



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Library & Information Science

ROLE OF LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN A PANDEMIC SITUATION LIKE COVID-19

KEY WORDS: E-Resources, COVID 19, Digital Classrooms, Libraries, COVID-19, Teaching-Learning, Awareness, Library Professionals

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights the various roles that educational libraries and library professionals, as well as library staff, will play during the global community outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. It also recognizes the role of library advocates have taken on by professionals. It traces the number of digital platforms available worldwide. It also promotes the use of social media / networks. Library professionals can provide e-content, information links, their commitment to customer service. As a result the role of library professionals defines the community as a whole new way. During lockdown situations, libraries can provide relevant information and knowledge sources to information seekers, including teachers, students and researchers through various online and web sources. Libraries have social roles to play, including raising awareness about the precautions to be taken for the prevention of Corona-19, disseminating government guidelines in the community, and playing a motivating role in boosting morale of people.

Introduction:

Throughout history humanity has faced numerous delicate epidemic conditions, some of which were more dangerous to the entire mortal community. This time around the country is facing a veritably delicate situation by fighting with every retired adversary named Coronavirus (COVID-19). Coronavirus is a new contagion that's spreading fleetly around the world.

As American author and patron Mr. Sidney Sheldon formerly said, "Libraries store energy that energizes imagination. They open the windows to the world and inspire us to explore, and achieve, and contribute to perfecting our quality of life." Coronavirus refers to the family of contagions. In this situation, the part of library professionals is consummate. It's important to serve the whole community through digital platforms.

Academic libraries established in sodalities and universities are a major source of information for scholars, experimenters and preceptors. Finders of information related to any subject of education calculate on libraries to find the most applicable and utmost dependable sources of information. The requirements and bourns of information campaigners have changed. New sources and bias for delivering information have come popular. Nonetheless, libraries have maintained their applicability and honesty for centuries.

OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss the various traditional roles of Library Professionals and the current situation of COVID19. Library professionals provide the right information in the right form at the right time for different types of users, to discuss the different types of digital platforms available around the world, to know the types of resources and services provided by different types of libraries during the lockdown period.
2. Discuss the various platforms of the digital interactive classrooms. Promoting a healthy environment for the whole society through various links of e-newspapers and magazines as well as social media.
3. To discuss the effective use of library management tools: Extend checkout to date books.
4. To trace the impact of COVID-19 on various aspects of academic libraries in India;
5. To identify the challenges faced by the academic libraries and To examine opportunities faced by the academic libraries to augment their operations and services due to the challenges posed by COVID-19.
6. Information to define the various important roles of library professionals as preservatives. Organizing training and skill development programs for secondary employees.

7. To know the future working condition of the library system in this time

Impact of COVID-19 on Libraries

Libraries were also shut down when all public places were announced to be closed indefinitely. Since the library staff had no prior notice of the temporary but immediate closure, no plans could be made to meet the challenges of the time. The books were given to the users for a certain period of time, but now those books cannot be returned. There were books, magazines and other things left to put in properly. Now, due to unannounced and indefinite closure, it was not possible to maintain the cleanliness and cleanliness of the libraries. More worryingly, the needs of users or information seekers could not be met, which further meant that libraries could be considered non-existent in times of epidemics. To date, maintaining the consistency of libraries in these times of crisis has been a major challenge for librarians and other library staff.

Challenges For Library Professionals During Covid 19

1. Library professionals in most parts of the world are facing a variety of challenges, ranging from the services offered and how to handle lockdown situations to the minimum restrictions for a thorough investigation.
2. Numerous prestigious libraries like National Library of India, Delhi Public Library and other prestigious libraries around the world are being affected by the lockdown situation and it is affecting the entire community of experimenters, scholars, scholars, compilers etc. by providing services. It has a huge impact on certain communities.
3. University and council libraries, academy libraries are also closed and numerous are competitive. Exams, as well as academic exams, are still pending, thus at this crucial time. Library professionals can serve those scholars of our country, they need information. Via digital platforms.
4. It is mortal to experience sadness, stress, confusion and cowardice / anger. One of the biggest challenges for library professionals is managing this lockdown.
5. The principle of banning library services or closing libraries for social distance to open libraries for medicine under government guidelines and mortal interest is a delicate task.

How To Tackle The Covid-19 Epidemic Challenges By Library Professionals

- Library Professionals the chain of corona viruses can be broken by following the rules of government guidelines as well as providing different services in different ways.
- Gather real information and turn it into useful information

that will definitely help the whole community in different fields.

