Library, Cybrary and Blended Library

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Abstract:

The paper on library, cybrary and blended library seems to be the need of the hour. The importance of e-resources is increasing day by day for everyone because of its simplicity, easy to access, easy to download, flexible in nature and easy to handle in digital environment. As the society is witnessing several changes in the dissemination of knowledge, so the only solution remains in the hands of information seekers to depend upon the usability of e-resources. In this regard the paper highlights the need and importance of these resources for the development of academic society to fulfill the requirements of information seekers. The paper also pointed out Dr Ranganathan's view in brief. Emphasis has been given to internet, digital library, digital library of India, virtual library cybrary, blended library in the present context along with future prospects.

Keywords: Digital Library, Cybrary, Virtual Library, Blended Library, Internet, National Digital Library.

Introduction:

Change, change, change and continuous change are the natural law of natural world. It is inevitable. Change in a right direction and within a planned way can be termed as progress. It is a progress, which may be treated as the key element for continued

existence. An organization or an institution should undergo many changes from time to time for surviving. If the institution does not change with the need of hour it may not survive long.

Today's society has witnessed many changes from agricultural to industrial and then industrial to information. At present we are living in information era with digital environment and approaching towards the wireless environment. Internet services, electronic information superhighway and convergence transformation are the latest buzzwords among the computer users now a days. During the last two decades we have witnessed many advancement in the area of information communication technology (ICT) and computer networks. The rapid change compelled us to stand at the threshold of this communication revolution.

With the advancement of ICT the overall progress, the optimum and constant use of information is possible if we provide it in the changing environment as per the needs and demands of the time. Consumer demands of new modes of knowledge stores, new technologies of knowledge search and the emerging trend in the application of ICT for widespread distributing of information is forcing the libraries to undergo a sustainable structural modification towards digital age. Internet and information superhighway have revolutionized the functioning of library. Concept of information storage in clay tablets or in papyrus had undergone many changes, keeping behind the intermediate stage of analog storage it has stepped into the digital age. Rather we can say that the changes are visible from Brick age to Click age. Today simply by clicking a keyboard or mouse we

can have verities if documentary information as well as documentary heritage. In this age a digital library is a web based electronic storage and access environment for information stored in the digital format either locally, or in a group of networked libraries. A digital library comprises digital collections, services and infrastructure.

Ranganathan's view:

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan the father of library science in India never believed that libraries are mere collection of books, or mere group of readers or even mere assembly of staff. He categorically stated, "A collection of books becomes a library when and only when a staff helps readers to find and use the books". For this he cited an example when he stated that "an electromagnet is a bar of soft iron surrounded by a coil of wire through which electricity is passing. The precise properties of the electromagnet do not lie in iron, in the wire or in the electricity taken separately. They came into existence- the electromagnet itself exists- only when current passes through the wire about the core. So it is with the library. It comes into existence only when readers, books and staff function together". He opined that readers, books and staff form the "trinity" in a library.

Internet:

Internet started its journey for common public in mid 1990s and since 1995 it has become one of the most important part of everybody's life. During that time nobody could imagine that how revolutionary this will be important for education and educational purpose in present context. The use of Internet has opened up door for the

students, teachers and all academic fraternity. It has brought revolution in all sectors. We can say that today we have become slave of internet, as we are fully dependent upon internet for all activities and without internet we cannot think of moving a single step towards academic of any activities.

Digital Library:

Library is a central place where knowledge is preserved and disseminated for further use by the different categories of users. Today the concept of library has been changed and library is being transformed into Electronic Library, Digital Library and slowly we are moving towards Virtual Library and blended library. A day is not far when we will witness library without papers and less intervention of human beings. 5G has already knocked the door in LIS arena also. By the application of Artificial intelligent the total concept of library is going to change in coming days. A digital library is nothing but an extension of conventional or we can say traditional library through which the electronic resources and those available rare and classic documents which are free from copyright and digital rights are used locally or globally by the information seekers. The ever growing impact of ICT and its use, the web technologies and the database has forced the library professionals to use and refer these technologies effectively and efficiently to provide information services. Thus it can be said that library and information centres are moving from traditional library to digital library and finally towards blended library.

National Digital Library of India:

The National Digital Library (NDL) of India was launched in February 2017 and formally started their service to the nation. Before that NDL India was initiated by the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) as a part of Digital India under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). A registered user may access all the educational resource materials of NDL and download it for further use. These resources are for the users which are from primary to post-graduate levels in various forms. The NDL India has covered the documents from almost all the branch of universe of knowledge, subject domains or universal of knowledge. These resources are different types of digital resources like scanned books, e-books, e-journal, conference proceedings, videos, audios, project reports, seminar presentation and paper, thesis, grey literatures etc. NDL India has a single-window search facility with some basic search technology to search and access the digital documents currently available in India as well as other digital sources under one umbrella. For further detail one can access the URL of national Digital Library of India (NDLI: ndl.iitkgp.ac.in).

