INTRODUCTION

Information technology is a combination of Computer and telecommunication technique which makes possible new systems and products to help people at work, in education and at home. Information Technology is, thus, all about application of the wide variety of electronic technology to the information handling activities that are central to the operations of any organisation. In the domain of library and information service, by information technologies such as computer, telecommunication word processing, micrographics, reprographics, video recording and other electronics devices for the storage, retrieval, reproduction and dissemination of information in an office or library environment.

ICT has made propound impact on the libraries and their working. This has the potential to provide libraries such tools with which these can provide better services and use unmanageable resources with traditional tools. It has enhanced the capabilities of the libraries, support effectively education, learning and research.

Libraries globally have undergone a signification change due to the application of ICT in automated catalogue, online retrieval etc. Information communication technology has been one of the major factors causing changes in the field of library science in which people and user can communicate, retrieve and disseminate the information. There is an increasing awareness of information technology and its application among librarians.

ICT concept and technical libraries

ICT incorporates the range of technologies used to support communication and informatics. ICT includes both Network and its applications. Networks include fixed, wireless and satellite telecommunications, broadcasting networks. Well known application are the Internet, database management systems and multimedia tools and renounces used to communicate and to create, disseminate, store and manage information. According to Hancalik ICT are those technologies that enable the handling of information and facilitates different forms of communication. These include capturing technologies, storage technologies (CD ROM), processing technologies (application software), communication technologies (LAN), and display technologies (Computer monitor) so, ICT can be defined as “The use and application of computers, Telecommunications and microelectronics in acquisition, storage, retrieval, transfer and dissemination of information.

According to Dr. T.Vishwanathan “ICT is an electronic technological tool, which is used to handle and process the information electronically”.

As per encyclopedia of library and information science, “ICT is an electronic technology for collecting, storing, processing and disseminating information”. 
In nutshell, it is an application of various techniques for the acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information. In terms of technology point of view, it includes various technologies such as a computer, telecommunication devices, reprography and printing etc.

The digital library have implications for the kinds of information and other resources. If a digital library is conceived in terms of a traditional library, certain resources are implied, if one has a broader view, other kinds of resources would be appropriate. Thus one puts into a digital form library whatever one wishes to put into it, so long they can be digitalised. Theoretically, the possibilities are almost unlimited.

The digital resources found in an engineering college library will depend on the library’s collection development policy, on what the users of the library want to be included as well as on what technically and economically feasible. But the important issues are not so much what kind of resources are possible as what can be afforded and more important what is needed. These decisions can be made only by librarians and the user groups that are involved. There are some of the important problems involved in selecting and acquiring materials for inclusion in technical library.

There are print resources found in traditional libraries. But by the change in time and reading taste, such resources are reproduced in digital form that support teaching and research functions. First are the kinds of metadata that libraries are producing for centuries; Index catalogues. More and more full text are available in digital form, as well as multimedia and various sets of numerical data etc.

1.1.1 Digital resources in Engineering College Libraries

1. Traditional resources:
   a) Indexes, Catalogues
   b) Catalogues of catalogues
   c) Books
   d) Journals (Articles technical reports, teaching aids, references tools
   e) Multimedia collection: Photographs
   f) Numerical data: Census report, weather report

2. Non-traditional resources: scholarly communication, pre-print archives, newsprint and list serve postings, collection of mails.

3. Resources that are not informational in a traditional library. Materials of special interest groups, personal papers, collections, essays, home papers.

4. Library services: Reference queries, statistical analysis, customised maps, readers’ advisory service, search tools.
1.1.2 **Digital Resources:**

There are many digital resources adapted to the technological environment and using them in libraries. These are as follows:

a) Directories in electronic format.

b) Abstracts, indexes and table of contents services (including those of full text journals and magazines indexed) in electronic format.

c) Every clepedia and alamanaces in e-format

d) Full text and multimedia databases.

i) e.-book

ii) e-serials

iii) recordings

iv) videos

v) podcaste

vi) image

e) News and News service (current awareness) sources

f) Key primary documents

i) Company filings

ii) Laws and regulations

iii) Research data

iv) Research reports

vi) Statistical resources

g) Search engines

h) Meta sites

i) E-mail

1.) Listserv

2.) Major demo
j) Blogs, social networking tools and web forums.

1.1.3 Convergence

It describes the ways in which print (ink and paper, and electronic), audio, video, and other sources of information although distributed on the web have been brought together on the web. Multiple forms of information have been made accessible via technical mechanisms including central databases such as Google. We can pull the information from the convergence, resources and organise it into usable forms. For example E-Library, knowledge-bases and search guides.

E-library focus on e-resources (i) that are free (or rather without direct cast to your library) or (ii) will the collection include fee-based resources that the library must pay for, negotiate licenses for, or participate in a cooperative arrangements to gain access. Freely available web e-resources are not always the best resources, but when smaller or isolated libraries can mediate web access to their library users, they can often provide access to information they might not have been able to afford in the past. Even the libraries that cannot afford to purchase the large multivolume print set and updates it by current awareness resources and provide access to their users to access their information needs.

1.1.4 E-resources and Engineering Libraries.

The key criteria of evaluating e-resources is to determine the source of the data, the research and technologies use in collecting the information and the authority of information provider. Each field of engineering has its own particular vocabulary and accepted research methodology. The critical element in efficiently selecting engineering related e-resources is to focus on the area and data interests of library’s users community. Initial selection criteria must also include the educational or complicity level required by these library users.

Print resources are also important tools in engineering although several users prefer the electronic version.

1.1.5 Balancing Print and Electronic Resources:

As much as e-resources dominate the global information environment, there is still a place for print and other physical media in libraries not just in our archives and special collections that archive and preserve the historical or the unique but the books and magazines that people read daily. The question that seems most relevant when discussing print vs. e-resources is what do we when/if the power goes out and cannot go on computers. To what extent does our library need to support information needs when there are many barriers in providing access to e-resources.
Beyond the issue of energy infrastructure is also that of accessibility. For some reading on a computer screen is uncomfortable. E-resources vendors have tried various readers and resources for reading with very limited success. Print on paper for extending reading will be a preference until technology can solve the problem of readability. The newest kindle does not do this. Another issue is funding. It needs sufficient funding for smooth use of e-resources. Furthermore it needs proper format and a sound infrastructure which change in attitude from print to e-print resources.

Libraries can benefit economically and knowledgeably in converting from print based to e-resources based processing. There are saying to be had is not processing print that happens, but there is much in processing workflows that is just routine for the storage and long term presentation of print collections. Then individual libraries can confidently retire or discard their legacy print collections, especially those that are available in digital formats and ultimately move to repurposed high value campus space.

1.1.6 Resource Sharing

In India there are few efforts to provide and share electronic resources through networking. The National Information System for science and Technology (NISSAT), department of scientific and industrial research (DSIR) took up initiatives for the design and development of library network in India in 1985 in order to share the resources available in libraries. Networks have taken initiatives recently by launching an innovative service called electronic delivery service in July 2000. Special libraries like engineering colleges libraries are maintaining computerised database and acting as information providers of specific subject area.

**Electronic journals’ consortium:** In India, the major special libraries initiated consortium subscription to e-journals. There are many consortiums in the field of engineering and technology which are providing efficient services to libraries.