IASLIC 31ST All India Conference – 2017

Organised by

Department of Library & Information Science
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Abstracts of Papers

on

Public Libraries in India in 21st Century

SIG01 : Social Sciences Information
   Theme : Information Literacy Competency Development
SIG02 : Computer Applications in LIS
   Theme : Digital India Initiatives and Libraries

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ABSTRACTS
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1.   Public Library Philosophy

Paper Ref :MT-1.c/3

PUBLIC LIBRARY AS A CULTURAL CENTRE: A CASE STUDY OF RAIPUR SADHARAN PATHAGAR, RAIPUR, BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL

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A public library functions as a cultural centre of the society and helps in cultural and artistic development of the community. Poet Rabindranath Tagore, initiated development of public libraries in surrounding villages as a part of his rural reconstruction project at Sriniketan in 1922 in order to improve the quality of life of the rural people. Tagore's dream project covered 38 village libraries under the control of Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (REC), Visva-Bharati. At present 24 of these libraries are functioning, which are located in two Blocks and eight gram Panchayats in Birbhum District. Raipur Sadharan Pathagar is one of them. The paper describes the cultural activities performed throughout the year by this library, which is one of the important non-government and non-sponsored village libraries of Birbhum district functioning under the joint project of Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (REC), Visva-Bharati and Raja Rammoham Ray Library Foundation (RRRLF).

Paper Ref :MT-1./49

NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN TAMIL NADU : A STUDY

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Newspapers which are commonly known as dailies play a major role in disseminating information about recent happenings all around the globe. Today, even in this so called digital era, the obsession for newspapers still exits as it as a traditional and reliable medium for communicating information to the

people. The readers may trust the news they read in the newspaper, hence it is obvious that any information reported about the libraries may give a general perception about the current scenario of the libraries to the readers.

The present study focussed on analysing the news reported in The Hindu newspaper regarding the public libraries in Tamil Nadu. The Hindu archive database was selected as the source for collecting data. The current year was selected as the duration for this study (January – July 2017). There were only six reports related to the aforesaid search criteria. These six reports covered news about public libraries in five districts of Tamil Nadu. The news reports presented contrasting information about the functioning of public libraries in two different districts, where one was in a pathetic condition without proper maintenance and the other was up to the mark by introducing new facilities and programmes to attract the readers. Further, the study recommended that public libraries should be treated as knowledge hub and/or auxiliary education centre. The authorities must take necessary steps to preserve the public library as tradition, as cultural and literary heritage, and also to reach the users by organizing vibrant activities.

The public library associations, authorities and all the staff must come together and play an active role in redesigning the services of public library in order to maintain its existence in this digital era. This can be done only by creating awareness about the importance of reading habits to school students, extension services and other outreach programs. The library authorities must regularly visit the schools in their vicinity to enlighten the student about the role of library in education and organize a mobile library tour around the area, as done by the Vellore library authorities. These are some of the effective ways to attract more readers to the library and also a major step towards the need and sustainability of public libraries in this digital era.

Keywords : Public library, The Hindu, Newspaper, Tamil Nadu

2. Public Library Development

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN UTTAR PRADESH : A STATE-OF-THE-ART REPORT

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Purpose: This paper is to give an account of the development of public libraries in Uttar Pradesh which were started and maintained by various voluntary organizations. But with the passes of time, departments like Education, Planning and Development, Social Welfare, Panchayati Raj, Harijan Sahayak, Information and Law have taken up those libraries for providing public library services in some form or the other. However, the majority of libraries is under the Education Department and supervised by the Library Cell. In addition, there are still many public libraries that are sponsored and supported yet by private persons and voluntary agencies in many villages, towns and cities. Thus the present study is to provide a state of the report related to development of the public libraries in the state.

Approach: Two important events of the year 1949 initiated the library movement of state — firstly, establishment of the Uttar Pradesh Library Association and secondly, drafting of Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Bill by Dr S R Ranganathan and its publication in the form of a book. The Bill was submitted to the Government and circulated to all the Members of the Legislative Assembly, but efforts could not be

materialized. In 1958, Dr. Ranganathan handed over the revised draft of the Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Bill to Dr. Sampurnanand, the then Chief Minister and Dr. V.V. Giri, the then Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

Finding: The movement of Uttar Pradesh Library Association, recommendations of Public Libraries Enquiry Committee led the Government of Uttar Pradesh in establishing a Library Cell in the Education Department in 1980. With keen interests and efforts of many professional leaders, the things moved slowly fighting against odds. The relentless efforts of UPLA team under the Leadership of Late Sri S.N. Agarwal team could be fruitified only in the year 2006. The Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Act enacted on 6th September, 2006.

Value: The development of Public Libraries in the State of Uttar Pradesh has been accelerated ever since the implantation of Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Act. Public libraries got momentum with the Act and many initiatives are taken to modernize the library activities.

Keywords **:** Public Library, Library Cell, Public Libraries Act, Uttar Pradesh

NETWORKING OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF ASSAM : CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Public Libraries are social institutions offering services of books and information to various social, political economic, cultural and other public groups. From time immemorial, it has been considered as social institution based on the democratic principle "of the people, by the people and for the people". It is the living force of the world in different walks of life.

Public libraries have to develop into a true Community Information Centre with such computerized data access and facilitates for providing a verity of information to the general public in meeting varieties of information. In India, the Community Service Centre, which are directly under the Central Government, need to be integrated with the Public Library System in order to avail optimum benefits by the different social groups for the academic up gradation and meeting societal needs. Networking of public library system will certainly enhance the quality of services with minimum human intervention.

Assam is having a good public library system starting from state central library at the top to Sub-divisional library and also with govt undertaking rural libraries at the bottom. Libraries at different levels have initiated the process of automation at the initiative of RRRLF and Koha, the open source ILMS package is being used for the purpose. Presently, it is right time to go for networking of public library system in the state.

There are number of issues to be considered for planning and implementation of library network in the state. The existing environment like Library building, Electricity, etc; Library staff; Hardware and Software; Management; Available library resources, are some of the basic issues being considered for the study.

The paper deals in details on the opportunities and challenges of Public Library networking in Assam. Study has been made on the existing scenario of Public library system based on survey and visit to the libraries, discussing with management and library staff and also the available literature to this effect.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN WEST BENGAL IN 21ST CENTURY

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Purpose : Public Library has a long history in Bengal since 1696 evidenced with existence of library of Khiristiy Jnan Bistarini Sava. Circulating Library by the fathers of Christian church (1709), Calcutta Public Library (1835) are mile stones in this sector. In Bengal library took a pivotal role in the Freedom Movement of India. n post Independent era, two following categories of public libraries are in West Bengal viz Government , Government Sponsored & Government aided public libraries and Libraries run by the Voluntary Organizations. Government, Government Sponsored and Government aided public libraries are directly funded by the State Government. Fund is given for collection development & infrastructural development along with Staff salary. Other public libraries may get ad-hoc grants for the development of library. This paper is to discuss the present status public libraries in West Bengal.

Design/ Approach : In the discussion, the following key activities of the public libraries in West Bengal are considered — Bibliographical Control; Creation of Database regarding Library Services; Organisation of Book fairs in the Districts; Continuance of Career Guidance Centres in different Libraries; Financial assistance to Non-Government and Non-Sponsored Libraries; Establishment of Community Library cum Informationcentre (CLICs) in the District; Implementing the Matching Scheme of Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF); Conducting of Certificate Course in Library Science and also in-service training of Library personnel.

Findings : Computerization and Networking of public libraries under the control of the Directorate of Library Services with the assistance of RRRLF; Digitization of rare books are done with the help of C-DAC, Retro – conversion of bibliographical data of all books available in libraries with the assistance of RRRLF; Dissemination of Community Information Service, Identification of Manuscripts with the assistance of National Mission of Manuscripts; Modernisation and Computerization of the State Central Library and North Bengal State Library under the schemes of National Mission on Libraries. Presently computer has been introduced in 796 libraries of our State. Out of these 796 libraries, 196 are connected with SCL through wide area net work. Others are going to be connected shortly. All logs of networked libraries are being monitored with an Admin Console, centrally at State Central Library. Catalogue data of 120 Libraries are available with 35000 rare digital books.

Originality/Value : Development of Library and its services are continuous process . In this transitional period, traditional and modern services are rendered to readers. Reading of printed books is decreasing. On the other hand new readers of digital objects are growing gradually.

Keywords : Library Services, Public Library, West Bengal

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN TEA GARDEN AREAS OF WEST BENGAL WITH REFERENCE OF MALBAZAR SUBDIVISION : A STUDY

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Public libraries are considered as the treasure house of knowledge and cradles of culture and heritage of a country. A public library could play role in changing the unproductive mass of population into productive and contributive individuals in the overall progress of the nation. With this view, the present paper highlights the survey of public libraries in the tea garden areas of Dooars region under Malbazar subdivision of West Bengal. There are thirteen public libraries in this region which are taken into consideration for the study. The survey mainly covers various aspects of public library such as library infrastructural facilities, collections, membership, organisations, staff strength, services, and automation, etc. The questionnaire and interview method has been adopted to collect relevant data. Overall results pertaining to the status of public libraries reveal that about 50% libraries are more than sixty years old; most of the libraries have total floor area less than 600 sq. ft. with small reading room facility; lack of modern information and communication technologies in almost all libraries are also visible; only 54% public libraries are run by professional librarians; about half of libraries have a collection of up to 5000 books and only three libraries have the total book collection above 10000; a ratio of 28 books per member is maintained by public libraries of the concerned area; an average of 28% members visits the library per week and about 68% libraries issue less than 40 books per week; reference services are rendered by only 46% libraries; all the libraries maintain book accession register, attendance register and book issue register; some of libraries (about 53%) have done classification with the aid of DDC; only 15.38% libraries follow the measure of binding for restoration of damaged books; None of the libraries under our study has yet been started automation work.

