Original Research Article

INCULCATING RESEARCH HABIT AMONG LEARNERS' OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION WITH INNOVATIVE LIBRARY SERVICES

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Abstract:

The present paper is focused on the advanced Information and Communication Technology available to dissemination of knowledge flow from one to another. Each and every day, new technology comes into existence, with their own new features like user friendliness and cost-effectiveness. To retrieve authentic information from the web is a difficult task to do for learners, and this has become an opportunity for library professionals. The study reveals how the college central library automatically fulfilled their learners' demands on time through available state of the arts information and communication technology.

Key Words: *Selfies, Innovative Practices, RSS Feeds, Web 2.0, HTML, ICT.*

Introduction:

The old chalk and talk methods is now a day's replace by digital learning resources in higher education system, to seat for long time on desk resulted into listening of lecture for time being, but may be not easily understand the lecture itself given by faculty. The revolution in ICT has expanded its horizons in all aspects of the higher education system. According to **Elets News Network** (ENN) report, "The digital laboratories have revolutionized the Indian education system, fundamentally redefining the process of learning and teaching with the help of digital tools".

According to the **e-learning Guild 2013**, "The learners had 40% higher skill base knowledge level, 11% higher actual knowledge level and 9% higher retention rate, as per Meta-analysis of instructional effectiveness of computer based simulation games".

According to **Research Institute of America**, "e-learning has the power to increase information retention rates up to 60%; it implies that it is also more effective in terms of knowledge acquired during the learning process".

According to a **Zoog study from the Department of Education**, the students who took all or part of their class online performed better, on average, than those taking the same course through traditional face to face instruction".

All the above studies shows that it may be difficult to predict the requirements of the future generation and present so-called Selfies generation, but with the evolution of the library into a learning resource centre with the help of ICT it is possible to reach to each and every learner. Sometimes, technology plays a vital role in routine work of stakeholders. The same has to be analyzed and disseminate the required information by them.

About the college central library:

The Central Library of Changu Kana Thakru Arts, Commerce and Science College, Panvel was established in the year 1998-99. Since then the library has made consistent progress in terms of collection of books, periodicals, CDs,

e-Resources and services provided. The library of College, the fountain of knowledge and inspiration, enjoys the reputation of being one of the premier college libraries in the vicinity of Panvel. It is located on the first floor and made easily accessible from all sides of the college premises. It has a carpet area of about 559.79 Sq. There are a good number of reference books, text books and periodicals on various subjects available to all. We have made it a point to include books on variety of topics like philosophy, religion, political and social history, biographies of eminent personalities, English, Marathi and Hindi literature, etc. along with reference sources like encyclopaedias, dictionaries, yearbooks, handbooks, and books useful for competitive examinations.[1]

What are Selfies?

According to Oxford Dictionary "A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a Smartphone or webcam and shared via social media". [2]

According to Wikipedia Free Encyclopaedia, "A **selfie** is a self-portrait photograph, typically taken with a hand-held digital camera or camera phone. Selfies are often shared on social networking services such as Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. They are usually flattering and made to appear casual. Most selfies are taken with a camera held at arm's length or pointed at a mirror, rather than by using a self-timer".[3]

Innovative Practice adopted by college central library:

Name of the Practice – Info-Pack Service (RSS Feeds)

The Info-Pack service is provided based on RSS Feeds – Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary. It is one of the commonly used features of Web 2.0. The very well-known example of Web 2.0 is the availability of Social Media. This service is linked with RSS Feeds and interlinked with HTML pages available on the web, which need to be subscribed from a particular website to a personal email account. Feeds require the RSS Reader and Google offers this type of reader free of cost. The main advantage of subscription of these feeds is to get updated information on time. There are many websites available to access, but we need to search for the authenticated source of information to deliver this service to stakeholders.

RSS Feeds Logo

Objectives of Info-Pack Service:
- To provide access to required information or data
- To create awareness for scholarly research
- To provide updated information on time
- To store and preserve other research work, including unpublished literature through links

Methodology:

The college administration stored all the details of learners at the time of their enrolment, and the same has been given to the central library, all this process has been done by a fully computerized system. Learners have their own email account, and all those email IDs are saved to excel files. Learners' profiles are sorted out according to their subject chosen at the time of admission and saved into learners' profile, as and when the library orientation programme conducts the same has been communicated to them.

The very important part of this service is getting information from the web without visiting the particular websites. Whenever learners are asked to do their research work or project they come to the central library for information regarding their work. However, all are looking for information on the web, but still failed to get authentic data. Here,

the RSS Feeds comes into focus, as per their information needs library staff search available resources on the web, and the same have been stored into bookmarks and favourite fields. Nowadays many websites are linked with these feeds, the same has been subscribed to librarian personal email id, and after authentication of information and data available on the web are sent to learners personal email id. Ultimately, this service saves the time of learners who spend for searching information on the web.

If there are no RSS feeds available on the web, what should be done?

Sometimes it happens, by visiting a particular website, which is helpful for getting things done required for research work or any project that does not offer RSS Feeds. Here, information and communication technology open the door of access and subscription of the same. There is another website available, which is converting the web address to RSS Feeds called **Page2RSS.** Learners can easily copy the website address which does not offer RSS feeds, and paste into the provided website, the whole things will be automatically converted and again flow of knowledge will come to them.

Outcome of Service and Problems occurred:

Learners are constantly visiting to the central library looking for books and study materials. The Info-Pack services are available on prior request from them, if they approach the central library for getting their required information, then only it is possible to provide such type of services to them. However, the library is known to their subject, but doesn't know about their specific requirement. But, still users are accessing the library holding, and available learning resources including digital materials to complete their study. Stakeholders should have a habit to check out their email account on a daily basis, sometimes it may be ignored by them or deleted by mistake.

Resources Required:

Since the practice is fully based on computer technology, therefore, availability of Internet connection is the main criteria to access or use this service. If there is no internet connection then, it would be difficult to provide Info-Pack Service to stakeholders. Another, very important source is database and online resources need to be indexed in a proper manner, before sending related information or data to stakeholder must check whether it is authenticated or not.

Conclusion:

How grateful it would be, if learners get their required information without searching for the same. It would be possible by simply subscribing of RSS Feeds from the web. This type of services offered by library professionals to their learners resulted from selfies to self-enlightenment of all learners. Normally, it is considered that learners are spending so much time on their mobile phones for chit-chat with friends. But, such a type of service may inculcate their reading habit in future.

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