# Module 1 Introduction to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

## Lesson 1

## Why do Librarians need to know about ICTs and acquire Skill in their Use?

# Rationale

In Asia, information is recognized as an important resource, but the ICT tools to create, collect, consolidate and communicate information are not yet used in the majority of libraries.

# Scope

- What are ICTs?
- What is the impact of ICTs on Society?
- What is the impact of ICTs on libraries and information centers?
- What is the impact of ICTs on the librarian and on library education?
- What are the major trends and issues in libraries that result from ICTs?

# Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- Identify the impact of ICTs on the work environment in libraries

- Realize the impact of ICTs on information formats, access and delivery

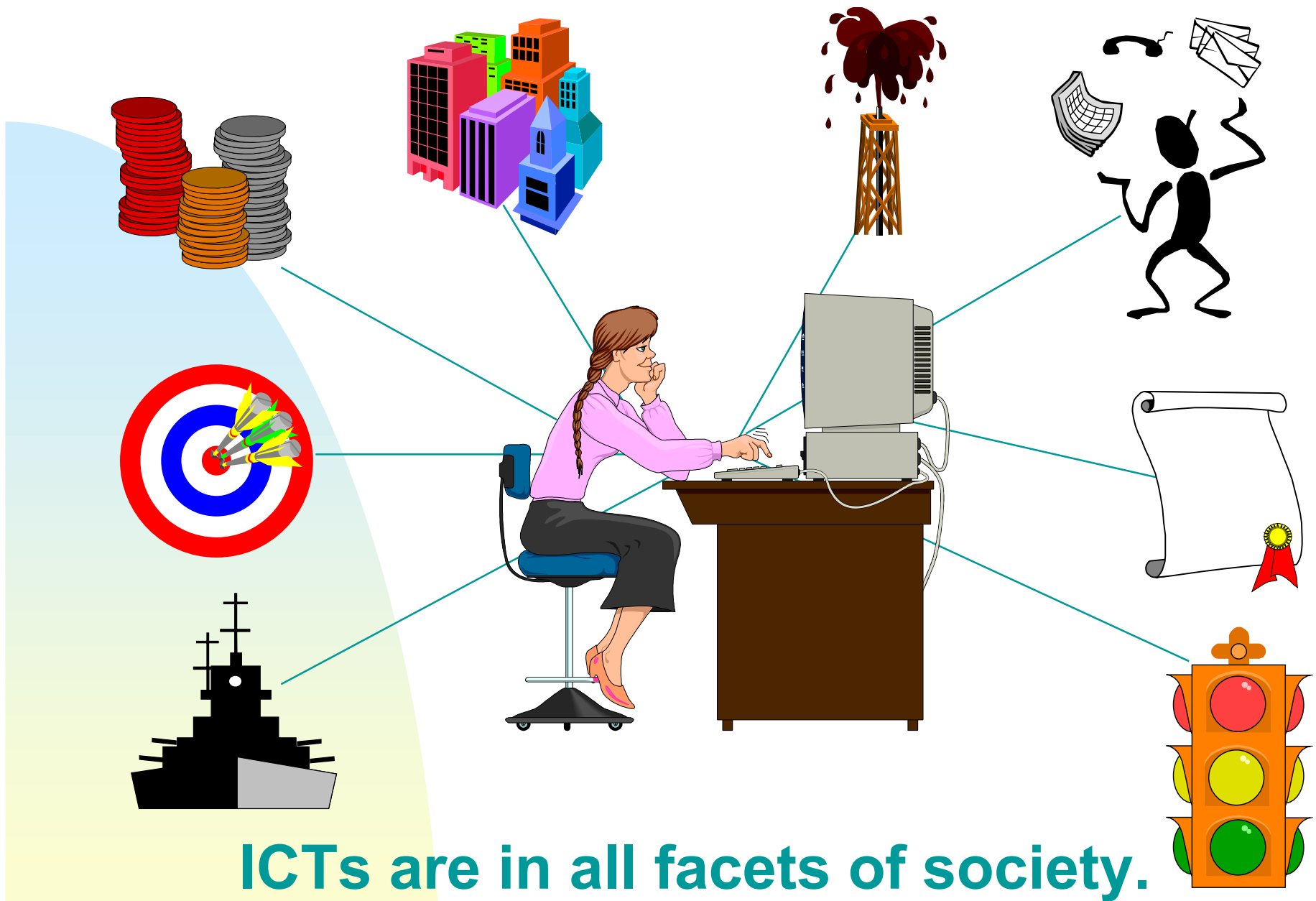- Recognize ICTs as tools that librarians can and must use to meet the information requirements of users

