ENHANCE INFORMATION IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE: DIRECTING THE INFLUENCE OF GLOBALIZATION ON ACCESS AND SHARING

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Abstract

Globalization has fundamentally reshaped the landscape of information access and sharing in our ever-more interconnected society. This paper explores the influence of globalization on academic libraries, examining the dynamics of information access and sharing, and proposes strategies to enhance their role in this globalized context. It also delves into the diverse effects of globalization on several crucial aspects of modern life and explores the multifaceted impact on the dissemination and accessibility of information in the global village. There are challenges and opportunities presented by globalization in shaping the flow of information across geographical, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries. By a comprehensive analysis of literature, the paper examines the role of digital technology, socio-political factors, and economic structures in mediating information access and sharing in the global context. It discusses the implications of unequal access to information and the potential for digital divides highlighting the existing inequalities in information access among different socioeconomic groups and geographical regions. It also highlights the importance of addressing ethical considerations and promoting inclusivity in information dissemination. This paper explains the intricate dynamics of information dissemination in our globalized world with the aim of guiding strategies that promote both universal access and responsible sharing practices within the global community.

Keywords: Globalization; Information Access; Information Sharing; Global Village

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1. Introduction

In the era of globalization, the concept of a "Global Village" has profoundly impacted the way information is accessed and shared in academic libraries. This transformation is driven by rapid technological advancements and the increasing interconnectedness of global communities. As academic libraries navigate this new landscape, they face both challenges and opportunities in facilitating equitable access to information and fostering a culture of sharing. In today's digital age, the world is more interconnected than ever before, with information flowing uninterruptedly across borders and transcending geographical barriers. This phenomenon, commonly referred to as globalization has transformed the way information is accessed, shared and used all over the world. With the rapid expansion of the internet globalization has facilitated unprecedented levels of connectivity and interaction among individuals, communities, and nations. But along with the benefits of increased access to information, globalization has also brought a number of challenges like issues of digital inequality, cultural assimilation, and information manipulation.

2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:
- To study the influence of globalization on information access and exchange.
- To explore the role of information technology in globalization.
- To assess the impact of globalization on academy library services.
- To understand the factors of globalization on information accessibility and dissemination.
- To investigate challenges and solutions ensuring equitable and inclusive access to knowledge in the globalized era.

3. Literature Review

The effects of globalization on information access and sharing have been broadly elaborated in recent literatures. Helena Tapper (2000) highlights the possibilities and potential risks associated with the localization of the global information society. Rupinder Singh (2011) in his writing points out how information and communication technology (ICT) helps to provide information sources and services at everyone's doorstep and also discusses some open-source software like Greenstone, Dspace among others that help the library professionals. Sarah Okonedo et al. (2014) examines the influence of ICT on globalization of library and information services in south west Nigeria, establishing a benchmark for library functions and services. Namita Pareek and Anita Gangrade (2016) discusses the role of libraries as information centers in the context of globalization and mentions the challenges faced by the Library & Information Service (LIS) sector in India. Similarly, Fathima Beevi (2018) addresses the consequences of globalization in libraries, suggesting that the evolution towards digital resources is both inevitable and beneficial for global access to information. Davender Kumar and Shailendra Bhushan Sharma

(2018) has also highlighted specific issues and challenges faced by libraries in India, pointing out the necessity for libraries to adapt to digital management techniques to remain relevant. Bógdał-Brzezińska (2020) focuses on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a catalyst for development in the age of globalization, presenting the current evolution of information society and problems of digital divide. The theme of globalization and its impact on library services is further explored by Ajie Ifeoma Ajie (2021) where it was inferred that globalization in academic library have a bright future with the advent of new technologies. Odularu and Agunbiade (2022) discusses the globalization of technology and its implications for academic libraries, emphasizing the importance of managing information resources effectively to support higher education. Lastly, Gamze Sart et al. (2022) provide an empirical analysis on the impact of ICT and globalization on educational attainment, offering evidence of the positive outcomes associated with digital advancements in the educational sector.

