M-109: Information Literacy Applications in LIS

Unit-IV: Application of Information Literacy in Library and Information Centres

Information Literacy for LIS Professionals

By Dr. M. Madhusudhan
Today’s libraries are undergoing a rapid transformation, and they need to reinvent and reposition themselves to fulfill the needs of generation X, Y, and Z users who are technology savvy.

The increasing prevalence of digital information systems and technologies poses many issues and challenges compelling libraries across the globe to find solutions and update systems to provide services to users.

The quality of the academic library depends upon the quality of the workforce, which in turn directly depends on the knowledge, adaptability, and satisfaction level of the professionals working in a given library.

High-qualified Library staff can transform even the poorest library into an operation offering excellent service.
Information Literacy (IL) is the process of knowing when and why information is required where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical way.

It is the combination of all the skills that required for the effective and maximum use of information.

The term IL has been used as a collective term covering all or several of literacies, viz. computer, digital, hyper, IT, interactive, internet, library, media, multiple, network, oral and visual literacy, etc.
The whole concept of IL is to move from text-based learning to resource-based learning.

CILIP Definition of Information Literacy 2018

“Information literacy is the ability to think critically and make balanced judgements about any information we find and use. It empowers us as citizens to develop informed views and to engage fully with society.”

It is a prerequisite for participating effectively in the information society and is part of the basic human right of life long learning.
Information Literacy: LIS Professionals

- Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals must enrich their knowledge with special skills of the latest ICT developments, to browse, access, analyze, evaluate, archive and disseminate information/service to cater to the information needs of the knowledge society.

- Information Literacy (IL) not only help the LIS professionals to provide library services to the users more efficiently and effectively but also to complete their own research/information needs.

- **Information Literacy, thus, has an undeniable importance for every LIS professional to train to take the logical path in their search for and application of information and also enhance their knowledge as well as associate knowledge skills to perform a particular task.**

- So the LIS professionals must be more enthusiastic about adopting emerging technologies and improving different skills and competencies to plan for new services and evaluate old services, develop services that meet the needs of all stakeholders.
Need for Information Literacy

The need IL for Professionals may be essential due to the following reasons:

- A rapid increase in the quantity of information from all sources of information due to the information revolution.
- Information Storage and retrieval have become unbelievable.
- The changing shape of the libraries and user information behaviour.
- **The changing nomenclature of library professionals.**
- Impact of Social Networking Sites and Media.
- The advent of Mobile Technologies and Code-based Library Services.
- The wide variety of information sources.
- The wide dispersal of information and miniature devices.
- Research on complex and interdisciplinary topics.
IL and LIS Professionals

Following are some of the important components which precipitated to the development of information literacy:

- Information Explosion
- Advent of information and communication technologies (ICTs)
- Divergent and vast varieties of information sources
- The wide dispersal of information
- Birth of new discipline with new demands
- Unawareness of users to new technologies
- Lack of information capability building
- Technological changes
- Participate in citizenship
- Creation of new knowledge
- User empowerment.

(Source: Mishra & Mishra, 2010)
Roles of Librarian
Librarian’s Instructional Role

- Libraries, be they physical or virtual collections of information resources.
- Help users gain physical and intellectual access to information, and this function constitutes their instructional role.
- **Special Libraries**: serve a very specific, stable population (members). Librarians need to keep up with advances in the employer’s field as well as generic or library-specific information tools.
- Most of it consists of individualized just-in-time training, usually in terms of using emerging research tools.
Librarian’s Instructional Role

- **Academic Libraries**: have as part of their central mission the education of the clientele, particularly students.
- Academic Librarians focus more on instructional attention on scholarly research tools and resources for both students and faculty.
- University libraries tend to offer standardized workshops for basic research skills, and work with specific academic departments to offer more specialized for domain-specific training upon need.
School Librarians – to create a planned sequence of instruction. Freshman overview, basic domain-specific instruction, etc.

Librarians also serve as mediators between their institutions and the community at large.

They provide instruction to about outside entities, particularly through educational program venues.

