

Growth of Information Literacy with Special Reference to India

Shalini Wasan

*Librarian, Chandigarh College of Engineering & Technology,
Chandigarh, India
E-mail: shalini.wasan@gmail.com*

Abstract

ICT era has explored the horizon of Information explosion. Information Literacy facilitate to pinpoint content based information to end users to meet the satisfaction level of ultimate users and further assist in decision making. Information Literacy assists in knowing Information in better way as it includes information handling skills. With digitization of Scholarly publications and growth in online delivery, fluency with IT requires learning of software and hardware associated with Computer Literacy. Information Literacy use ICT to extend Lifelong learning. Information Literacy is prerequisite and essential enabler for self direction, enhance user independency in decision making and further leads to participative citizens.

Introduction

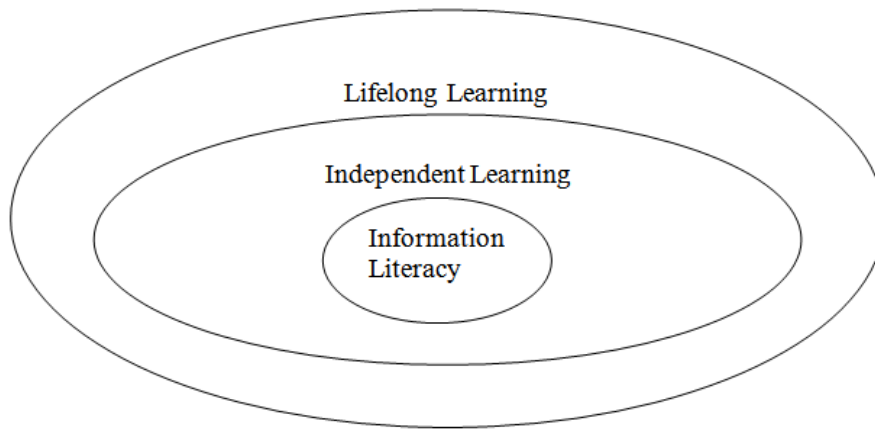
Information Literacy was first introduced in 1974 by Paul Zurkowski, President of US Information Industry Association. Information is abundant and intensive.

Information Literacy is required because of the ongoing proliferation of information resources and various methods to access information. Information is available through community resources, special interest organizations, service providers, media, information centers and internet. All this information comes in an unfiltered way. This leads to difficulty in understanding whether particular information is authentic, valid and reliable. Uncertain quality and expanding quantity of information also poses large challenges. Informed Citizens has capacity to use information effectively. Thus Information Literacy is the understanding and set of abilities enabling individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the capacity to locate, evaluate and use information in effective and efficient way.

Definitions of Information Literacy

Information Literacy can be defined in terms of a set of competencies that a informed citizen of an information society ought to possess to participate actively and intelligently in that society. Information Literacy makes independent learners for lifelong.

Relationship of information literacy, Independent Learning and Information Literacy.



1. Australian School Library Association describes, “Information Literacy as synonymous with knowing how to learn.”
2. American Library Association describes, “Information Literacy as a means of personal empowerment.”
3. Candy Crebert and O’ Leary’s report, “Information Literacy as developing Lifelong Learning. Lifelong Learning. Include Knowledge of current resources, Ability to frame researchable questions in at least one find of study”.
4. The Alexandria Proclamation of 2005 describe, “ Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning as the “ beacons of the Information Society, illuminating the courses to development, prosperity and freedom. Information Literacy empowers people in all walks of life.”

Objectives of Information Literacy

To promote free flow of Information which enhance in decision making and ultimate satisfaction of the user. Recognize need for Information, identify, locate, access, evaluate and apply Information whenever and wherever required in pinpointed and meaningful way. Thus relevant and synthesized information further endeavor to create Information Literate Society.

Some of the Objectives of Information Literacy are

1. Determine Nature and Extent of the Information needed.
2. Access needed information effectively and efficiently.
3. Evaluate information, its sources critically incorporate selected information into Knowledge base and value system.
4. Effective use to accomplish a specific purpose.
5. Understand economic, legal and social issues surrounding the use of information and to use information ethically and legally.

Characteristics of Information Literacy

1. Knowledge of major current resources.
2. Ability to frame researchable questions.
3. Ability to locate, evaluates, manage and use information in a range of contexts.
4. Ability to retrieve information using a Variety of media.
5. Ability to decode information in a Variety of forms: written, statistical, graphs, charts, diagrams and tables.
6. Critical evaluation of information.

