

Emerging Technology Skills among Library Professionals of Autonomous Engineering College Libraries in Karnataka

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Abstract - Library and information centre are of perennial importance to professional education institutions through all ages. Success of any library system depends on its workforce. Skills and abilities of library professionals plays vital role in serving their users to make them successful in their academic endeavors. Emerging technology Skills of library professionals working in autonomous Engineering College of Karnataka are analyzed to find the status of their skills and to make further recommendations. It is found that library professionals are having better skills in handling emerging technologies. Recommendations are made to improve skills further through various suggested ways.

Keywords: Emerging Technology, Skills, Competencies, Libraries, Autonomous Engineering Colleges, Analysis, Knowledge

I. INTRODUCTION

Global information scenario is swiftly transforming with the influence of emerging trends and technologies. Information technology and libraries are closely related due to their common entity. Advancement in human intellect, provoked thrust to accelerate innovations and bring in more and more novel techniques and technologies. Recent times witnessed extreme innovations in various fields particularly in the field of information technology. Ample technologies emerged out of innovative works profoundly impacted information creation, management and services.

Emerging technologies gives solutions to many problems, aides to develop on many existing facilities, and accrue opportunities to carve new facilities. Trends in information management and information services are also re-directed into new paths owing to many influencing factors.

Factors influencing present trends:

1. Volatile technologies
2. Tech-savvy hyperactive user behavior
3. Hyper-connected societies
4. liberalized access to information
5. re-defined data security
6. snowballing digitalization of business and administration at all levels
7. user centric and user driven content and services
8. Online and collaborative learning environment

ICT technologies intensely influenced all library subsystems. Library resources are increasingly turning into digital and online resources. Libraries roles are inclined

towards digital and online information services. Users are progressively skilled in technology usage and highly dependent on technology for most of their activities, hence their information needs and usage. Library operations are completely mechanized. Technology has also reengineered library infrastructure and ambience. All these developments inevitably impacted library profession. Library information profession is one of the top listed professions, immensely affected by information technology wave. The core knowledge and skills of conventional librarianship, information resources, knowledge classification, knowledge cataloguing, information services have to be reformed into the context of information technology environment. Core skills and competencies have to be blended with technical skills and competencies to handle technological work frame, new strategies are required to manage change.

A. Emerging Technologies

In general emerging technologies are defined as the technologies that are still in the stage of emergence not well established into their fields of application, seems to be promising aides in problem solving and open new opportunities for advancement of areas of their application.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) defined emerging technologies as “technological breakthroughs promise innovative solutions to the most pressing global challenges of our time”.

Key characteristics of emerging technologies are:

1. They lead to improvements in people’s lives
2. Offer new ways of conducting business
3. Support indigenous practices
4. Radical novelty
5. Relatively fast in growth
6. Coherence
7. Prominent impact
8. Uncertainty and ambiguity.

Consideration of technologies as emerging differs based on the geographical context and subject area. Many technologies that are well established in developed countries are considered as emerging in developing countries, same way some technologies considered as emerging in a subject area are not new to some other subjects. Emerging technologies considered for the study are for libraries based on the Indian context.

