Libraries as an Open Knowledge Movement in Indian Higher Education System: History, Consortium, Network and Role

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Abstract - **Various movements of libraries for promoting higher education in the period of information communication technology like library networks, library consortium, library portals, digital collection development, online reference services, digital repositories, online catalogues, and information literacy programs have been described in the paper. A few major key roles played by a library as educator, as space giver, as some personnel, as a knowledge giver and various factors also enlightened through this article. Libraries established by the kings and capitalists functioned like private institutions and the admission was limited. Service to the general public had to wait for the British (Sathikumar, 1993). The Maharaja of Tanjuar started the famous Saraswati Mahal Library in 17th century A.D. It remains a unique institution in its nature of collection and services (Sathikumar 1993, p. 18). Library provides all kind of obligatory tools and supplements for best teaching in classrooms, help in designing online tutorials, and such type of several activities.**

Index Terms - **Library Network, digital knowledge, movements, Research.**

INTRODUCTION

Libraries were established in ancient India mainly by the patronage extended by emperors, major leaders and scholars. Indian emperors and kings were supported scholars and poets. There is evidence of well-developed libraries even in the sixth century A.D. India's famous Nalanda University in Bihar had its own magnificent library with a massive collection of manuscripts covering the abundance of knowledge. But admission and permission to library was restricted to scholars. Other ancient universities, such as Taxila and Vikramashila, also had valuable libraries. The Mughal period gave a further stimulus to the growth of libraries. Mughal rulers attached considerable importance to libraries and appointed scholars as librarians. In the period of Emperor Babur, Humayun, and Akbar many new libraries were established, and existing ones further developed. Mughal libraries featured magnificent buildings, rare manuscripts, and scholar librarians. The Maharaja of Tanjuar started the famous Saraswati Mahal Library in 17th century A.D. It remains a unique institution in its nature of collection and services (Sathikumar 1993, p. 18) Libraries established by the kings and capitalists functioned like private institutions and the admission was limited. Service to the general public had to wait for the British (Sathikumar, 1993, p. 18- 19

LIBRARIES DURING BRITISH PERIOD

Libraries were mostly financed by Europeans residing in the major towns of India. Of these, the establishment of the public library at Calcutta in 1835 was the most important one. Subsequently, this was the library which later developed into the National Library of India. Almost simultaneous, subscription libraries were started in many Indian cities like Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Pune, etc.

INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Indian higher education system is one of the largest education system in the world just after the US and China (Hasan and Pande 2010). When India got Independence there were only 20 Universities and 500 colleges but at present there are 903 Universities and 41,435 colleges (UGC website 31, March 2019). Higher Education is normally considered the identical of university education but it also includes various colleges, research centers, training centers and professional institutes of law, medicine, theology,

business, music, and art etc. Consequently, provided that higher level of teaching is one of the aspects of higher education. A few government agencies of India are pronounced for the improvement of higher education in India namely University Grants Commission (UGC); Association of Indian Universities (AIU); All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE); Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR); and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), etc.

OPEN KNOWLEDGE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

Soaring prices of scholarly contents in form of text books, journals and other documents has been a significant issue for scholar community therefore, Open Educational Resources came into picture. Knowledge is open if anyone is free to access, use, modify and share it very easily. Open Educational Resources are educational items available in public area with open license. Due to open license policy of these any person is lawfully eligible to copy, use, modify and share among academic community. These Resources include textbooks to curricula, course notes, lecture material, assignments, online course videos, audios and animations. Some very useful scholarly contents are available in Open Access mode by different academic 3 agencies and institutions and publishers which provides free access to peer reviewed journals, books, and other research-oriented material. Online storehouses are another medium benefitting scholar community by providing rich pedagogical material. Considerable developments were made in higher education during 1980s and in present scenario these become faster with more advancements of ICT in education sector and constant support from MHRD. Hence, keeping in view the importance of libraries in progress of higher educational academic institutes, government agencies like UGC and ICAR have been providing undoubted support to the libraries of these institutes so that informational resources available in any mode could be enhanced properly by the scholar community.

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INITIATIVES IN INDIA

The following are the few important open educational resources through which one can access huge amount of knowledge can be accessed. They are:
1. NPTEL (National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning)
2. Ekalavya
3. E-Grid
4. eGyan Kosh
5. Sakshat
6. UGC- MOOC:
7. Shodhganga

Open Educational Resources Initiatives in Agricultural Education System
a. Krishikosh
b. CeRA
c. E- krishiShiksha
d. E-Agropeadia
e. Krishi

LIBRARIES IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SCENARIO

Libraries are considered as the thoughtful sea of knowledge emerging from the scholarly output over the years. These are not merely reservations this scholarly content but transmit it to one generation to the other. This scholarly output may be in form of journals, textbooks, research articles, research reports, edited books, research theses or dissertations, etc. The library is such a place where a scholar finds rich and abundance information on his specific area of interest. The information resources are now not limited to its boundaries, but it has now been extended out of it. Academic community of an Institution is not eligible to the documents kept in the libraries, but he is eligible to get access of other documents available in other libraries over the world. The medium of information is also not restricted to print media, but information can be accessed via information technology now through digital forms. Libraries are always being the partisans of knowledge and knowledge seekers. There are service providers to the scholar community of its parent organization. All educational programs are successfully implemented with the help and coordination of the library. University Education Commission during 1948-49 under the headship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan clearly described that "teachers must have the necessary tools for teaching 5 purpose

in the shape of libraries and laboratories as also the right type of students." According to him "The library is the heart of the University's work; directly so as regards its research work and indirectly as regards its educational work, which derives its life from research work.