4. Globalization

Globalization is the process of worldwide dynamic interaction among people, corporations and governments of various nations bringing the world closer through information, knowledge, culture and exchange of goods. It has impacts on environment, culture, political system, economic growth, prosperity and the overall welfare of societies worldwide. One significant facet of globalization involves the accessibility and sharing of information knowledge.

Globalization of library services requires the provision of information service without borders or limitations. In the context of libraries, globalization involves leveraging information and communication technologies to reach people across even the most remote corners of the globe. By globalizing library resources, individuals of all ages can thrive in contemporary society. Consequently, this technology empowers the masses to engage in the decision-making processes of the government, which directly impact their lives.

4.1 Information Technology in Globalization

Information technologies are increasingly recognized as vital instruments for overcoming obstacles in accessing and disseminating information. Majority of the information are published in digital forms all over the world. One of the important features of globalization is the widespread use of digital technologies that have revolutionized the way information is produced, disseminated and finally used. Information technology has revolutionized the world and transformed it into a 'Global Village' where world is viewed as a community in which distance and isolation has been dramatically reduced. Profound changes in the recent decades have led to the growing necessity to acquire, utilize, and share knowledge because the absence of knowledge is a significant contributor to underdevelopment. Information services

deals with acquisition, storage, analysis, retrieval, and dissemination of information to society. Technologies that enhance efficiency and effectiveness are integrated into information systems and these are pivotal in overcoming the obstacles to accessing and disseminating information.

The benefits of digital resources have reshaped the responsibilities of both library and information professionals and also the end users. It is essential to develop digital libraries in order to adapt to the technological advancements and the utilization of information. This is because the digital libraries have the potential to transform and revolutionize information dissemination in terms of accessibility, speed, and availability.

4.2 Role of Internet in Globalization

Internet plays a crucial role in expanding our global knowledge repository and foster closer connection among people and society that facilitates the exchange and communication of data across people worldwide. Internet provides facilities by which information can be stored, arranged and sent to users in a quick, timely and accurate manner. There are huge number of web pages and databases that are readily accessible on internet and serves as a repository of information on any subject in the world. This wealth of resources encompasses electronic journals, books, library catalogs, institutional repositories, databases, directories and organizational data among others. The Internet facilitates access to these resources through connectivity tools such as Electronic Mail, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), Telnet, World Wide Web, etc.

The internet has profoundly transformed the entire information management process. Its utilization has augmented the effectiveness of library and information professionals, reshaped the landscape of library and information related tasks and enabled users with unprecedented access to information sources. It plays an important role in carrying out various library operations like collection development, acquisition, classification, cataloging, circulation, resource sharing and others. The number of internet users worldwide has gradually increased (in Fig.1) in the last ten years accelerating the dissemination of ideas and information.
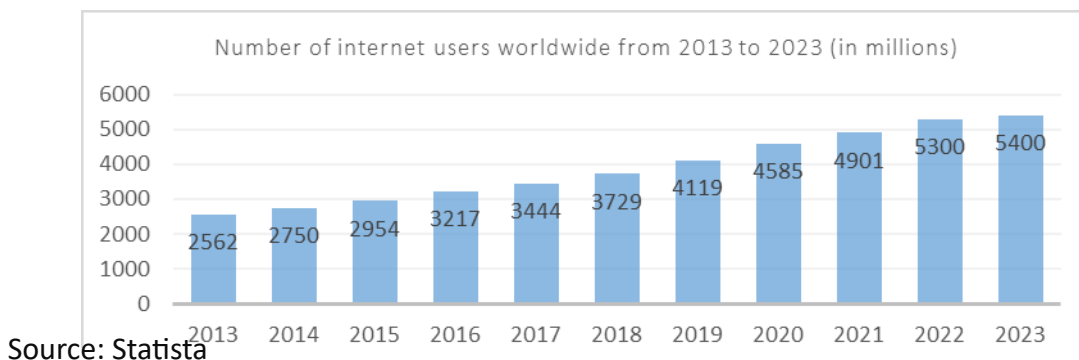

Source: Statista

Figure 1: Number of internet users.

