



Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's

**Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil Mahavidyalaya,
Pandharpur, Dist. - Solapur.- 413304**

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SOUVENIR

UGC SPONSORED

State Level Seminar On

"Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats for Today's Librarianship"

Organised by : Department of Library & Information Science

(23rd December, 2013)

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(H.O.D., Library)

Prof. M. G. Patil

(Librarian, D.P.)

Prof. M. K. Patil

(Librarian, D.P.)

Prof. Y. S. Patil

(Librarian, D.P.)

Prof. B. S. Patil

(Librarian, D.P.)

Prof. Dr. M. S. Patil

(Coordinator, D.P.)

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Prof. D. S. Patil

(Librarian, U.P.T.)

Prof. Dr. M. S. Patil

(Coordinator, U.P.T.)

CHANGING TRENDS OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT"

Shivaji P. Kamble

Mr. Mahesh M. Kamble

Mr. Dattatray S. Patil

Mahavidyalaya, Wai

P.V.P. College K. Mahankal

S. M. Mahavidyalaya Akluj

shivajilib@gmail.com

mahesh_librarian@rediffmail.com

bbr_patil@yahoo.co.in

Abstract

The advancement of Information and Communication Technology has brought a lot of changes not only on the library and information services but also on the roles and expectations of the librarians and information professionals. Now a days library becomes the centre point of resource based learning. The librarians should increase their skills to provide good access to Information & Communication Technology. This paper will attempt to understand how the librarians' roles are changing according to Electronic Environment trends. It reveals the prospects & opportunities to cope with the changes in library world from traditional to electronic digital environment. It will also focus on the strengths, weakness, opportunities & threats of librarians roles in electronic environment.

Keywords:- Changing Trends, Librarianship, Electronic Environment, Digital ,Virtual Library.

1. Introduction:-

Due to knowledge explosion and the advancement of Information and Communication Technology the concept of libraries shifted from tradition to digital. The transition of tradition library collection to digital or virtual collections presented the librarian with new opportunities. The Internet, web environment and associated sophisticated tools have given the librarian a new dynamic role to play & serve the information based society in better ways. Traditionally librarian is known as a person located in the library building carrying out the tasks like acquiring, organizing, preserving the printed documents besides helping the readers in locating the information needed by them. In the last decade of the twentieth century, this picture has rapidly changed under the influence of advances in electronic environment. The librarians have the opportunity to use modern tools to provide quicker, more complete and more sophisticated services to the users. Databases and reference sources can be queried via the Internet and World Wide Web. World Wide Web has revolutionized the way people access information and has opened up new possibilities in areas such as digital libraries & scientific information retrieval & dissemination.

2. Changing Trends in Libraries:-

Library is a huge storehouse of information emergence of internet and communication technology libraries has been acquiring different approaches of the same and mode of services is changed therefore, different types of libraries have barn in society such as:-

2.1 Traditional Library:-

Libraries are where the access points such as; library catalogues as well as library collections

and their managements by and large manual

Hybrid Library:-

The hybrid library is a term used to describe libraries containing a mix of traditional print resources and the growing number of electronic resources. Hybrid libraries are mixes of printed books and magazines as well as electronic materials such as downloadable audio book, electronic journals e-books etc. Hybrid libraries are the new noun in most public and academic libraries.

Automated Library-

A library where access points and keepings operations are computerized is called an automated library. The graphic records are still print- on-paper publication.

Electronic/ Digital Library-

A library in which a significant proportion of the resources are available in machine-readable format, accessible by means of computer. The digital content may be locally held or accessed remotely via computer networks.

According to Wiederhold "A digital library is popularly reviewed as an electronic version of a library where storage is in digital form, allowing direct communication to obtain material and copying it from a master version

Virtual Library:-

The access point as well as the graphic records are in electronic/ digital form when these are electronic. Digital libraries are connected via various networks. Particularly the internet. This is called virtual library A "library without walls" in which the collections do not exist on paper, microform or other tangible form at a physical location but are electronically assessable in digital format via computer networks. Such libraries exist only on a very limited scale.

The Changing Roles of Librarian in Electronic Environment:-

The environment in which librarians work is changing in terms of greater access to a range of information, increased speed in acquiring information, greater complexity in locating, analyzing and adoptions, lack of standardization of both hardware and software, continuous learning of users and staff, management of financial investment for technology.

