

POST MODERNIZATION OF LIBRARIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Abstract

This paper discusses the challenges and opportunities after automated the library. Over past two decades, computer base technologies have been dominate forces to shape and reshape in modern or automated libraries. Today it is very easy to convert the traditional library to modern library because many eye-catching library software easily available in market with facilitated to new techniques & technology. Due to the changing technology a number of processes have been implemented by learning services at college library to gain significant and sustain cultural change among staff in a blended organization. This paper also focus on multifaceted role of librarian and the current scenario of modernization of libraries in rural parts of India.

Keywords : Automated library, Modern library, Post automation of Libraries

Introduction

We are living through a revolution in information communication technology which is transforming the way knowledge is stored and exchanged touching the very core of our culture. This is era of information explosion in which the large amount of information is being generated at every movement. The ability to collect, store and disseminate the large amount of information needs application of new technologies. New information has become very vital tool, possessing of which reveals economical and social advantages. In the information technology advancements are also emerging equally fast as the expectation level to cope with the large amount of information. Information technologies are shaping and changing all of our institutions as these are closely related to the mission of libraries and are changing capabilities of libraries.

Academic library or college library is an integral parts of the institution. All educational libraries develop and design their collections and services to meet the institutional programme of the institutions. Academic library have been acquiring, processing, circulating and preserving information materials in all media although emphasis has been on paper base materials such as books and journals. Introduce the information communicating technology in an academic library has been improved and change the face of information acquisition, processing dissemination and

storage. Information is being acquired both in paper and electronic form and academic libraries are able to convert some of their collections to machine readable format. Information communication, technology has also facilitated networking creation and accessing of remote electronic data books and wide range of information & product. Use of information communication technology and access to electronic information network is slowly transforming libraries from book-centre to information centre.

Characteristics of Modernize Library:

In order to understand the magnitude of change which our theory of the modern library must encompass let us try to describe the characteristics of the modernize library and to do so independently of the library environment: academic, national, public or commercial.

- Access to the modernize library is not bounded in space or time. It can be accessed from anywhere at any time.
- Content in electronic form will steadily increase and content in printed form will decrease.
- Content is textual, image and sound form.
- Usage of electronic information as a proportion of total usage will steadily increase, and usage of printed material as a proportion of total usage will decrease.
- Expenditure on electronic material will steadily increase and relatively, expenditure on printed material will decrease.
- Expenditure on information will shift from ownership to subscription and licensing.
- Expenditure on equipment and infrastructure will increase.
- Usage of buildings will shift from stockholding to places for study, animation and citizenship
- Recruitment, Training and Job of Library Staff will be re-profiled.

Roles of Librarian in Post-Modernize/Automated Library:

Today's modern library where the advancement in computer technology has brought so much changes in the digital age, all major institution including the government., organization businesses and most of all the education system has been highly influenced by this modernization that has been highly advantageous to the society. The technology continues to grow by leaps and bound without measure and it will continue to grow as long as the needs for technology continue to arise. So the question lies on what would be the role of College Libraries in the library if users seem to gather all information on their own using their computers? It is quite an odd to know the differences of the library system of today than the past system of yesterday's libraries.

Today Librarians can also be called a Media Specialist they are the modern librarians who have recognized and adopted the importance of technology. The role of the librarian is highly technologically advanced nowadays. A certain college university should learn a harness the importance of the evolving technology and mastery to become highly relevant in the digital age.

These changes has been brought about by college library desire to stay in touch with latest trends, expand and develop innovative ideas and define a clear highest education standard for the welfare of college users. Librarians are contributors of changes in a profession degree.

Undeniably there will be times that there are users who know how to use such technology, but Librarians are like teachers ready to teach users to use computers and other media inside the library. This has been their basic roles to help users to learn to adopt such technology and to bring in forefront the technology system if needed. These are the qualities of highly effective modern Librarian or Library Media Specialist in the digital age.

Application of Change Management in Post-Modernized Library:

Change management is a systematic approach to dealing with change; both from the perspective of an organization and on the individual level. A somewhat ambiguous term, change management has at least three different aspects, including: adapting to change, controlling change and effecting change. A proactive approach to dealing with change is at the core of all these aspects. For an organization, change management means defining and implementing procedures and/or technologies to deal with changes in the library environment. Successful adaptation to changes as crucial within the library as it is in the natural way. Organizations and the individuals in the inevitably encounter changing conditions that they are powerless to control. The more effectively you deal with change, the more likely you are to thrive. Adaptation might involve establishing a structured methodology for responding to change in the library environment. Terry Palulson, the author of Paulson on Change, quotes an uncle's advice: "It's easiest to ride a horse the direction it is going. "In other words, don't struggle against change; learn to use it to your advantage. In a computer system environment, change management refers to a systematic approach to keeping track of the details of the library services & systems.

Current Scenario of Modernization of Libraries in Rural Parts of India:

The current status of library automation and librarian attitudes towards the use of ICT in college Libraries in rural parts in India has not reached a very high level due to lack of budget, lack of manpower, lack of skills & staff and lack of training are the main constraints for not automating library activities. Even though library professionals have shown a positive attitude towards the use of ICT application and modernization they need extensive and appropriate training to make use of ICT tools in rural areas libraries.

Challenges for Librarian in Post-Modernized Library:

1. Librarian should be administrative expertise to create and manage convenient accessible and cost effective information services that are aligned with the strategic direction of the academic institute.
2. Librarian should as an information provider with IT skilled specialists functioning in an automated environment.

3. Needs for bigger financial investments to avail of electronic resources.
4. Needs for continuous learning for Library staff and users.
5. Modern libraries and Librarians are become more & more important but there is a need to change.
6. Constantly evolving ITS (Hardware and Software)
7. To provide scholarly access to selected relevant information resources, giving high value to the needs and expectation of users.
8. From a paper-based environment with IT skilled specialists functioning in an automated environment.
9. Post automation day to day challenges face by Librarian.
 - Post Automation Software Management.
 - Customization of Software.
 - After Sales-Service
 - AMC
 - Up gradation of Software.

Opportunities for Librarian in Post-Modernized Library:

1. Acquire professional knowledge like “PGDLAN”, which is run by NISCARE, TISS, IGNOU, INSDOC, and VPM Thane.
2. Prove Librarian as teacher’s of teacher.
3. Start to create Digital Library.
4. Start to use cloud computing in the library.
5. Make a Library webpae

Conclusion

Over several years the education process has been drastic changes in imparting knowledge. Modern Libraries are the effective tools in disseminating knowledge. Physical walls of library have no significance in information era. New concept of modern library is taking the library to the users. It is of paramount importance for post modernization of libraries to examine and strengthen their core skills, keep track of information seeking and sharing environment and adapt continuously to the changing environment to remain relevant to the users that libraries seek to serve. So all aspects of post-modernization of libraries need to be carefully monitored and evaluated to ensure that the users experience and the change in current education practice is enhanced post-modernization of libraries are sustainable n the process.

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