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5 Impact of Globalization on Academic Library Services

Globalization has a significant impact on the academic library services, transforming how information is accessed, shared and disseminated. Some key impacts include:

- **Access to Global Information Resources**: Globalization has broadened the availability of a wide range of information sources for academic libraries. Libraries are now able to offer access to digital collections, databases and online repositories containing scholarly works, e-books, multimedia content and archival materials from all over the world. This enables users to explore diverse perspectives and remain updated with latest research trends.
- **Digital Libraries and Online Catalogues**: Globalization has facilitated the development of digital libraries and online catalogs, enabling libraries to digitize their collections and offer remote access. Academic libraries helps in disseminating open access resources, including institutional repositories and open access journals. Users can search, browse and access library resources from anywhere, using devices connected to the internet.
- **Collaborative Resource Sharing**: Globalization has encouraged academic libraries to engage in collaborative partnerships with institutions, organizations, and libraries worldwide through initiatives such as interlibrary loan programs, consortia agreements, and digital sharing platforms. These collaboration involve resource sharing, joint research initiatives, and collaborative collection development efforts.
- **Technology Integration**: Globalization has facilitated the integration of technology into academic library services. Libraries adopt digital tools and platforms for various functions like cataloging, circulation, reference services and scholarly communication. Further, technologies like virtual reality, artificial intelligence and data analytics are increasingly being utilized to enhance user experiences and make library operations more efficient.
- **Multilingual Services**: Globalization has led academic libraries to offer multilingual services to meet the needs of diverse users. Libraries now offer collections, programs, and services in multiple languages, catering to the linguistic and cultural preferences of their communities. This includes multilingual cataloging, user interfaces, and reference services, ensuring equitable access to information.
- **Global Information Literacy**: Globalization highlights the importance of information literacy in maneuvering the vast amount of information available in today's

world. Academic libraries play a vital role in promoting information literacy skills among their user communities, helping them critically evaluate and ethically use information from diverse sources. This empowers users to become informed global citizens capable of engaging with complex issues and perspectives.

Globalization has transformed academic library services by broadening access to global information resources, encouraging cooperation, using technological integration and promoting information literacy. Libraries play a crucial role in facilitating knowledge creation and its dissemination in an increasingly interconnected world.

6. Socio-Political Factors Influencing Information Flows

Social and political dynamics plays a crucial role that determines who has access to information and who controls its dissemination. The factors that influence the flow of information within and outside the national boundary of any country may include government policies, censorship regimes and sometimes media ownership. In dictatorial regimes, there is restriction to freedom of expression and independent journalism which can limit the access to diverse viewpoints and propagate state-sponsored narratives. On the other hand, in liberal democracies there are concerns for misinformation, hate-speech and biasness that requires

greater transparency and accountability in the digital sphere. Moreover, geopolitical tensions and ideological conflicts have fueled information warfare and disinformation campaigns, undermining trust in traditional sources of news and creating social divisions.

7. Economic Frameworks and Inequality in Access to Information

The globalization of markets has resulted in the commercialization of information where knowledge is treated as a commodity of trade in the world economy. In this situation the economic disparities further aggravate existing inequalities regarding access to information, as those with higher financial resources get hold of the premium content and information services. Sometimes intermediaries also control the distribution of information, raising questions about the concentration of economic power and its implications in a democratic platform. Further, the commercialization of personal data has sparked ethical debates regarding surveillance capitalism and the diminishing of privacy rights, leading to demands for alternative information governance models that prioritize the public good above corporate gains.

