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literature even these services are being used in research and get Development in various field like Social, Economical and Industrial important so. Library is heart of the College

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A Paradigm shift in Academic Libraries in Digital Age: E-Learning and E-Libraries

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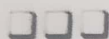
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ABSTRACT

In this paper we try to explain the relation between e-learning and e-libraries, and how trends in both could mutually benefit, in order to link science with information in a networked society, we start with describing the context in which the new evolutions take place. We then define e-learning, especially networked e-learning, and we investigate the role of e-libraries. Next we consider the major challenges of e-learning and link them with digital libraries. The need for e-information services to the users are also growing and becoming very essential. The impact of web based e-learning and digital technology environment has influenced every facet of library and information services in academic libraries and providing new opportunities and challenges to the library professional for involvement in the knowledge based society including electronic and multimedia publishing, Internet based information services, global networking, web based digital resources etc.

Key Words: e-learning, e-libraries, transform, networked

INTRODUCTION

E-learning has become the part of the normal of higher education, it is part of the biggest change in the way our species conducts education and training since the invention of the chalkboard or perhaps the alphabet. The development of computers and electronic communications has removed barriers of space and time and making knowledge sharing so easy. Now knowledge can be delivered anytime anywhere (Horton, 2000). Such advanced technology raised a question about the role of e-libraries in new learning environment called e-learning environment. The Experts and academicians agree that technological advances are dramatically altering the training and development landscape. In particular, the increased use of Internet technologies to deliver training has been heralded as the "e-Learning Revolution, (Wanberg, 2003)". Electronic communication network and new information technology is considered to be the forth revolution in producing and offering knowledge (Shamsaii, 2011).

Now many users thought that in parallel with changes which are made by modern technologies in knowledge environment, referral of users to libraries is reduced (Fattahi, 2003), and users such as learners, researchers and scientists could achieve their own researches directly and without any need to libraries or librarians due to spreading of new information technologies, service automation and information searching and remote accessing to them (Stewart, 2009) and accomplish their required information through internet.

The growth of e-learning around the world and increasing the numbers of learners whom using this kind of learning, have provided opportunities as well as challenges for the libraries and information centers in general and academic libraries specially. On the one hand, academic libraries now are empowered to become an active contributor in the developing electronic academic environment.

LIBRARY IN THE NEW INFORMATION AGE

This new age in which we now live in according to Anyakoha³ is a revolutionary period whose impact is far surpassing those of the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions. Information has now become the most strategic resource that is transforming the world economy. ICT has brought about changes in different aspects of human life in the 21st century. The new opportunities provided by ICT in business, learning, communication etc. have thrown the world into a new society called the knowledge society or information society. Thus the world has become a global village. The internet where one can migrate from one chain of computers to the other is called the information super highway. Information Communication Technology, ICT has caused socio-cultural, political, educational, and economic change. Just like Salisu (2002)⁴ noted, ICT has engendered a new approach to work and service delivery, and is a technological development that has changed work and job expectations. The library is one of the main areas deeply affected by ICT which is the backbone of information age. This is due to the fact that the library being the main stay of information and knowledge has been made virtual such that library and information services extend beyond walls and physical buildings. Changes in the Role of Library in New Information Age from to Information resource in one medium information resource in multimedia Library has its own collection Library without wall Procurement of information sources by individual library Procurement of information resources through consortia Service in good time Service just in time In-sourcing of all activities Out sourcing of all activities Local reach of resources Global reach of resources through networks User's want print resources Users want print, non-print, online resources Users goes to library Library come to users Local users Users from any place International Journal of Library Science⁹⁷in the

...the basic foundation of libraries...
...generation...
...digital environment...
...library 2.0 may be shown in following way

TRADITIONAL LIS EDUCATION VERSUS E-LEARNING

The traditional education provides a strong knowledge base to the potential professional. It develops in him the most basic library management skill—cataloguing, classification, indexing—broadly referred to as knowledge organizations skills. The traditional LIS education also fulfills one of the basic objectives of education.

