborations**

1. **Community Partnerships:** Building partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies.
2. **Academic and Research Collaborations:** Collaborating with academic and research institutions to support research and learning.
3. **Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing:** Participating in interlibrary loan and resource-sharing programs to expand access to resources.

#### **Assessment and Evaluation**

1. **User Feedback and Surveys:** Collecting user feedback and conducting surveys to inform library services and collections.
2. **Usage Statistics and Analytics:** Analyzing usage statistics and analytics to inform collection development and service planning.
3. **Outcome-Based Evaluation:** Using outcome-based evaluation methods to assess the impact of library services on user learning and success.

#### ***Users Expectations***

Library and Information Centers are playing a vital role by providing the information required by the users or their research and developmental activities. The libraries offer various types of services to the user community and spread the knowledge. The main task is of disseminating the information from the collection as well as made it available from the other institutional resources. The traditional services provided by the libraries like ILL, CAS, SDI, bibliographic listing, reading room, book borrowing were mainly based on the library collection, but due to application of Information Technology the trends in the library and information centers are also shifting towards modernization<sup>13</sup>.

#### **Conclusion**

The new generation of computers and its use in libraries is not only modernization but it has become a necessity. In coming times, computers hold good future. Internet has made significant Revolution in all the areas

of science and technology. Rather than using it as a tool for searching and retrieving information, Internet has become the king of all media, by which we can access virtual information and can build a virtual library to provide timely, quality service to the users. Librarians of this digital era are in the position to change their role as arbitrary information scientists/gatekeepers and to meet the Challenges of the Internet, World Wide Web, and online access in the knowledge society. Library staff must be capable of working effectively in partnership with faculty members to enhance the strength of teaching and research.

#### *Recommendations*

1. There should be provision for alternative power supply by having a dedicated generating plant. This is especially important because of the total dependence of the IT use on electric power supply.
2. Students also need to be trained on how to use these facilities towards achieving academic excellence. This may be through continuous orientation and the inclusion of such courses like: Use of computer for Information retrieval, Use of Internet/world wide web and IT applications.

#### **REFERENCES**

- [1] Agarwal, Aarti and Venkata Rao, P. (2006) Multimedia technology: Its impact on library and information centers. In: Vistas of information management: Prof. H.R. Chopra felicitation volume. P. Venkata Rao (ed.). Ambala Cantt: Wisdom House. pp.429-36.
- [2] Ahmed, O.A. (2002) Application of information technology in libraries: a case study of colleges of education libraries in Nigeria. Middle Belt Journal of Library and Information Science, 2(1&2): 16-24.
- [3] Aldrich, D.M, Stefanelli, G. Library services for the digital future. Educause Quarterly (<http://cc>)
- [4] Ali, Amjad (2005) Encyclopedia of information technology, Vol.2. New Delhi: Galgotia.
- [5] Aman, M. and Abdel-Motey, Y. (2008) Information technology in libraries and information centres, 2nd ed Kuwait: Al-Falah.
- [6] Araghi, Gholamreza (2005) Users satisfaction through better indexing. Cataloging and Classification, 40 (2): 5-17. University of Isfahan, Iran. Webology, 2(1). [12] Asemi, A. and Riyahiniya, N. (2006)
- [7] Aravinthan, M., Maheswaran, K. M. and Balasubramani, R. (2008) [11] Asemi, A. (2005) Information searching habits of internet users: A case study on the Medical Sciences
- [8] Awareness and utilisation of information, communication and technology among the members of faculty of government



- engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu: a study. *Indian Journal of Information Science and Services*, 2 (1): 46-51.
- [9] Balwant Singh, Kapil, P.C and Pateria, Rajive (2007) University libraries in digital environment: *Vision 2020. ILA Bulletin*, 43 (3): 5-12.
- [10] Beaulieu, Micheline (2003) Approaches to user-based studies in information seeking and retrieval: A Sheffield perspective. *Journal of Information Science*, 29(40): 239-48.
- [11] Biradar, B.S., Rajashekar, G.R. and Sampath Kumar, B.T. (2006) A study of internet usage by students and faculties in Kuvempu University. *Library Herald*, 44(4): 282-94.
- [12] Kumar, PSG, "Information Technology: Basic Concepts", New Delhi: BR publishing Corporations, 2013, p9-17.
- [13] Library. 2014 *Encyclopedia Britannica premium service* [http://www.britannica.com/eb/article eu=09616](http://www.britannica.com/eb/article/eu=09616) Accessed march 10, 2008

**Disclaimer/Publisher's Note:**

The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of JNGBU and/or the editor(s). JNGBU and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.