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FROM
PUBLISHER'S DESK

Dear Friends,

The sixth seminar in the series "Current Trends in Libraries" was held at   PDPU – Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University in Gandhinagar. Three presentations were made on the topic "Need & Importance of Research in LIS". This was followed by a lengthy and interesting discussion.

In the previous seminar Dr. T. S. Kumbar had given a presentation on "Qualities of Next Generation Librarians". This talk was based on an article published in College and Research Library News, September 2011 issue. A brief write up of his talk is included in this issue.

ADINET publishes the bimonthly publication entitled CUCOLIS- Current Contents for Library & Information Science. The journals covered in this publication has now been increased from fifty to one hundred journal titles. The subscription cost of these journals is over sixty lakhs.

We have previously announced that the Librarians Day Seminar on "User Oriented Quality Services in 21st Century Libraries will be held on 11th August 2012. The last date for registration is 20th July 2012.

CURRENT TRENDS IN LIBRARIES
Series 6

Current Trends in Libraries is an initiative started by ADINET. The first such meet was held at St. Xaviers College in the year 2010. Informal seminars are held at different organizations in Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar.

Current trends covering different LIS topics are discussed. The sixth program in this series was held at PDPU- Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University on 14th April, 2012. The topic which was discussed was "Need and Importance of Research in Library & Information Science". This topic was selected as more professionals want to do research to improve their qualifications and also because a Ph. D. degree is essential for the post of university librarian and also for lecturers.

This seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Nigam Dave, Director School of Liberal Studies, PDPU. He stated that libraries are very important in this Information Age & said that we have now moved from the chalk to the chip. Ms. Rhoda Bharucha gave a very brief outline of the work done in ADINET. She stated that formerly CUCOLIS (Current Contents for Library & Information Science) covered the contents of fifty LIS journals. Now about one hundred journals are covered and the subscription cost of these journals is over sixty lakhs.

She said that the topic which was to be discussed in this seminar was exceedingly useful. Library education in India has now completed 101 years. Research is an important component of education. If Librarianship aspires to become a major and prominent profession, it should depend upon research to develop its knowledge base and its theoretical frame work. She continued that research in LIS was started at the University of Chicago in mid 1920. In India Dr. S R Ranganathan started the doctoral degree program in LIS in 1951 at the University of Delhi. His main emphasis was on quality, relevance and basics. These three main points should be considered before undertaking any research work.

Ms. Pragnaya Pathak culled out the following main points from three research papers:-

- Working librarians rarely use research results to solve their professional problems.
- No precedent to do research on a problem confronting them.
- Practicing Librarians go in for local ad hoc and pro tem solutions for their practical problems.
- Actual research scholars consult the teacher or fellow researchers but not practitioners, so research in LIS has become just theoretical exercises.

From these papers she concluded that whatever research is done has not contributed much to actual knowledge & methodology used in library practice.

Ms. Geeta Gadhavi, presented a paper on her "Experiences in Helping LIS Students to Conduct Research". She covered the need and definition of research, the prerequisites of good research, also the facts and statistics about research. She discussed the problems faced by the students such as language, lack of confidence, difficulty in formulating questionnaire etc. She concluded by saying that students need proper and regular guidance and motivation.

Dr. Nishtha Anilkumar gave a presentation on her "Experiences in Ph.D and Research Methodology". She covered what is research, need of research, definition, importance of research, forms of research output, decade wise research growth and research programmes in LIS in India. Statistics for state wise research in Karnataka, A.P., M.P., etc. were presented.

She gave tips for thesis proposal, data analysis, etc.:
- Thesis proposal is generally written in the present and future tense.
- Thesis should be written in past tense
- Citations are must in the proposal
- Do pilot study so that questionnaire can be redesigned
- Validate the data at every step
- Confirm relevant codes and abbreviations used
- Analyse data and interpret them to get meaningful result
- Best to start writing thesis with chapter on survey of literature, following methodology, data analysis, etc

Dr. T. S. Kumbar in his paper on "Reference Management Tools" discussed various major referencing tools. He explained the importance of citation management & how easy it is now to prepare references of the papers cited by the author. He described various tools such as Endnote, Zotero, Refworks and Mendley. As a part of his presentation he also covered how to make a comparison between different reference management tools.

