CHANGING SCENARIO OF ... HING IN ... AND THE ROLE OF LIBRARIANS

By

Dr. P. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Department of Library and Information Science & University Library
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli 627 012, Tamil Nadu,
India

Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kalkata
Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Role Of Future Academic Librarians: Issues And Challenges In 21st Century

Dr.I. Ravi Kumar Kennedy* Dr.T. Raja**

*St. John's College, Palayamkottai – 627 002 E-Mail: i.r.k.kennedy1996@gmail.com
**Librarian, St. Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous), Palayamkottai – 627 002 E-Mail:
rajathangiah@gmail.com

Introduction

Library and information centres plays a predominant role for dissemination of knowledge of the users. In future adopting various types of resources and services to introduce in the libraries and librarians play a key role to implementation of the new technologies and services. This paper has to discuss the various issues and challenges of the academic libraries in the 21st century and has to adopt new skills to the library professionals.

Review of Literature

Norene James, Lisa Shamchuk, & Katherine Koch. (2015) reviewed this paper on emerging roles of the 21st century librarians who are managers of repository services across libraries in present day information technology environments. Librarians need to be trained in requisite skills and be empowered for successful management of the ICT driven repository initiatives of the 21st century. Literature was reviewed on the roles and responsibilities of librarians, training needs and opportunities, career path of librarians, and community support necessary for effective and efficient implementation and management of repository initiatives. This entails the ability to comprehend trends and change patterns which are essential for providing research focused and user friendly models in open repository services, based on though analytical understanding of the challenges of emerging trends. Librarians need training and retraining in order to reposition themselves in their career path. The library is an integral part of its social environment that is to educate the community about the existence of an open repository; building partnership with community-oriented research centres through seminars, workshops, Symposium, training, and awareness programmes. The paper recommends that librarians should Strategize and collaborate with researchers to make open repository an essential research tool. Tikekar (2009) discussed on the modernization of University and College Libraries in India taken place during the latter half of the last century. It gives an account of the contribution of the University Grants Commission in terms of Reports, conduct of seminars, workshops, financial assistance for replenishing collections, constructing library buildings, upgrading library services. The role of other national bodies like AIU, AICTE, NAAC and Library Networks also is described. This modernization facilitated their transformation into the 21st Century Academic Libraries. While explaining the special features of 21st Century Academic Library the land marks of the forward march like professional literature analysing the transitory period, New Five Laws of Library Science are indicated. The special features of 21st century academic libraries like library software's, retrospective conversion, digital library initiative are also discussed. The changing librarianship is explained emphasising the new competencies for library and information professionals. It is concluded that though the core work of libraries remain the same the old ways to carry them out are changed due to ICT applications. The library services too are enhanced and have become more effective.

Professional Development

Librarians are the professionals and now designated as various names like knowledge officer, IT manager, Information manager and etc. The librarians are ready to know about the following advanced skills and attending the training programmes.

☐
Attending the Conferences/Seminars
☐ Attending the
Workshops/Training Programmes
☐ Workplace Culture

☐ Professional Ethies for Work and Publishing Ethics
☐ Adopting new routine library operations
☐ Virtual Reference Service

249

- Multiple Personality
- Online information retrieval
- Member in Professional Associations
- For both individual and institutional service
- Evaluation for Promotions
- Competition for jobs
- New information skills

Information Services Hub

Library and information centres in the academic institutions acted as an information services hub to the students, scholars and the faculty members. The information services are provided as follows:

- Societal Information Services
- Technology information services
- Educational Information Services
- Online academic Research Service
- Institutional Repositories
- Scientific Information Services
- Inter-Library Loan Service
- Reprography Service
- Scanning Service
- Translation Service

Issues on Adopting New Technologies

The library and information centres provide various types of resources and services through technologies. The following new technologies related sources and services include:

- Introducing Open Education Resources (OER)
- Metadata Harvesting
- Digital Preservation
- Data Analysis
- Visualizing resources
- Web Achievement
- Robotic Technology
- Artificial Intelligence
- Web 2.0
- Social Media Skills
- Online Reference Management tools
- Table of Content (TOC)

- Knowledge Mapping skills

Challenges of ALA's Centre for Future Libraries

American library association creates tools for future libraries environment. An academic library provides various tools for the development of libraries and also ensuring the user services.

