

TEACHING AIDS USEFUL FOR LIS EDUCATION

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Introduction

Teaching aids are devices, which present units of knowledge through auditory or visual stimuli or both with a view to help learning. They concretize the knowledge to be presented and thus help in making a learning experience appear real, living and vital. They supplement the work of the teacher and help in the study of books. According to UGC CDC (2001) use of teaching aids has its own significant importance for effective teaching. The use of OHP’s (Overhead Projector) and Slide Projectors, TV & VCR have entered the classrooms to aid the teaching and also to make it effective.

It is well known fact that IT has created greatest impact on Library & Information Science Curriculum and in recent years the teaching of fundamentals to advanced courses in Library & Information Science department has become sine-qua-non.

Use of new educational technology of Library & Information Science in India is very much needed to make teaching more effective.

Teaching in each and every area of Library & Information Science Education can be made more stimulating by bringing this canned learning to the classroom.

As cited by Patel, U.S. & Pancholi, S.H. W.B. Yeats said, *“Education is not filling the pail, but the lighting of fire. It should inculcate creativity in us.”*

Importance and need of Teaching Aids:

As stated by Yadav, M.S. is as under

- i. Teaching aids help the teacher in getting the attention of his students.
- ii. Teaching aids help in creating the interest of the student in the topic and activate the mental process of the students.

- iii. The student gets an opportunity to get a first hand experience by visualizing some concrete things, living specimens and actual demonstrations etc.
- iv. Use of teaching aids help to have a clear conception of ideas, information, facts and principles.
- v. It helps the students in understanding some complicated and difficult concepts.
- vi. They provide an opportunity for a change in the monotonous atmosphere that generally prevents in a classroom.
- vii. They provide an opportunity for a better support between the teacher and his pupil.
- viii. They can be used in bigger classes.

Principles for use of Teaching Aids:-

Teaching aids should be used properly to make teaching more effective. Following points are important for a proper use of teaching aids.

- i. Teaching aids should be woven with classroom teaching and there aids should be used only to supplement the oral and written work being done in the class.
- ii. Only such aids is preferred which provide a stimulus to the students for greater thinking and activity.
- iii. The teacher should use a teaching aid only when he is quite sure about handling a specific teaching aid.
- iv. Teaching aids used be such as are closely related to pupil’s experiences.
- v. The teacher should use a teaching aid only after a proper planning so that the aid is used exactly at the point, in the process of teaching, where it best fits in the process of teaching.
- vi. Teacher should carry out occasional evaluation about the use, function and effect of a teaching aid on the learning process.

Need for Audio Visual Technology in Library & Information Science Education.

Suriya, M.²⁸ has stated the following needs for A.V. Technology in LIS education.

1. Audio Visual materials provide the means for extending the horizon of experience:-

It serves as a counterpart for providing needed experience. For instance, by means of an appropriate motion picture film a teacher may take his class to a New York Public Library or Library of Congress or Lenin State Library. Thus audio visual technology makes possible vital, realistic and direct experiences like this in the classroom.

2. Audio Visual Provides meaningful sources of Information:-

The task of confronting library education is now greater and we not only have to teach more subject matter, but also have to broaden the scope of our goals. That is the students should be prepared for working experiences, they should be given directions for performance, procedure, facts about situations, and vivid descriptions of the application of principles. Hence we turn to television, to the film, to diagrams, charts, to slides, transparencies, to models, to real things, to enhance clarity of communication and speed of comprehension.

3. *Audio Visual Aids motivate the interest of the students:-*

The main objective of education is to create interest in the students; to change them from passive listeners to more active, alert and motivated people. This implies that the students should be motivated to set up worth while purposes of their own. It is possible only if we present before them more life like, realistic, functional and significant problem solving activities. Field trips to various libraries and working in the different sections of the library may lead to meaningful permanent and effective learning. But it is not always possible to rely on direct experiences as it involves expenditure and is also time consuming.

Audio visual technology provides the teacher with interest – compelling spring boards into a wide variety of learning activities.

4. *Audio Visual Technology assists the teacher in overcoming physical difficulties of presenting the subject matter:-*

In teaching the subject cataloguing, the teacher has to write down on the blackboard, the title proper and generate the entries.

Same is the case with teaching of classification and indexing. How can the teacher save the time spent each year, on the same work of writing down the steps of classification, generating catalogue entries and index strings? This repetitive work can be reduced to a considerable extent by using charts which are readily available or by drawing the procedure on a “master sheet, for making into diazo-transparencies, draw directly on acetate sheets or on colored paper for copying on to 2 inch by 2 inch colored slides, thus saving the time spent on redrawing each year. This saves time and energy of the teacher.

