

Role of Public Library to growing Digital Literacy in our Society

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Abstract - This paper focuses on the discussion of the role of public library to growing digital literacy in our society. Digital literacy and its types and throws light on need of digital literacy to make the society or people digitally literate. Digital literacy deals with the role of public libraries to growing digital literacy in our society. For that all the people able to use digital information and take a step to create a beautiful information society.

Key Words: Digital, literacy, public libraries, knowledge.

1.INTRODUCTION

Now we are leaving in the society of technology. But a large number of present Indian people have no knowledge about digital literacy so they are not having access to the technology. But for the prosperity of the nation there digital literacy is very much important. Digital literacy is the combination of two terms digital and literacy. Where digital means symbolic representation of data and literacy refers to the ability to read for gaining knowledge to write correctly and think critically about the written word Digital literacy is the knowledge skills and behaviors used in a broad range of digital device such as smart phones, tablets, laptops and desktop PCs. Digital literacy researchers explore a wide variety of topics including how people find, use, summarize, evaluate, create and communicate information while using digital technology.

2.LITERATURE REVIEW

2001, David Bowden researcher of 'US National Research Council' he study on the topic which published in the 'Journal of documentation'. Hear he describe about computer literacy, with its skills connotation and about digital information. (Information and digital literacy; a review)

2013, Khatun.M, researcher of Oslo and Akershu University college of Applied Science. Hear she studies on the topic of digital literacy and public library. In her thesis name 'Digital Information Literacy of the Oslo public library professionals'. Hear she has investigated strength and weakness, in lance and challenges of digital information literacy of the Oslo public library professionals.

2011, Douglas A. J. Belshaw researcher of United Kingdom he studies a lot in his thesis ('what is Digital Literacy?') Where he describe about digital information, digital literacy, various type of digital literacy and their beautiful definitions.

3.Digital literacy and its various types:

3.1.Digital Literacy:

ALA Office for Information Technology defines literacy as –“Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find understand, evaluate, create and communicate digital information an ability that requires both cognitive technical skills”.

3.2.Types of digital literacy:

The term digital literacy is combines so many terms related it. I try to discuss about those terms, which are mentioned as follows:

3.2.1.Information Literacy:

Information literacy can be defined as “the ability to locate, evaluate and use information. The ability of information consumers to make educated, smart information assistance requires a special kind of literacy termed information literacy”.

3.2.2.New media literacy:

New media literacy is the literacy is the ability to apply critical thinking and viewing skills to what we see, hear and read. It is the ability to access analyze, evaluate and create information in a variety of media formats including print and non print.

3.2.3.Photo visual literacy:

Visual communication in an interactive environment is constructed of multilayered and ambiguous symbols systems that are both syntactically and semantically dense. In visual communication the syntactic elements are those visual characters that are used while the semantic elements relates to the correction, compliance and connection between the visual symbols that serve to deposit meaning into visual metaphors use to communicate.

3.2.4. Visual Literacy:

Visual Literacy refers to a group of visual competencies a human being can develop by seeing and at the same times having and intergrading other sensory experiences. The development of those competencies is fundamental human learning. When developed they enable a visually literate person to discriminate and interpret the visual actions, objects symbols, natural or manmade that he encounters in his environment. Through the creative use of these competencies, he is able to communicate with other. Through the appreciative use of these competencies, he is able to comprehend and enjoy the works of visual communication.

Visual literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate and communicate information in any variety of form that engages the cognitive processing of a visual image. (Chauvin, 2003)

3.2.5. Reproduction Literacy:

With the advent of computers a new skill set has emerged which enables people to reproduce or edit digit text or visuals. This leads to new interpretations of originality, creativity and inventions of art work or other endeavors. Similar to lateral literacy, the reproduction of digital information requires a digitally literate user; therefore the term is synonymous with digital literacy.

3.2.6. Lateral literacy: Hypermedia and thinking:

Lateral literacy and the world of hypermedia represent a lateral environment which is describe as a non liner skills needed to read and analyze a book. Thinking laterally allows users to perform multilevel tasks and to synthesize disparate pieces of information for greater understanding or knowledge.

3.2.7. Today's Literacy:

The author of digital transformation, a recent report published by the educational testing services centre for global assessment, define –“today's literacy as the ability to use digital technology , communications tools or networks to access, manage, integrate, evaluate and create information in orders to function in a knowledge society”.

4.ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN PROMOTING DIGITAL LITERACY

The public library is the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural development of the individual and social groups. It provides all kind of knowledge and information readily available to its users irrespective of their age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status.

In this electronic era to promoting digital literacy public libraries can take a great step to the people digitally literate some steps are describe below:

4.1. Lecture method:

A lecture method were library professionals delivers lectures about services and information sources available in the library both in print and digital formats. To avoid technical jargon and make their lectures as simple as possible for their audience.

4.2. Practical orientation:

Practical orientation in which users of the library are provided with opportunities to practically observe and have practical experience in exploiting different sources of information tools available in libraries and the service provided by the library. How to use digital and analog resources and services by the uses optimally is the focus of such programmes.

4.3. E-learning methodology:

Library professionals use the internet and allied technologies for making users competent enough in exploiting the service and resources optimally. Exposure to web 2.0, Library 2.0 and like other technological applications can be taught to users through e- learning mode.

4.4. Service offer:

In order to create information literate users library professionals are also publishing different literature or creating their own website having information about the library activities and service offered by the libraries used by going through this information can come to know the ways and means they will adapt to became information literates.

4.5. Appointments one by one:

So that most of the people can take the facility to learning of digital literacy to see the way candidates are appointed one by one by teach them minimum literacy knowledge for that they can access or use literacy.

5. DIGITAL LITERACY PEOPLE ABLE TO

- The people who are digitally literate they will be able to use technology and determine the extent of digital information as they want
- They can access their needed digital information.
- Evaluate digital information source and services critically;
- They will be able to use Smartphone or android devices ;
- Use or handling e-mail;
- They will be able to use social network like facebook, tweeter, whatsapp, LinkedIn etc.
- They will be able to download videos, e-books, images, music
- Use of digital information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose;
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of digital information access use of this information ethically and legally etc.

6. CONCLUSION

Public Library is the local gateway of earning knowledge. From where we can take independent lifelong learning facility. They can improve themselves in every moment, so in our society public library is a very important and valuable place. Where all age people can come. The public library professionals should help to all age group of people with great interest. Help to learn them digital literacy with the help of modern technologies. Public library need to give them heard copy data about new technologies, which they are learning. They can see and read the copies any moment in their home. Public library also should be aware of those people who are not aware about digital literacy. This great work will be possible to the time when our countries all Public libraries try hard to literate all the people of the society and give them a beautiful opportunity to meet and use our modern technologies.

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