===

ROLE OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN DEVELOPMENT OF READING HABITS AMONG SUDENTS

AUTHOR

Hemlata Thaku & Ph. D Scholar, Jaipur National University, jaipur

Purushottam Kumar Assistant Librarian , Jaipur National University, Jaipur)

Email: hemathakur76@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Libraries play an important role in developing reading skills and overall personality development of the child. The child should be allowed to pick up, handle and turn the pages as and how he wants to. There must be time to let children look at books, choose for themselves and try to read or just look at pictures and texts according to their likes and dislikes. Attractive books will give the same pleasure that toys may give and if allowed to handle them, the child will develop the same love for books as for toys. E-Library, being the centre of any academic institution, is charged with such responsibility of making information available in different formats - digital, pictorial, audio-visual and in book form and promote effective library services - that will encourage reading culture among students.

INTRODUCTION

In an age of modern information and communication technologies (ICTS), with proliferation of televisions, internet and video players, it was uncommon to see children and adolescents carrying books and reading material to read. Technology is slowing but very steadying taking over the control of children and adolescents lives and cultivation of a good reading habit has gone with the wind. They have gradually abandoned book reading to pursue interests in movie watching and recently, surfing

==

And chatting on the net. Empty school and public libraries are a silent witness of this dread picture. There are many ways of promoting reading habits among children. Schools and digital library play a leading role in the reading habit of children and adolescents.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

A digital library is a collection of documents in organized electronic form, available on the Internet or on CD-ROM (compact-disk read-only memory) disks. On the Internet, the use of a digital library is enhanced by a broadband connection such as cable modem or DSL. Dial-up connections can be used to access plain-text documents and some documents containing images, but for complex files and those with animated video content, a downstream data speed of at least several hundred kilobits per second can make the user's experience less tedious, as well as more informative. Internet-based digital libraries can be updated on a daily basis. This is one of the greatest assets of this emerging technology. Digital libraries can vary immensely in size and scope, and can be maintained by individuals, organizations, or affiliated with established physical library buildings or institutions, or with academic institutions. The paper, therefore examines the role of digital libraries in promoting reading habits among children and adolescents

READING HABITS

Reading can be defined as the process of looking at, and comprehending the meaning of written and printed words from the visual representation of symbols. It involves recognition and sometimes verbalization of symbols, which represent sounds in human speech. The term "reading habit" refers to the behavior which expresses the likeness of reading of individual, types of reading and tastes of reading (Sangkaeo, 1999). It is a pattern with which an individual organizes his or her reading. Reading is important for everybody in order to cope with new knowledge in a changing world –

===

That of the technological age. The ability to read is at the heart of self education and lifelong learning. Yet, reading culture in sub-Saharan Africa is not encouraging. Based on this, Sangkaeo (1999) clearly states that "we are not reading society in Africa but chatting society, the background of learning through culture; the cultural habit of people prefer to listening and chatting more than reading". Darko-Ampem (2005) asserts "the great divide between home and school, the facilities of education system to recognize the oral culture of communities especially, folklore and storytelling traditions, and the lack of culturally relevant materials in indigenous languages, are all factors which contribute toward the lack of a reading culture in many African communities".

IMPORTANCE OF E -LIBRARY

Young children acquire reading literacy through a variety of activities and experiences within different contexts. According to Sharma ,J.N(1978), to know about the world and its environment, a child helps himself through reading books, newspapers, and other magazines. Based on this fact, Panagrahi and Panda (1996) explain that once the child has been taught to read and develop a love for books, he can explore for himself the wealth of human experience and knowledge. These authors went on further to say that "children missing the opportunity of getting in touch with books at this stage, find it difficult to acquire reading habits in their later years." E-library is the one found in primary and post primary institutions where educational services are offered to without any physical boundaries'. Daniel (2004) observes that the library remains the power house of educational institution and that an education institution without a library is like a motor car without an engine and a body without a soul.

