



INITIATIVES OF LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS FOR BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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ABSTRACT:

According to Dr. S.R.Rangnathan, Librarianship as such, does not enjoin on the person in profession a mere provision of books and other reading materials for its clientele, but it also expects him to provide information and ideas to its readers which is possible only through the implementation of the pieces of establishing contact between a reader and his document in a personal way. In this E-era, There is fast progression in every field. Especially in corporate world, the professionals have to do target oriented work. Library profession is one of the important fields which is directly related to information technology. Information technology has great impact on library and information science. Library profession is now become one of the service fields where users are the customers. When we talk about customer's service and satisfaction then we must have oriented and acquainted with the innovative and best practices. Role of librarian is get changed or ought to be changed because it is now not just a library at par with an academic institution which creates, conserves and communicates knowledge, but it also makes a greater and long lasting impact upon the whole lifetime of the people it aims to serve.

This paper deals with Initiative of Library Professionals for Innovative and Best practices in Academic libraries which includes what do you mean by best practices and innovative ideas , what is the difference between them , conjugation of best practices and innovative ideas, practical approach for implementation of these practices followed by conclusion.

Key words: -*Innovative, Best practices, Hybridization, library hour*

What do you mean by best practices:-

Best practices in any system always for the betterment of it. Best practices are the practices other than regular or traditional services.

Significance of best practices:-

In the current global environment of the competition, best practices are playing vital role in the customer oriented services. These practices are catching up and getting more importance for employees, students and other professionals. It helps them abreast of current and future developments. The days are gone when in all the sectors of employment only technical practices alone were admired. Now

with the essential qualification, professional competencies are required.

What are best practices?

Some of the best practices regarding library and Information services are discussed below

Collection Development:

Generally the libraries have less used collection which includes collection of books of changed syllabus, outdated books etc. This collection unnecessarily occupies the space in the library and interfere the use of popular books. So such collection should be separated out from the main **stack** and stored in another place in the library. This practice will save the space of the

library and valuable time of the user to search the required books.

ICT based services -

ICT based services are more preferred by the users. Not only computers but other equipments like photocopying machine, fax machine, INTERNET facility should be introduced to facilitate the library services effectively. These facilities automate the library services. Modernization of library function attracts the users. So library professionals should always be in position to upgrade them with the changing environment of ICT. Positive attitude of parent body towards library is also essential.

Library Hybridization

With the traditional collection library should have collection of electronic material electronic databases like CD, DVD, VCD etc. This will increase the multiuse of the library. Hybridization of the library also enrich the library collection.

Establishment of Users Club

To promote the reading habit in the student, readers club should be established. The club may be class wise also. This club can organize reading competition, library visit, introduction of new books, group discussion etc. The club helps to promote reading habit in new readers and ultimately this practice will increase the use of library.

Best users award

At the end of the year, by analyzing the users statistics, best user of the library can be chosen. This user may be declared as best library user of the year and a book of his/her subject or interest shall be presented to him/her. This practice will also promote the use of library.

Establishment of carrier guidance centre

The objective of this center may be detailed as group discussion, interview technique, personality development, preparation for competitive examinations, organization of lecture series etc.

Special Deposit Scheme

Academic library can offer membership to research scholars. The membership can also be open to faculty of other institution also. For such membership a deposit should be taken which refundable after the cancellation of membership and annual fee should also be taken from such members, which is non-refundable. This practice will generate the resources for the library

Closed access Holiday -

Closed access is a practice of the library mostly disliked by the users. Generally in college library closed access is rule for the students. So once in a month a holiday for closed access can be declared by the library. On such holiday, group of students can be allowed to enter freely in the main stock of the library. This practice will help the student to refer the books of their own interest.

Library Hour-

For the user's orientation a library period should be included in common time table of the college. Through this practice, librarian will introduce and acquaint the students to library and its services.

Book Exhibition --

It is here necessary to organize exhibition of rare books and also books written on or by eminent authors. Book exhibition may be organized on occasion of birth or death anniversary of eminent authors. This practice will help definitely to the users to acquaint with the rare collection of the library.

Especially post-graduate students and researchers will be get benefited more by this practice.

Suggestion Box -

A separate suggestion box should helpful to get feedback of library and its services. Through feedback, we get complaints and suggestions from the users regarding the services of the library. This practice is much helpful to improve library services.

User survey and user statistics :- Users survey should be conducted periodically and also maintain users statistics which will be helpful to improve the services of library.

Soft skills for library professionals –soft skills are interpersonal competencies which can help people in all respects. For library professionals some of the soft skills are as follows,

- a) Love your Users.
- b) Be Teacher of Teachers.
- c) Be Visionary.
- d) Be committed.
- e) Grow Self Confidence.
- f) Be a good listeners
- g) Time is money, save time of users.
- h) Grow Leadership Quality
- i) Be Self Disciplined.
- j) Be Idol for the students.
- k) Be acquainted with ICT based services
- l) Co-ordinate with stake holders.
- m) Develop Decision power.
- n) Be Professional but Responsible.

Beside this ,practices like

- Keep premises of library neat and clean,
- Distribution of Library brochure,
- updation library website or web page,
- formation of library Advisory committee and its regular meetings,
- celebration of library week, librarian day, teacher's day, birth and death anniversary of eminent authors will be helpful for the college library to attract the users.

What do you mean by innovative ideas:

Innovation is nothing but introduction of new ideas, method or devices in a particular system for the enrichment of its services. In case of libraries innovative ideas make noticeable changes in its services.

Significance of innovative practices :-

It is somewhat difficult to put innovative ideas specially in Library and information science. Because it may vary from library to library. One innovative idea may not be feasible in another region.

Some of the innovative ideas are mentioned below:-

- Adoption of barcode system in circulation
- Visitor Management system through library automation software.
- Providing E- environment to users.
- Daily Display of Notable quotes on Library Notice board to build up Moral characters amongst students.

Conjugation of best practices and innovative practices :-

There is very thin line of demarcation between best practices and innovative ideas. Best practices may be repeated in several systems but innovative ideas may be unique in any particular systems.

Conjugation of both will definitely super shine any particular system. The same approach is applicable in in the field of Libraries.

What is the practical approach for implementation of best practices and innovative ideas.

Theoretical knowledge gives us an idea about the length and breadth of any subject or domain. But practical approach of it gives us complete knowledge of depth of the subject. LIS professionals should think about its practical approach. Then what is the practical approach of these practices? It is nothing but blending of our personality with complete involvement into the profession.. Only positive approach is the basic requirement for the complete attachment with the profession. LIS profession is such a profession which only can deals with the information requirement of the different strata of the society. This gives us great job satisfaction which is the basic requirement of any profession. In case of academic libraries implementation of such practices definitely enrich the services of library and attract more users towards library.

CONCLUSION :

From the above discussion it can be concluded that

- 1) Academic libraries are directly related to stakeholders of education field, so they can be nourished with the best practices and innovative ideas.
- 2) Secondly the library professional should take initiatives with this concern.
- 3) Apart from technical rather IT based practice some user satisfaction based practices should be imitated to popularize the services of library.

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