Network Literacy for Library Users

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Abstract:

Network literacy play a crucial role in promoting collaboration and cooperation among libraries, fostering a sense of community and collective learning. By joining forces, libraries can pool their resources and expertise to better serve their communities, ensuring that everyone has access to a wealth of information and educational opportunities.

Keywords: Network Literacy, Information literacy, Library Networks.

1- Introduction

The network plays a crucial role in enhancing information literacy, which refers to the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use information from various sources. Information literacy is a critical skill in today's information-driven society, and the library network significantly contributes to its development and improvement Library network offer training sessions, workshops, and one-on-one assistance to help users navigate the vast sea of information effectively. Librarians play a crucial role in teaching users how to search for information efficiently, evaluate sources for credibility, and use appropriate research methods.

A network is outlined by the **National Commission on Libraries and data Science (NCLIS), USA** as "two or a lot of libraries and/or alternative organizations engaged in a very common pattern of knowledge exchange, through communications, for a few practical purpose".

In order to satisfy the demands of users and deal with financial concerns, libraries work together on linked portals called library networks. They look against data redundant work, build up original assets, and collaborate on resources based on needs. The idea first surfaced in 1985, when a team of members of the Planning Commission approached the Ministry of HRD, Government of India, with a renovation proposal for the National Policy on Library and Information System. Following on the UGC proposal produced by the Association of Indian Libraries in 1987, the Department of Science and Industrial Research (DSIR) in India recommended a combined strategy for Library Automated and Networks. network may be a collective or cooperative activity of linking members/users to the resources hosted on computers by means that of telecommunication connections. Additionally, being proficient in library network literacy may also include knowing how to use computer software programs and applications available on library computers to create and edit documents or presentations for academic or professional purposes.

2- Network Literacy for Library Patrons

Understanding the network content and being able to identify, make decisions, review, or use digital content are two components of Network Literacy for library users.

Knowing how to analyse connected data includes being allowed to:

a. Consider the spectrum and purpose of all global interconnected databases and offerings.
    b. Understand the functions and uses of digital data for resolving problems or carrying out daily life tasks.

c. familiarise yourself with the framework that regulates how network data is generated, processed, and made accessible on a general basis.

Competencies consist of:

a. Assessing the data necessary to attain a certain objective.
b. Utilising reliable data retrieve techniques, abilities, and devices to identify vital data via network.
c. To choose and assess data regarding a specific subject that has been obtained through network sources.
d. Modifying and structuring data through networks with additional materials to increase its utility.
e. Using, analysing, and presenting network data to facilitate resolving issues and ongoing education.

Users need to have various forms of fundamental skills before learning about networks, as stated earlier:

a. The conventional meaning of literacy is the ability to read and write.
b. Understanding and using desktops and laptops, which serve as end-users' gateways to network knowledge, requires computer literacy.
c. Being media literate entails understanding and effectively using various media forms to locate and store information from the internet.
d. The traditional way of gaining knowledge literacy means being able to find, pick, evaluate, and use information skilfully.

3. OBJECTIVES OF LIBRARY NETWORKS

Library Networks are computer communication network for linking libraries and information centers in universities, deemed to be universities, colleges, UGC information centers, institutions of national importance and R & D institutions, etc. following a uniform standard-

* To create rules and guidelines that are the same for everyone, in the way we use computers, software, and services. Also, to encourage all libraries to follow these rules and use them in their everyday work. This will help libraries to share and exchange information more easily and make the best use of their resources.

* The aim is to establish a nationwide network that links libraries and information centres, improving their capacity to manage and offer information.

* In order to simplify the process of locating books, journals, theses, and other materials within Indian libraries, and develop an online catalog. Included in this catalog are both physical materials, such as books and DVDs, and digital materials like computer data and multimedia.

* Providing support in searching for and effectively utilizing information obtained from books and similar sources, incorporating specific details such as citations and abstract. By using their own databases and setting up links to access other databases from national and international information networks and centres, the sectoral information centres of NISSAT, UGC information centres, city networks, and similar organizations can gather information.

* The objective is to develop enhanced preservation techniques for important information contained in ancient manuscripts and documents written in various Indian languages by utilizing high-density storage technology to create digital copies.

* Gaining knowledge regarding copyright laws, fair use regulations, and showing respect to others' ideas. efficient utilization of information resources involves sharing catalogues, borrowing books from other libraries, creating catalogue, selecting valuable additions to our collection, and minimizing duplications.

* The goal is to help people access required resources on social media, including periodicals, research papers, and books, regardless of their location or distance. By utilizing our catalog, they can effectively communicate and collaborate online, ensuring they have access to the necessary information.

* With the purpose of offering internet-based facts assistance, to construct networks of initiatives, organisations, trained professionals, and so forth.

* to promote collaboration across the nation's databases, research centres, and data centres in order that skills may be poled for the advantage of aiding less skilled centres of learning by more powerful.

* To construct, administer, and support INFLIBNET (information and library network centre) through training and developing personnel in the area of computerised management of libraries and networks.

