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NEW DIMENSIONS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES

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This paper focuses on new paradigms and strategies that are ought to be considered from the perspectives of information technology and the critical information needs of engineering college library users. In the digital age technology is playing a vital role for generating and disseminating information in the network environment. Now a day's emphasis in libraries is shifting from collection to access. The increasing online environment resulting in users who are more technology savvy and are demanding and expecting their library on the internet able to meet their all information needs not only on demand but also in anticipation of demand.

INTRODUCTION

Modern education expects a teacher only to initiate the students in the new vistas of the universe of knowledge, but leaving it to them to explore further and give final shape and totally to what has been presented already. The search begins after the close of the first phase of learning, this is the classroom lecturing. It is in the library that the second and possibly the more vital phase of learning takes place. As such heavy responsibility lies on the libraries to keep the candle always burning. The college Is not only link between the teaching and learning, but where the students are intelligent the library can supplement from its rich resources what the class room has failed to supply. The new technologies have made a deep impact engineering college libraries. Now a days the emphasis in libraries from collection to access. The card catalogue has been replaced by online public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The integrated library system had improved the operation of acquisition, cataloguing, periodical and escalation departments. The trend is the transition from manual to electronic system.

IT IMPLEMENTATION

Information Technology has changed and will continue to do so both in form and substance. It is time to revaluate service models that have functioned for years. We have to creatively identify new solution to old problems and achieve results. Being prepared to manage changes can furnish us with the ability to flourish. We should attempt to reestablish standards, criteria or bench marks that are considered to be basic quality library services. The potential strength of information technology being exploited for efficient, effective and cost benefit library services. Engineering college libraries, if not the firs, started applying IT gradually for all their activities. While applying IT care must be taken in every step of implementation. Sudden shifting of old system to a new on e by way of applying IT may prove not only dangerous but is sure to create several problems. Librarians must keep themselves briefed of all matters concerned with application of IT for library activities to counter all problems.

Converting the library records in to a machine readable form has to be attacked very carefully. Converting the records of the most recently acquired documents first, and then convert the back log later may be the good solution to satisfy the users. Before start converting the total library collection, a management decision should be arrived on weeding out of some of the old, damaged and unused documents. It is prerequisite to identify the core, important and unusable collection for conversion into machine – readable form. The entire library staff as well as users needs proper education and training tin ensuring that the new system is used properly, effectively and with confidence. They may be trained locally or should be deputed to attend training programs, workshops, conferences, exhibitions etc. at national and international level. The initial training

program is not enough itself enough, it should be past of continuous process. It will help the library to keep its staff abreast of the latest techniques and to impart training to the new entrants. What is considered best today may become obsolete tomorrow. This is true in case of IT and its applications. Once the new system has been implemented, provision should be made to monitor, audit and evaluate it for refining the system. Obsolescence in hardware and software has to be managing with upgrading and replacement policy.

ADVANCES IN COMMUNICATIO TECHNOLOGY

It is widely accepted that technological advances always bring revolution to all disciplines and convert our dreams into reality. Similarly advances in information and communication technology are full with solutions for day to day problems of engineering college libraries. Now all the jobs involve in information processing can be done more effectively, efficiently and economically with in less possible time with the help of computer and user friendly software. Beside this compact discs or electronic media in an excellent solution for storage or space problems of libraries which can solve not only the space or storage problem but also capable to make information accessible anywhere and anytime. Further, maximum utilization of available information or library's collection is now possible due to LAN, MAN or Networking.

USE OF INTERNET

Internet has now emerged as a very powerful communication and publishing medium and it has changed the overall ways, means, modes and methods of information disseminators and information too it has made a great impact. May people consider internet like a global library without walls that can be accessed anywhere by anyone at any time to get any type of information. It is often struggle to locate information in the web, and librarians and must learn to use the directories and search in order to better assist patrons. Here librarians can work as an information manager to provide right information to the right person at the right time or in other words they can give their traditional services such as reference service, indexing and abstracting, selective dissemination of information and current awareness services with a new look. Our source of information will be in digital or electronic form on internet whether journals or book, we can select and store information as per users requirements. Librarians are challenged to develop new technical skills and abilities to validate the quality of information resources over the web.

ELECTRONIC BOOKS AND JOURNALS

Electronic books are digital objects containing electronic representation of a book that means they are converted into digitized form in order to be read by computer. Readers should change their mind set to understand the advantages of e-books. Print versions of late have become very expensive as the number of copies printed has been coming down. Many references books, which occupy major space in libraries, will one day be replaced by machined readable formats and reference area may completely disappear in the libraries. E-books are distributed via internet and sold in many ways. Some e-books stores have already been specializing in selling exclusively e-books. Books stores like amazon.com and Bernes Noble are selling all kinds of e-books from all of the major publishers.

