

Jain, V. (2006). LIS Professionals as teachers and trainers: User education and information literacy for life-long learning. In C. Khoo, D. Singh & A.S. Chaudhry (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Asia-Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education & Practice 2006 (A-LIEP 2006), Singapore, 3-6 April 2006* (pp. 645-648). Singapore: School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University.

## **LIS PROFESSIONALS AS TEACHERS AND TRAINERS: USER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LITERACY FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING**

VINITA JAIN

*Librarian*

25, S. S. Rao Road, Parel, Mumbai -12, India

E-mail: [vinitadj@rediffmail.com](mailto:vinitadj@rediffmail.com), [vinitadj@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vinitadj@yahoo.co.in), [library@mdcollege.org](mailto:library@mdcollege.org)

Lifelong learning is defined as: "Learning in which a person engages throughout his or her life. It includes but is not limited to learning that occurs in schools and formal programs.

The concept of lifelong learning is much broader than formal education and goes beyond just keeping up; it encompasses all learning on all levels. In order to keep up with new resources, new technology, new publishing trends, new business and educational models, new modes of communication, and our library users, today's LIS professionals need to engage in some form of continuing education - and make lifelong learning an important aspect of their careers.

LIS professionals are trained to organize knowledge; this skill is a keystone of all LIS curricula. LIS professionals thus have taken to organizing their own knowledge when developing expert systems.

In the information age the library and information professional is bound to face the changes like transition from print to e-media, passive user to active user, individual to teamwork, concept of network environment etc.

LIS professionals have not only to deal with greater quantities of information than earlier, but using ICT, have also to change their role from passive providers of information support to more proactive providers of information itself.

It is a shared goal relating to the attitudes and behaviour of many employers, individuals and organisations. The LIS professionals have undergone the process of ongoing learning.

Learning is a process, never ending and never static by nature. With the progress in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), quality educational services have been developed in the form of community learning centres, telecentres, cybercafes, telecottages etc. It is essential for library and information professionals to redefine their roles and sharpen their skills to manage their professional knowledge and information. If LIPs fail to provide just-in-time access, end user will go to other providers.

Life long learning and knowledge networking are pre-conditions for socio-economic development of nations and self-actualization of one and all. To provide the quality service they need to have extensive training on new emerging technologies, products and services.

In libraries, the library professionals have to manage the library resources as per the requirements of its users. Further the changing Information Technology provided various techniques to the library.

Library professionals have to know proper planning & forecasting skills. The important quality of a leader is not the ability to command but the ability to make the people he leads to behave voluntarily in a manner directed by him.

Training of LIS professionals are required in the following areas-

- To train professional in applying computer facilities for the libraries.
- To train the participants in online searching.
- To train them in effective searching through CD-ROM and CD-NET.
- To explain them in details the use of E-mail and Bar code Technology.
- To familiarize them in the field of multimedia

LIS professionals should have the skills shown in Figure 1. The traditional image of libraries and LIS professionals is rapidly changing and widening into a knowledge center and a knowledge manager.

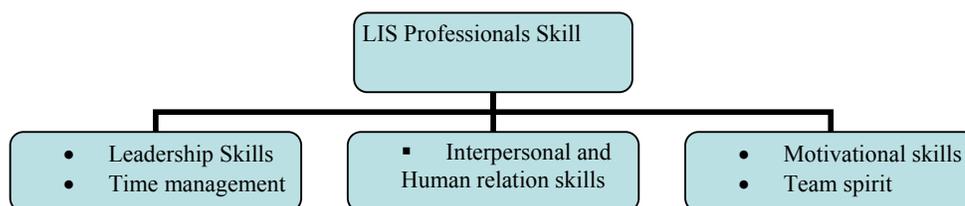


Figure 1. LIS professional skills

### User Education & Information Literacy

With the tremendous production of documents, the physical organization in libraries has become very complicated. The situation has made things difficult for users to tap its resources effectively. The applications of new technology in information retrieval require training for users. The changing pattern of education has also increased the necessity and the urgency for user education. The use of on-line information retrieval system requires a good training on the part of the users. With the increasing of database in various disciplines, the needs of user training have become evident.

The main aim of the library is to satisfy the users. Like a customer, user of the library has a full right to know about the products of the library (services of library).

Librarians, Programmers and Professionals should prepare audio-visual materials to meet the needs of the users.

Now the OPAC (On Line Public Access Catalogue) is being put in software, which is used by users to search books. Software supplier should make training kit in the software for OPAC module to educate the users.

We can search a book in OPAC module through the following items:

- Author
- Title
- Publisher
- Any Keyword

### User Education & Information Literacy by LIS Professionals in College Library

- Orientation of staff as well as students.
- OPAC training
- To put the rules and regulation on College website
- Provide information on mail
- Send latest booklist by mail or manual
- News Bulletin
- E learning and web based instructions/Internet
- Feed back form
- Display board / Guides
- Assist on internet for information search
- Use of Audio Visual Method/Power Point presentation
- To train how to use online journals
- Information retrieval through digital resources.
- Printed booklet
- Lectures, Library tour
- Offline CDROM browsing and search pattern
- Make aware of copyright issue & IPR

Libraries have information professionals that make judgments and interpret user needs; they provide services and resources to students, faculty and others and organizations. Online instruction is im-

portant, but sometimes meeting face-to-face, or having a telephone conversation, between student and information professional is the best method.

