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# Revolutionizing Research And Development: The Power Of Information And Communication Technology In Shaping The Future

[1]Elanchezhian Chinnavan, [2]Mritha Ramalingam, [3]Kshtrashal Singh, [4]Yu Chye Wah, [5]Saravana kumar S, [6]Rishikesavan Ragupathy

[1, 3, 4, 6] School of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Professions, AIMST University, Malaysia
[2] Saveetha School of Engineering, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, India
[5] Consultant Physiotherapist, SG Physiotherapy Clinic, Cuddalore, India
[1]elanchezhian@aimst.edu.my,[2]mritha88@gmail.com,[3]kshtrashal@aimst.edu.my ,[4]chyewah@aimst.edu.my,[5]sarobpt@gmail.com, [6]rishikesavan@aimst.edu.my,
*Corresponding Author: rishikesavan@aimst.edu.my

*Abstract*

The modern world is known as the "information age," so as citizens of this quickly expanding society; it is our responsibility to actively engage in the research process. Researchers are both information consumers and producers. The rise of e-documents in the digital age can be attributed to several key factors: technological progress, the abundance of information, and the demand for up-to-date data, especially in the field of research. The primary objective of converting research work into electronic format is to ensure the timely and efficient dissemination of accurate information to the appropriate audience. By utilizing digital documents, we can easily access any information in various formats from anywhere and at any time with just a simple click. Digital libraries serve as dynamic sources of information and are particularly beneficial for researchers in completing and publishing their work. This article will outline the definitions of e-documents, the purpose of publishing research digitally, the benefits of electronic research publications, and conclude with an evaluation of e-document management criteria. In the present information age, computers have become an essential tool for both information providers and users, and the use of electronic document systems is imperative to meet the demands of modern researchers. By adopting such systems, we can fulfill Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's five laws of library science and provide optimal information services in the computer era. It is evident that e-documents

provide a superior and efficient service for information requirements, particularly for researchers and their publications, when compared to traditional libraries. In order to drill down even further, let's focus on two crucial concepts: research and development. Information and communication technology is the driving force in all fields and areas of research and development.

Keywords: Information and communication technology, research and development, digital libraries and publications

**Introduction**

The present era is characterized as the age of information and technology (IT), commonly known as the 21st century. Science and technology have a profound impact on all aspects of our lives. Information and communication technologies refer to those that facilitate access to information via telecommunications (Joshi A & et al., 2013). This encompasses various means of communication such as the Internet, wireless networks, mobile devices, and other related technologies. The advent of information and communication technology (ICT) has provided society with an extensive array of communication capabilities. For instance, instant messaging, voice over IP (VoIP), and video conferencing technologies facilitate real-time communication among individuals across different countries (Pallavi Sethi & Smruti R. Sarangi, 2017). A significant amount of information is being generated worldwide across all fields of study. The utilization of different Web 2.0 tools has significantly progressed, in addition to the incorporation of information and communication technologies in education, learning, and research. The research community needs to keep up with the times and comprehend the characteristics of the swiftly evolving body of knowledge in existence today (Ghavifekr, S. & Rosdy W.A.W. 2015). Researchers primarily use ICT tools because they make the process of acquiring knowledge easier and help generate resources. The individual's decision to utilize ICT is based on their logical evaluation of how different applications improve their productivity and efficiency at work and make it easier for them to communicate with coworkers (Jo Shan Fu. 2013). One of the most exciting things defining the Information Age is the Internet's quick development in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). New kinds of communication are made possible by ICT, and it

also fuels our access to information and supports a variety of online services in the fields of business, culture, entertainment, and education. In the past, researchers struggled greatly to complete their work since they had to collect a great deal of data manually, analyze it without statistical software, and obtain information on their research fields without internet access (Al-Rahmi, Waleed Mugahed et al., 2020). Information and communications technology is a revolution that has an impact on all these factors, and employing this technology may present us with a chance to close our research gap with other nations. The increasing demands of scholars who seek long paths to knowledge may be shortened by IT (Dóra Horváth, Roland Zs. Szabó. 2019). The objective of this work is to demonstrate the value of ICT in research and development. ICT has been a key tool for both of these endeavors. Data processing is the simplest application of ICTs in research. Due to the extraordinary increase in bandwidth and computing power, it is now possible to analyze and process enormous volumes of data and carry out complex computations on them in a way that is incredibly quick, accurate, and reliable (Rose Mugeni Ndombi, et al., (2014). Computerized data processing not only eliminates the arduous task of manually analyzing data for researchers, but it also enables swift and precise examination of vast amounts of data collected from national or multinational samples encompassing tens of thousands of respondents (Eli J. Finkel. et al., 2012). Another important aspect of ICTs in research is the utilization of online full-text databases and virtual or online research libraries, which are direct results of the progress made in telecommunications networks and technology. Through these databases and libraries, researchers can access the content of numerous books from leading publishing companies, research summaries, and peer-reviewed articles published in electronic journals (Kamani Perera & Dinesh Chandra. 2010). During review of research papers, several authors mentioned that ICTs facilitate instant exchange of information, irrespective of geographic distance, while also providing cost-free data and document storage. Additionally, they noted that ICTs enhance the accuracy of knowledge duplication and enable innovative and efficient procedures for producing new products and resolving issues at both individual and organizational levels. By utilizing computer-mediated communications (CMC), particularly online discussion groups, students can enhance their skills in formulating and expressing historical concepts, reasoning, and comprehension. These

improved abilities can be effectively applied in the context of essay writing.