With their connections to other libraries and community entities and how to access these community resources.

Librarians have to seek such community connections pro–actively.
To assess users current technology knowledge

Front-load instructions with opportunities for technology-challenged users to get acquainted with the technology needed to engage in the desired content.

- Use productivity tools
- Navigate the Internet
- Evaluate information critically, and
- Communicate digitally.
Technology-based Instructional Strategies

- Highlight IL and technology standards that are explicitly addressed in user projects.
- Have users generate concept maps (either manually or with graphic organizer applications) about these illiteracies before and after a learning session.
- Starting with user outcomes, identify associated literacies.
- Trace the instructional design process and incorporate the technologies accordingly.
- Pair users in two different academic or career disciplines to compare literacies’ overlap and transference.
Role of Librarian in IL

(Source: Mishra & Mishra, 2010)
ILProgrammes for LIS Professionals
IL for LIS Professionals

• Big Data in Library Services
  • Internet of Things (IoT)

• Blockchain Technology
  • Augmented Reality (AR)

• Robotics & Drones in Library Services
  • Artificial Intelligence
IL for LIS Professionals (2)

- Expert Systems
- Virtual Reality (VR)

- Applications of Web 3.0 in Libraries
- Digital Humanities

- Digital Storytelling in Libraries
- Computer Programming or Coding
IL for LIS Professionals (3)

- Crowd Funding in Libraries
- Assistive Technologies in Libraries

- People Tracking Technologies
- Massive Open Online Courses

- Library Makerspace
- Understanding and implementation of ERM tools
Open Educational Resources (OER)
Open Access Journals & Databases

Multimedia Databases and Federated Searching
Privacy Issues in Digital Environment

Information Security
Access Control and Authentication of E-Resources
IL for LIS Professionals (5)

- Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Open Access Journals & Databases

- Multimedia Databases and Federated Searching
- Privacy Issues in Digital Environment

- Information Security
- Access Control and Authentication of E-Resources
IL for LIS Professionals (4)

- Open Educational Resources (OER)
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- Information Security
- Access Control and Authentication of E-Resources
IL for LIS Professionals (5)

- Context-aware Technology
- Cloud computing

- Library 4.0
- Google Glass

- Data storage virtualization Technology
- Metadata Management and the Semantic Web
IL for LIS Professionals (6)

- Web-Scale Discovery Services
- Library Mobile Endeavors
- WhatsApp based Library Services
- Quick Response Code based Services
- Virtual and Remote Reference
- Web Design and Web Content Management
IL for LIS Professionals (7)

- Digital Information Services
- Web 2.0 & 3.0 Technologies
- Use RSS in Libraries
  - Quick Response Code based Services
- Virtual and Remote Reference
  - Web Design and Web Content Management
Conclusion

- Today libraries are undergoing remarkable transformations with strong technological foundations.
- Technology will continue to change, and libraries and librarians have to be updated with the adequate and updated technology in the respective fields to be competent to fulfill the requirements of their patrons.
- **The basic aim of any library is to provide the right information to the right reader at the right time, right format and right device.**
- Information Literacy Programmes for LIS professionals undoubtedly help in acquiring emerging technological skills and competencies in handling the information sources in the digital environment and render satisfactory information service in the fast-changing digital library environment.
LIS professionals need to update their skills through IL Programmes:

(i) To help the students and faculty members to locate, access, and evaluate information effectively and efficiently.

(ii) To understand and do his research work.

(iii) To update his knowledge and skills.

(iv) To take better decision in the institution.

(v) To survive in the competitive world of information to respond to constantly changing information environment.

LIS Professionals are harbingers and torch bearers of the knowledgeable society and share a major role in the social change.


M.Madhusudhan, Ph.D
Associate Professor & Fmr. Deputy Dean Academics
Department of Library & Information Science
Visit me at:  http://atfi.dlis.du.ac.in/drmadhusudhan.php
Mail : mmadhusudhan@libinfosci.du.ac.in
Mobile No.: 9911817540