School Libraries in Modern Era: An Overview

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Abstract:
The school library is integral to the teaching and learning process. The school library facilitates the work of the classroom teacher and ensures each student has equitable access to resources, irrespective of home opportunities or constraints Schools are the base of education that directly develops a connection between secondary to senior secondary and after that senior secondary to higher education. Responsibility of the Librarian is to develop the keen interest for learning in students and assist as much as possible to teaching staff and others. Development of ICT has completely changed the Environment of the libraries, not only in operations even in sources of information also. This paper will show the various aspects about the paradigm shifting from print to digital and manual to automate. . While the role of the school library remains constant, its design, digital platform, strategies and tools change as pedagogy and technology changes.

Keywords:ICT, Library Automation, Digital Libraries, School Library, software, Social Networking, Cloud Computing, Blogging etc.

Introduction:

The school library is the heart of the school; stimulating currents go out of it into every corner of the school. A school library does not exist for itself. It exists to serve the objectives of its parent organizations. A school library can play a very important role in helping the educational system to achieve its goals. The aim of a good school library is to become a force for educational excellence. School library also helps in developing reading interests in children when they are young so that books may serve as lifelong sources of knowledge for them. Explosion of information and development in ICT completely changed the role, services and functions of libraries. Library automations software's, Digital Library software's, Cloud Computing, Social Networking and blogging are the main components of libraries in modern scenario.
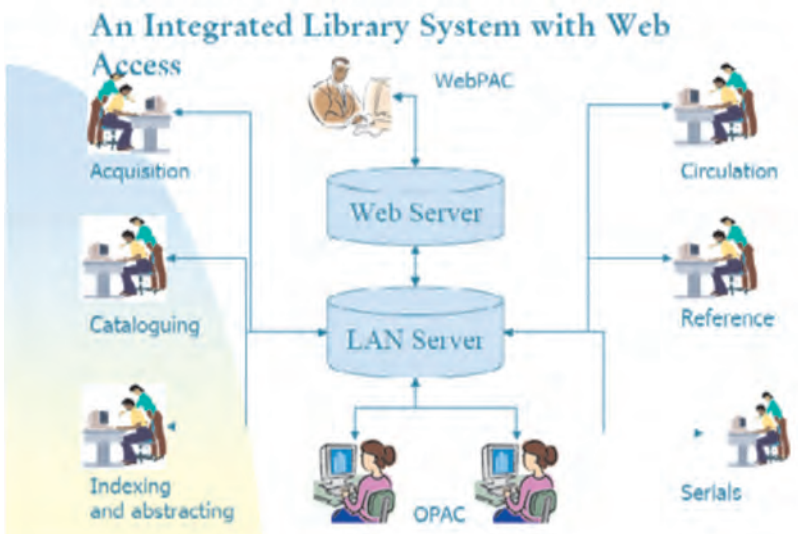
Effect of ICT in School Libraries

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) gives a broad way to libraries for fast working with library automation, Digital information Sources with Digital Library platforms, cloud computing to make accessibility without walls, Social Networking and blogging for communication with groups or individual not only for information sharing even aware them time to time for the latest information's time to time.

Need of Library Automation

When Library software was not available, then everything was running with manual operations. But after the development of Library software's maximum operations of library are handled by the computers and accessories. Library automation is beneficial to students, librarians, faculty members, administrators and parents for various reasons. The library is the resource center that supports and enhances the curriculum for the school. Students can expand their horizons more effectively with an automated library. Teachers can reinforce their classroom instruction with

assignments that guide students to research opportunities within the school library. An automated library helps administrators complete accreditation requirements for the school. Parents can feel good about the school library being available to their students anytime the students want to access it via a Web browser. Everyone benefits when the school library is automated.

The library is part of their experience at school. It should be automated to permit the students to be excited about finding and using materials that enhance their studies. Schools that have automated their libraries report that students actually check out two to three times more items after automation than they did before automation. Why? One reason is that searches are easy and quick for students. Another reason is that links to other materials via subject headings and Authors enable the students to go to

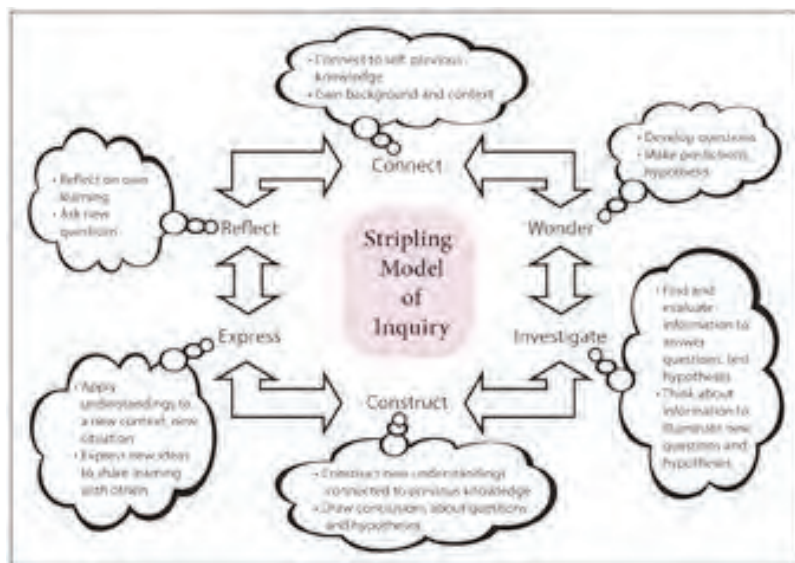An Integrated Library System with Web Access

