

PUBLIC ACCESS TO ICT

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ABSTRACT

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become essential in the global society. The Internet, e-mail, and portable communication devices, such as cellular phones form a technology group that has blended into everyday lives of individuals.

Public access to ICT boundless connectivity and access to information at all times are expected to empower individuals by enabling them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently. However, there is also a dark side of using ICT involving increased hours of work, stress, and loss of private time.

The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has been the subject of many discussions in the field of Library service. Technology use does or will enhance academic achievement as well as the Young people continue to use new technologies in growing numbers, in multiple facets of their lives, but knowledge about the effects of the usage is relatively thin.

KEYWORDS: ICT, Tools, FE, HE, OPAC, Internet, E-Mail, public.

1. INTRODUCTION

Many people in the world are experiencing a growing international and social crisis due to inequities between nations in accessing and using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The common term for this phenomenon is the digital divide, a concept describing the division of the world into people who have access and the capability to use Information Technology (IT) while research has been carried out in Higher Education (HE) on both the use of ICT and information literacy. Little research has been carried out in Further Education (FE). This study aimed to find out whether the policy and practice, relating to ICT, within HE institutions enhanced provision for the development of future significance of young people's Library service technology use. The study investigates how new technologies are used in an urban public Library service. It largely focuses on students' uses, how they

understand significance of those uses for themselves and others, as well as the relationships between their uses and understandings and the contexts in which they use ICT. Better conceptualizations of how and why young people use ICT and the significance of those uses, excluded areas using (ICT). How and to what purpose do not expect to use ICT because they are formed from Library service "digitally divided" populations.

2. PUBLIC LIBRARY'S ARE ACCESS TO ICT



Figure: Public Libraries Are Access To ICT

Back when Bill Gates was young, he had multiple opportunities to geek out - he had access to computers at home and at school - but he would sneak out of his house to go the library. Why? Because he loved the wealth of knowledge, curate and guided by libraries with that background, it's easy to see why the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have a [strong focus on libraries](#). Many communities have a library and it's seen as a knowledge repository already makes it also easy to see why the Gates Foundation has added public access to ICT as a tenant of their library support. ICT-enabled libraries can provide guided access to the wealth of information that computers and the Internet can bring to young minds.

2.1 LIBRARIES ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ICT

Communities need access to the benefits and services only found online but the ICT infrastructure is often prohibitively expensive for individuals to buy for themselves. Mobile phones, while ubiquitous, do not provide for any meaningful depth of information acquisition

- certainly not when compared to a computer. So we are looking at computer labs where the costs are best aggregated over entire communities as we all know, [telecasters are not sustainable](#) without donor funding, and local governments are loathe to add yet another infrastructure support demand onto their shrinking budgets. Enter the library adding ICT to the library model is a small marginal cost with great community development potential - even when the model doesn't look like a library at all.

2.2 PUBLIC ACCESS TO ICTS

All public access to ICTS is covered by an acceptable use policy (revised August 2002). The main areas covered include:

- ◆ the facilities offered
- ◆ booking arrangements
- ◆ specific conditions relating to use of the Internet, including the use of web filtering, users' responsibility for content, copying and copyright, and purchasing via the Internet
- ◆ Virus checking.
- ◆ legal safeguards to protect the interests of the Borough Council, whereby Radar & Cleveland will not accept responsibility for loss or damage to users' material or computer equipment, neither will it accept responsibility for loss of service Before using the computers, users must sign to agree to abide by the policy and conditions of use. In order to manage this process more effectively, users must also join the library so that details of their acceptance of the conditions (and any infringements) can be recorded in their membership record. This was initially suggested by users to avoid having to sign every time they wish to use a computer.

2.3 E-GOVERNMENT

Red car & Cleveland Council is committed to meeting the Government's target to deliver electronically all services capable of electronic delivery by Libraries are seen as having a key role to play in the implementation of E-Government. All three documents have placed the development of a customer interface - available through the People's Network in libraries - at the top of the list of priorities for the development.

The Library Service's potential to deliver improved access to Council services was highlighted in both the Best Value Review and the People's Network ICT Plan developed during in the Best Value Review of the Library Service year. The Gateway project year, although unsuccessful in itself, identified a pressing need for better access to information about Council services. A library web site has been developed as part of the Council's web -site, offering

access to the OPAC, and information about individual libraries, Library policies (including the Annual Library Plan) and on-line complaints/comments. Users are now able to access the Library Service from locations outside of libraries, including access from the home, 24 hours a day. Video-conferencing is also being explored as a possible vehicle for the delivery of advice services to remote locations.

ICT SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

ICT is widely used in the Library Service to offer both improved service through better electronic systems for staff use and to offer the public access to ICT and electronic systems. Redcar & Cleveland was one of the very first authorities to offer public access to the Internet in every library.