In recent decades the price of the print journals, especially scientific journals, has continued to rise beyond affordable limit and thus has prompted the librarians to look for an alternative mainly "Free electronic journals". In addition to this, the time required for publishing on article, from the time to its submission to its final appearance in the p-jls has also prompted the authors to look for an alternative source. E-Journals like print also have editorial board, reviewers and so forth. To most of us it is something similar to the print expects it being different in format. E-jls have almost all the characteristics of the print journals and would be available either online or offline or both. May e-jls are available as offline products, i.e. on CD/DVD. Therefore in such case certain barriers such as internet connectivity and bandwidth do not concern. However, majority of the journals, both free and paid, are available online with downloading facility. The online access to journals is provided by the publishers or through their

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aggregators and the access policy varies from publisher to publisher. The access could be through a password or could be through IP address. Some time a small program, which locates o the work station, May also be needed for the access. Based on the availability and pricing e-jls may be categorized as follows.

- Journals which are totally free online.
- Journals with online access free along with print subscription.
- Journals which are online and priced (very low).
- Journals with online access whose price marginally less than the print version.

CONSORTIA BASED SUBSCRIPTION

"Shared subscription" or "Consortia based subscription" to electronic resources is a part of "Library consortium" and it can be a viable solution in order to increase the access to electronic resources across institutions at lower cost. Engineering college libraries need to form consortia of all types at all levels with an objective to take advantage of global network to promote better, faster and more cost effective ways of providing electronic information resources to the users of the library. Consortia provide union strength to negotiate with electronic publishers for the best possible price and rights. The collective strength of consortia members facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and at the best terms and conditions. Indian Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology (INDEST) Consortium set up by Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) and UGC's INFONET Consortium coordinated by INFLIBNET provide a seamless network of information resources. These models which offer new opportunities for cooperation and collaboration among college and university libraries. I think consortia based subscription should be seriously considered by all the engineering college libraries if they desire to position themselves strategically for the new challenges.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

The increased availability of CD-ROM products, the electronic publishing activity and the education and training activities in the country have focused on the application of new technology in the libraries. it is now possible through a computer to read and download information text of articles and reports of other materials. This has brought a revolutionary change in the way libraries adopt and function shifting from print to electronic information. These libraries addressed as digital libraries. Digital libraries are electronic libraries in which large number of geographically distributed users can access the contents of large and diverse repositories of electronic objects. Electronic objects include networked text, image, maps and sounds.

Key advantage of digital library is ubiquity. A single electronic copy can be accessed from many locations, by many simultaneous users. Since readers get a screen display of the object rather than a physical object loss rates by theft are eliminated. Digital library is a one step, equitable and timely access to vast amount of diverse resources on a shared mode in a given specialty lifting traditional barriers of time and space.

LIBRARY HOMEPATE

Developing a website is one of the best tools to integrate and communicate all the library's resources and services effectively to a wide range of users irrespective of the place and future trends. Engineering college library by developing home page can disseminate a wide range of information to user's community. It is best way to keep users abreast about latest developments of library resources and services with the introduction of pictures, graphics, 3D images, audio and video. A lovely home page of library can be developed which will really help the users to have a complete knowledge of library. Resources like library databases, online databases and other useful websites can be linked which will be useful for book selection and link of other library databases may be useful for inter library loan.

EXPECTATIONS OF USERS

Traditional models of library services are insufficient to meet current requirements of users. The increasing online environment resulting in users who are more

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technology savvy and are demanding and expecting more from the library. The potential of delivering information anytime anyplace challenges libraries to reexamine how space is organized and used is necessary to create new modes to deliver services to the user desktops even outside the campus. As more resources are created via the web, issues arise related to licensing, archiving, security and access. Users would like to see their library on the internet able to meet their all information needs not only on demand but also in anticipation of demand. Besides this they would also expect to get comprehensive information on broader range of disciplines while a engineering college library could have good collection only in their specific discipline. Again it would be a big cause of users dissatisfaction. But to overcome this problem, engineering college libraries may share their collections and shall have to offer new and more qualitative services to their users.

CONCLUSION

Engineering college librarians have to be serious in developing their own proficiency as well as must find out how to develop the professional competency in general. Since the users are more prone to online and electronically delivered services, the growing role of the librarian in engineering colleges would lie in information counseling, training, advising users on services and information products appropriate to their needs and how best to use them. This is a time that necessitates innovative ways of thinking about services, collections, information access and also our roles as academic librarians. Being prepared to manage changes can furnish us with the ability to flourish.

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