INFORMATION LITERACY:
AN OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAMMES
AT IPR

Librarians’ Day -2012 and seminar
on User Oriented Quality Services in 21st Century Libraries

11th August 2012
H.T. Parekh Convention Centre, AMA, Ahmedabad
Organized by ADINET, INFLIBNET and AMA

Pragnya J. Pathak and S. Shravan Kumar
Institute for Plasma Research, Bhat, Gandhinagar - 382428
Contents

• Introduction
• Definition of Information Literacy (IL)
• Importance of IL
• Impact of IL
• Applications of IL
• Core Model of IL for Higher Education in Universities (SCONUL)
• Initiatives taken by Government
• Role of Librarians in IL
• Experiences of IL Programmes at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR)
• Conclusion
Qualities of Literate

Literate

- Able to Read
- Able to Write
- Educated in a particular field or fields
Qualities of Information Literate

- Need for information
- Sources of information
- Successful search strategies
- Accesses sources of information
- Use of ICT and related gadgets
- Evaluates information

Critical thinking & Decision making
Creates new knowledge
Definition of Information Literacy

• “Information Literacy” first appeared in a report of National Commission on Libraries and Information Science by Paul G. Zurkowski in year 1974
Introduction

• Information Literacy requires a set of abilities:
  • when an information is required
  • which type of information is needed
  • should possess the ability to find the required information
  • able to evaluate available information resources
  • use effectively and efficiently the needed information

• Concept of Information Literacy is very important:
  – sudden growth in complexity of information resources individuals come across with varied information choices in their academics, workplace, and in their personal lives.
It's a library, Honey--kind of an early version of the World Wide Web.
Importance of Information Literacy

• Need and importance of IL crop up as a result of ‘Data Smog’, the term coined by David Shenk (Journalist)
  • Large amount of information
  • Barrier in individuals lives
  • Nervousness when making decisions
  • Data smog is a key
  • When we need information and
  • Where to locate it effectively and efficiently
  • Technological skills needed to use the modern library as a gateway to information
  • Analyze and evaluate
Importance of Information Literacy

• UN- International Literacy Day- 8th September

• UNESCO declared year 1990 as ‘International Literacy Year’

• In year 1993, an Education for All Summit of Nine high-population countries was organized at New Delhi by UNESCO.
Impact of Information Literacy

• For Student Community:
  – Scholars learn to find, evaluate and create information by developing significant thinking skills which hopefully leads to better research
  – Outcome of better research lead to more success in studies, that increasing the preservation of more information for future generation
  – Skills developed by students here are transferable to their ultimate workplace making students more marketable
Impact of Information Literacy

• For Citizens:
  − Identify most useful information when making decisions like where to establish a business, how to vote, by evaluating newscasts, advertisements, and political speeches, use of statistics to support only one aspect of a complex issue.
  − Understand the value and power of information, they consider in the need for information to address problems and questions in their own lives, in their communities, and in society.
  − Prepared to be lifelong learners because they know how to learn themselves.
Impact of Information Literacy

• For Workers at workplace:
  – Demand for a new kind of worker or information literate is increased in the marketplace, where a worker can be talented to gather, sort, evaluate, synthesize, interpret and apply cascade of information.
  – Workplace has become a place of drastic change and provides innumerable opportunities for individual workers. As a result of these fast changing environment results in multiple career and job changes.
  – Information literacy helps workers to see change in nature of job at workplace as transitional and not distressing
Application of Information Literacy

• Information Literacy is a prerequisite for Lifelong Learning, and is common to all learning environments, to all disciplines, to all levels of education and for all age groups

• Lifelong Learning

• Flexible Learning
Core Model of Information Literacy for Higher Education in Universities: SCONUL

• Society of college, National and University Libraries (SCONUL) was founded in 1950 as the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries.

• In 2001, it changed its name as SCONUL.

• SCONUL promotes quality in library services in higher education and national libraries across the UK and Ireland.

• SCONUL came up with a core model of Seven Pillars of Information Literacy, which explains the information handling, information skills, data curation and data organization.
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

• National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in year 2005, with following aims:
  – Build excellence in the educational system
  – Promote creation of knowledge in S&T laboratories.
  – Improve the management of institutions engaged in intellectual property rights.
  – Promote knowledge applications in agriculture and industry.
The National Knowledge Commission is a high-level advisory body to the Prime Minister of India, with the objective of transforming India into a knowledge society. In its endeavour to transform the knowledge landscape of the country, the National Knowledge Commission has submitted around 300 recommendations on 27 focus areas during its three and a half year term. While the term of the NKC has come to an end, the implementation of NKC’s recommendations is currently underway at the Central and State levels.
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

• Right to Information Act (2005) assures timely response to citizen request for government information.

• RTI is an initiative taken by department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

• Access Guide on RTI at: http://circulars.nic.in/WriteReadData/CircularPortal/D2/D02rt
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

• Rashtriya Computer Literacy Drive is an initiative to make India 100% computer literate
  http://www.rcld.org/

• National Knowledge Network (NKN) helped in up gradation of NICNET at 40 locations all over India in 2008, used minimum infrastructure to connect more than 1500 institutions
  http://mit.gov.in/content/national-knowledge-network
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

• National Digital Library: Department of IT supported setting up mega centers and scanning centers at IISc, Bangaluru and Carnegie Melon University, USA.