**Role of information and communication technology in promoting research activities** (Stein, S.J., Sim, K.N. 2020)**:**

**1. Universality: The** utilization of ICTs in research provides researchers with a wider range of resources and information, thereby facilitating universal access to information. The swiftness with which information can be gathered, collected, and analyzed is one of the key advantages of ICT-based research.

**2.Improving efficiency:** Apart from speeding up the processing and searching of information, this technology also provides researchers with tools for data visualization, transcription, comparison, editing, and archiving, thus expediting various stages of research.

**3. Reliability:** The use of computers ensures the reliability of research by revealing even the minutest details and facts, protecting researchers from common human errors, and enhancing the accuracy of their research.

4. **Discipline:** Effectively arranging the activities, taking notes, and conducting different stages of research requires an orderly structure, classification, and archive features, some tools, and planning and time management software.

**5-Increased motivation:** The features and attractions of computers and the Internet can help to increase a researcher's motivation and reduce fatigue while conducting research.

6. **Teamwork:** is a key component of technology and the availability of networks and communication tools makes it possible to conduct large-scale research projects and organize organizational activities.

7. **Durability:** Is enhanced by the excellent conditions provided by this technology for storing results, as well as the ease of maintenance and small volume of information. Because of this functionality, the money and notes obtained during each research can be easily used in subsequent researches.

**8. Multimedia:** In studies based on information technology, multimedia material may be employed in addition to written information to improve the study's effectiveness and appeal.

**9. Easy to publish:** With the help of ICT and the internet, researchers no longer have to wait for publishers or other organizations to exploit their work. Instead, they can easily and freely publish all of their research on a global scale and in an infinite number of editions. This feature can help students and researchers work harder and stay motivated, which will help their studies last longer.

**10. Independence from time and place:** Because numerous and varied resources are easily transportable in the form of CDs or other memories, researchers are less dependent on certain times and places for conducting studies and gathering information.

**11. Incredible works:** ICT gives researchers access to resources and tools that, while achievable with a lot of labour and time, would be nearly impossible without it. Examples of these tools include comparative studies, various technical lists, statistical graphs, virtual experiments, and simple searches.

**12. state-of-the-art:** By utilizing this technology, researchers can stay current with the latest theories and scientific discoveries, ensuring that their research aligns with the most recent information and findings. This enables them to bring their research up-to-date and in line with the latest advancements in their field.

**ICT resources for scholars**

**Virtual library**

The subject selection resources can be strengthened both directly and indirectly by using research software, a digital library, and websites. Better conditions for using written, visual, and audio materials are created by using research software and having access to electronic resources that are available online (Rahat Khan.2021). The library acts as the social centre of an academic community like a university and is responsible for coordinating the activities of the other members of the community. By supplying the necessary information resources,

libraries play a key role in the production of researchers' scientific information.

**Digital libraries and electronic publication**

Libraries can benefit from electronic resources, which have allowed for increased access to a plethora of materials due to factors such as the rise in scientific publications, space constraints, and maintenance concerns. For several years, electronic publishing has utilized computers to expedite and simplify paper printing, but the emergence of electronic books, magazines, and databases has also introduced finished electronic products into the scientific community (Rohmiyati, et al.,. 2023). Presently, there is a gradual progression in information technology towards the creation of electronic books and, consequently, electronic libraries. Modern libraries employ automated tools to fulfill essential functions such as collection management, data retrieval, and user support. Indeed, numerous libraries are undergoing a shift towards electronic collections. They digitize their materials, transforming them into electronic formats, which enables the creation of digital libraries and allows public access to their library holdings via the Internet. These libraries also provide remote access to resources for users and employ email communication to address reference inquiries, eliminating the need for physical presence at a designated library location at a specific time. With the expansion of the internet and the availability of online digital libraries, individuals now have access to essential information resources from anywhere in the world (Jie Suna & Bao-Zhong Yuanb. 2012).

