2018-19

NCCLIST - 2019

National Conference

on

Contemporary Innovations in Library and Information Science, Social Science and Technology for Virtual World (NCCLIST-2019)

Contemporary Innovation in Library Science

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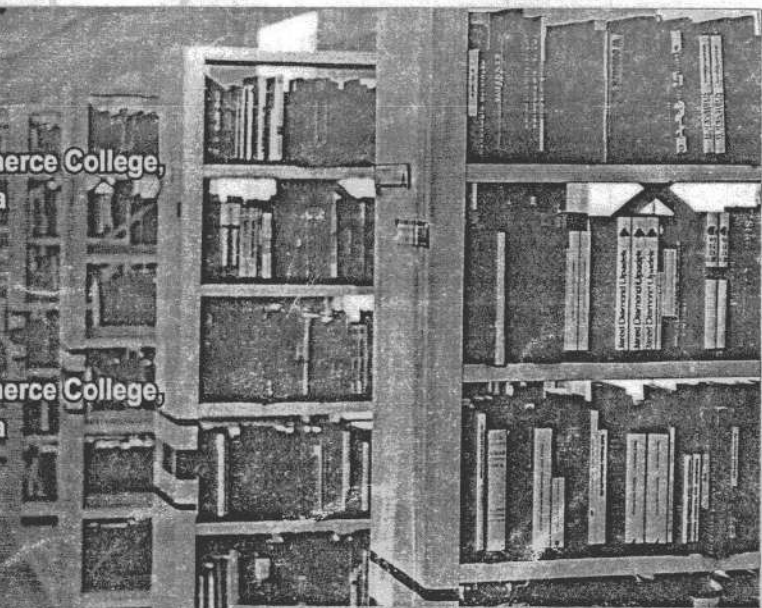**Executive Editor**
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Changing the Acadmic Libraries in Digital Era

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Abstract:
The Digital Era the nature of the libraries is changing .due to the impact of ICT. Users are not satisfied with libraries services. Quest of the knowledge of users is increasing day by day in the modern age. and analysis of the library systems needs as its point of departure to fix the libraries present position from number of parameters.

Key Words: Chang, Library,ICT, Digital Era.

Introduction

Libraries play different roles for different people. Libraries have transformed from places where students go to find books. To some, a library is a place to read books; be furnished with the current news from up-to-date newspapers; to do research; a place to access or share information in response to a particular need etc. now-a-days, libraries and librarians play an important role in providing access to information, organizing it, and helping users to find the information they need. With the passing of time and the rapid developments in information technology, the new ways of communication have taken effect and the ways in which information was previously handled, stored and disseminated have been altered. The changes going on today create an opportunity and a necessity for a transformation in the education system. New technologies bring many opportunities, changes and challenges to the academic libraries and library professionals. In this era of internet, librarians have the same job but they will have to do it differently. Now-a-days, electronic media such as CDs, DVDs, microfilms, and videotapes etc are replacing the physical forms of library documents.

Transforming to eBooks, e-journals taking place of journals, digital manuscripts, and various other documents in electronic form as the information resources of a library. All these transformations demand the academic library professionals to shift from the traditional library system to the digital libraries. Academic library professionals cannot neglect the changing face of the libraries and need to conform to the digital library environment. The conversion of the traditional library collections to the digital library collections, the ready availability of information on the internet and its widespread use really present the academic library professionals with an opportunity not a threat to play an active role in order to serve the information society in a better way than before. Information is growing at a very high speed each and every day.

Role of Library Professionals

The library and information centres have a distinctive role to play in the present democratic society in order to reduce the gap between those who haves and those who have-nots through information literacy and other programmes, particularly in digital environment. Librarian, now being more proactive information provider, should think of designing digital resources guides on various subjects, which include- search strategies for locating e-resources, and preparing a list of useful reference materials, high-quality websites, and so on.

Role of Learners

Most of the time students are in trouble in understanding the materials available in digital form, however, they cannot use it in a right context, so they just copy the contents. Therefore, in the present environment, students should have to be academically skilled, methodologically competent, a team worker, creative and information literate.

So, the students can discuss the need of relevant material, how to move forward in this process, about frustrations in writing the projects and information seeking and the related problems like teaching, consulting, research, and so on. They should also collaborate in the design, application, and maintenance of information access systems.