2.4 LIBRARIES AS ACCESS POINTS

- ◆ Libraries have the professional potential to develop quality content for indigenous research.
- ◆ Provide access to quality information for research.
- ◆ Provide access to information for informed decisions.
- ◆ Provide information for basic needs in all communities.
- ◆ Enhance information literacy programmes support national development projects

2.5 ICTS IN LIBRARIES (opportunities)

- ◆ Application of ICTS will enhance access to this information and maximizes on benefits.
Digitization should be given a priority
- ◆ Collaboration between IT professionals and librarians will give better results on web content development
- ◆ ICTS is a broad subject concerned with [technology](#) and other aspects of [managing and processing information](#), especially in large [organizations](#).

3. ICT TOOLS

S.No	Tool	Picture	S.no	Tool	Picture
01	COMPUTER		10	SMART CARD	
02	INTER NET		11	EMAIL	
03	WEB CAMERA		12	OPAC WEB	
04	DIGITAL CAMERA		13	RFID	
05	SCANNER		14	ANIMATION	
06	E-BOOK		15	CD ROM/ DVD/AUDIO	
07	PRINTER		16	BARCODE READER	





08	ELECTRONIC JOURNALS		17	PROJECTOR	
09	AUDIO		18	WIRELESS NETWORK CARD	

TABLE: 1 ICT Tools

3.1 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGYS

Information Systems and Information Services provide a high performance, reliable, resilient and secure IT infrastructure for all staff and students of the University. This includes network services, Internet access, the University [telephone system](#), web and [e-mail](#) services, [user login](#) services,

4. LIBRARY CIRCULATION ONLINE RENEWALS

You need not come to the library to renew your books search online catalogs offer a facility for any word of the title; the goal of the grammatical word order as it can be done online:

1. Log in to [CONSORT Library Catalog "View Your Circulation Record"](#).
2. Enter your first name/last name and the 13 digit barcode from the back of your photo ID.
3. Click on the link "Items currently checked out".
4. Click in the box on the left hand side of the screen of the item(s) you'd like to renew.
5. Click on "Renew selected items".
6. Note the new due date.
7. If an item becomes overdue, renewals must be completed at the Circulation Desk.

4.1 THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS DO NOT CIRCULATE:

- ◆ Periodicals, Microfilms, Reference Materials, Special Collections and Archives Materials.
- ◆ Sound Recordings do not circulate outside the Multimedia Collections Unit except to faculty.

4.2 ONLINE CATALOGING

Online cataloging Rules governing the creation of catalog MARC records include not only formal cataloging rules like [AACR2](#) but also special rules available from the [Library of Congress](#) and also originally used to automate the creation of physical catalog cards; now computer files are accessed directly in the search process. OPACs have enhanced usability over traditional card formats because:

- 1.The online catalog does not need to be sorted statically; the user can choose author, title, keyword, or systematic order dynamically.
- 2.Most online catalogs offer a search facility for any word of the title; the goal of the grammatical word order (provide an entry on the word that most users would look for) is reached even better.
- 3.Many online catalogs allow links between several variants of an author name. So, authors can be found both under the original and the standardized name (if entered properly by the Cataloguer).
- 4.The elimination of paper cards has made the information more accessible to many people with disabilities, such as the [visually impaired](#), [wheelchair](#) users, and those who suffer from [mold](#) allergies.

A **library catalog** is a register of all [bibliographic](#) items found in a [library](#) or group of libraries, such as a network of libraries at several locations. A bibliographic item can be any information entity (e.g., books, computer files, graphics, [regalia](#), cartographic materials, etc.) that is considered library material (e.g., a single [novel](#) in an [anthology](#)), or a group of library materials (e.g., a [trilogy](#)), or linked from the catalog (e.g., a webpage) as far as it is relevant to the catalog and to the users (patrons) of the library.

The **card catalog** was a familiar sight to library users for generations, but it has been effectively replaced by the [Online Public Access Catalog](#) (OPAC). Some still refer to the online catalog as a "card catalog". Some libraries with OPAC access still have card catalogs on site, but these are now strictly a secondary resource and are seldom updated. Many of the libraries that have retained their

physical card catalog post a sign advising the last year that the card catalog was updated. Some libraries have eliminated their card catalog in favor of the OPAC for the purpose of saving space for other use, such as additional shelving.

4.3 ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS

CATALOGUE AND USER SERVICES

Library catalogue is perhaps the most important tool for locating material in the Library. Unfortunately until recently its value has been restricted by its physical form, most commonly a large card catalogue or a set of printed volumes. The advent of computers, with their ability to process large amounts of information and output in a variety of formats has finally brought the library to the customer, wherever he or she may be located, in the form of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). OPAC provides access to the catalogue through a computer terminal. OPAC allows searching the entire catalogue online, conveniently and quickly, using one or more search criteria. One can, for example, search by author, title, keywords, class number or one or more of these combined together. OPAC even shows the current status of a book, whether it is loaned out, available on the shelf or lying elsewhere. Another advantage of OPAC is its ability to display catalogue records in a variety of formats such as AACR2, MARC etc, and the records can be displayed in a desired order. For example one can display records arranged (sorted) by author, title or call number. Most library management packages offer printing of bibliographies from OPAC either on a printer or on a file. An OPAC terminal should be equipped with search software, which is usually part of integrated library management systems such as LibSys, Easily, NewGenLib, SOUL, Sanjay etc. Some integrated library management packages even use OPAC for other user services like reservation, membership enquiry and registration, interlibrary loans.

