

Need for Innovation in College Library and Information Services

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ABSTRACT :

In the changing environment of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and related technology, the nature of information need of modern society have been changed. Due to the advancement of ICT tools, less usage of library resources and services is the big challenge for librarian in the present day. With the handling responsibility of promote to reading culture in the students, librarians need to identify their interest in terms of information seeking. College librarians need to rethink about the available library and information services as per the present demands of the user. In this paper, the author introducing the present as well as future challenges of college libraries and describing innovative or modern library and information services applicable to college libraries in present day.

Keywords :

Innovative Library Services, Challenges of Library, College Library Services, etc.

Introduction :

From the last decade, the Information Communication Technology became an integral part of library and information centres. Now days, most of the college libraries have automated library system. But still the automation and the application of ICT tools in the library services not enough. Librarians need to do research on the users trends periodically towards information requirement. As per the trend, library professional need to develop their services area. In the academic library, librarians are facing various problems such as lack of fund, lack of IT infrastructure, lack of skilled manpower etc. College librarians can't change the system easily without support from staff and the management. But if the library professional goes systematically, then the change will come in the system and it will overcome the challenges of libraries. The transformation of college libraries from traditional to digital is started early 1990. But still few of the libraries in India not able to change because of several problems as said above. Ebinuwale and Ola (2014) suggested in his article that and "The new manner of information handling requires that the librarians can no longer sit on the fence on professional spectatorship if he/she must meet the challenges of the changing environment. Therefore there must be incessant training for the librarians in the area of ICT". Some extent Open Source Software and Open Access Resources gives the solution on financial problems, but library professional need to rethink and develop the ICT skills to apply the technology in the library. Library professionals may provide better information services on the basis of Open Source library Software and Open Educational Resources. Now days, there are thousands of open access journals and e-books are available freely over the internet. These free resources can be used to provide modern information services to their user.

College Libraries :

According to Sehagal & Sethi (1998) a college library is a Library which is established, maintained and administrated by a college to meet the need of its students and faculty.” (Sehagal & Sethi, 1998)

The major objective of college libraries is to acquire course related information resources and manage the information resources as per service required by the user. College library is a supportive centre to the higher education system to achieve its objectives and also performs the important role in the perception of higher education, passing the cultural heritage to the next generation as well as develop reading habits among the youth.

Challenges of College Libraries :

Thamaraiselvi, G (2009) stated technological revolution in the field of higher education. He said that “Technological innovations have brought tremendous changes in the whole education process and have led to a paradigm shift from teacher based education to a learner based education system” as per the users trend towards the information seeking, following challenges have to face to the college librarian.

- **Changing Role of Academic Librarian:**

The role of academic librarian has been change in this digital era. Now the library professionals need to apply a set of skills for facing the present challenges of web technology. In this e-learning environment library professionals have to perform new roles such as role of great leadership, proactive role in the professional activity, act as a master of web, information scientist, information analyst, role of digital resource manager etc.

- **Trend in Digital Form of Information :**

Many organisations in India created digital library and provide open access to the digital content. It is because of the trend among present users about finding information in digital form. Therefore library professionals need to develop the nature of library services as per the present trend of the user. The famous example of digital initiative is National Digital Library on India which is created by IIT, Kharagpur (<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in>).

- **Develop Library And Information Science :**

Earlier, there was only library science in India but today, information science becomes an integral part of the library science. The library science contains theory and the technique of acquisition, organisation and distribution of printed resources to the user when they required. After 1990s the library science included information science which becomes great stream to make library professionals capable to face future challenges. But in this digital era, there is need of qualitative research in the field of library and information science which will be able to survive library professionals in the virtual age of the future.

- **Status of College Librarian :**

The college librarian’s role is behind the curtain which can be seen in the form of facilities and services. In India, most of the users of colleges are not aware about the librarian. Because they not in touch with the user. Librarian need to come forward and share the knowledge with the user about information finding, sharing and its management. So, in this era, college librarians should be recognised as information servant, knowledge manager, research officer, technological assistant etc. and they should act accordingly.

Innovative Services in Library and Information Services :

“In order to solve the problem a new technology of push is put to use in library. Its aim is to transform service mode of ‘users-look for-information’ into ‘information-look for- users’. Information will be delivered to users timely. Users may get the new information issued from the website without visiting it every time”(Jinmin, 2011).

The present college library must able to provide following innovative library and information services to the user.

1. Automated circulation based on software, RFID technology etc.
2. Circulation of electronic resources
3. Web OPAC for access remotely
4. Institutional Repository for college and syllabus related material such as college prospects, various reports, research articles, PPTs, Educational links, news clippings, etc.
5. Remote access to e-journals and e-databases
6. Library web page for virtual library and information services
7. Ask librarian facility
8. E-notes related to curriculum.
9. Information searching tools
10. Instant messaging
11. Translation services through software
12. Career related guidance
13. Research assistance and guidance
14. CAS and SDI through e-mail
15. Internet connection and Wi-Fi for personal devices.
16. Mobile applications for access library resources through mobile.
17. Blogs
18. Extension services such as study and career counselling through social media, conduct easy competition, debate competition and other competitions to attract users towards library.
19. Daily Book Review program through Social Media
20. Online application counter for competitive exam.

Most of the above mentioned services are in digital form and remotely accessible.

With holding the printed resources, academic library should provide these innovative services to the user in this digital era to face the present as well as future challenges. The decreasing ratio of library use will stop and these innovative services will help library to increase foot fall of the users. The traditional library and information services need to convert in the newer form as we can say “old wine in a new bottle”.

Conclusion :

As discussed above challenges of college librarian and the innovative library and information services are linked to the present trend of the user. In this era, most of the user prefer internet instead of library for finding information. Now, the college library should be ready for providing remote access library and information services available by 24×7. Therefore skilful librarian is needed in this digital era for facing the challenges. The open access initiative is also dawned. The college libraries need one time investment in the IT infrastructure. Electronic information services are less expensive than printed or conventional library services if the library having good IT infrastructural facilities.

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