Based on the major findings, the study has made some recommendation for the betterment of effective public library services in the areas under study, like computerization of libraries should be immediately initiated to assist smooth functioning of libraries; user orientation programme should be organized by the library authority to cater awareness about the existence of the library.

Keywords : Public library, Collection development, Information services, Extension activities, NML.

PRESENT SCENARIO OF DISTRICT LIBRARIES OF BTAD AREA OF ASSAM: A CASE STUDY

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Purpose : In UNESCO Manifesto, a public library has been enunciated to play its role in three main areas of information, education and culture. A public library is that library which is accessible by the general public and is generally funded from public fund. Public libraries are distinct from school, research and a

special library in their mandate to serve the general public's needs of information. The main purpose of writing this paper is to make focus about the workings of the Council Head of the Department (CHD) and 4(four) public libraries of Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) of Assam and make aware about the present conditions of the librarians. In this paper, a case-study has been made to know the overall status in services and management of the CHD and 4 (four) district libraries of BTAD area of Assam.

Methodology : For the study of the district libraries of BTAD area, the data has been collected from a well-structured questionnaire and through telephonic interview. Both primary and secondary data have been used to write this paper. Primary data are collected by collecting up-to- date information from the librarians of the concerned libraries; while Secondary data from the books, websites, periodicals, etc.

Findings : The paper is mainly a survey based research paper where well-structured questionnaire have been used to collect, compile data and write the paper. The paper tries to bring out the present picture of the selected public libraries of BTAD area of Assam as it will also make an impact in knowing why still the public libraries are lagging behind in some of the vital issues of management.

Originality : A public library is a local centre of information as it avails all kinds of information and knowledge for its users. Therefore, collections and services in public libraries must be of high quality and relevant to the age groups and local needs and conditions. All age groups of users must find their respective informational needs in these libraries. By writing this paper, it will give us the overall present collection, services and management picture of the CHD and 4 (four) district libraries.

Keywords : BTAD, BTC, Public library, Library Collection

STATUS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM OF SOUTH TRIPURA : A STUDY

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Purpose: Tripura is a state in North-East India. A public library is an organization for continuing education. The study is conducted on three public libraries of south Tripura to find out the resources available and services offered by these libraries to the local community. The significance of the study is to point out the drawbacks of the library and to rectify them to provide better services to the rural people of the south Tripura.

Research Design: The discussions on three libraries are South District Public Library, Baikhora Public Library a Sub-Divisional Library and Rajnagar Jana Library a Block Library. The data has been collected through interview with the librarians along with observation method by visiting all the three libraries, the data collected then analyzed and represented in tabular format for analysis and obtaining the results.

Findings: Rajnagar Jana Library is the oldest library of south Tripura. The libraries prefer to keep them open in the afternoon (1 PM to 7 PM), and have their own buildings. State Central Library provides fund

and controls all the library activities. South district public library has highest collection. The accessioning and circulation are done manually in these libraries. Libraries provide on an average 4 books per user on lending. Dictionaries and encyclopedias are the main reference collections and all the libraries provide reprography service and conducts exhibition. Only Baikhora library provides service to physically challenged users. There is no library automation. Libraries are lagging behind the digitization. Insufficient infrastructure e.g. furniture & equipments are the reason of less number of registered users. The collections are good but not much useful to the users. The library authority should look after that matter to make the libraries as smart library.

Originality/Value : Public Libraries of South Tripura should procure updated materials to provide the better services to their users. They should provide different library extension services. Sufficient furniture or infrastructure for the users should be arranged. The opening time of the library may be changed to at 10 AM, so that user may come in the morning to read the newspapers and can get more time to use the library. All libraries are using manual system, they must take steps to automate their library to provide better services to the users. Library must conduct different programmes and events to make aware about the library and its services to attract more number of users towards the library.

Keywords **:** Library, Library system, Public library.

CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS AND AN AGENDA FOR INDIAN NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM THROUGH UNION LEGISLATION

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The present day society is a digital society and it needs knowledge in all its vibrancy. So in a democratic government information services at accessible points is a right of every citizen. The paper examines the Public Library System in India, its present status, and current legislations supporting it at national/ State levels. Discusses how public libraries can be rejuvenated to respond effectively to the changing knowledge environment. Opines that numerous legislations related to Libraries and information since 1948 needs to be reengineered by integrating the national public library service and system as a single entity. Suggests adoption of the seminal ideas of Ranganathan in this regard while formulating library legislation at Union as well as the State levels. A national public library and information system supported by Union Act with the backing of the Constitution is essential if the knowledge and information resources collected, built up and conserved at national libraries and other institutions using huge public funds in the country is to be made accessible to all the citizens including those at the the grass roots level. This necessitates a Union legislation which will be possible only by amending the Indian Constitution, to shift the subject 'Library' from State List to the Concurrent List, The Union Public Library Act to be brought into force should include a Model State Library Act. There needs to be a Minister of Public Libraries, Department of Public Libraries at the Centre and a department under Union Government for libraries. Expenditure on

public library system should be defined, streamlining and channelizing the public funds. An Indian Library Services cadre needs to be created for public libraries, national libraries and State Central Libraries (apex) so that development of the systems can be taken up appropriately in correct direction with more professionalism, less corruption and wastage of public money. The Act should articulate public library system as the prime platform to publicize all the government programs and schemes to the citizens. Linkage between all types of libraries such as academic, school, institutional, etc, should be implemented to share resources and complement each other.

The paper outlines a case for the Constitutional amendment in this regard and put forwards a set of viable recommendations based on mature observations on Indian Constitution, Central Acts on libraries, books, press, etc, various State Library Acts, and Public Library systems maintained and supported by Union and States of India.

Keywords : Constitutional Amendment; Union Legislation: state Legislation; National Public Libraries Act; National Public Library Services and Systems (NPLS)

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN BANGLADESH : TREND AND CHALLENGES

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Public libraries are very important social organizations in building knowledge based society. There are two types of public libraries in Bangladesh i.e. Government public libraries and Non-Government public libraries. This paper describes the number of libraries, their collections, usages etc in the Government and Non-Government public libraries in Bangladesh. Currently there are 70 Government Public libraries and 1956 Non Government public libraries in Bangladesh. Under the program of Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in government public libraries to create networks facilities by supplying 144 computer, 7 server, 64 Internet Modem, 124 offline UPS, 7 online UPS, 66 laser printer in divisional and district government public libraries.

The present study encompasses the collection and use of different types of public libraries in Bangladesh. The present study is basically a combination of survey and desk research. Data are collected from earlier published literature, library websites, concerned departments and some from the direct consultation with library-in-charges. The information regarding problems and suggestions/recommendations are collected through the informal discussions and unstructured interviews of the library-in-charges/librarians purposively selected The present scenario of the public libraries in Bangladesh is critically studied and some problems have been identified in the government and non-government public libraries and possible recommendations have been put forward to solve the problems. . Finally, some problems of government

and non government public libraries have been traced and probable solutions or recommendations have been put forward on the basis of informal and unstructured interview/discussion among purposively selected library-in-charges.

Keywords **:** Government Public Library, Non-government Public Library Public library development, Bangladesh

3.   Roles of Public Library

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES : ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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Community information is "information for everyday living". Information is not only a source of knowledge, but also a special source of advancement of economic, social, political and cultural freedom. Community information is the information for the survival and growth of the community. Community Information Service is considered to be that information service required by members of the public to make effective use of the resources potentially available to them in the communities in which they live. Such information may be needed to solve problems in the field of housing, household finance, agriculture, health and so on. There is a growing awareness of the importance of community information services that meet the needs of the communities in a great extent. Information poverty is defined as that situation in which individuals and communities, within a given context, do not have the requisite skills, abilities or material means to obtain efficient access to information, interpret it and apply it appropriately. Community information is very much essential for both urban and rural people in maintaining active and independent lives and in this way information poverty must be eradicated and people will get right information at right time.

In this context, public libraries, being the library of communities can play important role in providing effective Community Information Services. Information dissemination via public library is an essential requirement for the development of the community. In changing situation of the society, public libraries are facing new challenges. On one hand, there is a tremendous pressure due to information explosion, development of new information technologies etc for acquiring latest information on all fields of knowledge, on the other hand, there is an increasing demand for pinpointed exhaustive and accurate information in quickest possible time. So, public libraries have no other way to shift towards information based community oriented libraries rather than repository center of books and other documents. Public libraries as an educational, cultural and social institution must provide community information for a better life. It is the basic responsibility of any government to provide community information in a planned way. This paper provides an analytical overview of the service provided by the public libraries in connecting communities. It concludes by recommending some possible ways of providing community information services by the public libraries.

Keywords **:** Public Library, Community Information, Community Information Service

A SURVEY ON INFORMATION ACTIVITY IN POTATO FARMING: INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES IS WARRANTED

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Purpose : Potato is one of the most favoured economical agricultural products in India. India is the second highest potato producing country in the world and West Bengal is its second highest potato producing state. Paschim Medinipur is the second largest potato growing district in West Bengal. Potato farmers are required to be informed on various aspects at every step while farming the crop. The investigation is performed to study the information activity and information seeking behaviour of Potato farmers of Paschim Medinipur district.

Methodology : Nine villages from three areas were selected for collection of data. Amongst the villages six villages were the epicentre of recent political turbulence of Maoist activity, while remaining three villages are from predominantly peaceful areas. To explore the sources of information of the potato farmers and their information activity - a structured open ended questionnaire was formulated. The potato farmers were interviewed on the basis of this questionnaire. The information seeking behaviour of potato farmers were studied.

