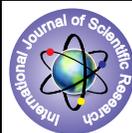


Changing Role of Librarian in the Digital Era



Library Science

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ABSTRACT

The transition of traditional library collection to digital or virtual collections presented the librarian with new opportunities. The advancement of information 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. The internet or web environment and associated sophisticated tools have given the librarian a new dynamic role to play and serve the new information based society in better ways than hitherto. As a librarian you are expected to do more and more with fewer & fewer people. there is a real danger that librarians will be left behind if it still insists on the old role of the traditional librarians. so it very important that there is a new change in paradigm.

Introduction:-

In the last centuries the term means a storehouse of books, journals & print media, initially paper was used for any type of communication. At the end of 20th century the new technology has succeeded in storing information in the microfilms and microfiche a compact form saving lot of space in the library. Librarians duty was only to preserve the holdings of the library & make them available per requirement. It has changed with the advancement of technology which has influenced libraries attached to higher educational institutes.

Librarian in the Changing Environment or Digital Era:-

The advent of information technology has accelerated the development and innovation of new systems and methods of information collection storage and retrieval. For a librarian in the Digital age to survive and become successful, timely updation of skills and techniques are necessary. In every area activity in the library changes has crept in and has made the aware of change roles.

The role of librarian is totally changed in this digital environment from librarian to information manager /knowledge manager. To satisfy the information need to user at maximum extent by library source or by out sourcing is the main goal of library. We all are aware of traditional some library services. There are some new ways of services based on ICT to cater the user information he wanted.

Current trends or role of librarian in E-World

Traditional role librarian like a custodian, documentalst, guide, public relation officer

Current role librarian in E-world Librarian like a,

Information specialist, electronic resources, expert, search Intermediary, facilitator, end-user trainer/ educator, web site builder or publisher, researcher, knowledge manager.

Advantage of Digital Library

Digital library has certain characteristics which make them different from traditional library. The advantage of digital libraries are mentioned herein below:

1. Preserve the valuable documents, rare and special collections of libraries, archives and museums.
2. Provide faster access to the holdings of libraries world wide through automated catalogues.
3. Help to locate both physical & digitized versions of scholarly articles and books through single interface.
4. Search optimization, simultaneous searches of the internet make possible. preparing commercial databases and library collections.
5. Offering online learning environment.
6. Making short the chain from author to user.
7. Save preparation/conservation cost, space and money.
8. Digital technology affords multiple, simultaneous user from a single original which are not possible for materials stored in any other forms.

Disadvantages of Digital library

1. Costly affair
2. Technology obsolescence (Hardware & Software)
3. Storage media relate
4. Dominance of data creators and publishers
5. Trained Manpower
6. User education & training
7. Security against hacking & sabotage

In the 21st century, everyone is going through many occupational changes to face the future challenges ICT has transformed the role of not only libraries but also library professional in the changing environment in which they now work. Digital libraries are not going to replace the physical existence of document completely but no doubt to meet the present demand, to satisfy the non local user digitization must be introduced so that at least libraries becomes of hybrid nature.

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