**Scientific databases**

A database is a collection of digital information such as bibliographic references, summaries of research papers, complete copies of research papers, keywords used to describe the content of the documents, images, and statistical data. A database management system (DBMS) is used to arrange this information in a way that is relevant to a particular topic or area, and is frequently updated with records that have the same format for easy and quick searching and retrieval (Wang, X et al., 2019). New technology is being used to develop knowledge bases by using formal logic, expert systems,

artificial intelligence, and natural language in databases. This enables users to logically deduce information. Databases can be categorized as follows:

**1. The full-text repository:** It contains the entire text, not just the outward features. Examples of these databases include Online publications, technical reports, laws, full-text articles from academic journals, communications on online forums, and correspondences from institutions.

**2. An image library**. This is comparable to a bibliographic database, but its information describes photographs instead of books.

**3. A reference repository**. A catalogue of flora found in a particular region or a list of things on display in a museum may be included in the base. Additionally, it can include special information not found in other types of bases, such as details on the potter, who must be defined in terms of shape, size, and colour, as well as the entire history of the potter.

**4. Databases of statistics and figures** the foundation mostly consists of numerical data and other statistics, such as sales records or scientific information pertaining to the physical attributes of materials.

**5. Detailed database.** These databases provide brief notes that provide a thorough description of many topics, including programmes provided by universities or colleges, facilities used by businesses, and specific geographic places.

**6. Manuals, databases, and other sources of information**. It provides a wide range of electronic reference materials, including dictionaries and guides to people and organizations.

**Electronic database advantages for researchers**

Obtaining information in a timely, accurate, and thorough manner

Keeping a significant amount of data on hand

Ease updates and edits data and information, eliminating duplication and inconsistency

Simple to find, share, and update

Update notifications (News Letter)

**Online Discussion Boards**

The term "social media" refers to a group of online applications that use web 2.0 technologies to allow users to create and distribute content. Social media includes various platforms such as magazines, blogs, wikis, social networks, and online forums. These forums are the contemporary version of traditional social bulletin boards and are considered one of the oldest forms of social media (Tanjum Kamboj & Manoj Day (2014).

**Research-related ICT Tools and Services**

There are millions of digital tools available to scholars to assist them in their quest to discover an intriguing fact. It is beyond the scope of this paper to go into detail about each tool. We have discussed the fundamental information and communication technology (ICT) tools that can aid in literature exploration, curating content, sharing data and code, networking with others, collecting and evaluating data, and paper writing and publishing (Simin Ghavifekr et al.,2016)..

**1. Academic articles and online search tools.**

Google/Bing/Yahoo as well as other search engines provides assistance in finding relevant and useful information. This enables searching through millions of research papers and previously published materials, which helps to keep updated on the latest advancements in the respective field. The following are some useful online tools for exploring millions of research articles worldwide.

**Google Scholar -** A tool for searching for scholarly literature across fields and sources.

**Science scope**- Innovationin paper and author exploration

**Microsoft Academic Search** - Explore a wide range of resources to find details about scholarly publications, writers, events, periodicals, and associations.

**Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic** - can be used to search for scholarly papers all over the world.

**Web of Science, Scopus -** To find highly referenced articles (indexed bibliographies)

**Research Gate** - is a social networking site for academics, scholars, and researchers, with over 15 million members worldwide. Its primary purpose is to facilitate research collaboration and sharing of scientific publications, enabling users to find and discuss research topics of interest.

**2. Shared Dataset and Code**

**Google -** Google distributes information from time to time that is relevant to a variety of computer science fields.

**Databank-**A platform that provides collections of time series data on various topics, along with tools for analysis and visualization

**Open Science Framework -** A version control system, collaborative software, and a network of research materials are found.

**Open Government Data (OGD)** - The Indian government's open data program is facilitated by Platform India or gov.in. The portal enables the Government of India Ministries and Departments to share datasets, documents, services, tools, and apps with the public. Its goal is to enhance government transparency and foster a variety of innovative applications of government data that provide diverse perspectives.

**Peer Review:** An open repository for information, publications, and media with a forum for public discussion and reviews.

**3. Connect and exchange ideas with professionals and researchers.**

**In academia** - you can share your findings and stay consistent with other academics.

**Research Gate -** is a social media platform for scientists.

**Experiment** - A Platform for Scientific Research Crowd funding.

**Thinkable -** A platform for leveraging knowledge and funding ground-breaking concepts.

**4. Free Digital Library**

A project of the Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development is the National Digital Library of India. The goal is to combine many digital libraries from around the world into a single web gateway. A large number of books in both Indian and English are freely accessible through the NDL. A non-profit organization called the internet archive is home to millions of free books, movies, songs, programmes, websites, and other media. Over 12,000,000 books and papers are available for free download from the internet archive. A collection of 550,000 contemporary eBooks is now available for loan to anyone. A National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) has been launched by the Government of India's Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).The Central Institute of Educational Technology, the National Council of Educational Research and Training, the Government of India, the Department of School Education and Literacy, and Metastudio—the platform that houses the Repository—have all collaborated in its development.