After all these presentations a meaningful and lengthy debate on LIS Research, especially the problems faced were discussed. Some of the discussions are given below:-
- Before selecting research area, extensive reading needs to be done to ascertain the relevance of the research work
- There is a need to master research methodology
- Treat the research as a project and apply project management techniques.

- After selecting research area, write and publish three to four papers.
- Students must understand the role of the guide, who can guide them in concepts, but not in writing styles, etc.
- Now that communication has become very easy and quick, the guide need not be a local person.

Participants at PDPU Seminar

QUALITIES OF
Next Generation Librarian (NGL)

This content has been taken from an article entitled "In the spirit of Benjamin Franklin" by Andy Burkhardt, Catherine R. Johnson, Carissa Tomlinson published in C&RL News September 2011

Benjamin Franklin is an exceptional role model for librarians. He loved learning and reading. He founded the first subscription library in the United States and served as Librarian for a short time. He was also a great innovator. Throughout his life, Franklin became an accomplished individual. He was able to do so much because he cultivated qualities of character that led to his development as a person and citizen. Franklin developed a system of thirteen virtues that were personally important, and he worked to improve himself by strictly following these virtues. One example of Franklin's virtues is: "Tranquility. Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable."

What are the qualities that academic librarians today should possess to be successful in their careers and in serving their users? Benjamin Franklin,has proposed a list of virtues of next-gen librarians. Franklin used these virtues to grow as an individual. These virtues can be used as a tool to guide our self improvement as librarians in the 21st century, since they are qualities that we should all strive for as next-gen librarians.

Who is a Next Generation Librarian?
- NGL is the one who
  - Strives to embrace the virtues discussed
  - Evolves as a librarian
  - Evolves with the profession
- Not necessarily young or new to field or is an expert in technology
- Is simply open minded & willing to try new things

- Willing to challenge the old way to find the best possible way
- Embodies attitude regardless of age, experience & proficiency in IT

1. Courage

- Courage is not absence of fear
- Taking actions in spite of fear
- Use fear to motivate yourself to improve as a professional
- Taking decisions involving risk is necessary
- Take risks to grow as a professional & in the profession
- Examples:
  - Teaching in a class room full of new students
  - Stating radical/rational view point in a meeting
  - Speaking up in a faculty/staff meeting
  - Taking difficult decisions
  - Courage is nothing but action in the library profession

2. Flexibility

- Change comes quickly and often; be prepared to adapt!
- Education, libraries, and nature of information is changing
- NGL should be
  - Able to scan the horizon & identify trends & changes
  - Able to see the change as an opportunity to improve themselves & their services
  - Able to quickly adapt to new situations & environments

3. Service Oriented

- Learn to give your attention & talent to others
  - Be passionate about quality & recognize the importance of a meaningful and memorable experience for users
  - Be rooted in present, but look forward & anticipate user needs
  - Remember: Library is a place to have a distinctive experience with information & NGL should be mindful of this when delivering services

4. Balance

- Find balance in budget, time, user needs, and technology
  - Librarians are often tasked with diverse responsibilities
  - Thus virtue of balance is essential to thrive in profession
  - Balance facilitates perspective in workplace and allows librarians to spend time on what is truly important

5. Collegiality

- Learn from and share with your colleagues!
  - NGL have plethora of skills & ideas to share with colleagues

- Essentially they have a lot to learn
- NGL have entered the field at different times & backgrounds
- NGL should appreciate that multigenerational environments improve quality of services
- By sharing knowledge across sections, generations, & levels of hierarchy, the library is strengthened resulting in a collegial & enthusiastic environment

6. Curiosity

- Be comfortable not knowing, but strongly desire to find out!
  - While librarians must remember that they do not know everything, a NGL should be excited to find the answer or solution to a problem
  - Librarianship is about discovery, both for themselves as well as users
  - We will never have all the answers, but can model the virtue of curiosity and lifelong learning for users

7. Creativity

- Let your mind not be limited by what has come before
  - NGL should not be limited by statements like
    - We have tried that before
    - That will never work
    - What is the use of it or what is great about it
  - Rather NGL likes to ask questions ' why not?'
  - Librarianship requires imagination & application of lessons from outside the field
  - NGL should understand the creative process & engage it to solve our 21st century problems

