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LIBRARY SCENARIO IN EDUCATION

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Abstract: The diversity of the Indian library scenario is an important aspect for consideration while speaking about a vision for the 3rd millennium, since different library sectors in India are in various stages of development and no single solution or approach will be relevant in the Indian situation. Indian library and information sector can be divided into five major areas: the National Library sector; Academic library sector; the Special and Scientific library sector, Government library sector; and the Public library sector due to various factors the scientific and special library sector is much more developed and modernized than the other four sectors. The challenges which Indian libraries and librarians will encounter in the 3rd millennium are manifold but the most important challenge will be the change in the very nature of libraries and librarians. The libraries must change from collection oriented institutions to service oriented organizations and librarians have to change from custodians of books and documents to information managers.

Keywords: Education, e-learning, Digital library, Librarians, Challenges, Management

Introduction:

In recent years, however, attention has increasingly been given to the need to analyze the ways in which a librarian can more effectively carry out his role of making his resources available to his readers. Library management has been taken for approved by librarians as their essential role as an administrators of their libraries (Dhote and Bhose, 2016). Every librarian has always been act as a manager, even if he has not descended, as he might well say, to thinking of his duties in such ordinary terms. This is not just a question of the bibliographic control of the library material itself, but also that of confirming that the library staff are better equipped to confirm that this aim is achieved. The best possible service consequently readers are provided. In other words, the importance on management is now concerned particularly with methods of improving the efficiency of libraries. New factors have arisen which require a librarian to take appreciation of matters which are more demanding of managerial insight than was previously the case. One primary factor is, of course, the introduction of computer-based procedures to help practical bibliographical work and thereby expand the technical efficiency of a library. Another important factor is the current evolution of industrial relations practices. It requires a librarian to become acquainted with the legislation concerning staff associations which dominates the contemporary scene.

Librarians never failed to recognize the need for satisfactory relationships with their staffs for making their libraries happy and friendly places in which to work and therefore effective in providing the human and physical environment in which their resources could be exploited. One must take account also of the adoption of new methodologies such as the introduction of feasibility studies to determine the best methods like cloud computing for achieving particular aims and of surveys designed to measure the success of individual programs in fulfilling their purposes (Dhote, 2015; Kimutai James and Elizabeth Muli, 2015). The role of library professionals has changed in this digital library era; it is therefore inevitable for us as professionals to acquire skills for developing and maintaining the digital libraries. Digital libraries have significantly changed the way in which information is acquired, stored and accessed. It has changed the concept of librarian in terms of their collection and services (Rokade, 2015). Various new terms as digital libraries, digital librarian, virtual libraries, libraries without walls, hybrid libraries etc. have emerged to describe the

libraries of digital era. In order to come up to these challenges, library and information professionals really need to know what actually the digital libraries and virtual libraries are and what should be the components of a digital and virtual library. The requirements for the professionals in the digital libraries are skills, knowledge and competencies required for the professionals. The aim of library and information science profession has always been to provide users access to required information at right time (Kamble, 2016).

In this changing scenario IT will play the most important role. While taking advantage of the different components of information technology the libraries of each sector will have to ensure the following: 1. Take stock of the actual need of the library and its users; 3. Bring about change in the functions of the library to make it service oriented rather than collection oriented 4. Resource sharing and networking of libraries; 5. Consider both preservation and access as vital components of library service; 5. Marketing of information and library services; 6.Development of library professionals to cope with the new environment; 7.Utilization of management techniques for dealing with the new objectives. At the decision-making level India will need a National Policy for libraries and information centers within the changed socio-economic environment keeping in mind the new requirements of the different sectors within the field of librarianship. It will now be worthwhile to analyze the present Library and Information scenario before preparing a vision for the 3rd millennium in each sector of librarianship in India. Independently, librarians have developed and applied many knowledge management principles in the provision of academic library services. Reference, cataloging, and other library services are designed to encourage the use of scholarly information and thus increase the amount of academic knowledge used in higher education.

