IMPACT OF INTERNET-ENABLED POTENTIALITY ON CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES PROCESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY IN PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

The study-examined the impact of internet-enabled potentiality on cataloguing and classification schemes process in the 21st century information age, a departure from the conventional tradition of cataloguing and classification routines and practices. The paper noted however, that the ever increasing demand/ search for easy assess by users to library materials and information resources (books and non-books, books, journals, magazines, newspapers reference materials, etc and tapes, videos CD-ROM, discs, etc). The impact of ICTs gadgets, internet has eased cataloguing and classification routines workload in one hand and improve their performance much more than before. They can cover much ground now. The study observed that there is significant alternative to the function of cataloguers. The study revealed also that the internet has widen the dissemination of library holdings globally, users can assess vast array of resources today than yesterday in the shortest time. The article also examined different approaches to utilize various online catalogues namely: the World Cat, the Library of Congress Online Catalogue, the National Library of Medicine Catalogue, the National Agricultural Library Online Catalogue,' the University of Adelaide Law Library Online Catalogue and the University of Lagos Library Online Catalogue have also recorded success/ breakthrough in the use of internet-enabled Cataloguing. These have eased the cataloguing processes as well as made remarkable benefits to bibliographers.

Introduction

Impact refers to the strong effect on *something or on person; impact of one* object on another is therefore the force or intensity with which it hits it, or hits another, (BBC 1992:579). Impact in this study is the strong effect of internet on cataloguing/ classification of library materials (library holdings/collecting development) in the 21st century, a departure from the manual cataloguing/ classifications tradition.

The concepts of online catalogs, cataloguing of internet resources, web browsing, global trend in information communication technology; Machine Readable Records etc. are the languages *of the 21st information age.* These emergences unavoidably triggered the need for information professionals in the developing countries including Nigeria to move with the change of times if they are to be relevant. Equally this has been discussed at different foras. The magnitude of library materials that have passed on the web each day presents an unprecedented challenges to the library profession in terms of traditional responsibility to acquire, assess, process, organize, store, disseminate, retrieve,

provide access to and preserve information. As information professionals, it would be very illogical to stay local Yetunde (2008) lamented. She further added that we must continue to keep pace with the imminent changes in our profession, if we must fulfill our users' needs, and to perform our functions effectively and efficiently as the core providers of information and to move with the wind of change blowing across the globe now. The current trends no longer suggest fear or doubt, nor whether information technology application are relevant to library operations; the compelling demand now is on how best to apply information technology systems to discharge library and information services effectively and efficiently.

Cataloguing and classification of library materials embodies the every fabrics of knowledge structures that shape the traditional and contemporary practice to find, identify, select and obtain information. Original cataloguing and classification of library materials is a pain-staking and time consuming duty/ function. It is possible, using this method, to have library materials that should be processed fast not to spend months in cataloguing section. The application of the internet as supportive tool would no doubt turn most cataloguing section of most libraries to a livelier and interesting environment. The use of library collections depends on many conditions. As cataloguers, you would want to know if the materials are properly catalogued and classified. Are the materials available on the shelves, as at when needed?

Omekwu (2007) has stressed that the journey of the book and other information resources do not jump to the shelves, it follows a delineated process that is both technical and intellectual. A traditional model follows this pattern: a book is published, a librarian receives notice and decides to add it to its collection, submits an order; the item arrives, is processed, catalogued and classified; then it appears on the shelf ready to be found, identified, selected, obtained and used for (or borrowed) by a user. These processes are long, tortuous and repetitive. The obvious results are books spend weeks, months or years gathering dust on the shelves without being processed. The intervention of the internet in this process is designed to eliminate or reduce tortuous and repetitive cycle of the service and create platforms for effective retrieval of information resources.

The Emerging 21st Century Environment

For Catalogers who have embraced the new technology, it is no longer acceptable for newly acquired information resources to be held up in the cataloguing section for an undue length of time. These undue delays are obviously counter-productive to the goals of the library. The applications of the internet is essentially to fast-track that process and to ensure that books and other resources spend the least period of time in the cataloguing section. Catalogers who have internet access have now recognized the potential of online catalog for improving subject access to information. Many library online catalogs are now accessible for searching class numbers and other cataloguing information (Lon 1997). The ability to have more than one open window on the desktop now enables cataloguers to copy and paste cataloguing information from multiple sources which has created more accurate access points. From your desktop, it is now possible to link easily and cost effectively into bibliographic information which were previously time consuming. Yetunde (2008), observed that enormous amount of information is available online, and that catalogers at the University of Lagos for

example, have tackled the ever growing task of how to frequently process out books from the department to the shelves. That several backlogs of uncatalogued materials have been successfully processed through the aid of the internet at the University of Lagos, the number of books catalogued also increased from 45,496 processed in 2006/2007 to 180,680 processed in 2007/2008.