Importance / Significance of Information Literacy

Information Literacy is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments, and to all levels of education. It enables learners to engage critically with content and extend their investigations become more self directed and assume greater control over their own Learning.

1. Information Literacy is shot in the dark in semantic Information Environment.
2. Information Literacy leads to a network across the campus.
3. Weaves information resources and practiced skills into day to day Curriculum activities.
4. Information Literacy is the need of an hour as it required at all stages of education.

Information Literacy Person should

1. Recognized the need for information and further identifies potential sources of information.
2. Use information in critical thinking and further Problem Solving.
3. Access sources of information through ICT.
4. Develop appropriate search strategies and formulate questions based on information needs and further integrate new information into existing body of Knowledge.

Suggestions for promoting Information Literacy

1. Progress Reports on Information Literacy.
2. Facilitate Standards and Frameworks.
3. Information Sharing and dissemination.

4. Raise Awareness.
5. More Discussions, Seminars, Workshops and Lectures.
6. Improve Infrastructure.
7. Incorporate innovations and follow new directions.
8. Enhancement of teaching, learning and assessment.

Information Literacy Toolkit Content

1. Self Assessment Tool
2. Tutorial
3. Personal Capabilities
4. Glossary
5. Consortium
6. Dynamic Virulent
7. Content
8. Resource
9. Virtual Communication
10. FAQ's

Information Literacy Self Assessment for Holistic Learning

1. Recognize information need and assessing in terms of intellectual engagement with content.
2. Recognizing various search engines and browsing techniques
3. Assessing generic and discipline specific skills
4. Recognizing Resources and understand skills and contents knowledge
5. Knowledge of steps to ensure online privacy?
6. Knowledge of IPR and copyright issues
7. Knowledge valid and reliable data?

Tutorial: Internet Primer

1. Selecting resources
2. Searching Resources
3. Evaluating information and further using

Information Ethics Online Information Search through and Infract

1. Reference and Resources
2. Locating Users through –Email, Text and Address
3. Email uses/newsgroup Subject

Virtual Communication

1. Satellite
2. Mobile
3. LAN
4. Computer
5. TV

The New Reality

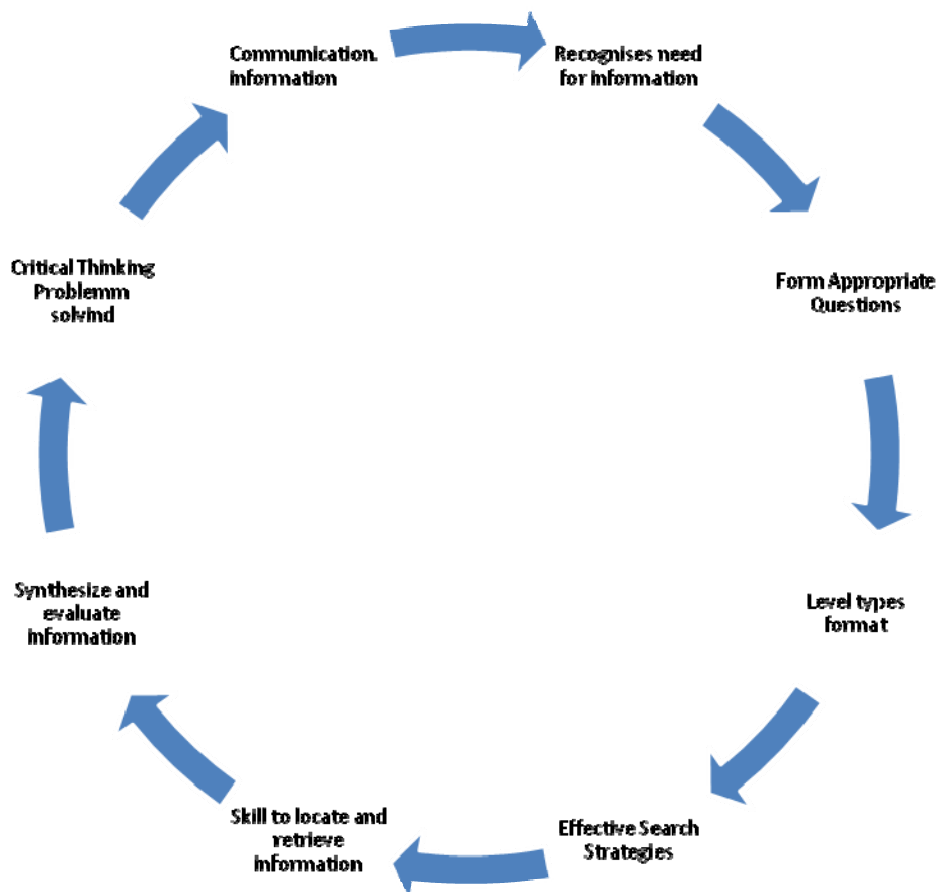
1. Multiple Catalog and Databases
2. The Library and its various resources Print, electronic, some full-text, Internet.
3. Multiple Access Points