• Digital data generated by these scanning centres is web enabled on “Digital Library of India” web site.

http://www.new.dli.ernet.in
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

• Village Knowledge Centre (VKC) is a place to render distant services from a single window point to rural masses especially in remote areas of the country through modern ICT.

http://capart.nic.in/scheme/vrc.pdf
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

• National Portal of India - A single window access to information and services being provided by the various Indian Government entities.

• Content in this Portal is the result of a collaborative effort of various Indian Government Ministries and Departments, at the Central/State/District level.

http://www.india.gov.in/
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

• E-Choupal, initiative of Agri Business Division, offers the Farmers of India all the information, products and services they need to enhance farm productivity

• Local and global information on weather, scientific farming practices as well as market prices at the village itself through this web portal in regional languages.

http://www.echoupal.com/
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

- Akshaya, an innovative project implemented in the State of Kerala by state government aimed at bridging the digital divide, addresses the issues of ICT access, basic skill sets and availability of relevant content

  http://www.akshaya.kerala.gov.in/
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

- Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL) a major initiative by Maharashtra Government helped citizens to become IT literate. MKCL registered more than 5.4 million learners

  http://www.mkcl.org/
Initiatives taken by Central Government and State Governments in India

• Bhoomi has computerized 20 million records of land ownership of 6.7 million farmers in Karnataka
  http://www.bhoomi.karnataka.gov.in/

• Many other projects like Gyandoot, Pravana, Drishtee, Warana Wired Village, SRISTI, NaiDisha, INVITE etc are the successful projects taken up by Government.
Initiatives taken by Gujarat State Government

• Gujarat State Wide Area Network (GSWAN) 2001-02
• To modernize the intra-governmental communication setup
• To improve administrative effectiveness and efficiency
• Provides connectivity to all 26 districts and 225 taluka centers.

http://www.gswan.gov.in/
Initiatives taken by Gujarat State Government

• Sachivalaya Integrated Communication Network (SICN) owned by Government of Gujarat for their voice communication needs. SICN network is spread over Gandhinagar connecting all Government Boards and Corporations Offices.

http://www.gujaratinformatics.com/sinc.html
Initiatives taken by Gujarat State Government

- Gujarat IT Policy features compulsory computer education would be introduced in all schools from class-V onwards, provide internet connectivity to all schools in the state, creation of State Library Networks and promotion of Gujarati on computer

http://dst.gujarat.gov.in/it-policy.htm
Role of Librarians in Information Literacy

• Christopher (2004) identified four roles that librarians play in Information Literacy:
  – *Teacher and Consultant*
  – *Instructional Technologists*
  – *Manager of computing services*
  – *Manager of learning resources collection*
Role of Librarians in Information Literacy

• Feedback from other Libraries
  – All librarians believe that libraries and librarians play an important role in promoting information literacy
  – Government, libraries, librarians and individual users should take initiatives and develop information literacy skill for lifelong learning.
Role of Librarians in Information Literacy

• Feedback from other Libraries
  – Government takes initiatives and provides budget to set up the information literacy initiatives at state or national level, without involving librarians in the information literacy programmes, then the scheduled schemes objectives won’t be successfully achieved.
  – The responsibility or control to promote and encourage information literacy is with libraries and librarians.
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• IPR Library provided ILP in a traditional way, from its inception without having much awareness about IL and with limited available infrastructure and limited resources.

• Later at the advent of ICT Tools like computers with low bandwidth network connectivity, preference was given to senior scientists and administrators to use these tools.
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Research scholars and users were depending on library staff, to perform database searching from offline resources available on CD-ROM format of INSPEC, INIS database, & McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology etc.

• Bibliographies were compiled on different subjects which are of interest to our users.
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Started giving training to users to search a database
• Install search interface software
• Process benefited them to learn how to formulate a search query and search database on their own.
• Developed user’s skill to make specific query in database
• Retrieve most relevant information
• Saved users precious time.
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Web page of IPR library which is considered as gateway of information & is listing e-resources.
• Subject wise database.
• Link to websites and resources are indexed on library web page
• Internal publications like thesis, reprints, technical reports, research reports and bibliographies of senior scientists are digitized and full text access is provided through library CDM Server to users
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Procured Scientific Software to process data which is available in codes

• Simulations of experimental readings

• Provided translating software
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Current contents service to users and various universities departments’ heads on demand in both print and electronic media through email.