Internet Application to Cataloguing and Classification Scheme

The 21st century has brought to us significant changes which affect all facets of human endeavours. It ranges from the ICTS, gadgets, internet, mobile phones, DSTV, flat screen computers of different kinds /models, laptops, etc, which has significantly affected nearly all human activities and has changed former office functions too. Catalogers with web facilities have recognized the potential of using online catalogue of other libraries to improve subject access to information in their domain. Catalogers can now enjoy facilities provided by web-driven technical facilities like the OCLC's World-Cat (for Academic and Special Libraries), the Library of Congress Online catalogue (for Academic and Special Libraries), Dewey Online catalog (for Public and School Libraries), National Library or Medicine (for Medical Libraries), National Agricultural Library Catalog (for Colleges of Agriculture) etc.

The World Cat

The World Cat is a Union Catalogue that is produced and maintained by Online, Computer Library Center (OCLC) and its member libraries. The 'World Cat' is accessed via the internet by cataloguers for bibliographic data. Every item in the union catalogue has classification numbers of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and Library of Congress (LC) which are the most used schemes in the library world today. This technical web facility, though not accessible free of charge, is of immense benefits to the library especially in cataloguing and classification. Catalogers who enjoy this facility merely copy the bibliographic details to their library database. This is available online at http://connexion.oclc.org.

The following step; are basic access and use of the facility:

i. Go to internet explorer
ii. Type in http.//connexion.oclc.org.
iii. Type in the user name' or 'authorization and the password on the authorization page.
iv. Pick the search options (Basic or Advanced).
v. Choose the basic' search tools: ISBN/ISSN, title phrase, author etc.

The Library of Congress Online Catalog

The Library of Congress, Online Catalog is another technical service which catalogers can use free of charge. The Library of Congress information database has over 110 million items available online at www.catalog.loc.org. The Library of Congress Online Catalogue provides the platform for both basic and guided Search. It is important and worthy for catalogers to be fully aware of and understand the differences between each search type available. Each session expires after 5 minutes. It is imperative that catalogers be fast in conducting their search.

The Basic Search which offers the largest variety of direct search option can be accessed through the following steps

Cataloguers need to:

(i) Click on your internet explorer
(ii) Type in the library of congress website (http//catalog.loc.org)
(iii) Click on basic .search

(iv) Choose one search word in the search textbox
(v) Choose your search strategy either by title, author/creator, subject, ISBN/SSN etc.
(vi) You have an option to
(vii) Choose your display latitude by clicking number records per page 25,'50, 75 or 100 records per page.

(viii) Then click on begin search.

The National Library of Medicine Online Catalog

The National Library of Medicine Catalogue provides access to NLM online bibliographic data for journals, books, audio-visuals, computer software, electronic resources and other materials. Links to the online catalog could be, accessed via Locator Plus. This facility is most relevant to catalogers from the medical libraries to explore. It is interesting to note that the NLM catalog provides the following search functionality to user: explore and utilized.

- Simple searching enter your terms(s) and click GO. Entry automatically combines' (ANDs)y significant terms together
- Boolean operators - enter them in UPPERCASE (AND, OR, NOT) searching – enter your phrase quotes
- Automatic term explosion when your entry matches a Mesh heading.
- Searching of specific field by use of Limits (e.g. limit retrieval to a particular language, materials type, data, etc.)
- Ability to view how your term(s) were searched using Details
- Ability to view and reuse previous searches using History
- Ability to link to the library holdings in location Plus, NLM's online public access catalog by clicking on the NLMID or using links.

The simple search which offers the largest variety of direct search option can be accessed by using following these steps:

(i) Click on your internet explorer
(ii) Type httpillocatorplus.gov
(iii) Click on simple search
(iv) Choose one search word in the search textbox
(v) Choose your search strategy either by title, author/creator, subject, ISBN/ISSN
(vi) You have 10 records displayed per page.
(vii) Then click on search

The National Agricultural Library Online Catalog

This facility is most useful for catalogers working in the Agricultural Research Institutes or Colleges of Agriculture Libraries.

The following are the basic search hints:

(i) Go to internet explorer
(ii) Type in http/nal.org
(iii) Pick the search options (Basic or advanced).
(iv) Choose the basic search tools: ISBN/ISSN, title phrase, authors etc.
(v) Then click search

The Universality of Adelaide Law Library Online Catalogues (UALLOC):

The university facility is available, free of charge for catalogers in law libraries who have classified their legal materials using the Moys Classification Schemes. To use this catalogue, you can browse and view authority headings for subject, title, and authors. It is also possible to download the format for use in a local library system if so required.

The basic requirement to access and use the Library Catalogue basic search ability is to link to the internet connectivity, the following steps are recommended:

(i) Click on internet explorer and log on this link: www.law.adelaide.edu.au.library/ about/ moys or search under Google for university of Adelaide Library Catalog.

