

Library User Education And Its Activities In Aizawl North College Library

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Abstract:

User education is concerned with the information and communication process and it is involve with total interaction of th user with the library .User educaion is central to the whole purpose of library and the effective utilization of library information angd knowledge resources. The paper examined various activities of Govt. Aizawl North College Library to educate, to make aware of, and to teach the importance of access to knowledge resources. Further, the paper is the study of user education in relation with different academic activities in Govt. Aizawl North College Library to educate and develop the use of library information resources.

Keywords : Information resources, Time management, Inculcation of reading habit, Knowledge enhancement.

1. Introduction

College libraries support the teaching and research needs of the different user. User education programmes in the Library is responsible to ensure that the use of its information sources, resources and services are maximized to benefit its users. This study examines how user education programmes are planned, organized and implemented in Aizawl North College Library. The study also focus on the influences of information technology on library user .The way of information handling, storing processing and its dissemination has been changed. As well, user education became more and more important to satisfy different users need . Aizawl North College library used to organize User Education Programme every year for fresher or newly admitted student .In this programmes , the main focuses are knowledge enhancement, access to knowledge resources , inculcation of reading habit, and development of communication skills .In this programme the new library user were instructed about different library rules, and a basic conception of Classification and cataloguing practice in the

library and making it accessible to user according to their needs.

ICT has changed the traditional methods of library activities and services providing new dimension for teaching , learning and research in higher education .With the help of ICT tools and equipments it is possible to stores, retrieve, disseminate and organize information by creating websites and databases.

2. Concept of User Education : User Education: User Education may be defined as a process or programme through which the potential users of information resources are made aware of the value of information and motivate them to use information resources. User education can also be understood as a library instruction or library orientation. User education - is concerned with the whole information and communication process and one part of this involves the total interaction of the user with library. User education is central to the whole purpose of library and the effective utilization of information resources. Thus, User Education means to educate the users or to help them to make the best use of the library. When a user comes to the library for the first time, he or she does not know about different kinds of resources, activities and services of a particular library. User education gives education about these to them.

3.Objective, Importance and Benefits – The basic objective of user education is to introduce the user of library resources, techniques and services. In short its main aim is to convert the potential user to an actual user. Important use of Library – Libraries play an essential role in local communities by providing access to information and resources, supporting literacy and education, promoting lifelong learning, and serving as a community gathering space. User studies help us understand the needs, pain areas, short term and long term goals, constraints, habits, and wish lists of your users. From these studies, we can get to know the conceptual model of your uses, which will enable us in defining the problem and creating a solution that fits the users mental model. User benefits refers to understanding and appreciating the base reason and individual purchase a product or service that may not directly correlate with the feature or function of the good or service.

4.Some Literature on User Education.

A user education literature reveals the importance of user education in academic libraries that improving users' knowledge of their libraries' collection and services could be a motivating factor for more usage and more demands on the library.

Fleming (1990) defines user education "as various programmes of instruction, education and exploration provided by libraries to users to enable them to make more effective, efficient and independent use of information sources and services to which these libraries provide access".

Mews argues that training in the use of information should be part of all students' education. There is need for instruction in the use of libraries and information services. He sees user education as a continuous process which should cover use of the catalogue, abstracts, bibliographies and reference books. At the post-graduate level detailed instruction in methods of searching and formulation of clear requests, is necessary.

Foss (1994) corroborates this by arguing that user education should be organized at different information levels to ensure that needs of all users are met. Foss outlines these different levels within the Fourah Bay College's (Sierra Leone) user education programme. The first stage provides a general introduction to the library. The next stage is concerned with more subject and bibliographic material. The third stage of instruction would cater for the needs of advanced and research students.

Ford (1994) notes that in South Africa, Australia and the Netherlands issues related to information access and use have become an increasing concern and, therefore concepts of user education and information literacy are being incorporated in their school and higher education curriculum.

The above views indicate that user education is a continuous process which has to be performed for all user groups. To ensure that users are equipped with efficient methods of accessing, evaluating information from a variety of sources and synthesizing the information into a coherent whole, training can be organized around level of difficulty of information and or users educational background. The goal of user education should be to improve the quality of users research output and ensure lifelong learning.

5.Purpose and Scope of study

The purpose of this study is to examine how Aizawl North College Library is responding to the challenge of teaching students information seeking skills in this rapidly changing information environment. The study is limited to User education of Aizawl North College Library and its different users.

6.Main activities of User Education

Main activities of User Education in Aizawl North College Library ; The main activities within Library Users programm and instructions given to the library users may be mentioned as follows :

1.Inculcation of reading habit: In the programme students are guided to have a habit of reading books and other information resources .

2.Time management : As a part of User Education, the technique of time management was touch and break up given time 24 hours into four .Therefore , every one is having $8+8+8 = 24$ hours. That 8 hours can be utilize for reading. In this way student are instructed to increase their study hours.

3.Knowledge Enhancement : During the user education programme student are instructed to enhance their knowledge about current news, society, politics and any others social dimension. Besides they will instructed to enlarged and update their general knowledge.

4.Background Knowledge : Students are also make aware to the importance of knowledge about their background. And also the social political and economic conditions of the society were their belongs.

5.Updation : With the development Information technology accessed to knowledge is to be done with new tools, there for the Library user have to update his/her self and he should have at least a basic knowledge about digital information processed.

6.Acquired new knowledge : Information and knowledge have been created day by day in a very heterogenius manner. In such situation, students have to acquired new knowledge and aware of knowledge development

7.Methods .Various methods of user education has been adopted to educate library user in their search for information There are different methods of Library User Education in Aizawl North College Library Lecture ,Audio –Visual Visit and use of computer technology. These methods helps library user and make aware of location, techniques, and knowledge about how to access knowledge resources

7. Conclusion

Thus, user education is an important activity in the academic libraries . Due to the rapid increase of knowledge and application of new technologies and internet the way of information handling, processing ,storing and its retrieval , library users are very much in need of educating how to make use of new technology. Many of the knowledge dissemination format has been replaced by digital format for quick and unlimited access. In such digital environment,Aizawl North College Library conduct User education programme every year for newly admitted library member.This programme left very positive result and help the user in their seeking information and directly benefitted in students academic activities .

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