

Killian Walsh

Information Technology and the Future of Irish Public Libraries.

Libraries are facing challenges from advances in information technology and especially the Internet, which compete directly with the library as a provider of information.

This work poses the question “What are Irish Public Libraries doing to ensure their future in the face of challenges posed by information technology?”

To answer this question the relevant literature is reviewed and the response of the Irish Public Library System to these challenges is assessed via a study of the technologies in-branch and the services offered online.

Two technologies (Radio Frequency Identification and DSpace) are recommended for implementation to improve the range of services offered.

Overall the Irish Public Library System is found to be making adequate provisions for the future.