



ROLE OF LIBRARY SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS IN COVID 19 LOCKDOWN PERIOD IN INDIA

Asst. Prof. Dr. Vaishali M. Choudhari

Librarian, Lal Bahadur Shastri College, Partur, Jalna, Maharashtra State-431501.

Abstract:-

The role of the librarian has changed in the age of digital libraries. Therefore, it is advisable for the library to acquire the new skills required to develop and manage a digital library. Libraries and information professionals need to acquire such knowledge and skills as the library is a high service business affecting IT. The aim is to empower libraries and information professionals with IT skills to provide the services expected from customers in a new environment. In this paper show the Feature of the 21st century, the 21st century librarian, Electronic Library-Digital Library, Advantage and Disadvantages of Digital Library and Changing Role of Library Professional in Digital Age.

Keywords: -21st Century, IT, Electronic Library – Digital Library

Introduction:-

A library is more than a building. According to Matthew Battles quotations, this is a way to access and rearrange knowledge and other cultural resources. Sometimes a new building will be the most appropriate way to deliver a new range of library services, but not always. Books, information, electronic access to education and new configurations of related services can be distributed in many ways and through different media.

Feature of the 21st century

The 21st century is the millennium of information. This is also seen as the era of explosion of information output and information sources. This is known as the beginning of the age of knowledge. New patterns of work and new business methods have evolved; New types of work with new and different skills are required. The meaning of knowledge has changed in this century. Knowledge is no longer stored in the minds of experts, presented in books and categorized into subjects. It's now in the form of energy like networks and flow systems - something that does something or makes things happen. In the age of knowledge stability is given, stability is not given. Workers in the knowledge age group need to quickly discover, evaluate, and represent new information. This is what they need to tell others. They need to be adaptable, creative and innovative and be able to understand things as systems or big picture levels. In the 21st century educational library, defined the role of the library after the rise of ICT. Printed information is no longer sufficient to store information. CDROM databases, electronic document delivery, automated catalogs, circulatory systems, and online information retrieval (OPAC) have become the order of the day.



The 21st century librarian

As the traditional custodian of information, librarians in the 21st century need to be aware of these significant changes and as such employ their technological knowhow and intellectual masterpiece in order to retain the leading role of the academic libraries in supporting teaching, learning and research. This means that the 21st century librarian will have to be armed with competent skills that will enhance the provision of effective library services to meet client's changing information needs. Literature abound on the competencies and skills needed for the 21st century library professional. Tennant (1999) identifies important personal traits : the capacity to learn constantly and quickly; flexibility; innate skepticism; propensity to take risks; abiding public service perspective; good interpersonal skills; skill at enabling and fostering change; and capacity for and desire to work independently. Omekwu (2003), mentions basic knowledge of computers and their capabilities; Competency with search engines; internet facilities; e-mail; internet navigator tools, web browsers and web file formats; database software; internet development and management know-how. Also, some of the 21st century skills according to Krishnan (2011) include communication and collaboration, creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, media literacy, ICT literacy, flexibility and adaptability. The skills aforementioned are familiar with us; the challenge is how to harness these skills for effective library services.

Electronic Library – Digital Library:

The digital library is not only the digitization of physical resources but also the thoughtful institution of electronic collection for better access. Such an organization provides consistency based on a large amount of shared knowledge. It is basically about a digital library organization and access to large information stores. In all likelihood, digital libraries are likely to augment traditional libraries such as online card catalog augments instead of drastically changing book collections. This is because digital media can be better than finding and physical medium is better for reading. Let us learn about the skills needed to create a digital library and digital collection. According to Wiederhold, "Digital libraries are popularly viewed as electronic versions of storage libraries in digital form, which allow direct communication content to be retrieved and copied from the master version." "A digital library is an integrated technology and information resource that breaks down the physical barrier between resources, allowing remote access." Vinensky saw that 'the digital library will be a collection of distributed information services, manufacturers will make them available and customers will find them through automated agents.'

Advantage of Digital Library:

Digital libraries have some features that are different from traditional libraries. It has a comprehensive and accurate search system for a wide range of text, image and audio-video resources. Collective reading does not require physical space in a digital library and can be accessed anywhere, anytime. Different people can access the same source at the same time.



The benefits of digital libraries are mentioned below:

- Save the rare and exclusive collection of valuable documents, libraries, archives and museums.
- Provide quick access to library holdings around the world via a worldwide automated catalog.
- Scholars help find both physical and digitized versions of scholarly articles and books through a single interface.
- Search of the Internet, creating professional databases and library archives.
- Learning to offer an online learning environment. Shortening the chain from author to user.
- Preparation conservation costs save space and money.
- Technology Digital technology caters to multiple, simultaneous users of the same origin that is not possible for any other type of archived content.

