

Library Management in Modern Information Era

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Abstract:

New information and digital technologies has been added in the library environment and changed the older library to modern library from document preservation to knowledge management. Many challenges are faced by library professional due to unprecedented explosion of information which is created globalization, privatization and liberalization. The present paper discusses the management skills for the library profession in the present scenario. Due to development of digital environment in library the roles and expectation of library profession also increased to satisfy their user's information demand.

Keywords: Digital, Information, Library, Management, Technology.

Introduction:

The dynamic environment of the libraries stresses the need for library professional to remain flexible and adaptable to change. For fulfilling these needs, library professional have to ensure that their knowledge, competencies and skills meet the needs of the community which they serve. These changes in the library environment will affect their role, job opportunities, self image, motivation and even survival of library professional. Therefore, library professionals need to find a solution to timely repositioning and role calming. Technologies have created a new service environment that has pushed conventional boundaries much further with the calculated risk and opportunities. Library professionals need continuous grooming by acquiring core competencies and new skills so that they never become obsolete in this fast changing environment. So, library professional need to change their old traditional library work of collecting, processing, storing and accessing the information to modern library work by using online/offline database, e- resources, e- journals, networks etc.

Today most of the libraries are using computer latest information technology machines and techniques for performing acquisition, processing and serial control work. Recently, library professionals are facing the main challenges of preparing employees to use latest technology effectively. In the present internet technology era, every library professional ignored the management aspect a library. In the addition to the technical and professional skills they have to possess various other skills like business & management, teaching, leadership, soft skills etc.

According to Urs (2004), the metamorphosis of the library professionals to information professionals largely reflects the shifting in the emphasis and activities aimed at realizing the basic goal of profession to participate & facilitate the certain transmission & use of knowledge.

In the end of 21st century, there was an information technology resolution which resulted a drastically changes in library collection from print to digital. Therefore, librarians need to find a solution to timely relocation & role claiming.

New techniques require new skills in seeking, processing & using information in the libraries. Learning new things & education are the significant things in the digital society & the education situation is changing for several reasons, which develop from the social, cultural, political & economic changes in the society.

Now, these days, old traditional library undergoes drastic changes due to the digital revolution & converted into digital library.

Role of libraries in the Modern information Technologies- In 21st century new techniques like ICT changed the human common life in different aspect. The new opportunities due to ICT have changed the world into a new society called the knowledge society or information society. The internet is a technique through which one can migrate from one chain of computer to the other is called information superhighway. Ict has caused socio-cultural, political, educational and economic changes. Libraries are the main areas which are affected by ICT and become the main place of information and knowledge has been made virtual such that library services may extend beyond walls and physical buildings.

Therefore library professional much behave in a proactive manner to support the 21st century educational change.

Impact of Changes due to ICT in Libraries:

Thamhain described the few characteristics of today's technology changes in library environment these are

- Complex library system and cross functional linkages.
- Resources constraint, tough performance requirement
- High task complexities, risk and uncertainties.
- Fast changing multidimensional user needs.
- Intense competitions in open global markets.
- Collaboration in need of dealing with different organization cultures and values
- Need for continuous improvements, upgrades and enhancements.
- Need for multidimensional skills, ability to deal with changing virtual learning environment

- Increasing impact of IT on service delivery mode

New techniques are directly affects the knowledge, competencies & skill requirements of the information professionals to do their job effectively.

Traditional Roles & Skills:

The skills & roles of library professionals associated with the changing environment of library will help to ensure librarians survival. Traditionally, the core skills associated with the library professional's which include information handling skills, training & facilitating skills, evaluation skills & concern for the customer are all still relevant. These skills cover cataloguing, classification, indexing, ensuring work & user education all functions which if managed by librarians will help to make the internet an easier place to navigate. The traditional library skills mentioned above should be reassessed and their value to information services in the electronic environment applied. The amount of information variable increasing day by day to users and the ways in which it can be accessed has made it easier for users to get the information they require. But now the amount of information is overwhelmed which makes the situation more worst and making it difficult to locate the exact information they seek as well as overseeing issues of accuracy and authenticity. The foundation of librarianship which include skills such as cataloguing and user education are relevant in an electronic age as they are in a print based are and will continue to provide a solid base of skills.

New role and skills in Digital information environment of library:

Management and interpersonal skills will make librarians more effective managers of networked resources and services. Hasting states that it is more important that digital libraries posses particular personal qualities rather than specific technical expertise. The library professional must change and adapt to the new electronic information environment. They will learn new technologies and be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of them. Library professional should move forward with the new technology and take a pivotal role within organization. Library professional are dealing with information in electronic formats by creating web pages to promote their services to external customers and choosing automated library management system. In digital era librarians and information professionals should be able to manage to digital information system as this encompass the overall competencies necessary to create, store, analyze and organize in the digital libraries.

Changing role of Library Professionals in Digital Environment

In the new digital environment, advancement in ICT, format of information and way to flow of information has great impact on the role of library professional. The development of collection tools, techniques and approaches are become global. Therefore, library professional are forced to change the way they are functioning in information need their users. The changing role of library professional requires different personalities of

librarians as well as different skills and knowledge. The library professional will become agents of accessibility and integration, linking users in a range of digital information.

Conclusion:

The new era librarian will become the guardian of digital information and will be the vehicle to preserve democratic access to information. In digital environment the role of library professional are providing digital reference services, electronic information services, navigating, searching to the users. Library professional with newly acquired skills can play a meaningful and leading role in the networked information society of the millennium, New era library professional add values and can make libraries truly useful and user friendly. Many personal characteristics new skills and competencies are essential for the new era librarians to create and manage library collection and services. Demonstrated skills and sophisticated expertise competencies are needed for new era library professional to manage the new digital information technology. Digital environment demands to change the library professional into digital library professional with multi skills, multi tasking, abilities, in the areas of work such as management, communication, language and others.

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