ROLE OF LIBRARY DURING COVID- 19 PANADEMIC

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ABSTRACT

This work is a statement about a positive way to provide library services to university library users during the pandemic. Many university libraries in India offer traditional library services. Some of them are hybrid libraries. This document suggests some simple online services that any university library can provide under current circumstances . This service includes online referral service via email, SMS and social network. Other services include translation, information literacy, document delivery and online business support. Problems include weak networks, insufficient power supply, lack of funding and lack of ICT skills. These challenges can be overcome by efficiently using available resources , providing solar power, training library staff, and providing relief supplies to reference librarians.

Key words: Academic libraries , library services ,corona virus

INTRODUCTION

University libraries serve the teaching, research and learning needs of faculty, non-academic staff and students. University libraries are established to fulfill the purpose of the institution that owns the library. It also plays an important role in informing lifelong learning and providing access to information for national development. Most university libraries are mixed libraries (Owoeye & Ali, 2017) containing books and non-book materials for their users. The university library is the center of higher education institutions (Oduagwu, 2006). Academic libraries are the revolving hub of higher education institutions, and the nature or status of academic libraries is a parameter that measures the quality of institutional graduates. The coronavirus, widely known as COVID-19, occurred in Wuhan, China in December 2019. On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially announced it. 2020 As of January 5, there are 59 cases. Ten days later, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified 282 confirmed cases, including 4 In Japan, South Korea, and Thailand (Chaplin, 2020). It devastated the whole world, but infectious diseases killed thousands of people around the world. In addition, schools, manufacturing and business operations around the world have been closed. This infectious disease has caused great losses to human and material resources . Most library doors are locked, but they must serve users for the role of the library , which is the driving force of development and the lifeline of society . This means that academic libraries in India and other developing countries need to find ways to serve users in advance when the world is devastated by the coronavirus. Using ICT and other innovative services, users can access the library's information resources (Simisaye, Salisu and Awodoyin , 2018) . The American Library Association (2020) recommends closing the library for the safety of library staff and users. IFLA (2020) has recommended that library staff stay safe by following World Health Organization rules and regulations, including social distancing and toilets, regardless of measures applied in different countries (general trade restrictions, library closures). Use soap, hand sanitizer, use masks, and general hygiene . Most university libraries claim to be hybrid libraries, but provide traditional library services It is important that whatever type of service the library provides, it strives to serve home users with simple ICT technologies. Actually, libraries in

India and developing countries are not in operation at this time, but what I am proposing here is that ICT equipment can be used to provide services.

Objectives of the Study:

The objective of this study is to recommend types of proactive services that can be provided for users in time of corona virus pandemic .

Methodology:

Services that can be Provided by Libraries during COVID – 19 Pandemic:

This means that among deadly coronavirus infections, one of the main ways to serve users is to serve them online. As a result, university libraries use online services to approach library users. Libraries are supposed to provide information to users through laptops and Android phones. Online information can be communicated to users through social media, SMS and email. This is a way to proactively disseminate information from developing countries with lagging infrastructure. University libraries can provide information literacy services. This service helps library users learn how to make effective use of the information materials available in the library. Information dissemination allows users to obtain information for lifelong learning and knowledge that contributes to the development of the country. In other words, information literacy enables library users to obtain information that can meaningfully contribute to policy or decision making. University libraries can also provide document delivery, selective information distribution, and interlibrary lending services (Du and Evans, 2011). Libraries may provide these services through email, phone, chat, text, and social media. The university library is expected to provide translation services and repackage information materials to meet the needs of local users. University libraries can also provide online business support services for startups. People, especially young graduates from universities and other higher education institutions, must be equipped with solutions to the economic instability and downturn that will be the post-pandemic experience of the coronavirus. . College libraries can provide new graduates and graduates with validation , business planning, how to become an entrepreneur, how to start a new business, and more. (Simisaye, Salisu, Awodoyin, 2018). These services help people at risk of losing their jobs after a pandemic find out what they can do to reconcile their minds and bodies. We can provide blog and website design services. These services help academic libraries provide relevant information to funders. Blogs can be used in creative ways to promote your business. Academic libraries may even design websites for small businesses and charge a

small fee for their services (Maloney & Kemp, 2015). Libraries may also provide advanced discussion systems and podcast services. Podcasts are digital audio files delivered over the Internet, such as on-demand chat and radio stations, that are downloaded or streamed using applications such as Google Play. Podcasts are a way to educate users about the services and programs available in the library. Academic libraries can also provide users with digital marketing and online entertainment services. You can also provide a directory repair service to your users during these difficult times. This is made possible by providing ebooks that help users deal with the boredom of foreclosure, hunger and sadness caused by the coronavirus

Challenges:

Indian University Libraries face many challenges that prevent effective provision of services during a pandemic. One of the main challenges is lack of funding . Indian University Libraries are expected to receive 15% of the university's general budget . Although this amount is small, administrators at many universities do not donate this amount to libraries. Most university libraries in Inida rely on the Higher Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) allocated for narrow projects such as books, shelves , and buildings . Libraries are not flexible enough to provide active services Also , there is no infrastructure in the university library. ICT infrastructure is unreliable . Network problems always arise due to low bandwidth. There is a power of epilepsy. According to In addition, given the level of ongoing corruption and the project's inability to assume that funds were used to improve services, some of the loans seemed to be in private pockets , Return on investment when repayment of loan. In other words, the library does not have the infrastructure development needed to provide efficient services to its users. In addition, some librarians lack the skills and abilities needed to effectively serve users in the Information Age (Tella, Akande, Orim & Olaniyi, 2018). These skills include ICT and technology skills that enable librarians to navigate a vast library of library information to obtain information tailored to their needs. In addition, employees who have received the necessary training will be transferred to departments that do not demonstrate their skills. Also, most of the people who use the library are poor. They don't have laptops or Android phones, many of them live with their parents in rural areas where there is no electricity

or network. India's National Multidimensional Poverty Index, published as part of the 2018 National Human Development Report, shows that 51% of Indians are in multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2019).

Conclusion:

Library staff must be trained to provide effective services to their users. Power supply is not regular, but it is advisable to add solar power to reduce power costs and increase efficiency . Solar panels can be used by local gas stations and solar companies . Data, fuel, broadcast time. Academic libraries need to serve users through ICT for academic, research, lifelong learning, and entertainment purposes

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