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From Publisher's Desk

Need for a Library Revolution

Experiencing Expatriate Librarianship!

ADINET Librarians' Day Seminar on 22nd August, 2015

FROM

PUBLISHER'S DESK

This issue contains an article on the Need for a Library Revolution. There are many new developments, owing to which a change in libraries is now very essential. The need for a revolution demands a change in the role played by traditional library professionals. Are LIS Professionals ready to embrace the changing environment? What new skills need to be developed? We now need Blended Librarians – academic library professionals who combine the traditional skills of librarianship with information technology skills and who have the ability to use technology to process and retrieve information and to use it in the teaching, learning process. Hence Librarians need to adapt, evolve and reassess their work in today's Knowledge Society.

Mr. Saroj Das, Librarian of the Institute for Plasma Research has given an interesting writeup which contains his five years experience of establishing an international world class library in France.

NEED FOR

A LIBRARY REVOLUTION

NEED FOR A LIBRARY REVOLUTION

Information and Communication Technology has changed the way work is done in all types of libraries and it is still changing rapidly. This has created many challenges for the library profession, but has also provided more opportunities. Again Digital Technology and Internet Connectivity has changed

the library scenario. Owing to these changing technologies, a revolution is needed in our libraries especially in our college, university and public libraries. A revolution implies complete change in working. Due to several factors this may not be possible, but can we not bring about a gradual positive change? There are a large number of factors which indicate an urgent need for change.

1. Digitization in Education

Information Technology has removed all barriers to quality education. It is possible that some educational institutions in the future may move from "bricks to clicks". This will have an enormous impact on libraries since education and libraries are inseparable and indivisible. The relationship between libraries, literacy, education and national development is well known. Both academic librarians & teaching faculty need to work collaboratively, especially now that some universities have started online courses & existing programmes of study are being made available online. The focus of education is now shifting from teaching to learning.

In a major initiative that may revolutionize the general education sector, Kerala is all set to introduce multi-media "Digital Collaborative Textbooks" (DCT) the first of its kind in the country, in government schools. More than one Lakh teachers & 3.7 million students in Kerala will soon be able to use the new digital textbooks. Many institutions in India are using technology to improve the education experience of students on their campuses. University lectures will soon be available in 3D. Some universities in India plan to transmit lectures in high quality picture and audio to its affiliated colleges through virtual classrooms by using satellite links.

Government has now launched eBasta, A Digital Library Of Downloadable School Books. It is yet another Digital India Initiative. Now, under this initiative, the Government has launched this platform which will extend help to school students in India. Aptly called eBasta (Basta means school bag in Hindi), this new platform was unveiled recently by the Government. It will provide digital and eBook versions of school books and other study material to school students through-out India. The platform, eBasta, is merely not a library of books, but a

collaborative platform where school Book publishers, School teachers, students and even various retailers can participate.

2. Digital Age

This is the Age of Data Digitization. Digitization is the process by which physical or manual records such as texts, images, video and audio are converted to digital form. This is now of paramount importance as information and data are becoming an integral part of every organisation. Large scale digitisation work has been done of books, journals, conference papers, and reports. Even brochures, electronic catalogs, product/service training manuals, geographical information systems and more are being digitised. Hence we now have hybrid libraries, both physical libraries and digital libraries. Digital Libraries provide greater access to information and knowledge. Also there are no barriers of time and space.

Recently the Government of India has taken aggressive steps towards streamlining government processes and digitizing relevant information. The digitization of land records, court cases, and UID Project are some of the key government initiatives.

Major digitization initiatives are being undertaken in India. The Indian Institute of Science in collaboration with the Carnegie Mellon University in USA has done large scale digitization work. This work is done with full financial support from Department of Electronics and Information Technology. The digital data generated by the scanning centers is web enabled on "Digital Library of India", web site <http://www.dli.ernet.in> A mirror site www.dli.gov.in of this data has also been enabled.

3. From MOOCs to SPOCs

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are offered by several organizations like UGC, NCERT, IITs, IIMs, Universities and even some NGOs. Mike Feerick, the Founder CEO of ALISON (Advanced Learning Interactive Systems Online), a pioneering e-learning organization has made online education with certification totally free since 2007. Till recently they have reached free online education to 5 million which includes 4,70,000 Indians. Even though MOOCs have become very popular since last about 10 years, owing to features like video lectures, they have been facing some challenges. The attrition rate of students is high since there is a lack of personalized training. Again all institutions that offer MOOCs do not provide certificates.

According to edX, a massive open online course (MOOC) provider and online learning platform, nearly 40 lakh students take online courses offered by various foreign universities & online course platforms. These include nearly 4 lakh learners from India, making the country the second largest population of e-learners.