The role of librarian in the new environment of exponentially growing internet and World Wide Web has been addressed by a number of authors. On one hand, it has a more dynamic role than at present as guides the information seekers in an exploding universe of information in another way, the rise of digitized information is an opportunity to elevate the role of librarian and leads to the emergence of a new breed of librarian i.e. 'Cybrarian'. Electronic environment includes the hardware, software, internet & bringing changes not only in librarianship but also in daily professional activities. The role of librarians are changed according to current trends which are as following –

1.1 Librarian –

In addition to being library manager, they also act as collection development technical processors and so on, taking of information quality.

1.2 Documentation Officer –

Being as the documentation officer, he has to preserve, organize and disseminate the documents in systematic way.

1.3 Information Officer/Manager

To meet information need of the user they should know how to manage and deliver appropriate information services

1.4 In an electronic environment ,Librarians act as

1. Knowledge Manager
2. An evaluator of global information Resources
3. End-user Trainer / Educator
4. Search Intermediary
5. Sifter of Information Resources
6. Facilitator
7. Web Site Builder or Publisher
8. Interface Designer
9. Researcher

4. Role of Librarian: SWOT Analysis :-

Since the 1800s, the field of librarianship has seen the technology grow from handwriting to electronic pen, to type writer, to word processor, and now to computer. Electronic resources and the Internet now help to make the task of obtaining reference material more accessible and much faster than ever before. Already computer databases have rendered the bulky card catalogs obsolete and new media have broadened the range of materials available for browsing. The technology changes have been affecting almost every type of library including public, school, academic and special. Very few libraries have been immune to technology. Librarianship is one of the oldest professions in the world and the times call for a new breed of librarians, those who understand and integrate technology, information and learning into a new mode. However, to sustain in the field of librarianship, librarians need to equip with technical skills such as knowledge of HTML, programming languages, knowledge of hardware basics and troubleshooting, understanding of software programs, and the skill to search, display, and retrieve data effectively in a variety of information retrieval Systems.

The following are strengths and weaknesses inherent in the library science profession.

Strengths :-

- By the nature of their profession, librarians are service oriented.
- Librarians are able to identify, evaluate and organize print as well as electronic information

resources.

- 1 Librarians understand what the user wants and are very close to the user information requirements than other professionals.
- 1 Librarians are able to train users to search and retrieve information, which is a part of user education in his profession.
- 1 Librarians believe in the value of information sharing and networking.
- 1 Librarians are experienced in knowledge management concepts, which are most identical to the classification, cataloguing, documentation, storing and making information available on networks.

Weaknesses :-

- 1 The general feeling of the librarians is that they are threatened by technological change.
- 1 Librarians lack same level of technical knowledge in dealing with computer hardware, software, etc. as the concerned professionals.
- 1 Librarians are no longer acting as controllers of information especially while using Internet.
- 1 They are struggling with the user's false perception that the Internet can meet all information needs.

Opportunities:-

There are numerous opportunities for the librarian in Internet and Web environment in providing information services easily, timely and appropriately to the users.

- 1 Universal Accessibility of Material
- 1 Book and Reading Lists
- 1 Local Databases
- 1 Virtual Reference Desks
- 1 Web Forms
- Patron Initiated Inter-Library Services
- Online Catalogs
- E-Newsletters
- Virtual Tours
- Cooperative Cataloguing

Threats (Challenges) :-

- 1 Increase use of Internet
- 1 Information resources are turning to electronic media or digital content.
- 1 This reality reflect on budgeting & funding of Libraries.
- 1 Digitisation of Information.

It is an indisputable fact that knowledge is power in the modern organizations. Acquiring greater skill, wider knowledge and familiarity with the important facets of individuals work will definitely contribute to the enlargement of ones knowledge base. A knowledgeable librarian is better placed to face the changes and the uncertainties in the emerging scenario.

Conclusion:-

Librarians have been playing a versatile role beyond their traditional job. They have to

gather adequate knowledge of computer and communication technologies, networks and networking, operating systems, Internet concepts, database management systems along with adequate practical exposure to handle technological devices. In mobilization of all kinds of information resources librarians are expected to work as pathfinders by assisting all users with varied backgrounds and abilities through information supportive electronic environment. A librarian playing with different roles, talents and training will be able to meet the challenges of future library scene.

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