The existing activities of libraries for Indian higher educational institutions are:

1. Library Websites for open access: In India almost all institutional libraries are hosting their own separate websites, through which they are giving access to online catalogues, subscribed resources, free and open access resources, other e- contents and also create the virtual environment by providing real tie chat service also.
2. Libraries provides Research Help: Under this facility, a real help is provided to all research scholars throughout his/her research period or process. This service is provided with provision of subject specific documents, manuals regarding creating references/bibliographies, managing citations, use of reference tools etc.
3. Digital Collection Expansion: With print content digital and online content is also being developed. This digital collection includes- e-books, e-journals, e proceedings, edatabases,
4. Libraries provide Online Reference Facility: Many libraries are providing internet based reference services via e-mail, real chat, instant messages, online submission forms, teleconferencing, etc. 'Ask a librarian' is a very popular reference service. Under this service replies are submitted via e-mails.
5. Libraries deliver Online Catalogue: Almost all the libraries have made their online catalogue available on web. Some libraries have also provided list of open access resources on their catalogue.
6. Libraries acts as Digital Storehouses: Creation of different communities or folders containing some sort of specific type of material are created by libraries in these repositories and then collection of related documents are uploaded on repositories to make them accessible to all.
7. Libraries encourage Literacy Programs: Library trainings are organized for all level of students and faculty both teaching and non-teaching faculties to ensure the optimum utilization of e-resources and web resources for their academic rationale.
8. Libraries Display of Latest collection: Proper display of collection of a library creates curiosity among users to use them for their academic purposes. It will provide recent data on new books and digital collections.
9. Libraries implement Software's: Libraries are implementing software's through which users of parent institution can access to its resources sitting at any corner of the world using remote access ID and password. Ezproxy, Refread, Fedgate, etc are examples of such software's.

LIBRARY NETWORK

To fulfill and satisfy the informational need of academic community libraries started connecting with each other and established some library networks. Following are some Library Networks established in India during 1988-1998 to promote utilization of informational resources at optimal level:

1. Ahmadabad Library Network (ADINET)- 1994
2. Bangalore Academic Library Network (BALNET)-1995
3. Bombay Library Network (BONET). 1992
4. Calcutta Library Network (CALIBNET). 1993
5. Developing Library Network (DELNET). 1988

Key Roles of Libraries in Higher Education: In brief there are following key roles of a library in promoting higher education:

1. Libraries fetches Institutional Effectiveness: libraries recognize and develop such outcomes which leads towards bringing institutional effectiveness which ensure the continuous improvement in every requisite facet of Institution.
2. Libraries Boost Professional Values in Users: Libraries present professional values among users by editing resources, protecting rights of users of keeping their privacy as well as confidentiality.
3. Libraries acts as Educator: Library provides all kind of obligatory tools and supplements for best teaching in classrooms, help in designing online tutorials, and such type of several activities.
4. Libraries provides platform for academicians: Libraries give a platform to academics for interacting with each other, sharing their ideas

within the physical boundary and virtual surroundings, safely and securely to extend learning & facilitating new innovation and ideas.

5. Libraries as Knowledge manager: Libraries ensure long-term availability or access to the intellectual records so that they may be utilized by users at maximum.

6. Libraries plays the role of supporting staff: Libraries are committed for overall educational development in maternal institution by developing maintaining and enhancing skills and knowledge of every professional.

7. Libraries Reinforce External Relations: Libraries uninterruptedly make exertions in developing external relations through communications, publications, events, and donor cultivation and leadership.

8. Libraries delivery Satisfaction Relationship: In libraries services need to be user oriented and for this libraries must setup the priorities, manage expectations of users.

CONCLUSION

Learning and libraries are called the two sides of the one coin. They are very much dependent on each other as learning without libraries and libraries without education are unimaginable in nature. Hence, libraries cannot be separated from education. For higher education, libraries encourage research and extension activities, helping academic fraternity in achieving their pedagogical missions. Libraries should not be neglected in any institutions otherwise it will bring its destruction only rather they are supported well they will bring a bright future of higher education in India. On the other hand, Libraries must also be users centric. Services need to be user oriented and for this library must setup the priorities, manage expectations of users, and obviously work in smarter ways applying new mechanisms to provide quick and consistent services.

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