E- LEARNING & INFORMATION LITERACY

Dr. Avhad P. E.

Librarian

Pravara Rural Education Society's

Sir Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Nashik

popatavhad@gmail.com Mob. 7875075683

Abstract

The integration of e-learning platforms with information literacy education has become increasingly critical in the digital age. This convergence addresses the growing need for learners to navigate, evaluate, and effectively utilize vast amounts of digital information across various online learning environments. E-learning systems provide unprecedented access to educational resources, enabling flexible, self-paced learning experiences that transcend geographical and temporal boundaries.

Information literacy within e-learning contexts encompasses essential skills including digital source evaluation, research methodology, data analysis, and ethical information use. Modern learners must develop competencies in identifying credible sources, understanding bias in digital content, and applying appropriate citation practices in virtual academic environments. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of e-learning platforms, highlighting both opportunities and challenges in developing information literacy skills remotely.

Effective e-learning programs integrate information literacy instruction through interactive modules, virtual library resources, and collaborative online research projects. Success depends on structured curriculum design that combines technological proficiency with critical thinking skills. Future developments focus on artificial intelligence-enhanced learning systems, personalized information literacy pathways, and adaptive assessment methods. This synthesis of e-learning and information literacy creates digitally literate citizens capable of lifelong learning in an increasingly complex information landscape.

Keywords: e-Learning. Information Literacy Skills

Introduction

One of the most frequently used definitions of information literacy was given by American library association (ALA) in 1989 and it states "The knowledge of how to access and use information tools, an understanding library such as books, journals, internet resources and online databases well as an understanding of the research process including how to think critically evaluates sources and to synthesize information into research paper."

"The ability to locate, evaluate, and use information to become independent life-long learner " Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). We are information managers and communicators who know how to manipulate vast amounts of information

Information literacy —what is it?

Information literacy in a layman's words is the ability of a student, adult / person to retrieve and understand information so retrieved and then applies such knowledge in daily activities. With IT proliferation and ICT gaining prominence, information literacy has now broadened its realms to embrace

Understanding and capability to use IT tools. We are information managers and communicators who know how to manipulate vast amounts of information.

Information literacy has usually been mistaken by many for IT literacy but the fact remains that information literacy can only be achieve by becoming IT literate for reasons well to all of us that we are moving towards a century where existence for both scholarly information and social AVTARS are in virtual space. It is comparing science direct for research and

ORKUT for a social existence, or more contextually learning with virtual universities e.g., universitas21.

Information literacy is a cyclic and methodical program of continuous learning or what may be referred as lifelong learning so that better mechanisms of information literate person will be better placed to make more value based decision using quality information available form multiple sources, assimilate them and apply creatively such useful information as may be required in his daily work for the betterment of self and others.

The needs for information literacy

The emergence of ICT and web technologies has literally shrunk the world, it Is the time of the century where you need not leave your desk for anything that you may want, be it banking, shopping, traveling or learning. Today the problem is not of lack of information but to survive the onslaught of information overload and intelligently use the precise Information, which is essential for success.

The understanding and the ability to adapt and use technology and tools in a rapidly changing environment has become a necessity to compete and deliver in the digital environment.

Being information literate has also become an Impartment mandate to understand from social perspectives, one's right, cultural acceptability and societal perspective.

Basic stages In changing Information literacy —

An individual has to go through some level of training so that he can move up the learning carve to stage getting habitual. To continuous learning to get to this stage there are certain necessary requirement, which could be broadly categorized as follow.

The Information Age has arrived In Society
1. Widespread Internet access.
2. Worldwide access to Information.
3. People communicate via various web 2.0 technologies.
4. Hardware and software aboard.

Problems:
a. Overwhelmed with information choices
b. Hitting the print button and thinking they've accomplished their research
c. Spending an hour searching the Internet for information easily found in an almanac other print source.
d. Showing the Inability to synthesize information found
e. Failing to evaluate sources found, or their relevance to the project clicking and not reading I. f. Engaging in rampant plagiarism. Cutting and pasting but not reading or understanding.
f. Regurgitating ideas of others no original thought.

