

EXCELLENCE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

(EIJER)

Multilingual Journal For All Subjects

ISSN 2349-8838

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.088

Monthly

Volume : V Issue : X - I

October, 2018

A peer reviewed and refereed international journal

Editor-in-Chief

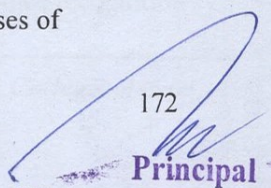
Dr. Mujibul Hasan Siddiqui

M.A (Economics), M.Ed,
M.Phil(Education), Ph.D (Education),
PGDHE, PGDDE, MADE, CCIPALA, CCCA,
D.Litt (Education) Pursuing
Associate Professor
Department of Education
Aligarh Muslim University

Website : www.ocwjournalonline.com


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Mayang Anchalik College
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Information and Communication Technology in Library Operation

Reza Shadullah Ahmed

INTRODUCTION :

Libraries have always been responsible for providing learning resources. From earliest time, they have provided access to information for scholars and researchers. The constantly increasing amount of information been generated and published. The expanding formats of information storage and retrieval, and ever changing education and research needs of library users make it difficult for any library to be an effective learning resource.

The primary role of the library is to provide information service to support the educational, recreational, cultural, economic and technological endeavors of members in their respective communities. The National Policy on Education (2004) identified the libraries as one of the most important aspects of educational support services. They are used as media for disseminating information and enhancing literature search and as tool for the development of intellectual compatibilities and promotion of cultural and social integration.

Library is a store of knowledge, indispensable to the success of any fictional education. Education without the services of library is half-baked education that can only produce narrow minded individuals which will not be productive to their community.

Information Communications Technologies (ICT) enables society to create, collect, consolidate, communicate, manage and process information in multimedia and various digital formats. These include the personal computer, CD-ROM, cable TV, Cellular phones and the Internet. These affect not only our daily life but also are useful in research and developmental activities. These devices have resulted in the expedition's dissemination of information. Academic libraries have been greatly benefited.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has been defined by various scholars from different perspectives. Ayodele (2002) defined ICT as electronic based technology generally used to retrieve, store, process and package information as well as to provide access to knowledge.

Iwu (2003) categorized ICTs into the following:

1. Sensing technologies: These equipments gather data and translate them into from that can be understood by the computer. These include sensors, scanners, keyboard, mouse, electronic pen, touch or digital boards, barcode sensors, or readers, voice recognition system, etc.

Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Mayang Anchalik College, Assam


Principal
Mayang Anchalik College
Date.....