Skill Of Librarian In The Age Of Information Technology

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Abstract:
Technology has changed library services in particular, the use of the IT has made a significant difference. We are living in the knowledge age. Knowledge is the basic requirement for every human activity. In knowledge-based society librarian needs to acquire some new skill to satisfy the information need of the user. This article highlights the important skills for librarian and role of librarian in the age of Information technology.
Keywords: IT, Changing role of New Age Librarian.

Introduction:

In modern age, information is undergoing a rapid change. As the traditional custodian of information, librarian needs to be aware of the implications of these changes and develop technological and managerial skills which will enable them to make effective use of information and to meet their organization, changing information needs. Librarian should keep in touch with modem developments and maintain a productive approach in their work in an ever-changing information world.

Changing Role of Library & Information Service:

In the present technological era professionals have to change themselves as the information processing is being changed. Now information specialists have to work as e-information resources in which various professional groups are expected to map strategies that lead to produce, manage, maintain and service the information. In addition to being library manager they also act as collection development, technical processors and so on, taking care of information quality. To meet information, need of the user they should know how to manage and deliver appropriate information services. Library professional are increasingly responsible not only to provide traditional library information services but also to deliver online information services according to the actual user needs. Due to technology revolution, there is a rapid change in the publishing media also like E-books, E-journals, CD- Rooms, online database etc. everything is available is digital form that can be stored and utilized effectively and efficiently. Librarian need to keep up to date with new electronic information products and modes of information delivery.

New Challenges for library and information service professionals: 21st Century the major challenges are Information Explosion, Information & communication technology, ICT revolution, Explosive growth and usage of web resources. The following are some of important item of new technologies on which LIS professionals need to seriously think about improving their competencies for their effective utilization to deliver need based high quality information services to the user community.

1. ICT Trends.
2. Metadata standards
3. Web technology
4. Search technology
5. Digital Information Resources
6. Subject Gateways
7. Information portals and vortals
8. E-learning
9. Online information Services
10. Digital rights management 11. Wi-Fi and RFID Technology

So, it is essential that library professionals are well trained and possess requisite knowledge and skills in this respect.

i) Knowledge & Skills-Librarian need to know understand Knowledge resources (books, journal, resources, internet) etc. Technological facilities and resources (computer, online catalogues, websites, LAN file, servers. etc.), financial resources (Budget) Human Resource. etc.

ii) Competencies that required to possess in LIS of Professional

Acceptance of Knowledge of user interaction with knowledge resources

Provide Quality users, make them accept the changes Be an information Management strategist etc. Be resourceful Possess excellent communication Skills, constantly update personal, knowledge base by keeping in touch with the latest development.

Create awareness among the users, make them accept the changes.

Be an information management strategist etc.

iii) Technical Knowledge required

a. Operating Systems- windows, UNIX, LINUX etc.

b. World processing, Graphics, spread sheet & presentations.

c. Database management system including the skill in Bibliographic

Database Management Systems etc.

d. General purpose programming, Networking etc. e. Web page development and content management.

f. Information Retrieval Software for online, CD-ROM and Internet etc.

g. Library software packages, acquaintances with digital library Tools.

Conclusion:

The world of information is undergoing rapid change. As traditional custodians of information, librarian need to aware of the implications of these. Changes and develop technological and managerial skills, planning, organizing, leading, controlling etc., which will enable them to make effective use of information and to meet their organizations changing information need. Development of information technology is playing a crucial role in restructuring of the librarians. The role of librarian has changed in the information technology Era. The library and information professionals are required to acquire such knowledge and skills as the library is one of the highly IT influenced service profession. The empowerment of library and information professionals with IT skills is aimed at providing services that are expected of from the clientele in the new environment.

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