

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AS REFLECTED IN DIFFERENT EDITIONS OF  
HARROD'S LIBRARIANS GLOSSARY**

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Information and communication technology, usually called ICT, is often used as an extended synonym for information technology (IT) used to describe the design and applications of systems and equipment to handle information and aid communication, including computer and network hardware, communication middleware as well necessary software. The introduction of ICT has revolutionized librarianship and its services. An effort has been made to assess the influence of IT on library and information science and services by studying the terms occurring in Harrod's Librarian's Glossary in all the editions.

**Introduction:**

Information technology (IT) is a crucial component of the modern society. Without the advances in technology, many of the realities of today's world would be purely science-fiction. It is an accepted fact that IT has changed the world more profoundly than technology so far seen in history & it will surely bring about a transformation of civilization. Due to the influence of IT, it has now become fashionable to call this generation as the information society. Thus, recognizing the potential of IT in enhancing the performance of individuals and organizations, an attempt has been made to study various terms of IT as incorporated in different editions of Harrod's Librarians Glossary in order to assess the extent of influence exerted by IT in the field of Library and Information Science.

Harrod's Librarians Glossary is the most referred to and authentic subject glossary of Library and Information Science. It was first published in 1918, which was then titled as "The Librarians Glossary", a small book of 176 pages only, published by Grafton. The glossary is intended as a terminological reference source for a range of professions, trades and crafts: librarianship, bibliography, information science, archive management, publishing and printing industry, the book trade, binding and conservation, networking, electronic storage and retrieval - both general and specialist. In addition to this, the glossary covers organizations, consortia, co-operatives, networks, professionals association and a selection of national libraries. Since its inception, many significant changes have occurred with the rapid evolution in the field of Library and Information Science. Even Ray Prytherch, the compiler of this glossary agrees that 'the major success has been the expansion of its coverage to include any newly emerging disciplines or terms that are likely to become relevant. This is quite evident from the various sub title of the different editions, which reflect the changing emphasis of the information world and the profession. Hence, the purpose of the glossary (which is to explain and define terms, concepts and techniques) is still

the same but the scope has been widened to include terms with which a librarian must be familiar, for the satisfactory performance of this professional duties. Regarding IT- related terms the coverage is restricted generally to application that will be relevant to our professions. The coverage is sufficient to provide a satisfactory base for the information professional seeking standard background knowledge.' (Preface, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.)

**Objectives:** The present study has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- To determine the influence of IT on Library and Information Science as a discipline.
- To determine the influence of IT on librarianship and information services,
- To measure the advancement of librarianship and information science as a result of IT
- To find out the connotation change of the concepts (words) with the passage of time
- To make a time-series analysis.

**SCOPE:**

Initially it was intended to cover all the nine editions of Harrod's Librarians Glossary for conducting the study exhaustively. But the first edition and the seventh edition of the glossary were unavailable. As a result, those editions have been omitted in the study, Remaining seven editions of the glossary, that is second edition, Third edition, Fourth Edition, Fifth Edition, Sixth Edition, Eight Edition, and Ninth Edition have been thoroughly scanned and wherefrom about 620 words have been listed as IT related terms, which have occupied a place in the most authoritative work in the field of Library & Information Science. Regarding the words selection from the glossary, only those fundamental concepts related with IT have been taken into consideration.

**Methodology:**

The whole study is based on thorough scanning of the various editions of Harrod's Librarians' Glossary. After completion of scanning, a list of terms have been identified for observation of the frequency of IT-related terms occurring in the various editions, their nature of definition, modification of definitions in the following editions, deletion of older terms, addition of new terms and so on. The data collected, based on this study, have been carefully analyzed and interpreted to reach a definite conclusion.

**Limitations:**

The study has been kept precise and concise. Another limitation has been the non-availability of some editions of Harrod's Librarians' Glossary.

**Literature Review:**

A number of studies have been done on the effect of IT and ICT in Library and Information Science. But a dearth of literature has been faced while doing the literature review on the topic selected. Consequently, a few articles have been reviewed considered pertinent with the study that states their experience on the impact of Information Technology on Library and Information

services. Ebrahimi (2009) opines that ‘LIS can preserve and improve its identity by applying IT and ICT and can educate librarians who can prove their benefit to the society by being in step with changes and advances in technology economy, society, and culture’. Vinitha, Kanthimathi and Devi (2006) observe that ‘the implementation of ICT in the libraries has demanded new forms of library services to get more user satisfaction. Digital library service has evolved after the implementation of ICT in the library and information centers’. Further, Antherjanam and Sheeja (2008) said that ‘the effectiveness of communication technology depends how well it provides its clients with information rapidly, economically and authentically. A large number of ICT enabled services including OPAC, e resources etc. are available in many libraries’. Minishi-Majanja (2007) wrote that ‘information and communication technologies have become ubiquitous with current and future social and organizational development. The role of these technologies in national development is undeniably significant. Thus the developing countries should embrace it’. The review reveals that many scholars are thinking about helpful application of IT on library and information services.