Questions in a reference interview and the points of access in a catalog both are intended to reinforce the ways that scholars work to create new academic knowledge. However, libraries have done little to use organizational information to create knowledge that can be used to improve the functionality of library and higher education processes. In many ways, knowledge management incorporates principles that academic librarians have developed and used with scholarly information for many years. It then applies these principles and others to organizational information in ways that create new knowledge to improve organizational effectiveness (Dhote, 2104). The potential of digital libraries is to help grow our economy and can be essential resource for human learning and development. Digital technology can make the works of man or needed information accessible to all whether they live in a village or in an urban area. Networking of already developed sectors to ultimately set up a digitized National Library System may prove to be a better solution. This can help to move the nation toward realizing the enormously powerful vision of â€˜anytime, anywhere€™ access to the best of human thought so that no individual is isolated from the knowledge resources. This may be difficult but not a distant vision. The term electronic library (e-library) refers to a system in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and networks. It provides collection and/or services in e-format using various types of media, such as optical video disc, CD-ROM, online databases, Internet resources, etc. Electronic materials included here would be basically in variety of analog formats. For example, videotapes are in analog format, requiring an electronic equipment to view. However, digital materials may also be there. The core processes of a library become basically electronic in nature. Thus, one important feature of such libraries is extensive use of electronic media for the storage, retrieval and dissemination of information.

Since electronic library encompasses all the materials that can be held by a digital library, it is more inclusive. Digital technology has raised the hopes and expectations of people to face the challenges of not only bridging the gap between the information rich and the information poor in

the country, but also uplifting the level of development in all its different facets. Major responsibility now rests on the decision makers, technological experts, librarians, educationists, social workers, legal experts, publishing industry as well as the local institutions to play their respective roles in bringing digital information in need based comprehensible form and language to the diverse clientele of the country. No agency can really work in isolation to reach the expected goal in the right manner. Therefore coordinating agencies may have to be established on a distributed regional basis to understand local requirements and thereby assist policy planners in preparing proper guidelines for useful and sustainable digitization programs. The available technical infrastructure and the networks in existence may now be utilized while initiatives for more sophisticated technology becomes successful in creating proper infrastructure to deal with the multi-lingual and multi-sectoral information required for the vast majority of Indians. Just as the audiovisual media such as TV and radio have reached every corner of India, digital technology will one day become a household facility in distant parts of the country (Keshava and Thimmaiah B. N., 2015). Since Indian decision makers have now understood that Information is power and information based decision making has become the order of the day, the Government of India and other agencies are taking necessary steps to improve the telecommunication and other technical facilities to make IT based Information access a reality in the true sense so that there can be substantial improvement in the quality of life of every Indian. Information services and their management In affiliated colleges, the core objective of the library is to support the academic programmes offered and the library may evolve its collection and services mainly to reflect the curriculum requirements of its users. Besides, the library may design a system to deliver its products and services to attract more users. Ultimately the library should aim at bringing all its target users to the library and ensure its optimum usage. The parameters compiled here would facilitate the quality enhancement and sustenance of library services to a large extent. In universities (and in large colleges as well), the library system normally consists of a central university library and branch or department libraries.

The large campus environment often defines the use of the library in terms of the strength and size of the text and research collection. The central library supports the general information requirements of the users whereas the department libraries cater to the specific subject needs of the users, both for study and research. By considering a set of minimum parameters listed below would help to ensure quality in library systems of university and autonomous colleges. Number of days the Library is kept open This is to help in knowing whether the library is kept open on Saturdays, Sundays and other holidays so as to facilitate use by students and faculty. Working hours This parameter refers to opening and closing hours of the library, whether library opens before the institutional €™s opening time and closes after the closing time so that readers have an opportunity to use the library without disturbance to their academic schedules. Library Advisory Committee The formation of the library committee with an equal representation by faculty and students, and the role of the committee and its functions in developing the library services are to be well defined. Manpower development Qualifications and experience of the librarian and the library staff should be on par with that of the academic staff and should fulfill the norms prescribed by UGC/AICTE/NCTE/ICMR etc. for guaranteeing a professional approach in delivering information services. Training programs and professional involvement of library professionals need to be encouraged. Total qualified and semi-skilled manpower, the ratio between number of users and collection, needs to be maintained as per UGC/AICTE and government norms for promoting a better library environment. Infrastructure of the Library The Managements may look into the aspect of location of the library, to see whether the library has a place of its own with proper