Information is not knowledge!
1. It becomes knowledge when the learner
2. Uses information to create his own discrete insights
3. Presents it effectively
4. Draws own conclusions
5. Uses higherorder thinking skills throughout the process.

We Use Information to...
a. Solve problems
b. Apply information to real life situations
c. Interact with information in meaningful ways
d. Ask 'why" and "what r type questions.

Information Literacy happens when
1. We set free to explore information and ideas.
2. We make decisions about how to use the information which have been found
3. Ability to access and use information found in print and digital resources, and make it his own to create new knowledge.
4. Ability to manage information from all available sources- Internet, media, periodicals, books, CDROMs, subject matter experts
5. We are information managers and communicators who know how to manipu• late vast amounts of information.
6. if you are Information literate, you are able to know when you have a need for information, find the information you need, evaluate the information you find and use it effectively to meet your need.

Information Literacy Process

1. Defining
2. Locating
3. Selecting
4. Organizing
5. Presenting
6. Assessing
7. Reflecting

Defining: - What is the problem I have to solve? What information do I need? What do I already know? What more do need to find out?

Locating: - Where can I find the information I need? Which sources best meet my needs? Which sources do I already have? Where can I find those resources? Do I need help to find the resources?

Selecting: - How can I search these sources effectively? Which main ideas ethic am I looking for? Which search terms will help me find these? How will I know that the information is recent, relevant, accurate and unbiased?

How will I record the information I find? How will I credit my sources?

Organizing: -How can I organize this information so that I can understand it be better? Does it need to be in a special order? How can I arrange it so that others could easily understand it? Have I answered the focus question? Do I need more information?

Presenting: - How can I share this information with other people? Who will be my audience? Which would be the best format? What do I need to do with this, presentation? Have I included everything I want to share?

Assessing: - What have I learned from this? Did I answer my focus questions? How have my knowledge and understanding changed? How have my skills improved? Which parts did I do really well? Which parts would I change if I did the assignment again? Which parts do I need support with in the future?

Reflecting: - Where to from here? How does what I have learned connect with what I already knew?How have my knowledge and understanding changed?

What will I remember for the rest of my life? How does it help me make sense of the world? Now that I know this, how can I use it?

Benefits & outcomes

When a library becomes a catalyst for information literacy, the benefit is humongous. The most tangible outcome from an information literacy perspective will be the following:

1. Users will be well aware of recourses available in the library
2. They will know what is happening in the global arena in the area of their internet
3. Is able to define and articulate information need, identify and select appropriate Information resources, develop and use search strategies, locate and retrieve relevant information, evaluate the authority and appropriateness of information retrieved including currency and relevance.
4. It is also able to organize and synthesize information recognize the legal and ethical issues of access and use of information, recognize a body of knowledge within a specific discipline distinguish between primary and secondary sources, transfer skills from familiar sources to unfamiliar ones.
5. They will know either through the library or directly as to which recourse can be used based on the task at hand.
6. Better usage of recourse would directly impact the productivity of the re-course and in turns the output from the institution.
7. An information literate researcher can produce high quality ethical and paten able innovations that do not come under plagiarism and litigation. 8. Last but most importantly, every information literate citizen is an asset to growing economy where accesses to information will define global competitiveness.

Summary

Can information literacy be achieved from a practical point of view? The answer to this would be yes, but the path may be not be easy. It is quite evident that people resist change especially in a fluid environment. It is not easy and does not come free; there is a large cost involved in the need for creating information literacy, which would have to be factored.

One most recommended and successful practices has been to link information literacy to a career development objective, be it academic or commercial work place. People when pushed to learn for a betterment of career, earning or leaving standard are bound to make the best attempts and in most cases don't miss the bus. Libraries by themselves may not be driving information literacy but they can certainly create a cascading effect and bring in a chain reaction benefit in speeding up the information literacy program in the country. They could well be the best breeding ground for the youngistan crows that today is the largest source of future benefit for India.

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