Investigating the Role of Libertarians and Information Specialists in Management of Digital Libraries in Libraries of Islamic Azad University- Region Seven

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Abstract. The present research has been conducted qualitatively in order to investigate the role of librarians in information management of digital libraries in libraries of Islamic Azad University- Region seven. The sample for this study has been all 40 librarians and information specialists working in libraries of Islamic Azad University- Region seven. A questionnaire comprising 34 items was developed and distributed among librarians in order to investigate the role of librarians and information specialists in information management of digital libraries in libraries of Islamic Azad University- Region seven. An SPSS analysis of the findings showed that the librarians and information specialists ' low degree of familiarity with search strategies, digital libraries, the internet, search in the websites, data banks, data bases and average familiarity with Google search engine. Most libraries possess sufficient facilities required for the development of digital libraries; however, the librarians and informants do not have the essential skills to make use f such facilities. As a result, lack of sufficient facilities as well as effective education has been mentioned as the most important problems in the management of the libraries. Most librarians have not passed courses to familiarize with search strategies, digital libraries, the internet, search in the websites, data banks, and data bases.

Keywords: Digital Libraries, Librarians and Informants, Islamic Azad University- Region Seven

1. Introduction

Day-to-day increase of electronic and digital resources such as periodical magazines, books, electronic theses, internet bases and sources, etc. and their widespread application by users has made their effective and efficient management a vital issue. Finding the right solution for the appropriate management of electronic sources and digital libraries has turned into a challenge for most libraries. Yet, these challenges have not been formulated in terms of a systematic theory of management of digital libraries and electronic resources (Samimi, 2005). The management of digital libraries requires providing appropriate methods for the users to quickly access data they want through data banks and data bases. It is essential that managers of digital libraries develop familiarity with the internet, search strategies, digital libraries, and search in the websites, data banks, and data bases that is why whispers are heard of the need for managers and specialists in informational systems to replace librarians. For this reason, changing, developing, providing new management skills and new educational programs are required for the managers so that they can survive the challenges in the virtual world. (Moghimi, 2007)

2. Related Studied

In a study so-called "Fundamental Blocks in Utilizing IT in Iranian Libraries", Davarpanah (2004), showed that Iranian universities were suffering from fundamental blocks in utilizing IT and digital resources. These blocks were related to governmental, economic, social/cultural, clerical, and technical/managerial factors respectively. Sreenivasuli, V (2000), in a research entitled "the role of a digital librarian in the management of digital information system" carried out in India stated that librarians and information managers in India play an active role in organizing digital libraries. The multi-media nature of digital libraries calls for librarians who prove mastery of giving services in both traditional and digital libraries. Tammaro, A. M (2007), in a research entitled "A curriculum for digital librarians: a reflection on the European debate" rose two basic questions: 1. what are the roles for digital librarians? 2. What sort of

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education must digital librarians receive in digital environments? He stated that his study aimed to analyze the educational procedures librarians go through in Europe.

3. Research Objectives

3.1. General Goal

Investigating the role of librarians and information specialists in the management of digital libraries and identifying its challenges in Islamic Azad University- Region seven.

3.2. Specific Goals

- Investigating librarians and information specialist's degree of familiarity with new communication, information technology in Islamic Azad University- Region seven.
- Investigating and identifying required facilities to develop digital libraries in Islamic Azad University- Region seven.
- Investigating the obstacles in developing digital libraries in Islamic Azad University- Region seven.
- Investigating the courses passed by librarians and informants in Islamic Azad University- Region seven.
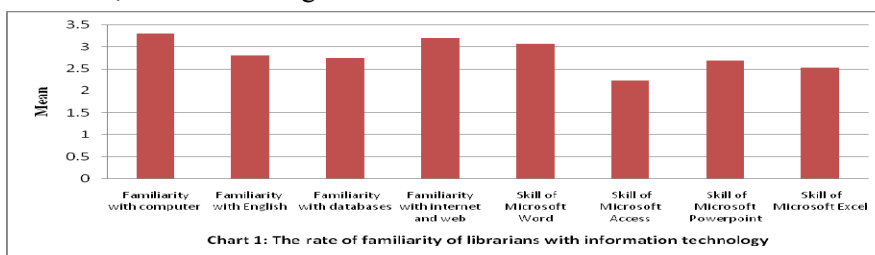
4. Research Questions