Findings : Educational qualifications of the potato farmers and their awareness about government initiatives help in taking decisions regarding the cultivation of crop. The decision making process of the potato farmers includes the selection of seed, application of fertilisers and pesticides, determination of time of harvesting and post harvesting selling or storing of the yield. This study explores the sources of information of the potato farmers for making their decision. The analysis of collected data on the academic knowledge base of the potato growers revealed that about 28% of them studied Higher Secondary (H S) and above. Regarding the source of information the potato growers are primarily dependent on other's experience and advice from the Krishi Prajukti Sahayak (KPS). The analysis on information seeking behaviour of potato farmers revealed that they are dependent on suggestion from other's experience and shopkeeper's advice. Most importantly the result of the analysis of data revealed that more than 60% of the farmers never found a government representative for their information support which is alarming for the fate of potato farming. This is interesting to mention that about 44% of the farmers don't rely on shopkeeper's advice.

Originality/Value: The present study and recommendations would be helpful for establishing community information service to serve the potato grower community. The public libraries of the respective region should, as a community information centre, render information services for potato growers' community to fill the information gap.

Keywords **:** Potato Farming, Community Information Service, Community Information Centre, Public Library, Paschim Medinipur

SCENARIO OF RURAL LIBRARIES IN ASSAM WITH REFERENCE TO KAMRUP DISTRICT

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The present state of Assam is a picturesque region of the entire country and it is found to be an interesting study for rural library system that can help in eradicating illiteracy from the community. Education is a critical input in human resource development and can be considered as the most important activity forming background of a nation's progress and essential for the country's growth & development. Achievements of 100% literacy in India is very much essential for its all round development. Libraries also form a basic component of the history of human civilization. They are closely related to the intellectual history as well as organizational structure of the society. It is the critical role of libraries, especially rural libraries, to keep the public well informed. Rural libraries in Kamrup district of Assam have a greatest responsibility towards illiterates and neo-literates. Public libraries come up as institutions for the masses, where the illiterates are educated with the aid of pictures, stories and demonstrations, lectures and reading from the epics and other literature of our country, and where the newly educated are helped to widen their knowledge with the aid of selected books on various subjects and education through literacy classes are to be imparted to women and children also through epic literature, puppet show and theatre, etc. With a view to extend the library services to the village level a Rural Library Scheme was implemented in 1985-86 in Assam. Rural libraries or Village libraries have been established in the several states through the Gram Panchayat; Cooperative Societies; Religious Endowments; Youth Organizations; Voluntary Organizations. The paper mainly highlights on scenario of rural libraries in Kamrup district of Assam. Some suggestions are put forwarded for development of rural libraries of the Assam in general and Kamrup district in particular. There is an urgent need of a Rural Libraries Network in India under one umbrella. RRRLF Kolkata may take this initiative for the welfare of the country.

Keywords **:** Rural Libraries, Kamrup District, Library Staff, Book Collections, Educational Blocks, Library Legislation.

PUBLIC LIBRARY AS AN INFORMATION PROVIDER IN THE RURAL AREAS: A CASE STUDY ON THE RURAL LIBRARIES OF NALBARI DISTRICT, ASSAM

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Purpose : The public libraries are very important part of the society. So it is essential to analyse the public libraries of a community to determine their functionality, services and their role in the development of the society. The main purpose of this paper is to analyse the Public Libraries of Nalbari district, Assam and to determine the infrastructure and facilities of the libraries as well to determine their role in rural development.

Methodology : This research is mainly a survey based research and data are collected through questionnaire and personal interview from the users and the library staff. 76 questionnaires are distributed in the 9 rural libraries out of which 60 responded. The analysis is done on the basis of these data as well as from the personal observation of the libraries.

Findings : From the survey and analysis of the collected data, it gives a negative result i.e. the public (rural) library condition of Nalbari district, Assam is in very poor condition. Though a lot of valuable books are collected in the libraries but the books are not selected according to the need of the users. The numbers of users have been decreasing from the year 2000 according to the library staff. Libraries don't take any initiatives to attract the people towards the library and can't provide Community Information Service (CIS) properly due to lack of fund and some other factors like proper building, computer, internet facility, and furniture etc. Few programs like lectures, competitions etc. are organized by the library in collaboration with the parent body of the library. Government don't take any initiative to improve the quality of the library and they also don't release any fund for the library to organize the rural development program. The salary of the rural library staff is also very negligible and not regular, which can be regarded as another factor of the poor condition of the libraries.

Originality : This paper mainly highlights on the services of the rural libraries of Nalbari district, Assam and its role as a Community Information Centre in providing information to the respective community. This study also comprises of the infrastructure of the library, qualification of the staff, salary of the staff, library collection and users responds etc.

Keywords **:** Rural library, Information provider, Community Information Service, Rural community, Rural development

ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT : SOME INNOVATIVE ISSUES

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Innovation is crucially essential for continuing success and sustenance of any organization. The communities and users, that libraries serve, are always changing; true innovation helps librarians adapt to meet their need and aspiration both now and in the future. Library professionals understand that innovation is important to the future of public libraries. Library professionals know the value of the societal responsibilities. Now-a-days public libraries also act as community and cultural centres and are getting tarnished. Many activities/projects are in progress for the development of community through public libraries which does exist only on paper, but on the ground level reality there is nothing to exhibit as an ideal example. In this situation the role of funding agencies, policy makers and also library

professionals are increasing towards revamping public library services that focus on building community face-to-face, inspiring and educating users about science, technology, arts, literature and music. This paper is an attempt to discuss the value of incredible works in which public libraries could be engaged and to highlight same innovative ways in which such libraries can serve the community. Further, this paper raised some issues for library services that can be helpful to change the image of public libraries for the community. It also discussed the useful framework for how librarians might think about innovative practices. Hopefully, these discussions will encourage library professionals interested in community services. And these will spark new ideas for public librarians and stimulate them to implement new services. It is believed that these discussions will be fruitful to government, library advisory board and the library professionals at large to understand the worth of public libraries for the development of community.

Keywords : Public libraries, Information professionals, Innovative services, Community builders.

CHANGING ROLE OF LIBRARIANS IN THE DIGITAL LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT : SKILLS, CURRENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

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This paper covers the challenging role of librarians in new digital library environment. The role of the librarian has become more dynamic and challenging in the digital age. Today the use of ICT (Information Communication and Technology) has absolutely changed the role and responsibilities of librarians. Librarians are trained in the acquisition, organization, retrieval, preserving the printed documents, dissemination of information and guide the users in searching the required information by them. Librarian also offers a helping hand for users to find out the required piece of information and to use it for personal and professional purposes. Today the concept of the librarian has rapidly changed under the influence of present electronic information age, where information is treated as an economic resource, a marketable commodity and as a social wealth, the librarians are to play an active and important role in the process of information communication system. The librarians are facing new challenges, new competitors, new demands, new expectations and a variety of information services from users. They are now to be more acquainted with the skill of handling new technologies related to collection, processing and dissemination of information. The paper also tries to reflect skills, current trends and challenges required for the library and library professionals working at digital library environment.

Keywords : Librarian, Information Communication and Technology, ICT

ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PATRONS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES: KEEPING PACE WITH THE PARADIGMATIC SOCIETAL CHANGES

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Public libraries are progressively looking to promulgate their crucial role within the community by offering activities and services that will help community members to improve their skills and to make maximum use of the facilities already available or yet to be rendered in the days to come. Information need of rural public library users is somewhat different from others. The focus of this article is to realize the changing scenario of public libraries. This paper also realizes the roles and unexplored potentials of library professionals of public libraries across India with a special reference to bridge the gap between patrons and social networking sites. The public libraries are intended to involve in more activities and render extension services that will stimulate the community's interaction with technology. In this regard web 2.0, social media, public libraries, their role and technologies, library 2.0, librarian 2.0 and the challenges have been discussed in this article. Social networking sites can serve as an invaluable tool to communicate information across communities. ICT may be used to bring the library services to the patrons. This paper shows that young library professionals are interested to use social media as a platform for promoting their libraries. Social media and public libraries are two integral parts in today's information society. Social media can be used as a potential tool for interacting between libraries and users beyond the walls of the physical library. But the problem is that users of public library are mostly rural, lower income group people and they are mostly not used to such kind of technologies. Maintaining and developing the traditional tasks of libraries, while investing resources into new services is a big challenge. As the country is progressing towards "Digital India", Government is expected to take steps for the proper development [like availability of computers, internet connections and organizing the training program for digital literacy] of rural public libraries located in the remote areas. In spite of all these, finally, the library professionals need to have confidence to take on as educators, guides, facilitators and collaborators in the interest of users. This would enable them to provide Library 2.0 services and bridge the gap between information divide.

Keywords **:** Web 2.0, Social media, Public libraries, Library 2.0, Librarian 2.0, Information divide

ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR EFFECTIVE E-GOVERNANCE

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The community, since the days of yore, has not only acknowledged the public libraries as a vital place of reading, recreational centre, cultural exchange, developing vision and strategies but also a place of freedom of expression, exchange of ideas, knowledge exchange, developing inter-personal communication and learning domain among all classes of people of the society. In view of the prevalence of ICT, there occurred visibly changes in different service sectors in the society. Added to this, Public Libraries, on the

eve of prevailing of E-governance has become crucial not only to accomplish varied missions of the Government enacted from time to time but also to ensure effective, efficient, accountable, transparent, and responsive governance through intelligent use of technology. Operations of public libraries at grass root (i.e. village) level prove to be the effective podium to implement Government initiatives and providing services effectively for making a literate society with sustainable development of economy. The public libraries operating in village level act as a catalyst and intermediary agency in strengthening and supporting various constructive initiatives of both state and central government. In spite of encouraging attempts by both central and state governments, the public both at district and rural areas are refrained from the welfares and this is due to digital divide which reckons to technological gap in getting and making use of the opportunities in rural areas due to non-availability of sufficient technology and knowledge to use it. Further, limited literacy among the public in district level in general and rural public in particular added constraints to take the benefits of the government. The village library is considered to be the proper platform for abridging the digital divide by facilitating access to various programs of the Government. To make the mission functional, a policy decision has become indispensable at the government level to let public libraries shoulder the responsibilities for   effective implementation of the programs in the ICT arena for building the nation. The paper discusses some of the strategic issues and challenges to achieve the mission through the public libraries with detail discussion on relevant areas like e-governance, bridging the digital divide.

