

Modern Librarianship in ICT Environment

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Abstract:

The use and application of Information and Communication technology (ICT) in libraries has an economic advantage to the libraries and it is a tool to improve the professional caliber and competence of librarianship. Recent technologies can be now used to provide the library services to deprived classes especially visually impaired readers, to help researchers to avoid plagiarism to bring quality of research work, to assist teachers community to make use of open source learning in which librarians can play a very crucial role. All these and such related technologies are discussed in the article which can help to improve Librarianship in ICT environment.

Keywords: Librarianship in ICT environment, plagiarism, visually impaired readers, cloud computing, librarianship to Librapreneurship.

1. Introduction:

A best practice in libraries may be a technique or a method that standardizes an effective way to accomplish a desired output or which has been proven as reliable to achieve desired result through experience and research. Innovative services relates with service products and service quality. Effective librarianship can be measured in terms of adopting new techniques and methods, standardized way to satisfy reader's community and improving the result (reader's satisfaction) through experience and research. In this article an attempt has been made to touch all the aspects related with these measures of effective librarianship in ICT environment.

2. Librarianship adopting new techniques and methods in ICT environment:

Librarians are expected to adopt the new techniques and methods useful for providing qualitative library services in ICT environment. With the available staff, he has to justify the 5th law of library science i.e. 'Library is a growing organism'. Now this growth can well be managed with new techniques and methods as well as controlled in a desired way with the use of ICT. The new useful techniques and methods for effective librarianship are:

2.1. Ability to make SWOT analysis and use TOWS Metrics: This ability is useful and essential for improving strengths, removing weakness, exploiting available opportunities and overcoming the internal and external threats.

2.2 Ability to 'implement Total Quality Management'

2.3 Ability to 'Re-engineer variety of Library Services'

2.4 Ability to adopt and implement 'Management of Changes'.

2.5. Ability to deal with the technologies related with electronic/ digital information sources.

3. Plagiarism and Librarianship:

In order to bring about qualitative change in Research, the librarian can play very crucial role in avoiding plagiarism with the help of plagiarism softwares. Since professional librarians are information scientists, they can decide about the originality of the research work, the way of quoting citations and their relevance to the material and all other important aspects those are related with research output. Making use of anti-plagiarism softwares like Turnitin, iThenticate, Crosscheck, Copyscape, Plagiarism Detector, Copy Checker, Copy Catch Gold, jPlag, Docoloc, Ephorus etc. can help librarians to present themselves as an expert librarian among the researchers community. Generating Plagiarism Awareness;

Plagiarism detection; and getting sanctions for Academic Plagiarism as preventive measure to avoid plagiarism can only be effectively done by experts like librarians.

4. Librarianship and Deprived classes of readers from libraries :

In ICT environment, librarians should think of those class of people who are deprived of the opportunity to read and thereby improve the knowledge. A class of visually impaired students has remained out of reach of library facilities. It is possible to provide 'reading services for visually impaired students' desirous to read and improve the knowledge with the help of screen reading software supported by audio facility. The blind / visually impaired students can't read the books or e-books but with the help of 'screen reading software' like JAWS (Job Access With Speech), Window Eyes, NVDA (Non Visual Desktop Access), Serotek, VoiceOver, BRLTTY, WebAnywhere etc. they can read the e-books and can make use of Braille Printer for getting the print of required reading material. It is a specialized service which a library can offer as an extension of library services to specialized readers. The screen reading software has immense capabilities for visually impaired readers to have interaction among visually impaired students, interaction with the library staff as well as for effective access to numerous e-books and e- journals. Such a service by librarians is one step ahead of overcoming the difficulties of visually impaired/ blind students, teachers and researchers. Even for illiterate people who wish to read and listen, the facilities can be provided to them with the help of software like 'Spokenweb'.

5. Librarianship to Librapreneurship:

A librapreneur is a person who searches for positive changes in the library tools and techniques with the help of application of ICT, responds to it positively and exploits it as an opportunity for continuous improvement of library products and services for maximum satisfaction of user wants, needs and requirements. Librapreneurship is ultimately responsible for the performance of the libraries in the attainment of set objectives. It is the process of creating value by bringing together a unique package of resources to exploit an opportunity, in achieving the ultimate goal of satisfying patrons`/users` wants needs and expectations. Thus, it promotes the value of the service institution by employing continuous improvement and participative management.

