

# REVAMPING OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN MODERN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) ENVIRONMENT

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## **Abstract :**

Due to impact of ICT and ever-changing academic environment, drastic changes are taking place in the education system at all levels. With this change in education at all levels, a correspondent change is also observed in teaching, learning and pedagogy. There is need to revamp academic libraries with change in technology, educational policies, laws related to education as well as central and state government decisions. With the changes in academic /educational environment, the libraries are also expected to bring about a change in their policies, practices, methods, procedures and techniques related to information selection, acquisition, storage, retrieval mechanism, ways of dissemination in order to provide technology based quality services to satisfy the stakeholders. A brief review of revamping of academic libraries in modern ICT environment is taken in this articles.

**Keywords:** Academic libraries, technology, revamping, information and communication technology, management of changes, renovation, re-engineering.

## **1. Introduction :**

Over a period of time, the theories and practices for overall effective management of libraries are drastically changing. Re-engineering of libraries, management of changes, SWOT analysis, etc. are the new terms which have seen practically implemented by many of the academic libraries to bring a qualitative change in the activities, procedures and methods related to effective management of libraries. On one hand, the resources are limited and on the other hand, ever growing and ever changing technology is helping us to find out effective ways to carry out our responsibilities and duties in more productive way by overcoming the problems related to constraints of financial, human and material resources. In this context, revamping of academic libraries in ICT environment provides opportunities to LIS professionals to convert libraries in new and improved form, to change the structure in desired way, to make the appearance of libraries more attractive and more user

centric. Librarians can renovate, refurbish, rehabilitate, remake and remodel the academic libraries to cater to informational needs of society.

## **2. Meaning and definitions:**

### **2.1. Revamp :**

The term 're' as prefix indicates 'return to previous condition, restoration, withdrawal, etc: rebuild, renew, retrace: reunite or repetition of an action. The term 'vamp' refers to 'repair or improve something'.

(<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/re>)

From the above meaning of 're' and 'vamp', we can say that 'revamp' is the term that refers to 'repairing or improving something through rebuilding renewal, retracing or reuniting.'

As per Cambridge Dictionary, the meaning of revamp is 'to change or arrange something again, in order to improve

it.'(dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/revamp)

### **2.2 Meaning of Revamping of Libraries:**

In this context, revamping of academic libraries in the modern era can be elaborated as 'improving the libraries either through rebuilding, renewal or reuniting with the help of modern technologies.'

By revamping of libraries, we can reestablish a library into a new and/ or improved form and can restore a library system by replacing it's any part or putting together those parts which are broken ad thus can restore or refurbish a new library platform through which you can provide effective services to users community.

## **3. Revamping of Academic Libraries :**

Due to information and communication technologies, the libraries are exploiting the various technologies to quench the first of their knowledge by relying more on digital content. With the change in information seeking behavior of readers community, libraries and information centers are providing the digital content to readers through various platforms like library consortia, digital libraries ,institutional repositories, virtual libraries and through e-books, e-journals and e-databases .With the change in technology, the features of digital contents, digital platforms and information access management have changed very rapidly. Any change in library related technologies have correspondent effect on libraries that enable them to adopt modern forms of reading materials, their storage platforms, retrieval mechanism and effective ways for dissemination of retrieved information. In the recent past, so many managerial tools had been applied by librarians to manage libraries effectively.

These tools also have an effect to revamp academic libraries. With these managerial tools, libraries can revamp not only library techniques, methods and processes but can also take initiatives to revamp the library website, data capabilities, virtual reference services, modern information services etc. Revamp the role of libraries in research for the overall development of a nation is also of crucial importance..

#### **4. Need to revamp academic libraries:**

- To redesign and restructure the existing library services and products that will suit changing requirements of readers and researchers.
- To adopt to technological, structural, procedural and people related changes in libraries & information centers.
- To utilize existing available resources to the maximum or at least at optimum level and to improve overall productivity.
- To overcome difficulties that arises due to paucity of funds, unavailability of skilled manpower and ever-changing nature of physical forms of materials.
- To improve cost-effectiveness and return on investment (ROI) and to develop quality in research and development activities.

#### **5. Tools to revamp Academic Libraries:**

##### **5.1 Administrative/ Managerial Tools:**

Administrative or managerial tools to revamp the academic libraries relate with bringing out qualitative change in overall performance of libraries. There tools are given below.