Importance of Information Literacy

1. Self-Direction
2. Specific Interference
3. Learning
4. Information
5. Transfer of Knowledge
6. Decision Making

Standards of Information Literacy

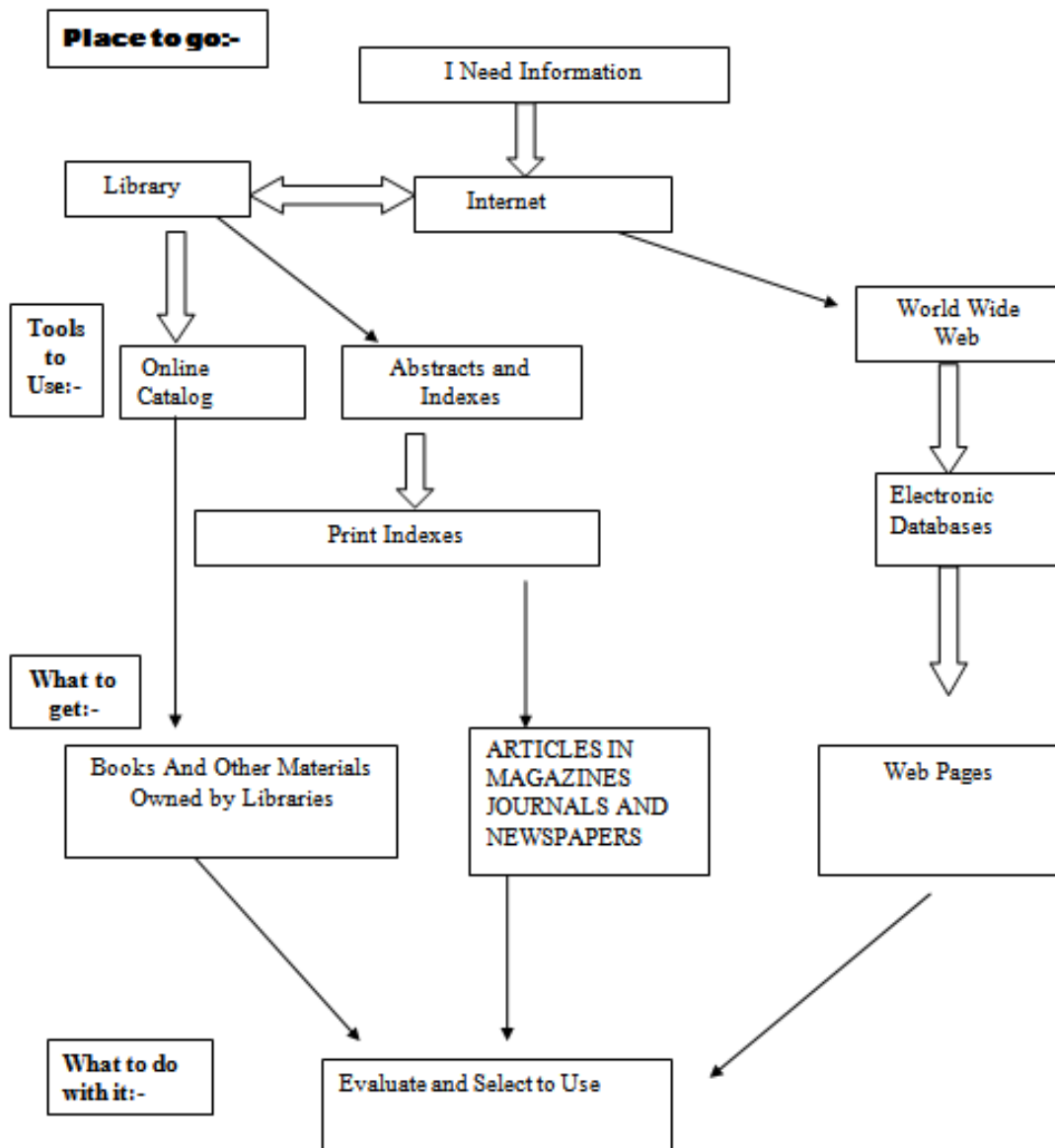
1. 7 Standards of Information Literacy



Techniques/Effectively teach Information Literacy

2. Understand and Plan through Information Literacy within the Library.

3. Move Beyond teaching techniques and tools to teaching concepts
4. Build upon what already works.
5. Incorporate Activities /active learning to motivate stimulate critical thinking with faculty.



Information Literacy Programmes in India

These Information Literacy Programmes meet specific needs of users rather than a prescribed set of criteria.

Higher Education Institutions in India are conducting various seminars, conferences on Lifelong learning. These Programmes enhances the intellectual

abilities of reasoning and critical thinking, guide librarians to use library systems effectively and further add value to them.

1. UGC-INFONET E Journal's Consortium Project Information and Library Network :- Co-ordinate agency for UGC-INFONET(include training programmes, user awareness programmes, workshops and seminars to research scholars, faculty members and library staff to acquire right skills in appropriate areas).
 - a. INFLIBNET WEB LITERACY (includes Computer and Information Literacy) E-Prints in Library and Information Science.Inflibnet.ac.in is the largest website in the world.
 - b. INFLIBNET – Shodhganga is a digital repository provides a platform for research students to deposit their PH.D these and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access.Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source for research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. Doctoral dissertations are manifestation of result of four to five years of intense work involving huge investment of resources, both mental and physical and infrastructure and other support from the Universities. Nearly 45 Universities of India signed MoU.
 - c. WANULIP -Workshop on Automation and Networking of University Libraries cover implementation of INFLIBNET in University Libraries of India.
2. ILA, IASLIC, DESIDOC, INSDOC, NISCARE provide various Professional growth programmes for Librarians related to information literacy.
3. University of Hyderabad Library conduct training sessions in Information Literacy.
4. University of Delhi added Information Literacy in their Curriculum.
