Impact of Information System on Academic Libraies

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Abstract

The overall increase in the management problems in the libraries makes the planning of the integrated information management system necessary in the libraries. To provide optional schedules to the proper functioning of the management systems, certain essential factors are to be considered. The author mentions about the Integrated National Information System in India, provides few suggestions inorder to achieve the objectives of the system and concludes that the investment on an integrated information unit is not a luxury but a necessity. It should find its place in the priorities.

Introduction

The overall management problems in libraries,industries and other organisations have increased tremendously in the recent years. The complexities involved in co-ordination in centralisation, mechanisation, computerization etc. make planning of integrated information system necessary in the libraries.

For organisational management the flow of information is considered as an important factor. This leads to the concept of information management. It is a process concerned with designing, development, monitoring and evaluation of cost.

The aim of information management is to promote organization effectiveness by enhancing the capabilities of the organization's cope with the demands of the internal and external environments in dynamic as well as stable conditions.

Information management includes organization, wide information policy planning, the development and maintenance of integrated systems and services, the optimization of information flow and the harrassing of leading edge technology to the functional requirements of end users, whatever their status of role in the parent organization.

A major problem of information system management arises because the policies and practices designed to ensure organizational effectivenss

often leave individual needs unsatisfied. In many cases corporate or departmental practices create problems for employees. Employees may become alienated, insecure and bitter if the organization fails to fulfill them minimum needs for security, self esteem, growth and development. Taking into consideration all these factors the necessary requirement should be provided to function the information system in a proper way.

Integrated Information Management Systems

The integrated concept is a necessary charateristics of Management Information System. Integration is significant because of the ability to produce more meaningful management information. Integration in the sense intended, means taking a comprehensive view of a complete picture books at the interlooking. The essential factors to balance the integrated information systems are :

   a) Set up cost,

   b) Work force,

   c) Overtime rate,

   d) Production capacity,

   e) Inventory level,

   f) Capital requirements and

   g) Customer service.

In order to provide optimal schedules to the Management, a system is to look at all these factors. If it ignores one of these it fails to provide optimal schedule. At this stage the role of integrated Information is very important. In order to make meaningful functions of the integrated information system it is necessary that a survey of information users and needs and available resources be made at national, regional, sectoral and institutional level.

Integrated National Information Systems in India

In 1973 the National Information System for Science and Technology in India has been established by the Department of Science and Technology with a view to develop an integrated information system for the country. Certain centres have been indentified for serving as National Information Centres in the respective subject areas.

Suggestions

The proposed Integrated Information System can fulfill the objectives if the following few suggestions are taken into consideration :

1. The govt. and other agencies should consider the scientific and industrial information as a basic ingredient for the growth and development of scientific and industrial research.

2. Regional and Local Information Centres involved in the network must co-operate with the centre to enable it to fullfill the objectives by feeding it with the relevant data and working on the lines as suggested by the proposed centres.

3. All information centres engaged in the network be equipped with trained manapower to run the information centre smoothly.

4. Organisation should sanction grant to consider user surveys for determining their information needs and habits etc.

5. Information personnel should be sponsored to study the working and services of other related information centres.

Conclusion

The investement on the integrated information unit is not a luxury but a necessity and it should find its place in the priorities.

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