Evolving roles for electronic resources librarian in digital Era

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Abstract

Information communication technology changes the working system in every area. Library and information centers also affected with it. Introduction of web reduces the need of library because users will get information from internet at any place at any time. The paper aims to highlight the affect of internet on library usage. Concept of e-learning by born digital generation. Components of electronic resource library. Libraries help in e-learning, user's expectation from e-resource library and at last the skills required in electronic resource librarian. Data have been gathered by reviewing the literature. After profound review of literature it is found that e-resource libraries are established but to some extent. There are difficulties for librarians to manage e-resources as they are not IT literate. So it is suggested that change in the library science syllabus is the most important thing to do. If librarians cannot IT literate they cannot manage successful electronic resource library.

Keywords: Digital Library, Information Literacy, Electronic resource library, E-librarian

Introduction

The time is changed after the innovation in ITC sector. The world is moving towards the digitization. Traditional working system has been change to the computerization. Libraries are adversely affected with this situation. Because all the information is available on the web, users' information seeking habit changed from print to electronic resources. It also overcome the geographical distance as people can search anything on web from their smart phone as well as laptop or personal PC. To overcome the situation libraries digitizing their collection. It also introduces electronic services like e-mail, library website, blogs, WEBOPAC etc.

The information revolution and pervasive thinking of that everything available on web have created new challenges to the traditional library professional. The growth in electronic resources change in the education system. Teachers teach with the help of computer and internet, because of that teachers and students decreases usage of libraries. Research scholar is using more e-resources than print books. This new education method insists librarians to re-evaluate traditional libraries into digital. Acquiring and providing access to electronic resources required library professionals to change their role from traditional librarian to information scientist.

The paper examine concept of electronic resource library, challenges libraries are facing while transforming their traditional library into digital and skills required in a librarian to develop electronic resource library.

Meaning and Definition of electronic resource library

According to Lynch (1995), "electronic information access system that offers the user a coherent view of an organized, selected and managed body of information."

The digital library federation 1998 suggests the following working definition:

Digital libraries are organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities.

A digital library is a special library with the collection of digital objects that can include text, visual material, audio material stored as electronic media formats along with the means for organizing, storing and retrieving files and media contained in the library collection. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/digital_library

Database of digitized audio, video and written material, on a physical site and/or a website, giving 24 hour online access to users.

Concept of E-learning

E-learning is form of electronic support learning and teaching. Internet is a vital way to get resources for research, learning for students as well as teachers. There is no common definition of e-learning is found. Existing definition according to Dublin (2003) tends to reveal the specialization and interest of the researcher. E-learning as a concept covers a range of applications, learning methods and processes (Rossi, 2009). It is therefore difficult to find a commonly accepted definition for the term e-learning.

Some of the definition of the term e-learning given by different researcher and institution are viewed below:

E-learning refers to the use of information and communication technologies to enable the Access to online learning/teaching resources. In its broadest sense, Abbad et al (2009), defined E-learning to mean any learning that is enabled electronically. They however narrowed this definition down to mean

learning that is empowered by the use of digital technologies. This definition is further narrowed by some researchers as any learning that is internet-enabled or web-based (LaRose et al, 1998; Keller and Cernerud, 2002).

According to Maltz et al (2005), the term 'e-learning' is applied in different perspectives, including distributed learning, online-distance learning, as well as hybrid learning. E-learning, according to OECD (2005) is defined as the use of information and communication technologies in diverse processes of education to support and enhance learning in institutions of higher education, and includes the usage of information and communication technology as a complement to traditional classrooms, online learning or mixing the two modes.

Electronic Resource Library
Electronic resource library includes different **Electronic Resources and services.** Some of them are describe as below:

Online catalogue: An online library catalogue is an electronic bibliographic database that describes the books, videotapes, periodical etc.

Online library catalogue evolved from a printed source, the library card catalogue. Before the advent of online catalogues, library catalogues were pieces of furniture that contained numerous small drawers. In these drawers were contained records of particular item in the library

MARC: MARC is machine readable catalogue. Its standard is set of digital formats for the description of items catalogued by libraries. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MARC_standards

MARC is computerized method of recording information needed in cataloguing records, descriptive cataloguing, subject heading and other access points, classification and other call number information. Computer programs to search for specific information which are stored in catalogue is called machine readable catalogue. http://lili.org/forlibs/ce/able/course8/03purpose.htm

WEBOPAC: Online public access catalogue usually abbreviated as OPAC is online database use by library or group of libraries, webopac is computerize library catalogue available to the public through internet. https://www.slideshare.net/dheerajsnegi9/web-opac-41049498

Databases: Database is a collection of information that is organized so that it can be easily accessed. Libraries are using different database for managing their electronic collection. Some of them are listed as below:

Bibliographic database: It contains descriptive records of books, periodical article, conference proceedings, and audio visual collections. Information about books, other related material in library or electronic index of journal and magazine articles. Bibliographic database are as per the subject like Chemical Abstracts and

Entrez contain science related information and ARTstor compiles art images.

