

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS: IT'S CONCEPTS & IMPORTANCE

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Abstract:

Information literacy is an essential one of such key competency in the present century. Information Literacy is the strength or ability to search, collect, organize, filter and evaluate information. Information literacy are needed to form valid opinions based on the results. The term “information literacy” has been covered several of literacy’s viz. information technology literacy, interactive literacy, multiple literacy, network literacy, oral literacy, Computer literacy, digital literacy, hyper literacy, internet literacy, reading literacy, water literacy and visual literacy. The users need to obtain whole concepts of information literacy for creating of new ideas. At present learning shifting from text-based learning to resource-based learning. In these article, reviewing of information literacy skills concepts, meaning and definitions, aims, needs, importance, components or types, its standards, methods of information literacy programme, disadvantages, impact of ICT on information literacy. Now a days information Literacy has become a watchword. Everyone should have the skills to utilize knowledge in right way.

Keywords: Information, literacy, ICT, Ccomponents, Standards, Models.

Introduction

Information is a basic product. Information plays an important role in the all-round development of man and his society. Change is a constant process in the world. Every day new discoveries, ideas, information, theories are formed. Inventions, ideas, theories, information formed in this way influence the life of man and play an important role in making man a good citizen in modern society. Library institutions play a very important role in collecting,

organizing, disseminate the new information and ideas thus formed and providing them to the readers.

In the 21st century, information creation has become abundant as a result of revolutionary changes in the information and communication technology system. In this way every person needs to have the knowledge to find, collect, review and evaluate the information. Especially, students, teachers and researchers who are important in the field of education need to have deep knowledge about information literacy.

Information skill is the ability to find, collect, categorize and communicate newly created information or data we call information skill. Information literacy skills make a significant contribution to the development of the educational community. They play an important role in enhancing the knowledge of students, teachers, and scholars in their respective subjects. In such a situation, it is difficult for all the teachers to get the newly created information on the internet. So the development of the academic community requires information literacy for teachers. Thus, the role of teachers in making students into good citizens of the society in the educational community is very important. Likewise academic libraries also play an important role in providing good information materials to teachers, students and scholars. We also strive for the upliftment of the educational community. Information literacy is a continuous lifelong learning process.

History of Information Literacy

Written on behalf of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science the term "information literacy" was first coined by Zurkowski (n.d.) and appeared in print in 1974. The word to describe "Techniques and Skills". The information literate for utilizing the wide range of information tools as well as primary sources in moulding information solutions to their problems and drew a relatively firm line between the literates and information illiterates (Klibjilis, 2018)

Information competencies are an important factor in lifelong learning. These are the first step in achieving educational goals and should take place in the development of citizens' lives, especially during their educational life. As a part of the learning community and experts in information management librarians have or should assume the key role of facilitating information literacy through the creation of curriculum integrated programs with faculty, and

actively contribute to the students learning processes in their search to enhance the skills, knowledge and values needed to become lifelong learners.

Concepts and Definitions information Literacy

There are many definitions of Information Literacy:

“Information literacy knows where to find it, when and why you need information, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner” (CILIP, 2005) they have also created more in depth guidance on the skills required to be information literate.

The information literacy also called as an information competency. In general defines as an Information literacy is “the ability to find, evaluate, organize, use and communicate the information in all its various formats rare need in a different situation requiring decision of making, problem solving, acquisition and dissemination of knowledge”. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_literacy)

In the United States, IL was made a priority during President Barack Obama's first term, they are designated that October as a National Information Literacy Awareness Month.

Information Literacy Skills

The skill an individual needs to live within an information society is called ‘information literacy’ (IL) (Marais, 1992). The term indicates that an informational literate individual should be trained to use information resources to solve his/her problems using the information. (Behrens, 1994). IL consists of three skills of finding problems, resolving them and decision-making (Tailor, 2001). In addition, awareness about information resources and their location to answer the questions are fundamentals of IL. Information literacy skills can generally be derived from the definition by Johnston and Webber (2003) that information literacy is “the adoption of appropriate behavior to obtain, through whatever channel or medium, information well fitted to information needs, together with critical awareness of the importance of wise and ethical use of information needs in society’.

