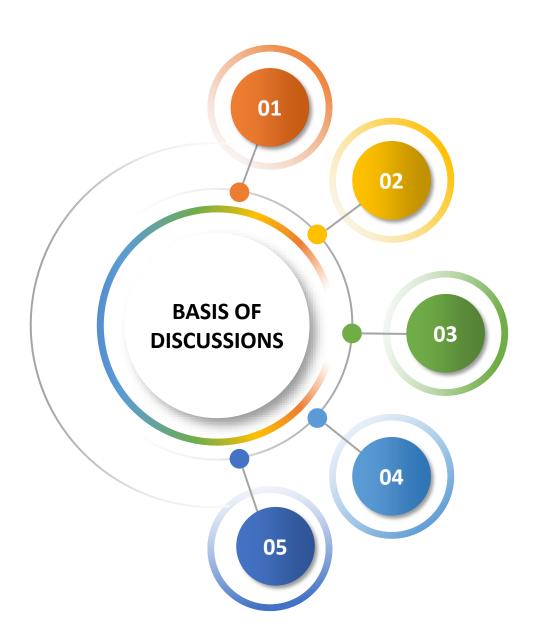
World Summit on the Information Society Forum



The internet and access to government information: where do we stand and where should we go next?

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16th March 2023



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✓ Establishment of WSIS: i) Geneva in 2003 & ii)Tunis in 2005, "to build a peoplecentred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society"

02

✓ 2023 theme: WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs

03

✓ Article 19, of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights - "right to know" or "access to information" 04

✓ **IFLA's vision**: A strong and united library field powering literate, informed and participative societies

05

✓ **SDG 12:** on libraries and knowledge centers "... Libraries are sustainable institutions; they share resources within communities and across borders, to ensure that everyone has access to information"

Focus- e-government information for democratic engagement and participation

E-government information-	Open governance	Importance of e- government information-	Aims:	Stakeholders:	E-governance in Africa	Outlets
use of ICT to provide information and improve the delivery of government services to the citizens	transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholder participation	decision-making, budgetary, government policies, poverty eradication and scientific innovations & research	i) minimize the burden of public administration and the business activities to its citizens ii) bridge gap between urban and rural populations iii) avail and improve the delivery of government services to the citizens to all citizens wherever and whenever needed iv) enhance transparency and accountability in the delivery of government services	Governments, NGO's, civil societies, citizens plus other development partners	i)government policies ii)citizenry participation iii) repackaged information	libraries, government departments & related information management

Libraries and access to government information

Libraries as knowledge hubs: IT training hubs; bridge -digital, skills & language divides

Guided by: comprehensive government portals; relevant Government Acts of Parliament; national policies (e.g. Kenya Freedom of Information Bill, 2007; bills e.g. etransaction bill; strategies; AU Agenda 2030; Agenda 2063; SDG's; legal frameworks Types of libraries that support government information — government libraries & depository libraries — ensure data quality, coordinate & migrate information to appropriate databases/repositories. To grassroots level

Challenges: levels of classification of government information- 'confidential' labeled documents (a legalistic obstruction to the flow of information); poor ICT infrastructure, poor government policies, digital divide & inadequate human skill; lack of audit systems that act as check and balances on existing government structures, undemocratic political transitions, insecurities

Knowledge rich global = a knowledge economy, informed citizenry



Libraries allow use and reuse of information for new knowledge for evidence based societal decisions. How? Enable access to e-information through proper selection, classification, coding, repackaging, access and dissemination of authentic, authoritative, complete, reliable, relevant, timely e-government information

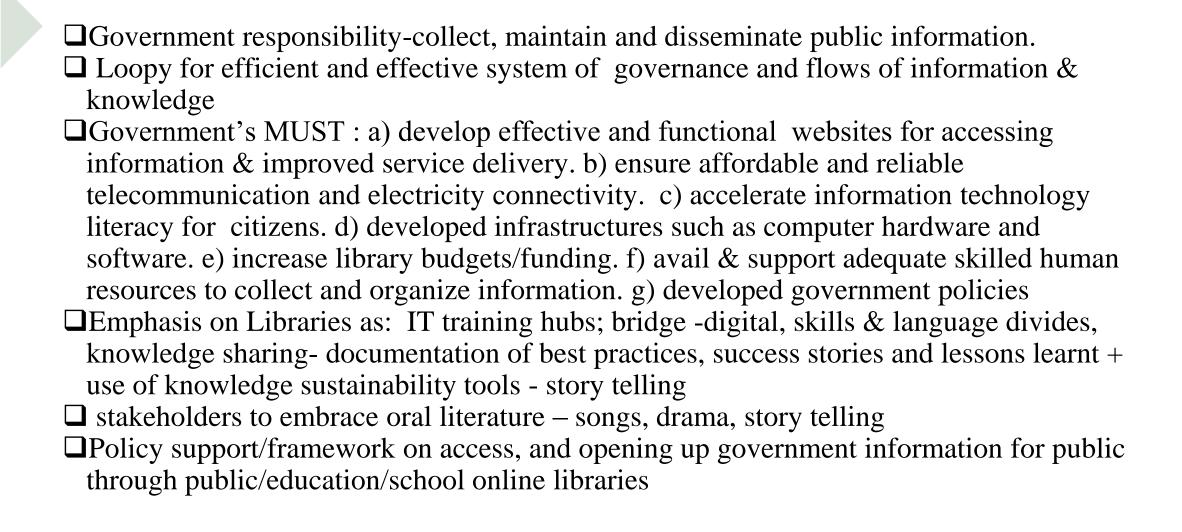


Support ICT infrastructure & implementation of universal library management systems and repositories that support open access to resources to enhance access and sharing of resource regardless of geographical location



Enhances "a one stopshop" for global access to authentic, relevant, timely information and reduces duplication of efforts thus cutting on costs

Recommendations & way forward



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