Academic Libraries in Digital Environment: Vision 2020

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Abstract:

In the changing scenario the role of libraries has been complicated. On the one hand they have to serve the class of users who like to use modem technology and on the other hand there are library patrons who always ant to ye information in printed form. So libraries will have to maintain a balance in building their library collection. To cater the need of users, this can't be satisfied solely by printed or electronic collection in present day context. In this context **Richard J Bazilhon** rightly said, "The arrival of electronic information products does not mean an end to libraries as institutions, although a new kind of library service is certainly evolving". Library cannot grow in isolation. It is a sum total of collection, staff, users, building and technology. Application of technology is welcomed in providing the services and developing the facilities to satisfy the interest of the users. Nevertheless the application of information technology will certainly affect working of library and thus the scenario of library will definitely change in the coming time.

Key words: Libraries, arrivals, electronic, information.

INRODUCTION

When we start visualizing the future libraries it immediately comes to our mind the collection which is taking place in electronic form. This type of media of storage is computer readable and requires very less space as compared to traditional book form. So libraries now have the preference to have to have electronic/digital collection of documents. In this way the traditional collection will go on reducing and the time may come, when libraries may have negligible collection in printed form. If we dream of true digital library then we would not find stacks full of loaded books and journals. But with the present pace of technological trends going on, there seems to be a remote possibility to have any purely digital library. The shape of library may be collection less libraries and have only computers with net connection located in small building libraries instead of having present type of edifice. In this case the libraries will be called information agencies, will render services through the net. Rather it is possible libraries may find new names such as Cyberaries or Information Centers. With the developments going on we fear that the existence of libraries may come at stake. This fear may not of unfounded on the

ground that when all the information available in digitized form and accessible through the computer then what will be the role of libraries? Moreover information can be accessed from anywhere and anytime. The work can be done easily by any private agency. But if we see the other side of the coin, still the users, senior patrons of library still want to read the document in print form. They do not like to sit before the computer at all. In other words we can say that they cannot adjust themselves to changing technologies. So it is very difficult to visualize the library without printed material. No doubt number of traditional library may decrease but we cannot rule out its existence. The holding of journals will certainly be reduced as libraries have started paying subscription for online journals. Consequently very few journals will be subscribed on print media.

In the changing scenario the role of libraries has been complicated. On the one hand they have to serve the class of users who like to use modem technology and on the other hand there are library patrons who always ant to ye information in printed form. So libraries will have to maintain a balance in building their library collection. To cater the need of users, this can't be satisfied solely by printed or electronic collection in present day context. In this context **Richard J Bazilhon** rightly said, "The arrival of electronic information products does not mean an end to libraries as institutions, although a new kind of library service is certainly evolving". Library cannot grow in isolation. It is a sum total of collection, staff, users, building and technology. Application of technology is welcomed in providing the services and developing the facilities to satisfy the interest of the users. Nevertheless the application of information technology will certainly affect working of library and thus the scenario of library will definitely change in the coming time.

ROLE OF ICT

With the applications of information Communication Technology the scenario of libraries has changed drastically, the libraries are providing online access to their users, For all the library activities such as ordering, classification, cataloguing and reference and information services, computer application is increasingly being used. Even the book has changed its shape in this technological era. This trend of computerization is not going to end and by the year 2020 but it is expected that library automation will be done for most of the library services and information will be provided through the ICT. The scientists will be able to locate library holdings through their own networked desktop in their laboratory or department. The traditional reference service will take the place of modem reference service such as guiding the users how to make use of OPAC, to search through CDROM Databases, Internet Search Engines and other digital resources.

ACQUISITION

With application of computers, acquisition of books and journals will find change in

Selection, in house availability of resources, placing orders, and sending reminders for non-receipt. New technology has helped libraries in getting the list of selected books and journals from the different departments through E-mail. This has avoided unnecessary correspondence, wastage of paper and time. Similarly orders of the books and journals can be sent through E-mail and response is very quick. There are so many publishers, which comply with online orders. We find provisions in library software to generate reminders automatically for the non-receipt of books and journals. This has helped a lot in pursuing the ordered books and journals, which was not practically possible in the traditional system of acquisition.

