Managing Modern Libraries: Challenges for Academic Libraries in the 21st Century

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Abstract

This article discusses who is a librarian? Who is responsible for keeping the resources in various forms and who is now responsible for dealing with resources available in various formats like AV recordings, graphical material, full text and bibliographic databases and digital sources? Making these information available is the new responsibility of modern librarianship. The amount of resources is increasing every day and technology is also providing new methods for its management, bringing the libraries more close to its user than ever before. This paper focuses on the challenges faced by a librarian in managing modern libraries, where e-resources are the new storehouse of knowledge. It also highlights the opportunities that the ICT has given to libraries in providing new services; today the usage of technology in managing the universe of knowledge has made the traditional librarian a modern librarian.

Keywords: Technology Management, Knowledge Management, Modern Librarian, Information Management, OPAC, Open Content.

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1.   Introduction

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan fifth law 'Library is a growing organism' This law focused more on the need for internal change than on changes in the environment itself, is true to the environment of the modern library. Libraries are always growing in its collection, services, usage and users. The libraries are esteemed wellspring of data and to keep up this position, librarians need to connect with themselves in redesigning themselves so they can meet the changing desires for their users.

This is the correct time for librarians to take up the difficulties and make best utilization of the chance to change the library and their job. Present day librarian is the person who joins the conventional aptitudes of librarianship with the information technology and who has instructive capacity to apply technology in the management of knowledge. Today the technology and knowledge management are the two things that make a librarian a modern one.

It's clear that the library has been backbone of institution for academic purposes in so far as pen has been put to paper. Be that as it may, the library and its job in academic research has no uncertainty in experiencing a reasonable change in the 21st century.

Libraries have for long while unlimited sources of information for students - for centuries this involved row after row of books. However, the face of libraries is changing as content is moving towards a digital platform and Internet access is more attractive than human necessity than a privilege.

While this presents innovative and creative ways for libraries to stay relevant to students and researchers, it also carries its fair share of challenges. Here are the top 10 obstacles being faced by academic libraries today:

2. Challenges for Academic Libraries in the 21st Century

2.1   Making services engaging to researchers and students: Google isn't the response to everything - you know this, however your customer base likely does not. Subsequently, you need to completely assimilate the requirements and needs of students and researchers so you can make a substantial and engaging difference in their work moving forward.

2.2   Handling research data management tools: Libraries should be the place on grounds for information curation and research management. Librarians require the support of their faculty and administrators to make this happen, but librarians also have to keep themselves knowledgeable in the advancements of data management so research doesn't become stale.

2.3   Demonstrating your value: Academic libraries are dependably on a financial plan. This means that month after month, year after year, libraries have to come up with compelling examples of how valuable their work is - frequently with an approaching primary concern. However, according to the American Library Association, research has proven a connection between student grade point averages and library material usage. Staff needs to communicate this connection and demonstrate why libraries require more attention and public engagement.

2.4   Preserving material on a digital scale: Not just there are excellent products available that can help libraries achieve this - even with the largest of collections - it's turning into the standard. According to OCLC Research, a whopping 97 percent of 169 research libraries in the U.S. and Canada have utilized digital platforms with their special collections. In view of these numbers, it's clear that software combined with a librarian's expertise is the wave of future in regard to user interface and access to academic data.

2.5   A growing and diverse spectrum of customers: You've most likely seen this as of now, as the 20th century felt a substantial change in technological innovation that affected people of all ages. On any given day, a librarian may need to help customers from six different generations, from baby boomers to millennials, according to 21st Century Library. This means that your workload might feel a bit overwhelming when you are trying to help those who are aware with traditional library services compared with younger patrons who are more acquainted with tech-driven library software.

2.6   Nailing down library policies: With the expanded use of online tools, there are many questions that you might need to address to the administration. For example, you may ask if the university should be purchasing e-books together with traditional print sources. Or on the other hand, as many modern academic research centers are finding, there may not be a requirement for purchasing textbooks at all. These are only a few examples of library policies that staff and the administration need to pinpoint moving forward.

2.7   Role development: Open Access has required librarians to become learned in a developing number of subjects on a dumbfounding scale. While no institution will anticipate that you will process information at the pace of a computer, it may feel that way sometimes. Including budgeting and resource constraints can contribute to this problem as well.

2.8   Digital licensing: At times, these models can be quite difficult and take a good amount of research on your part. While every academic research facility is different, College and Research News states that patron-driven procurement of e-books is slated to become the norm, which implies that digital licensing agreements should become more sustainable and easier to understand.

2.9   Subject-matter expertise: With so much information filling libraries at a fast pace, academic institutions need to play an active role the management of libraries. There have already been great developments taken on a national scale; however, it creates that these same efforts should to be done on a micro-scale if universities want to keep up with subject-matter expertise.

2.10   Becoming familiar with a wide range of digital content: By clearly observing what sorts of articles, published works and e-books are being used mostly by students and researchers, librarians can understand what types of content they need to become familiar with in a global, digital world while still providing high quality sources.

Today's librarian isn't the one sitting and shooting two rehashed words "Keep Quiet", are more dynamic working with the lines ***"Librarians have always been among the most thoughtful and helpful people. They are teachers without a classroom by 'Willard Scott'."***. Without a librarian, the library can't work and if libraries won't be there, there will not be a source of social enlightenment.

3.   Conclusion

With academic libraries, the challenges of role development, digital licensing and research tools are molding the manner in which that librarian provides quality content to students and researchers.

ICT has brought forth the modern librarian. Modern librarian likens multitasking with being blended means focused on the combination of technology and knowledge management skills. Modern librarian has to identify the learning gaps to develop and evaluate the product that will resolve these gaps. The ICT has given an huge opportunity to the libraries to grow. The new technologies contain cloud computing, mobile services, marketing of libraries using social media, etc. This also carries a number of challenges for the modern librarian like digital preservation, implementation of IT, license agreement presentation, etc. Modern librarian has to make best utilization of the opportunities to provide better services and has to face the challenges to prepare the library for the future.

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