



## Techno-Savvy Library Professionals in the Modern-Day ICT Scenario

*\*Mrs. Prajakta Pradeep Mhaprolkar*

*\*Librarian, Nirmala Niketan college of Home Science*

### Introduction:

The advancement of information communication technology (ICT) and its usability in the educational system have brought many changes. It is not only impacting upon library and information services but also influences the roles and expectations of librarians in the field of disseminating services using the latest computer gadgets in a quicker and faster manner. Librarians are currently more talented and techno-savvy in handling digital resources and institutional databases. They provide jobs like e-resources, guiding users in the maximum utilization of resources and providing assistance through plagiarism checks. The traditional working librarians are facing day-to-day problems and upgrading their service-providing pattern drastically and facing challenges adapting them to a new situation in their job routine life. Rapid environmental changes affect library and information professionals' professionalism, like job opportunities, role-playing, self-image, and motivational factors. So, librarians must find a solution in their timely role of claiming and repositioning their workplace. It is undoubtedly a big project to solve this problem without denying using the sixth sense to assess new parts in time. As we believe in information technology and telecommunications networking to increase the corresponding knowledge and rapid accessibility of resources for the rapid development in all fields, it is required to be competent in developing skills in accessing, processing, and using information. It is an ongoing learning process depending upon the curious attitude of the library professionals to tackle the present situation and prove them as needed tools for a complete revolution in the educational system.

**Copyright © 2022 The Author(s):** This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.

### E-teaching and E-learning:

Electronic learning is a term for all, which is most important because it is technology-enhanced learning (TEL), where technology is used to support the learning process. The medium of instruction is based on digital technologies. E-learning is used for interchanging a variety of contexts. For example, if it is considered in companies, the training courses can be delivered to the employees electronically. In most developed countries like the USA, it is the strategy that the use of a wide spectrum of technologies reaches the learning materials or class notes or any course materials through the internet in their teaching and learning process. Due to the fast growth of computer assistance in the learning process, the mode of teaching in most universities, basically in developed countries, is through e-learning. Students attend classes online, collect materials, and follow their examinations online. So, it shows that the impact of e-learning among the different universities and the mode of educational transmission through the es learning are absorbing the gap between age gaps in the educational system.

### Major Benefits through the E-learning Process:

An electronic learning process is a benefit for students. It provides e-learning content to the students for their learning processes. It is a readymade service that supports the students in getting updated information for different content



aspects like service, company, production, etc. Specific skill is not concentrated in the performance-based content, whereas performance-based content procedural skills are provided through which students gain proficiency. E-learning provides benefits to not only the institutions but also the students in various ways. Some of the major benefits are:

- Quality education can be found and accessed to improve the learning processes.
- It is affordable and easily accessed through which a student can prepare lessons for examination orientation.
- Flexibility is a vital part through which students are mentally allowed to collect and learn the documents for their study.
- It also reduces the environmental impact.

### **Current Role of the Libra Professionals In the ICT Environment:**

Machine helps in people's work, but people work till the need of the users' satisfaction. In this sense, a new type of technology has to be implemented in the changing process of library services comparing and confessing the prime demand of library users. The world believes in the connectivity of the circuits and the Internet. So the knowledge of the Internet and the application of computer operation by library professionals is compulsory knowledge in this present-day information scenario in disseminating the services and satisfying the demand of the users.

A librarian is a professionally trained person responsible for taking care of the contents, including selection, processing, and organization of various resources and delivering the information and loan services to meet the users' needs. In an access Librarian's online environment, the Librarian's role is to manage and mediate the information that may exist only in electronic form. The library is no longer defined simply as a building or a physical repository that houses information. So the essential future vision of academic library professionals is to achieve the necessary information transformation and satisfy the users' needs in the digital format.

In this way, the following points are to be considered in the information dissemination and to satisfy the demand of the users.

- The future vision of library professionals is to create a global library network, and the information center is to provide web-based quality information services to the user's community on time.
- There should be a change in the library environment path to provide quality information from different electronic sources.
- Library professionals should involve themselves in the context of increasing academic as well as competitive markets.
- In this context, librarians must offer electronic teaching and learning to prove themselves as education leader.
- Library professionals play a different roles in their daily activities, which are mentioned below.
- Library Professionals collect and provide research materials and resources both online and offline and involve them in the selection, acquisition, and processing of the resources for access and controls from different angles for the safety and security of the library.
- Librarian as an information consultant and guides students and faculty members to satisfy their needs.
- Librarian Plays a vital role in instructing users to use and collect library resources in the long run system abiding ethical principles of the library.
- Librarian is a good preserver and saver of the library in the field of historical documents of different institutions and other important rare records for future utilization and research.

- The Librarian's role in the library is to provide facilities for group work. It encourages individual reflective work through which the real development of the talented users will be worked out in separate entities.
- Library provides intellectual access to any format, evaluating the available information and its various sources.
- Last but not least, the role of the Librarian is to make the other library professionals trained and offer instructions to assist in interpreting resources and access to resources through which the maximum utilization of the resources would be possible and more and more benefit would be provided to the users as a whole.

### Professional versus Personal Competencies of the Library Professionals:

The library's role has developed many folds in the computer competency age. Simultaneously, the working personnel of the library has been playing, satisfying the demands of the users accordingly.