Changing Infra-structure of Library and Information Centre; New Technologies; Information Explosion/Tremendous growth of information; Dwindling Budgets; Modern Age User Community; Increasing Demand for e-services; Escalating Costs of Printed Documents; Interactive Virtual Learning Environment; Evolution of Virtual Educational Institutes; On-line Book-shops and Information Services; New Patterns of Scholarly Publishing and Communication; Explosive Growth of Web sites and their usage; etc are some of the factors responsible for the emergence of 'Librapreneurship'.

Though Librapreneurship is a rapidly emerging concept on the field of LIS, it has to overcome a large number of Environmental, Financial, Technological and Social Barriers. Marketing of library and information services and products, Pay per use, value added and fee based services are the LIS fields where librapreneurship can be observed practically.

6. Cloud computing for effective librarianship:

In the present ICT era, libraries have to collect variety of information from numerous traditional and e -resources and have to deal with information contained in them by nalyising, synthesizing, repackaging etc. to provide it in desired format by readers. The ultimate aim of modern libraries is to offer appropriate, comprehensive & multi level services for its users. Modern academic library has to develop itself according to such information and improve users satisfaction. With the expansion of

cloud computing application modern academic libraries can master the basic demands of their users.

Cloud computing is useful for the academic libraries for facing challenges of tremendous growth of easier information resources in this IT era. With help of cloud computing, libraries have the opportunity to improve their services & relevance in today's information society. It facilitates the libraries to make use of the available ICT infrastructure for different purposes and for providing various library services by making use of softwares, infrastructures, platforms and communication system as a source. With the help of it, services provided by libraries will become more user-centric, more professional & more effective. Cloud environment is a highly developed network environment, it appears to the users of high-quality service and high security. The cloud computing model encourages all academic libraries and their users to participate in a network and community of libraries by enabling them to reuse information. It can also create a powerful, unified presence for libraries on the Web and give users a local, group and global reach.

7. Librarianship and ICT enhanced Library Security :

Today the libraries are at the verge of drastic change from traditional concept of the library to digital library, which in turn changing the traditional concept of library security systems, simply from human vigilance guard to innovative systems comprising of use of electronic surveillance system. It consists of biometric attendance System, use of security gates for entry to authorized clientele in the library, bar code based issue and return off reading material, use of RFID technology ,use of tattle strips to prevent books from theft, turnstile gates and CCTV monitoring etc. Libraries are expected to adopt these technologies not only for the security purpose but also for creating an elevating atmosphere in the library to enthusiase both the staff as well as the readers' community. Modern librarianship is expected to adopt all such possible ICT applications in libraries for security and facing the problem of scarcity of required manpower.

'In general, modern electronic security systems such as book security systems like the RFID technology, surveillance cameras, metal detectors, door intrusion alarms, delay devices, panic alarms, a heat sensor were found to be useful in detecting different security patterns and ensuring effective security strategies for the protection of our collections and the libraries in general.' (Maidabino, 2012.) Modern librarianship tends to have better control on the whole library system without violating the rights of readers which is greatly facilitated by ICT enhanced security system.

8. Green Librarianship:

Modern Librarianship should lead the traditional library towards green library. For this purpose, they can *'reduce energy consumption with automatic sensors for light, for using it when we need; use low flow fixtures for less consumption of water available through rainfall, use of geo-thermal energy to heat and cool the library building which saves money and reduces the carbon emissions; and further use low Volatile Organic compounds (VOC) materials in the carpet, paint and adhesives to breathe a little easier.'* (www.hhpl.on.ca)

Green library approach is a modern trends towards making available all the facilities of the library in elevating and yet natural atmosphere. The physical capacities of readers and staff go on increasing in such atmosphere where the reader's attention on reading is more concentrated, where the minds of readers are more open and ignited to achieve more knowledge.

9. Conclusion:

Emergence of new technology is a continuous process. Its effective application in libraries is dependent on the professional and ICT skills of Librarians. The librarians are not expected that they should adopt all the new technologies that have been emerged but, it does not necessarily mean that they should rely on only with traditional systems. In modern era, they have to represent themselves as modern librarians who can effectively deal with the various aspects like e-learning softwares, plagiarism softwares, ETD Softwares, E-content Management Softwares, screen reading softwares, digitization process, e-resources and all other related essential technologies.

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