

HOW TO ACHIVE BEST SERVICES TO STUDENTS THROUGH INFORMATION LITERACY FOR AN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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Abstract

This paper presents the role of Information Literacy in the Academic Libraries. The most important role of the academic libraries and librarians is to educate the users or students in academic environment for effective use of information either through print texts or electronic text via internet. Librarians are the initiators, policy makers and decision makers in the development and making effective use by readers or students by introducing information literacy curriculum. The librarian can develop their information literacy programme and prepare Laboratory Manuals according to their needs and nature of the libraries.

1.Introduction

Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments and to all levels of education. The concept of information Literacy built upon and expanded the decades –long efforts of librarians to help their users learn about and how to utilize research tools and materials in their own libraries. Librarians wanted users to be able to transfer and apply this knowledge to new environments and to research tools that were new to them. Information literacy expands this effort beyond libraries and librarians and focuses on the learner, rather than the researcher [1]. The current environment provides an opportunity for librarians to play a key role in the evolution of an integrated information literacy curriculum.

2.Definition

“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 [2].

3.Information Technology and Information Literacy

The growth of computer networks and information services has already enabled learners at all levels to share resources, collaborate with one another and publish their results electronically. To use information sources effectively, we need both technology infrastructure and Information Literacy infrastructure in place. Information Technology is

a tool for writing papers ,communicating with colleagues worldwide and exchanging experiments,ideas and programs internationally.As community colleges are considering distance learning and new technologies to their curriculum,ensuring students information literacy becomes vital.[2]

4. Curriculum and Information Literacy

To become effective information users,students must have frequent opportunities to handle all kinds of information.Locating,interpreting,analyzing,synthesizing,evaluating and communicating information should become a part of every subject across the curriculum.Resource based learning calls for all members of the educational community to become partners in a shared goal,providing successful learning experiences for all students.Learning environments should be structured to allow students unlimited access to multiple resources in the classroom,the library media centre and beyond the school walls.[3]

5. Information Literacy and Life Long Learning

Both these concepts are interrelated as below;

- A] Largely self motivated and self directed
- B]these are self empowering
- C]These are self actuating

6. Role of Information Literacy in Academic Library

The need for information academic library system due to following reason:

A] There is an ample evidence that newly admitted students often find library is a confusing place as they do not have idea how to make effective use of libraries for their curricular needs as well as for general knowledge.[4]

B] In some cases it is observed that even teacher themselves did not make systematic use of library and its service fails to guide properly how to make effective use of library source.

C]The entire users are not acquainted with the use of different techniques methods for storage of resources and retrieval of information of the library and application of IT in library operations.

D]Further many users are not aware of the different types of resources and services available in the academic libraries.[4]

7. Role of Librarians in Information Literacy

Information and communication Technologies have changed the complete scenario in libraries.Now a day,library has become point of resource-based learning the role of librarian is changing radically with skills of education paradigms.The impact of moving from text based learning to resource based learning will involve heavier use of library

materials and a demand for more and a varied media resources,including print and non print.The librarian is responsible for locating,acquiring,disseminating and tracking information resources of many types.It might include database searching,interlibrary loans,monitoring internet newgroups or maintenance of a computerized library information system.Libraries and Librarians play an important role in education of people for effective and efficient information use by teaching them information skills at all levels of education to enable to be informed citizens of the country.[5]

8.Conclusion

The academic library becomes a teaching library,which is actively involved all aspects of higher education teaching,research and community service.A teaching library is characterized by its commitments to instructing students,faculty and staff to fostering a climate,which encourages lifelong learning to maintaining a collection,which stimulated inquiry to making the library the cultural centre for the campus and community and to engaging in research to improve library services

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