

Academic libraries Trends in Management of Information: Issues and Challenges

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Abstract: The challenge in most of the establishments including library and information systems in developing countries like India is the collection, organization, dissemination and management of information. Information management focuses on improving the effectiveness of academic institutions by managing information as a hub, providing access to relevant information resources in a timely and most cost-effective manner. Effective information management systems enable institutions to have meaningful, reliable and accessible information when needed and providing mechanism for ensuring accountability and managing risk. There has been concern for educational institutions in a country like India to overcome this problem arising from insufficient storage, funding, infrastructure, flow and utility of information. Inadequate access to/or gaining relevant information has negative impact on the effectiveness of decision-making of knowledge stakeholders. Librarians and other information managers must identify the dynamic user community and their need of information, engaging competent professional staff to administer the information management systems, nurture the informational and knowledge professionals, automate the library and adopt proper information management strategies to improve the efficiency of information in higher educational institutions.

Keywords: Information, Information management, Information professionals, academic libraries, strategies

1. INTRODUCTION

Information has become a vital driving force in our day-to-day activities. Due to abundance of information, it is very much tough to estimate the worth of information management in academic libraries. These academic library and information centers lodge a dominant place in all higher education institutions to develop information driven knowledge communities with information to assist the information community and augments the acquaintance of wisdom to manhood. This paper portrays the trends of information management, its characters and purposes. The challenges postured to academic libraries and library professionals for effectual information delivery will also be conversed here in this paper. This paper is to replicate on trends and issues of libraries in educational institutions and management in the varying landscapes of higher education. Altering settings of library and knowledge centres has wedged meaningfully on the information, assistances requirement and part of the information professionals, and how academic institutes can sustain and accomplish the moving landscapes of knowledge centres, as well as competency while effectual management is very much essential for the competent library professionals and these institutes are concerned about forthcoming circumstances. The main aim is to categorize the significant encounters in these information institutions, competent and methods of the librarians, their mode of operation and upcoming insights are debated.

This paper is to enable as how to constitute significant and fruitful management for these libraries during the changing nature of higher education. The observations and commendations made in this paper are grounded on personal experiences of competitive positions in an academic library set ups as well as experiences of library professionals across the globe. Currently academic libraries are fronting comparable challenges and various problems worldwide. The present paper discourses why academic library professionals needs a combination of competency and how best they can advance in management of information in these ever-changing landscapes of higher education institution libraries.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

We are now farsighted hybrid libraries which is a combination of both conventional and digital information delivering print and electronic information to its user community. Information is one of the premeditated resources and has developed significant in this digital world. Academic institutions invest a considerable expanse of their library economy in acquiring print information and library resources. This valued information resources need to be accomplished efficiently and professionally in libraries so as to offer sustainable library & information services. It all depends not only on ironic and learned information resources in the libraries but also on how resources are organized in the library and by accessing and retrieving by our user community. Thus, the information facilities will be concerned with patron centred.

And it is consequently significant to comprehend the user community and their current and estimated requirements in order to fulfil their information needs.

Our library personnel should have to be very much knowledgeable in using advanced technologies and knowledge skills in terms of forever fluctuating behaviour of information seeking and information landscapes to encounter the estimated and altering information requirements of the users in order to assist them in a longer period of time.

There is an immense offer and demands for library management professionals for the job ahead even in this virtual world. Libraries come across numerous contests in handling information and have to confront the contests by handling the libraries efficiently for future and transforming the knowledge centers to sustainability. Management of information competencies play a significant character in supervising library and information centers for a justifiable imminent generation of users.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main Objectives of the studies are given below,

1. Creating competency and additional worth for their institutions at various levels.
2. Upgrading of current information and financial services considering financial reduction.
3. Development of new and innovative information services by developing strategies in effective delivery of information.
4. Aiming to develop exclusive learning, information and knowledge management systems, incorporating that knowledge to advanced products and information services.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This paper is to create competent awareness and sustenance on information management that have been acknowledged in the literature and by some of the prominent researchers are, Ocheni (2015) deliberated the effect of assessment of the information management on the decision-making efficiency of managers in Nigerian universities and found out that acquisition of information and management of information competencies whether taking distinctly or jointly makes substantial contributions to both operative and competent management in Nigerian Universities.

Davenport, and Punsakand (1999) categorizes objectives of information management into four comprehensive parts, "To create information repositories which store both knowledge and information, often in documentary form, eg., external knowledge such as modest intelligence structured internal knowledge, such as research reports etc", "To enhance the information environment so that the environment is favourable to more operative knowledge construction, dissemination and usage". This includes attempting administrative standards and standards as they narrate to wisdom. "To improve information access, or to deliver access to knowledge or to simplify its delivery amongst users. The main importance here is on connectivity, access and dissemination. Example video conferencing, document scanning, sharing tools and telecommunication networks etc.

