



HIGHER EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN PRESENT IT ERA

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ABSTRACT:

The new information order which is visible in all spheres of human activity like the field of learning, the scientific world innovations and inventions in research and development, technical know-how and the galaxy of business. The world of industry, the governance and administration at intra and international level has experienced the need of new knowledge. This Infact, has given rise to emergence of information order, which has been a matter of influence on the world economic, social, and educational fields. In the context of an era of information the libraries and information centers have put some challenges to ponder over it. To cope up the needs of managing the modern information system librarians are the managers of information systems, knowledge systems they are the earnest knowledge workers being in a position to assimilate access and disseminate the vast reservoir of knowledge. In the present, an attempt has been made to endeavor the role of different libraries in the development of social, economic, and spiritual sectors.

Keywords:

Dissemination Galaxy, Libraries, Millenium Knowledge Workers, development, indigenous knowledge.

INTRODUCTION:

India has significant advantages in the 21st century knowledge race. It has a large higher education sector – the third largest in the world in student numbers, after china and the United States. Next to china, India is the most populated country in the world. The purpose of education is well – rounded development. Students need a combination of arts, computer science, science, and humanities or literature courses to achieve this kind of development. A well-equipped and well-managed library is the foundation of modern educational structure. It is said that





education without library services I like a body without soul, a vehicle without an engine, and building with bricks but no cement. The library is the chief instrument for accumulating and using our intellectual heritage. Formal education can be conducted effectively and efficiently only with well-equipped libraries. Today, libraries are connected to a vast ocean of Internet-based service. Electronic resources are developing rapidly. Academic libraries are the nerve centers of their institutions, and must support teaching, research, and other academic programmes. The situation in academic libraries in India is the same as that of academic libraries the world over; however, Indian Libraries must provide maximum information with limited resources. Indigenous knowledge is so central to local people to the extent that it has become central to the collection development policies of National and Public libraries. This paper seeks to find out what libraries are doing to promote access to indigenous knowledge in considering that India's economy is agro-based. It has explored the strategies that libraries are using to disseminate and document indigenous knowledge in the 21st century, Information is a crucial factor in national development, and the ability to use information tools is considered a source of power. In the 21st century governments must recognize this need for information use and literacy as a means of development. Librarians and information experts play a key role development. The cooperation and assistance of librarians is a basis for any movement to gain development. By this cooperation and the provision of useful information in economic, cultural, social and political contexts, development becomes possible.

MATERIAL AND METHOD:

Higher Education System Of India: India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world. The growth rate of educational institutions in India was slow before independence in 1947, but now





there are 567 universities, including 39 central universities, 275 state universities, 130 research institutes, 5 institutions established under states Legislature Act, 58 private universities along with 16,885 colleges that provide education in all disciplines. The number of teachers is nearly half a million, with about one hundred thousand students enrolled in higher education.

Ugc And Library Networking Systems: The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established by an act of Parliament in 1956. It is an autonomous advisory organization for the promotion and co-ordination of university education and for the maintenance of standards. The UGC directs higher education in India. The UGC has played an important role in the improvement of university and college libraries. Realizing the value of the library and its role in higher education, the UGC accepted most of the recommendations of the several committees and commissions. UGC providing financial assistance for collection development, acquisition of books and periodicals, purchase of furniture and equipment, and construction of new library networks, modernization of library service and information centers, and the developmental programmes of NISSAT, NIC, DESIMENT, ERNET, CALNET, DELNET and CIRNET have covered things like standardization of information handling, networks, and training.

Library Consortia: A consortium is a group of organizations who come together with a combined objective that requires co-operation and resource sharing. A library consortium can be local, regional, state, national, or international. Libraries need consortia because of Information explosion Diversity of user needs Financial crunch Impossibility of self-sufficiency Important advantages of library consortia are: Consortia-based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost. Optimum use of funds Facilities to create digital libraries Services like





CAS and SDI cost sharing for technical and training support Electronic journals demand neither library space nor shelving nor can they be stolen consortia have been offered better license terms, archival access, and preservation of electronic resources, which would not be possible for any single institution, and they are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with economy in maintenance.

