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ARCHIVES, MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES: DYNAMIC SYSTEMS FOR CO-OPERATION IN DISTANCE EDUCATION, THROUGH COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF QUALITATIVE INFORMATION

Martha Papadopoulou, Director of Archives of Prefecture of Ioannina
Jenny Pange, Ass. Professor, University of Ioannina, Costas Tsolakidis, University of Aegean, Greece

1. Introduction

The term education is possible to be regarded as the total of instructive frameworks and actions from family, state, individuals or social organisations aiming at the harmonious physique of the body and the growth of intellectual dexterities, the moral education and professional preparation of the members of the society. The term at the same time denotes the institution that aims in the knowledge according the systematic teaching of all educational level students, the intellectual growth, bodily and moral faculties and dexterities with regard to positively defined subjects through special institutions (schools) and established and accepted methods. It is the frame of theoretical approach of relation of instructive subjects with their equivalent scientific fields [1].

The knowledge is mainly recorded in paper (in manuscript, books, scientific magazines, newspapers) but there are also new magnetic and optical records. Its management promotes research and educational process [14]. The management of this information is performed by in "external" institutions – other than the teaching institutions, which create new knowledge and culture. These institutions extend communication and promote learning and culture of present and future. The "external" institutions are interacting with educational programs and participate in social life.

The mass media and the electronic environment possess an important dynamic required to analyse and organize thought and communication. The application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education [7] intervenes and involves changes of existing structures and models of teaching and learning. For example history and geography are determined as eminently studies of information. The historical knowledge remains the key for the comprehension of present and schools [5] are the institutions of service of social harmony, according to the philosophical reflection of Dewey.

Therefore school is not the only institution to offer education. Given the above and having in mind the technologies, techniques and methodologies of distance education; one could argue that these external institutions namely Archives, Museums and Libraries have an important role to play in education in its broader sense. The purpose of this paper is to study the way Archives, Museums and Libraries are involved in the educational process mainly by their sites and electronic material together with the rest of their infrastructure. The fact that not all of the Archives, Museums and Libraries have their material in electronic form yet is not considered for this discussion, since it is believed that is a situation that will last limited time period.

2. Archives, Museums and Libraries as contact points of information

Archives, Museums, Libraries are rich sources of information and provide learning opportunities for people of every age and profession. The definition of terms as Archives, Museums and Libraries can bring better understanding and management of their contents for the educational activity. Their missions, legal, administrative, historical, cultural, coincide as they have common activities in organizational, functional and administrative fields. Reports have shown that Archives, Museums, and Libraries have a great social impact. Although there are differences in the way they operate, the information that they collect and contain can be used as tool of management by public administration, scientists, researchers, teachers and students. The traces of their activities justify their function and define their uses.

The first term, "Museum" determines its conceptual content as collection of objects of art or science, which have their origin in collections found in the country or in the region. This land-planning provision, which declares the place of study, at the same time includes a report of information, therefore the results of scientific research that allow for the representation of past and the better comprehension of social data.

The second term "Archive", including the significance of the first, is a document's museum. It implies the total of documents, independent of date of issue, matter and form, which are produced by an institution or organisation or an individual, within the framework of its function, that is maintained in perpetuity. It denotes the organisation, the constitution, the filing cabinet, the building and the space that is intended for the storage, maintenance and use of files as well as the special software for the use data. The archivists are charged with the organization and the disposal of the material, to cover the informative, research and educational user's needs.

The third term "Library" means the simultaneous functional regulation and administration of organized collections of printed books, magazines and reading material including the audiovisual form of the above. It means also the organization and the services of personnel, aiming at the regulation and disposal of material for informative, researching and educational needs of users. The interaction between the producers and the users of information is indicated in Fig 1.

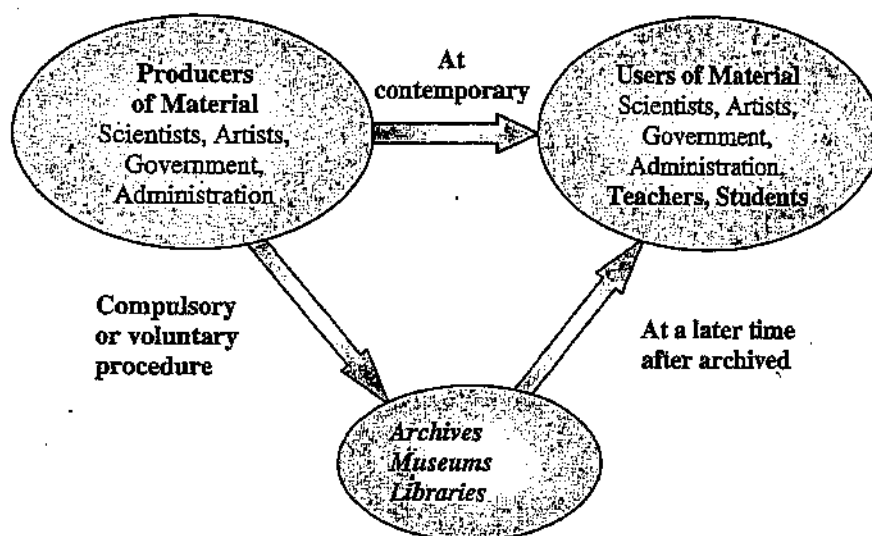


Fig 1. The Circulation of Information from and to Archives, Museums and Libraries

3. ICT and Distance Education in Archives, Museums and Libraries

The application of ICT techniques in Archives, Museums and Libraries have broaden the framework of cultural heritage and they have created new forms of contents (exhibits) for the dissemination and storage of the information that is administered by them in (electronic texts, multimedia, audiovisual etc).