MOOCs have now led to SPOCs that is Small Private Online Courses. SPOCs make available online resources and technology and also provide interaction between faculty and students. This is

possible because SPOCs cater to smaller group of students. This enables blended learning - online courses combined with personal attention.

4. Internet of Things (IoT)

IoT refers to communication between 'things' containing embedded technology connected via wireless networks. The number of objects connected to the Internet, including smart phones was less than 1 billion devices in 2009. It is estimated that there will be nearly 26 billion wireless devices, connected to the Internet by 2020. This will not only change the way businesses are transacted, but will also have an impact on learning & knowledge management.

5. Mobile Learning : Smart education system for India

Anupama Raman, Curriculum Architect, IBM Analytics Education Services, conveys her own views about the need and importance of mobile learning or m-learning. She feels that the use of mobile devices to deliver education anytime, anywhere, could be a boon for India's education sector. According to a recent study, Indian users, on an average spend 3 hours and 18 minutes every day with their smart phones. She along with many others, also suggests the use of mobile phones to revolutionize the Indian education sector. She recommends Game-based learning and Social Learning by accessing various social media networks.

6. Libraries Reinvent themselves as Maker spaces

Since a large number of books and publications are available online, many libraries in the U.S. are re-examining their purpose and mission. The maker space movement was pioneered by the Fayetteville Free Library, a public library in a small village in upstate New York. This rapidly growing maker space movement is also known as fablabs – shortened from fabrication laboratories "It can be as simple as a collection of tables and chairs where patrons work together, or as comprehensive as dedicated workshops crammed with computers, 3D printers, vinyl cutters, carpentry tools, program boards, musical instruments, audio equipment, sewing machines, craft materials & more".

Besides being able to read and borrow books, some libraries have become places where people gather to build things, to create art, music and invent, to be makers of things. Hence it is important that libraries offer spaces for people to come together, to share ideas and technologies.

7. Libraries Matter More than ever in the Age of Google

John Palfrey, the former head of the Harvard Law School Library and the founding Chairman of the Digital Public Library of America, in his new book BiblioTech argues, "If we do not have libraries, if we lose the notion of free access to most information, the world of the haves and have-nots will grow further and further apart". His main concern is not that people will not be able to access information, but

that information will be in the hands of private companies rather than public libraries.

"A Gallup survey from 2013 found that libraries are not just popular, they are extremely popular. Over 90 percent of Americans feel that libraries are a vital part of their communities. Compare this to 53 percent for the police, 27 percent for public schools, and just 7 percent for Congress, and you are looking at perhaps the greatest success of the public sector".

"For centuries, libraries have remained essentially separate, even competing with one another to establish and maintain the greatest collection," Palfrey writes. Now, they need to "recast themselves as platforms rather than storehouses." He feels that libraries must operate more as "nodes in a larger networks of organizations and must move towards the digital, networked, mobile, and cloud based library."

He further urges that we must find ways of distributing the traditional task of libraries - gathering, sorting, and safeguarding physical materials, and helping people access them among a network of institutions, leaving more time for staffers to focus on helping users access the array of works available throughout these linked institutions. "Libraries must act as ambitiously networked institutions," he reiterates, and must "connect their network effectively with partner institutions: archives, historical societies, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations."

We have in Gujarat many organizations and trusts under which a cluster of colleges have been started. Again many of these colleges are in the same campus. Also mostly all these colleges are using SOUL Software, hence it would be beneficial to network these colleges, so that the work done in all the libraries could be distributed and also the library resources could be shared.

BiblioTech is packed with proposals for what libraries can become, all the roles they can play in public life: Public Information Centers, Networks of Digital Media that can be loaned for free not purchased, 'maker-spaces' that offer equipment so that people can make instead of simply consume culture; easily accessible and networked archives of national heritage; job-search centers; clinics for the technologically illiterate and refuges for those who cannot afford new media - all of this in addition to their current functions."

8. Libraries can foster an explosion of creativity

According to Dr. Anthony Marx, president and CEO of the New York Public Library; the Digital Age is not a mortal threat to libraries, but it is the greatest opportunity in the history of libraries. He clarifies that a library is not a repository of books, but is a repository of information and provides access and guides to use this information. New technology now enables libraries to fulfill their mission at an exponentially higher level. He states that with

technology it is possible to imagine a world in which every person, anywhere, anytime, could read any book, look at any image, explore any document, or archive, get curatorial help to understand it, or to find it, and to create their own products with it. He further states that, if you believe that the fate of our world depends upon our knowledge and our creativity to find solutions and to inspire each other, then this tool is like nothing we have ever seen. This is indeed incredible and a moment of renaissance of what a library can do.

