



## AN ATTEMPT TO DEFINE CONCEPT OF LIBRARY AND ACADEMIC LIBRARY

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### ABSTRACT

One of the most effective two-way channels of contact between librarians and patrons in the modern age of the internet is the digital reference service. Digital media is widely used in many nations to improve the quality and speed of reference and information services; however the situation is dire in India. Generally speaking, only academic libraries provide a digital reference service. Due to challenges such as multilingualism, socioeconomic diversity, etc., academic libraries also struggle to offer uniform service to their patrons. This study analyses the current state of digital reference services offered by a variety of academic libraries in order to provide a theoretical framework for the use of digital resources in Indian academic libraries.

**Keywords:** - Librarians, Uniform, Indian, Academic, Services.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries' primary mission has always been to choose, gather, and maintain information for the benefit of library patrons. This age-old pursuit has always relied heavily on library resources like books and periodicals. It is common knowledge that society has evolved in response to technical advances. The library world is not immune to these changes. There is a slow but steady adaptation of academic libraries to emerging technology. Reference services are one example of how libraries' use of ICT has altered the nature of those services. Libraries use ever-evolving technologies to provide a wide range of services. Several sources on the subject of future library services point to a period of transition. Libraries need to adapt to the rapid pace of technological development so that they may continue to meet the needs of their patrons. Librarians have difficulties with electronic information and information sources. The

conventional library's function has given way to the digital library. There are several intermediate states throughout this change.

### Changing Role of Academic Libraries

We are all aware of the evolution of libraries from the use of clay tablets and leaves to the printing press and now the electronic and digital library. This has been a lengthy process, but it has resulted in several innovations. The development of the printing press, the computer, the internet, and other digital technologies are among the most significant steps along this path.

### Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

New information and communication technologies (ICT) including computers, the internet, telephones, televisions, radios, video games, the world wide web, multimedia, digitalization, virtual technologies, etc., are posing problems for every industry.



### **Resources Found in Libraries**

The materials a library acquires could change depending on its focus. Books, magazines, and newspapers covering a wide range of subjects may be found at public libraries. The books in an academic library are organized according to the curricula used there. Collections in research libraries pertain to the field of study.

### **Library Services**

The mission of every academic library is to support its host institution and provide its constituents with access to the library's many resources. College libraries serve as an extension of their parent institutions. The impact of technology is changing what are known as library services in several ways. Information services, digital services, web-based services, etc., have replaced traditional library services in recent years.

## **II. DEFINITION OF LIBRARY**

A library is defined by George Eberhart in *THE LIBRARIAN'S BOOK OF LISTS* (Chicago: ALA, 2010) as "a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining (5) and the goal of stimulating intellectual curiosity and inquiry among those audiences." (p.1)

Recent libraries may also be defined in terms of:

### **i) In the first place, a hybrid library**

A library that has both conventional print materials and an increasing amount of digital resources is said to be a hybrid library.

### **ii) Computerized book storage**

An automated library is one that uses computers to manage circulation and maintenance.

### **iii) the Internet Archive**

A digital library is a library where a substantial portion of the collection is presented in a computer-accessible, machine-readable format.

The digital data may either be stored locally or accessible remotely through the internet. Access points and visual recordings in a digital library are also available in digital format. The term "virtual library" is used to describe a collection of electronic or digital libraries that are linked together via different networks, most notably the internet. S.P. Singh

## **III. ACADEMIC LIBRARY**

The primary purpose of a college library is to facilitate and supplement academic programs. It's a great resource for the college's students and faculty as they seek to expand their horizons via reading. The college library also stocks the books and resources that professors and students need for their studies.

D.L.Smith and E.O. Baxten identified the roles of a university library in the following ways:

1. One, to stock up on required reading for students in advance of exams by purchasing and distributing widely used reference materials.
2. The second goal is to teach students how to find and utilize resources in the library, while also encouraging them to broaden their horizons by reading widely.
3. Thirdly, to provide support and resources to college instructors as they design and develop course materials



and remain current in their own fields of expertise.

4. Fourth, to provide faculty with access to relevant material and information in order to facilitate their pursuit of advanced degrees and research. Reference: (Sahai, ShriNath, 2009: p. 32)

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, libraries remain invaluable and essential institutions that play a crucial role in modern society. Despite the rise of digital technology and online resources, libraries continue to serve as vital hubs of knowledge, culture, and community engagement. Throughout history, they have adapted and evolved to meet the changing needs of their users, consistently proving their relevance and significance.

Libraries serve as gateways to knowledge, providing free access to a vast array of information, literature, and educational resources. They not only facilitate learning and research but also foster a love for reading and lifelong learning. By offering a diverse collection of materials and promoting inclusivity, libraries cater to the needs and interests of a wide range of individuals, contributing to intellectual growth and personal development.

Beyond their educational function, libraries are cultural institutions that preserve and celebrate the heritage of a society. They curate collections that encompass historical documents, rare manuscripts, and artistic masterpieces, ensuring the continuity of human history and creativity. In doing so, libraries contribute to the preservation of our collective identity and promote an understanding of our shared past.

Moreover, libraries have a vital role in promoting social cohesion and community engagement. They serve as safe and inclusive spaces where people from all walks of life can come together, interact, and exchange ideas. From children's storytime to adult book clubs and various workshops, libraries foster a sense of belonging and facilitate interpersonal connections that strengthen communities.

The future of libraries holds immense potential, but it also comes with its unique challenges. As technology continues to advance, libraries must adapt to the changing information landscape and embrace digital platforms to remain relevant and accessible. The role of librarians, too, will evolve, requiring them to become adept at navigating both physical and virtual collections and providing guidance on using digital resources effectively.

In conclusion, libraries stand as enduring bastions of knowledge, culture, and community. They epitomize the spirit of sharing and learning that underpins the progress of human civilization. As we move forward into an ever-changing world, let us continue to cherish, support, and invest in these invaluable institutions that enrich our lives and empower us to build a brighter future together.

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