planning and organization of space, and has proper furniture, necessary quantity and quality of reading chairs, tables, display racks, magazine racks, etc. The minimum carpet area for service counters and other sections of the library as prescribed by government and other governing bodies are to be taken note of along with proper ventilation, fans, and water and toilet facilities. Fixing of notice boards, research cubicles for scholars/teachers, providing uninterrupted power supply systems (UPS, generator, etc.) along with due attention to overall building maintenance and cleanliness also need consideration. ICT Infrastructure and Know-how Quantification and computer facilities, systems for enabling e-library services, etc. need to be determined, taking into account the total number of users, type of users and programs offered. The library should have networking facility and be a part of institutional network, with fully implemented automation. The bandwidth of Internet access and subscription, organization and access of e- resources, etc. are important factors in the transmission of digital information services. Overall policy of the institution on library The Library should have an approved policy on the collection development support, introduction of new services, support in terms of fund, annual increase of budget, binding procedure, removal of obsolete books, and policy on loss of books and an ongoing commitment of the institution in deputing library professionals for continuing and further education. Budget There should be a proportionate growth in the library budget. Budget for different documents such as books, journals and other resources and ICT infrastructure are to be defined as to the scope of the institute. Sources of income other than state, central and UGC grants may be identified for enhancing the collection and services. In the accreditation process, evaluation of libraries is an essential component, where the collection, services and their outreaching capacity are monitored. In the recent past, significant developments have been reported in library and information services and the libraries are shouldering newer responsibilities in higher education. Hence the standards for assessing the quality of library services need to be updated. It is true that libraries largely support learning, teaching and research processes in institutions. So far, mostly, the classroom has, by and large, been the primary source of learning, with library accorded a supplementary status. In times ahead, one can foresee a role reversal, and indeed, in the increasingly learner-centric educational effort, one may already be witness to the library becoming the primary learning resource in many instances, with conventional classroom teaching playing mainly a facilitating role. In case of Open Distance Learning (ODL), this has always been the case. It is in this backdrop, that the NAAC has developed a set of objective indicators to facilitate assessment of the Library and Information Services of academic institutions. The guidelines are derived from an understanding of the global developments in the activities and services of libraries, the national environment, and the outcome of a recent national-level workshop held at the NAAC, in which college and university librarians and library scholars from across the country had participated. The parameters are defined by considering certain factors such as age of the institutions, courses offered by them and so on. The institutions are grouped into two broad categories: one, the university-level institutions (these include universities, deemed-to-be universities, autonomous colleges, and postgraduate colleges) and the other, the colleges (affiliated/constituent colleges). A set of indicators for university/autonomous college libraries is presented in the following pages. The world is passing through a phase of dramatic transformation due to the ongoing challenges being posed by information and communication technology (ICT), and libraries are no exception to it. Few years ago, â€˜Electronic library â€™ was a buzz word. It was defined as a library of the future. Soon after, the term â€˜Virtual library â€™ become part of our literary exposition and now it is the turn of â€˜Digital library â€™ to catch the world wide attention. Digital libraries relate to a broad field of research, development,

practices and endeavor aimed at helping more people benefit from growing collections of well-organized information available in digital forms. Emergence of computer and communication technology and ongoing developments has made electronic publishing and information dissemination activities comparatively easy. Developing digital repositories with subscribed subject content, open sources and institutional information and customizing as to the internal requirements with remote access is one of the globally adopted best practices in large libraries. Disseminating information through library website/ homepage in a networked environment is made possible due to the advent of technology and this has to be adopted in our academic libraries (Dakhole, 2014). In literature, the terms polymedia, hybrid, digital, electronic, virtual, and gateway libraries have been used near synonymously but it is not so. Digital and electronic libraries have been regarded somewhat identical, as both of them have physical existence; material contained by them is similar, i.e. print with respective dominance of digital and electronic (analog) collection. They may or may not be networked. But the virtual library, â€˜the library without walls â€™ also called â€˜gateway library â€™ is a networked (web-based) library to provided global access to documents available anywhere, and at anytime. The line of demarcation among them is not very transparent. However, efforts have been made to know the distinction (Dakhole and Dhote, 2015).

Conclusion:

Best practice in simple term known as the practice which covers the way for enhancing the existing function and help in effective implementation or use of the process. Some of the highlighted practices here are well accepted practices experimented in different library environments in optimizing the use of library and information services. Use of technology in designing and delivering the information products and services is always made good results. Automation of all in-house operations in academic libraries with barcoding, user identity and web- opac facilities is a best practice in totality of library services. It has to be encouraged for wider adaptation of all higher education institutions. User â€™s literacy and awareness programs are seemed to be normative practices, in its effective implementation that make significant change in enhancing the use of information sources. Hence adopting new techniques and tools in imparting user education may be of best practice in extent of use of library services. Some of the practices mentioned in this document such as in- service training, extended library hours, segregation of less used collection, use of students in library services through earn while learn schemes are feasible for many libraries to adopt in enhancing the quality of the services. The documentation on the best practices followed in the selected libraries will initiate other libraries to opt for the ideal way of managing the libraries and services of academic institutions. With the global concept, the academic libraries need to orient to the highly qualitative information collection and services. The current networked environment enables the libraries to outreach any users at remote locations. Thus the libraries need to be dynamic and extend their services beyond the traditional ones, which were confined to book and other print collections.

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