Role of Librarians in the e-Governance Era: Opportunities and Challenges – An Overview

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ABSTRACT:

In the digital information era, Librarians are playing a vital role to disseminating the information to their users. In this Pandemic situation and coming future, librarian's roles and responsibilities are supposed to be change. As suggested by 'United Nations' to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, "4-Quality Education to all" supposed to be achieved by the year 2030. New Education Policy of India – 2020, suggesting the Librarian to provide and encouraging the Digital Libraries in Schools and public libraries. So Librarians supposed to transform their roles from traditional to electronic and also introduce many technical tools.

KEY WORDS: e-Governess, UNSGD, Cloud Computing, Web 3.0, Global Village, Digital Tools, Library consortium.

Introduction:

e-Governance is an application of Information Technology and allied tools, for better process for better government efficiency for the user benefits. It is convenient, efficient and transparent in nature. In the Library and Information service scenario, Library system will act as a Governing body. So Librarian is the executive manager of the Knowledge Resource Centre. All the users will get benefited through this system.

In this pandemic situation, Librarians supposed to take new initiation to overcome the gap between the users and Library. New Education Policy of India 2020, suggesting about Digital Libraries

Digital Library:

"A collection of digital objects, including text, video and audio, along with methods for access and retrieval, and for selection, organization and maintenance of the collection." by Ian Witten et al In this digital era, e-resources play a very imported role in the library collection. It provides information very smoothly, frequently and in a growing manner. We can call it as user friendly resources. e-Resources include electronic books, electronic Journals, Online databases, OPAC, CD ROM, web resource and video texts, e-mail and electronic newsletter, etc. In India, we are having NDLI National Digital Library of India. We are having 75,675,373 digital resources are available for the users.

Importance of the e-resources:
- E-Resources can be searched quickly and fast.
- These can be found easily by the user.
- These resources can be stored in huge amount.
- To provide accessible resources free or at low cost to users.
- To get access to an information source by the more than one users.
- To make development in the growth of online time sharing and resource sharing.
- To find information not yet available in books or obtain up-to-date   information or current events or issues.
- To offer a new dimension to share resources among the libraries by creating library network.
- Amount of time spent on the E-Resources use.
- Analyses the purpose of using e-resources by respondent

User benefits:
- Downloading the text, image, audio with the web concept
- Vast statistical data
- No Physical boundary and Savings Physical Space
- Cost effective
- Convenience It is easy to maintain and non-costly as

compared to traditional printed materials
- Remote access to the resources from outside a single physical Resources Centre.
- E-resources Reduced cost for binding, storage and stack maintenance
- E-resources take up less space.
- They are available in a various form like PDF, text formats.
- Hyperlink which move beyond the linearity of print within document and link citations with full text documents
- Saving time& money
- They help us to find articles on a particulars subject from many different publications at the same time.

Scope for extending the Library service in Digital era:

Nowadays Information Technology is vastly developed and its applications are very use full to every sector. For Library professionals, Information Technology is a best method to success in this Profession.

Library Automation:

Mechanization of physical books/documents in to electronics. There are many Library automation software's are available like SOUL, KOHA, LIBSYS, Troodon, Newgen Lib, WINISIS, etc.

Digital Libraries :

It's a Digital repository or a Digital collection is an online database of digital objects that can include text, audio, video, images, digital documents or other digital media formats which can be access through network.   There are many digital library softwares are available like DSpace, EPrints, Alfresco, Greenstone, Fedora, Islandora, MyCore, Omeka, Invenio, Samvera, Expanded Books, etc.

Cloud Computing :

This phenomenon is an on-demand availability of computer system resources, especially data storage and computing power, without direct active management by the users. With this technology, Librarian can avoid data storage problem and also can maintain backup for future reference. There are many cloud service providers are available in market for example, Amazon web service, Google Cloud Platform, ServceSpace, IBM Cloud services, Adobe Creative Cloud, Red Hat, Verizon Cloud, Dropbox, etc.

Web 3.0 services :

This is the third generation of Internet services for websites and applications that will focus on using a machine-based understanding of data to provide a data-driven and semantic web. It will work on artificial intelligent technology. This social media tool is very easy to use and their applications are very beneficial to Libraries in Library activities like Acquisition, OPAC on mobile, virtual reference services etc.