**5. Project management and simulation laboratories**

Soon, laboratory equipment will be connected to the internet through the use of the Internet of Things (IoT), allowing experiments to be performed remotely from any location in the world.

**Virtual labs -** The Virtual Labs Project (NMEICT) has been initiated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology.IIT Delhi is the coordinating institute for this partnership initiative, which has twelve member institutes. A paradigm change has occurred in ICT-based education. This kind of initiative has just recently been applied to remote experiments.

**6. Life Technologies lab workflow management tool**- A tool for managing lab services and equipment

**7. Write and publish academic papers**

Researchers need a variety of online writing tools that are readily available. Tools are needed to manage references, lab cooperation

across continents, collaborative writing projects, and keeping track of edits made to the work by others.

**Tools for research writing:**

**Summary -** to summarize articles for easy reading

**Mendeley, Endnote -** to organize your bibliography and articles (pdf)

**Turnitin -** to look for plagiarism

**Mindmeister -** to make a mental map for the research project

**Tools for Publication:**

**JCR**, **Scimago**, **DOAJ**, My Cite – to evaluate the quality of journals

**Scimago,MyCite,DOAJ,JCR -** to assess the standards of journals

**Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester**, **Endnote Journal Match** – propose appropriate publications for publication based on the manuscript

**MedSci ,SciRev -** to determine the time period for the evaluation procedure

**Benefits of ICT tools in research**

To find reliable information sources, then critically evaluate the data.

Manage information and use it to expand and disseminate knowledge across subject areas in order to do research efficiently.

Receive results in a consistent format while simultaneously searching up to ten databases and electronic sources.

Assist in linking the various databases for more specialized searching, choosing go-to books and e-journals, saving searches and records, and setting up email notifications.

**Benefits and Challenges Of ICTs**

Identifying instances of plagiarism and copyright infringements in written assignments and taking necessary measures to avoid their consequences have become more convenient with the availability of online tools for educators and students. The integration of

information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education brings numerous benefits, including the potential to enhance the quality and breadth of instruction. However, it is crucial to handle these technologies appropriately to fully leverage their potential. While the use of ICTs in the classroom offers evident advantages, it is important to acknowledge that there are also drawbacks associated with their implementation (Selcan Kilis & Ahmet Murat Uzun. 2018). The initial challenge with integrating ICTs into education is the high cost of purchasing, installing, operating, maintaining, and updating the technology. Despite the potential benefits, the use of ICTs in teaching is still in its early stages. Introducing ICT systems in developing countries is particularly costly because their absolute cost is higher than in industrialized countries, and investments in other areas, such as buildings, are generally less expensive. The use of unlicensed software, especially if pirated software is widespread, can be both legally and financially problematic. Although well-designed educational materials can be beneficial to students, online teaching presents certain challenges because not all teachers are proficient in ICT and adept at using ICT tools (Oju, Onuoha & Etim, Emmanuel 2016).

The four most typical errors made while integrating ICTs into education are:

(i) Setting up educational technology without considering student demands and the availability of content.

(ii) Imposing technology systems top-down without consulting academic staff or students.

(iii) Using improper material from other continents without properly adapting it.

(iv) Creating low-quality information with inadequate instructional design that isn't tailored to the available technologies.

**Government of India funding for ICT for research**

A new report published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has revealed that India ranks 121st out of 157 countries in terms of advancements made in the area of information and

communication technology (ICT), according to a range of metrics and statistics. The government of India has launched a significant programme called the National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) with the goal of utilizing the potential of ICT to offer all students free access to high-quality, tailored, and interactive content (Ritu Rani & Abdul Wahid Farooqi. 2020). The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has supported the development of various tools and programs, including a non-invasive blood glucose meter, virtual labs, open-source tools, virtual conference tools, talk-to-teacher programs, and a DI for simulating lab experiments. Additionally, the mission has also facilitated the creation of applications for low-cost oscillators, specifically in the development of electric frequency-shift resonator.

**Conclusion:**

ICT has given scholars a lot of resources. Researchers can choose their research subject more comfortably with the use of search engines and scientific Web-based search software. Research findings linked to their issue as well as related works are accessible to scholars through online scientific databases and digital libraries. Finally, tools like online forums and virtual social networks have made it possible for researchers to contact one another and keep each other informed about their scientific activities. These new means for gathering, accumulating, and disseminating scientific and technical information have led to many of the advances and inventions made by scientists today. Information and communications technology is a revolution that has an impact on all of these areas. By utilizing this technology, we may be able to close the research gap with other nations. It cannot be denied that cutting-edge communication platforms are being used to conduct research and study on a daily basis. Due to the informational literacy and digital nature of today's environment, using communication technology adds value through knowledge, creativity, and mental research.

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