Another convenience that OPAC offers is accessibility from a remote computer, using a local area network (LAN) or a wide area network (WAN). With modern library systems offering interface to OPAC, it is also possible to provide access from anywhere in the world via Internet. An internet enabled OPAC is called Web OPAC. Web OPAC can be searched using any common browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator. Web OPAC. Apart from searching OPAC, some libraries allow their remote users to avail certain online services like book reservations, loan requests for postal loan, loan renewals, membership application, address change, suggesting books etc.

5. ICT BASED NEW SERVICES

A library web page or **Universal Resource Locator** (URL) facilitates single window access to various web enabled library services. A URL could be as simple as a library web page listing the services with some links to catalogue and external free and subscribed resources or may include advance features like interactive helps and value-added services such as subject gateways, self-help tools and frequently asked questions, and information about the library such as timings, calendar, rules etc can be hosted on the library web site. Apart from the ICT enabled conventional services, libraries are making use of potential of internet and computing power to provide new and innovative services. In a web enabled environment, the new LIS services can be grouped into the following three categories:

- ◆ Providing access to Internet and Internet based services
- ◆ Providing access to web-based resources
- ◆ Providing access to local or internal information resources in digital form

5.1 INTERNET ACCESS

Internet is not only a medium for digital communication but also the world's largest repository of Information. However, under developed Internet infrastructure in a country like India, poses a serious challenge to growth of ICT enabled services. Large segment of user groups may still be deprived of personal access to Internet facility. Libraries, therefore, provide free or controlled access to Internet and email. Depending upon the availability users can be given time slots for use of Internet facility. Usually a few Internets enabled terminals are provided in the library that can be used by the visitors for Internet access and email etc.

5.2 ACCESS TO WEB BASED RESOURCES

As already discussed, many types of library materials such as journals, books, patents, newspapers, standards, photographs, pictures, motion pictures or music are now available in electronic or digital form. From the user's point of view digital resources hold many advantages such as time and place convenience, timeliness, ability to search directly on text (as against the catalogue records), ability to link to further reading material, and ability to disseminate and share Information. From the library's point of view digital format offers convenience of storage and maintenance, cost advantage, ability to target global users, etc. However, digital resources also pose human, social and technological problems,

such as discomfiture in reading on the screen, problems in Internet access and speed, poor infrastructure, lack of sufficient skills to use the digital resources, and perceptual change resulting from right to use rather than physical possession, etc.

5.3 USING ICT IN THE LIBRARY

Using ICT in the Library computers

For variety of reasons are below

- ◆ creating a poster
- ◆ sending an email
- ◆ finding out more about your hobbies
- ◆ researching your family history
- ◆ reading newspapers online
- ◆ surfing the Internet
- ◆ word processing a letter or CV

5.4 INTERNET AND WEB BASED LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Internet created thoughtful impact on library and information services by offering new modes of Information delivery and vast information source. The service includes web access to catalogues, Remote Information services are to provide required information to the user on demand or in anticipation and keep the user well informed and up-to-date in the field of specialization and in the related fields. Web provides significant advantages by integrating different library and Information services. Some of the Information services provided through Internet are OPACs, reference services, abstracting services, database access, translation service, referral service, etc.

5.5 LIBRARY MOBILE ACCESS IS AVAILABLE NOW.

You can now enter into your mobile device browser to search and browse library collections and subscriptions. You can also access your personal account to request online library services E book Mobile (ICTS) promise to significantly. Despite the plethora of potential benefits, however, widespread enterprise adoption of mobile ICT has not been as extensive as initially anticipated. Drawing on the extant Information systems, technology management, and organizational innovation literature the salient drivers and inhibitors of emerging ICT adoption, in general, and mobile ICT in particular, and

develops an integrative ICT adoption decision framework. From this synthesis identify four broad elements that influence an enterprise's decision to adopt mobile ICT.

- ◆ Business value
- ◆ Costs and economics
- ◆ Strategic alignment
- ◆ Enterprise readiness.
- ◆ Daily news
- ◆ Cricket news
- ◆ Quiz
- ◆ Short message service (sms)

6. CONCLUSION

ICTs play an important role in enhancing efficiency in development of library services. ICTs are changing the work of libraries and information centers. More than ever, the libraries need ICT. An increased number of users, a greater demand for library materials, an increase in the amount of material being published, new electronic formats and sources, and the development of new and cheaper computers are some of the reasons for the growing need for ICT in librarians, library patrons and supporters, and, above all, must help develop ICT-based libraries to meet the changing demands of the users.

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