Disadvantage of Digital Library:

New technology has brought many advantages but simultaneously it also has certain disadvantage

- expensive
- equipment obsolescence (Hardware & Software)
- Storage media relate Matter
- authority of data creators and publishers
- qualified manpower
- User learning and training

Changing Role of Library Professional in Digital Age:

The availability of information on the Internet, and its widespread use, presents librarians with opportunities rather than a threat. Technology survey users understand that they need the help of people in the library. New trends in information access now cause librarians to face difficulties and complex challenges. In today's world of technology / internet the information business is changing so the professionals have to change themselves. Information experts will now have to act as e-information resources in which various business groups are expected to formulate, manage, maintain and service information strategies. Information professionals need to: **Librarian**- In addition to being a library manager, he also works as a compiler developer, technical processor, etc., taking care of the quality of information. **Information Officer** - Users need to know how to manage and deliver the right information services to meet their information needs. **Information Advisor / Trainer** - Make sure the user / staff knows how to access the relevant sources of information (literacy). **Systems and Networking** - Develop and design the right systems for the distribution of information to their users.

Skills, knowledge, ability required for LIS professionals:

The basic goal of the library and information business is always to make information available to those who need it. Actions that are aware of this goal have evolved over the years. This includes - the need for available technology and developing information organization. Information activities were guided by



developments in the areas of storage, presentation and storage of knowledge, collection development and organization of knowledge, information blasting and computer in information retrieval. Librarians and information professionals are involved in collecting, storing, retrieving and disseminating information on the one hand, and computer specialists on the other, who assist libraries and information professionals in this endeavor. For the successful implementation of the digital library, LIS professionals need to be trained and have the necessary knowledge and skills.

- Information resources (books, journals, magazines, e- resources etc.)
- Technological facilities and resources (computer, online catalogues, websites, LANs file servers etc.)
- Budget, Human resources (Skills for non teaching Staff training)
 - **Competencies that required to possess in LIS professional:**
- Provide best quality service.
- Knowledge of user interaction with information resources.
- Flexible and smoothly.
- Posses excellent communication skills, constantly update personal knowledge base by keeping in touch with the latest development
- Create awareness among the users, make them accept the changes
 - **Technical Knowledge required:**
- Information Retrieval software for online, and Internet.
- Operating systems
- Library software packages, acquaintances with Digital Library Tools.
- World processing, Graphics, Spread sheet & Presentations.
- Database Management Systems including the skills in Bibliographic Database Management Systems, General purpose programming, Networking
- Web page Development and Content Management

Conclusion:

As traditional custodians of information, librarians need to be aware of the implications of these changes and develop technological and managerial skills, which will enable them to make effective use of information and to meet their organizations changing information need.

The rise of information and communication technology has changed a pattern for libraries. ICT has enhanced access, research and communication. This means that it has become a useful tool in libraries aimed at supporting teaching, learning and research. At the same time, 21st century professional librarians are expected to take advantage of the opportunities offered by ICT to make libraries more relevant to the 21st century and a hub for information provision, creation and dissemination. The digital age has revolutionized the way information is stored and accessed. This has changed the concept of librarians and their services. Many new terms e.g. Digital libraries, virtual libraries are emerging to describe the libraries of the digital age.



References:

1. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281374279_The_Digital_Age_Changes_and_Challenges_to_Librarians_in_Nigerian_University_Libraries
2. Kanjilal, Uma (2004). Education and training for digital libraries: Model for web enhanced continuing education programme IN International Conferences on Digital Libraries. New Delhi.
3. Krishnan, Y. (2011). Twenty first century skills.
4. **Marchionin, Gary. And Maurer, Hermann (1995). The role of Digital Library in teaching and learning. Communication of the ACM, New Delhi.**
5. Nyamboga, Constantine matoke, asundi, AY, Kemparajee TD and pawinun, pratap (2004). Required skills of Information technologies for Library & Information professionals: A case of University Libraries in Kenya-Africa. IN International Conferences on Digital Libraries. New Delhi.
6. Tennant, R. (1999) .Skills for the new millennium, Library Journal. 124, 39.
7. Ugah, A.D. (2007). Information sources variables and the use of library services in the university libraries in the south eastern zone of Nigeria. Unpublished PhD Dissertation, University of Uyo, Akwa ibom.
8. Wiederhold, Gio (1995). Digital Libraries: Value and Productivity. Communication of the ACM.