- Engage the whole community through social media and organize reading books challenge, poster writing competitions, skill development programs etc. to help people manage normal life and develop skills as before and reduce their stress during this challenging epidemic.
- The Central and State Governments themselves are taking many decisions and trying to implement different approaches to better serve. Library professionals can publish all the information through social media platforms.
- Library professionals can disseminate information to the community using ICT resources. Library Professionals can provide cloud-based library services, authentication techniques: remote access, electronic resource management system ERM: CORAL, Discovery Services, Library Service Platform / LibGuides / IRs, Networking of Resources, OA Resources Marketing.
- Library Professionals can provide services like Open Source, Open Course Ware / OER, Open Learning Resource, Webinar, Virtual Classroom, ORCID, Citation Generation: Mendelsohn, Zotero.
- To provide users with information resources - "a variety of services, storage can be combined and access to electronic platforms can be provided".
- Provide library facilities to users under appropriate government guidelines and human interest.
- Library professionals can play an important role in serving the whole community so it is important to define the various roles of library professionals in this epidemic situation of Covid 19.

Role Of Libraries During The Pandemic Of Covid-19

The role of libraries in emergencies is discussed in detail in the book " The Developmental Role of Public Libraries in Emergency Management: Emerging Research and Opportunities " (Mabe & Ashley, 2017). In this book they have highlighted a number of roles of libraries during the crisis which are briefly discussed below.

Being a Safe Haven:

Libraries, due to the architect and the safety measures taken during the process of the constructions of their buildings, are comparatively very safe. Therefore, whenever any natural calamities such as earthquake, hurricanes or floods etc. Occur, libraries can be used as the shelters for the nearby community. The basic facility such as shelter, water, toilets and electricity can be provided within the premises of libraries.

Offering Normal Services: During the situations of crisis, libraries should be endeavored to provide the consistent services to the clients or users, without any fluctuations or delays. The teachers, students and especially researchers should be provided maximum support so that they can accomplish their assignments without any hindrances.

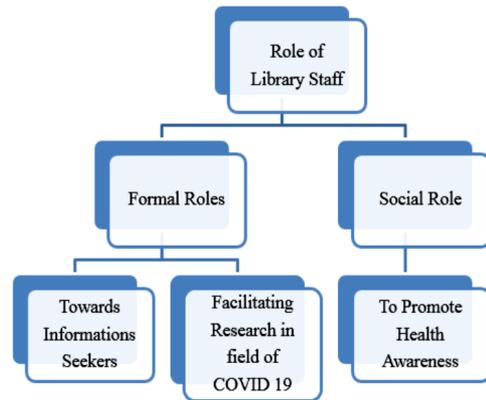
Operating as Information Capitals:

Libraries have an important part in propagating information during times of exigency. Library staff experts in accumulating applicable information and communicating the same to colorful campaigners of information because they are always trained. In the case of an exigency, the library staff can spread out in public the information about espousing colorful preventives to help the ill- goods of exigency. In case of getting stuck in any exigency situation, the escape routes and the remedies can also be circulated by the library staff.

Improvising:

The library staff has a formal training as well as vacuity of sources in keeping the community engaged in positive conditioning. In case of exigency, the library staff can contribute in boosting the morale of vulnerable and effected groups and communities by participating with them positive

case studies, stories and motivational addresses through colorful online and web sources.



Role of Library Staff during the COVID- 19

Formal Basis:

Formal part in this particular environment means the functions of the library staff to perform which are formally assigned to them as part of their officially designated duties. These places are always well defined in objective form. All members of the library staff are apprehensive as well as trained to perform these places. Formal places of the librarians and other library staff are further divided into two orders, i.e. part towards information campaigners and part in easing exploration in the field of the protection from the contagion of COVID-19 Part.

The Role of Information Seekers:

Each academic library has a certain number of information campaigners who are formally engaged as well as virtually regularly associated with libraries. Educational libraries have different orders of druggies. There are scholars who regularly exceed in libraries for the purpose of carrying books and other instructional accoutrements acclimatized to their studies. Experimenters are another large group of people who regularly visit libraries to get information from books, magazines, calligraphies and essays. Preceptors also constantly use libraries that use a variety of library coffers to prepare their notes and further their exploration with other requirements.