websit- http://tijr.net/

==

OBJECTIVES OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

- Support the teaching programme of the teachers without any physical boundaries.
- Guide students on the choice of relevant materials for study anytime and anywhere.
- Provision of material resources to enhance academic growth and development.
- Assist the students to develop reading skills in the use of books and libraries
- Acquire the relevant books and non-book materials to meet the requirement of the curriculum.
- A large volume of information can be search rapidly and accurately.
- Developed new roles and responsibilities within the libraries and information units

It can be deduced from the above that the digital library is of paramount importance. It helps to guide the student in all areas of their academic endeavor and inculcate reading culture in them.

THE ROLE OF DIGITAL LIBRARY IN PROMOTING READING HABITS OF STUENTS

Digital Libraries are fundamental and basic to the design, implementation and attainment of educational excellence. Libraries are an integral part of the educational development of school children. While reading books, especially challenging ones, children will find them self exposed to many new words. Digital Libraries provide access to enjoyable and reading materials through which school children can gain and improve their skills. Digital Libraries also help introduce the use of reading for information, pleasure, passing examination (learning in school) and personal growth through lifelong learning.

websit- http://tijr.net/

==

Digital Libraries provide materials that offer more extensive and varied information than classroom study alone. Voluntary reading helps develop reading skills and mastery of language, extends students knowledge and assists them in their academic work. Virtual libraries are available anytime without any space. Children can easily and immediate access to resources as compare to simple books and other school resources. These libraries are very helpful in time saving.

Students who read from time to time are likely to have some background knowledge, familiarity with new topics or subjects and thus, find learning and discussions easier and interesting. E-Libraries seek to enrich young people by introducing them to good reading literature which will increase their understanding, develop their aesthetic sense, and help them develop their moral, spiritual and psychological growth.

Reading helps to develop and promote local culture. Digital -Libraries help facilitate publication of good children literature based on culture and provide future reading public for such publications. Animation pictures, slides, audio-video recordings makes such materials makes interesting for reading. Children can watch and listen the local and foreign culture. For example : there are so many talking software in the E-libraries that are helpful in listen, speak, learn and reading of English language.

Communication is the heart of human beings. The ability to communicate effectively as one of the objectives of school education. This can be achieved through the teaching of the three Rs -reading, writing and arithmetic in the hope that students/pupils would continuously learn after school years. Attainment of permanent literacy can be done through reading. Different types of library resources – like magazines, journals, audiovisuals and talking software etc provide different information. Digital libraries provide these types of information for the children even

==

After school year and anytime and anywhere. In short, digital library makes reading and learning more permanent as compare to school time.

Digital libraries are Useful for the disabled students. Through use of audio and video, resources are made available to the visually and hearing impaired. Many times orthopedically impaired children and other disabled children unable to come in school. Through the digital library, these students read properly without any hindrance. integrate voice, video, and text are very useful for those users that are in remote areas.

Digital - Librarians help students to develop relative ability, critical and independent thinking through their exposure to awide variety of instructional resources and learning opportunities. There are many types of software's With the use of these software , readers would learn and understand why and how certain decisions or conclusions are reached; the effect of conflicting or incomplete information. Internet in the library would show the presentation of information in different ways.

Digital Library plays significant role in the affective domain by providing experience in various forms of creative expression especially in literature and the arts like slides making, animation pictures etc. Acquisition and accessibility by readers to good reading collection on literature and creative arts would help readers develop ethical values and appreciation of different people, culture and environment. One digital library can provide a link to any other resources of other digital Libraries. So, its provide more reading material for the students. And it develops reading skills in the students.

CONCLUSION

The habit of reading should begin at a very early stage. The complementary and effective role of the digital library in inculcating and promoting reading habit in children should be appreciated. The library very important in the new type of

websit- http://tijr.net/

==

Teaching, for not only does it supply reading materials in all areas; it also supply reading materials at all levels of difficulties. It stores books, presentations, pictures, pamphlets, maps, films filmstrips, audio- Video recordings, and all other printed media which makes it a gold mine for each teacher and each student. So, in short we cannot avoid the effective role of E- libraries in modern era.