Keywords **:** e-governance, e-government, Digital divide, Public Library, Information literacy

4.   Public Library Resources

A STUDY OF FINANCIAL PROVISIONS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MADHYA PRADESH LIBRARY ACT

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In India, the development of the Public Library system is the responsibility of the respective State Government. Library legislation can ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of the Public Libraries even at the grass root levels like rural libraries at village level. The act makes the provision for finance, human resources, physical infrastructure, ICT infrastructure and other resources in order to ensure the proper development and functioning of Public Libraries in any state. This paper discusses the various financial provisions for public libraries in library acts in India, where the act is enacted and implemented in proper way. The paper also highlighted the provision of the financial resources for any public library in Indian scenario. On the basis of studying different library acts of various states in India a proposed

model for financial provision for Madhya Pradesh State is included in this paper also.

Public Library is an important institution in any society. It is not only educational and cultural hub of the society, but also a platform for the public to share their views and opinions. The Public Libraries as non-earning institutions, must be financed, equipped and supported to their active for the goal. The proposed model for Library financing in Madhya Pradesh will working as a guideline for Government officials, Library professionals, Library users and other common people who take interest in public libraries and their services.

Keywords **:** IFLA, India, Library Act, Library Cess, Library finance, Planning Commission.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN WEST BENGAL : FINANCE AND FINANCING

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Library Services, Govt. of West Bengal, towards development and expansion of public library services in West Bengal, different types of Advisory Bodies / Decision making authorities side by side different types of Implementing Agencies lies at different levels for organising and administering the public library services in the State, etc. were reflected in the paper. The author mentioned the budget provision, budget expenditure for the last few years and the existing fund flow system for those libraries. With his past experience of working in the Directorate of Library Services, the author tried to depict the actual position of public libraries in West Bengal, with special reference to Finance and Financing. He has also stated that though there are several sources of fund meant for Government Sponsored Public Libraries in West Bengal, as mentioned in the West Bengal Sponsored Public Library Management Rules, but still in practice, the major fund received by these public libraries are borne by the State Govt., and the portion of other sources of fund in relation to total fund received by a particular library is not worth-mentioning. He also depicted the different purposes towards availing the ad-hoc grant under Plan Fund of the State Govt. and stated that the total amount of grant under Plan Fund of the Govt. in this regard is increasing each year at present. He has also indicated the existing scale of annual recurring maintenance grant for Govt. / Govt. Sponsored Public Libraries in West Bengal and showed how the public libraries in West Bengal are being manifested with the State Govt. fund at present. For meeting up the existing growing need and emerging expenses of the public libraries in West Bengal, as the pressure on the State Govt. exchequer is increasing day by day, so the author has also suggested some important measures for economic self sufficiency as well as to ensure a safe and sound economic basis of the public libraries in West Bengal for near future. He has also indicated that some of those suggested measures are already being implemented by different other states of our country and are getting fruitful result from the same.

Keywords **:** Public Library, Directorate of Library Services, West Bengal Public Libraries Act, West Bengal Sponsored Public Library Management Rules, Budget provision, Budget expenditure, Fund flow system

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF ASSAM WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GUWAHATI AND DIBRUGARH DISTRICT LIBRARIES : A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Purpose: Security of library materials is most important aspect of library services along with the safety of library patron and staff. Libraries have plans and procedures for all kinds of situations, including weather/ environmental disaster, building fires, electrical outages, etc. Therefore, for a daily running library, it is most important to having a proper plan to secure the library resources. The awareness of this matter among library professionals is another prime issue. This study is to examine the implementation of security systems in the public libraries of Assam with special reference to Guwahati and Dibrugarh District Libraries. It also gives emphasis on the main causes for non implementation of Electronic Security Systems in the surveyed District Libraries. Some suggestions are also provided for proper implementation of security system based on their needs.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Survey of literature is done on the security systems in library and information centres. For literature survey micro documents, macro documents as well as e-resources related to different library security system, Public Library, Public Library Legislation of Assam etc. have been preferred mostly. Data is collected using a structured questionnaire by visiting the selected district libraries of Assam.

Findings: From the data collected about implementation of security systems in the District Libraries of Kamrup (Metro) and Dibrugarh District of Assam, it is found that traditional /manual security systems like lock and key system, observation by library staff, single door entry and exit for library staff and users etc. are mostly practicing in both of the libraries. Electronic security systems like CCTV, RFID, and Air-Conditioner for Humidity control are implemented only in Guwahati District Library.

Originality/Value: This paper will enlighten about the different types of security systems available for library services mostly for public libraries, and about the implementation status in the Public Libraries of Assam with special reference to Guwahati and Dibrugarh District Libraries.

Keywords **:** Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Public Library, Security system, Library resource, Guwahati District Library, Dibrugarh District Library

THE THERAPIST LIBRARIAN : REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

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The influence of a Library on Human emotions has become more relevant today in the light of digital onslaught in all spheres of human activity. The Librarian has been witnessing the growing needs of its clientele. The service industry, including the library has undergone a paradigm shift from an objective

knowledge based repository of information to a more personalized and humane service. To encourage usage of the library, she/he has to proactively reach out and understand changing personalized needs and information seeking behavior of users.

As such, at a personal level, the knowledge of Human Psychology and Behaviour becomes handy and essential. The Librarian has to develop skills in client communication and behavior analysis. In addition, knowledge of psychotherapy helps him to provide the healing touch. He realizes that the one essential characteristic he needs to develop to be an effective Librarian is the quality of Human empathy. This acts as a positive unifying force bringing humanity closer. At an organizational level, the curriculum of Library science taught in various parts of the colleges and universities in the country needs to incorporate these innate human qualities.

Psychotherapy is the subject which deals with humane treatment of perceived deficiencies in a human being. Bibliotherapy as a form of psychotherapy has become a prevalent force in some countries though is still in its infancy in India. Governmental policies and regulations at the Universities can pave the path for a structured orientation amongst the librarians. This work also lists out some of the possible recommendations suited for the Indian scenario at various levels. However, one has to have a realistic expectation as clearly a rational approach to the subject and treatment warrants a deeper understanding of emotional content of human behavior and needs.

Librarians and therapists essentially need to come together to embrace the onslaught of technology and this would definitely be a necessary marriage ensuring a healthy emotional sustenance for the community it serves.

READING THROUGH THE EYES OF THE BOOK

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How good it can be if a book could speak with all inherent emotions? How good it could have been if there would be a living knowledge resource sharing child abuse, surviving acid attack, surviving HIV/ Cancer? How good it could have been someone with un-sharable could be shared to fight on? How good if a book could ever speak? How good if a book could have been a Human?

The time has come to have human as books not on scholarly subjects but on social inclusions, child labour, poverty, civil right, social justice, domestic violence, child abuse and so on. These human books could tell their own success stories and emerge as winner in the challenging conditions. They show and guide the young minds and needy to the best solution with their own experiences. The Human Library Project is world-wide initiative started at Copenhagen, Denmark. The public libraries can play a major role in organizing Human Library events for the people. There could be several reasons for public libraries to adopt the concept,

- Human library and public library connect with the people and their problems with nearly same objectives. However, human libraries are more intensive and focused
- Working culture of a Public library suits to the success of a human library

- Human library would popularize the public libraries
- Media attention and public interest could be well sought
- A strong network of public libraries and voluntary organizations/people could be established
- Provide the opportunities of 'Self-Expression' to the people of society to become a book and share their story

Human books are given on loan for a session sharing their stories with the users/readers. The sessions are interactive and could provide insights of knowledge beyond the text of a book. The public libraries can organize Human books and lend them to the users/readers on demand. The sessions could be organized within the libraries or any other place of convenience. The paper is an attempt to sensitize the public library community in India towards strength of Human library.

Keywords **:** Human Library, Human book

5. <u>Functions and Services of Public Library</u>

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES OF GOVERNMENT DISTRICT LIBRARY, BARASAT, WEST BENGAL : A SURVEY

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Introduction : This study deals with the present scenario of the collection, activities and services of North 24 Parganas Govt. District Library, Barasat as a sample to measure the overall situation of public libraries in this era of ICT in West Bengal.

Purpose : In order to achieve the goal the study precisely attempts (a) To study the library as a whole, its collection, activities, services etc.; (b) Evaluate the expertise of library personnel to give traditional as well as ICT enabled services ; (c)To understand the need of both the staff and the users.

Methodology : In order to achieve the objectives of the research, it has been intended to adopt the method like questionnaire and interview method, observation, record analysis etc. A semi-structured questionnaire for users and interview for the staff of the library were organized for data collection.

Findings : There are near about 18742 books and 100 CD-ROM, 20 maps and 50 charts etc. there are Brail books for blind. LIBSYS Software was installed in 2014, almost all the books are processed but the library has decided to start Koha, the process has not started yet. There are statistical analyses of the data on the resources, users of the library etc collected at the time of survey. Then there are the statistical details on the basis of the survey on the users of the Library. The data analyses are on the age, sex, qualification, occupation of the users, their frequency of visit, their satisfaction about the library collection and services etc. The study reveals that there is insufficiency of library staff, the average daily lending of books in every year is decreasing. The daily average visitors are also decreasing. There is no internet access for the users. Procurement of e-resources is not introduced and automation has not yet been done. From the overall review of the survey of the library users, we can find out that the maximum users of the library belong to the age between 20-30. Maximum users are graduate but unemployed. Among them maximum read the book for educational purpose and they mainly consult text books. The dissatisfaction about the existing collection is mainly not finding the required books, so Stock verification and rectification should be done at a regular basis as it is open access.

