

ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

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ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIBRARIANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

Internet has grown up as the most popular and effective information tool of the present age. Its growth, popularity and effectiveness are shaping the world as a global village. The paper highlighted on importance role and responsibilities of librarians in higher education, web based library services, and important skill needed to libraries.

Keywords: academic libraries, internet, ICT, web based services

Introduction

Library is one of the largest and most expensive educational resources of any academic institution. Library should be able to provide value based library and information services. It is the delivery platform of new ideas and is virtually the heart of the institution and a complex network of sophisticated system. Libraries and information centers play a vital role in education, spread of literacy, research and overall socioeconomic development of a country. Information whatever, in the form of empirical data or in the developed form called knowledge is therefore rightly being regarded today as vital national resource, as essential to the nation's well being and security as are the natural and economic resources.

Internet and Information and communication technologies has becomes ubiquitous with current and future social and organizational development. The role of these technologies in national development is undeniably significant. For the libraries, internet and information communication technology has tremendously changed the management of resources of housekeeping operations as well as the way services are delivered. While general information technology application tools and

integrated Library management systems are largely used in housekeeping operations like acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, control, serial control, etc; internet has been used extensively as a resource as well as a tool to deliver the Library & information services. In the absence of strong telecommunication channels, the internet facility is yet to find its success. Financial constraints are the major organizational levels. As a result the implementations of information communication technology for libraries are not receiving adequate support from their parent body. Thus, Application and usefulness of information communication technology in the academic libraries is important.

Changing Role of College Libraries

The nature of the College library and the role they play in campus is changing. Libraries are moving towards an information commons model of service, and becoming campus community centers. They invite student and faculty socialization, learning, research, scholarship and instruction. They are most effective when programming, services, and spaces are developed in partnership with others seeking similar educational outcomes. Academic libraries will increasingly provide information and services to their users at right time as per their requirement. Whatever the changes, the traditional roles of a library in an academic community, especially those communities that aren't changing substantially themselves, will remain valid and important to a successful college or university.

Web Based Library Services

Library users value those services that can be accessed from their desktops because these services save time. They also appreciate being

able to access services at their convenience, without being restricted by the library's hours of operation. Libraries are invariably providing web-based services such as search engines, OPAC, electronic journals, online databases, subject directories, gateways, subject portals etc.

There are some reasons to provide internet based services in academic libraries given below;

- Providing users with individualized guidance and support as they build their information search and application skills.
- User awareness of new services and information sources as they develop.
- Ensuring the needs of the users and the accessible information sources are suitable matched at all times
- Ensuring the information provided is high quality, accurate and appropriate.

Role and Responsibilities of Librarians in Internet Age

The basic goal of librarians has always been to provide right information to the right user to right time. The activities have evolved and transformed over the years due to available technology and need of information society. The role of librarians has changed in present digital era. Therefore it is pertinent to acquire new skill for begin a successful librarian or library professional in present digital era.

Internet and WWW

- surfing, browsing and filtering skills
- skills in retrieving, accessing required digital documents in time
- skills in searching network databases in number of digital sources and websites
- skills in creating home pages, content conversion, downloading techniques
- skills in web publishing and electronic publishing
- skill in archiving digital documents, locating them
- skills in digital preservation and storage techniques

Multimedia and Digital Media Processing

- Multimedia indexing, image processing
- interactive digital communications and visualization
- cataloguing and classification of digital documents, digital content
- searching and retrieval of text, images and other multimedia objects
- speech recognition, image visualization technologies
- conferencing techniques including teleconferencing

Digital and Online Information Systems

- Development of digital information sources
- digitization of print collections
- competency to manage CD-ROM network station
- Development of machine readable catalogue records
- Design and Development of Databases

Internal Networks: Should be able to Develop

- Personal Networks
- Project teams and Competence groups
- Internal Digital knowledge resource
- intranets

External Networks should be able to develop

- External Knowledge of resources
- External Knowledge of Networks
- Extranets

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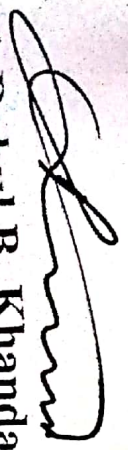
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