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"LIBRARY IS A GROWING ORGANISM: IMPACT OF AUTOMATION AND NETWORKING ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES"

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ABSTRACT: -

A library is a meeting place of the people in rural areas. They will discuss and share the information at the place of the gathering. Normally, the library is the best place for gathering and it is the store house of information. The totality of information is stored and disseminated from here. The libraries are transforming from traditional to digital. It is developing from ancient period to modern period i.e. electronic age. The legislation is also key role for the development of the libraries. Presently the users are concentrating on digital type of material. So, the libraries should develop their structure from traditional to modern. The automation and digitization is takes key place now a day. This paper focused on importance of automation and digitization of public libraries.

KEYWORDS: information, library, digital, electronic, automation.

INTRODUCTION :

"A library is not just a building stacked with documents – it is a storehouse and source of information and ideas, a place for learning and enquiry and generation of thought and creation of new knowledge. A library cannot remain a storehouse of books and publications. It needs to become a vibrant organization that supplies to the information needs and also offers services that are relevant for the public. There are different kinds of libraries are available i.e. Public Library, Special library and Academic library.

Public library is the centre of information which provides services to its readers on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status free of cost. The public library is the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural development of the individual and social groups. So, public libraries must therefore, be allowed to play a role of fundamental importance in the development of future systems of lifelong learning. The development of public libraries in any state is the responsibility of the respective state government. Public libraries in India are lagging behind other libraries in the world in collection development, access to library resources, provision of adequate facilities and in the use of information and communication technologies for housekeeping operations as well as for user services.

In the present world, community are depending more on technology for useful information sources and services than on traditional gadgets. Development in the field of Information Communication Technology (ICT) enabled the use of networking, Internet, mass storage media, interactive video technology, virtual reality, and public and private databases. It opened up new possibilities in dealing with collection, organization, and dissemination of information on a large scale. Today information can not only be stored, retrieved,

communicated and broadcasted electronically in enormous quantities at phenomenal speed, but can also be rearranged, selected and transformed into different forms. It is to be noted that the large quantity of useful information products is only available in digital format. So, there is great need of digitization and automation of public library to supply the digital format information to the clientele.

DEFINITION:

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the Father of the Library Science, defines: "Public Library is one which is open to any member of the public and is usually free of any charge paid as so much for so much service. It is usually supported by local rate and grants from the government."

UNESCO defines Public Library as: "Those which serve the population of a community or region free of charge or for a nominal fee. They may serve the general public or special categories of the public such as children, members of armed forces, hospital patients, prisoners, workers and employees."

Historical background of public library in India:

Public library is largely regarded as the People's University. It has remarkable developments in India from the ancient period to till date at various stages, which can be stated as below briefly;

Ancient Period

"The history of the development of the public library may be said to be as old as that of education in India". (Ekbote;1987;2). . In Vedic period Students are learnt education by staying in Guru-gruha. In this period writing was not available and students were learnt by oral communication. Later, they learnt education under the supervision of well-known teachers from Ashrams. These ashrams are called as Vidyapeeth. In these Ashrams /Vidyapeeth manuscripts was the source for learning for the students and teachers. These Ashrams collected many different manuscripts and other materials which can help in their teaching and daily routine. They kept and preserved carefully. This preserved material serves information and knowledge to the students and community. Such ashrams/ Vidyapeeths, where manuscripts and other reading materials were preserved, may be regarded as a type of library.

Medieval Period

In medieval period India was ruled mostly by Muslims called as Mughal Period. In this period great changes had happened in political, but also in education and library system. This period was also known as golden period of Indian history for its educational, literary, and library activities. In 1526, Babur was established first Mughal Imperial Library and he inherited manuscripts from his father and maintained a library. After the death of Babur, his son Humayun also gave importance to library. He set up a library at Agra Fort, which was maintained by Lal Beg. After his death, his son Akbar developed library system with some technical works. He appointed Sheik Faizi to manage and control library services. Akbar was very interest in manuscripts and appointed calligraphers to copy good manuscripts. He also established a library for women at Fatehpur Sikri. After his death the other ruler in Mughal period Jahangir established libraries in buildings of heirless wealthy people. In this Mughal period library technical works, viz. Accessioning, Classification and Cataloguing were also developed. After Mughal period in Mysore and Jaipur also established some private libraries.

Modern Period - Before Independence (In British Period)

In British period some of the persons are shown interest for the upliftment of Indian heritage and culture, and they were established academic institutions. The University of Calcutta was established in 1857 and its library was opened in 1873. Other Universities, University of Bombay (1879) and University of Madras (1907) were established. The Indian University Act of 1904 is stressed for establishment of libraries in universities. In 1835 Calcutta Public Library was set up for enlightened the community. It is the milestone for the establishment of different public libraries in India.