Apart from the teachers and librarian's role, the role of administrators and the information learners itself is also very important in reducing the gap among digital information user and the advancements of digital information society and bridging the digital divide.

Thus, we should facilitate to provide an encouraging environment in libraries to have collaboration among all the stakeholders to satisfy their requirements.

Adapting new technologies

Creation and development of institutional repositories like D Space, using FOSS

Enlistment in the Open DOAR.

Digital repository searchable from any of the major search engines

Enhanced visibility.

Global Accessibility.

Overcoming institutional insularity

Major Challenges

Establishing a digital library without refreshing the information technology and information retrieval skills of the academic library professionals is a difficult task. The adoption of the e-resources has made great advantage over the library services. In fact, most of the users are satisfied with such facilities since they can easily retrieve their required information within a short period of time. There is lack of such expertise in working librarians. All participants viewed it as a major challenge. However, libraries face a number of the challenges as they seek to continue offering the high level of the services that users have come to expect. Some of the challenges facing with e-resources management are discussed below

1. **Lack of professional skills:** Due to lack of management and technical skills, the academic library professionals are not able to handle the e-resources. Therefore, shortages of the professional skilled personnel who can establish or run digital library are challenges were identified for implementation of the digital libraries.

2. **Shortage of library funds:** ICT demand more funds for its infrastructure and continuing services. Most of the libraries have inadequate fund for acquiring e-resources and so the users do not get their needy information at the right time. Therefore, shortage of library fund to establish and run the same is challenges were identified for implementation of the digital libraries.

3. **Technical infrastructure:** In a digital information service system, infrastructure such as software, hardware, internet facilities and other physical equipments are required to provide easier, faster and comprehensive access to information. Absence of stable technical network infrastructures in terms of servers, physical cabling and wireless access points are challenges were identified for implementation of the digital libraries.

4. **Lack of co-operation of staff members:** The support and cooperation of staff members, programmers and technical staff are very essential to provide effective service in a digital environment. As such, the library staff should not only be technically competent but should also user-friendly-approach. Lack of co-operation between staff members are also identified as challenges for implementation of the digital libraries.

5. **Copyright issues:** Large scale of piracy of software and plagiarism is an important issue that the present day the academic library professionals are facing in providing electronic/digital information service. The cost and timeliness in retrieving the Indian Streams information are also considered. When negotiating access with a publisher, the librarian must agree to certain restrictions on photocopying or distribution of electronic materials. The library is responsible for maintaining the awareness of all users about copyright issues.

New Roles in the Digital Age

"We have new roles to fill .While the format of our resources may change , while access to information may change, while styles of service may change, the vision of high quality, service-oriented, information centres still fits the library's mission. We will serve our user communities best if we incorporate this into the digital library ." MacMillan (1999)

Calculation

Today's academic library professionals are not the mere custodians of documents but they are the information personnel. We as library professionals cannot ignore the changing library environment, and need to adopt ourselves to the digital library era. Knowledge of information technology is the key in this facet. We know that all the library professionals are not computer specialists and it is also not possible for library professionals to go back to the library schools in order to learn about the latest developments in the electronic information environment. Digital library era has already begun and we the library professionals have to express our identity by acquiring the requisite knowledge and skills and providing the right information to the user at the right time, which in fact has been our motto from ever since. Library professionals must strive; struggle for knowledge about new technologies that will be needed to provide responsive library information services to the users in the 21st century.

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Milliya Arts, Science & Management Science College,

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(An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institution)

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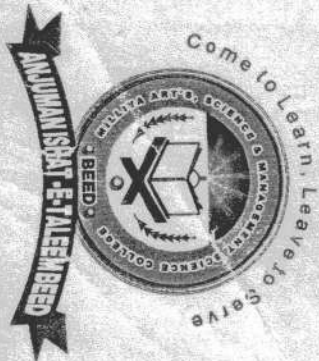
"e-Content Development & MOOC – 2019"

24th August, 2019

Certificate

This is to certify that Mr. /Ms/Dr./Prof. ___Hirwe P.S.___

of ___N.S.S.R's Arts & Science College, Chousala___

has actively participated in "**One Day National Seminar on e-Content Development**

and MOOC-2019"held on 24th August,2019 at Milliya Arts, Science & Management

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