Keywords **:** Public Library, District Library, Collection development, Services, West Bengal

A STUDY ON COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH

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"The public library is a local gateway to knowledge which provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision- making and cultural development of the individual and social groups" (UNESCO, Public Library Manifesto, 1994). This way, public libraries have significant role in educating and providing opportunities for individuals of society to grow. This role can be justified by taking great care in development and management of its collection. UNESCO Public Library Manifesto has clearly set a guideline for collection development in public library. The Manifesto states that "collections and services of public library should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, nor commercial pressures". To serve each user-group public libraries should follow the guidelines. The building and developing library collection is one of the most essential function of the public library because all the services of a public library revolve round the collection. But sometimes it seems that the development of effective, well-balanced library collections which must be capable to provide answers to most of their users' information needs is not given much attention due to various reasons. That is why this study have been conducted to go through and observe the prevailing practices of collection development and its usage in the public libraries and what measures can be taken in order to contribute to further development. To derive the data, survey was conducted through questionnaire distributed to librarians of public libraries followed by interview and observation.

This paper throws light on current functioning of collection development activity of the public libraries that involves analysis of chronological profile of public libraries, types of staff, collection size, annual budget, collection development policy, document selection and acquisition, user visit, user demand and use of information communication technology (ICT) in the public libraries of Lucknow. The major findings of the study reveal that public libraries have highest number (55) of professional staff. Books are the major part of the collection in public libraries. 78.57 % libraries do not follow any collection development policy. In 78.57% public libraries, library committee is prime authority for document selection.

Keywords **:** Public libraries, Collection development, Lucknow, Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM).

ISSUES ON ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCES IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN INDIA

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The Public library system is developed to provide service to all walks of people in the society. In today's scenario, the users need digital material and rely mainly on online resources, but the public library system still needs to progress in this direction. Many public libraries are still following the closed access system, and the staff is not provided required training to acquire knowledge and skills. The concept of repackaging of information still lacks in public library system. But the public library has a pivotal role to play in the social empowerment of an individual. It tries to meet the needs of every individual from a child to an adult. The public libraries are not administered and managed with the clear mandate of law in many states of India. There are different tools and techniques available that are used in the libraries to manage the resources efficiently. Organisation of resources is vital for the success of any public library. In the context of public library, Organisation involves describing documents, indexing and cataloguing, classifying and organizing the knowledge resources such as databases, archives, maps and other knowledge sources in various formats. It is conducted by information specialists, archivists, subject specialists, as well as computer algorithms. There are various approaches to organization of resources. In the vast expanse of information generated in today's world, it is indeed very challenging to organise and retrieve the exact required information in the shortest possible time. Different knowledge organisation techniques are aiding information retrieval to be fast yet reliable.

This paper discusses the traditional and IT based methods to organize the resources in public libraries. Proper handling of resources is a major concern in public libraries. Availability of technologies gives libraries the opportunity to provide improved and customer-driven services to the users. Some recommendations are also mentioned in the paper. An attempt has been made to bring forth the issues and concerns encountered by public libraries in India.

Keywords **:** Public Library, Organigation of resources, Organisation techniques, customer-driven service

RESOURCES AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL LIBRARY: A CASE STUDY IN BINAPANI SMRITI PATHAGAR, WEST BENGAL

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Purpose : Public libraries are considered as the people's university. It plays an important role in enriching the society through its services using its resources. So a public library is always in need of having the updated collection which enables to extend effective services towards its users. Sometime public libraries

are considered as the pillar of knowledge in the society emphasizing the continuous development of its collection. A collection development policy for any library is essential to achieve its goal by preventing it from being influenced by individual interest and from a random purchase which may not support its mission. Thus, the present study aims to know about the collection and collection development policy of rural public libraries through performing a case study in Binapani Smriti Pathagar, a rural library of Hooghly district in West Bengal.

Methodology: The geographical position and the socio-economic conditions of the locality prompted the authors to perform a study to understand the status of the collection of Binapani Smriti Pathagar. A survey is conducted through interview and observations. The collection development policy of this library is also reviewed. IFLA has proposed detailed giudelines towards collection development whereas Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) has given much simpler guideline. This study tries also to compare the IFLA guidelines for collection development and guidelines provided by Raja Rammohun Ray Library Foundation (RRRLF) with the collection development policy of the particular library.

Findings : The collection development framework is required for selection of resources, for planning in achieving goals through public relations in the wider context. Though Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) does not have prescribed rules like IFLA, but has recommended a proportion/ratio among types of documents to be procured. Thus keeping in mind the IFLA guidelines for collection development, RRRLF recommendations are followed with some deviations. It is found that there is maximum deviation in the collection of art and literature and then in the collection of popular sciences. There is moderate deviation from the recommendation in the collection of social sciences, general and reference books and the children's books. The collection in philosophy and religion exactly matches with the recommended percentage.

Originality : This study is carried out first time in Binapani Smriti Pathagar towards finding the correlations with its mission. As its main aim is to serve the readers and the society, so the principle of book selection is based on the needs of the readers. This study would guide the library for the future.

Keywords **:** Collection development, Collection development policy, IFLA guidelines, RRRLF guidelines, Binapani Smriti Pathagar.

MOBILE AND WARD LIBRARY SERVICES THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS : A CASE STUDY

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Purpose : Mobile library service is practised to the potential users of the community, who are physically unable to come to the library. Through this service the store house of knowledge and information are brought to the doorsteps of the community as a whole. The ward libraries are also very important for the members of each wards to keep abreast with the present day challenges. The paper highlights the value added such services and based on the primary data collected through field survey ,personal observation, taking feedbacks from the readers and consulting the concerned library website, data are analysed and

recommendations are made accordingly.

Methodology : Survey method has been applied to carry out the study. A structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among the mobile and ward library members. Interview and personal observation also applied for data collection. Secondary sources were also consulted to understand the concept of mobile and ward library services. Out of 110 members, the response was received from 87 members with response rate of 77.3%.

Findings : The responsibility for establishing and developing mobile library service may rest with the parent organisation but the librarian should take the initiative and take the responsibility to carry out his extra extension service. There is an importance of policy and planning for a mobile and ward libraries. Higher educational institutions like colleges and university must have proper planning and adopt a standard policy to establish the mobile library. They should ideally be dedicated to provide library services to the people as an extension activity and outreach programme.

Originality : The overall objective of a mobile library service has been to promote equity of service provision by enhancing the opportunity of access to library services. A mobile library provides the most flexible of library service, not being restricted to any particular population centre and able to respond to the needs of diverse population.

Keywords : Academic Library, Carcinoma, Differently able, Higher Education, Innovative practice, Mobile Library, Senior citizen, Ward Library, Assam.

LIBRARY BRANDING : EXTENDING THE OUTREACH OF "PUBLIC LIBRARIES" IN INDIA

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Purpose: The paper aims to explore the awareness about Public Libraries in the city of Varanasi, India. This paper attempts to highlight the benefits of library branding or promotional activities, a much less talked about theme, as far as Indian public library services scenario is concerned.

Methodology: A small data representing the status of awareness among people in Varanasi is presented to have a glance view at the root level problems affecting public libraries. An attempt is made to study the national policy for library and information system to explore the mechanisms for better outreach. It also studies the role of RRRLF in the promotional activities of a library.

Findings: Typically, the public libraries in Varanasi are existing in anonymity. Government apathy and lack of interest from local citizen are some of the reasons behind the existing situation of public libraries in the city. There are a lot of people working for the development of the infrastructure and services of the

public libraries, but the fact is that the majority of citizens do not even know about the existence of public libraries in their vicinity. Moreover, ICT are evolving at a very fast pace and have presented their users several options to access information. Hence, challenges for libraries and librarians are like never before and they just can't afford to be lethargic in their approach. They need to come out of their shells, become proactive and make themselves presentable and attractive. Public libraries need to imbibe new means to gain maximum outreach.

Originality: This paper suggests different ways to extend the reach and usability of public libraries in India from the root level. It also proposes an idea to let people know at least about the term public library through their various essential identity cards issued by the Government of India. Some other issues related to promotion of public libraries through branding and advertising are also discussed.

Keywords **:** Library branding, NAPLIS, Public library service, Varanasi

6.   Public Library Standards and Guidelines

PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR INDIA

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Development of public libraries in India has not only been haphazard but also disproportionate to the population. If we look into the condition of public libraries in different states, we find a dismal picture. There are instances where libraries are there but there is no minimum number of staff to run them or no library service worth mentioning. The quality of service obviously depends on following relevant standards. In our country, the available standards are often not followed as there is no legal binding to do so. A standard is a minimum degree of excellence for a product or a uniform pattern of practice/process/ procedure. On the other hand, a guideline provides direction to action or behaviour. Standards and guidelines are required for smooth running of a library and maintaining a minimum level of services to adequately meet the needs of the users. The various areas in which standards are needed for public libraries are: basis for setting up of a public library, funding, space calculation, building, furniture, equipments, staff, stationeries, maintenance of statistics, performance indicators and technology related areas. Besides, there should be standards for green public libraries and inclusive public libraries. UNESCO first took initiative in formulating a Public Library Manifesto in 1949, which was revised in association with IFLA in 1994. The manifesto delineates the essential requirements for public libraries to function effectively. Meanwhile, IFLA also formulated 'Standards for Public Libraries' in 1973 and in 1986 IFLA and UNESCO joined hands to produce 'Guidelines for Public Libraries', which replaced the earlier document. It contained "not rules but advice". These guidelines were revised in 2001. In USA, different states have developed their own public library standards. In UK the government launched Public Library Standards in 2001, which were revised for the first time in 2004 and again in 2008. They reflect the minimum standard of service that local people are entitled to expect. In Australia, where good progress has been made in public library development, Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) brought out standards for public libraries in 1990. A new set of guidelines was published in 2011, with a second edition released the following year. In 2016 ALIA along with Australian Public Library Alliance and National and State

Libraries Australasia (NSLA) got the earlier guidelines reviewed and updated through a private organization and the new guidelines were published under the title 'Guidelines, Standards and Outcome Measures for Australian Public Libraries'. The Bureau of Indian Standards has formulated a good number of standards relating to library, most of which are relevant for public libraries. In 2003, it brought out IS 15339 Public Library – Guidelines, which is quite comprehensive in nature. But there are still many areas, specially relating to public libraries, in which there is dearth of standards. These areas should be identified and standards should be formulated. Moreover, the public library guidelines should be further revised in the model of Australian public library guidelines, which have three clear components.