9. Information Commons

Since the last decade, we have Information Commons in academic and research libraries. Information Commons is an "information system, such as a physical library or online community that exists to produce, conserve and preserve information for current and future generations". It is also defined as a "cluster of networked access points and associated I.T. tools situated in the context of physical, digital, human and social resources organised in support of learning". We also have Learning Commons. The main difference between Information Commons and Learning Commons is that the former supports institutional mission and the latter enacts it.

In **conclusion**, owing to these revolutionary changes we need to underscore and emphasise the growing importance of libraries as places for teaching, learning and research in the digital age. Libraries have always been the heart of any institution, both symbolically and physically. They are not only a logical extension of the classroom but have been transformed into vital intellectual centers. They provide a place where students can work together to explore, access and analyse information. Information Technology has been the catalyst which enables librarians to reinvent their library and their work.

EXPERIENCING

EXPATRIATE LIBRARIANSHIP

Bonjour!!

I moved with family to South France (Provence-Alps-Coted'Azur) to work for ITER Organization, an International collaborative project involving seven nations (China, Europe, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States of America) of the World, working towards realizing Fusion Energy. I joined as a Librarian on 05 October 2009 for a period of five years. A new journey had just begun.

I was very excited to join my new office and the new team of colleagues from different parts of the world. Little did I realize that I have to operate from a small room in a temporary building (shed) and that the library is just a store room with few books and journals, scattered all around. Then came the real challenge, the primary task to establish an

International Library proposed in the new Headquarter building which was coming up. The realization was both, challenging and exciting. I knew it would be very challenging to set-up an international world class scientific library, a library which would cater not only to the organization but also to the information needs of fusion community of the world. Apart for the Library, my additional role was, managing Scientific Publications, another very important area of knowledge creation and dissemination, and an area in which I seldom worked previously.

With all challenges and barriers of language, work culture, multicultural work environment, and interpersonal communication, many others, I started working towards my objectives. The process of working gave me tremendous opportunity to learn new things and experiment with new ideas. I realized that working in countries such as Europe is dissimilar from ours, as the work culture is very different.

I started reorganizing and operating the library services from the temporary building, to a library user community which was very agile and diverse with diverse information needs. Initially, the library had to be managed single-handedly, and the primary idea was to automate most of the library services. In parallel to providing existing library services, planning for the new library in Headquarter building was under process. The planning involved writing various documents such as Library Plan, Technical Specifications for the library building requirements, Specifications for library design and furniture requirements, etc.

Working for ITER Library provided me the opportunity to collaborate with other International Fusion and Physics Research Laboratories/Institutes across the world, such as CEA, CERN, ICTP, PPPL and others. I also had the opportunity to visit and learn from the CERN Library in Geneva, Switzerland, CEA Library in Cadarache, France and **Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)**, Paris, France.

The scientific publications management was a new area for me to explore. Since the Organization itself was evolving, I had to work towards establishing the plans and procedures of publication services. The management of publication was through the ITER Document Management System. Publication Services involved extensive communications in all forms with the scientific community, both from within the organization and the seven nations involved. The publication services gave me an opportunity to learn and understand the concepts of Copyright and Intellectual Property associated with scientific publications. Inspiring and motivating interactions with some of the stalwarts in the field of Fusion was also a learning experience.

Knowledge Preservation Project was another very interesting project where I was involved. The idea of the project is to capture Tacit Knowledge of senior fusion scientists, preserve the knowledge and share with younger generation.

With all these activities and involvements in various projects, my primary task, the task of establishing the ITER Library was accomplished, and the Library was inaugurated by the Director General of ITER Organization on **11 January 2013**. The moment will remain historical not only for me, but for the Organization and the Project. It took almost three years of hard work and dedication to accomplish the task. The satisfaction was immense.

The five years of working in an International organization was truly a learning experience, the experience which taught me many lessons. Some lessons learned were, the importance of Documentation in a scientific research project, the concept of Project Management, Scheduling and working with deadlines, teamwork, knowledge preservation and effective communication among many other aspects.

Life as an expatriate was not easy. However the support from local community and colleagues made it comfortable. The five years have been a wonderful journey, a learning experience, memorable moments, both professionally and personally, which will be always cherished!!

**Saroj Das, Institute for Plasma Research
Bhat, Near Indira Bridge, Gandhinagar**

ADINET LIBRARIANS' DAY SEMINAR ON 22ND AUGUST, 2015

ADINET in collaboration with INFLIBNET & Nirma University will be celebrating the birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan as Librarians' Day by holding a Seminar on 22nd August 2015 at the Nirma University.

The seminar topic is: **Library as a Learning Space - Role and Relevance of Libraries in the Future**

The sub-themes are as follows:

Library Resources

Library Services & Facilities

Skills of Library Professionals

Users & Usage of Libraries

Even though the last date for registration is 13th August 2015, please do register as soon as possible.