



ROLE OF LIBRARIAN IN THIS MODERN ERA (ICT)

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Abstract

Information Technology is making drastic changes in all fields, including library and information science. Libraries are changing due to the increased use of information technology in the works and services. Since the libraries are largely using computers and related technologies, there should be a corresponding change in the information technology skills and knowledge of library professionals in the age of information technology including IT based technical skills and soft skills require for the librarian of 21th century.

Introduction :

Tremendous growth and developments in information and communication Technology has brought out significant changes in all disciplines of life throughout the world. It has become so simpler to communicate anybody in any part of the world. It is equally simpler to have access to information resources especially with easy and cheaper access to internet. In such an environment, people often question the very existence and usefulness of a library. Today young generation tries to look beyond the library first to satisfy their information needs. They come to library only as a last resort and certainly not as their first preference. With the emergence of digital and online resources, it was predicted that paper based libraries will vanish very soon from this globe at least in their current form. No doubt it is becoming a truth in the information society. Now libraries facing this technology pressure, New technologies, software, electronic security systems, virtual libraries, online libraries and what not are emerging and implemented all over the world on regular basis. Libraries and library professionals are expected to come up with all these changing circumstances to render effective library services.

Qualities of Librarian:

Librarian is the highest creed of profession. Each letter of the word

LIBRARIN itself has carries a meaning in the light of the future of the profession. L = Leadership. I = Intelligence. B = Brilliance. R = Responsibility. A = Alertness and Accountability. R = Respect for User. I = Ingenuity. N = Nice for Duty and Now Librarian is a knowledge Manager. A part from these qualities Librarian should have:

Self – Awareness:

This requires a capacity to correctly judge the mood of different students and take decisions, which are fair and reasonable.

Self – Control:

This implies that the Librarian should not take any decision in haste, but examine all the things calmly and methodically.

Social Responsibility :

The perspective Librarian in the modern society is required to be trained and equipped with the techniques of coping with the problems of illiteracy, poverty, social inequality, unemployment, explosion of population, communalism, regionalism, gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, exceptionality and other social hindrances impeding national development.

Knowledge Management:

The communication revolution has raised the importance of pooling the skills and knowledge of a workforce. Development of sophisticated database has made it possible for the institutions to build a

reservoir of knowledge that can be drawn across the globe.

Motivation: This urges the ability to pursue goals and works with commitments without thought of personal benefit.

Good Communicator: The Librarian in the modern age needs to be an efficient and effective communicator of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Impact of ICT on Librarians :

In this Modern Era number of resources is available for students. An academic library means schools, colleges, universities libraries and also many companies are having in-house libraries. The users are researcher, teachers, students and working professionals. They need latest information regarding their domain. Due to the high cost of books, time-space limitation and availability of resources, user gives priority to the library. Every institute is having lot of print collection, but because of dissemination of collection, users are unable to retrieve information. For better utilization of resources, librarian needs to develop various techniques for easily searching of resources. In academic, Librarians are mediator of students and teachers. They help students to find their information, he explains how to search information, he helps its user for finding books from stacks, they also guides how to use library OPAC for time saving and easily search and which help the users to fulfill their requirement. To meet the changing needs of library users in ICT environment librarians are expected to continuously enhance their competencies and skill in the age of technological era in order to improve productivity and efficiency. If they don't change with the time, they always lag behind. Librarian required skills for doing a job effectively and to achieve set objective. So every library professional

should have the following skills to perform their duties effectively.

Expected Skills for Library Professional:

1. Desire to meet and serve the library's user community
2. Ability to think analytically and to develop new or revised systems, procedures, and work flow
3. Ability to exercise initiative and independent judgment
4. Knowledge of computers, the internet, and commercially available library software
5. Knowledge of a foreign language for communities with non-English speaking populations
6. Ability to prepare comprehensive reports and present ideas clearly and concisely in written and oral form
7. Ability to make administrative decisions, interpret policies, and supervise staff
8. Ability to motivate, establish and maintain effective working relationships with associates, supervisors, volunteers, other community agencies and the public
9. Knowledge of the philosophy and techniques of library service
10. Ability to organize job duties and work independently
11. Demonstrated knowledge of library materials and resources
12. Creativity to develop and implement library programs and services
13. Ability to communicate both orally and in writing
14. Positive attitude toward library users with special needs
15. Accuracy and skill in typing

Conclusion:

The librarians have not only concentrated on their basic skills but also the same time it is equally important that they have to learn and adopt the information technology and digitization skills. They shall have to regularly use the Internet features in more and more useful way for effective searching, browsing, processing and dissemination of knowledge. Applications of internet based services such as E-mail, Telnet, FTP,

Bulletin Board service, Use Net, W.W.W. etc. should regularly done in the library. Professional skills discussed in this paper helps library professionals to survive in this digital era.

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