"Libraries in 21st Century in India"

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ABSTRACT

Today every country is facing a problem of information explosion. For these problem library need a new technologies, information processing, organization and Management technique. Library play a big rol to provide a information to the people. libraries become a multi-media centers of information resource. Libraries have microforms, audio and video casetsand used software for daily needs of library work. Now libraries became digital libraries. The libraries are handle by the qualified and skill full person (Librarian). This paper present today's libraries and their facilities.

INTRODUCTION:

Information is a important resource for accelerating national development. We are in the ager of fast technological changes along with information explosion. In fact it is no longer possible for any one individual of organization to keep trade of all relevant facts of one's interest. This has not only given rise to a number of specialized information centers in every country but also led to the awareness of the desirability of having some type of co-ordination and co-operation amongst the institutions. All these factors have profound impact on the complexities of management and organization of libraries. Further, there are pressures of technological changes and customer's needs. All these fast emerging trends of information, demands the need for an effective provision of information procuring, organization and management of libraries. They must acquire information, analyses it and take action based on the interpretation. Thus, there is a growing consensus that information resources will play a big role in determining the tasks before an organization which holds a competitive advantage in meeting intensive challenges of the future 21st century.

A 21st Century Academic Library

The new environment obtained by the introduction of information and communication technologies is well described by a phrase, *Twenty First Century.* All the three important processes of the scholarly world, viz., generation, organization and dissemination of information and knowledge were subject to constant change since 1980s. Medias were changed for recording, preserving and disseminating information and knowledge. Libraries became multi media centers of information resources, leaving behind their dull and drab image of repositories of old dusty books! Materials like microforms, audio and video cassettes and now various electronic products for use both *off line* and *on line* representing *born digital and converted digital documents* are changing the faces of stack rooms and reading areas. This special type of material needs special equipment of different makes for their effective use. The combine of computer and communication technologies introduced a series of changes in the functioning and services of academic libraries. These changes are so substantial as not to spare any area or process in the library from them. The entire library is, more or less, put on scrutiny for change to avoid repetition and redundancy, time lag and delay in the whole working of the library, by new and novel combinations and linkages possible due to the application of technology. This ICT based phase of library development has resulted into not only extending the access of library users to the documents extensively but also quick retrieval of bibliographical and textual information. The erstwhile concepts of storage, various sections based on the types of the library material, technical processes and reader's services, work flow, and staffing pattern too are warranting a fresh look. The library management is becoming more integrated than before. A 21st Century Academic Library is the one which could assimilate these changes to the benefit of

all the concerned: the organizers of the Library, the users of different kinds and the library staff.

Features of 21st Century Academic Libraries:-

The academic libraries as such are varied in nature, subject areas, and sizes too. One model or road map for moving towards their 21st century versions may not work. However, some issues common to most of them may be specified as *special feature of the 21st Century Libraries.* They are as follows:

1. **Reader Friendly Organizational Pattern:**

Academic libraries role is that of a facilitator of achieving the high goals of these Institutions of Higher Education. As for students they are in the Institutions for a limited period and libraries have to pull them under their valuable influence by catering to their various study and research needs effectively. For researchers Academic Library is an invisible *Guide, Friend and Philosopher.* Managerial restrictions limiting facilities for no reason harm this image of the Library. library reading places have distinct features. However, the library in its entirety: stack rooms, reading areas, computer installations, service designated sections …should serve as the extension of the class rooms and teachers rooms. For this all necessary gadgets, new equipments, modern facilities in every respect should find place in the Library. The changing organizational pattern implies this.

2. **Library Software's:**

Organization of an academic library on modern lines, its up gradation and / or automation starts with selection of a suitable library software. It is experienced that proper professional guidance in this behalf is not available to libraries and their authorities.

3. E-Resources:

These are the digitally born or converted books, journals and other records. Showpieces, a few years ago, are now occupying a prominent place in academic libraries. They do have an edge over the print material in saving space and in easy and quick transfer, both on line and off line. Use of growing number of e books and e journals moves a library towards its 21st Century character. Joining a *Consortia*for increasing the ability of the library to offer its readers an opportunity to browse a wide range of journals is a new version of resource sharing.

