CHAPTER - 7
CONCLUSION
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Information literacy is gaining momentum. It is found essential to make the information literacy programme regular activity in the higher learning and research and development institutions. Library professionals are slowly and steadily acquainting with the technological gadgets and showing interest in guiding the users in information search and accessing information through several means. It is advisable to collaborate with other professionals such as computer and communication, media technology including teaching community.

The study has revealed that the information and communication technology infrastructure facilities are available in majority of the libraries selected for the survey. It has been noticed that information literacy programmes are conducted using advanced technological tools such as Intranet portals and E-mails. There is also the evidence of different techniques like audio, video and multimedia being integrated while developing information literacy programmes for better and effective delivery. Technology has also influenced a lot in the way the information literacy programmes are planned, designed and delivered to the end users. The new technology, specifically Internet has proved its potential in the education sector and the library instruction programmes are also designed using variety of services provided by Internet. The Internet is arguably the electronic resource that is now having the most significant impact on library services, and also on the professional activities.

This survey has brought forward some of the impediments in planning, designing and delivering information literacy programmes.
The time available for library staff to perform the information literacy teaching is the major issue. This problem can be tackled by appointing separate staff for information literacy instruction activities. The libraries under survey have great opportunity to exploit other expertise available in the institution in developing and delivering information literacy products. There are also other problems of effective delivery of information literacy instruction such as teaching information skills to staff who are highly intelligent in an organisation oriented towards using and extending knowledge. There are fewer opportunities for information literacy training in these situations as often these staff especially those with significant administrative responsibilities find themselves too busy to spend time acquiring information literacy skills. The respondents also have the task of tackling user resistance or user apathy and formulating a strategy for proper staff development who can take the challenge of promoting organisation wide information literacy mission.

The need of the hour is effective utilisation of information and communication technologies in planning, designing and delivering information literacy programmes. Instructions should be provided in locating, accessing, evaluating and effectively using electronic information available on the Internet. The copyright issues related to electronic information access and use should also form part of the information literacy programmes and accordingly interactive tutorials and expert lectures be organised. Library professionals can emerge as the leaders in motivating the users in the academic and research environment to become lifelong learners. This clearly demands that the professionals should master the critical skills in imparting information
literacy. Information literacy programmes can be successful ventures if they incorporate screen captures, audio, video and multimedia techniques and different learning styles so as to make them more interesting and easy to learn and understand. Network technologies should be used to a maximum extent for effective delivery of information literacy programmes. Information literacy programmes are the effective tools in the proper utilisation of library resources and making users more informed in their areas of research and help them in increasing the research productivity of the individuals in general and the organisation in particular. It can be noted here that the objectives formulated for the study are satisfactorily proved and the suggestions are given wherever necessary to overcome the possible barriers for effective information literacy instruction.

To conclude, the mission of information literacy is never ending. To cope-up with the growth of knowledge, users and information packages, there is always a need to master the technologies. Therefore, discussions, surveys and further intensive researches becomes inevitable to promote the information literacy movement in any country. This is more required in a country like India to keep alive the democratic system by empowering the citizens with information. In this process the libraries and information centres become the active partners in the progress. Considering all these important issues of information empowerment and its significance in the present society, it is prophesized that;

"Information literacy is an ongoing journey; it should not be considered a destination"