8. Thoughtful

- Ignore the bandwagon and engage attentively
  - While curious & courageous to try new things, NGL should
    - Know the new & different is not necessarily better
    - Know their library and users, and consider the needs of particular situations
  - Do their research without being overly cautious
  - Are thoughtful in all of their implementations and actions

9. Playful

- Librarianship is a serious profession, but we need not take ourselves too seriously
- Librarians should foster a sense of play, in the work that they do
- Being playful
  - promotes welcoming environment for users
  - makes library interactions more memorable
  - opens librarians up to being more creative

10. Collaborative

- Look for opportunities to collaborate with others
  - NGL sees the library as an important component of institution
  - From student to academic to alumni affairs,

- the library should be visible, and work with all key players on the campus
  - ➢ Library services should not be confined to the library building
  - ➢ By building relationships and working collaboratively with various departments across campus, a little piece of the library is left behind whenever those connections are made

11. Directions

- Set a goal and work towards attaining it
  - ➢   NGL should
  - -   Often work on exciting projects
  - - Focused in their work and mindful of their goals
  - - Work hard to make their vision a reality, whether working on small task or an entire career

12. Passionate

- Invest fully in your pursuits
  - ➢ NGLs approach their profession with passion
  - ➢ They bring excitement and enthusiasm to all that they do
  - ➢ Librarians who are passionate believe their work matters and do their best to make a difference in the lives of their users as well as the profession

13. Assertive

- Shed the passive librarian stereotype and advocate for ones needs
  - ➢ Librarians often are portrayed as shy, passive book jockeys
  - ➢ NGL must be confident & willing to state the needs
  - ➢ They need to be outspoken library promoters
  - ➢ We may lose opportunities due to lack of assertiveness

Conclusion

- Qualities serve as pointers for development as a 21st century successful & dynamic NGL
- Can be used across the library community as an inspiration as well as model for excellence in librarianship
- Librarians today and in future will constantly need to be re-tooling and reinventing themselves
- Provide a framework for continued self-empowerment
- Striving for improvement is the attitude that embodies a NGL

NEWS

Useful Information

Surprising Tips That Help Kids Learn to Read

June 10, 2012 - Bibliofuture

"Print knowledge" is an awareness of the mechanics of the reading process, like the fact that English is read from left to right and that written words map on to spoken ones. Adults often take this knowledge for granted, but research demonstrates that children benefit when these aspects of print are explicitly pointed out. In a study published in the May-June issue of the journal Child Development, for example, Ohio State professor Shayne Piasta and her coauthors report that when preschool teachers drew students' attention to print while reading to them, the children's skills in reading, spelling and comprehension improved. These positive results were long-lasting, too, still showing up a full two years later.

Wasting Time Is New Divide in Digital Era

May 30, 2012 - Bibliofuture

Article about how children in different economic classes use technology. Librarians may find this paragraph interesting: The new divide is such a cause of concern for the Federal Communications Commission that it is considering a proposal to spend $200 million to create a digital literacy corps. This group of hundreds, even thousands, of trainers would fan out to schools and libraries to teach productive uses of computers for parents, students and job seekers.

The Whole Library In His Hands

May 25, 2012 - Bibliofuture
On "The Story" - American Public Media
Dick speaks with Brewster Kahle, who is collecting copies of all the books he can from around the world. Some are scanned and put online while others are in storage. His model is the Ancient Library of Alexandria and if someone wants to look at a copy of Euclid's Elements from centuries ago, all they have to do is search the database. You can also read at the Internet Archive a book that Dick's grandfather wrote.
http://lisnews.org//

Librarians Day Seminar 2012

The topic of the Librarians Day Seminar which will be held on 11th August 2012 is "User Oriented Quality Services in 21st Century Libraries" at AMA, Ahmedabad
The 5 Sub-themes of this Seminar are :
1.   Emerging Trends
2.   Innovative Services
3.   Collaborative Initiatives
4.   Enhancing LIS Skills
5.   Info-Literacy Programs

The present period is both exciting & challenging. Some of the challenges which can be addressed in this Seminar are:-
- How can we provide more services with shrinking resources?
- What are the challenges & opportunities in migrating to web-based information services
- Changing role of Librarians as specialists who can develop path finder guides
- Identifying the core digital resources for our users
- Determining the services which can be provided through consortia affiliation
- Impact of electronic resources on services