

**TOPIC: INFORMATION EVOLUTION**

**OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the topic, students should be able to:

- List stages of information evolution;
- Describe what happens during each stage.

**SUBTOPIC 1: DEFINITION**

Information passes through different stages of development. These stages of development of information are called information evolution.

**SUB-TOPIC 2: Stages of Information Evolution:**

The various stages of information evolution are:

1. Invention of language;
2. Invention of writing;
3. Invention of printing;
4. Invention of mass media;
5. Invention of computer;
6. Link-up of computers with communication.

**Invention of Language:**

The earliest form of communication of information was facilitated by the invention of human languages through vocal expressions. Man could express his ideas or intentions in words.

**Invention of Writing:**

The earliest form of writing is attributed to the Sumerians who lived in Mesopotamia about 3000BC. Their writing was embossed in clay tablets using special pens. Later civilizations began to record their ideas in writing on special paper made from reed called **papyrus**, also on specially dried animal skins called **parchments** and finally on papers we have today.

**Invention of Printing:**

Printing involves the use of machine to impress on paper specially made ink. Before the advent of printing machine, all documents were written in long hand. Even books were hand written by commercial writers called scribes. This was not only cumbersome but prone to errors.

Even getting simple duplicate of a document involved writing the whole document all over again. These problems led to the invention of a printing machine which reduced the problem of multiple reproductions of documents and labour expended long hand.

### **Invention of Mass Media:**

This has made radio and television stations to broadcast through radio waves, large volumes of information to reach a wider audience.

### **Invention of the Computer:**

The invention of the computer has brought a complete overhaul of the information processing system. A computer is capable of accepting large volumes of information, process the information and even store it permanently until it is needed, it has the capacity to handle complex information.

### **Link-up of computer with communication:**

This is the age of information evolution. Several computers are linked with communication equipment to handle massive volumes of information transmission. The link-up of computer with communication to share resources is called **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**.