Trends: from world to e-world

The society where we live in is changing from day to day, and we are moving rapidly from yesterday's well known conventional world into the e-world of tomorrow. One may discover several trends in society that prove this statement. In this text we will concentrate on the impact these trends have on higher education:

- Lifelong learning
- Globalising
- E-learning
- Networking

All these trends are worthwhile a more thorough discussion Here we will focus on the question how the every day's explosion of information in our networked society could be dealt with through appropriate combinations of e-learning and e-libraries. We start with defining e-learning and digital libraries. Then we indicate some particular challenges of e-learning, and try to link them with e-libraries.

SUITABILITY OF E-LEARNING FOR LIS EDUCATION

E-learning should be adopted in LIS education for the following reasons:

Management of Change

The ICT terms like metadata, the semis construction, ontology, taxonomy, electronic Dewey, information literacy programmes, open source software for library management, digital library, digital library software, creation and maintenance of institutional repositories, Web 2.0, Library 2.0 technologies and their use in libraries, HTML, XML, knowledge management, web design, copyright-implications in the digital library era, etc. might be a bit difficult for them to comprehend. E-learning is the most suitable teaching-learning method for imparting education on such important and useful topics in LIS.

Modular or Cafeteria-based Learning

Most of the undergraduate courses are of three years duration. The postgraduate courses are of two years duration. This 3+2 years pattern of education is common in US education also, and does not allow studying topics which are peripheral to the core subject of the degree. As a result, there remain some topics which the potential LIS professional desires to study, but not been able to do so due to the set pattern. E-learning will certainly help to overcome this problem because it allows creating customised learning modules as per the need of the learner. **Increased Expectations from the Employers as well as Users**

All potential library employers expect that the LIS professionals must have optimum skills and thereby efficiency in their house keeping operations. They also expect that the library staff should be able to provide library services effectively. The users of the library also have similar expectations. They feel that the library staff must answer their reference and referral queries quickly and accurately. One common expectation of both these stakeholders is that the LIS professional of any cadre must have skills to use ICT to provide efficient library services.

Multi-skilled Personnel

The present employment market expects

that their potential employee must have multiple skills. The skills required by libraries are changing. A study indicates that library staff needs more and newer skills 5. The workflow is changing. The classroom-based, traditional pattern of LIS education may not allow the library staff to have multiple skills. Through e-learning they can acquire more skills at their own pace and time.

Job-Specific Needs

LIS professional is working after having the basic LIS education through the traditional methods. E-learning offers the opportunity to provide education, which is job specific and will help LIS professionals to perform to the optimum extent.40DESIDOC JI. Lib. Inf. Technol., 2009, 29(1)

Image of the Profession

The e-factor (electronic factor) is an image building factor. As such the provision of e-learning, if made available by the LIS educational institutions will definitely improve the image of LIS teaching profession.

More Content and Short Duration

LIS professional are continuously increasing. It is difficult to provide all this knowledge and impart all expected skills in one or two academic duration. So the subjects which could not be taught/studied during regular courses can be taught through e-learning.

Changing Learning Trends

The changing learning trends are of part-time/home learner. To respond to these trends the LIS education should adopt the e-learning.

Distance Education and E-learning

The distance education and e-learning share many common features such as remote learner, course material, emphasis on self-study, learning at once own pace and time, etc. However, e-learning adds value to distance learning by delivering digital course material. The digital nature of course material brings much flexibility to the learner.

CONCLUSION

The remarkable growth of Internet has made significant revolution in all the areas of science and technology. Rather than using it as a tool for searching and retrieving information, Internet has become the king of all media, by which we can access virtual information and can build a virtual library to provide timely, quality service to the users. Librarians of this digital era are in the position to change their role as arbitrary information scientists/gatekeepers and to meet the challenges of the Internet, World Wide Web, online access in the knowledge society. So they must enrich their knowledge with special skills of the latest IT developments, to browse, access and retrieve a particular information across the global networks and to organize and manage the information by building digital libraries and by which they can provide quality e-information service to the knowledge society.

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