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## ADAPTIVE INFORMATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN LIBRARIES: NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE INFORMATION WORLD

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### Abstract

*Library and Information Centers play a pivotal role in imparting library services to academic – cum – research needs of library users. The centres need to build up collection, management and dissemination of information sources. There are constant questions raised whether libraries manage information sources and provide adequate services to the users and if the users utilize those resources and are satisfied with services provided. Therefore it is necessary to identify all aspects of Information Resource Management (IRM) to find out answers to these questions. The purpose of this study includes objectives, scope, working pattern of IRM and factors for implementing an IRM in libraries.*

**Keywords:** *Information Resource Management; Libraries; Information sources; financial sources; Human sources.*

### Introduction

In the Information society, Library and Information Centers acquire information from various sources to meet user needs and keep users well informed about the current developments in their discipline. At the intermediate level, Library and Information Centres meet the herculean task of balancing exponential growth of information sources on the one hand and inadequate time of users for reading and assimilating new information on the other. In order to realise this balance, Library and Information Centres have to manage information resources in the proper way. The term “Information Resource Management (IRM)” was originally coined in the 1970s by the President's Commission on Federal Paperwork and later embodied in statute in the Paperwork Reduction Act (US) of 1980. According to Paperwork Reduction Act, the stages of Information Resource Management are Design, Creation or collection, Analysis, Use, Dissemination and Storage or disposition.

### Definition

Information Resources Management means “the planning, budgeting, organizing, directing, training, promoting, controlling and management activities associated with the burden, collection, creation, use and dissemination of information by agencies and includes the management of information related resources such as automated data.” **(United States Code, 1980 version)**

Information Resource Management includes the management of

- The broad range of information resources, such as printed sources, electronic Information sources, microforms, etc..
- The various technologies and equipment that manipulate these resources, and

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- The people who generate, organize, and disseminate those resources. Overall the intent of Information Resource Management is to increase the usefulness of information both to the government and to the public (Gary D. Blass et al, 1991).

**Objectives of Information Resource Management**

Information Resource Management helps to enhance the quality, applicability, accessibility and value of the information sources provided to the user community in the Library and Information Centers.

The success of library depends on four fundamental principles.

- Information sources are valuable resources that require proper management.
- Most of the information sources are highly needed and usable.
- The ability to disseminate and use information sources more effectively is critical success factor of the library and information centre.
- Library and Information Center should incorporate a broad view of Information Resource Management.

Information Resource Management ensures the maximum utilization of opportunities which could provide a positive drive in the direction of a library's routine works and include information resource links with users and information sources.

Library authorities must emphasize on strategic planning of Information Resource Management in order to gain a competitive advantage as they move into an era of increased automation and global competition. It can streamline the library functions, improve managerial decision making, create new services and enhance the relationships with Users, Management, Publishers and Sellers.

The ultimate goals of an effective Information Resource Management are the design, dissemination and maintenance of information source.

Information Resource Management helps to improve services productivity, efficiency and effectiveness, methods for measuring progress towards organization goals and clear roles and responsibilities for achieving those goals.

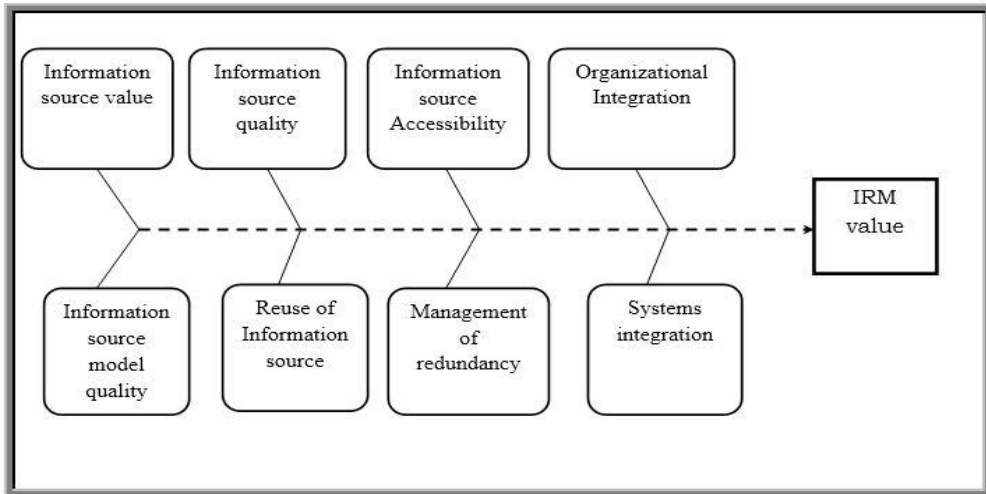
The three key steps involved in planning of Information Resource Management practices in any Library and Information Centers are to