• Current contents link is provided on library webpage, subscribing to Netvibes.com
Computers for Users with Internet Connectivity
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

- Timely action was taken by library to provide
  - Adequate computers and servers
  - Access to additional resources to users
  - Gave better services to users with 24x7 Internet connectivity
- For that adequate care was taken for Library automation
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Orientation to users is a regular feature of our library to make users familiar about library and its services,

• Which resulted increase in library usage, and reduced the hesitation approach in a new user to visit the library.
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Publishers or vendors were invited to offer detailed demo of usage of new databases
  – AIP Online journals,
  – ScienceDirect,
  – SCOPUS,
  – E-village for Engineers,
  – E-Standards for Engineers
  – Web of Knowledge

• Quiz programmes are conducted
Users participating in SCOPUS database demo
Users attending Web of Knowledge Demonstrations
Prize distributed to winners of Quiz Competition
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Organized demonstration of new technology equipments:
  – Multifunction Devices (MFD),
  – CD Mirror Server (CDM Servers),
  – Barcode technology,
  – Kindles (ebook reader),
  – Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID),
  – Security Systems,
  – Closed-circuit Television (CCTV), etc.,
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• User Education Programme, by inviting subject experts in the area of:
  – Knowledge Management,
  – Usage of Multimedia,
  – User Services,
  – Marketing of Information,
  – Need of Library Consortia,
  – ICT Tools,
  – Software usage,
  – CDM technology
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

- All IPR library staff is actively interacting with
  - Publishers,
  - Vendors,
  - Senior Library Professionals
  - Life Members of library associations
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Library Guide
• Library Virtual Tour
• Library Brochure
• Information about library services
• Locations of resources
• Working hours of library
• Contact details of library staff
• Library tutorials - WebOPAC, OPAC, and usage of online journals.
Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library
Bhat, Near Antra Bridge, Gandhinagar - 382 420
Gujarat (INDIA)

Trial access to "Web of Science database is available for two weeks" refer the users quick reference guide & take advantage of it and collect needed references & citations"

"Professor Chen Liu Receives 2012 James Clerk Maxwell Prize"
GUIDE TO IPR LIBRARY

Library Guide in Hindi (PDF 163kB)
1. INTRODUCTION
2. LIBRARY TIMING
3. ORGANISATION OF SECTIONS
4. MEMBERSHIP
5. DOCUMENT SELECTION
6. COLLECTION
7. FINDING A DOCUMENT
8. BOOK GRANT
9. SERVICES
  9.1. CIRCULATION
  9.2. INTER LIBRARY LOAN
  9.3. REFERRAL
  9.4. PHOTOCOPYING
  9.5. TRANSLATION
  9.6. CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICES
  9.7. SELECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
10. LIBRARY AUTOMATION
11. GUIDELINES TO LIBRARY MEMBERS
Library Training
Every year 3 Library Science graduates are selected as trainees, for a period of one year.

Location of Documents
Old Building (OB)
General Books- First Floor
Reference Books-Ground Floor
Computer Books-Ground Floor

Annex Building (AB)
Current Periodicals-Ground Floor
Standards-Ground Floor
Software-Ground Floor
Reports-First Floor
Back Volumes - Basement (upto year 2005)
First Floor (from 2006 onwards)
Encyclopaedias - Basement
Pamphlets-Basement
SSP Reports -Basement

Library Timings
Monday - Friday 0900 Hrs - 2000 Hrs
Saturday 1030 Hrs - 1730 Hrs

Guidelines to Members/Visitors
- Smoking is Strictly Prohibited
- Silence should be maintained in the Library
- Tea, Coffee, and Eatables are not allowed in Library
- Bags/Handbags should be kept at the Personal belongings desk near Counter
- Documents should be shown at the Counter during entry and exit
- Visitors should sign in the register kept for the purpose

For More Information Contact:
Librarian
Institute for Plasma Research
Bhat, Near Indira Bridge,
Gandhinagar - 382 428
Gujarat, INDIA

Telephone: 91-079-23962000
91-079-23962033
Fax: 91-079-23962277
Email: pragnya@ipr.res.in

IPR Library URL:
http://www.ipr.res.in/~library/LIBRARY.html

Welcome to
IPR LIBRARY

Institute for Plasma Research
Bhat, Near Indira Bridge
Gandhinagar - 382428
Gujarat, India
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Users forum is active
  – Meet group wise (Scientists, Engineers, RS)
  – Interact with librarian and staff
  – Give suggestions for resources
  – Give feedback for services
  – Help in policy making
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Provides alert services to users:
  – Displaying the information on the notice boards
  – Flashing the news on library webpage
  – Feedback from users to improve library services efficiently.
Experiences of Information Literacy Programs (ILP) at Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) Library:

• Book Exhibitions

• Invites Library Science Department Students from various Universities

• Teach students practical approach of library services provided to users
Conclusion

• In present digital era, information literacy is very important for each and every field especially, for libraries and library professionals.

• All library professionals should be aware of information needs, information sources, new technologies and tools to use these information sources for the benefit of their users.
Conclusion

• For providing better services to the users all library professionals should also be updated with new information skills.

• IPR library staff never waited for any special training or well equipped infrastructure etc., whatever limited resources were available, we started using them and tried to keep updated ourselves, and whatever we learnt we tried to implement in our library and as a result our users are very satisfied with library services.


Conclusion

• As a proof we can quote our Director’s statement “IPR Library is a World Class Library”. Our Dean commented about IPR Library webpage that it is an excellent library webpage, where one can access maximum required information.
“I expect you all to be independent, innovative, critical thinkers who will do exactly as I say!”
Thank You