(ii) Click on Basic search
(iii) Type in your request in the search text box
(iv) Choose you search style either by title, author, subject etc.
(v) You can choose your display latitude by clicking number records per page i.e.
(vi) You can use limit option
(vii) Click on search

The Impact of Internet-Enabled Communications on Cataloguing Work:
The Internet-enabled communications, such as discussion lists, e mail, Z39.50, XML, World Wide Web and many more have radically altered the cataloging workflow because these fast, ubiquitous, and independent communication enable better and easier resource sharing. Catalogers can now readily share information in a wider spectrum of ways which can speed up their work and promote library cooperation.
The internet has positively impacted change on how catalogers and other cataloguing department staff should communicate with each other, with colleagues in other libraries even with users. It has created a cadre of virtual co-workers within and outside any given library. The E-mail is the most visible instrument of this change, but web pages and web-based catalogs are new communication tools used by staff in cataloguing units. This communication tools have dramatically changed how cataloguing staff share work information with each other. The overall effect of this communication revolution Liu (2001) stressed has drawn the profession closer together as a working community globally.
The Internet has also linked the world's online catalogs together and the web has provided them with a relatively similar interface. The communication revolution caused by the internet has enabled far greater flexibility. Not only can catalogers now more easily share information about their work, but also can administrators and vendors. Lon (1997) noted that a number of ways catalogers are using the internet to enhance their cataloguing practices. This boils down to two basic findings: (a) catalogers use the internet to search other catalogs and to communicate with other catalogers. The searching of other catalogs has enabled better, wider and faster copy cataloging and authority work for many libraries. (b) It can also be cheaper for smaller or under funded libraries who might not be able to acquire the latest editions of classification schemes to check other trusted libraries' catalogs.

Impact of Internet Content on Cataloguing Theory and Practice
This study has also revealed that the internet is transforming the publishing industry and this transformation is positively affecting libraries in new sense of direction. Print publishing has always been of particular importance to libraries and cataloguing operations. Libraries in developing countries too have long been collecting other media including motion pictures, recorded music, video, compact disks and artifacts of various sorts. In other words cataloguers have experience in cataloguing all forms of media. The new media have caused the creation of now

responsibilities for cataloguing units in libraries. The library community, especially the cataloguing community in developing countries is responding to these changes by both adopting the rules and procedure and strategically rethinking the theory and practice of the profession. Liu (2001) pointed that the changes can he seen in the recent MARC format which has allowed the addition of information relating to the 'electronic location of digital media that are accessible remotely via the internet. The new media are driving the creation of new rules for cataloguing.

Impact of Internet-Enabled Functionality on the Catalogue

The role of the catalogue is changing owing to the enhanced functionality enabled by the internet. It is now operating in a context of other catalogue-like entities and so can be seen as a collection development tool. The International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records Final Report identifies four functions to enable users: (i) to find, (ii) to identify, (iii) to select, land (iv) to obtain materials. In the internet environment, even as a list, the catalogue now include more than a library's collection – crossing the barriers from old notions of local holdings to point to the holdings of other libraries and other resources not locally held. As librarians who are web-driven now move to home pages and gateways, catalogue have moved to become Portals to content, a notion which expands more traditional concepts of library collection.

We can see from these developments that the catalog is now conceived more than a listing of a library holdings - it is a critical tool for library access.

University of Lagos Experience

Yetunde (2008) maintained that the use of the various online catalogues at the University of Lagos library has paid up well. It has increased the amount of information available to users through the library catalogue. The characteristics of the new environment according to the writer include now:

- Greater access to a range of subject access points
- Increased speed in getting library materials processed
- Conducive learning environment

Other academic libraries in other country should embrace this development. The traditional notion of a library as a mere store house of knowledge has been fundamentally challenged by the advent' of information technology. Catalogers who wish to be relevant in the information age should be ready to embrace these challenges. Below are the visible results recorded at the University of Lagos since the utilization of various online catalogues in catalogues processes.

Attainable Success/Breakthrough.

The following success story or breakthrough has been attained following the internet enabled impact on cataloging classification:

- Skill enrichment scheme has automatically lead to information technology training for all library staff in view of the fact that any staff could-be posted to cataloguing department.
- An improved and enhanced focus on service culture of today.
- It has boasted and facilitated service points in other sections of the library
- It has brought about significant future improvements in the use of the library via the Online Public Access Catalogue

- It has mobilized and nurtured a cadre of virtual co-workers within the cataloguing department
- It has stirred up and stimulate better functionality in catalogue is no longer conceived as mere listing of library holding but as a critical tool for library access

Conclusion

This study examined internet-enabled potentiality on library cataloguing and classification of library materials brought about by the emerging developments of the impact of ICTs and internet in the 21st century. It is pertinent to stress that the internet has positively impacts on the cataloguing and classification practices now. It must also however, be emphasize that cataloguer should not neglect the use of the different types of classification scheme as tools. No, it must be abundantly made clear here, the time has speedily come for all cataloguers to gracefully embrace the wind of change of the present information age. Today it is worthy to note the emerging trend in life and the way internet is leading must also be embraced by every one is to keep pace with development. Cataloguers/classifiers must not be left behind this trend of change. It high time to follow this wind of change blowing globally if one is to be relevant. We must adapt and embrace the new electronic devices environment in order to enhance our productivity. It is important for catalogers to learn how to navigate to facilitate cataloguing process in the various domains.

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