Keywords **:,** Public Library Standards, Australian public library guidelines, The Bureau of Indian Standards

RESEARCH OUTPUT ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES : A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY

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Purpose : The study focuses on the bibliometric analysis of the research output on "Public Library". The purpose is to analyse different bibliometric aspects, like most productive institutions, top journals, types of documents containing the literature, year-wise growth of literature etc.

Methodology : To conduct the study data was retrieved from the Web of Science (WoS) since 1989. To conduct the study Web of Science database was used as prime source to download literature using "Public Library" as keyword in topic field and " India" in the country field. A total of 3261 papers were retrieved which was further analysed using *Histcite* software.

Findings : The study revealed that the highest number of publications was (266) in the year 2016 followed by the year 2015 with (248) publications. USA with a total of (973) publication ranked one. United Kingdom got the second rank with 348 publications. Highest number of publications was published in the Library Journal followed by the Journal of Librarianship and Information Science with 168 publications. In the ranking of authors, about 63 publications are anonyms followed by the Jaeger, Paul T with 21 publications. Articles (2094) is the top most types of documents which are indexed in Web of Science, whereas book reviews are second most popular form of literature output with 649 publications. Maximum number of documents is published in English language (2898). University of Western Ontario has highest 64 contribution on public library literature followed by University of Illinois with 52 contributions.

Originality : There is no bibliometric study on public library literature using Web of Science. Present study is very useful to those who are engaged in research on Public Libraries**.**

Keywords **:** Public Library, WoS, Bibliometrics.

7.   Public Library Users

ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED USERS

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Public Libraries have an ethical commitment to make data accessible to all classes of users regardless of their gender, age, race, political affiliation and disability. Public libraries have more extensive role rather than academic or special libraries in respect of services and guidelines to underprivileged users. Considering the necessities of differently abled persons, the public libraries should be outfitted with various sorts of Assistive Technologies (AT), so this underprivileged group can be able to become self-dependent to access library resources. Building up an efficient public library service for disabled persons is extremely important for their life-long learning. The public libraries ought to remember that they need to give the library amenity on nearby needs in a worldwide situation. Participation and networking in between the public libraries make it simple to understand the necessities of the users and can serve in like manner.

Brail Luis had developed Brail code which revolutionized the education world to think about underprivileged community and this work has given valuable means to librarian to special service and corner for special user. A competent authority and international organization International Federation of Library Association and Institution (IFLA) develops guidelines and principles of library service to Braille users. These guidelines help the state government or the local authority of public library to frame policies for making a specific corner to this community in public library. Nineteen states had enacted Public Library Acts by the great efforts of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and other luminaries of library professional of India. Only two of them have special services for differently abled users. Their endeavors show that Indian state public libraries have great opportunity and potency to develop a well functioned system for underprivileged community.

This paper highlighted the special equipments, guidelines and services that the public libraries are providing to the underprivileged community. Various pedagogical software and hardware like Kutzwel 1000, Daisy, AVAZ, SLATE etc. are also discussed in detail.

It further discussed some ways and means to improve accessibility of public libraries for the differently abled users. This paper also gives a brief account of some public libraries which promote and provide the assistive and innovative services to the differently abled users.

Keywords **:** Public Library, Underprivileged person, Assistive tools and technologies

ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE DESIGNING AND APPLICATION OF OTHER ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY USERS WITH VISION DISABILITY

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A public library is the local access point of information and knowledge for the users irrespective of cast, creed, religion, colour, nationality, age, gender, language, extent of disability, economic condition, employment status, education level, etc. Our country is a unique example of 'unity in diversity' from all angles. According to census of India, 2011, out of 121 crore population of the country, about 2.68 crore persons are differently-abled, which is 2.21 per cent of the total population. In an era, in which 'inclusive development' is being emphasised as the right path towards sustainable development, focussed initiatives for the welfare of differently-abled persons are essential. Some public libraries of the countries have taken measures to turn into inclusive libraries, but there are many more which are yet to take any initiative in the matter. The present study is mainly concerned with the public library users with vision disability. The vision-disabled persons constitute 19 per cent of the total disabled persons and comprise of blind persons, persons with blurred vision even after using spectacles, colour blind persons, etc. For providing web-base services to such people, public libraries need to develop websites accessible to such people. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG 2.0) can help in designing such websites. WCAG 2.0 has 12 guidelines organized under four principles: perceivable, operable, understandable and robust. Some assistive technologies which can help the vision-disabled users are screen reader, refreshable Braille display, Braille printer, Text-to-Braille converter, etc. The paper discusses the aforesaid guidelines and technologies.

Keywords **:** Assistive Technology- Blind, Visually impaired, Screen Reader, Braille Printer, Braille Translator, Refreshable Braille display, WCAG 2.0

A STUDY ON USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF TRIPURA

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Public libraries of North East India are facing a lot of problems due to lack of proper infrastructure. This is true in case of public libraries of Tripura too. Study of relevant literature has revealed that more research is required to understand the user-need and user-satisfaction in public libraries of the state. Accordingly, a study was undertaken by the authors to find the needs and satisfaction level of the users of public libraries of Agartala and other parts of Tripura. Survey method using questionnaire, personal

contact and interview of the respondents and librarians in some cases were used for this study. Besides, data collection has been supplemented by information obtained from primary and secondary sources of information, and direct observation of the users' attitude towards the public library. Tabulation and analysis of data have revealed that more than 60% of the users visit libraries daily or weekly; around 70% of the users spend upto one hour in libraries; around 67% of the users prefer to visit libraries in the evening; newspapers, journals and text/story books are preferred by majority of users (72%); newspapers are most frequently consulted by the users (90%); and majority of the users (54%) visit libraries for making preparation for competitive examination or career development. Based on these findings, some suggestions and recommendations have been made for providing more efficient and speedy public library services to the people of the state.

Keywords : Public libraries, North East India, Tripura, Library service, State Central Library

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MAXIMISING THE USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE 21ST CENTURY : A PROPOSAL IN REACHING EVERY STRATA OF THE SOCIETY

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Purpose : The modern life-style with competitive mentality, increasing materialistic demand and inability of balancing between different such aspects in life has led mental stress and strain among common mass. Therefore mental tension, frustration and various psychological issues are increasing in today's world. Reading can be suggested for recovering from such mental agony. Public library can be a place where such facilities would be extended for people of such special needs. The present study focuses on these overlooking zones or challenges incorporating which may help immensely in maximising the use of the public library by reaching the need of the users coming from different societal structures.

Methodology/Design/Approach : Observation method has been adopted as basic methodology for this present study. A number of persons with special needs have been interacted. The analytical approach has been taken to identify the major challenges.

Findings : The findings of the study which came out from the above observations have been embodied in this paper systematically. The major challenges, as found, include dealing with users with specific ailments like Arthritis, Dyslexia, Parkinson, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and so on. While developing the collection of the public library the challenges like gender issues; users from teenage vs. old age group; the literary demand as well as the daily life demand of the user community; acquiring documents in local languages; documents on different religious believes; documents on health awareness keeping in mind the changing lifestyle; solving the problem of digital divide; helping in eradicating the problem of illiteracy within the social structure; and in moral upliftment of the crowning youths of the community in India. Focuses have also been given to some other challenges which include attracting the child psyche; analysis of the user's genuine need before lending document; having multiple documents on important topics, local issues; and thus ultimately to make the public library a knowledge hub where people can have 'meaningful' time-pass and to enrich the horizon of their knowledge.

Originality/Value : The present study is based only on observation method. Though proper sampling and data analysis are not carried out, the observation-based outcomes of this study would give a direction for public libraries in taking initiatives to extend their roles in providing services to the users of special needs.

Keywords **:** Information need, Special need, User, Public Library, India

USERS AND USES OF THE RESOURCES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES : A SURVEY OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN WEST BENGAL

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The benefits and value of public libraries is assessed by measuring how well they meet the needs of their communities which the users gain by using library services. In our country the condition of public library is at present miserable, owing to political and economic reason. The lack of library professionals and paucity of resource can be considered the reason for the aversion of communities towards library. A few R&D based institution and/or organization are on good demand though the public libraries are in worst condition. This writing aims at the assessment of collection development of a town public library at a time when digital / virtual libraries becomes highly popular. The collections of resources are to be taken into consideration keeping in view the characteristics of the users who use library services and the accountability of the library to its community. The extent of popularity among the communities and the strength of information transfer cycle are also important to the town library community. Whatever the collection and an excellent management the library have there is some drawbacks. Naturally, this library is not exceptional. A configuration is tried to make about how can a public library overcome all their drawbacks and become a more popular, well-known and an attractive organization. This work is based on a survey conducted in a public library which is Krishnanagar Public Library. The data was collected by using questionnaires among a stratified random sampling of 150 library users. They are categorized by age group, gender group, and profession group. The result shows that the library is valuable; the services are satisfactory for most of the users which helps them to keep up-to-date and to improve their information seeking skills in their professional development as well as leisure period. The library is quite a safe and calm place for studying and most of the users are getting benefits of the same. Here, also indicates the various problems of service and different issues of the library through this survey. Hope that it will help to overcome the problems by developing proper library policies and to provide better services.

