

LIBRARY AS A KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR INDUSTRY

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Today, we are living in the knowledge age, where we are witnessing so many technological developments with passage of short span of time. The terms data, information and knowledge are often used interchangeably. Data in general terms, refers to isolated facts such as individual measurements. Figures of data have no meaning on their own and useless, unless placed in some sort of context. Information also consists of symbols as text or numbers, but this time there is some meaning associated with the symbols. Due to this added meaning, the information is considered valuable asset.

1. What Is Knowledge?

Knowledge is a fluid mix of framed experience, values, contextual information, expert insight and grounded intuition that provides an environment and framework for evaluating and incorporating new experience and information.

Knowledge is the key resource in Intelligent Decision Making, Forecasting, Design, Planning, Diagnosis, Analysis, Evaluation and Intuitive judgement making. The key link between knowledge and Information is probably best expressed in the commonly accepted idea that knowledge in the business context is nothing but 'Actionable Information'. If it can be used to do what one is trying to do, information arguably becomes knowledge.

Knowledge further can be classified into two broad categories; Tacit and Explicit.

- Tacit knowledge is personal, context specific knowledge that is difficult to formalize record or articulate; it is stored in the heads of people. The tacit component is mainly developed through a process of trial and error encountered in practice in practices.
- Explicit knowledge is that component of knowledge that can be codified and transmitted in a systematic and formal language; documents, database, webs, e-mails and chart etc.

The present generation of Information centre and providers recognize the advent of information revolution in the field of science and technology. The speed with which the knowledge is generated and modalities of handing it is taken note of knowledge is identified in four phases- speech, script, print and information superhighway-as an outcome of electronic skywriting. This has provided with the missing link of instant transfer of knowledge. The process of knowing involves knower and knowee – in impact between the two gives space for knowledge. The traditional concept of library as store house of Knowledge and Librarian as its custodian is redefined with the evolution of knowledge and its ever Increasing demand. It is the necessity of knowledge management which has opened all channels for transferring, organizing and making it easily available and accessible.

2. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management can be defined as “The art of creating values from an organization’s intangible assets”.

3. Knowledge is need of the hour

Till today, the information centre have never identified and measured the user’s needs nor have they quantified the knowledge stocks available with them. Some countries has transformed practical knowledge in to commercial use and reaping huge benefits from it. We need to plant practical ideas in the minds of our people and help them in creating products and using latest techniques. We have to use tacit knowledge which is controiled by individuals, who for fear of losing control over it, keep it out of the reach of every user. Transformation in the minds of our experts, literate or illiterate has to take place so that this tacit knowledge is converted into explicit and available and accessible to a large number of users.

The environment of sharing knowledge freely will happen only when we have knowledge centres, like street lights which spread their light without being biased. Only then the controls will begin to vanish and every individual will try to get his/her share of knowledge from the resources available with in his/her vicinity.

During the last many years research and development work done in laboratories and institutions has not reached the public. Government who supports such activities usually let its R & D results be used by a few individuals and industries. In our society it is only the large industrial or business houses who are aware of importance of such knowledge and are even willing to pay for it. If we want to develop our country, diminish poverty and transform our

country into an economically strong one it has to begin with the establishment of knowledge centres.

4. Knowledge Centre

In general, a knowledge centre is an extended version of a library. The main objective of such centre is to impart appropriate and provide useful information to the user that triggers transformation in the industry. This is done by collecting, organizing and dissemination both knowledge and information. A knowledge centre can't undertake all these jobs on its own, but will coordinate with it a variety of related institutions and experts performing this job.

A knowledge centre, using information and communication technologies (ICT) and guidance of management and subject experts collect knowledge under an interrelated system so that duplication is avoided, knowledge is pooled systematically, and it is used and also shared with other knowledge centres through networking.

A library as knowledge centre collects knowledge and by sharing it with various users it can trigger a transformation. It brings library users and researchers together through various extension activities. It develops knowledge repositories on existing issues of relevance to its users. The knowledge centre captures knowledge through global and national resources appropriate to its users. It collects knowledge that encourages its users to remove obsolete technologies being used by them or others and gives guidance for replacing it with new technology with distinct advantages. The knowledge centres provide access to national and global resources through networks and the Internet. It also provides links to useful sites and databases. The knowledge centre encourages its users to gallop more and more knowledge by pursuing and helping them during various steps. The knowledge centre act as 'One Stop Centre' for all knowledge and information requirements of its users.

5. Conclusion

The knowledge will begin to be treated as an essential commodity. It is only then when every individual will be concerned about his or her right to acquiring the desired knowledge. As new developments are happening every day in the knowledge sector, these have to be captured on each subject and preserved and presented in the digital form at each Knowledge Centre. Knowledge will have to be extracted out from a variety of sources including printed sources such as newspapers, books, journals, grey literature etc; digital

resources including CD's Internet, databases, metadata etc. and adopt methodologies to collect information on the issues of particular interest to each knowledge centre.

Knowledge centre brings industry, experts and students on the same platform where the industry can have various alternative solutions to their problems, the expert suggestions as well as amateur ideas by students. The problems and needs of industry can be further preserved by the knowledge centre if they wish so and can be used by the students as case studies. They will also come to know some practical side of the knowledge.

A knowledge centre brings the Industry and an Institute together. It plays a vital role in the development of industry by providing them knowledge about latest technologies, problems and benefits of adaptations of new technology.

In the nutshell, a knowledge centre can transform the society into a knowledge society which will result in innovative changes in industry and the economy will flourish.

6. Reference

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