This condition has been extremely pointed out by Shalini Urs as "Libraries are endangered by competition and shifting routines introduced by technological advances and the new digital age. Amongst the despair of the extermination of libraries there is a grey line of prospects". Our continued presence and significance depend on transforming libraries as spaces for information and knowledge interaction. Depending on whether one is ready for transformation and adaptation, it is a stimulating time to be in a vocation that is associated to information. After all we are in the information age, libraries built on solid knowledgeable and institutional fundamentals of the past, are exclusively placed to not only be pertinent but pillar.

Any academic library is a library that is committed to a higher education institution which assists and supports its curriculum, assisting teaching and learning that includes research activities of the University faculties and dynamic user community. The main objective of information management in academic libraries is to make sure that the "right information is delivered to the right person just in time, in order to take the most appropriate decision. The objectives identified according to Raja, Ahmad and Sinha (2000) includes, "To promote collection, processing, storage and distribution of knowledge". "Faster and easier recovery of data and disseminate the information. - Retrieving skills and errors".

Radon, R (1996) identifies the significance of library information management even in the contemporary technology settings as" the innovative tools and applications of the Internet and beyond will necessitate additional proficiency in management of information.

5. METHODOLOGY

To simplify as how to advance operative and be effective information manager in an academic set up and knowledge libraries through this pandemic period and the shifting landscapes of advanced educational systems. The



recommendations in this paper are grounded on personal experiences of leadership positions in an academic library as well as experiences of library and information science front-runners across the globe.

6. TRENDS IN MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION

• **Revolution in Management Acquiring Innovative Skills for Competitive Leadership**

Latest trend emphases on dealing with transformation in library and information centres, changes in exploring public relationship in libraries including associating partners, and acquiring competitive skills in information management. Adopting and implementing best practices for scientifically regulating the work flow of an institution. If the library needs to be successful in this ever-changing information world, our library professionals need to develop the competency and change management skills, and those which focuses on these desirable services will be of utmost practice to professionals observing to transfer their boundaries into upcoming world swiftly and self-confidently.

• **Developing Integrated Library Management Systems**

Development of more essential features and distinct functions have to be incorporated and developed into library management systems, and there should be a change towards international standard information systems. And the professionals strive to develop ambitious integrated systems, that mirror their trends new requirements in the bright of the digital publications including open-source software movement under creative commons with the interoperability of their library information systems with the integration of other recognized established platforms, by providing advanced intelligent information competences.

• **Learning Analytics**

Academic institution libraries are seamlessly been responsible for learning analytics to validate worth to their chief stakeholders, and to measure learning advantages from teaching, and analyse library user usage. The implementation of these practices reflects our best practices and personnel ethical issues and applied apprehensions connected to confidentiality. Educating how learners learn and carry out research could be contingent on how competent they are in information literacy, their ability to search, find, retrieve, assess, choice and usage of information resources. It is quite obvious for libraries to forefront information literacy instructions, with library professionals as the enablers of investigating skills. Having impactful information that associates library customs with learners accomplishment establishes the significance of the library and congeals librarians as the agents and creators of an significant footing for effective education.

• **Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning**

Generally speaking, compared to other occupations, library profession is on the crossover of drastic change owed to advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. Librarians and libraries have a strong history of integrating and applying technologies into their spaces and practices. Beyond these considerable endorsements for practical infrastructure and approaches in educational inheritance, metadata creation, libraries should “consider using information literacy instruction as a trajectory to familiarize algorithmic perceptions including principled implications.” Data and programming literacies are progressively imperative for modern-day users, and libraries are increasingly participating them into their practice. As library professionals endure to discover the customs and possible misappropriations of artificial intelligence and machine learning environments, there are some prospects to develop programs focused on information and digital literacies to include moral considerations in both machines learning artificial intelligence.

• **Internet of Things**

The good integrated library management software’s have in progress using the Internet of Things (IoT) to transfer information without social interference. Now a days libraries use IoT to regulate inventories, avoid shoplifting, and recognize user community. It also assists in augmenting the eminence and rapidity of circulation counter events. Furthermore, IoT accelerates registration of books, fire detection in the knowledge centers and its anticipation, and modernizing e-Library facilities.

• **Open Access: Transitions and Transformations**

In the recent past we can see some major advances in the open access from major big deal withdrawals to innovative arrangements amongst publishers, vendors and libraries. We can see many agreements between these partners and many consortia. We should “aim at providing pertinent information resources giving live experiences employed in association with societal publication associates to support them developing an open access publishing model that suites with sustainability and operative.

