Networking of Libraries in Gujarat for Resource Sharing

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Introduction

Library cooperation and resource sharing have been replaced by the modern term networking with the same connotation except technological application for achieving the objectives of resource sharing.

Networking has become a very powerful link in the coordination and dissemination of library resources.

Networking is information/resource sharing through computers and telecommunication links which transmit information or data from one library to another.

Needs and Importance of Resource Sharing

❖ To develop a resource sharing strategy for Gujarat at both State and District level.

❖ To promote sharing of resources by inter library loan among the libraries through computerized networking for maximum use of resources and better facilities for researchers and users.

❖ To promote and support adoption of standards in library operations.

❖ To achieve economy in the use of resources, money, man and materials (3Ms).

❖ Sharing of the burden of purchasing materials & processing the materials.

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❖ To provide wider access to users & provide high quality library and information support services.

❖ To develop databases for projects, specialist and institutions to provide online information services.

❖ To encourage discussion in the library and information communities on all aspects of resource sharing, including Cooperative cataloguing, coordinated collection development, interlibrary loan and document delivery, and Resource sharing databases.

Areas of Resource Sharing

The following areas for Resource sharing are identified which may certainly be useful.

❖ Bank of Question Papers

❖ New Arrivals of Books can be put on Library Network Website

❖ Inter-library loan & Document Delivery

❖ Subject wise Portal of Open Sources

❖ Reference Services

❖ Membership

❖ Contents Page Service

❖ Centralized Processing

❖ Expertise & Facilities

❖ Data base Creation

❖ Union Catalogue

❖ Resource Sharing through consortia

❖ Training of Staff

Skills and Competencies Required for Networking

   Competencies are the skills, technical knowledge, and personal attributes that contribute to an individual's success in a particular position. These core competencies apply to all library staff, although some aspects of each of the competencies may not apply to every staff person.

- ❖ Creativity/Innovation
- ❖ Planning and Organizational Skills
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Analytical Skills
- ❖ Expertise and Technical Knowledge
- ❖ Communication Skills
- ❖ ICT Skills
- ❖ Searching and Navigating
- ❖ Flexibility/Adaptability
- ❖ Interpersonal Skills
- ❖ User Satisfaction

Skills and Competencies Required for Networking

- **Expertise and Technical Knowledge**

- ❖ Up-to-date knowledge of Related fields and awareness of current technology
- ❖ Freely and willingly sharing new technology with others
- ❖ Keeps up-to-date with new practices, trends, and standards in the field by reading journals, attending professional meetings and conferences, holding discussions with experts, etc
- ❖ Builds on experience to adapt to changes in technology
- ❖ Transfers information from manuals and training sessions into the workplace
- ❖ Asks for and is willing to take on more challenging work
- ❖ Looks for opportunities to use and expand knowledge, skills, and experience

Communication Skills

❖ Good communication skills not only make users to understand library services, but an effective means of marketing library and information services.

❖ Listens effectively, transmits information accurately and understandably, and actively seeks constructive feedback

❖ Provides timely, accurate, and candid information on critical issues to colleagues and team members

❖ Identifies the critical issues to be communicated in complex situations

❖ Presents information or data in a format that is efficient and understandable

❖ Takes into account how different audiences and cultures are likely to respond and endeavors to choose the best method of communicating the message to each audience.

▪ **Searching and Navigating**

❖ Library professional be familiar with how to effectively search and browse various online Open Access Database for known and unknown contacts, and for information and resources in a variety of formats

❖ Understanding the search tools available within the sites, knowledge of using outside Search engines to search the sites, and an understanding of what information and fields are searchable. Skills for navigating and browsing within the sites and between a variety of individual networks and outside websites is also important.

ICT Skills

- The changing library profession in to information profession requires ability to handle sophisticated technology including networking and Internet skills

User Satisfaction

- Understands and meets the needs of users
- Anticipates user needs and expectations across functions
- proactively seeking out information needed to satisfy users
- ensuring user needs are consistently satisfied with the highest standards of quality
- Taking reasonable risks in satisfying user needs
- Balancing expectations and needs of various stakeholders

Competencies required in LIS professionals.

❖ Library Automation and Networking

❖ Design and Development of Information Systems

❖ Library Networks and Consortia

❖ Design, Development and Maintenance of Library Website

❖ Developing and utilizing Digital Libraries

❖ Better utilization of Internet and Internet Resources

❖ Content Development

❖ Open Archives Initiatives (for networking of resources and better utilization)

❖ Information Literacy (empowering LIS professionals as well as users)

❖ Knowledge Management

❖ Institutional/ Knowledge Repository

Conclusion

❖Networking and Resource Sharing are effective tools towards providing extensive access with limited financial resources.

❖Users' demands and expectations have also arisen with the speedy growth of knowledge resources. users have ready access to a greater amount of information resources

❖Through networking duplication of materials, time and efforts are reduced.

❖LIS professionals can build and maintain professional relationships that boost their morale and bring about job satisfaction as they will be able to use their talents more through sharing skills, expertise and facilities of each member library.

 As the concept of libraries in physical boundaries is going to be part of history, it is important that all LIS professionals should understand and embrace technology and try to adopt to the changing conditions for better future Libraries!!!!

If you have any queries, please post to :
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Thank You