- How familiar are the librarians and information specialists in Islamic Azad University- Region seven with new communication, information technology?
- Do libraries in Islamic Azad University- Region seven possess the required facilities to develop digital libraries?
- What are some obstacles in developing digital libraries in Islamic Azad University- Region seven?
- Have librarians and informants in Islamic Azad University- Region seven passed courses related to digital libraries?

5. Methodology

The sample for this study has been all 40 librarians and information specialists working in libraries of Islamic Azad University- Region seven. A questionnaire comprising 34 items was developed and distributed among librarians in order to qualitatively investigate the role of librarians and information specialists in information management of digital libraries in libraries of Islamic Azad University- Region seven.

6. Results

In order to answer the first research question which was How familiar the librarians and information specialists in Islamic Azad University- Region seven are with new communication, information technologies, figure 1 shows that librarians are familiar with information technology in the following order: familiarity with windows, familiarity with the internet and browsing the web, skills in working with Microsoft Word, familiarity with English, familiarity databases, skill in working with Microsoft PowerPoint, skill in working with Microsoft Excel, skill in working with Microsoft access.

Chart 1: The rate of familiarity of librarians with information technology

In order to answer the second research question which was whether libraries in Islamic Azad University-Region seven possess the required facilities to develop digital libraries, table 1 shows that 80% of the libraries have access to the internet. Table 2 shows that 65% of the libraries have access to the internet through local network. According to table 3, 62.5% of libraries have full-time access to the internet. Finally, table 4 shows that 85% of the libraries are managed mechanically

<p align="center">Table 1: The statue of using Information technologies</p>

Information technologies	Frequency	Frequency percent	Accumulated Frequency
Internet	32	80	80
Intranet	1	2.5	82.5
Databases	7	17.5	100
Total	**40**	**100**	**-**

<p align="center">Table 2: The method of connection to the internet</p>

The rate of access	Frequency	Frequency percent	Accumulated Frequency
2-4 hours in day	10	25	25
4-6 hours in day	1	2.5	27.5
Full-time	25	62.5	90
Inaccessibility	4	10	100
Total	**40**	**100**	**-**

<p align="center">Table 3: The rate of access to the internet</p>

Connection to internet	Frequency	Frequency percent	Accumulated Frequency
Modem	12	30	30
Rental line	2	5	35
LAN	26	65	100
Total	**40**	**100**	**-**

<p align="center">Table 4: The system of managing libraries</p>

Connection to internet	Frequency	Frequency percent	Accumulated Frequency
Traditional	3	7.5	7.5
Semi mechanism	3	7.5	14
Mechanism	34	85	100
Total	**40**	**100**	**-**

In order to answer the third research question which was "What some obstacles in developing digital libraries in Islamic Azad University- Region seven are, figure 2 shows that the average for all obstacles in developing digital libraries is beyond 3. As a result, lack of specialist manpower, inappropriate position of library in the managerial system, lack of experts in computer sciences, not being familiar with foreign languages, lack of a central organization to control libraries, librarians not taking part in library decisions, librarians not being familiar with up-to-date knowledge, insufficient view of managers on digital

environments, library managers not being specialist in the field are the blocks in developing digital libraries respectively.