4. Retrospective Conversion:

With a view to achieving the visible impact of technologicalapplications the entire collections of the library are required to be brought in their range. Many academic libraries have to struggle for this necessary exercise. The staff on theestablishment is not in a position to carry out this work of backlog. 'Out sourcing' is a way out. But it is unfortunate that due importance is not given to this work and it is got done hurriedly not following the professional norms. This leaves the library weak in retrieval of the material it has in its stock. A large number of documents in the stock remain hidden from potential users. A common observation is that due attention is not given to the assignment of the subject descriptors which is considered to be one of the core professional skills. Free text search or scores of keywords search result into frustration of users. Meeting subject approach to documents needs professional touch.

5. Transforming Traditional Libraries:

Transforming traditional libraries into the 21st Century ones mainly falls on their librarians. There is a lot of preparatory work to be carried out by the library behind the counter so as to serve readers well. This work is of technical and professional nature. All the work involved like procurement, technical processing, preparing a document for

circulation,and actual lending transactions has undergone changes. Publishers' websites, Virtual BookStores are pouring information of varied nature. Using these resources is a sign of moving with times. INTERNET Resources are at the services of all but librarians can use them as tools for better services to readers. Bibliographical and reference services too can be extended more promptly and precisely. There are quite a few professional websites useful as companions to library professionals. An example of such a web site, "*Researching Librarian: web resources helpful for librarians doing research"* can be mentioned here. Such professional web sites do assist to know and possess new competencies required for heading a 21st Century academic library.

Essential Skills of Librarian in 21st Century

Librarianship today is a profession that works as much with multimedia sources as with print material. Librarianship has become a multifaceted field that requires skills such as critical thinking, information retrieval and information technology. The readily available information on internet and progressive changes in information technology has changed the way information is retrieved. Due to tremendous changes in the world of technology and information, the concept of conventional librarianship as custodian has changed. Now library professionals are engaged in different sectors as Information Scientist, Cyberian, Consultant, Facilitator, Knowledge Manager etc. In the global village of internet, libraries have shifted from document centered to information centered system and paper based documents are transferred into digital documents. The LIS professionals also have to face these changes and develop new working environment. To fulfill the objective of the library and deal with emerging situations, LIS professionals must get continuous exposure to new technologies by regularly updating their knowledge. With new modern technologies,

libraries of the world are shifting their systems and services to multifaceted role in different activities of the library.

Modern LIS professionals should develop professional and personal skills to serve the potential users of the libraries. And for doing this, they may have to play different roles like consultant, guide /teacher, intermediary, knowledge manager, administrator etc.

.Quality of Librarian:-

1. **Information technology skills:** Handling hardware/ software systems, scanning

techniques, database creation, internet skills, library automation etc.

2. **Network Skills:** Online database search, content development, digitization, use of web based resources, virtual learning etc.

3. **Administrative Skills**: Communication, computing, organizing, planning, scheduling,

staffing, etc.

4. **Leadership Skills:** Library management especially in a large libraries is team work.

Hence it is required to have leadership skills to manage and guide the team from time to

time.

5. **Negotiating Skills:** These skills are required on special occasions such as handling bulk

purchases, specialized subscriptions with vendors etc.

6. **Writing Skills:** Librarians need to submit and at times are asked to help in writing research

proposal/business proposal/project report, which requires good writing skills.

7. **Presentation Skills: P**resentation skills are required for library committee meetings and

even in daily work of overall library management.

8. Teaching Skills: This is essential for orienting new users and also in case of new services introduced such as online database searching.

9. Decision Making Skills: These skills are required at all stages like planning, organizing,leading, controlling etc.

10. Communication Skills: A good command over regional, national and English language help improve the communication and this in turn helps in understanding people and improving self-confidence.

11. Time Management Skills: Time is money and therefore, they both need to be managed wisely.

12. Interpersonal Skills: Librarians have to deal with management, users, colleagues,

researchers, vendors etc. and to deal with each one on them effectively, they require

interpersonal skills.

Librarians need to acquire new technologies. A librarian has to face different kinds of problems, so they must develop skills for solving the problems and adapt to rapid changes. Librarians have been playing a versatile role beyond their traditional job. Librarians with talent and training will be able to meet future demands and this will help users to easily obtain pin pointed information on time.

CONCLUSION:

The technological changes and developments are essential feature of 21st centuries of library. If we developed a software in the line it will promote software interoperability and compatibility. It will also have the capability to integrate all the libraries of the world to a single global libraries.

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