SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN THE INFORMATION AGE

Challenges and opportunities

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About This Presentation

- **Overview of IT in Libraries**
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  - Impact of IT on Libraries
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Introduction to Information Technology (IT)

- communicate, locate, retrieve, and use information.

- Generally means the technology is used for information dissemination viz. telex, fax, email, Internet microfilms, CD-ROM's, computers, information networks, etc

- There is a tremendous growth in the IT development

- We can compare automobile technology to illustrate the developments of IT
e. g computer processing speed of around 200 mhz to now 2 Ghz. at less cost
Libraries and Information Technology

- IT has invaded every aspect of human life and library is not an exception
- Began with automation systems designed to computerize the activities and enable the patron to better access
- IT has brought tremendous challenges to the professionals and these challenges need to be accepted as opportunities
- In a remarkably short span of period of time we have gone from print to film format, to online / on-disc, to full text titles
- Need of the hour that the managements should make provision for the professionals to undertake training to work in high tech environment.
Why apply Technology?

• In one of his keynote presentations my LIS teacher referred, “if we do not take up the challenge of implementing the IT in libraries we are likely to suffer from the boiled frog syndrome.”

• So if our librarians are not aware of the technical developments outside they are bound to suffer from the same boiled frog syndrome

• So the Application of IT is essential in the Libraries
  – To improve existing services
  – To provide new services
  – To reduce staff or preventing staff increase
  – To collect better data to aid overall management of the library
  – To cope with increasing demands
Impact of IT on Libraries

• Impact is the change in the ability of people to satisfy their needs

• The fact that most of the govt. agencies over a period of time set up websites is reported as an impact of an Internet.

• The impact of automation is quite obvious, as it has created new types of work, prompted redefinition of certain functions, etc.

• Technological changes and Organizational dynamics are so volatile, we can predict the future very easily.

• With the use of IT it is now possible to search an online catalogue in many ways that would never possible in a manual catalog.

• Perhaps the greatest example of vision and focus in automation over the past quarter of century was the development and rise of MARC format.
Areas of IT Application in Libraries

• Training in the use of IT

• The first step for IT application is to have trained manpower who can act as trainer, counselor etc. in locating the information

• If we do not have trained manpower we will have to depend on outsiders always. This reminds us a famous Chinese proverb which states

  “If you give a man a fish, He will have a single meal
  If you teach him how to fish, He will eat all his life long”

• Hence the librarian be like a driving instructor and has to prepare the users of the library to navigate on information super highway
Application of Internet in Libraries

• Perhaps no other recent innovation has impacted the library profession to such a great extent as Internet.
• Created profound impact on L&IS by offering new modes of information delivery and a vast information source.
• We can say Internet outperforms even the Sun. The Sun can only shine on half of the globe at a time, while Internet delivered education can cover the entire globe and around the clock with knowledge. (Kostopoulos 1998,)
• Despite the shortcomings like quality, integrity, authenticity, and non-refereed nature of information, Internet is still a dominant medium for information transmission.
• Everything that is needed for teaching and learning, all made available on Internet.
Consortia for Libraries and Information Centres

• Uncertain financial environment in the school libraries

• Increase in the electronic publishing and reduced cost of electronic access to resources

• Advent of E-publishing brought a revolution in journals publication, subscription and access

• The age of library consortia is at the doorsteps
--Library consortium is the one of the emerging tool kit

--Move from organizational self sufficiency to a collaborative survival mode

--Information Technology enable much broader and deeper cooperation than ever before.

-Technology provides the solution for easy access to users

--Databases licensed to a consortium available all at the same time.
Need for consortia subscriptions

- Rational utilization of funds.
- Improve access-base of literature to the school community
- Availability of information in electronic form.
- Provide better, faster and cheaper services for less money.
- Reduction in the staff strength.
- Greater buying power and Increased access to sources.
Advantages - Indian situation

• Increase the cost benefit per subscription

• Ensure continuous subscription to periodicals subscribed.

• Provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost;

• Collective purchase option attracts highly discounted rates

• The rates offered to the consortium are lower by 50% to 90% depending upon databases and fulltext journals
Drawbacks - Indian situation

- Lack of awareness about consortia benefits.
- Slow acceptance of e-information by the users.
- Difficulties in changing the mind setup of librarians.
- Maintenance and balancing both physical & digital library.
- Inadequate funds.
- Rigid administrative, financial and auditing rules.
Drawbacks - Indian situation-Contd.

- Problems of defining asset against payment.
- Pay-Per-View not yet acceptable.
- Uncertainty about the persistence of digital resources
- Lack of infrastructure for accessing electronic sources.
- Unreliable telecom links and insufficient bandwidth.
- Lack of trained personnel for handling new technologies.
Consortia - Examples

- FORSA consortium--The Indian Astrophysics Consortium called Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy (FORSA)

- CSIR – Consortium

- NISCAIR implemented agency to provide access to Electronic Journals to entire S&T staff of CSIR and its constituent units through a consortia approach.

- NISCAIR on behalf of CSIR has entered into an agreement with M/s. Elsevier Science to access its odd 1,500 e-journals
Consortia- contd.

- INDEST – consortium
- MHRD set up the “Indian National Digital Library in Science and Technology (INDEST) Consortium.

- Ministry provides funds for subscription to electronic resources for 38 institutions including IISc, IITs, NITs, RECs, IIMs and few other centrally funded Govt. insts. through the consortium.

- With Support from AICTE other institutions joined.

- It is an open ended proposition, and welcome other institutions

- The INDEST consortium is the most ambitious initiative taken up in the area of engineering and technology disciplines

- UGC-Infonet consortium --INFLIBNET
CONCLUSION

• Emergence of technology has assigned new dimension to librarianship.
• Library professionals are fettered in a framework characterized by new categories of information and users as well as interdisciplinary subjects.
• Resource sharing (consortia approach is best suited to deliver cost effective service in the new information environment.)