- Internet of things
- Connected Learning
- Flipped Learning
- Design Thinking
- Robots
- Emerging Adulthood
- Digital Natives
- Data Everywhere
- Collective Impact
- Voice Control
- Virtual Reality
- Urbanization
- Short Reading
- Smart cities

Institutional Support

All kinds of academic institutions are supporting and encourage the librarians to implement new resources and technology based services. The following aspects of supports to be provided to the academic libraries.

- Financial Support
- Institutional Collaboration
- Employee Skills
- Expansion of Library Physical Area
- Implementation of innovative ideas
- Relationship Management
- Adequate Infrastructure
- Computerised Library
- Evaluating Users experience

Characteristics of the Good Librarian

The librarian has to commits the following characteristics for the smooth running of the academic libraries and the users at the academic institutions.

- Awareness
- Empathy

- ☐ Accountability
- ☐ Confidence
- ☐ Inspiration
- ☐ Honesty
- ☐ Decisiveness
- ☐ Optimism
- ☐ Flexibility
- ☐ Integrity
- ☐ Team Work
- ☐ Customer Service
- ☐ Time Management
- ☐ Communication skills

Role of Librarian

Librarian plays a dynamic and efficient role to implement the new technology based services in the academic libraries and challenges in the 21st century. The librarian acted as a following role in the academic libraries for development of the good library and for the best users.

- ☐ As a Educator
- ☐ Curriculum Developer
- ☐ Information Educator
- ☐ Educational Partner
- ☐ Emerging Instructional Role of librarian and academia
- ☐ Catalyst for the students
- ☐ Multiple Personality
- ☐ Creating the innovative library portal
- ☐ Multimedia Resource Manager
- ☐ Understanding the users
- ☐ Balancing the print and online resources
- ☐ Inside and outside roles
- ☐ Inviting and challenging the rapid response
- ☐ Adjustment
- ☐ Collaborative Mentality
- ☐ Collaborative approach to the academicians
- ☐ Information Marketers

Conclusion

Librarians are the committed academicians in the every academic institution for the development of resources and implementing all the new technologies. Now the librarians acted as a trainer of plagiarism detection, author affiliation, bibliometric studies, scientometric studies, h-index and various advanced technologies for the academicians in the institutions. So this paper has to identify issues and challenges to the librarianship in the 21st century. All the librarians has to meet the issues and challenges in very easy manner and successful operation to adopt technology based libraries in the 21st century.

References

1. http://ala.org/tools/future(retrieved from the website on 11/01/2019)
2. Shank, J. D., & Steven Bell. (2011). Blended Librarianship [Re]Envisioning the Role of Librarian as Educator in the Digital Information Age. Reference & User Services Quarterly, 51(2), 105-110. Retrieved from https://www.jstor.org/stable/refuseserq.51.2.105
3. Raja, T., & Muthukumar, S. (2010). Role of e-librarian in the Academic Institutions:In Present and Future. In Innovation-Driven Librarianship (pp. 189-191). Chennai: SRM University.
4. Hicks, A. (2016). Reframing librarian approaches to international student information literacy through the lens of New Literacy Studies. In S. McNicol (Ed.) Critical Literacy for Information Professionals. Facet Publishing.
5. Emasealu, H. U., & Umeozor, S. N. (2016). Training librarians for 21st century repository services: Emerging trends. Issues in Informing Science and Information Technology, 13, 187-194. Retrieved from http://www.informingscience.org/Publications/3495
6. Tikekar, A. C. (2009). Towards 21st Century Academic Libraries and Librarianship. In Vision and Roles of the Future Academic libraries (pp. 45-50). Delhi: University of Delhi.
7. Norene James, Lisa Shamchuk, & Katherine Koch. (2015). Changing Roles of Librarians and Library Technicians. The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research, 10(2), Canada. doi:1911-9593