The contribution of libraries in bridging of digital divide and ensuring equal and free access to information.

Today we are experiencing the era of informative revolution as a result of the rapid

development of new applications of technology and communications, which runs

through almost professional and everyday life as well.

This is a revolution which is based on information, mere the expression of human

knowledge. Technological advances now provide the opportunity for treatment,

storage, retrieval and transmission of information in any form- oral, written or visual-

regardless of distance, time and volume.

The Information Society is the society of learning meaning that knowledge, and

especially the development of cognitive skills can not be a fragmentary process, but

must become a systematic and sustained effort.

The Informative Society holds the potential to improve the lives of citizens, the

effectiveness of social, economic organization and the support of cohesion.

Science and technology must increase, not reduce the freedom and choices of

everyone but to aim to alleviate the inequality, injustice and discrimination.

The digital gap includes a variety of other gaps, which may have an unequal global

distribution of sources. This means lack of access to Communication technology and

Information (ICTs), a gap in the acquisition of skills which are needed for use these

sources, a gap between the poor and the rich in the ability to have access to the

information they need and then a gap in education which is translated as a lack of

skills needed to access and absorb information.

The promotion of equal and free access to information for all users is a claim for all

libraries and the Technology of Communication and Information is a key factor for

this route.

Libraries, because of their mission and organization in the international level, are

considered to be the suitable institutions who guarantee the right of universal access to

citizens.

Maria Doukatas, Librarian MSc

Dimitrios Politis, Librarian

Key - words: information, access, library, Information Society, digital divide,

social exclusion, ICT's.

ΒΙΒΛΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ

- Ict for access to information services for disabled people: an overview of projects and services at Gateshead Libraries Service. Διαθέσιμο στην ιστοσελίδα: http://www/emeraldinsight.com/0033-0337.htm
- Φραγγεδάκης, Α. (2003) «Υπηρεσίες ακαδημαϊκών και λαϊκών βιβλιοθηκών για την αντιμετώπιση του ψηφιακού αποκλεισμού», Πρακτικά από το 12ο Πανελλήνιο Συνέδριο Ακαδημαϊκών Βιβλιοθηκών, Λάρισα
- Μαρία Δουκατά, « Ίση και ελεύθερη πρόσβαση στην Πληροφορία»,
 Διπλωματική Εργασία Μεταπτυχιακού προγράμματος σπουδών στην
 Επιστήμη της Πληροφόρησης, Αθήνα 2008. Επιβλέπουσα καθηγήτρια:
 Μαρία Μπότη Κανελλοπούλου