Chart 2: The current obstacles of establishing of digital library
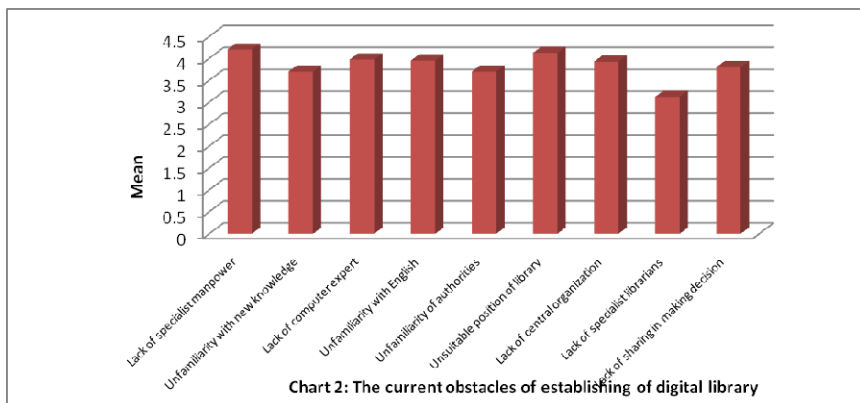
In order to answer the fourth research question which was "Whether or not librarians and information specialists in Islamic Azad University- Region seven have passed courses related to digital libraries, figure 3 shows that 22.50% of librarians have passed courses related to search strategies and a percentage of 77.50% of librarians have not passes these courses yet, 20% of librarians have passed courses familiarity with digital libraries and a percentage of 80% of librarians have not passes these courses yet, out of 40 respondents 37.50% of librarians have passed courses familiarizing with the internet and web search and a percentage of 62.50% of librarians have not passes these courses yet, out of 40 respondents 17.50% of librarians have passed courses familiarizing with databases and a percentage of 82.50% of librarians have not passed these courses yet. And finally, the average of all variables related to familiarity with databases is below 2 which demonstrate librarians' little familiarity with databanks

Chart 3: The participation of librarians in training courses related to digital libraries
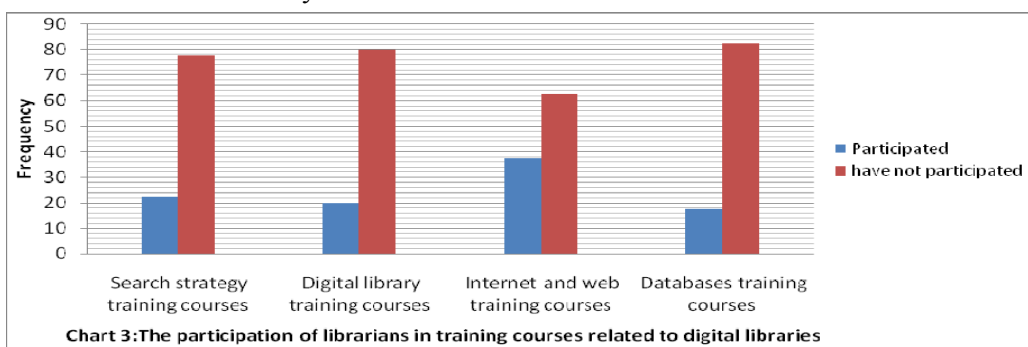
7. Discussion

With increasing variety in university library services, particularly the management of digital libraries, one of the determining factors for these libraries to survive is the possession of specialist employees because the dynamic and competitive environment of digitalism has doubled drawing attention to specialist employees and the management of their skills (Esfandiari Moghadam, 2009). In the management of digital libraries in Islamic Azad University- Region seven skilful human resources play a vital role. As a result, it can be claimed that librarians in Islamic Azad University- Region seven with less than average skills cannot play a determining role in managing the digital libraries. All libraries in Islamic Azad University- Region seven possess appropriate facilities to develop digital libraries leaving the human factor the basic block to that development.

Most librarians have not passes courses in familiarization with search strategies, digital libraries, internet and browsing the web, databanks which are of paramount importance in the management of digital libraries that is why most of librarians in the region have low degree of familiarity with databases and search engines. Therefore, they are not able to play a dynamic and effective role in informing, helping faculty members, researchers and survival as well as management of digital libraries. Researchers play an important role in the research process (Marcum, 2003) because education is the topical subject in the management of digital libraries (Connaway, 2003).

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