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LIBRARIANS' DAY 2013

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FROM

PUBLISHER'S DESK

Dear Friends

As usual in the month of August the Librarians' Day Seminar was held. The topic was "Redefining Libraries to Create Next Generation Libraries". This is the first time that the Seminar was held at EDII in Gandhinagar. It is now very crucial to find ways and means of empowering college libraries which lack resources. This was the main theme of this Seminar.

A brief write up on "Emerging Perspectives in Librarianship" from the keynote address delivered by Dr. Anil Kumar during the above mentioned seminar is included.

Librarians' Day Seminar 2013 A Report

Celebrating Librarian's Day Seminar in the month of August is a tradition followed by ADINET (Ahmedabad Library Network) since long, to salute the father of Library Science Dr. S.R. Ranganathan. This year the Librarian's Day Seminar was jointly organized by Ahmedbad Library Network (ADINET), Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and Information Library Network (INFLIBNET) with the theme "Redefining Libraries to Create Next Generation Libraries" on Saturday 10th August, 2013 at EDII, Gandhinagar. More than 250 delegates from all over Gujarat benefited from this seminar.

Inauguration:

After the registration and high tea, the seminar started with a melodious prayer recited by

Ms. Swadha Majumdar and Ms. Hema Rawal on 'Saraswati Vandana'. Ms. Rhoda Bharucha, Hon. Director, ADINET welcomed the audience and introduced all the eminent dignitaries present on the dais. She gave a brief introduction of ADINET and its activities carried out over the year. Introducing the topic, she mentioned the relevancy of the current theme and its role in present library environment. Madam Bharucha said that the only thing constant is change and that by changing mindsets and beliefs we can positively bring change.

The seminar began with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest and all the dignitaries on the dais. The Book of Papers was also released during the inauguration.

The main session started with the keynote address by Dr. H. Anil Kumar Librarian IIMA. The topic of the presentation was "Emerging perspectives in librarianship". He described the new higher education landscape and how Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) can play a role in current librarianship. He urged library professionals to look beyond traditional librarianship. By citing various studies and reports, he clearly showed the important roles which librarians do play,

Address by chief guest Dr. Anup K. Singh was on "The Next Gen Library". He compared the library with the Hollywood movie "The Matrix", where we can't recognize if the library is in the "real world" or "virtual world". He depicted how the services will change in next generation libraries, where user will come not for books but for services, not for information but for integration and not knowledge but for projects and wisdom. He advised library professionals to know their new generation users by searching their profile, usage behavior, search history etc., to serve them in a better way. Dr. Singh felt that it was essential to engage with library users through different library activities like focus group, library club and provide them facilities like study area, entertainment, films and music which will be helpful to attract and retain the customers.

The presidential address was given by Dr. Dinesh Awasthi, he informed that the EDI library is top most in satisfaction survey conducted every year in the institute, as about 95% students are highly satisfied with the services offered by library. He mentioned about the important contributions of Dr. S.R.

Ranganathan, and congratulated the entire library professional for the important role played by them.

At the end of the inaugural session Mr. B. Ganapathi, Librarian, EDII Gandhinagar, gave the vote of thanks. He thanked all the persons who contributed directly and indirectly to making this seminar a great success.



Inauguration of Seminar

Technical Session-1:

The first technical session was chaired by Dr. Shailesh Yagnik and reported by Mr. Mallikarjun Dora from IIM-A and Mr. Bharat Chaudhari from PDPU. There were four presentations in this session on different topics. The first paper titled "e-learning Environment" by Mr. Abhishek Kumar and Ms. Pallavi from INFLIBNET Center briefly described e-content, content management systems and their use. Author gave details about the ePG Pathsala programme which is an initiative of Ministry of HRD under NME-ICT project.

The second paper entitled "Professional Competencies and Skills for Better, Effective and Efficient LIS Services" was presented by Dr. Manish Pandya, ISRO. He stressed that the "art of listening" is more important and encouraged library staff to develop this and other many other useful skills.

The next presentation was from Mr. Ganapathi Batthini, Librarian, EDII on "Librarianship Needs Entrepreneurial Behavior". The author gave the difference between a traditional librarian and entrepreneurial librarian. The presentation evoked several discussions and suggestions, which included developing a training programme for librarians on entrepreneurship.

Next paper in the series was by Ms. Amita Parmar on the topic "Enhancing Skills of Librarians in the 21st Century". She talked about different skill set required for librarians in the current library environment. She stressed that communication skill is more important to interact with the patrons.

The last paper in this technical session was presented by Dr. Lavji N. Zala, Assistant Librarian, MICA on "How to Create One-Stop-Search Facility for Electronic Periodicals through GSDL? A Do-it-

Yourself Approach. In the paper author showcased how libraries can use Green Stone Digital Library (GSDL) open source software to create one stop search solution for the subscribed electronic resources in the library. He also discussed the benefits and limitations of the project.