Library Consortium :

In this Digital era, the concept of resource sharing & Library consortium are changed drastically in recent years. Information Technology is being used to dissemination of information in a faster way, accurate and in a economical manner. A group of Libraries may become partners and they can share the electronic form of information like e-books, e-journals and databases are also called as e-consortium. The main concept of consortium is to maximize Library collection by sharing all or part of the resources among many libraries, to gain uninterrupted services with minimal human resources. It can be achieved only by coordination and cooperation of

Librarians. Some of consortiums are: DELNET, INFLIBNET, CALIBNET, etc.

Main areas of sharing resources are:
- Acquisition of Library resources
- Inter-library loan
- Shared Cataloguing
- Specialized purchasing programs
- Sharing of bibliographical data
- Union Catalogue and Union list of serials
- Centralized processing
- Exchange of publications

Library service and web applications:

Whole world is stuck-up in this pandemic situation (Covid-19). So Students may or may not attend the educational institution. As a Librarian we can provide and encourage the web based resources to the users.

Web Applications:
- To share institutional information and other content.
- To share and acquire innovative ideas, skills & techniques.
- To share books, journals, reports, theses, newsletters and other contents information.
- To share governmental publications, statistical and other contents information.
- For continuing online educational & training programs for student's faculty members.
- Web applications helps us to build direct bridge between users and information.
- It is become ingratiated with to marketing to library
- It will be detention to potential users communities of the libraries

- ⑩ Web applications is helpful to expending the traditional ways of marketing library information projects
- ⑩ It is the easiest way to disseminating the information.

Mobile Technology:

Nowadays mobile phones are becoming the part of our life. The upgraded mobile technology will allow us to get emails, brows websites, can play videos (multimedia files), and also us to read the e-Books and e-content. In the lock-down situation, people depended on the mobile phones for their needed information. So it's one of the platforms for disseminating the information for our user community.

Social Networks:

Internet is the ocean of networking sites. As a Librarian we have to guide our users to make use of relevant sites for their needed information. There are many social networking sites ex: Linkdin, Facebook, Folksonomices,YouTube, Pinterest, etc.

- ⑩ Social networks helps to user to create platform to connect, conserve, comments, reviews, feedback.
- ⑩ Social networks will always help to library and library professionals to get closer to user door steps
- ⑩ Social networks is creates very good opportunity to grab the attention of next generation users.
- ⑩ Social Networks are the platform to know the current situation / trends in the outside world
- ⑩ Upcoming professionals will get good benefitted by the social networks.

Challenges:

In this digital era, Librarians are facing many challenges in

their professional life. It's easy to serve the resources but at the same time there are many issues supposed to face by the Librarians.

Copyright Issue:

A Digitization of same information is violence the duplicate right law as the design material of one designer can be openly exchange by other without his verification. So one can trouble to overcome for e- library is the best approach to disperse data. it does an advanced library disseminate data freely while securing the copyright of the creator.

High cost :

The beginning cost of automate library, the cost of software programming's computer peripheral, equipments, furniture's are very high.

Band width :

Digital library will require high broad band connection for exchange of interactive media assets however the band width is moving back step by step due to its over use.

Efficiency:

With the considerably larger quantity of advanced data, finding with correct information for a exact errand turns out to be increasingly troubles.

Environment :

Digital libraries can't imitate the earth of a advanced library. Many users likewise observe perusing printed material to be simpler than scrutinize material on a computer screen.

Preservation :

Due to usual advancements, a computerized library can rapidly stop up obviously out of date and its information may wind up noticeably out of reach.

Technical support:

Library professionals and the users need the technical support for the new technology / upgraded technology whenever they needed.

Cyber security:

Now days many cyber attacks we are seeing. So our valuable e- resources supposed to be secured by firewalls, Antivirus software's. Librarian suppose to take data backup every time.

Conclusion:

As a Librarian, we have to know the technical skills and try to learn and implement in the Library profession. Librarian supposed to be as a Friend, Philosopher and Guide for every educational organization. According to New Education Policy – Government of India-2020, we have to introduce and implement the digital libraries for the users. UN- Sustainable Development Goals (UNSGD), we have to achieve these by the year 2030. In this Goal no 4: Quality Education is associated with the education field. So as a modern Library professional we have to take responsibility to support and implement the UNSDG's. At the same time in this pandemic situation, we as a knowledge manager, we have to share the information to our user's community and also make arrangements for easy accessing of digital content. Present days many Library professionals were started doing digitalization of their Library resources. It supposed to be achieved by every single library across the globe. So that we can make a knowledge society very soon, also we can overcome the Poverty and become zero hunger world.

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