Due to the decision of the lockdown during the COVID-19 crisis period, the students could not find any time to plan and collect alternative sources of information and knowledge during this time. Students rely heavily on libraries. Students use the reading halls of the libraries for reading. Librarians and library staff have a crucial role to play in meeting the information needs of students associated with certain libraries, given the unpopular nature of this lockdown. Today is the age of information technology. Almost all libraries, which are aware of the recent developments in the field of information science, have developed various web or online sources of information and knowledge. In the current situation, e-books can be made available to students for free. Libraries are now connected to each other through INFLIBNET or other library networks. For this purpose a database of students attached to the library has been prepared, after obtaining the e-mail address or WhatsApp number of the students, information about their study related and related data can be sent to them online or from web sources.

Researchers are the second largest group of information seekers who are denied access to information sources available in libraries due to the lockdown situation as there is a risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Researchers, in particular, have a Ph.D. Or engaged as M.Phil degrees or post-doctoral fellows, there is always a pre-determined timeline for completing their level of research. Because of the

lockdown, researchers have no access to the libraries they belong to. So their precious time is being wasted. Library professionals can assist researchers in the non-chaotic execution of their research courses. Through these sources, researchers can be made aware of the availability of e-resources that may be relevant for research purposes. There are numerous publishing corporate and professionals who have provided open access to their journals and periodicals, especially during the current lockdown situation. E-books, e-thesis are available. While providing access as well as training to use these resources, library professionals can help researchers move their research forward without further delay by staying at their residence.

During the challenging circumstances of Covid-19, teachers are obliged to share the maximum responsibility of providing their students and researchers with access to relevant information and knowledge. Students as well as their parents especially teachers are expected to provide maximum relevant and necessary information sources for perseverance in the process of regular study. The staffs of the libraries of colleges and universities play a role in making teachers aware of the availability of various web resources which can be consulted by the teachers and also shared with the students and researchers.

Role of facilitating research in the Field of COVID-19 Virus:

At the same time that intellectuals identified the Covid-19 corona as a deadly virus, researchers in the field of biochemistry and other related sciences took the initiative to search for any drug that could save humans from the virus. In order for this type of virus to pass through pre-existing information and knowledge in the field, scientists need to acquire books, research articles and other related materials. In this regard, academic libraries have a historical role to play. Library staff, especially those trained in the field, can coordinate with scientists. The needs of scientists regarding books, articles and other forms of published research can be met by the library staff. Scientists can be allowed to access all the material provided by libraries through online resources through web resources. Access to the various paid research journals purchased by libraries should be shared with scientists who are conducting research in the field of COVID-19.

The social part of libraries during COVID-19:

During the COVID-19 extremity, libraries have the eventuality to play a social part by contributing to community complaint control, forestallment and mindfulness programs. Libraries can play primarily leading places. Libraries can give information to people to take preventative measures to successfully combat the possibility of the spread of COVID-19. Numerous styles can be espoused by the library staff to spread mindfulness about the contagion. Mindfulness about the benefits of social distance, the positive consequences of wearing a mask in public and some other preventative measures similar as regular hand washing, use of sanitizer where there's no possibility of hand washing, and avoiding going to crowded areas.

During the lockdown and curfew situation, the increase in the number of deaths due to Covid-19 posed an internal threat to the people and increased the internal stress among the people. Stress can lead to a weakened vulnerable system which can increase. Possibilities of being infected with the COVID-19 contagion. Library staff has a veritably important part to play in these circumstances. Libraries have positive case studies, ways to partake survival stories with people and the vacuity of channels. In addition, library staff can organize motivational exchanges of experts and circulate these exchanges in the community to boost people's morale in times of extremity.

CONCLUSION:

The whole world was badly affected by the negative effects of Covid-19. Educational institutions are closed and no formal teaching, learning and research activities are taking place. People are avoiding going to public places. In this dire situation of fear of physical illness, trauma and social unrest, educational libraries have an important role to play. Libraries can provide all relevant materials for teachers to prepare through online resources and recommend open access as well as paid source so that they can prepare their notes and communicate with students. Researchers affiliated with Academic Libraries can also engage in research activities by providing them with the necessary and relevant resources through online media by the library staff.

In this Covid 19 epidemic situation, library professionals have to do everything as Easy access to information is a prerequisite, it is necessary for the enormous needs of all its potential users, Digital platform for education is the future demand of the user, Digital library is in high demand in this type of epidemic and Library professionals can act as a stress reliever in this situation. Library professionals and information professionals should be prepared to meet the needs of readers, whether it is Covid 19 or any other epidemic situation. The social responsibility of library professionals is to provide users with access to information. The demand for information in this type of epidemic is also increasing.

Thus, libraries and library professionals can play a social role in raising awareness in the community about taking all preventive measures, following government guidelines and preventing the effects of the COVID-19 virus.

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