

EDITORIAL

Information literacy is an important topic of discussion and concern among the library and information professionals. People have different opinions regarding the scope and meaning of the term 'Information literacy'. Perusal of the professional literature makes clear that Information literacy is the process of knowing when and why information is required, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical way. In 1910, Eisenberg and Berkowitz had proposed the big six skills model for information literacy. These 6 skills were: Task definition, Information Seeking Strategies, Location and Access, Use of Information, Synthesis and Evaluation. Thereafter, U. K. Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL) Task Force on Information Skills had proposed another model for information literacy. This model was more popularly known as the seven pillars of wisdom. According to this, the seven important skills are:

- The ability to identify the need for information
- The ability to distinguish ways in which information requirement may be addressed.
- The ability to construct strategies for locating information.
- The ability to locate and access information.
- The ability to compare and evaluate information obtained from different sources.
- The ability to organise, apply and communicate information to others in ways appropriate; and
- The ability to synthesise and built upon existing information contributing to the creation of new knowledge.

So information literacy is not a single skill but a combination of interrelated skills. The librarian is responsible for locating, acquiring, disseminating and tracking information resources of many types. It may include database searching, interlibrary loan, monitoring internet newsgroups or maintenance of information system. All these tasks involve managerial expertise and information literacy. Every citizen needs to be educated for productive information use. Librarians should play an important role in the education of people for effective and efficient information use by teaching them information skills in order to enable them to be informed citizen of the country.

There is a need to launch nation wide information literacy programme in India in order to make the people information literate. The major problems in achieving this objective is the traditional educational system, lack of manpower in libraries, financial constraints and lack of support. Information literacy skills should be integrated across the curriculum of higher education for which there should be strong collaboration between teachers and librarian.

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