1. Determine strategic information resource requirements,
2. Baseline the existing environment and
3. Design and process of Information Resource Management

In other words, the objectives of Information Resource Management are

1. To provide information for standardization,
2. Improve information source integrity and quality,
3. Minimize and control information source redundancy,
4. Decrease application development costs and
5. Increase the effectiveness of information management

The eight primary goals and metrics to measure the effectiveness of Information Resource Management which are shown in the diagram below



**Figure 1 Goals of Information Resource Management**

### Scope of Information Resource Management in Libraries

The goals and objectives of library and information centre form the basic foundation of the Information Resource Management strategic planning process. The challenges faced by Library and Information Centre are

- What library it wants to be in?
- Core activities of the library
- Identification and analysis based on the critical factors to Information Resource Management's future success
- Information Resource Management's marketing of library products and services
- Studying the library's users and their needs and
- Analysing the strengths and weaknesses of the library.

The principles describe the statements of preferred direction, goals and concepts for guiding the development and use of technology in support of an Information Resource Management environment.

The principles are subject to modification according to the number of the collection, type of services, the users and library requirements change. Adoption of these principles will have a profound impact on the management of information sources, the structure and configuration of technical facilities, and the delivery of responsive, value-added services to users.

The Information Resource Management plan will help in the design and implementation of the information systems necessary to support the library's objectives and activities.

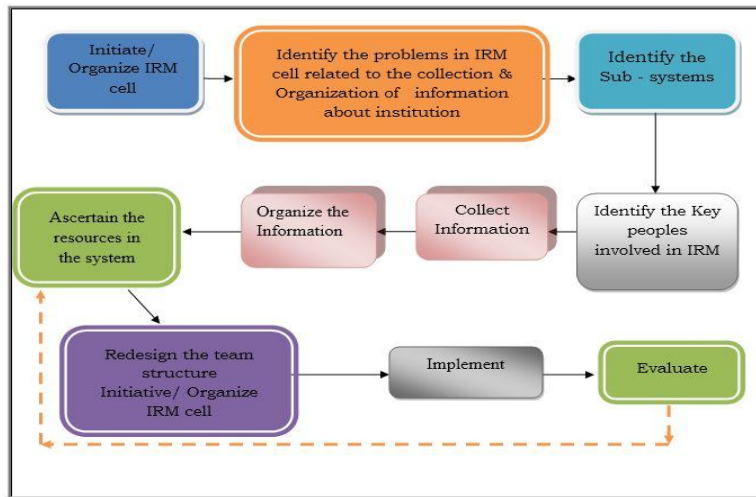
The various stages of Information Resource Management process are respectively translating the strategic library's plan into strategic information source requirements, constructing Information Resource Management models based on identified strategic information requirements, constructing target process from the library structures, creating a strategic implementation plan that specifies how the target processes are to be implemented

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and conducting a post-implementation review to ensure that Information Resource Management is achieving its intended objectives.

### Working Pattern of Information Resource Management Centers in Library and Information Centres

In the current competitive world (Economic, Political), Library and Information Centers are able to identify the opportunities and assess the threats.



**Figure 2 Working pattern of Information Resource Management**

### Responsibility for Information Resource Management

The successful implementation of Information Resource Management is the responsibility of the Librarian and assisted subordinate staff of the library. As with any resource, Librarian must ensure the availability of information source and information about users' needs. It is important to note that everyone (Management, User and Publisher) supports Information Resource Management, and that support can best be achieved when the concept is promoted by librarian effectively and efficiently.

### The Role of IRM In Library and Information Centres

The Information Resource Management strategic plan in libraries should focus on how information and technology will support the goals and objectives outlined by the library. IRM strategies must be creative and flexible to address the current needs and be potentially expanded to cater to the future needs of the users.

Information Resource Management is an approach to library and information centres' planning that emphasizes on the importance of information as a valuable resource. It focuses on acquiring, processing and maintaining a balanced information sources, and assist the library and library professionals to do things better, faster and at the lowest cost.