Other items of interest with one or two clicks of the mouse. Searches can be sorted instantly by author's names, title, copyright year and other ways with a single mouse click also. Another reason is that visual searches are possible for the youngest users and visual search is helpful for remedial learners. Still another reason is that the catalog card electronically displayed helps the student know details about it when tested on standardized tests. Library automation cover these area: Acquisitions, Cataloguing, serial controls, circulations, reporting and most important is OPAC (online public access catalogue).

Digital Libraries:

The digital environment presents both opportunities and challenges to today's learners Given the opportunities and challenges of the digital environment that confront students throughout their digital learning experiences, school librarians must teach digital literacy and inquiry skills at every phase of the inquiry/learning process.

The digital library must not be seen as merely a digitized collection of information objects plus related management tools, but as an environment bringing together collections, services, and people to support the full cycle of creation, dissemination, discussion, collaboration, use, new authoring, and preservation of data, information, and knowledge. The challenges and opportunities that motivate advanced DL initiatives are associated with this view of the

Stripling Model of Inquiry

Digital library environment Work on digital libraries aims to help in generating, sharing, and using knowledge so that communities become more efficient and productive and the benefits of collaboration

are maximized. It seeks to aid existing communities and to facilitate the emergence of new communities of research and education.

Library Automation and Digital Library software's:

There are a lot of variety of Library automation and digital library software's. Some software's are available on payment basis where as some software's are freely available. For Library automation koha is best software which is freely available whereas e-granthalaya and soul are freely available for government institution in India and paid for private institutions. In the context of Digital Library D-space and Greenstone are free available on website. A lot of library automation and digital library software's are available in the market on paid and free of cost. In this connection free and open source software's are playing a vital role among the maximum institutions across the globe.

Cloud Computing

Cloud computing technology came up as a boon for libraries and is offering various opportunities for libraries to connect their services with clouds. The paper presents an overview of cloud computing and its possible applications that can be clubbedwith library services on the web based environment. This study may be helpful inidentifying and generating cloud based services for libraries.

Cloud computing is not a new technology that suddenly appeared on the web but it is a new form of computing. Cloud computing is a kind of computing technology which facilitates in sharing the resources and services over the internet rather than having these services and resources on local servers/ nodes or personal devices. The combination of servers, networks, connection, applications and resources is defined as 'cloud'. Cloud computing is acting as a resources pooling technology for accessing infinite computing services and resources as per demand of users and can be compare with models of pay as you use or utility model same as used for mobile services usages and electricity consumption.

Social Networking

Social networking can be relevant to information seeking and sharing on information retrieval perspective by providing speed and quick information to the information community by connecting and collecting digital information required by the user**.** Social networking sites like MySpace, FaceBoook represent a new and powerful service through web 2.0. User can connect to other user from various part of internet domain by applying social networking tools for information communication, organization and information distribution. The idea behind the social networks is that they operate on many levels, right from the family level up to the level of the nations. They have come to play a very important role in determining how problems are solved, how organizations are run, and the efficiency with which individuals succeed in achieving their goals. Social networking websites function like an online community of internet users. Depending on the website in question, many of these online community members share a common interest such as hobbies, religion, or politics. Once you are granted access to a social networking website you can begin to socialize. This socialization may include reading the profile pages of other members and possibly even contacting them.

Blogging

Web attracts us by its interactive and communicative tools. The power of the blog lies not only in ease of publishing new content, but also in its ability to automatically archive old posts and refresh the content of the main page. Therefore, blog is one of the most important and interesting tools for sharing information and communication on the Web. The term "Weblog" was coined by Jorn Berger on 17 December 1997. The short form "Blog" was coined by Peter Merholz, who jokingly broke the word into the fresh "weblog" in his blog in 19991. Evan Williams, one of the creators of the popular blogging tool blogger, describes it as "the blog concept is about three things: Frequency, Brevity, and Personality.

Blog is an online diary where one can post information (not only text but also audio, photographs

and videos) on a regular basis. There are some related terms in creating blogs like blogger, blogging, blogging software, blogrolling, blogosphere, etc. Blogger is a person who can create, maintain, and edit or write entries to a blog. Blogging is the act of creating, authorising, maintaining or adding an article to a blog. Blogging software (Blogger, Word Press) makes it easier for people to create blogs. Blogrolling is the act of moving from one blog to another and blogosphere is the world or community of blogs and blogging.

Conclusion

In coming time school libraries are going to change in digitally environment. Indian school librarians have the same level of passion and commitment to the profession like theircounterparts from the developed nations. But, if they have to be on the same platform asthem, they need to equip themselves with the essential digital skills and thereby enhance theteaching & learning skills of their users. Attending continuous professional development programs however few they might be would give them an opportunity to understand thetrends and latest technological developments for providing effective and efficient services attheir workplace. Competence and collaboration are the key factors that may determine their professional growth and contribution.

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