Virtual Library:

Library without wall is the common concepts for virtual library. In future the digital library will be transformed into virtual library which can be accessed from any part of the globe for 24x7x365. The major obstructions for the success of digital/virtual library in

present context are the frequent electrical power cut and slow speed of internet i.e. less bandwidth. If there will be uninterrupted power supply and high speed internet with increased bandwidth, then the concept of electronic, digital, virtual, blended library will be successful and users will be satisfied with services available from these libraries. In this regard the government must take special initiative for the development of required infrastructures.

Cybrary:

It may be treated as the virtual library of 21st century, which has now becoming the reality. Digital collections of different libraries are available and accessible in www, a multimedia, multi protocol Internet database. Electronic form of books journals, newspapers and other documents are readily accessible instantly as e-resources. In cybrary documents are not arranged in stacks and racks, rather it is at our fingertips by clicking the button of mouse or just pressing the key board. A few clicks of mouse provide direct access to the required and relevant texts and graphics. Two or three-dimensional images of books and other documents have occupied space in magnetic discs, tapes or CDs/ DVD instead of shelves in stacks. Its magnitude are measured with bytes *viz* KB, MB, GB, TB, etc. instead of pages. The monumentality of libraries has been reduced to the simplicity of screen. Library seems to belong to an ancient age. Internet has made it possible to get access valuable digitized information resources scattered in different parts of the globe through the electronic information superhighways. An individual having internet connectivity can get access to the morning

newspaper after the mid night in digital version by a few clicks of mouse instead of going to the nearby library for reading different newspapers or waiting at your home for the vendor to get the printed copy of newspaper. In India there are many libraries, which can be termed as cybrary.

Blended Library:

Due to continuous growth and development in science and technology, the library is not untouched. In today's context a library has to deal with both the traditional knowledge as well as digital knowledge. When there is a combination of both the knowledge, in that case it may be called as blended knowledge, thus leading towards the blended services. So, a blended library will render and disseminate both services i.e. traditional and digital to its clientele in a benevolent way.

Present Context:

In the present context the electronic/ digital information browsers shows much comfort in doing browsing in the web than searching information in the bookshelves. They are finding endless relevant information by a Click, which would have taken hours in the library bookshelves. The rapid increase in comprehensive collections of resources in the web is attracting more and more users every day. As a result, traditional nature of library use is facing a very big crisis. It is seen in the society that today teachers, research scholars and student goes to the library frequently than they did earlier. If this trend continues, then there will be no option left for librarians other than opening a digital

section in their library and to think for a cybrary in this technologically changing society where we should give emphasis on e-resources.

Future Prospect:

As the 5G technology and Artificial intelligence have already entered in the library services in many libraries of the world and India is also not untouched to it. By the application of AI the library will be human less i.e. completely in electronic/digital forms. 5G is the fifth generation cellular wireless technology which provides enormous connection power and fast speed transforming the delivery of data through 5G network. It can help in quick and reliable transport of huge data files of library resources which can improve both the access and quality of services. This technology will be beneficial to librarians and information seekers where they can get quick results. With 5G, the library will allow mobile networks to handle the compilation and dissemination of information and resources. 5G concept will be based on cloud computing. Through this technique the users will get better library services sooner and have access to varieties of online resources in coming days.

Conclusion:

The libraries of the world are filled with documents containing information in heterogeneous media and of a variety of rare and fragile formats. Application of ICT helped us to convert those documents in a homogeneous media. The biggest challenges lies to adapt the effect of technological change and to concentrate on it for effective

measure. It is the time to think systematically and strategically about the future of libraries. It is obvious or inevitable that libraries, even if transferred from their present state, have a future. A library makes a statement about the value that a society places knowledge and learning and thus a truth.

Therefore, the library professionals keeping in view about the changing and dynamic role, need to learn to live effectively with continual change to constantly reassess ourselves, our skills and jobs and if we fear change, find it threatening or fail to cope with it then we could sink without trace. We should know the basic skills concerning how to manage change, the reality of today is that a library is under pressure, is in continuous transformation and trying to access to all information, resources for every member of the community it has to serve. In today's context we can say that library is no more a mere library but it has become cybrary and in coming days it will be transformed into blended library as the e-resources are available in enormous number which are scattered at various web platform where lakhs and crores of e-recourses are available and waiting for its use by the smart users.

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