On completion of this session, Dr. Shailesh Yagnik summed up the main points from the papers presented and shared his views on the different issues.

Technical Session II :

The second technical session was started immediately after lunch. The session was chaired by Dr. Nishtha Anil Kumar, Librarian, PRL. The technical session II comprised of two invited speakers and four technical papers. The first invited speaker in this session was Dr. Rajiv Joshi, Professor, EDI, the topic of the presentation was "Changing Dynamics of Library Users". The speaker explained how the manner of interaction, characteristics and behaviour are changing of new generation user, in the changing environment and how librarians should give more focus on users rather than collection building. Library should work as a learning center and focus inclusively on the learning need of students. He advised that librarians can also work as counsellors or friends to play a larger role in resolving the different issues faced by the students.

Mr. Ashok Madnani and Mr. Umesh Mehta's paper was titled "Information Sources for Budding Entrepreneur". The author provided a brief overview on information resources available on entrepreneurship and discussed the usefulness of this type of information to the entrepreneurs for their business.

Next paper in the session was "Increasing Services in Academic Libraries" written by Dr. C.K. Patel and Dr. K.D. Tandel. This paper was presented by Dr. Manish Pandya. Authors gave the changing academic library environment and also listed several services which could be provided without using computers and internet.

Dr. Pankaj Bharti, Faculty, EDI was the second invited speaker, his topic was "Knowing the self". He conducted a test which helped the participants to know about their strengths. This test was very useful and definitely helped the participants. Dr. Nishtha Anilkumar concluded the session by highlighting the important points and also shared her views on different issues presented in the session.

Mrs. Geeta Gadhavi, Assistant Professor, Gujarat University concluded the seminar. She described each detail of the seminar. She appreciated Mr. Jignesh Amin and Mr. Bhavesh Patel for helping her in preparation of the Presentation for the Concluding Session.

The anchor of the seminar was Ms. Rupam Sikligar, Librarian from Gandhinagar Institute of Technology.

Reported by: Mr. Mallikarjun Dora, IIM, Ahmedabad and Mr. Bharat Chaudhari, Assi. Librarian, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, PDPU, Gandhinagar

EMERGING PERSPECTIVES IN LIBRARIANSHIP

(Excerpts from the Keynote address delivered by Dr. H. Anil Kumar during the seminar on "Redefining Libraries to Create Next Generation Libraries" held on 10th August, 2013 at EDII)

Dr. H. Anil Kumar started his presentation by citing a Report given by Mr. Krishna Kumar in the 9th August, 2012 issue of The Hindu. Krishna Kumar discussed the critical difference of libraries in the west. He stated that even in the most ordinary universities the library forms the center of life, both for teachers & students. Librarians enjoy a high status as their contribution to academic life cuts across academic disciplines...

The following points from the write up on the Emerging Landscape of Higher Education given by Johnson et al in the MNC Horizon Report: 2013 Higher Education Edition were covered:

- The abundance of resources and relationships made easily accessible via the Internet is increasingly challenging us to revisit our roles as educators.
- Both formal and informal learning experiences are becoming increasingly important as students continue to face a highly competitive workforce.
- Education paradigms now include online learning, hybrid learning and collaborative models.
- Massively open online courses are proliferating.
- Open is a key trend in future education and publication, specifically in terms of open content and open educational resources.

Dr. Kumar felt that at present owing to the abundance of resources & relationships which are easily accessible via the internet, institutions need to revisit their roles as educators.

A study titled "95 Percent Solution" published in the Nov-Dec 2010 issue of the American Scientist clearly revealed the need for going beyond formal methods for learning. The findings showed that the place for science knowledge acquisition is NOT the classroom. In fact international comparisons of seven countries showed that science knowledge is acquired more from public libraries as compared with zoos, natural history museums & science/technology museums.

Dr. Anil Kumar highlighted the following advantages which technology gives us:

- Learn at your own pace and interest
- Supplement learning in the classroom
- Less dependency on formal support
- Explore new ways of learning
- Variety and wide range of topics

Coming to the management of libraries, he stressed on the fact that we need to understand and service the needs of our users - faculty, students and researchers, by using our resources that is collection, staff and technology. It is very important

to manage the needs of users by first of all identifying and studying their needs. Then designing, delivering and managing services. Continuous interaction with the users help to know their requirements.

In order to serve our users, it is essential to manage the library collection by first of all identifying their requirements. Then comes the need to capture, acquire and access the documents. They need to be processed so that they can be easily retrieved and communicated.

To create modern libraries we need to look beyond traditional libraries.

