



TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR ACADEMIC COLLEGE LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS IN NEW INFORMATION ERA

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ABSTRACT :

In the new age of IT, use of technology is increasing very speedily. Everybody knows that we were using window-dos in 1990 and now MS offices 10. It is a long journey of IT in academic libraries. In the pattern traditional library, once taken training was useful for long time. Even person was fluent with his work or services. Now situation is changed and technology is changing or upgrading constantly. So there is need to train the library professionals. The paper highlights need, sources, availability of major institution in India and continuity in training.

INTRODUCTION :

Libraries play a very important role in promoting the progress of knowledge. It is part and tract of any learning institution. Library is associated with all academic or technical institution, which is pivot of teaching-learning process. Academic college library plays an important role in providing information services to the students with its latest collection traditional and digital reading material. We have just entered in new millennium and we have lot of challenges before us for keeping us in pace with modern development in information technology which have brought information explosion and information revolution. Library professional has to deal with information explosion and information revolution. It is time that library professional has keep ready to himself with regular training.

Role of Library Professionals in Changing Environment

The information technology has transferred the role of not only college libraries but also library professionals in the changing environment in which they how work. College library professional are working under big





pressure to become more efficient to deliver more capable services to the users. As the role of academic library professionals is changing to face the new challenges posed by information technology. Professionals must be keen to stay at the forefront of innovation of the library world. LIS professionals need to be confident and competent that they can get ready for new professional roles. Knowledgeable librarian must be a professional expert, techno literate, web usability knowledge manager, navigator, experts, trainer, marketer, service provider, educator, and many more.

Need for Proper Training and Continuing Education Programme

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Now a day time is changing today's training and skill will be outdated tomorrow. If library professionals have to provide nascent services to the users, they must have knowledge of latest information communication technology. All library staff must be information literate and they have skill of use of use computer and handing of e-resources. The role of library professionals or total library staff has changed rapidly in recent years. It is changed in response to new forms of information and new methods of teaching and learning.

Advanced Training for Library Professionals in fully automated academic college libraries should cover the following areas:

- Computer operating
- Operating Systems
- Network Systems
- Library software packages'





- Bar-coding and RFID
- Online databases;
- E-mail/Internet
- Library 2.0 and Web 2.0
- E-resources and its use.
- Reprographic Technology
- CAS/SDI using new technology;
- Knowledge Management/Content Management in Digital Environment;
- Electronic Publishing;
- Multimedia;
- Open Source Software;
- Digital Information Management, IR etc.

Sources for Professional Training and Ability Enrichment

Library information professionals have to recognize the expanding nature of the technological changes and professional challenges that they face in the modern world and realize to improve the range of professional competencies required to adapt and manage the changing technology successfully.

Library professionals have a wide range of channels and way to develop their professional competencies and manage technologies effectively. The important ways and sources for improving professional competences are:

- Acquiring formal qualifications
- Reading professional literature
- Pursuing doctoral research
- Tours and visits to well managed ICT enabled libraries.
- Membership to professional bodies.
- Attending professional meetings, workshop, conferences & seminars etc.





- Presenting papers in conferences and seminars
- Organize Seminars and Conferences in college for library professionals on local, district, state, national and international level.
- Writing papers in periodicals and books
- Personal interactions with expert fellow professionals
- Attending workplace programs
- Participation in specialist group
- Attending induction programme like INFLIBNET
- Attending staff training and development programme organized by Staff Academic College, Hyderabad
- Undertaking research and development projects.
- Attending refresher courses and orientation programme of UGC staff academic college
- Attending Short term courses
- Attending training provided by software vendor

Major Institutions providing Training for Librarian Professionals in Indian

There are number of national institutions, universities, colleges and library association providing training for skill development and up gradation of knowledge through short term courses, workshops, seminars, conferences are as follows :

- INFLIBNET, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
- IASLIC, Kolkatta
- NISCAIR, New Delhi
- DESIDOC, New Delhi
- NASSDOC, New Delhi
- E-Granthalaya, Pune
- Staff Academic College, Hyderabad
- Staff Academic College, University of Goa, Goa





CONCLUSION :

LIS professionals face complex challenges posed by rapid revolutionary advances in ICT. Librarians need to implement new practices and new technologies, manage change, and improve performance and competencies to face future challenges of knowledge society. They need to develop professional competencies to adapt changing technologies in order to deliver timely, value added quality content and world-class services to the users from their desktop. The challenges represented by these competencies must be seized and acted upon today in order to ensure that library professionals have better future in the twenty first century. LIS professionals must strive, struggle and improve new skills and knowledge about new technologies through proper training sources and major training provider institution that will be needed to provide responsive Library Information Services to the users in the twenty first century.

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