Keywords **:** Information seeking behaviour, Public library development, Public library service, Public library resources, Public library situation, Public library users

INFORMATION NEEDS AND INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF USERS : A STUDY OF DELHI PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Libraries are set up with the primary objective of meeting the information needs of the groups of people who constitute their clientele. Information needs and information seeking pattern of public library users vary due to the various demographic, social, cultural and economic factors. Delhi Public Library has a network of Zonal Libraries, Branches and Sub-branches, Resettlement Colony Libraries, Community Libraries, Deposit Stations, Mobile Library, Braille Library, etc. spread all over Delhi. The present study was confined to the main library and four branch libraries. Fifty users – 33 male and 17 female – were selected from these libraries using random sampling method and were surveyed by using questionnaires to determine their information needs and information seeking behaviour. After tabulation and analysis of data, it was found that 56% of the users visited the library daily or weekly; 60% of the users visited the library for reading newspapers, or preparation for competitive examinations, or collecting information regarding employment opportunities; 48% of the users consulted newspapers and periodicals; 52% of the users prefer subject wise search of information; 74% of the users found Internet services provided by the library as good; 64% of the users were highly satisfied with the information found in journals and periodicals; and 48% of the users found the library services very good. The study also revealed that around one-fourth of users had time constraint in using the library resources. Finally, some suggestions have been made for improvement of library services to better satisfy the needs of the users.

Keywords **:** Information needs, Information seeking behavior, User study, Public Library, Rural Library, Delhi Public Library

8.   Future Strategies

STATUS OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF KAMRUP DISTRICT, ASSAM

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Purpose : The present study aims at assessing the present status of library automation in the public libraries of Kamrup and identify the barriers to library automation faced by the library staff.

Methodology : Literature search, questionnaire and interview methods were adopted for the study. A structured questionnaire was designed by consulting a number of previous surveys relating to library automation, which were distributed among the library professionals in all the surveyed public libraries. Responses were received from all of them (i.e. 100% response). Simple percentage method was used for analysing the data.

Findings : Data analysis revealed that the implementation of library automation in public libraries of Kamrup district was at a very initial stage. All the district libraries were not able to fully implement library automation because of paucity of funds, shortage of staff, inadequate infrastructure to support ICT and lack of qualified library personnel.

Research Limitations : The public library system in Kamrup district under Directorate of Library Services, Assam, comprises of one district library, two sub-divisional libraries, one children library, one reading hall library, one reference library and one branch library. The present study covers only five libraries out of seven libraries. Two libraries i.e., Sub-Divisional Library, Pragjyotishpur, and Sub-Divisional Library, Rangia, were not covered as these libraries have not yet implemented library automation.

Keywords **:** Library Automation, ICT, Public Library, District Library, Kamrup District

DISCOVER, LEARN AND CONNECT THROUGH LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

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Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to highlight the importance of the concept of Library Learning Commons for existence of public libraries in India. Learning Commons is a combination of both physical and virtual space. Library Learning Commons is to provide users a chance to discover, to learn and to connect themselves to the knowledge and the people. This paper is purposed to present the conceptual

framework and the implications of Learning Commons in the public libraries.

Methodology/Approach: The paper provides a theoretical approach where public library as a space can be utilized not only for the issue-return process or collection of documents; rather it can be used more precisely for the benefit of the users and to satisfy their diverse learning needs. In this regard, four space models — inspiration, learning, meeting and performative spaces are explained to prove their applicability in public libraries.. This paper relies on the secondary data presented in journal articles and other sources of information on the internet.

Findings/Discussion: Library Learning Commons is a concept which develops learning and knowledge in the users' community regardless of their age, gender, community and knowledge. This concept of using 'library as a space' for learning is the need of the future society where library is not just a storehouse of stacks containing printed documents. Use of library building is not only for the purpose of stacks and racks but also for creating and sharing knowledge. This paper finds that library should reinvent their services from content driven curriculum to knowledge building process. This space can be used for the collaborative learning efforts within the library. It is an attempt to show that how the library building can be used to attract the users to meet at a common place and inquire, discuss and create knowledge.

Originality/Value: The paper could be useful for the libraries looking for leaning-centric services for their users. It is also useful in policy making as well as providing innovative services to the users. Library Learning Commons would help both in academic as well as social development of an individual regardless of their age, gender and community. Library Learning Commons is beneficial to minimize the gap of Digital Divide in all the sections of society. In the near future, Learning Commons and Learning Analytics would be a good area of research and innovation for libraries as well as for librarians.

Keywords **:** Public Library, Library learning commons

STRATEGIES FOR TRANSFORMING PUBLIC LIBRARIES INTO SMART PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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In India, education in Vedic times was imparted from memory of the teachers and students used to learn it by repetition. It can be said that teachers were 'Human Libraries'. With passage of time manuscripts were written and housed in palaces of Kings and homes of eminent teachers; for use by a select literate few; probably because the general public was not educated. In 300 BC King Asoka had inscriptions done on stone pillars that can be termed a library out in open for public. India was invaded by many including but not limited to Turks, French, British who over time helped to build or destroy libraries. PLs were established by British for their benefit & colonial purposes but were soon opened to the natives. National Mission on Libraries reports there are 54856 PLs in India. PLs can be defined as sources not only of books and e-resources; but also as repositories for cultural heritage of the community; an educational gateway extending lifelong learning to its users without any discrimination or bias (for or against) caste, creed, age, income, sex, religious or political affiliations leading to social, cultural, educational, linguistic, literary, political awakening of the community members residing in and around, by making available its resources free of cost to public as its maintained by funds from government and/or philanthropists. With

new concepts, tools and technologies being introduced in PLs, they are becoming public spaces where not only communities' information needs are met but the members meet and interact; so services from PLs need to cater to changing community information requirements. The scope of PL has increased and with it the role of librarians has been changed vastly and they now have a different and diverse role to play now more than ever. Different strategies have to be adopted for impacts how they are developed and services they extend. This article provides history of Public Library (PL) system in India; with suggestions and strategies for developing PLs of India and transforming them into Smart PL.

Keywords : Public Library, Smart Public Library, India

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN RURAL BENGAL : PRESENT REALITY AND PERMEATE INTO FUTURE

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Purpose: Public libraries are social units. It has to function in conformity with the social system, precisely keeping pace with the socio-economic get-goings. In other words, effectivity of the functions of Public libraries is greatly impacted by Social, Economical, Political, Technological, Legal and Geographical environment. West Bengal was the third state in the country to enact the Public Library Act, but took pioneering step to form a separate ministry for library services which led the Govt of West Bengal to establish 2480 public libraries within a short period; to exploit the technological facilities, establishment of the West Bengal Public Library Network (http://www.wbpublibnet.gov.in) was of its first kind across the country. Above all a considerable number of libraries are established in rural Bengal with an intention to serve marginal people for their socio economical upliftment, they were supposed to enhance and keep literacy rate at its highest level. Many initiatives have been undertaken by the Government with a view to develop library services in the state. The present paper is to explore the ground reality in respect of achieving the warranted goal.

Methodology: For this presentation, facts are investigated in different aspects through interaction as an participant of district level conferences of librarians of public libraries and also as an organiser of a rural library situated in a remote village of coastal Bengal. Initiatives of a founder member of Barabantalia Pragati Sangha could convert the village club into a Government sponsored two storied Barabantalia Pragati Sangha Pathagar. A survey is conducted by interview. User behaviour observed, Government Orders are inspected, expectation of the locality analysed.

Findings: With special effort of some members of this village library Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) and Government of West Bengal extended assistance for infrastructural development, MPLAD funds were also arranged. Residents of this locality are also enthusiastic in generating fund through contribution. A total children section was established with financial support of a member to serve about 250 children members. To popularise library services Government has issued an order insisting libraries to celebrate prescribed 52 important events in a year. Guidelines of purchasing books are also modified through Government order; some modifications are brought in public library management rules. Numbers of libraries are running without librarians. Many such incidents have created confusions among librarians. These have also brought uncertainty in library services putting local people into

frustration.

Originality/Value: The productivity and warranted functioning of the public library is exclusively incumbent on some basic factors – library services, planning for it, proper managerial expertise and professionalism of librarians, evolving the process to satisfy the library users, re-assessing the LIS education, and accreditation of the LIS Courses and Services. This study suggests to give priority of meeting the daily need of the marginal people's livelihood keeping in view of the Government Orders. This paper suggests Government to revisit the orders to make it more effective in conformity with the ground reality.

Keywords: Public Library Service, Rural Library, West Bengal.

EVOLVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES BY MOUNTING THE INCLUSIVE SERVICES

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Purpose: Public libraries are considered as a kind of community resource centres serving the society and the nation. In addition it should be a place for life-long learning, This paper is to analyse the role of public libraries towards educating the common peoples. This paper is also planned to see whether public libraries can shorten the pathway of government plans and projects from policy making to implementationat the grass-route level.

Methodology: Public libraries across the globe facing the sustainability issues, and running lack of various resources, capital, manpower resource, and knowledge. This paper deals with evaluation of existing conventional services and other assistance to the locals by State Central Libraries of Goa and Gujarat as their services are proven excellent in the effects and benefits. Qualitative contents taken from the various sources available in the central library's websites are assessed. The response and implication is implemented in inductive method with and expectations of deductive response.

