INFS 324
INDEXING AND ABSTRACTING

Session 11 – INFORMATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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2014/2015 – 2016/2017

Session Overview

- The session introduces you to the need to have some ideas on how information can be used for national development.

Session Objectives

At the end of the session, you should be able to:

- explain how information can be used for national development

- discuss the role of information in agriculture development

- explain the impact of information in national development

- state the legal aspects of information for national development

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Session Outline

The key topics to be covered in the session are as follows:

- Topic One:	Managing Information for National Development.
- Topic Two:	The Role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Topic Three:	Information and Agricultural Development
- Topic Four:	Education
- Topic Five:	Socio-Economic Development
- Topic Six:	Legal Aspects of Information for Development.

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Reading List

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- Porat, Marc Uri. (1977). The Information Economy: Definition and Measurement. Washington, DC: U.S.   Department of Commerce, Office of Telecommunications.

- Singh, R. S. (Ed) (2008). Encyclopaedia of Library Science Today. Delhi: Anhol Publications. pp.   57- 69

- Stair, R. M. and Reynolds, G. W. (2006). Principles of Information Systems: A Managerial   Approach. 7th Ed. Boston: Thomson Course Technology. pp. 5-8.

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Topic One:

MANAGING INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Need to Manage Information for National Development

- The information explosion.

- Producers of information.
  - Do not only inform the consumers, but also to persuade them.

- Makes it easier to know who has what, thereby leading to information sharing.

- Enables society to build a good foundation as there is a better knowledge of the world around us.

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Ways by which Information can be Managed for National Development

- Acceptance of information as an important national resource,

- Equipping information provision agencies

- Ability to identify, locate and obtain local information for the use of the people.

- Identification of various sources of foreign information

- A survey of the information needs of the people.

- The compilation of national bibliographies and national union catalogues.

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Topic Two:

THE ROLE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

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Definition and Purpose

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
  - systems for producing, storing, sending and retrieving digital files. These files can contain text, sounds and images, both still and moving.

- Telecommunications and Computer technologies
  - the latest channels for the transmission of information to users.

  - They have revolutionized the whole process of information provision
    - information revolution
    - information age
    - information economy
    - information society

ROLE OF ICT

- Role of Information and Communication Technology

    Education

    Research

    Medicine

        Telemedicine

    Environment

    Culture

        Musical productions

    Commerce

    Telecommunication

Challenges in the use of ICT in Africa

- Insignificant computer hardware and software manufacturing industry in Africa.

- Inadequate maintenance facilities for ICTs.

- High rate of illiteracy in Africa.

- Poor telecommunication services.

- Lack of foreign exchange to import ICT equipment and spare parts.

- Low electricity generating capacities.

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Topic Three:

INFORMATION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Importance of Agriculture in Ghana

- Mainstay of the Ghanaian economy.

- Contributes to about half of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and absorbs about 65% of the labour force.

- The country has three main vegetational zones.
  - The savannah grassland in the northern belt

  - The coastal plains

  - Tropical forest

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Types of Agricultural Information

- Technical/Scientific information

- Commercial information

- Social information

- Legal information

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Obstacles to Agricultural Information Provision in Ghana

- High level of illiteracy.

- Low usage of radio and television sets.

- Inadequate number of personnel trained in agricultural information.

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Topic Four:

EDUCATION

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The "Information for All" Programme

- The Universal Declaration of Human Right
  - everyone has a right to education.

  - UNESCO

  - International Federation of Library Association and Institutions, (IFLA).

  - The UBC programme

  - The UAP programme

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The Advantages of Reading

- Social Values

- Linguistic Values

- Intellectual Values

- Moral Values

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Factors that Discourage Reading for Pleasure in Africa

- Predominance of the oral culture in Africa

- English as a second language

- Foreign-based contents of books

- Lack of book-buying habits

- Social factors such as housing

- Poor teaching methodologies

- Preference for television

- Electronic means of information

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Solutions to Poor Reading Habits

- More books should be written, based on the African background.

- Teachers should use methodologies that encourage students to read.

- More local language materials should be produced.

- Attention should be given to children's libraries.

- Reading should be made compulsory in all basic schools.

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Topic Four:

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Importance of Information in Socio-Economic Development

- African countries are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that information is an indispensable factor in their socio-economic development:

    - The designation of 19th November every year as African Information Day by the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for planning and social development.

Sources of Information for Socio-Economic Development

Domestic and international sources

- Government Ministries and Departments

- Universities and Research Institutes

- Non-Governmental

  - Foreign embassies
  - Regional and sub-regional organizations
  - International information systems
  - International conferences and seminars

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Problems of Information Access in Africa

- Difficulties in accessing the information.
  - Lack of proper reporting by information professionals
    - leads to misinformation
    - hampering socio-economic planning

  - The concept of confidentiality of information

- Lack of proper documentation

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Topic Six:

LEGAL ASPECTS OF INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Intellectual Freedom and Copyright

Intellectual freedom

- Means that people have both the freedom and the right to think as they like and say what they please, without governmental interference, except where there is possible danger to others in the community.

Copyright

- The sole right of preventing the copying of a physical material existing in the body of knowledge. It must be noted that copyright is concerned only with the prevention of reproduction of physical

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Definition and Purpose of Censorship

Definitions

- Censorship is the attempt to restrict the types of materials that are disseminated to the public.

Types of censorship

- Religious Censorship

- Political Censorship

- Moral Censorship

- Crime and Violence

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