Communal justice, Competitive librarianship, and developing digital pedagogy are some of the competent librarianship initiatives that endure to advent momentum in libraries of academic institutions of all types. As designated by Emily Drabinski, “Critical librarianship accepts and then interviews the structures that harvest us as librarians, our spaces as libraries, our users as students, faculties, and the community.” Live streaming medium has been a dynamic and varying space in the last few years. Libraries are attempting to trace out a accountable way forward that provisions expectations of users’ needs and for the choice and convenience. With cumulative provision for available combination of both online and hybrid courses, as well as flipped classroom teaching, in order to encourage state of being conscious and sustenance



the mind and divine comfort of students, a number of libraries have created spaces and programs to meet this need. Many institutions have shut their services and encouraged their stakeholders to go online; providers have opened up their collections on a temporary basis; and conferences have postponed or cancelled outright, along with many other changes in library operations. We anticipate that this situation will have long-lasting repercussions, very likely including massive budget cuts. Despite these uncertainties, libraries are positioned to provide online research and teaching support to patrons using virtual conferencing and other tools.

7. CHALLENGES IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

i. Financial Constraints: Financial issues continued at the top of the challenges for library professionals in the academic libraries all over the world.

ii. Collaborating about developments in the library: Changes are unavoidable in this electronic age but interacting with these changes and receiving the needed funding for infrastructures is interesting as we see there are stereotypically several stakeholders involved in this system.

iii. Deteriorating user requests for the information

The necessity to authenticate library resource procurement and constricted finance frequently strengthen library professionals to deteriorating user requirements for the information.

iv. Professional development

Preparing library professionals with the newer skills they now need is authoritative. Professional training and development openings are dynamic in serving librarians overwhelmed the contests they come across at work. Innovative and evolving competencies which were not required a decade ago, such as data conception and communication skills, are now very much essential for us to become competent at what we do. Possession up with the change and acquiring technical advancements whereas the world-wide-web have had an enormous influence on the libraries and the way services are effectively delivered. The swift development of electronic information has obstructed library services and systems within a short span of time, subsequently in gaps in the skills needed to operate a digital library.

8. ROLE OF LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS WITH THE EMPHASIS ON TRENDS IN RESEARCH CYCLE

Librarian plays a prominent role in the development of connecting information with the users that goes beyond creating contented ascertainable. Newer skills such as information management are very much essential for library personnel to keep abreast of recent trends in research trends by providing users with the utmost appropriate knowledge. The complex landscape of the information world means librarians have to continuously keep well-informed of innovative advances and strategies in the intellectual publishing and scholarly communication spaces.

9. UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF LIBRARIANS TO RESEARCHERS

Developments in the scholarly research publications spaces have redefined the characters and responsibilities of library professionals encompassing the content curation far beyond the expectations. While this is happening, cataloguers are finding it a contest to interconnect the worth of their work to their information communities.

10. MANAGEMENT IN CONSTANT CHANGEOVER FROM A PRINT TO A DIGITAL-BASED COLLECTION

The evolution of 'print to electronic (digital) has been one of the lengthiest stand-up discussions in the libraries. On top of it transition management, librarians are also contributing in the discourse around renovating, re-engineering and restructuring the physical spaces in the library to substitute healthier association and accommodating related happenings.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

We should acquire some competencies and potentials with the custom to develop a fruitful library professional. Additionally, library professionals should develop better communication skills inspire themselves and students, and involve in all co-curricular activities of professional practices by developing tangible action plans. Some of the characteristics to be developed by the library professionals are,

1. To augment professional competencies and technological skills attitude to involve in cooperative team work. Leading electronic information services beyond the four-walls of the physical library.
2. Using technology tools for effective information services. Ability.



3. To introduce need-based information resources for the users, discovering innovative extents of research and enquiry in the fields of technology-based information Services.
4. Exploring the applications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, and other related advances in serving the user communities. Adapting to the newer roles and responsibilities in the profession to manage the change in library and information services.

12. CONCLUSION

Information management is mainly connected with the technique in which information is captured, organised, catalogued, retrieved and applied involving the process of creating, safeguarding it with utmost coordination, combination and distribution of information leading to knowledge and wisdom. The elementary impression is to generate a information sharing systems whereas dissemination of information is supremacy. In today's world and knowledge economy, the main objective has stimulated from constant exercise to continuous learning, in its place of waiting to be skilled, the personnel seek out for self-experience on their own way.

Thus, academic libraries therefore need to demonstrate their significance, and upsurge their operative competencies in order to meet dynamic needs of information of their user community in this current information world. As a temple of knowledge and learning places, universities should authorize their academic libraries to progress campus-wide information management systems. It's now time for library and library professionals to transpose themselves in the dominant stage of and as competent personnel in information management. The worldwide wind of transformation due to innovations in technology across all occupations is undoubtedly expected. Libraries as a provider of information fulfilling the needs of users is not an exclusion. The application of information management as suggests to collection development involves selection, acquisition, organization, storing, sharing and dissemination of information to the user community. One of the main objectives of information management in libraries is to endorse the sharing and dissemination of information among library professionals' eagerness and aptitudes for education, making the knowledge most professionally applied to day-to-day library routine activities and reconstruction of the simple library into a dynamic knowledge institution.

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