Further libraries will subscribe online journals. Online subscription not only reduces the work of libraries but also helpful for the users as they get access instantly without waiting for months together as in case of print media. Moreover back-files of the journals also provided on CDs for future references. Alternatively back volumes of journals will also be accessed online with the online journals' subscription. This online subscription will be either by the single library through agent or becoming member of consortia such as UGC-INFONET (for university and college libraries). "INDEST" provides on –line access to e-journals to fits and lIMs of India, etc. Similarly ICAR consortia will cover agricultural universities. It is pertinent that libraries will go for consortia as they widen the scope of their resources and are economical too.

CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION

Cataloguing: Catalogue is a key to open the treasure of library. The traditional way of

Cataloguing is to prepare different entries (such as author, title, editor, series etc.) to satisfy the different approaches to document search of the users. With the application of computer, the work of cataloguing is minimizing because the bibliographical details of reading –materials are entered in the worksheet devised by the software designer and all the required indexes are generated automatically as per instructions in the package. So we can say that by the year 2020

there will be no traditional cataloguing as library card catalogue will be replaced with OPAC. So with the help of OPAC the users will be able to search library resources. Moreover there will be no need to visit the library just to confirm about the availability of specific document, as with the help of OPAC the readers can make search from his/her own-networked computer sitting in the department. Moreover there is no need to remember lengthy title of the book or its author to know the availability. Keyword search and combination search with Boolean operators (AND, OR< NOT,*) will serve the purpose.

Digital Resources: The libraries are now heading towards building digital collection. Digital resources are being procured and old collection is being digitized. Some of the libraries may not able to digitize their whole collection due to paucity of. Moreover it may not be practicable to digitize all the resources due to Copyright Act, the libraries may digitize the content pages of the resources available on print media to provide digital access to contents of the document In case user finds the contents of his interest then he may go to access printed copy of the documents. In with the help of DMS, which controls and manage the database of digital collection.

Through OPAC, we can not only access the bibliographical detail of the print and digital resources, but also access the full-text of digital collection. Library Catalogue will be replaced by Library Portals which may provide access to any type of digital information i.e. articles of journals, c- books, these, reports, etc.

Classification: Classification is very important tool for libraries to organize and locate the reading material. Different library classification schemes are available through which documents can be classified. In future classification schemes will be either on CD or Online and reading materials can be classified online just with the help of the keyword(s) of the title.

Classification and Digital Library: Google has recently announced a project to put 15,000,000 digitized books on the open Internet. The purpose of it is to achieve the goal to free those books from their current physical locations and make them searchable from anywhere, at anytime, by anyone with an Internet connection. What concerns Thomas Mann is the concealed proposition entailed in the project: the prospect of greatly expanded content for the open Internet comes freighted with a severely diminished capacity for finding that content. Access to the books, especially via subject searching, will become immeasurably more difficult. He has further stated that if we find any information through key-word there are so many hits and user finds it difficult to select the relevant material out of the thousands of records displayed on the web. To solve this problem he has suggested that Library of Congress management should think that it could dispense with LC subject cataloging and classification.

Faceted Classification and Web Mining: Library Classification cannot fully solve the problem for organizing and retrieving pin-pointed information on the net because that couldn't use the same classification scheme till there is unanimity arrived by the world body to take initiative. To-solve this problem William Denton has suggested faceted classification which Dr. S.R Ranganathan used in his Colon Classification. This can   achieve the goal for accessing specified information to greater extent. Facets and the web go very well together. Barbara Kwasnick (1999) said, "The notion of facets rests on the belief that there is more than one way to view the world, and that even those classifications that are viewed as stable are in fact provisional and dynamic. The challenge is to build classifications that are flexible and can accommodate new phenomena. And after they are built, the challenge is to make them easy to use. With hypertext and the web, dynamic views are only the click of a

button away. Facets make a multi-dimensional organizational scheme, and web browsers are easy and familiar tool for navigating many dimensions. All of the benefits of faceted classifications can be realized on the web. This will be clear from the following example:

VIRTUAL REFERENCE DESK (REFERENCE SERVICE)

The role of reference librarian is changing fast in the digital environment, as the traditional reference desk is being converted into Virtual Reference Desk. With the advent of Internet, the rendering of the reference service has changed completely. The reference librarians Mtl now have to rely on electronic and web resource. Reference service through mobile and email will be in vogue. Reference librarians will equip themselves with latest technologies for finding information through search engines in order to get desired information with the help of specific sites available for the purpose. This will ave the time of the users and staff as well. With this, we will find how best the objective of. Fourth law of library science is really achieved.