**Analysis:**

The Information Technology (IT) has been widely accepted by the Library and Information Science Professionals due to some certain advantages which are obtained in the processing of data. We may view library as a databank - collecting, storing and transmitting varied types of information. The increasing amount of data and the complexities of the data to be handled by library professionals have made the situation more worse. The use of such terms as “Information Revolution”, Information Overload” and “Information Explosion” is indicative of the fact that information storage and retrieval has become serious in recent years. Thus, the development in IT has effected drastic changes in library and information work. Infact, the impact of IT has permeated all sectors of library and information science. Simply it is evident from the huge influx of IT-related terms and their use in our profession. Usage of such terms may be ascertained by means of close analysis of a glossary or a dictionary, which is quite popular among the library professionals. Harrod’s Librarians Glossary, conceived to be an authoritative work in this field, reflects how IT has helped our profession to keep pace with the changing technology.

Terms and concepts are the basic stuff of this glossary. It is to be noted that the inclusion of terms in the glossary is based on its occurrence in the field or the literature of the field. Since its inception Harrod’s Librarians Glossary has been published from time to time and presently it has reached its 10<sup>th</sup> edition in 2006.

For a developing field of IT, the inclusion of the number of terms in the glossary, starting from its second edition (1959) to the ninth edition (2000), has sharply increased. This has been depicted in the table below:

<b>Edition</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> ed.</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> ed.</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> ed.</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> ed.</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> ed.</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> ed.</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> ed.</b>
<b>Publication year</b>	1959	1971	1977	1984	1987	1995	1999

<b>No. of words found related to ICT</b>	08	43	120	83	216	436	535
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It is evident from the table that from the second edition (1959) to the fifth edition (1984) of the glossary the IT related terms occurs less frequently as compared to its following editions. The reason may be that the traditional areas of librarianship gained prominence while IT has not yet made its massive impact. Subsequent editions absorbed new areas involving completely new techniques and use of equipments which endeavoured to make library work easy to achieve with the minimum of extra manpower. For ex- Ansaphone, Audio charging for charging & discharging of books, Photocharger, Punched card techniques and so on. These technological equipments were gradually discarded as new equipments made its way. Consequently, older technological terms disappeared and current terms appeared. For example - Artificial Intelligence, Expert system, Bibliographical Database, Optical character reader, so on.

Besides this, fundamental concepts relating to computer technology that has evolved with the advancement in that fields, were initially included in the previous editions and replaced by more advanced concepts in the later editions. For example - Analog Computer, Digital computer is being replaced by PCs, Laptops, and Notebook. Similarly, BASIC, COBOL is being replaced by Java. Such is the case with Magnetic tape, Microform being replaced by DVD, etc.

After carefully studying the various definitions of terms given in different editions some differences have been observed. With the publication of subsequent editions many definitions of terms have been modified or changed completely to maintain currency. Those changes have been presented in tabular form:

<b>Definitions (Total = 620)</b>	<b>Definitions changed</b>	<b>Definitions modified</b>	<b>Definitions expanded</b>	<b>Definitions shortened</b>
<b>No. of terms</b>	48	21	06	12
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	7.74	3.38	0.96	1.93

In the table above, definitions changed imply that the previous definitions have been completely changed in subsequent editions. Definitions modified imply that the existing definitions have been retained only incorporating minor changes. Definitions expanded imply that the previous definitions have been expanded for more elaborate understanding. Definitions shortened are just opposite to definitions expanded. Previous definitions which were longer have been made more brief and concise. Example of such terms are – ASCII, Boolean Logic, CD-ROM, E- mail, Input,

Local Area Network, Modem, P.C. Remote access, and so on. The list is rather long. Certain terms such as, File, Network, Duplex, Web, Back-up, Mosaic, Data were not defined in its true IT sense, what we understand today, in the initial editions (up to sixth edition.) Later by expanding the existing definition, the words have been defined in the sense of IT.

The Glossary covers many projects or programmes, like UK elib Projects related to IT as well as many awards and honours within its ambit, which have not been included in this study. Only terms and concepts are studied. Though discarded, this projects and programmes hint at the enthusiastic library professionals striving to reap benefits through the application and experimentation with IT.

Machine readable cataloguing has ushered the concept of metadata and various metadata scheme such as Dublin Core, GILS which have been covered by the glossary. Many new concepts such as DOI. Digital watermarking, Cybernetics, Cybrarian. Virtual library etc. Has occurred in the eighth & ninth edition of the glossary. Many more terms such as Digital obsolescence, Web archiving, Web 3.0, Library 3.0. with which a librarian must be familiar are yet to find a place in the glossary.

Harrod's Librarians Glossary is unique and the efforts to explain and define terms in one single volume while maintaining its extensiveness is commendable. The reflection of IT related terms in Harrod's Librarians Glossary has been considered as a mean for measuring the impact exerted on all fields of Library and Information science.

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