# What are ICTs?

**I**nformation

**C**ommunication

**T**echnologies

**ICTs** are the hardware and software that enable society to create, collect, consolidate and communicate information in multimedia formats and for various purposes.

# Impact of ICTs on Society

Developments in ICTs have brought about the merger of the computing, information, communications, entertainment and mass media industries, providing a means of exchanging information in the digital format used by computers.

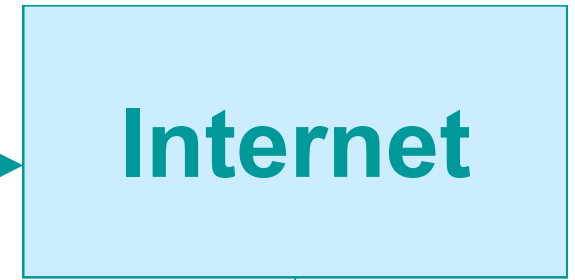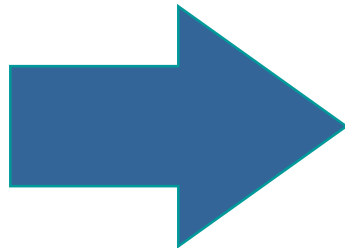**ICTs are in all facets of society.**

# What is the Response of Industry and Government to the Information Society?

- Increased production and availability of more powerful ICT hardware and software

- Provision of more efficient national and global information infrastructures for more efficient access and delivery of information

- Increased production and publication of multimedia digital information

# What is the Impact of ICTs on Libraries and Information Centers?

- ICTs made information creation in digital format possible.

- ICTs made online access and file transfer possible

- ICTs made networking and sharing of information resources possible

# The Shift from Print To Digital

**Internet**

ICTs have made the transfer of digital information from remote sites possible.

# Impact of Digital Information Materials on Libraries

- Digital information can be sent in multiple copies simultaneously over information networks in fractions of a minute or even of a second. There is no need for users with PCs attached to the network to physically go to the library. They can access information via their PCs.

- Digital information can be cut and pasted from one document into another

- Digital information may be free or cheaper than print equivalents

- Digital information often modifies librarians' roles in various ways

# What are the Effects of these Developments on the User Community?

- Increased level of technology literacy

- Increased demand for better and faster access  to information

- Aggravation of discrepancies between  the information rich  and information poor.

# What is the Impact of ICT on Librarians and Library Education?

- Need for ICT knowledge
- Need for ICT skills
- Need for ICT tools
- Need for continuous learning in the context of rapidly changing ICTs

*Library schools must integrate ICTs into their curricula and short courses to produce graduates who can cope with the changing work environment.*

# What are the Perceived Roles of Librarians in an Information Society?

- **Creators:** developers and producers of information products and services
- **Collectors**: librarians, archivists and records managers
- **Communicators:** information workers, extension workers, subject specialists
- **Consolidators:** reference librarians, information brokers, analysts

(*A Curriculum for an Information Society, 1998*)

# What will be the Trends in the Development of Libraries?

The library will :

- be networked

- be stocked with a core collection that is multimedia

- have access to global information

- become digital

- become virtual

# Challenges to Libraries

- Collection development
- Resource sharing through networking
- Faster direct communication among scientists and researchers
- Virtual vs. onsite reference services: push and pull technologies

- Better document delivery systems
- Better abstracting and indexing systems
- Availability of full-text materials on the Internet
- Information management vs. collection management

# Conclusion

Libraries and librarians must cope with the demands of an information society. Librarians must have the knowledge, skills and tools in handling digital information to be efficient creators, collectors, consolidators and communicators of information. Librarians with the knowledge, skills and tools required of information professionals in an information society will be the key success factors in enabling the library to perform its role as an information support system for society.