

IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION LITERACY (IL) PROGRAMME IN RAJARATA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SYSTEM

A.S. Siriwardena¹, K.R.N. Harshani²

¹Laibrary, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale, Sri Lanka.

²Library, Faculty of Applied sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale, Sri Lanka.

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Introduction

Constantine (2004) states that Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning and enables learners to master content and extend their investigations to become more self-directed, thus assuming greater control over their own learning. The end result of such a programme leads information literate individuals to be in a position to:

- Determine the extent of information needed;
- Access the required information effectively and efficiently;
- Evaluate information and its sources critically;
- Incorporate selected information into their knowledge base; and
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.

Information literacy may be defined as the ability to access and evaluate information effectively for problem solving and decision making. Information literate people know how to be lifelong learners in an information society. Information literate people are those who have

learned how to learn. They know how to learn because they know how information is organized, how to find it, how to use information others can learn from them.

ACRL has defined and described 5 standards, 22 performance indicators, and myriad associated learning outcomes. The 5 standards are:

1. The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
2. The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
3. The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.
4. The information literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
5. The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social

issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

Objectives

1. To determine the essential features of implementation of information literacy programme in Rajarata University library system in Sri Lanka.
2. To understand the concepts of Information Literacy (IL) programme

Conclusion

According to the current situation of Rajarata university library system has user education program at the beginning of every academic year or semester. Through this programme student will be able get an idea about library collection, reference and information services, classification scheme, objectives, rules and regulation...etc. Therefore this is the real time to establish information literacy programme in Rajarata University library system. As librarians we have to be become more involved in providing information in various manners. As well as in Sri Lankan context in our university libraries are gradually transforming to digital form.

In order to that this IL programme can be include through the department credit or non- credit course on library use and information literacy in its curriculum. It will have a better opportunity to give more relevant information, covering both the theory and practice of using libraries. Then that could cover areas such as information searching skills using OPAC, use of e-journals and e-books and use and importance of search engines and techniques, reference sources ,referencing style, library classification scheme ,access information effectively and efficiently ...etc. In addition to that this will improve the library profession and generate better association with users in the university libraries.

References

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