

## CHALLENGES AND IMPROVEMENT OF LIS IN LIBRARY

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### ABSTRACT

*The primitive idea of 'library' connoted a storehouse of written document mainly based on clay tablets, palm leaves, waded wooden boards, papyrus role, etc. but with the advancement of knowledge in the human civilizations, the library has become the nerve centre of the civilized society. It becomes the sign and symbol of incentive to become dynamic and regarded the rich springs from which knowledge flows out to irrigate the wide fields of education and culture. It becomes an important medium of continuing self-education. With the increase in the demand for libraries, there arose the concept of collection development. Collection as defined by the Webster Dictionary is a "publication containing a variety of works". However, in the connotations of library science, the term collection refers to book selection, library acquisition, building the collection and developing it (i.e. collection development). All these terms are used to describe the process of building a collection in the library, following certain canons and principles and to add library materials to the existing holdings of the library annually or periodically. But, there has been a metamorphosis in the terminology and 'collection development' that has replaced the other terms in general. Emphasizes that more important than the name of a library (traditional or digital), is the mandate and the context of the library. It also enlists the challenges and opportunities facing the academic libraries. The paper concludes that the future of academic libraries is in our own hands. Above this background, the article has to emphasize over the problems and challenges of Collection development of Universities libraries in digital era.*

**Keywords:** Digital library, problem, archive, learning, India

**INTRODUCTION:** In spite of these facilities higher education in Arunachal Pradesh is not accessible to more than six percent of the population. To meet the growing demand for higher education, the numbers of distance education programmes are growing up in Arunachal Pradesh. The growth and expansion of distance education programmes have generated considerable interest in student support services in general, and library and information services in particular. LIS education in Arunachal Pradesh is currently passing through a turning point and has become a fast developing subject with a multidisciplinary approach. Today LIS education not only includes the library specific subject but it also has been extended to subjects like computer application, statistics, information science, management studies and operation research. With the changing scenario modern librarianship has become a profession with a diversity of opportunities and challenges for LIS students and professionals in university of Arunachal Pradesh. Digital library initiatives at the national and regional levels are contributing to the provision of access to legacy as well as current information in electronic format. Hence, it is expected that LIS education will develop the required manpower to manage existing digital libraries and to further expand the digital library initiatives. However, though the LIS departments have responded positively to this challenge, they seem not to have reached the expected level in producing LIS professional manpower with the knowledge and skills required for designing and maintaining digital libraries. Above all, library collection is the pool of achievements of the past preserved for the benefit of present and future generations.

**Review of literature:** McCarthy, J.P. (2005) It focused on a collection of print journals was used as an object for consideration. Physical and heritage aspects of the collection are examined and questions are posed regarding the wisdom of future retention in response to increased demand for electronic alternatives. The findings are the emerging trends predict a predominance of periodical literature in electronic form. The future of local remote storage for low demand printed journal collections needs to be evaluated in economic as well as cultural terms.

Ray, Joyce. (2004) study is based upon the federally-funded independent granting agency, The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) became involved in digitization in the late 1990s when Congress gave it statutory authority to fund digitization of library and museum collections. Since that time, IMLS has funded more than 100 exemplary digitization projects through its National Leadership Grant program. Collectively, these projects have helped to identify best practices for the creation, management, preservation and use of digital content. Most importantly, they demonstrate the important role that museums and libraries can play in supporting both formal education and lifelong learning. Ultimately, this work will help libraries and museums to fulfill their roles as educational institutions. IMLS grants support

the spectrum of learning from independent inquiry through formal education to the development of "learning communities.