Reference librarian will continue to provide the services to the users who are in the library, but most of his time will be spent in the activities in response to the remote users. There may be need of such library professional, who can work outside the library independently or quasi independently. In this regard University of Michigan has taken steps by adding Field Librarians to professional staff These Field Librarians will help scientist or researcher or any other officials on site as and when required.

ISSUEANDRETURN

This process of library has become very easy and time saving as overdue charges is calculated automatically and overdue reminders and statistics are generated easily when I required. The automated issue and return system helps the user to know immediately, whether the book in question is issued and to whom and when it is due. In the manual system it took long time to check the issue status of the specific document. Moreover it was not possible to control issuing the books on the lost card that might have been brought by other user of library with computer application.

The issue and return work may reduce as a collection on print media is decreasing and digital collection is increased. Moreover maximum information is available online or made online and this can be downloaded on desk or printout can be taken. Now we are heading toward self-issuing as in the case of banking through ATM. The only thing the library has to do that every book should be bar-coded or should have a electromagnetic strip, which will help in getting issued the book and checking the same at entrance of the library. In USA libraries are making use of advanced technology known as RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Device) for self-issuing of reading material. RFID not only helpful for self-issuing and stocktaking but also checking thefts and tracing misplaced books on the shelves of the library.

STAFF

Staff is the main component of the library. Due to Government policy libraries are already facing acute shortage of staff. The application of technology has already overburdened the library personnel, as they have not only do the manual work but also to automate library activities. In this way present staff needs training to work through computer. The decreasing staff will deteriorate the library services and might have repercussion on computerization as we find that some of libraries are lagging behind in this venture. However the work of data entry can be got done from out sourcing but the reliability of correctness is question marked because out sourced may ignore some technical points, which may cause problems while retrieving the information due to their importance for libraries. So the role of library staff is significant in marketing correct data entry to avoid complication.

The libraries will not only to train the existing staff to meet the challenge of IT but also to find way out for recruiting computer trained human resources to develop, build and manage digital libraries that are the need of day. Now the traditional staff serves partial purpose of library. New staff recruited for library should have training of computer, as well as working experience of library packages to deliver the goods. At present libraries are increasingly rely on computerized catalogue and internet.

The time has now come when libraries require small but computer tyrained staff to handle digital resources. The digital resource acquisition reduced the work of the processing and maintenance work. In this way binding and shelving staff may either decrease or will be negligible in number.

Role of Librarian: The Library is 'what the librarian makes it'. So in the changing environment where ICT is increasingly used the role of librarian is very important in developing the library according to users' The librarian role has become diverse since on one hand he has to get budget for books and journals on print media but also to modernize the library keeping in view of the changing need of the society. Modernization of the library includes automation of library system and services. Thus librarian need to have knowledge and experience regarding the use of library automation software, networking and digital library resources. If he is not able to deliver the goods to meet the changing needs of the patrons, then he may lose his credibility and library services will affect adversely. The best use of any library depends upon managerial capability of the librarian, because he is the leader and role model for the staff He is not only to set an example for others to work but also to make significant contribution in adopting the technology, which is useful for library and users as well. Ranganathan in this context had rightly said, "Library is a growing organism". The main objective of this law is that the library should not only grow in terms of books, building, and staff but also take advantage of technology, which may empower the library and users to access the information speedily and effectively. Therefore the librarian should not hesitate to avail the facility wherever it is available for the development of library. The main hurdle in developing the library may be finance. He should able to convince the authority in getting the necessary

funds to make the library a place where every one should like to visit not for the sake of visit but also be tempted to sit for study. The new technology has not only empowered the users but also the librarian to monitor the activities of budget, cataloguing, classification, digital collection, latest information on net, etc. Hence the role of the librarian is like a pivot around which all the activities of the library revolve.

BUILDING

The traditional type of collection requires huge building for library, for shelving books and bound volumes of journals. Large of libraries depends upon the developing large collection. As collection grows, the library requires large

Conclusion

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