5. *Audio Visual Technology helps to achieve student centred learning:-*

It has been recognized that the student is the most important “input” to the educational process. He is basically responsible, as an active agent of the educational at process as well as the material acted upon, for the additional skills, understanding, knowledge of self and others, ability to solve the problems to reason, to evaluate information for all that he takes with him as “output”.

To support such a changing concept of education, an environment rich in learning stimuli are needed. Audio-visual aids make a substantial contribution to the provision of such service.

Thus audio visual technology provides the teacher with rich sources of communicative materials. It also aids in improving perception, understanding, reinforcement and retention of learning materials.

Some important teaching aids:-

Chalk Board:-

The chalk-board is one of the most valuable devices for making the teaching LIS concrete and understandable. Many vague statements can be made clear by using the chalk-board for sketches, outlines, diagrams, directions and summarizes. The chalk-board, used as occasion demands throughout a lesson, enables pupils to see what they heard. This can connect the rural and visual sensations. This connection, to a great extent, helps in learning.

Overhead Projector(OHP):-

The overhead projector (OHP) is a popular teaching tools. Its primary function is to project still images. (either teacher, student or commercially made) onto a flat vertical surface like a wall screen. The image to be projected on the wall is drawn or transferred on a student sized (20 cm x 30 cm) overhead projector transparency (a kind of clear plastic paper). The transparency is placed on the OHP surface and after focusing; the clear image is magnified and projected on the screen/ wall. The teacher should keep the following points in mind.²⁹

1. The teacher should have all transparencies to be used during a particular topic ready and in the correct order.
2. The teacher should ensure that the OHP is in proper working order prior to its use during a lesson.
3. The first transparency should be ready for viewing before the lesson begins. The teacher need only turn on the OHP at the appropriate time. The image will be adequately magnified and focused so that the teacher will not have to interrupt the lesson.
4. When the transparency is no longer applicable to the particular part of the topic the OHP light should be turn off to avoid distraction and the next transparency placed on the OHP which will be turn and back on at the appropriate time.

Film Strip Projector:-

These projectors allow frame by frame projection of a film strip. They are usually manually operated, the instructor winding the film off one reel and on to another, pausing for discussion or

explanation at each frame. Commercially produced filmstrips are normally supplied with a set of teaching notes.

Preparing magnetic aids:-

Many good textbooks and manufacturers instruction manuals provide sketches illustrating machine construction and principles of operation. These may be used as models from which aids may be developed for classroom instruction. Permission to reproduce illustrations should first be obtained from the publishers concerned, in order to avoid infringing copyright.

Magnetic aids are very useful in showing how machines are built up and how they work. Before entering the laboratory or workshop, various experiments and tests can be demonstrated using the magnetic board. This saves a great deal of the instructor's time in the laboratory because he can address the whole group and explain what has to be done while in the classroom. On arrival in the laboratory, students are able to get on with the actual experiments without waiting in small groups for instructions or explanations.

Having selected the diagram from which the aid will be developed, identify the number of cut-outs required and the form of each LCD projector.

The aid must be large enough to be seen by every member of the group; therefore the diagram will need to be magnified. Decide on the magnification factor. Scale each component from the diagram and multiply each dimension by the magnification factor.

Using white paper, draw each component to the magnified dimensions. Cut out each shape and stick to coloured card. Cut out cardboard components and glue magnets to the back of each.

Assemble on the magnetic board in correct sequence. Practice several times and if necessary mark each card with the correct sequence of application.

Liquid Crystal Display (LCD):

LCD can be very effectively used as teaching aid. Figures, pictures, graphs etc in two dimensional and three dimensional form can be shown to the students.

LCD technology can be used for interesting sessions and group discussions. Thus giving you the power to ensure excellent performance of every student. These projectors are the smartest way to make sessions more productive. Communicate the ideas with moving images, dynamic video and powerful sound. Project computerized notes on big screens and surf the Internet.

The information given in this chapter thus highlights that:

1. Audio visuals are useful for LIS teaching.
2. Useful teaching technique be used by the LIS teacher for specific topic/unit.

3. Use of the different techniques make the LIS education interesting and will be most useful in teaching-learning process.
4. Teachers and librarians should be aware about the teaching techniques and their use.

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