Zhang, Xiaoyin and Haslam, Michaelyn. (2005) It investigates to address the UNLV Libraries movement toward a predominantly electronic journal collection including evaluation of library collection and reevaluation of organizational structure, staff resources and workflow to find the best ways to provide library users with timely and reliable access to electronic resources. A range of UNLV Libraries initiatives in building and managing electronic resources is described to demonstrate how the library moved from a predominantly print environment to a predominantly electronic environment. The paper consists of sections: development of the electronic resources collection, reengineering acquisitions/periodicals, new responsibilities and new skills, next steps, and conclusion. The findings are since 1999, the composition of the Libraries journal collection has been dramatically changed. The percentage of print-only subscriptions decreased from 59 percent in 1990 to 20 percent in 2004, while electronic journals jumped from 35 percent to 75 percent. The percentage of Libraries materials acquisitions budget spent on electronic resources rose by at least 10 percent each year. The proliferation of electronic resources had a major impact on the acquisitions/serials activities from handling physical objects to initiating and ensuring ongoing access to electronic resources. It has resulted in a workflow that requires ongoing review and change to accommodate the constant technological developments that have impacted the management of information delivered electronically.

Fabbi, Jennifer L. and Watson, Sidney D. and etal (2005) It reflects on activities and developments related to the 3Me Digital Materials Flow Management since its implementation at the UNLV Libraries, including system hardware and software developments and the UNLV Libraries' evolving relationship with 3Me. Following an introduction which highlights the major 3Me Digital Materials Flow Management components in place at the UNLV Libraries, product improvements that have expanded the functionality of the system are detailed, patrons and staff benefits of the technology are described, and RFID privacy issues at the UNLV Libraries are examined. Expanded capability and use of the 3Me Digital Materials Flow Management system has allowed the UNLV Libraries to establish more efficient processes for undertaking collection management activities, such as inventory and weeding. The system has also had a positive impact on customer service. Benefits of the system currently outweigh the potential risks in terms of patron privacy.

Castelli, Donatella (2006) the purpose of this article is to introduce the digital libraries of the future, their enabling technologies and their organizational models. The paper first discusses the requirements for the digital libraries of the future, then presents the DILIGENT infrastructure as a technological response to these requirements and, finally, it discusses the role that libraries can play in the organizational framework envisioned by DILIGENT. Digital libraries of the future will give access to a large variety of multimedia and multi-type documents created by integrating content from many different heterogeneous sources that range from repositories of text, images, and audio-video, to scientific data archives, and databases. The digital library will provide a seamless environment where the co-operative access, filtering, manipulation, generation, and preservation of these documents will be supported as a continuous cycle. Users of the library will be both consumers and producers of information, either by themselves or in collaborations with other users. Policy ensuring mechanisms will guarantee that the information produced is visible only to those who have the appropriate rights to access it. The realization of these new digital libraries requires both the provision of a new technology and a change in the role played by the libraries in the information access-production cycle.

#### **LIS Education in Arunachal University:**

In addition to formal teaching courses, many universities have introduced correspondence courses at various levels of education. This provides facilities to library personnel working at the lower level to improve their qualifications and update their limited knowledge and skills and also to those who could not get admission to formal courses earlier. In Arunachal University, Library Science has almost been recognized as an established discipline now at par with other social sciences courses in the university education system. In spite of this, LIS education is currently facing a turning point. Various factors have contributed to bring about the change from the conventional to an automated library operation. Today only computerized libraries can participate in networking at the national and international levels. Most of the computerized libraries suffer from paucity of competent personnel at top and middle level managerial positions.

**LIS Curriculum in Arunachal University:**

Until the year 2000, most of the library schools in Arunachal Pradesh have adopted the curriculum recommendation of the Report of University Grants Commission Review Committee 1965 (Chairman: Dr S R Ranganathan). In 2001, a Committee was appointed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Government of India under the Chairmanship of Prof. C R Karisiddappa. This committee included experts, practitioners, teachers and scientists who made an outstanding effort in designing the National Curriculum for LIS Education. The committee, while keeping a practical and feasible approach, framed a modular curriculum keeping in view the contemporary developments in the job market in India suiting the different levels of LIS education. The special features of UGC model curriculum has clearly stated the learning objectives for each module, unitized syllabi, special instructions to emphasize the theoretical and practical aspects, and it also indicates the implied concepts of information literacy in LIS curriculum. The Committee also suggested a 60:40 approach for practical and theoretical sessions respectively. The practical sessions include hands-on experience, assignments, seminar presentation and demonstrations by LIS students during the course of study (UGC Model Curriculum: Library and Information Science 2001). With the growth of information technology, LIS Schools have understood the need of periodic examination and analysis leading to necessary changes and improvements in curriculum for the interpolation of new and fast developing areas of information technology and computer science. The objective for training of LIS professionals is to promote library, to educate, to articulate and provide for the need of the clientele to increase productivity and economy. Curriculum is the core of the reform. Most of the library schools and departments have revised or in the process of re-designing their curricula. In their curricula, courses relating to traditional library science with names such as "History of books" and "Libraries" disappeared. Instead, many computer-related courses were added. Examples of some of the topics included are:

- a) An Introduction to Computers;
- b) Programming Design;
- c) Database Management;
- d) Computerized Information Networks;
- e) Design and Analysis of Computer Application Systems; and
- f) Computerized Information Retrieval.

**Problem of library Classifications:**

A library classification is a system of coding and organising library materials according to their subjects that simplifies subject browsing. Library classification systems have been used by catalogers to classify books and other materials in physical libraries for over a century. The two major classification systems used today in libraries around the world are the Dewey decimal classification system and the Library of Congress Classification (LCC) system. Since their introduction in the late eighteenth century, these two systems have undergone numerous revisions and updates. Large-scale digital libraries, such as our targeted syllabus repository, are intended to hold thousands of items just like physical libraries, and therefore require deploying flexible query and information retrieval techniques that allow users to easily find the items they are looking for. In order to provide highly refined search results, the system needs to go beyond the traditional keyword-based search techniques, which yield a large volume of indiscriminant search results irrespective of their content. Classification of materials in a digital library based on a pre-defined scheme improves the accuracy of information retrieval significantly and allows users to browse the collection by subject. However, manual classification is a tedious and time-consuming job requiring an expert cataloguer in each knowledge domain represented in the collection and, therefore, deemed unfeasible in many cases. Automated text classification or categorization (ATC), i.e. automatic assignment of natural language text documents to one or more predefined categories or classes according to their contents, has become one of the key techniques for enhancing information retrieval and knowledge management of large digital collections. Sebastiani (2002) provides an overview of common machine learning-based methods for ATC, such as naive Bayes, k-NN, and SVM techniques. However, to the best of our knowledge, ATC methods are yet to be adapted adequately for automatic classification of a large collection of syllabi based on a standard education classification scheme such as International Standard Classification of Education.

**Challenges of Collection Development in Digital Era:**

Although a large number of libraries keep some sort of electronic publications (mainly the formal publications on CD-ROM and online), the usage is quite different from one library to another. While the hardcopy business process is mature, the rules and regularities of electronic publications in libraries are under development; many business models are on a trial basis. What and how many of these electronic

materials should be bought and brought to the users, and how they are used, are still embarrassing questions for librarians. As a part of the effort to improve the usage of electronic publications in public libraries, the authors made an inquiry into the current status of formal electronic publications, including e-books and e-journals within the two major library groups: public and university libraries. We found that although the e-book (including both the full-text contents and the hand-held readers) is well publicized in India, its development has been left behind by that of the e-journal. The e-books experienced a detour of development; some earlier projects of book imaging were trapped in the intellectual property problem. Currently very few commercial providers of ebooks are in the market – even the biggest one can provide only a small portion of the books published every year, while many hardcopy book publishers would rather confine their electronic version service to their own homepages. On the other hand, e-journals have been coming in a comparatively smooth way. The foreign e-journal dealers, for example, Springer, Ebsco, Elsevier Science, etc., have also entered this market successfully.

**CONCLUSION:** The paper is based on the assumption that the mandate of the academic library is intact, only its role has expanded and format has changed. With the impact of ICTs, we are having digital libraries, as well as library and information networks. Academic libraries need to respond to the growing and diversifying information needs of the end-users. Academic libraries must become a local gateway to world's knowledge and information. The biggest and critical issue is how to manage change in the academic libraries so that we do not suffer the destiny of dinosaurs. The future is uncertain but bright. We will have to create a relative balance of printed publications and digital documents. Our future library must be a hybrid library which must be user-centred and expert-assisted. Library and Information Science students in India have to compete with other professionals to survive in the information business; they have to be equipped with a curriculum, which can make them function as competent information professionals. In the networked environment there is a strong need for continuing professional education and training.

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