Need of Information Literacy

The need of information literacy may be essential due to the following reasons.

- Due to recent trends in Information and communication technology information overload by various means or formats.
- Due to diversified subjects at academic level, curriculum framework and faculty cooperation.
- The pedagogical process is undergoing quick transformation.
- More academic institutions are adopted computer applications, mobile based applications and online class in their teaching and learning process.
- Information literacy skills make the individual competent enough in lifelong process to find, to evaluate, sought, filter and use electronic information resources effectively based on proper computing and information retrieval skills.
- This will enhance the user perception and they enjoy learning. With the help of information literacy skills the faculty members will know which are the pedagogies to be used for teaching to their students.

Importance of Information Literacy

Information is a basic product. Information plays an important role in the all-round development of man and his society. Change is a constant process in the world. Every day new discoveries, ideas, information, theories are formed. Inventions, ideas, theories, information formed in this way influence the life of man and play an important role in making man a good citizen in modern society.

We see that importance of information literacy as follows:

- It helps to understand the difficult question of intellectual property rights and copyright.
- It helps to students should be known author's right.
- To identify potential information resources.
- To evaluate information.
- It minimise the gap between information poor and information rich.
- Information literacy is required to lead social, economic and cultural progress of nation.
- Information literacy is an essential to have a critical thinking approach for community development.
- Information literacy are increasingly important for abundance of information in electronic format.

- It is an essential for independent lifelong learner to achieve a high level of information literacy.

Impact of ICT on Information Literacy

Due to unprecedented growth and of Information Technology (IT), huge amounts of information have been published and available in every field of knowledge. Information and communication technology has also help to access electronic information (both online and offline) easier via computers, mobile app and Internet.

At thesetime, all users are facing with some problems such as:

- Which leads to confusion and a feeling of uncertainty, frequent change of interfaces, lack of standardization etc.
- The IT has affected on information literacy in a number of ways. It provides access to a vast amount of information without any geographical and language barriers, since most of information is not organized.
- Users required to specific search techniques and knowledge of available search engines and/or subject guides.
- The user is left to decide if a given source is relevant to his/her needs, because level of information provided is not readily through the title, and The user has to evaluate the information obtained with respect to quality, accuracy, timeliness and so on and all these leads to uncertainty among users.

Information Literacy Standards

The Association of College Research Library (ACRL) has given five IL standards:

1. **Know:** The information literate academic community determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
2. **Access:**The information literate of academic community accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
3. **Evaluate:**The information literate of academic community evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.

4. **Use:**The information literate of academic community, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
5. **Ethical / Legal:**The information literate of academic community understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally. This standard recognizes that students must be taught the social, economic and political issues surrounding information, specifically the ethical and legal uses of information and its technology.

Information Literacy Components

The components of Information Literacy are:

1. **Basic Literacy:** This literacy able to Speaking & Listening, Reading & Writing, Counting & Calculating, Perception & Drawing.
2. **Library Literacy:** it is very important literacy for all academic and social community. All academic community needs to understand the how to effectively use reference books and periodicals, newspapers published in both print and online, need to know the Dewey Decimal System as a useful, logical system of hierarchical organization and recognize its similarities to other classification systems. Students and faculty members need to understand use indexes and abstracts, the library catalogue and the Web-OPAC etc., it becomes essential skill.
3. **Mass Media Literacy:** this type of literacies includes to understand different of media and their purposes for which they can be used. Users should be taught the difference between fact and opinion, and be able to distinguish between entertainment, information and persuasion. They should know the all information has a source and that knowing the source, and it is an important part of understanding any information. Educators talk about “higher order thinking” and about helping students become “more critical thinkers.”
4. **ICT Literacy:** it is an essential literacy for surviving ICT enabled world. The knowledge and skills are necessary to know information and communication technologies (ICTs), including the computer hardware, system software, application software, generation of systems, networks (both local area networks and the Internet), mobile technology and all of the other components of computer and telecommunications systems.