Bibliographical database are useful to the researcher because descriptive records of relevant sources are found. It also has resource sharing functions that old card catalogue do not have. http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Bibliographic_database

CD ROM database: CR Rom (Compact Disk, read-only memory) database is an adaption of the CD that is design to store computer data in the form of text and graphics. Original data format of CD Rom data is defined by Philips and Sony in the 1983 yellow books.

E-Journals: According to Harrods librarian's glossary, an e-journal is "a journal for which the full end product is available on optical disk over a network or in any other electronic form." https://www.slideshare.net/natashagandhi11/e-journals-ppt-latest

An electronic journal is periodical publication which is published in electronic format, usually on the internet. https://www.soas.ac.uk/library/resources/ejournals/about/

E-books: An e-book is an electronic version of a traditional print book that can be read by using computer. http://searchmobilecomputing.techtarget.com/definition/eBook

Institutional Repository: An IR is a service that a Research Organization offers to its community for the management and dissemination of research materials created by the community members. (Narayana, 2009)

Upcoming Sources of e-information: Now a days with the introduction of web 2.0, following electronic services are emerged which are based on web 2.0 technology.

Blogs: A blog is a frequently online personal journal or diary. It is a place to express you to the world. A place to share your though and your passions. We can say that a blog is our own website that is going to update on an ongoing basis.

Libraries also disseminate their information, their services through blogs. http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/blog.html

Wikis – editable website: Wikipedia is a free, open content online encyclopedia created through the collaborative effort of a community of users known as wikipedians. Anyone register on site can create an article for publication and registration is not required to publish the article. Name of site comes from *wiki;* it is a server program that enables anyone to edit web site content through their web browser. http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/Wikipedia

RSS FEED: RSS (Rich Site Summary) is a format for delivering regularly changing web content. Many news-related sites, weblogs and other online publishers

syndicate their content as an RSS Feed to whoever wants it.
http://www.whatisrss.com/

How electronic resource library helps in e-learning

Internet becomes an important role in e-learning environment. Person is not visiting any libraries to get any type of information; they will get it from their mobile device with the help of computer. Libraries are playing important role in education since long. To meet the demand of net generation users libraries have transformed their print material into digital. It becomes electronic resource library. Electronic resource library include sources like e-books, e-journals, e-database, institutional repositories, blogs, wikis and RSS FEED and services like WEBOPAC, website, face books page of the library, e-mail facility by library. These fields help users for learning. Electronic resource library provide information to the users quickly at any place at any time so it also save the time of the users, at it also cover the geographical distance.

Krishnamurthy (2005) defines digital libraries as "electronic libraries in which large number of geographically distributed users can access the contents of large and diverse repositories of electronic objects". It can be networked text, images, maps, sounds, videos, catalogues, or the data sets. These libraries, particularly the academic ones apply appropriate communication technologies to provide support to e-learning by providing seamless access to electronic resources and services.

Users expectation from electronic resource librarian

What is the user's expectation from librarian? Answer of this question is librarians role have to change in electronic resource library. They have to transform them self from information gatekeeper to information gateway. (Haricombe, 1998). Lippincott (2002) advocates librarian involvement in learning communities: "The librarian can shift the focus from explaining library resources to meeting the ongoing information needs of the students in the broad information environment". Reference librarian has to guide students for using information sources according to their work assignment.

Especially academic librarians have to become a part of e-learning process by participating in online modules, guides, subject and class based list. They can help research scholar to determining scholarly material.

Skills required in library professional for managing e-library

Because of growth in technology role of libraries and library professionals are changing rapidly. Libraries are step into the digital world so that librarians role become boundary less as they are now responsible for provide information from all over the globe. Thus librarians role demand new skills for moving from old culture to new culture. Academic libraries are important center of universities as these are responsible for teaching, research and other academic programs of university. Nowadays academic library work does not end with the housekeeping operations like classification and cataloguing but they have to act as the knowledge navigators and change facilitator. Thus apart from their educational practice librarians required different kind of skills which support the latest technology. New role of academic libraries includes information and metadata literacy, open access and open education resource literacy, assessment and user – study coordination, technology and digital resource librarianship etc.

Change is the syllabus of library science also required as practical knowledge of ICT is not there. Generally librarians are week to use information communication technology, so that not all the librarians are successful in developing digital environment. Either libraries have to appoint an IT officer or they are working with the same traditional library environment.

Conclusion

The paper highlight that globalization affect the libraries. But libraries digitize themselves so that they are surviving in the digital words. Nowadays libraries are providing so many digital resource and service. Librarians are becoming knowledge navigator from information gatekeeper. Libraries are also using web2.0 services like Face books page, blogs, RSS FEED etc. Although libraries are trying to be with the digital world there is some place where their knowledge becomes less and that is towards IT infrastructure. So training for IT skills or introducing these IT skills in library science study will help to solve the purpose.

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