5. Refresher Courses by Academic Staff also enhance Information Literacy Programmes.
6. National Knowledge Network and National Knowledge Commission are addition to Information Literacy Programmes were user is educated on various information and further document his resources, where to start searching, what and how to access and assess information and also these Programmes guide user how to communicate their information in right manner for pinpoint decision making.
7. National Digital Library supported by Department of IT, Government of India for preserving Data available in physical form. This digital Library is enabling user to access their required information in a digitalized form which was not possible earlier. This digital Library is hosted by IIS Bangalore, ERNET, IIT's, NSF, CMU, MCIT. This digital Library includes Journals, Newspapers, Manuscripts and Books.

Government of India has organized various Programmes to enhance Literacy and providing information to their citizens. These Programmes are

1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
2. District Primary Education Programme
3. National Literacy Mission (NML, 1988 with the objective of achieving Literacy).
4. Establishing Community Information Centre
5. Village Knowledge Center (specially in Tamilnadu)
6. E-Choupal, E-sampark,
7. PURA(Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Area).

RTI India is a complete online portal for Right to information in India. The RTI Literacy Programme being conducted in various districts with the objective of spreading information.

1. SRISTI(Society for Reseach and initiatives for sustainable Technologies and Institution) aims at lasting the task of accessing the innovation and breaking of language and medium of data transmission. Knowledge Network for augmenting Grassroots innovation(Know-Net-Grain) Project of SRISTI promote Traditional Knowledge, innovative ideas of individuals supported by NISSAT.
2. Rashtriya Computer Literacy --- The Birth of an India is an initiative to make India 100% Computer Literate and spread the quality education on IT with a difference.
3. National Policy on ICT in School Education (2008)- Growing awareness and enhancing the process and outcome Of School Education Policy envisages three stages of ICT Literacy implementations at School level
 - a. ICT Literacy and competency enhancement.
 - b. ICT enabled teaching.
 - c. Learning and introduction of ICT related elective subjects at senior secondary level.