The traditional contents-document does not have only natural presence but arises from computational applications (multimedia etc) and is transmitted in diverse forms as microfilm, e-mail, web pages, CDs etc. These techniques, consequently, of ICT is not only an option of the administrative work. It is registered as the standard of the operation of systems of information and it aims at the better management of the contents.

Fig 2. is an indicator of the modes of information flow from Archives, Museums and Libraries and users.

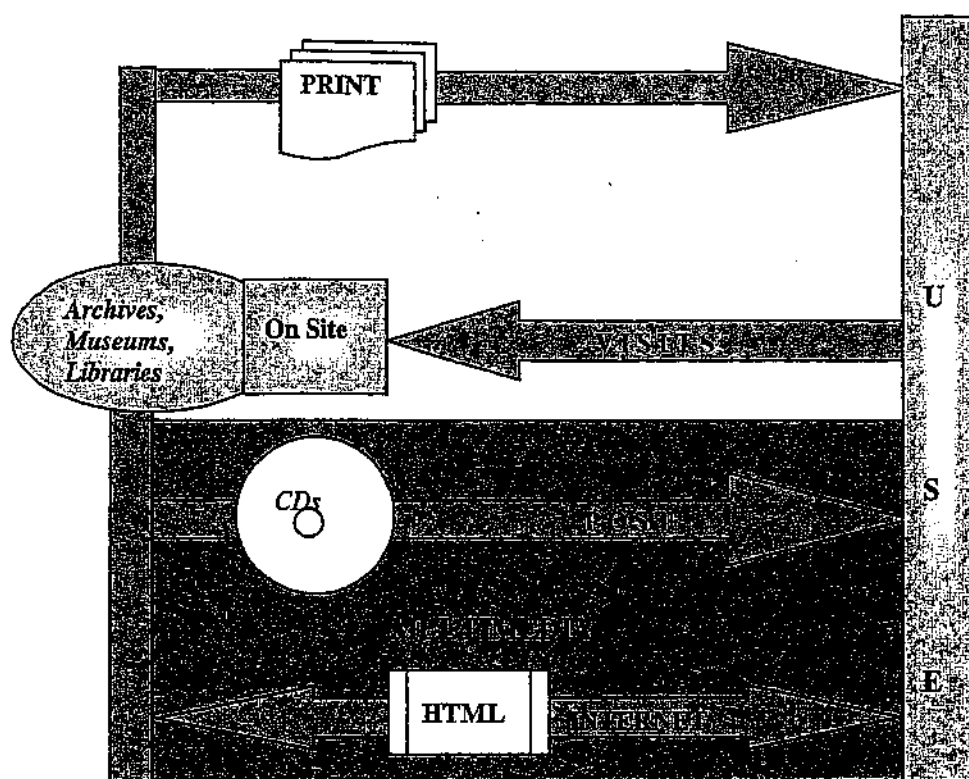


Fig 2. Information Exchange between Archives, Museums, Libraries and Users

It is obvious that the application of ICT systems in Archives, Museums, Libraries have minimized the time of access in the archival material. For example in an Archive, our first task is to sort out and categorise the different types of archival material. We check and approve our facilities with regard to a number of potential hazards, and explained about safe storage in acid-free cardboard and folders. We then have to index all the items on a database. The information that is entered on the various computer data base files enables us to build up annotated indexes of what we have in our Archives, that will also indicate where they are to be found.

The advent of the personal computer, the Internet [12] and the electronic delivery of information have transformed the world from a manufacturing, physically based economy to an electronic, knowledge-based economy. The computer has powered the need for learning to new heights as well as provided the vehicle to deliver that learning [14]. Technology has enabled educators to create, enable, deliver and/or facilitate learning electronically (e-Learning).

So learners can attend a training program "at their own pace and at their own place". They can also access training at any time, and only as much as they need; known as "Just in time and just enough" [2].

The use of Internet and the access to information has provoked a radical change of existing structures [9] and models of teaching and learning [17]. It broadens the scope of the subject object, other than the traditional forms of knowledge, i.e. teacher and book. The unification of communication, the speed and simultaneous utilization of sound, picture, text and data, have contribute to the educational process with the transmission of messages in big distance.