4- FUNCTIONS OF NETWORK LITERACY

Network literacy refers to the ability to effectively navigate, evaluate, and utilize information and communication technologies in a networked environment. It encompasses a range of skills and competencies necessary to make informed decisions and engage critically with digital information. The functions of network literacy include:

* **Information Retrieval**: Network literacy enables individuals to search for information effectively using search engines, databases, and other online resources. It involves understanding how to use search operators, filters, and advanced search techniques to find relevant and reliable information.

* **Digital Communication**: Being network literate involves understanding and utilizing various digital communication tools, such as email, social media, instant messaging, and video conferencing. It also includes understanding the nuances of online communication, such as netiquette and appropriate behaviour in different digital contexts.

* **Media Literacy**: Network literacy includes the ability to critically evaluate and analyse media content, including news articles, videos, images, and social media posts. It involves recognizing biased or misleading information and being able to distinguish between credible and unreliable sources.

* **Privacy and Security:** Network literacy encompasses knowledge of online privacy issues, data protection, and cybersecurity best practices. It involves understanding how to safeguard personal information and avoid falling victim to online scams or phishing attempts.

* **Digital Citizenship:** Being network literate means understanding the rights and responsibilities of digital citizenship. It includes respecting copyright laws, understanding the implications of online behaviour, and being a responsible and ethical digital citizen.

* **Online Research**: Network literacy involves the ability to assess the credibility and reliability of online sources. It includes understanding factors such as authorship, publication date, bias, and peer review to determine the trustworthiness of information.

* **Digital Footprint Management**: Network literacy includes awareness of the digital foot prints individuals leave behind while using online services. It involves understanding the impact of online activities on one's online reputation and taking measures to manage and protect that reputation.

* **Technological Literacy**: Being network literate means having a basic understanding of computer hardware, software, and network infrastructure. It involves knowing how to troubleshoot common technical issues and use digital tools effectively.

* **Critical Thinking**: Network literacy fosters critical thinking skills, enabling individuals to question and analyse information encountered online. It encourages scepticism and the ability to discern reliable information from misinformation or disinformation.

* **Lifelong Learning**: Network literacy is an ongoing process, as technology and online platforms continually evolve. Being network literate involves a willingness to adapt and learn new digital skills as needed to stay informed and engaged in the digital age.

* **Online Safety and Cybersecurity**: Network literacy includes knowledge of online safety practices, such as setting strong passwords, using secure networks, and recognizing potential cybersecurity threats.

5-NETWORK SKILLS TO PROMOTING LITERACY

Access to a variety of resources and services is made possible via library networks, which are

essential in fostering information literacy. With connecting libraries, these networks enable them to share their resources, which eventually helps users by increasing their access to information. Furthermore, training courses and seminars are frequently provided by library networks to assist people in acquiring the abilities needed to efficiently browse and analyze information.

With the help of these tools, users may learn how to choose trustworthy sources, assess the accuracy and quality of information, and comprehend the right way to make use of data. Library networks enable people to develop their critical thinking skills and information skills by providing these training programs. The ability to collaborate and communicate among librarians is another benefit of library networks. This allows them to exchange strategies and keep in connected.

Additionally, library networks help librarians collaborate and communicate with one another, allowing them to exchange best practices and keep up with new trends in information literacy. All things considered, library networks are essential for promoting information literacy and assisting people in becoming better readers and more aware people in the general public.

6-BENEFITS OF NETWORK LITERACY

The capacity to engage critically across new information systems that have emerged as a result of the worldwide web as well as require a profound grasp of the conceptual framework or norms of such connections, regardless of what we possess in paper form, is referred to as network literacy in library science as well as technology. Utilising online resources to stay aware or acquire certain details when needed includes this capacity. Creating and sustaining wide, diversified networks is essential for continuing to be educated and getting helpful responses to what you want to know. In order to obtain a repository of knowledgeable viewpoints and specialised data, network literacy enhances interpersonal interactions by actively and purposefully engaging with networks of specialisation. This is done by selecting relevant people and organisations and then joining or interacting with them.

The term "information literacy" refers to competence in searching for and using information. It involves recognising your information needs, locating relevant sources, evaluating their credibility, and employing the retrieved information effectively. It also means being willing to keep learning throughout your life. Moreover, it examines the ways in which people employ systems and technology to discover information. The field of library science also focuses on the ways individuals across different cultures search for, assess, and utilise information in libraries and other settings.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, by adopting a multifaceted approach that includes digital literacy training and partnerships with technology companies, libraries can play a crucial role in promoting digital inclusion. This not only benefits individuals in accessing information and opportunities but also strengthens communities by bridging the digital divide. Libraries serve as community hubs that provide individuals with access to cutting-edge resources and tools, allowing them to offer innovative programs that meet the evolving needs of their patrons. By incorporating digital literacy training programs and forming partnerships with technology companies, libraries enhance their role in promoting digital inclusion.

This comprehensive approach not only benefits individuals in accessing information and opportunities but also strengthens communities by bridging the digital divide and ensuring equal access to technology.

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