Thus, we can add that Information Literacy is the key to Knowledge Society and informed citizens are always one step ahead the technology. Government of India took many steps in past two decades for the growth of Information Literacy but still there is a lot to done ahead as information is growing at an enormous speed.

Conclusion

Changing expectations, providing quality education and attaining the Goals of Information Literacy is vision of every nation. Library Professionals should initiate Information Literacy Programs in University Environment to update their skills. Information literacy is a natural extension of the concept of literacy in our information society, and information literacy education is the catalyst required to transform the information society of today into the learning society of tomorrow. Across the world, educators in primary, secondary, tertiary and professional education contexts have

been developing strategies and policies for designing learning opportunities that will enable learners to take advantage of the information and communication infrastructures available to them.

References

- [1] Doyle, C.S. 1992. Outcome Measures for Information Literacy within the Nation Education Goals of 1990. Final Report to National Forum on Information Literacy Summary of Findings. ERIC Digest No. 351033.
- [2] Doyle, C.S. 1994. Information Literacy in an Information Society: A concept for Information Age. ERIC Clearing House on Information Technology, New York.
- [3] Jayaprakash, A. and Gupta, V.U. 2005. Information Literacy : Need to Promote the Use of Digital Information Services in Digital Era. In R. Chandra edited 'Libraries, Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning. Indian Library Association, Delhi. Pp. 292-301.
- [4] McClure, C.R. 1994. Network Literacy : A Role for Libraries. Information Technology & Libraries. 13 (2): 115-25.
- [5] Owusu-Ansah, E.K. 2005. Debating Definitions of Information Literacy : Enough is Enough. Library Review. 54 (6) : 366-74.
- [6] Pough, L. 2000. Change Management in Information Services. Grower, Hampshire.
- [7] Anonymous. 1991. Manual of Information Education. Japan Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Tokyo.
- [8] Association of College and Research Libraries. 2000. Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. <http://www.ala.org/acrl/ilcomstan.html>
- [9] Association of College and Research Libraries (USA). 2004. Information Literacy Competency standards for Higher Education. ACRL-2003. <<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandrads/standards.guidelin1>.
- [10] GHOSH, S.B.(et. al.).(2006). Information literacy initiatives in India with special Reference to emerging knowledge economy. In Information Literacy. Proceedings of the International Conference ICIL 2006, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14th-15th June 2006. (415) Shirish M Deshpande and S Dakhole
- [11] KUMAR, P.S.G., (2004), A Student's Manual of Library and Information Science, (p.3). New Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corporation.
- [12] DHIMAN, A.K., (2005), Learn Information and Reference Sources and Services (p.5). New Delhi: Ess Ess Publications.
- [13] LAL, C, (2008), Information Literacy in the Digital Age, (p.181-182.).New Delhi: Ess Ess Publications.
- [14] IFLA, Defining Information Literacy in the 21st Century, available at <http://www.archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/papers/059e-Campbell.pdf>.(Accessed on. 06/12/2011).

- [15] IFLA, Guidelines on Information Literacy for life long learning. available at <http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s42/IL-Guidelines.2006.pdf>. (Accessed on 09/12/2011).
- [16] INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad, Towards E- Information Literacy: Quest for Interoperable Web based Information System, available at <http://www.ir.inflibnet.ac.in/dxml/beatstream/handle/1944/1161/72.pdf>.(Accessed on 6/12/2011)
- [17] Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India, available at, <http://www.mit.gov.in/content/e-learning>, (Accessed on 14/12/2011).
- [18] Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India, available at, <http://www.mit.gov.in/content/vision-mission>, (Accessed on 14/12/2011)
- [19] CSDMS, National Policy on ICT in School Education. Available at, <http://www.csdms.in/gesci/stats.asp>, (Accessed on 06/12/2011).
- [20] RTI Act (India), Information Service Portal. Available at, <http://righttoinformation.gov.in>, (Accessed on 06/12/2011).
- [21] RCLD, Rashtriya Computer Literacy Drive. Available at, <http://www.rclid.org>, (Accessed on 10/12/2011).
- [22] Department of IT, Government of India, National Knowledge Network. Available at <http://www.mit.gov.in/content/national-knowledge-network>, (Accessed on 13/12/2011).
- [23] Department of IT, Government of India, National Digital Library. Available at <http://www.mit.gov.in/content/national-digital-library>, (Accessed on 13/12/2011).es.htm>.2003. Information Democracy and South Asia. Medallion Press, Ludhiana.