It is possible therefore that the teaching content, is enriched by material and bibliography from institutions other than schools as Archives, Museums and Libraries before or after the actual lesson. The navigation in descriptive and bibliographic data through the network, offers access to the users, by distance education techniques [11]. It gives the opportunity to all students with the use of a personal computer to access in educational sources. It facilitates the education of those students who live in distance regions, where there is limited access to libraries and gives the opportunity of attendance in the educational process of those who are already in the job market.

The tools of information system through internet navigation, helps the users of all three educational levels to select the studying material from archival and museum's collections, bibliography, magazines, to be connected with databases from Universities' libraries, educational organisations and to communicate with each other using electronic mail. Consequently, the use and application, of the modern technology in the educational process has influenced the role of schoolteacher as not the only institution of knowledge that monopolizes it, but also the person who undertakes roles of functional and social extent. The teacher communicates with the student, comes in contact with him immediately or indirectly and promotes the educational process with the submission of questions with traditional way or electronic, the recording of answers and treatment with modern methods. The teacher promotes the use of Archives, Museums and Libraries, guides the students to the methodology of their use, teaches the coordination of pieces of information and reveals the message and its meaning.

4. Archives, Museums and Libraries Educational Process

Archives, Museums and Libraries retrieve nation's conscience and memory [10]. It is there information is collected, processed, classified and archived. The electronic networks' connection offers access to the data that are put at the disposal of teachers, students and members of social community [18]. Educational process uses communication to express relationship, affinity, and agreement and to exchange of information between students or school teams and people in general. Modern educational process uses not only speech and writing to achieve its goals, but also images, sounds, video, etc. All these forms of expression and art are available from the web pages of Archives, Museums and Libraries in an effort to offer the available material to everybody interested [15]. Therefore nowadays, the above institutions offer a lot of educational material and a new additional skill of the teacher is required to guide students to search for it, to choose it, to collect it, to process it, to present it and to transform it into effective knowledge and culture.

The educational process enriches the new educational theories. It helps the user of information to approach new spaces and provide him with supervisory material from distance (archival, photographic, museum and bibliographic). These theories determine, moreover, dimensions of change in one's way think. The individual get wise in choice, converts the new coming informative elements, shapes affairs, comprehends the structure and is led to his intellectual maturation and handles general educational programs. But it requires a lot attention and collaboration between teachers and students.

It is important to recommend acceptable codes of moral behaviour upper cultural, religious and racial particularities. The individual follows common code either economic or social member. It follows moral standards as honesty, candidness, austerity, simplicity of style, it resources for preparation, and the future's planning and is checked by the society.

5. Some Case Studies

- a) Many schools and teachers can have access to Archives, Museums and Libraries from the Internet and retrieve the information they need. It is important to mention here the effectiveness of school programs in kindergartens in Preveza, Greece where preschool teachers used the Internet to show to young children the museums. The Internet address for the museum was taken from the book of J. Pange [12], [13]. According to this study all children were very happy using the Internet to explore the museums in various sites.

In these sites children discussed with their teacher about the museums, how often we can visit them, what they exhibit, the prehistorically animals, dinosaurs etc. The gains from such visit on-line are many. Preschool teachers admitted that the information that children get is valuable, and also the children collaborated in common projects for drawing animals, which appeared in this site.

- b) It is quite difficult to find information of doctors who worked in small places, but they have done an enormous amount of work to medicine. As an example of this category one can mention the work of Doctor Noulis, whose work was found explicitly in the archives of Ioannina Greece. The description of the pathological movements of the knee (forward and backwards) when the cruciates ligaments

were broken offers changes in the traditional scientific perceptions and is considered today that G. Noulis is the "father" of the "Lachman" test of the knee. He worked on the manoeuvre of flexing the knee and describes in details the rupture of the knee in his thesis, published in Paris in 1875. All this was discovered by an extensive search in the documents of Archives in Ioannina and other towns that he worked [14].

- c) It is proved that Archives, Museums and Libraries constitute a target site for communication and research for all the educational-levels. The Museum of History of Medicine at the University Campus of Ioannina is a good example of a good point of obtaining information for the Students of Medicine of the University of Ioannina, as well for special educational medicine related training programmes.

6. Conclusions

In the new era of Internet and communication, Archives, Museums and Libraries have a lot to offer to education. They are reaching out using modern technology and their contents can be available to students and educators as authorised and organised information.

They can help the user to learn to approach new spaces and get material from distance (archival, photographic, museum and bibliographic). The students get wise in choice, convert the new coming informative elements, comprehend the structure, handle general educational programs and are led to their intellectual maturation. This requires also a lot of attention and collaboration between teachers and students and promotes new ways of educational attitudes and methodologies.

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Authors

Dr Martha Papadopoulou
 Director of Archives of Prefecture of Ioannina
 E-Mail: archprio@otenet.gr

Dr. Jenny Pange
 Ass. Professor,
 University of Ioannina Greece
 E-Mail: jpage@cc.uoi.gr

Dr. Costas Tsolakidis
 Aegean University
 Department of Primary Education
 1, Dimokratias str. 85100 Rhodes-Greece
 E-Mail: tsolak@aegean.gr