Modern Period - After Independence

Public libraries in India made a tremendous growth after the independence of India in 1947. The central and the state governments took a number of steps forward for the development of the nation in education and considered library as essential part of it. Hence public library became part of the education budget. To improve the literacy rate the government has announced some programmes such as extension services, continuing education, social education, non-formal education and adult education. Libraries were considered to be an essential part to succeed in these programmes and for community development. So, the government has established libraries in different places viz. the Connemera Public Library in Madras, Delhi Public Library in New Delhi, National Library of India in Culcutta, and Asiatic Society Library in Bombay.

Development of Public library System in State:

Libraries are the navigator for the development of the nation. Libraries are developed gradually from ancient period to present period with the initiation of library movement.

United A.P.

Library movement in AP is unique and it is self generating. This is the people's movement. Iyanki venkata ramanaiah is the first person to develop the library movement in AP state. This library movement helps to the other movements in freedom struggle and it supported and motivated the people in independence movement. This library movement is leads actively in reconstruction of the nation.

In 1806 the first telugu book was published and gradually increased printing of telugu books. Due to increase of publishing telugu books leads the establishment of libraries. The success of the library movement, in 1800 a private library was established by the paravastu family. In 1839, Justice James Thomas was opened a Public library at Rajahmundry. It is known as first Public library by individual person. Up to 1958 nearly 600 public libraries were established in AP with the efforts of Iyanki venkata Ramanaish, Suri Venkata Narsimha Sastri, Chilakamarti Lakshmi Narasimham and Mocherla Rama Chandra Rao.

Telangana State.

Library movement in Telangana Region was started mainly to protect the telugu language and self respect of the Telugu people in Nizam state. In 1901, Sri Krishnadevaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam was established in Hyderabad and it is the land mark in library movement of Telangana Region. Gradually this movement was spread all over the telangana area and leads to establish the many other libraries. The prominent personalities of the Telangana library movement is Sarvasri K Laxmana Rao, Madapati Hanumantha Rao, Suravaram Pratapa Reddy, K V Ranga Reddy, T Ranga Rao, Burugula Ramakrishna Rao, A. veerabhadra Rao, K. Lakshmiranjanam, I. Sitarama Rao and others.

Library Legislation in India:

The development of public library is the responsibility of local and national authorities. It is supported by specific legislation and financed by national and local governments. Till date 19 states in India have enacted Public Libraries Act in their states. The library legislation supports the smooth functioning of the public libraries in the state. A state may have three levels of public libraries in hierarchy. The top level would be a state central library, the next level consists of district libraries in all districts of the state, and third level consists of rural and urban public libraries spread all over the state. This Act also makes provisions of finances, human resources and other resources for the development and functioning of public libraries. The states that passed Public Libraries Act are shown below along with the year:

1. Tamil Nadu (1948)
2. Andhra Pradesh (1960)
3. Karnataka (1965)
4. Maharashtra (1967)
5. West Bengal (1979)

6. Manipur (1988)
7. Kerala (1989)
8. Haryana (1989)
9. Mizoram (1993)
10. Goa (1993)
11. Gujarat (2000)
12. Odisha (2001)
13. Uttaranchal (2005)
14. Rajastan (2006)
15. Uttarapradesh (2006)
16. Lakshadweep (2007)
17. Bihar (2008)
18. Chattisgarh (2009)
19. Arunachala Pradesh (2009)

Enactment of Public Library Act-1960

The smooth functioning of the administration is depends on the acts enacted by the government. The Library Legislation is also ensures smooth functioning of the Public Libraries in the State. This act also makes provisions for finances, human resources and other resources for the development and functioning of Public Libraries in the State. There were two Library Acts in force i.e., the Madras Public Library Act in the Andhra region and the Hyderabad Public Library Act in the Telangana region before the formation of the Andhra Pradesh in 1956.

To overcome the difficulties in the administration of these two acts in one state, according to Dr. S.R.Ranganathan suggestions, both the acts are amalgamated and passed as an Integrated Act namely the Andhra Pradesh Public Library Act, 1960, which came into force from 1st April, 1960, in the entire state of AP. This act was later amended in the years of 1964, 1969, 1987 and 1989. The same act is applicable in Telangana State at presently after bi-furcating the state. This act formed a network of Public Libraries which started working and providing effective service in urban and rural areas of the state.

Role of Government in Public Library Development

The main financial source for the maintenance of the public library is local government through the Library Cess and with the financial assistance of central government. The development of the state is also depends on the libraries development. The information of the government regarding schemes and latest programmes will be acquired by the people from the rural public libraries only. So, the government should give importance for the development of public library to provide the better services to the community. The objective of the government is also fruitful if the schemes are reaches to the normal people by the way of providing required information in time. The automation of the Public Library will helps the user in getting of information speed and in time. There is a great need to the users about the automation and network of libraries.

