National information policy, information infrastructure and libraries

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Abstract

Information dissemination and accessibility is underlying factor for sustainable economic, political, communal, and social development. Information policy affects all of us because without information, we don’t function individually and definitely not as a society. The aim of the information society is to gain competitive advantage through using IT in a creative and productive way internationally. Libraries are information institutions inherently. They play a key role as information pipeline. It is important carefully uphold the standards and policies which support its mission. In principle, library management policy should coincide with strategic national or international information society goals. However, libraries as creators of national information policy are less visible comparing with other cultural institutions. The current abstract is a preliminary report for defining and considering library role in information society policy and global information infrastructure development process. The document will refer as a basis for presentation at the international workshop being held in conference 20th October, 2011: “Libraries - for science, education”.

The structure of Knowledge-based Economy Look like:

- Education systems that ensures that citizens are equipped to acquire, use, and share knowledge
- Innovation systems that bring together researchers and businesses in commercial applications of science and technology
- An information society infrastructure that gives all people access to affordable and effective information and communications
- An economic and institutional framework that ensures a stable macroeconomic environment, competition, flexible labor markets, adequate social protection

Information dissemination and accessibility is underlying factor for sustainable economic, political, communal, and social development. Information policy affects all of us because without information, we don’t function individually and definitely not as a society. The aim of the information society is to gain competitive advantage through using IT in a creative and productive way internationally. The information society produces enormous amount of information, information technologies enable to collect, store, archive information and access it at anytime and anywhere in modern ways. The information policy is determined as the set of rules, regulation and standards that controls the access to information for society. A concept is difficult to understand
when it constantly is growing and evolving due to the information it covers and as we know information is always changing. Still, the national information policy is a key issue of culture, knowledge and information institutions.

Libraries are information institutions inherently. They play a key role as information pipeline. It is important carefully uphold the standards and policies which support its mission.

- The general mission for libraries in this dynamic, challenging and globally-networked environment is advancing the world’s knowledge.
- The online landscape will increasingly resemble the “semantic web” – in which computers become capable of extracting, classifying, categorizing, and analyzing data to create context and new uses for content.
- Library users will increasingly demand searches that identify sources of quality information and gives new context to content.

In principle, library management policy should coincide with strategic national or international information society goals. However, libraries as creators of national information policy are less visible comparing with other cultural institutions.

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In October 1998 the European Parliament adopted an initiative report “The Roles of Libraries in Modern Society”, pointing out the library role “as one of the key elements for open access to information, which is crucial to democratic information society development”¹.

The European Commission undertook The Digital libraries initiative (DLI) in 2005 as part of the 2010 strategy to enhance the digital economy. Digital Agenda for Europe: Digital Libraries Initiative identifies seven priority action areas where creation of digital content and access to it remain among the EU priorities in the development of the information society.

IFLA Strategic Plan 2010-2015 stresses the goal which focuses on “enabling libraries to increase awareness among decision makers of the key role libraries play in advancing the information and knowledge society”².

The Professor of University of Malaysia, Zawiyah M. Yusof, divides information policy development issues into six groups: Technical and Scientific Information, Library, Information and communication technology (ICT), Social Issues, Government information, and Economy³.

The fundamental part of any library’s mission is preservation of our past, enhancement of the present and enrichment of the future. It includes issues like book access, digital archive, content distribution, national bibliography, foreign publication acquisition and etc. Basically library activities are based on information and communication technologies (ICT) that operate as integral

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³ Classification of issues underlying the development of information policy: [http://idv.sagepub.com/content/26/3/204.full.pdf+html](http://idv.sagepub.com/content/26/3/204.full.pdf+html)
part of information infrastructure. IT is driving force encouraging and stimulating information exchange for the future everywhere in the world. The close cooperation with IT sector, encourage libraries to renew its services and processes under the prevalent worldwide tendencies. Libraries and ICT areas supporting each other shall be considered as the foundation that underlies information development policy.

The main aims contributing to information infrastructure development shall focus on:

- Creation of a new understanding of libraries as important actors in the knowledge and information policy
- Fulfilling library mission through the guidance of information policy (etc. "Electronic information policy for library users")
- Development of analytical tools to assess the efficiency and impacts of library activities
- Establishment of communication mechanism among libraries and their stakeholders, partners and communities
- Continual involvement into the process of preparation and improvement of national regulations and guidelines with reference to practices of European and international information policy
- Observation of trends in information processes, including IT issue, worldwide
- Application of consolidated solutions of information infrastructure into library activities

The inclusion of given aims into the library policy framework significantly shall increase visibility of libraries in information policy arena nationally and internationally. In digital 21 century where the flow of information is instantaneous and without boundaries, library vision shall be strengthened by leading debates and advocacy to national and international information community in strategy and policy and informational standards.