Information Resource Management is the term used to describe the function that manages, organizes and coordinates the document profile and the user's profile so that it best supports library activities.

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An information system is a set of interacting components, e.g., information sources, human resources, financial sources, telecommunications, etc., with multiple interactions and relationships among them. Effective information management systems are the product of a carefully constructed Information Resource Management environment.

Information Resource Management is being planned, designed and developed in the midst of many complex and conflicting priorities – library routines, total quality management, acquisitions and economic volatility. Information Resource Management provides the principles, parameters and standards that define the environment of library and information centres.

**Factors for Implementing an IRM in Libraries**

The following six factors are involved in the implementation of Information Resource Management in libraries

Leadership and involvement of librarians are necessary for implementing Information Resource Management in libraries

Formal Information Resource Management Infrastructure (Ground Rules/Controls). Library and information centers should have a clear cut framework of Information Resource Management, IRM Policies, IRM Standards, IRM Development Methodology and IRM Tools.

**The Information Resource Management model**

The library professionals create various models of Information Resource Management like Functional Model, Organizational Model, Library source Location Model , Conceptual Data Model, Information source processing Model, Library service Model and Library Technology implementation Model for developing Information Resource Management.

**Master Implementation Plan**

Library professionals are responsible for deciding all the details i.e. when, who and areas for implementing Information Resource Management plan in libraries. Effective Information Resource Management Organizational Structure and Transition Plan. Effective Organizational diagrams and Organization charters are required to implement Information Resource Management in libraries.

**Appropriate skill base**

Library professionals must develop skills related to managing information resources.

**Benefits of Implementing IRM in Libraries**

The benefits of implementing Information Resource Management in libraries are listed below.

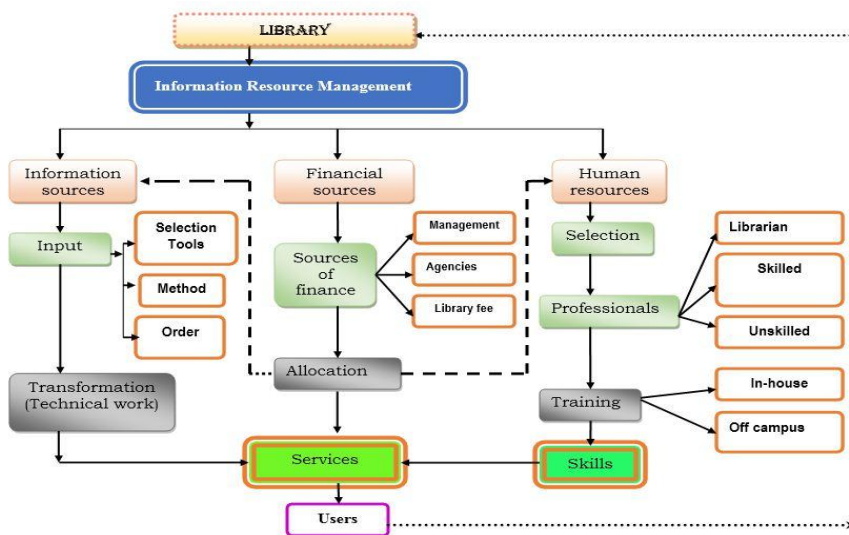
- It is concerned with effective management and use of information sources,
- It helps to reuse information resources and eliminate redundancy of information resources,
- It helps to prepare complete and current documentation of all information resources in an organized and meaningful way,
- It helps to identify the gaps and duplication of information sources,

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- It clarifies roles and responsibilities of librarians, Management, Users, Publishers and sellers,
- It saves costs in the procurement and handling of information sources,
- It identifies the cost benefits of different information resources,
- It actively supports management decision processes with quality information sources,
- It enables us to control information resources and perform effective impact analysis and
- It improves communication within the institution.

### Prototype Design Model for Information Resource Management

Information Resource Management helps to manage information sources in the suitable way and the users utilize the managed information sources to fulfil the educational needs. Library professionals should be ready to adopt innovation and challenges in their libraries for managing information resources and the users should create interest and awareness to utilize information resources. From a consideration of the above factors, a prototype model has been suggested and the same is shown in figure



### Conclusion

Environment, global issues, integration, technology, increased security and preservation risks, inadequate knowledge in information resources and role of library professionals are the critical issues in managing information resources. This article presents a novel and efficient Information Resource Management approach to the information society environment.

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