5. **Media Literacy:** The knowledge and skills necessary to know various mediums and formats in which data, information and knowledge are created, communicated, stored, and presented, i.e., magazines, radio, television broadcasts, print newspapers and journals, OFC cable, CD-ROM, DVD, mobile telephones, PDF text formats, and JPEG format for photos and graphics.
6. **Technology Literacy:** it is basic literacy to understand recent developments and trends in various technologies like basic literacy, technology literacy is a continuous skill that can always be improved and updated, like library literacy, faculty and student community can receive technology experience and instruction. Academic and social community to understand a wide range of educational experiences with various types of hardware and software. Every user should be thoroughly grounded in both the ethics and etiquette of technology use. Most importantly, every citizen should have frequent opportunities to use technological tools to create their own information artefacts — print as well as online.
7. **Visual Literacy:** According to Brian Stonehill, Pomona College, Claremont, California, Visual Literacy means “the skills and learning needed to view visual and audio/visual materials critically, and knowledgeably.” Visual Literacy is the link between Media Literacy and Technology Literacy. Media images and sound are end products created using the tools of digital technology.
8. **Tool literacy:** The ability to understand and use the conceptual and practical tools of current information technology relevant to education and the areas of work and professional life that the individual expects to inhabit.
9. **Resource literacy:** The ability to know the format, form, location and access methods of information resources, especially daily expanding networked information resources.
10. **Social-structural literacy:** Understanding that and how information is socially situated and produced.
11. **Research literacy:** The ability to know the use of IT-based tools relevant to the work of today's researcher and scholar.
12. **Publishing literacy:** The ability to understand the format and publish research and ideas in print copy as well as electronically, in textual and multimedia forms (including via World Wide Web, electronic mail and distribution lists, and CD-ROMs).

13. **Emerging technology literacy:** The ability to understand, evaluate, adapt and make use of the continually emerging innovations in information technology so as not to be a prisoner of prior tools and resources, and to make intelligent decisions about the adoption of new ones.
14. **Critical literacy:** The ability to understand the evaluate critically, intellectual, human and social strengths and weaknesses, opportunity, potentials and limits, benefits and costs of information technologies.

Models of Information Literacy

The components of Information Literacy are:

- ❖ Big6 (An Information Problem-solving Process) model
- ❖ PLUS-information Skills model
- ❖ Seven Faces of Information Literacy (Christine Bruce) model
- ❖ The Information Skills model (Seven Pillar model)
- ❖ The I-skills cycle (JISC) model

Methods of Information Literacy Programme

There is an essential need to promote information literacy by the way of:

- Organising of conference, workshop, seminar to user's community for explain various types of information resources.
- Interaction between students, faculty members and library staff.
- Conducting user orientation programme to users.
- Make it available for use Printed guidebooks, newsletters, promotional leaflets describing systems and databases, database user manual, it is the cheapest and the most effective method for searching when required by the users.
- AV materials are used effectively for demonstration the online searching.
- Online course/tutorials, mobile apps, YouTube's, social media, etc.

Barriers to Information Literacy Education

The following are the several reasons responsible for inactive information literacy education and barriers for promotion of information literacy in developing countries:

- ✓ There is no standard information policy to guide information literacy practice in some developing countries.
- ✓ Lack of well-articulated and/or promoted information literacy policies and programs.
- ✓ Lack of cooperation among professional organization.
- ✓ There is Lack of awareness among students and faculty about offering of information literacy programme.
- ✓ Underdeveloped library & information systems and networks
- ✓ Expensive telecommunication infrastructure services
- ✓ Shortage of information & library educated and trained professionals they are necessary to the information literacy promotion and implementations.
- ✓ Without the mental map of information and publication world Intimidated users who are not so well acquainted with the nature of information and its creation, how information is published and disseminated.
- ✓ There is a digital difference between developed and developing countries.

Conclusions

In the 21st century, information creation has become abundant as a result of revolutionary changes in the information and communication technology system. In this way every person needs to have the knowledge to find, collect, review and evaluate the information. Especially, students, teachers and researchers who are important in the field of education need to have deep knowledge about information literacy.

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