Looking Beyond Traditional Libraries:

- Integration with curriculum and pedagogy
- Proactive in nature – topical displays, recommended readings, public lists, etc
- Look at the future needs and offer services
- Going beyond books – scholarly information, innovative services, etc
- Facilitate a "good library experience" – user focus

Libraries are indeed Gateways to managing the internal resources of an institution. Librarians do process & store (mostly in a digital form) the following resources which can be easily retrieved:

- Student Projects
- Syllabus and course design
- Technical Notes
- Course Materials
- Student made Tools/Materials / Models
- News Paper Clippings (Jobs/Courses)
- Question papers

Libraries are also Gateways to the following external sources:

- Commercial – Books – Videos / CDs – Online resources
- Open Access – Books – Journals – Educational Videos – Educational courseware

Dr. Anil Kumar emphasized on the need for managing the library staff; by continuously interacting with them, training and identifying their needs and work.

Managing Technology is quite a challenge since it keeps changing. From proprietary library automation packages, the move is towards open source software. Storage devices have now changed to cloud computing. To capture information besides keyboards & scanners we now have digital cameras and mobiles. For networking we have client server, P2P & internet.

The following technologies in libraries help the library users:

- Information retrieval
– Simple OPAC to Federated searches to Discovery
– Seamless integration of various sources/formats
– Remote login / VPN
- User need not worry where the information is located
- Online Usage statistics
- User customized displays
- User Identification is simpler and secure

The following details were cited by Dr. Anil Kumar from a Report "On Library Value in the Developing World" published by Sage Publications (<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/librarians>)

For developing country libraries:

- Going beyond content provision and availability to address usage and awareness of available resources.
- Engaging with faculty to find new ways of delivering support, training and advice.
- Creating campus advocates by cultivating relationships with those willing to support the library.
- Ensuring the library is up to date with the digital environment and tools.
- Promoting advocacy of the library through strong relationships with senior managers, participation in joint research projects and getting a voice for the library 'at the top table', to ensure that library's concerns and needs are echoed within university strategy documents.
- Measuring and demonstrating the value of the library's collection and services.
- Using publisher support to create awareness and usage of services and resources.
- Utilizing the library website as a tool to engage and provide information to faculty.

Attitudes Toward Re-Envisioning the UC Berkeley Library – an Online Survey of the UC Campus Community was conducted by Hart Research Associates in July 2012. A few points from the Executive Summary are given below.

1. The Library is central to the University's mission. Nearly seven in 10 users say they rely on the Library a great deal.
2. There is, however, widespread agreement that high-quality library collections are essential for users' research. This sentiment is evident across all academic disciplines.
3. Librarians are highly valued for the important roles they play, especially as "Selectors", "Cataloging and Archiving", "Reference" and "Instruction".
4. Many Library users prefer self-sufficiency, but most want the option to receive personalized service when needed.
5. Accessing library resources and services digitally is popular, with about one in four users preferring to always go the digital route.

A Statewide Strategic Plan for the future of libraries in New Jersey was prepared in July 2013. In a world of growing complexity, uncertainty and change, libraries and librarians have much to offer the community they serve.

They see their future role as:

Libraries as the heart of their communities:

Libraries play an increasing role as a place for people to collaborate and exchange ideas and to gain access to information, knowledge, tools and methods.

Librarians as wise knowledge facilitators:

Librarians will increasingly help people make sense of and navigate a world that is ever more complex, rapidly changing and uncertain. We will become role models for how to bridge and leverage new knowledge spaces in a multiplicity of roles: trusted responsive partners, guides and content curators and publishers, teachers, advocates, and cross-boundary facilitators.

He concluded his presentation by covering a few Open/Free Resources

1. oercommons.org is the network of open education resources that brings together 45,560 OER tools for sharing curriculum with the world and news and training on the brave new world of open education.
2. ocwconsortium.org – The Open Course Ware consortium is a collaboration of higher education institutions and associated organizations from around the world creating a broad and deep body of open educational content using a shared model.

There is also the home of free learning from The Open University and many more open universities. The future of online education for anyone, anywhere, anytime is now here to stay, as thousands of free online courses have been developed both worldwide & even in India.

We bid adieu to Mohanbhai

Mohandas M Patel, affectionately known as Mohanbhai, was a towering figure in the field of Library Science. He was born in Sankheda in Gujarat on 9th February 1917 and passed away on 25th May 2013.

He did his schooling in Shantiniketan and was taught by the great teacher Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Gurudev sent him to Benaras Hindu University from where he graduated. He studied Library Science from the Delhi University and was a student of Dr. S.R.Ranganathan.

He had worked in the M.J. Library till he retired in the year 1977. He had taught Library Science in the Gujarat Vidhyapith. As he had mastered the Bengali language, he had translated many Bengali books into Gujarati, for which he received an award from the Gujarat Sahitya Academy.

It is rarely that one comes across such a humane, capable and enthusiastic person as Mohanbhai.

30TH LIBRARY CONFERENCE OF GUJARAT GRANTHALAYA SEVA SANGH

will be held at Dwarka, Gujarat, on 10th & 11th January, 2014. For details please contact

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