(N.E.P. 2020) Role of Libraries in the Field of Higher Education

Neeraj Kumar Pathak

Head of library information science in VMPGC, Karauli

Corresponding author: pathak.neeraj1983@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The Government of India has introduced various applications and resources to promote library services in education, such as e-sodh-sindhushala, e-pathshala, e-sodh-gangotri, e-sodh-ganga, e-pgpathshala, National Digital Library, Koha open-source software, and more. Despite claims made by educational resource companies and agencies, the reality in India's educational institutions is different. Libraries play a crucial role in facilitating access to these programs for teaching, research, and extension activities. They establish digital collections, online reference services, digital repositories, online catalogues, and information literacy initiatives to enhance education in the digital age. The National Education Policy emphasizes the role of libraries in integrating educational information and technology, guiding users to access accurate information, and adapting to changing user needs. The libraries' transformation from print-based institutions to digital libraries has revolutionized their services and information dissemination.

Keywords: Government of India, library resources, e-sodh-sindhushala, e-pathshala, e-sodh-gangotri, e-sodh-ganga, e-pgpathshala, National digital library, Koha open-source software, learning, teaching, evaluation, educational resources, libraries, schools, universities, colleges, digital collections, online reference services, digital repositories, online catalogues, information literacy, information technology, networked information, reference services, librarians, NEP, academic libraries, information age, print catalogs, storehouse of knowledge, primary sources, secondary sources, tertiary sources, Web 2.0, virtual community, National Policy on Library and Information Systems, organization of information, modernization, training, monitoring mechanism, information needs

"Books are the Quietest and Most Constant Friends; They are the Most Accessible and Wisest of Counselors and the Most Patient of Teachers."

— **Charles W. Eliot**

"It is difficult exercise to achieve higher education without the support and resources of the library, as well as to achieve the purpose for which education is being imparted.''

— **Criss Jami**

GOI (Government of India), in its Endeavour to introduce library and library resources in education, started the application such as e-sodh-sindhushala,- e-pathshala, e-sodh-gangotri, e-sodh-ganga, e-pgpathashala, National digital library koha open-source software and other facilitating library resources enabled access to learning, teaching and evaluation despite many claim by educational resources library companies, agencies, and the government bobbies. The reality in India's 1.30 million schools, 611 universities, 31,000 colleges, is quite different. Libraries have a role in encouraging the use of these programs for institution-wide teaching, research and extension activities. Establishment of digital collections, online reference services, digital repositories, online catalogues, and information literacy initiatives are some of the library's efforts to further education in the age of information and communication technology. In order to achieve the accuracy of book knowledge and information services, the college library should be integrated and function of traditional paper-based information on the basis of information superiority, quickly adapt to the needs of the development of networked information. Reference and information services are a broad category, which includes support and services provided by librarians. These services help users to access library resources, encourage the use of library materials and meet their informational needs.

Role of N.E.P. in Libraries

Today's libraries have assumed a new role in modern society, whereby they integrate educational information and communication technology and new media. The role of academic libraries/librarians in the information age is to promote access to appropriate and accurate information to meet the needs of users. Internet is a wonderful thing but it is not a substitute for library premises. Librarians guide and teach students and other users how to find the best sources of information, whether in print or online. A few years back libraries were book centric institutions. They were just print card catalogs. Libraries were known as the storehouse of knowledge/information, but nowadays the concept of libraries has been changed. They collect books and non-book materials and provide effective library services to their customers. All types of primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information are available in the college libraries.

Some college libraries also have online search facilities and provide Web 2.0 facilities. Web 2.0 (Library 2.0) is a user-centered virtual community. It is a socially rich, often egalitarian electronic space. It is a model for the modern form of library services that reflects a transition in the way services are provided to users within the library world.

National Policy on Library and Information Systems

The Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India appointed a committee of senior library scientists and other experts in October 1985, which included Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyay as chairman to prepare a draft document on National Policy on Library and Information Systems. Its report is titled National Policy on Library and Information Systems (NAPLIS). The committee completed its work and submitted a draft document to the government on 31st May 1986. 12 The main objectives of the library and information policy are recommended as follows:

1. To promote and maintain the organization,availability and speed of information in all areas of national activity.
2. To take steps for modernization and up gradation of existing library and information systems and services and to introduce new programmers relevant to our national needs.
3. To encourage programmers and initiate at the earliest possible pace the training of library and information personnel.
4. To establish an adequate monitoring mechanism to ensure rapid development of library and information facilities and services to meet the information needs of all sectors.

CONCLUSION

Libraries are a service institution; the basic concept of library is related to the services provided as per the need of the users. Libraries plan their programs based on the guidelines of the Five Laws of Library Science. Libraries have shifted from micro documents to macro documents. The function of libraries is not only to collect books and non-book materials and to provide effective library services, but also to make the collection and dissemination more widely and rapidly through a variety of information services to its customers. With the changing nature of the user's needs, the libraries are also changing in the current environment. These are getting updated according to the needs of the users. Nowadays the concept of libraries has been changed. They have advanced a lot. The development of information technology has drastically changed the way information is collected, stored, retrieved and disseminated. Libraries themselves are shifting from traditional libraries to digital or virtual libraries.

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