8. Advocating Inclusivity and Ethical Information Sharing

While addressing the influence of globalization on information access and sharing, there requires multi-stakeholder approach that balances technological

innovation with social responsibility. Efforts should be made to bridge the digital divides where priority should be given to investment in infrastructure, digital literacy and community based initiatives to empower the marginalized groups. There should also be interventions by the regulatory bodies ensuring that digital platforms adhere to principles of transparency, accountability and user empowerment thus promoting a fairer information ecosystem. Ethical principles such as open access, data sovereignty and cultural diversity is required for promoting inclusivity in information sharing. Embracing these principles enables us to harness the globalization's potential to foster a fairer and more inclusive global village, where information is accessible to everyone and shared in manners that empower individuals and enhance communities.

9. Challenges and Recommendation of Information Sharing in Globalization

Information sharing in globalization faces several challenges, which can obstruct the flow of knowledge and data across borders. Some of these challenges and probable recommendations include:

- **Language Barriers**: With globalization, information is shared across diverse linguistic regions. Language barriers can hinder effective communication and understanding, limiting the accessibility and reach of shared information. Translation and localization efforts may be required to overcome these barriers but they can be sometimes time consuming and costly.
- **Cultural Differences**: Cultural differences in communication styles, norms, and values can pose challenges to information sharing. What may be acceptable or understandable in one culture may be perceived differently in another, leading to misunderstandings or misinterpretations. So, it is essential to show sensitivity norms and adopt effective cross-cultural communication strategies.
- **Security Issues**: Due to cyber threats and data breaches, concerns about information security can hinder information sharing in globalization. Organizations may be reluctant to share sensitive data or proprietary information due to fears of intellectual property theft, espionage, or cyber-attacks. Implementing robust cyber security measures and protocols is essential to mitigate these risks and build trust.
- **Regulatory and Legal Restrictions**: Different countries have varying regulations and legal frameworks governing the sharing of information, particularly concerning data privacy, intellectual property rights, and export controls. Following these regulation can be very challenging for multinational corporations operating in multiple jurisdictions. Adherence to relevant laws and regulations while

advocating for information sharing necessitates careful consideration and legal expertise.

- **Infrastructure and Technology Gaps**: Inequalities in infrastructure and technological capabilities across regions can hinder information sharing in globalization. Limited access to reliable internet connectivity, digital tools and information technology infrastructure in developing and under developed countries can limit their ability to participate fully in the global knowledge economy. Bridging these gaps through investments in digital infrastructure and technology adoption initiatives is essential for information sharing.

- **Digital Divide**: The digital divide represents the disparity between individuals who possess access to digital technologies and those who lack such access. Socioeconomic factors, geographical location and educational opportunities can contribute to disparities in access to information and digital literacy skills. Bridging the digital divide through initiatives such as digital inclusion programs, affordable internet access and technology education is essential to ensure that all individuals and communities can benefit from information sharing in globalization.

Tackling these hurdles, needs cooperation among government institutions, academic libraries, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to develop inclusive and sustainable strategies that promote information sharing while upholding privacy, security and cultural diversity in the globalized world.

10. Conclusion

The impact of globalization on information access and sharing is profound and far-reaching, shaping the way individuals, communities, and societies interact with knowledge in the digital age. The study highlights the transformative impact of globalization on academic libraries, emphasizing enhanced access and sharing of information. It stresses the pivotal role of digital platforms and cross-border collaborations in democratizing knowledge access, fostering a more inclusive academic environment. While globalization has facilitated unprecedented opportunities for information dissemination and exchange, it has also introduced new challenges, including digital divides, information inequality, and ethical dilemmas. By understanding the complexities of globalization's influence on information dynamics and adopting a multi-stakeholder approach that combines technological innovation with regulatory oversight and ethical considerations, we can harness its potential to create a more just, inclusive, and equitable global information ecosystem.

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Reviewer's View:

Include the methodology in body text. As it is review article so give clearly in brief the journals or other documents used for the study. The range of the year of the journals taken into consideration and types of journals e.g social journals or humanies or both etc must be stated.