The following points compare these two statements between personal and professional competencies.

professional Competencies	Personal Competencies
Library Professional has the content ability knowledge, including the critical evaluation and content filtration	It is a varied concept which proves in the positive and committed manner in providing good services
Library professionals have the special subject knowledge in the concerned field(s) to satisfy the clients of the organization	It is a challenge to provide in providing good services in the library
Library Professionals can provide services in a cost-effective manner abiding by the strategic rules of the organization	It is a separate entity to create a helpful environment and germinate trust in getting respect
Library Professionals provide excellent instruction to the library users	It has very good and effective communication skills
Library Professionals can apply information technology in the field of acquiring, organizing, and disseminating information	It is a quality dependant and leadership attitude character
Library Professionals evaluate the outcomes of the information and conduct research on the different information management problems	It has benevolent skills for creating different new types of opportunities
Library Professionals improve the pattern of services gradually in response to the changing needs of the library users	It recognizes professional networking and team spirit in the flexible and changing demand of the customers positively

In the above table, it is shown that there is plenty of roles of library professionals to be careful and timely preparation of the day-to-day services to be survived in the present society. So, the development of content knowledge and its related skills are to be developed, which are enumerated in the following timely suggestions, assessment methods, and the ability to work in the IC T environment. These are:



- To carry out rapid decision-making in fulfilling the different domains and provide services satisfying their needs;
- To deliver timely services to the users and work in a collaborative manner through which the unavailability of the resources of the concerned institutions could be managed with fewer funds;
- To be allowed to study independently for the creation of new ideas and to innovate in different angles in academic performances;
- To monitor and evaluate the strength and the weaknesses of the users in the continuing observation process; and
- To work with an active and creative mind through which innovative steps for the development of the library in the development of the resources and the service providing matters could be more prominent.

#### **Several issues faced by the library professional in the e-library environment:**

Library professionals face many problems in the day-to-day services like online and offline access to digital information resources, database searching, public access services, electronic reference, public relations services, library promotion and marketing, online access to library catalogues and databases, and e-publishing. These problems are the problems of the library professionals' in one way if the library professionals are less competent in handling the different aspects of the library. So it is time to be more competent to address the users' problems through which the library's good service could be provided.

#### **Top Challenges for the Library Professionals in the E-Learning Environment:**

Library professionals do face many challenges in their day-to-day activities. This is only due to the development of users' demand and need for quick service. New-generation users demand updated information, and online dissemination of resources is a challenge for unskilled computer professionals. The knowledge about copyright and database management for academic excellence and the timely dissemination of the resources is a great task for the present library professionals. Computer technology knowledge will help collect digital resources and allow working with a limited workforce. So, it is a required knowledge of each professional in the library to upgrade the knowledge and bring clarity to the library resources to meet the demand of the users'. The lowdown on virtual crime and the security part of the library through close circuit cameras, RFID, and many more recent methods in the library will empower the library and library professional position.

#### **Conclusion:**

In the modern-day information scenario, Library professionals are more competent in acquiring, managing resources, retrieving documents, and disseminating information per the users' demand. It is not the ultimate answer to satisfy the need for communication through virtual libraries and the withering away of traditional libraries where users depend upon the physical resources in a confined room. Library professionals should accept and adopt new techniques in their day-to-day professionalism. We can recognize the importance of the virtual library by prioritizing the library professionals' leadership role in integrating new systems and services in the working environment of the academic ambiance.

#### **References:**

- Abbott, Andrew (1998), "Professionalism and the Future of Librarianship," *Library Trends*. Vol. 46 No. 3, pp. 430-445.
- AI-Ansari, H. (1999), "Improving the organizational structure for an electronic environment: a case analysis of Kuwait University libraries," *Library Review*, Vol. 48 No. 3, pp.131-139.
- Ansari, M. A. (2003), "Digital libraries: needs, technology, and benefit. *ILA Bulletin*. Vol. 38 No.3, pp. 22-26.



- Creth, S. D. (1996), "The Electronic Library: Slouching Toward the Future or Creating a New Information Environment," Follett Lecture Series. Available at: <http://www.ukoin.ac.uk/services/papers/follett/creth/paper.html>.
- Croneis, K.S. and Henderson, P. (2002), "Electronic and digital librarian positions: A content analysis of announcements from 1990 through 2000", *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, Vol. 28 No. 4, pp. 232-237.
- Dugdale, C. (1999), "Managing electronic reserves: new opportunities and roles for academic librarians?", *Librarian Career Development*, Vol. 7 No. 12, pp. 150-163.
- Gamble, L. E. (1989), "University Service: New Implications for Academic Librarians", *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, Vol. 14 No.6, pp. 344-347.
- Jurasek, K. (2008), "Trends and challenges before the future academic library professional that Will Shape the Future Academic Libraries," Available at:
- Levy, P. and Roberts, S. (n. a.), "Developing the new learning environment: the changing role of the academic librarian," Facet Publishing, pp. 256.
- Seman, Norma Abu (2005), "Library and Information Management: Current Trends, Issues, and Recommendations for a Challenging Future" Form in Current Trends and Issues in Information/Knowledge Management, Available at:
- Prinsen, J. G. B. (2001), "A Challenging future awaits Libraries able to change," *D-Lib Magazine*, Vol.7 No. 11.
- Thamaraiselvi, G. (n a.), "Vision and the changing roles of the future Academic library professionals in the e-learning environment: challenges and issues," Available at:

### **Cite This Article:**

*\*Mrs. Prajakta Pradeep Mhaprolkar (2022). Techno-Savvy Library Professionals in the Modern-Day ICT Scenario, Aarhat Multidisciplinary International Education Research Journal, XI (V) Sep – Oct, 14-18.*