

## **Impact of internet on library services**

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### **Abstract**

The network system, which is very effective in electronic transfer of information between two or more points irrespective of their distance, is highly essential in this process. Therefore, 'Internet', a technology, connecting millions of computers in a network worldwide, has become the interactive medium par excellence in the world of communication. This has brought the world within the format of an information village. Half the world population is expected to be connected through 'Internet' by the second decade of this century. Presently, it has rendered the flow of information exceedingly easy all over the globe and hence contributes towards the evolution of information society. While the Internet revolution is leading to big changes for librarians all over the world, it is still in its developing stage in the Indian libraries. Though, there are a very few technocrats who have just jumped on the bandwagon to make everything computerized and networked yet a large number of librarians have not kept pace with the technology. They are silent spectator of whatever happens and want someone else to do for them.

**Keywords:** internet, library services, telecommunications

### **Introduction**

Information technology plays a major role and provides immense benefits to library professionals. Information technology refers to how best modern technological developments are being exploited to record, process, store, transfer and retrieves the information. Basically, the telecommunications serve the transmission of information and computers perform the processing of information. Earlier it used to be difficult to get information from other places sitting at home. Now days with the introduction of internet things have changed. Now we can get information from any part of the world with a single click of mouse. Internet is the networking which uses a huge server where the information of organization around the world is saved and anyone access to this information. Thus getting information is become easier and quicker.

To send or receive data within a matter of seconds to someone placed beyond the Pacific was unthinkable before the advent of the Internet. The Internet represents the transformation and evolution of the entire information age. It is due to these factors that people all over the globe have recognized the Internet as their latest development tool. Internet is making a major impact on the IT industry. Major companies like Microsoft, AT &T, Intel and IBM have networked their business strategy vis-à-vis the Internet.

### **Libraries and World wide web**

Web is an unbeatable combination. Thousands of libraries of all types are rushing to create home pages, convinced that their patrons will be served best by web access, as well as a web-interfaced catalogue. Public services Librarians become involved frequently with the planning process of the home page, since they are traditionally the 'front line' of user service, and are aware of specific needs of their patrons.

Public services Librarians have been struggling for the past decade to make some out of the dizzying array of new information, options including databases, CD-ROMS, interactive multimedia and the Internet.

Parallel, the Technical services Librarians have been running just as fast and just as hard as their public services counterparts to keep up with technological advances. They have been called upon to choose systems, while keeping up with the almost daily changes and updates occurring at OCLC and at the Library of Congress (LC) because so much work of the technical services libraries is behind the scenes, many library directors have not included them in the planning and development process of the Library home page an oversight which Acquisition Librarians monograph and serials cataloguers, and information processing staff, must remain current with their public services peers, in order to perform their jobs properly in this existing new era.

Technical Services Libraries often find themselves involved with the maintenance of their local systems, Links change every day and require updating. New sites of relevance must be added to the bookmark on hotlist collections and all staff must be made aware of the availability of new materials. It is now possible to be current with LC, instead of a minimum time lag of 3 – 6 months. As web users struggle to develop new indexing methods and new evaluative tools to control the enormous amount of material being loaded daily into the Internet, it becomes increasingly must become involved in the process, or be left behind as mere storekeeper of archival materials. The following are the current site to be a technical services librarian: -

### **Acquisitions**

Acquisitions work has become greatly simplified with the web. Price checks, ordering and claiming can now be done

with a minimum of paper work and effort. All forms such as order Processing Request (OPRs) order requests from bibliographers and catalogue maintenance requests could be on line. New acquisition can be displayed to the public, possibly arranged by subject. Acquisition could have immediate concerning patron rush requests. Gifts and exchange lists could be loaded and sent via the web, saving time and tradition snail mailing costs to other institutions. Warning for bad spellers can be also provided through it.

### **Cataloguing**

Establishing links to the most frequently used library catalogues would be quite helpful, especially for authority work, searching for previous unpublished works by an author, and language-specific questions. Web searching can be extremely useful for sending the information on headings not established by LC yet, and it has expensive than browsing through PRISM with a keyword search, when no one locally is fluent in the language of the piece being catalogued, a country specific search can be a great timesaver. A request to Auto craft, with a follow up fax to the language specialist who responds, can also save time, money and outstanding fees.

If the subject of the title is so new that nothing is known about it then a search of the web with a good keyword browser could be useful. Many cataloguing tools are now online, with more being offered every day. Currently we can access the weekly lists of LC subject headings, allowing catalog ours to use topical heading. As acquisitions budget continue to shrink, sharing access to electronic journals will become a reality. Cataloguers should start providing links to Internet resources in the 856 fields (LC implemented the MARC field 856). LC plans to use this field too link MARC records to related browsing aids as well as actual digitized collection items. 856 fields are not meaning that with a click. It is possible to navigate directly to the full text source of the internet resource being catalogued. As in INTERCAT in which constant data can be copied from documentation into cataloging records (using cut and paste).

LC understands a project to enhance MARC records by including table of content information for selected titles. These tables of contents are connected to electronic format using a scanners and OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and inserted into the MARC field 505. Cataloguers could be seamlessly linked with OCLC, RLIN, local catalogues, the World Wide Web etc. through desktop workstations. It could also be linked to LOCIS and other resources on LC's Marvel Gopher Server, conference proceeding information. This is a great advantage when researching the correct form of confidence name, data and location of conference etc. Catalogues could be seamlessly connected to selected library catalogues worldwide to local documents of interest to technical services, or link to AUTOCAT, INTERCAT, web 4 Libs, serialst, the Music Librarians' list, PACS-1 and other cataloguing related list servers.