The use of desktop video conferencing doesn't appear to be widespread in LIS but its use is increasing. One Library that has used desktop video conferencing for reference services is Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA & an evaluation of their work concluded that users were less enthusiastic about the system than anticipated but that desktop video does have potential in library settings where there is remote access to information.

Library staff be given regular access to the most recent IT literature. Each library should develop literacy skills among its users. Learning is a process, never ending and never static by nature.



With the time and progress of civilisation, the contents of learning, mode of learning and sphere of learners are becoming widespread.

The concept of "e-learning" is rapidly revolutionizing the field of education. Now students hailing from any part of the world can earn prestigious degrees and diplomas from globally reputed universities even without setting out from their houses.

The library professional will have a thorough knowledge of the library and information science profession. The core knowledge areas include:

- Intellectual freedom;
- Interpersonal communications;
- Methods, strategies, and resources for need analysis;
- Planning & management of library & information services;
- Evaluation, analysis, acquisition, retrieval & organization of information & materials, regardless of physical format;
- Information intermediaries
- Knowledge management



- Change management
- Gatekeepers
- Content providers
- Treat user as consumer
- Online databases like OCLC, ERIC, DIALOG, BLAISE etc

Generally, whenever you are uncertain you could find information that will help you take the correct decision.

You need information to make good decisions.

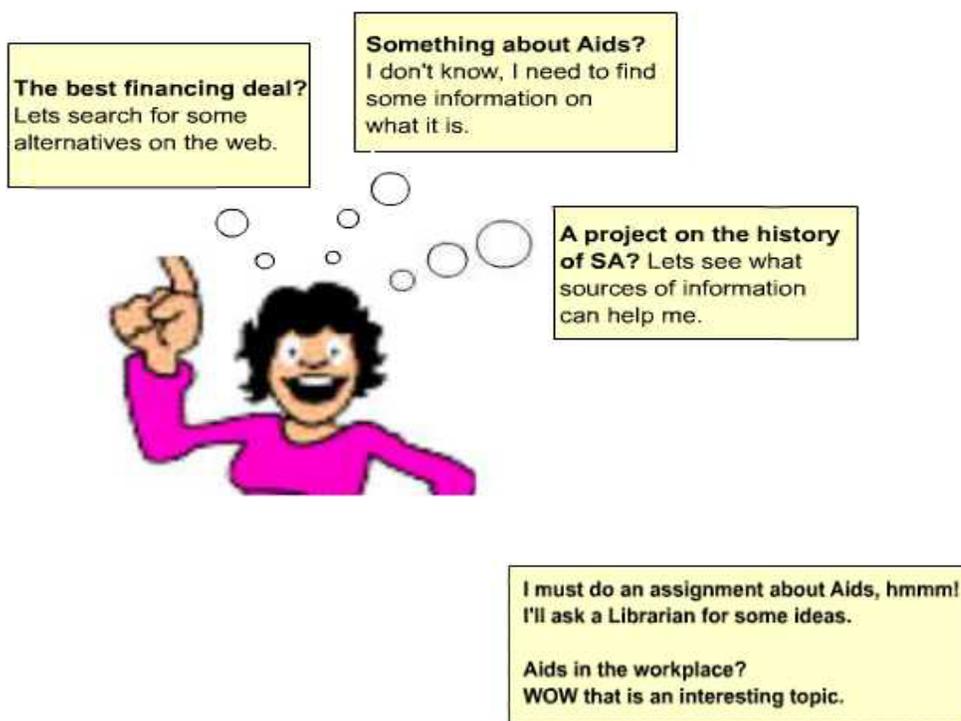
The following are different search tools that you can use to ensure that you retrieve all you want, and only what you want.

- Boolean Searching
- Truncation
- Phrase searching

These tools will help you to get the best possible results i.e. retrieving all the relevant information but filtering any irrelevant information.

- Start defining keywords by drawing a mind map, identifying broader and narrower search terms and look at different spellings, etc.

**An Information Literate person recognizes when he/she needs information.**



Today, many colleges and universities are offering classes online and rolling out new continuing education programs in an effort to reach a broader audience and attract new students.

American Library Association to fulfill its mission of promoting the highest quality library and information services for all people. Providing library staff and trustees with opportunities for professional development and promoting continuous, lifelong learning for all people are integral to that mission.

Library workers must continually expand their knowledge in order to keep up with the rate of change.

## References

- [eprints.rclis.org/archive/00003856/fullmetadata.html](http://eprints.rclis.org/archive/00003856/fullmetadata.html)
- [delnet.nic.in/naclin-2005.htm](http://delnet.nic.in/naclin-2005.htm)
- [www.aiims.ac.in/aiims/library/c-education.htm](http://www.aiims.ac.in/aiims/library/c-education.htm)
- [www.uhsl.ac.uk/study\\_docs/notes\\_dec2000.html](http://www.uhsl.ac.uk/study_docs/notes_dec2000.html)
- Deverajan (G). Information Technology in Libraries, Ess Ess : New Delhi, 1999.
- Tejomurty (A). User Education and Information Technology *IN* User Education in Academic Libraries, N.R. Satyanarayana (ed.), New Delhi, ESS-ESS, 1988, P.231
- Kannappanavan, B. U. & Kumargoudar Praveenkumar (2005). Management skills of Library Professionals in Agricultural Sc. University in India; An evaluation . *University News*. Vol.43 No.46, Nov.14-20, 2005, P.7-8