Information And Library Network (Inflibnet): Information and library Network (INFLIBNET) is a versatile, integrated library and information system created in 1991 to support teaching and research in higher education. The information and library network centre will network 123 universities, 23 institutions, 6,100 colleges, and 200 libraries affiliated to other organizations through UGC. It promotes automation, creates union catalogues, provides access to information sources, provides training, etc. INFLIBNET has developed "SOUL" (Software for University Libraries) software for automation in-house functions. SOUL is installed at 15 university libraries and has developed five utility software packages for participating universities.

Ugc-Infonet: UGC has a consortium for e-journals through UGC-INFONET. It uses the Education and Research Network (ERNET) infrastructure. On behalf of the UGC, INFLIBNET is executing the UGCINFONET project in collaboration with ERNET. This consortium promotes the use of electronic database and journals by the research and academic community. INFLIBNET centre is the nodal agency for coordination of UGC-INFONET. It facilitates linkage between UGC, ERNET, and universities and coordinates the programme. UGC-INFONET is a boon to higher education in India. The programme helps mitigate the severe shortage of periodicals faced by university libraries. The consortia gets a discount of 85 to 90 percent of list price. In the year 2008, there was a tremendous growth in overall use of e-resources.





Indest Consortium: The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has set-up the “Indian National Digital Library in engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium” on the recommendation made by 3 the expert Group appointed by the ministry under the chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan. The Ministry provides funds for subscription to electronic resources for 38 institutions through the consortium headquarters at the IIT Delhi. Besides 60 government or government-aided engineering colleges and technical department in universities have joined the consortium with financial support from the AICTE. Moreover, the INDEST-AICTE Consortium welcomes other institutions to join. The INDEST-AICTE consortium is the most ambitious initiative so far. The benefit of consortia-based subscription to electronic resources is not confined to 38 major technological institutions in the country but is also extended to all AICTE-accredited and UGC- affiliated institutions. **Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research (Csir):**

CSIR has also formed a consortium with National Institute of science, Communication and Information Resources (INSCAIR) (formed with the merger of INSDOC and NISCOM) as the nodal agency. To augment CSIR research and development activities, NISCAIR implemented an agency for access to electronic journals. On behalf of CSIR, it has entered into an agreement with Elsevier to access its 1,500 e-journals and intends to subscribe to more. CSIR consortium has extended its access to other providers of e-journals.

Other Networks: There are a number of other national networks and library networks, including NICNET (National Informatic Center’s network), INDONET, CALIBNET (Calcutta Library Network), DELNET (Developing Library Network), etc. ADINET is associated with INFLIBNET, DELNET with NIC, and MALIBNET with CFTRI. A number of educational institutions are members of such networks. These networks, especially DELNET (which has 752 member libraries including union catalogs,





creating databases of experts, providing training to library staff, ILL, online facilities, reference service, assistance in retrospective conversion, etc. IT ERA With the invention of Information and Communication Technology, Libraries now use various types of technologies to aid the services they render. Everyday new technological advances affect the way information is handled in libraries and information centers. The impacts of new technologies are felt by libraries and in every aspect. Computing technology, communication technology and mass storage technology are some of the areas of continuous development that reshape the way that libraries access, retrieve, store, manipulate and disseminate information to users. The academic library has been from its inception an integral part of institutions of higher learning, rather than an appendix or adjunct. Oyedun (2007) defines academic libraries as those libraries that are mainly found in tertiary institutions, they are established to support learning, teaching and research processes. Over the past twenty seven years, academic libraries have been affected by changes in information and communication technology. The rate of changes is still accelerating in this area. The introduction of various information technology (ICT) trends has lead to reorganization, change in work patterns, and demand for new skills, job retraining and reclassification positions. Technological advancement of the past twenty five years, such as the electronic database, online services, CD-ROMs and introduction of internet has radically transformed access to information. Rana (2009) opines that ICT holds the key to the success of modernizing information services. Applications of ICT are numerous but mainly it is used in converting the existing paper-print records in the entire process of storage, retrieval and dissemination. ICT has impacted on every sphere of academic library activity especially in the form of the library collection development strategies, library building and consortia. ICT presents an opportunity to provide value-added information services and access to a wide variety of