### **Documentation**

The advantages of documentation with the help of internet are following: -

1. Departmental policies and procedures can be available for training and instructions.

2. Updating of documents would be much simpler, photocopying, collating and manual distribution would be eliminated.
3. Many libraries have different procedures for original copy and LC MARC cataloguing. The creation of hypertext links within and between these documents would help to note differences, discrepancies etc. and would add local value to documentation.
4. Minutes from meeting which are currently hand circulated could become available online.
5. Monthly Statistics sheets, Annual Review, Instructions, Vacations and Calendar schedule could be on the web.
6. Documentations loose-leaf notebooks are heavy and cumbersome to use.
7. Pertinent information could be disseminated quickly.
8. Authority control documents could be placed here. Other types of documents can also be included.
9. Documentation manual could be loaded in anticipation of the day all technical services staff have networked workstations and catalogues desktop.
10. Useful for authority work, particularly when following new procedures, samples of name, subject uniform title and series authority records could be useful.

### **Serials**

1. Conser Line – Newsletter of the CONSER Division at LC.
2. Conser Remote Access Computer File Serials – From the CONSER Cataloguing Manual from LC. The clearest definitions of what constitutes a computer file serial, and how to catalogue them.
3. Format Integrated and its impact on serials – speech by jean Hirons.

### **Overall impact of internet on library services**

The Internet is growing is growing cultural and technological phenomenon. As a source of electronic information resources and a flourishing medium for professional communication, it has influenced the practice of Library Services. The impact on libraries and librarians in charging even as the technology changes, but even in the few years since it first become a hot topic at conference and in the Library Literature a number of distinct impacts can be delineated. The Internet has changed the way in which Librarian communicate access to the networked information resources offers a supplement to the 'collection' technical services librarian interacts with vendors in new ways and must face the issues of cataloguing net resources and the problem of documentation of net resources creates some intriguing citation complexities.

As in other problems librarians have fund that one net creates an excellent medium for personal networking. At first, library and information science lists were populated primarily by academic libraries, but as Internet access has expanded from beyond the research and academic spheres a greater number of public libraries and school librarians have begun to participate.

A study by Lander and Tillman shows that E-mail constituted the major use of the Internet by special Librarians at least in the early 1990's. This study demonstrates the role that library science discussion groups have taken within the field. ALA

committee can use list for communication between meetings. Organization divisions have used the lists like newsletter for disseminating divisions new. The immediacy of E-mail connections enables rapid consultations from trusted colleagues even when they may be located on the other side of the continent. CMC has even been used directly in the practice of reference librarianship, when questions are posted on the net and others provide an answer. Mathews lists examples of reference questions that have been successfully answered using e-mail list queries. Thus the librarian's communication has become easy with Internet. It has led to the time and money saving. Librarian is not merely library personnel but information oriented personnel. Thus impact of internet is positive. As Marian Brenner States "For Librarians, Library users, internet has accelerated changes in our concepts of information resources and ways to get to them. The Internet is a giant, a one large distributed resource becoming a valuable information delivery system for all its users with a single click of a mouse".

A lot of libraries provide information resources on the Internet ranging from online public access catalogs to specialized databases and unique archival resources. While some of these libraries offer little more than basic information for their users and a link to their catalogs, other make available specialized services or databases that will be of interest to Internet users and not just local library users.

### Conclusion

Information is generally viewed as data processing in the broad sense specially in the context of collection, storage, retrieval, servicing of organized data and information that become necessary for all kinds of economic and social exchanges and applications. Individuals & groups involved in creative innovative and development works collect & assemble data & thus generate information. Information management involves five more modern technologies viz., electronic & interface. Out of these, computer & communication (C & C) play the most dominant role in the present scenario. The optimum utilization of information depends upon the proper use of the updated computer telecommunications and high-tech microelectronics in information technologies and devices, when integrated appropriately in information centers and libraries result in the quick spread of information. The network system, which is very effective in electronic transfer of information between two or more points irrespective of their distance, is highly essential in this process. Therefore, 'Internet', a technology, connecting millions of computers in a network worldwide, has become the interactive medium par excellence in the world of communication. This has brought the world within the format of an information village. Half the world population is expected to be connected through 'Internet' by the second decade of this century. Presently, it has rendered the flow of information exceedingly easy all over the globe and hence contributes towards the evolution of information society.

In some sense, the Internet is another telecommunication network. Many of the component connections for the Internet run over standard phone lines. In addition, it is changing the ways in which people communicate. However, more than a communication is based. Electronic journals and monographs

are being disseminated on the Internet. Information providers are developing machine database and factual compilations that are accessible exclusively on the Internet. Hypertext documents are published on the net that consists of links to diverse resources available on the Internet, offering a total "collection" for librarians to use. The interest in the Internet among libraries paralleled the interest from other professions and interest among the general public has grown as the information available via Internet has grown. As substantial information resources have become available exclusively on the NET, libraries from all types of libraries have connection to the Internet and in some cases offered Internet access to patrons. Librarians have made use of the communication capabilities and the connection tools both for retrieving networked information and for corresponding with catalogues and patrons.

With the advent of this computer, the role of information has become more crucial than ever before in the realm of national development. While the Internet revolution is leading to big changes for librarians all over the world, it is still in its developing stage in the Indian libraries. Though, there are a very few technocrats who have just jumped on the bandwagon to make everything computerized and networked yet a large number of librarians have not kept pace with the technology. They are silent spectator of whatever happens and want someone else to do for them.

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