REFERENCES

Adeniji, M.A.(2006).Use of School libraries by teachers in Ogun State. Nigerian School Library Journal 5(2).

Aina, A. J. & et al (2011) ''The role of library in promoting reading habits among nigerians''. Journal of Research in Education and Society V ol.2 No. 1.

A.K. Jager and A.H. Lokman(1999). Impacts of ICT in education. The role of the teacher and teacher training . Stoas Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Paper Presented at the European Conference on Educational Research, Lahti, Finland .

Alegbeleye,M.O.(2010).Understanding and reading problems in secondary schools:some observations and research Annals of Library Science and Documentation 24, (2), 82 -85.

Antwi, I. K (1985). The reading habits and interest of secondary school student in Bauchi Metroplis: a case study. Lagos: Nigerian Libraries 2 (2) pp. 52-53.

Daniel, C.I.(2004).Efforts/Activities at schools' level by Principals, Headmasters, PTA to support provision of library services in school : the case of Abuja Federal Capital Territory. Nigerian School LibraryJournal 5(1).

Darko-Ampem, K. (2004).Reading habits of standard 5-7 pupils in Gaborone, Botswana: A pilot survey. Available at:http://www.64.233.183.104/search?q=cache:W7j21TuC6YwJ

Devarajan, G. (1989).Reading interest of secondary school students. In: Users approach

Dorothy, R. (2002). Diagnosis and correction in reading and guiding reading instruction,(4th ed.) Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Douglas, M. P. (2000). Primary school library and its services. Paris: UNESCO.

websit- http://tijr.net/

===

Dumea, P. (2001).Promoting a reading culture: The children's book project experience in

Ekundayo, T.J.D. (2005). Literate environments. Available at:http://www.adeanet/.org/wgnfe/publications/thompson.html.

Erinle, K.(1997).Managing school libraries resources problems in Nigeria: the Kwara State experience. International Journal of Education Management 2(1).

Eyre, G. (2005).The development and practice of literacy: A voyage of discovery. Available at: http://www.iasl-slo.org/ifla2005-eyre.doc

Fayose, P.O. (1995).School library resource centre for educational excellence. Ibadan: Ayeni Education Publisher.

Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004) National Policy on Education, (4th ed.) Lagos: NERDC press.

Findings.Paper presented at 25th Annual Conference of Nigerian School Library Association,held at Simeon Adebo Library,Ogun State,Nigeria,from 25-28 October.

Fosudo, S. (2010). Reading as part to success" A Lecture delivered at the College Library Day, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Otto/Ijanikin, Lagos on February24th.

Gbadamosi, M. & Omotayo, B. (1995).Essentials of library education.Lagos, Omas Publishers Ltd. going children: A case study of two English medium schools of Rourkela, Indian Malaysia Journal of Library and Information Science 1 (1), 57-65.139.

Henry, P. (2004). Children reading habits and their use of media: exhaustive suggestions on encouraging reading habits among children. Institute for Education, Hamburg, Germany.

Jonathan Anderson, The Role of ICT in Teaching and Learning: Past, Present and Future Perfect, Flinders University, Australia.

websit- http://tijr.net/

==

Joseph, K. (2003). What to know about Library. Ibadan : Kay Jay Publishers.

Krolak, L. (2005).The role of libraries in the creation of literate environment. UNESCO

Lauglo, J. (2000) Engaging with adults: The case for increased support to adult basic education in Sub-Saharan Africa. World Bank, Africa. Libri 55, 39 – 55.

Mokatsi, R. (2005).Sharing resources- how library networks can help reach educationGoals. East African Book Development Association. A research paper looking at libraries in the developing world. Commission by Book Aid International