Concept of Automation

Automation is a process of using the machineries for easily working and saving the man power and time. In the simple language "When we use machineries for collection, processing, storage and retrieval of information and do another works of library with the help of machineries that called library automation". Computerization is the part of library automation.

The main objective of library automation is to improve the efficiency of library and to provide optimum user services. The main purpose of library automation is to free the librarians and library staff and to allow them to contribute more meaningfully to spread of knowledge and Information. To provide E-Resources to users, the automation of library is essential. The automated library system is always ready to handling large volumes of documents and of providing effective and timely information services to the users in achieving their main goals.

The present Indian libraries are in transitional stage from traditional to modern. The Indian Library has moved from palm leaves, manuscripts etc. to CD-ROMs and digital books.

At present use of the computer technology for library keeping operation such as administrative work, acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, OPAC etc. known as library computerization.

Need of automation in Public Libraries
The following reasons are shows the necessity of the automation of public libraries. They are;
o Due to Information explosion to managing and retrieval of information
o To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of services
o Automation will helps in increased operational efficiencies
o Availability of information in various formats (Print, non-print, graphical, audio-visual etc.)
o User need and approach is different for acquiring of information.
o Limitation of library (time, space & human power)
o Repetition in housekeeping operation
o To search national and international database
o Users are increasing day by day.
o To improve access the resources on other networks and systems, including the Web

Objectives
The given below objectives are specified about the need of automation and networking of libraries:
✦ Speedily disposal of library work
✦ Development of the new library services
✦ Simplicity in library management to meet the objectives
✦ Suitability for resource sharing and networking
✦ Establishment of a well storage & retrieval system
✦ Time and human power saving with qualitative services
✦ Proper use of human resources
✦ Preparation of reports and correspondence
✦ Suitability for library cooperation & coordination development

Advantages of automation
Automation is an electronic based activity which is carried out by human beings. It is helpful to providing library services in the following manner:
• Speed in communication, information retrieval, research results, and new innovations to the end users.
• Accuracy in work and dissemination of information is within less time through Email, data transfer etc.
• Access to large amount of Information resources accurately, efficiently and with up to date Information at their places and avoid duplication of work.
• Access to Electronic publications, Information on floppies, CDROMs excise easily possible.
• Identification and loans of the print and non-print materials are easily tackled through bar code technologies.
• It helps in Library operations such as – circulation, acquisition, serial control, cataloguing, documentation, information retrieval resources-sharing, library management, library budget and finance control.
• User friendly system Networking, Provide networking and liaison with the other libraries which helps to the resources sharing among the library and information centers.

Disadvantages of automation
✦ It is long term and time consuming process
✦ It requires more financial expenses
✦ Continuous staff training is required for the maintenance.
✦ It faces Security problems.

✦ It is totally depended on the electricity.

CONCEPT OF NETWORKING

A network is developed when a group of libraries and information centers have common interest to exchange information through computer and communication technology. It is a collective or cooperative activity of linking members/users to the resources hosted on computers by means of telecommunication connections.

UNISIST defines Information network as 'a set on interrelated information systems associated with communication facilities, which are co-operating through more or less formal agreements in order to jointly implement information handling operations with a view to pooling their resources and to offer better services to the users. They generally follow identical or compatible rules and procedures."

Raynard C. Swank: library network is a concept that includes the development of cooperative systems of libraries on geographical, subject, or other lines, each with some kind of centre that not only coordinates the internal activities of the system but also serves as the system's outlet to and inlet from the centers of other systems

IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

✦ Encourage sharing of resources among the participating libraries through computer networking.
✦ make possible and help delivery of documents electronically
✦ Synchronize efforts for suitable collection development and lessen unnecessary duplication of costly resources.
✦ Generate a database of projects, specialists and institutions for providing online information services.
✦ Co-ordinate with other regional, national and international networks for exchange of information and documents for the use of libraries and users.
✦ Establish referral centers to monitor and facilitate catalogue search and maintain a central on-line union catalogue of books, serials and non-book materials of all the participating libraries.
✦ Develop standards and uniform guidelines in methods, techniques, services procedures, hardware and software and so on.
✦ Build up specialist bibliographic database of books, serials and non-book materials for search and access.

CONCLUSION

The library/Information centre is considered to be the backbone of any state in providing the information. Initially it provided printed type of information to the needy people. After the advancement of ICT the seeking behavior of the user has changed. A library as it provides its user the literature and information through electronic sources and services in order to carry out their routine activity. It took many years for digital libraries to reach the present condition. In Indian scenario the digitization programmes are in their initial stages and much needs to be done to prepare a long term strategy to sustain these efforts and preserve the digital resources for future use. This paper expected to help for identify the essentiality of automation and networking of public libraries to provide the better services to the users.

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