##### **5.1.1. Re-engineering of Libraries:**

Re-engineering of libraries is an effective tool to revamp academic libraries. As re-engineering is related with bringing about a change in existing system to cope up with the problems in the way of development, it can effectively be used to revamp the libraries. According to Hammer and Champy, '*Re-engineering is the fundamental rethinking and redesign of business processes to achieve dramatic improvements in critical, contemporary measures of performance, such as cost, quality, service and speed*' ([https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-658-04403-9\\_4](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-658-04403-9_4)) , it is an effective tool for revamping of libraries.

##### **5.1.2. SWOT Analysis & TOWS metrics :**

SWOT i.e. strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats analysis helps to revamp the libraries to provide user centric information services. The WT (mini-mini) strategy, WO (mini-maxi) strategy, ST (maxi-mini) strategy and SO (maxi-maxi strategy) can further contribute to develop management of libraries and information

to satisfy readers community. It can help to revamp the library to increase their efficiency, overcome difficulties, manage educational environment conducive to teachers and students and to adapt to technological changes to manage libraries in modern era with new technologies.

### **5.1.3. Six Sigma :**

With the use of six sigma, revamping of the libraries through reducing the lacunas and increasing the quality is possible. It can be used as a tool of revamping through bringing out advancement in libraries by increasing user's satisfaction, reducing costs in complexities related to library services and overcoming weaknesses in services. However, the quality of process from one level to next level is to be ensured to reduce number of weaknesses to revamp the libraries.

Apart from this, time and motion studies, Japanese Kaizen etc. are the tools to revamp academic libraries.

### **5.1.4. Managing change in libraries:**

Change in libraries according to changing technology, change in plans and strategies, change in functionality of information system can be done through structural and technical transformation, eco-friendly flexibility which are core aspects of managing change in libraries. Effective management of changes can help to revamp the libraries through the adaptations related to structural, technological, functional and people related changes.

## **5.2. Service related activities:**

### **5.2.1. Revamp library website:**

Library website is a mirror of library activities & services and with change in every aspect of the library, it needs to be reflected in it. Especially various web-based services are provided by academic libraries like web-scale discovery platforms, hosting of e-books, e—journals and e-databases with their links, institutional repositories, digital library's collection, usage interfaces and other related services and products. It is also necessary to provide live hyperlinks to the home page of collections, reports available on other home pages and interrelated information.

While revamping library websites, we have to make it more responsive with secure and accessible web pages. They must have accessibility to visually impaired readers supported by screen reading software. It must be flexible enough to modify existing content, add new contents and remove unwanted content and shall deliver a reader friendly interface.

### **5.2.2. Revamp structure of libraries:**

In order provide qualitative services, the structure of libraries must be amenable to update, replace and improve library spaces. This can be one by adding innovative ideas for better physical appearance of libraries, rearranging the seating and workplaces, creating lounge areas to change the ambiance. This helps to increase the work culture, develop healthy atmosphere and create elevating situation that can improve overall productivity of libraries.

### **5.2.3. Revamp library resources and services:**

As far as digital resources are concerned, these are to be analyzed on the basis of its usage and less used resources be replaced by new resources required by users. Digital audit is to be carried out at certain intervals in order to make the digital collection to revamp resources.

Web-based services, discovery services digital library services can be revamped by changing their hosting platforms of services with more capability. Promotion of use of web 3.0, digital consortia, mobile based services, real time services etc. can be preferred to revamp the library services to serve the client etc.

### **5.2.4. Revamp role of libraries in research:**

Research without library is not possible. Libraries help for research and researchers to invent new theories, criticize existing theories or to develop existing theories. Libraries can provide assistance to researchers in locating right resources, providing help to review literature; they can train researchers for content management, style management, reference management, as well as softwares for data analysis and interpretation etc. The versatile role of libraries can contribute towards quality research with social recognition.

## **6. Conclusion:**

Libraries and Information Centers (LICs) as well as library professionals have to make deliberate efforts to make their libraries more attractive with modern technologies. This can be done by changing, rearranging or improving the existing infrastructure, technology based services, modern information products. Providing collaborative services, implementing new technologies, application of artificial intelligence, data and network securities, creation of information and knowledge society etc. and other similar developments are greatly facilitated by revamping the academic libraries in the modern era.

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