In the future Libraries will:

- guarantee access for future generations;
- enable access to everyone who wants to do research;
- support research communities in key areas for social and economic benefit;
- enrich the cultural life of the nations;
- lead and collaborate in growing the world’s knowledge base.
- people will continue to use the library as an interactive research space
- Libraries will need to continue to demonstrate their value
• consolidation of print collections, cloud repositories of content, automated preservation and infrastructure will be more common

• Libraries will be interoperable.
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Our changing Context

“We preserve the intellectual memory of the nation, we are a major player in the research ecosystem, we support economic growth”.

D.L. Brindley. Chief Executive of British Library, 2010
The Key Message

..the new knowledge-networked economy requires a totally different strategic management mindset and toolbox.

The traditional approaches are not completely obsolete, but used on their own they are inappropriate for sustainable organizational performance and survival in today’s knowledge-networked economy.

Globalization

• As globalization of competition has intensified, some have begun to argue a diminished role for nations.
• Instead, internationalization and other factors arguably make nations more important. National differences in character and culture, far from being threatened by global competition, prove integral to success in it.
• National governments must set the appropriate strategies, which underpin cultural and economic prosperity.
The challenge today:
Changing the Rules of the Game

THE KEY CHALLENGE FOR EACH ORGANISATION IS TO BECOME THE ARCHITECT OF REVOLUTION IN ITS INDUSTRY, LEAVING OTHERS TO PLAY CATCH-UP. THE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR ORGANISATIONS INTENT ON WINNING IN THE NEW ECONOMY IS NON-LINEAR INNOVATION.

New Role of Libraries

- Rapid upgrading and innovation is needed to create and sustain advantage in advanced economies. Libraries also will not ultimately succeed unless they base their strategies on improvement and innovation.

- Understanding the new and different role of libraries in the context of competitive advantage of the nations will be a task which occupies much of what follows.
Mission for New Libraries

- The general mission for libraries in this dynamic, challenging and globally-networked environment is advancing the world's knowledge.

- The online landscape will increasingly resemble the “semantic web” – in which computers become capable of extracting, classifying, categorizing, and analyzing data to create context and new uses for content.

- Library users will increasingly demand searches that identify sources of quality information and gives new context to content.

The Challenge

One of the main new challenges today is to ensure persistent and consistent growth of knowledge economy serving the basis for human development.

Our concept consists of the two main components of development:

- information society development;
- knowledge economy development.
Information Society

INFORMATION SOCIETY IS A TERM, WHICH REFLECTS THE GROWING CODIFICATION AND TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE WITHIN SOCIETY.

Information Policy

The information policy is determined as the set of rules, regulation and standards that controls the access to information for society.

National information policy is a key issue of culture, knowledge and information institutions.
What is the Knowledge Economy?

It’s about:

- Improving productivity, competitiveness, and growth
- New approaches to education, innovation, and the use of ICT
- Networking, inclusiveness, partnership
- A different role for Government

What does a Knowledge-based Economy Look like?

- **Education systems** that ensure that citizens are equipped to acquire, use, and share knowledge

- **Innovation systems** that bring together researchers and businesses in commercial applications of science and technology
- An information society infrastructure that gives all people access to affordable and effective information and communications

- An economic and institutional framework that ensures a stable macroeconomic environment, competition, flexible labor markets, adequate social protection
Binding three layers

KBT Knowledge (KM, content, organizational tools)

ICT Interactivity
Communication Infrastructure, Computing Infrastructure

Complexity Computational science (visualization, simulation)

Strategic Knowledge Management

70% PEOPLE
Attitudes, Sharing, Innovation, Skills, Team work, Motivation, Organization, Vision, Objectives, Communities, Standards

20% PROCESS
KM Maps, Work Flows, Integration, Best Practices, Business Intelligence Standards

10% TECHNOLOGY
Data stores & formats, Networks, Internet, Data Mining & Analysis, Decision tools, Automation Standards

n% = effort required

According to D. Mintz

n%}
World Memory Institutions

It will be increasingly important for knowledge institutions to reinvent and reposition themselves to create efficiency in service provision and to demonstrate the measurable value they add to the economy.

Future for Libraries I

In the future Libraries will:
1. guarantee access for future generations;
2. enable access to everyone who wants to do research;
3. support research communities in key areas for social and economic benefit;
4. enrich the cultural life of the nations;
5. lead and collaborate in growing the world’s knowledge base.

As access to mobile devices becomes ubiquitous, users will expect seamless access to information and services, provided anywhere, in real time.
Future for Libraries II

- People will continue to use the library as an interactive research space;
- Libraries will need to continue to demonstrate their value;
- Consolidation of print collections, cloud repositories of content, automated preservation and infrastructure will be more common;
- Libraries will be interoperable.

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