



Role of College Libraries in Changing Information Context for Promoting Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

Universities, colleges, and research institutions all contributed significantly to the growth of higher education in a society. The libraries associated with these organizations were crucial in helping their patrons get the knowledge they needed. In order to adapt to the constantly changing information environment, academic libraries occasionally change how they operate. Information and communication technology (ICT) has had a significant impact on libraries and information centers. Different issues have arisen in society as a result of the information explosion that currently exists. Libraries must fundamentally alter their methods for gathering and managing information in order to address these issues.

Key Words: Library, Information Technology, Changing Role

I. INTRODUCTION

In a developing nation like India, education is crucial to the general socioeconomic advancement of the community. It is a type of education in which a group of people's knowledge, values, culture, beliefs, and habits are passed down from one generation to the next. Education, it goes without saying, broadens mind, increases knowledge, and molds human character. It fosters a feeling of equality among everyone. It makes a person able to distinguish between good and wrong, which makes him rational, wise, and kind.

Education is the process of human perfection. It's a tool that enhances people's quality of life, their level of awareness, and society as a whole. Assam's educational system consists of three levels: basic, secondary, and higher education. College and university libraries play a crucial part in the teaching and learning process in higher education. A society or a country can only be effectively shaped by colleges, universities, and research institutions. High-quality, current, need-based, and socially relevant higher education is what is required. If higher education is quality-based, excellent workers are produced, and strong nations are being built as a result. Every person goes through this process of education continuously from childhood till old age. Human lives can be improved by education. Gains that are unimaginable can come from higher education for society.

We are currently through a difficult period of time characterised by a competitive atmosphere. Globalization, which includes international alliances and maybe liberalization, as well as the creation of a knowledge society driven by inventions, information and communication networks, and an unheard-of increase in science and technology, are its defining characteristics. It is about to experience remarkable, unheard-of changes, the kind

of which will depend on the level, type, and structure of education. From early childhood through old age, everyone continues to acquire knowledge through this process. Education has the unique capacity to improve people's lives. Higher education in particular can help society greatly and bring about results that are unimaginable.

II. ROLE OF LIBRARY IN EDUCATION

Universities, colleges, and research institutions all contributed significantly to the growth of higher education in a society. The libraries associated with these organizations were crucial in helping their patrons get the knowledge they needed. The library is thought of as the center of any educational establishment. It is a temple to knowledge. One only needs to take a brief stroll through a college's library to gain a better idea of the academic climate there. It is a collection of the greatest ideas from the world's greatest thinkers, collected for the benefit of its readers. The modern library has expanded its reach beyond its four walls and opened its doors to a wider audience. The library is a great way to judge a place's dedication to higher education. The college libraries are anticipated to be crucial in educating new students about the library system and how to use it. The role of college library staff would have been better understood if the student could have had experience using libraries in schools. The college library was crucial in helping users get the information they needed.

III. ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

The age of information science and technology is the twenty-first century. The distribution of fresh knowledge and the rapid advancement of space communication techniques are due to the development of computer technology and these technologies' rapid advancement. One who is able to succeed and master the information world has the power of knowledge. The Internet turns into a vast informational treasure trove that offers a wide range of information in the forms of databases, images, videos, multimedia, or interactive displays, etc. Many academic institutions, particularly major colleges and universities, modify their own home pages to highlight their educational objectives, academic activities, exceptional training programs, and ground breaking and significant research findings.

In addition to being vital for all forms of teaching and learning, a well-equipped library is also crucial for conducting research. The staff and students have access to a significant academic facility in the form of a carefully curated library collection, which enables them to undertake research across all disciplines. College libraries are therefore repositories of scholarship and learning.

In order to adapt to the constantly changing information environment, academic libraries occasionally change how they operate. College libraries are changing slowly, but with INFLIBNET's assistance—a UGC interuniversity center—they have steadily advanced in using IT for housekeeping and information retrieval tasks.

IV. CONCLUSION

Information and communication technology (ICT) has had a significant impact on libraries and information centers, changing how people think about libraries in general and college libraries in particular. ICT use is crucial for college libraries and information centers since they are sources of information that are beneficial to

everyone. In the era of information and widespread use of digital information resources, the use of ICT in college libraries and information centers has grown more crucial. College libraries can conduct their daily tasks and provide services more effectively and efficiently thanks to ICT. With the use of ICT applications, libraries are able to subscribe to E-Journals, CDROMs, online databases, web-based resources, and a range of other electronic resources for its users.

Different issues have arisen in society as a result of the information explosion that currently exists. To begin with, it is now impossible for any one reader to read even a small portion of published knowledge in his particular profession. Second, it is neither practical nor possible for one academic library to purchase all of the published works for its users. Thirdly, producing and disseminating knowledge through non-printed or unconventional publications is given a lot of attention. Last but not least, the library's patrons' needs are evolving at a faster rate. Today's users have a huge appetite for technological diversity.

Libraries must fundamentally alter their methods for gathering and managing information in order to address these issues. Thus, the college library's crucial role as well as its many useful information services and cutting-edge technological equipment will serve to highlight the relevance of the institution. To handle modern information storage and retrieval systems, library personnel must accept new technologies and abandon their outdated mindset.

V. REFERENCES

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