digital based information resources to their clients. Furthermore, academic libraries are also using modern ICTs to automate their core functions, implement efficient and effective library cooperation and resource sharing networks, implement management information systems, develop institutional repositories of digital local contents, and digital libraries: and initiate ICT based capacity building programmes for library users. Information and communication Technology (ICT) has brought unprecedented changes and transformation to academic library and information services, conventional LIS such as OPAC, users services, reference services, bibliographic services, current awareness services, Document delivery, interlibrary loan, Audio visual services and customer relations can be provided more efficiently and effectively using ICT, as they offer convenient time, place, cost effectiveness, faster and most-up-to-date dissemination and end users involvement in the library and information services process. The impact of ICT characterized on information services by changes in format, contents and method of production and contents and method of production and delivery of information products. Emergence of internet as the largest repository of information and knowledge, changed role of library and information science professionals from intermediary to facilitator, new tools for dissemination of information and shift from physical to virtual services environment and extinction of some conventional information services and emergence of new and innovational web based.

Recommendations:

- 1) Strengthening synergies between Public Libraries, agricultural extension officers and local communities.
- 2) Promoting community engagement.
- 3) Identifying and promoting potential sources of traditional knowledge and story tellers.





- 4) education local people on Intellectual Property rights with reference to communally owned knowledge.
- 5) Empowering local people through information to capitalize on there communal knowledge.
- 6) Provide space to integrate traditional and formal scientific knowledge.
- 7) Using public libraries to promote intergenerational dialogue relating to knowledge.
- 8) Incorporating indigenous knowledge as key component of the educational curriculum, for example inclusion of indigenous knowledge in education for sustainable development.
- 9) Utilization of modern technology (ICT's) to repackage information to meet user needs.
- 10) Higher and Tertiary Education and Industry should collaborate to support and conduct research on indigenous knowledge in agriculture.
- 11) Balancing library collections by including print, electronic and oral forms that cater for indigenous knowledge.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

A vast amount of knowledge is scattered in a disorganized manner in our country. It requires professional managers to organize knowledge for any constructive purpose. Management of digital resources is therefore an indispensable imperative to make it useful and purposive. The library managers are well trained for this purpose. However, they face many challenges in the managerial process of knowledge on fingertips, information explosion, increase in the cost of publications and shrinking budget, etc. Though librarians face many challenges, the opportunities are greater for them. Accessing information has undergone revolutionary changes during the last three decades in the developed world. Laborious manual sifting of documentation for information is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. In these countries is rapidly becoming a thing of the





past. In these countries a user can now, by typing out commands on his desktop pc, swiftly can numerous databases scattered over the globe and get the information he needs much faster than through a manual search in a library. These technological milestones have enabled this on-line access to current information. One was advent of the pc and consequent spread of computing power to a large section of the population. The second was the invention of magnetic data storage systems so that large volumes of data could be stored in a small space and in computer readable format. The third was the development of methods to transmit data in bulk, at high speed and at a very low error rate, through telecommunication networks. With the results, the opportunities have become greater to knowledge Managers; opportunities are in E-publishing / E-book, E-reading, E-book market, etc.

CONCLUSION:

Library and information services are essential public access points because people feel comfortable to rely on their free information services. However, in the current information centric age Libraries need to do more to promote access to indigenous knowledge through establishing knowledge centers that provide access to all forms of knowledge. There is need to transform the library service from its straightjacket to a community oriented service that takes cognizance of indigenous knowledge for sustainable agricultural production. This calls for what Ivan Illich called “deschooling” the scientific community so that they relearn and value traditional knowledge. Furthermore this will also call for the redefinition of knowledge, and an endorsement of indigenous knowledge as a complement to formal scientific knowledge in the drive to realize the goals of sustainable development and bring to an end the unsustainable culture of poverty, intellectual bankruptcy, greedy





consumerism and environmentally unfriendly methods of agricultural production.

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