Findings: A prominent role of a public library is to help users by means of various input directly or indirectly perceived from the social events and happenings around. Traditional knowledge and beliefs are to be preserved and hosted at a secured place, which is to be used in solving the social inquiries and fixing the unclear thoughts. Libraries serves to who seek to clarify approximate ideas. The perfect amalgamation of customary and independence is a significant amount of today's material (Information) transmission. It's a part of their services, they makes arrangement for lectures on health and issues, local happening etc. Library of things like internet of things is a part of Goa state central library which is highly recommended for the other libraries too.

Originality/Value: This research creates nodes for further studies with practical tools such as demographic studies, child learning and education center, bridging the gender gap, solving the social conflicts, understanding the social change pattern, localizing the technological change, segmenting the traditional knowledge to local problem solving level. Apart from these core connecting points for futuristic research this paper deals with the conceptualizing the role and responsibilities requirements of a public libraries in the advanced technological era.

SIG01 : Social Sciences Information

Theme : Information Literacy Competency Development

STRATEGY FOR INFORMATION LITERACY COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

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Mere existence of information cannot bridge the gaps between the information-haves and information-have-nots. Information have-nots not necessarily always suffer for lack of information; they suffer mostly due to their inability to harness the available information efficiently at need. Information literacy can play a vital role in this context. Information Literacy indicates a range of skills which enables a person to identify, access, evaluate and utilize relevant information effectively. The factors that may have an impact in the development of these competencies are the literacy level and the intellectual level of the learner, contents of information literacy programme, method used in information literacy instructions and so on. Assessment of information literacy is required to determine how far an information literate person is able to do the aforesaid tasks. There should be some standards against which the level of information literacy can be gauged. Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of ALA, first brought out Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education in 2000. Since then many information literacy standards have been formulated for people of different sectors. Further, for assessment of information literacy competency, instruments, such as tests or questionnaires, have been designed and used by different organizations. A suitable instrument may be developed, based on these instruments, in a specific situation. Besides, a scale for assessment may be decided (such as Adequately Information Literate – Partially Information Literate – Poorly Information Literate). Based on the results of assessment, new information literacy programme should be designed so that any deficiency in information literacy of a person or persons can be removed, because adequate information literacy, according to Prague Declaration entitled 'Towards and Information Literate Society', "is a prerequisite for participating effectively in the Information Society, and is part of the basic human right of lifelong learning".

DIGITAL LITERACY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS: NEW WAYS OF COMMUNITY SERVICES THROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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Advent of Internet has changed the whole scenario of the World. Digital literacy is expressed as one of the necessary skills to empower people to take part prominently in contemporary society. It has found

that older citizens are not convenient with the technology and they often feel the difficulty to use the devices and their features. Many studies show that senior citizens are imperceptive in adopting technology and they unconfident for using ATMS or online banking and are worried for the safety of their savings with bank in digital environment. Community services are key component of public library and conventionally public libraries were providing adult literacy programme through many ways; now with change of technology public libraries need to switch over their literacy program to digital literacy program. Digital literacy is the capability needs for full involvement in a knowledge society. It encompasses behavioural skills and knowledge to use the digital devices such as smart phones, tablets, laptops and desktop PCs for purposes of communication and expression their daily life. The present government in India is aiming for a "Digital India", the vision of the project being: Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen; Delivering Governance & Services Digitally; Digital Empowerment of Citizens. However the picture is very contrast it has been revealed that amongst the digital device users in India, only 6% are over 50 years of age. This difference is worsen for mobile data, with only 1% users being 50 years or older. The reasons for such low numbers of digital device adoption in the higher age category are various. In India, the cognizance utility and complexity of the services prevents adoption of mobile data. Almost a third of the respondents feel no reason to use the mobile Internet and 24% reported that using these services are "too knotty". This is a generation that has grown without Internet technology and is usually hostile to new technical skills. They will be act as setback for the government movement towards digitisation. Now a day's many public libraries from different countries have launched different program to empower senior citizens to become active user of new technology. Although public libraries face many hurdles and barriers in their efforts to provide access and training services, they are adopting their role in new digital environment, and they continue to expand their services and innovate in their practices. The paper discusses the state of art report, how public libraries can embrace digital literacy programme for community services especially for senior citizen.

Keywords : Public libraries, digital literacy, community services

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS AMONG PG STUDENTS OF MIZORAM UNIVERSITY: A SURVEY

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Information is the basic requirement of the students for their academic activities. Information has a great value in education, learning, and research process. In the ICT era apart from the traditional printed sources, information is available, in abundance, in various forms and formats. Photographs, images, audio, and video are all valid sources of information even when they are available in online. Due to significant changes in the information environment students' academic activities are enriched in several ways. Information is a resource that is naturally needed in all human actions as well as very crucial to the development of a nation. The material prosperity of any nation is linked almost directly to its information wealth. Information availability and its free flow through an effective dissemination network are necessary

pre-conditions for the emergence of a crop of well-informed community. The Information available through libraries, community centers, special interest organization, media, and internet should be free of any geographical boundaries. Information literacy is a transformational process where the learner needs to find, understand and use information in various forms to create for personal, social or global purposes. Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize the information with the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively. Information Literacy is a comprehensive and never ending life long process. It has a wide range of fields such as Computer Literacy, Network Literacy, Web Literacy, Digital Literacy, Media Literacy, Visual Literacy and Critical Literacy etc. Each type of information literacy has its specific nature. The purpose of this paper is to assess basic information literacy skills among PG students of Mizoram University, Aizawl. A structured questionnaire was designed to collect the primary data from the respondents and 250 questionnaires were distributed among PG students of Mizoram University, out of which 196 (78%) respondents were received for data analysis. The results were analyzed and presented in the tabulated form. The findings revealed that the PG students in Mizoram University are well aware of the library collections and services rendered.

Keywords **:** Information Literacy, User study, Information Technology, PG student, Mizoram University

ICT LITERACY AMONG LIBRARY USERS : A STUDY IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS OF BARAK VALLEY, ASSAM

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The concept, meaning and definition of ICT are discussed. This paper focuses on ICT awareness among the library users. Information and knowledge are nowadays the drivers in the global society. The capacity of managing the knowledge-based society is the critical skill of this era. The ability to have a good base of knowledge means that a society can start influencing that base to create further knowledge and increasing its advantage over its competitors. Towards a knowledge based society ICT is acting as a vehicle for information acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. The present study has been undertaken to know the ICT literacy skills among the library users of Professional Institutes in Cachar District. The students, teachers, staffs and other members are mainly drawn from professional institutes.

The present work was carried out during January 2013 to July 2013. Survey method has been adopted, which comprises of questionnaires. The questionnaire was designed keeping in view of the main objectives of the study which was mainly consisting of closed ended-questions for knowing the opinion of the respondents in respect of ICT literacy skills among the library users.

The study result reveals that World Wide Web and e-mail are the mostly preferred types of ICT which has been using by the respondents. The study also reveals that the slow access speed of internet is the major problem which users always find in the time of using internet. The respondents using ICT for their research/ study and communication purpose respectively. The analysis of ICT literacy skills and awareness of various technologies revealed that library users are moderately skilled in various technologies and applications, but the awareness level was low in the case of tools and services. The Professional institutes must give much emphasis on ICT awareness of library users.

Keywords : ICT Literacy, Technical Institutions- Cachar District, Knowledge Society,

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LITERACY OF USERS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES : A CASE STUDY OF USERS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN BURDWAN DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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The aim of the paper is to clarify the various Information Technology Literacy (ITL) practices in public libraries in Burdwan District, West Bengal. It identifies the problems facing information technology literacy programmes in Public Libraries, and also provides suggestions on how best to improve the ITL practices. Twenty Librarians helped in survey. The study revealed that twenty Public libraries in Burdwan District were engaging in different ITL practices ranging from library tour to introductory information technology skills; searching skills, recognize different website and devices. Different problems such as lack of interest by general users and management, inadequate human resources to handle ITL training, lack of other facilities, low acceptance of online ITL delivery approach and absence of ITL policy or programme. The study would inform Public Library librarians who want to train users on information technology literacy skills in order to facilitate full exploitation of information resources and services in their libraries. The paper describes information technology literacy problems are Digital divide, Socioeconomic status, education, geography, age, ability, language, or other factors. Why do rural libraries offer less digital literacy training and patron support? How do rural libraries compare to libraries in more populated areas on key issues in digital literacy, such as employment and government information? The findings will help librarians who want to improve on their ITL programmes in Public libraries in West Bengal and other state of India, What policies have been developed to help rural libraries in promoting digital literacy? What policies—including funding structures and decisions—hinder these libraries from adequately addressing these concerns? What governmental and extra-governmental policies can be taken to help rural libraries to promote digital inclusion? This study also proposes for guideline's for developing effective ITL training at public libraries.

Keywords **:** Information Technology Literacy, Digital Divide, Computer literacy

SIG02 : Computer Application in LIS

Theme : Digital India Initiative and Libraries

DIGITAL INDIA INITIATIVES: AN EDUCATIONAL PANORAMA

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Digital India Initiative (DII) is a front-runner project of the Government of India with the motto of "Power to Empower", to extend government services to the people digitally and in affordable prices. To make an India Tomorrow (IT) that will be digitally empowered, there should be an aggregation of Indian Talent (IT) and Information Technology (IT). The main focus of these initiatives is to bring the citizens closer to the government and to remove the bindings of red tapes. This mammoth project is to be implemented with the participation of central, state and local government bodies acting as one. The focus areas of these initiatives are to provide the digital infrastructure, the services and governance on demand and empowerment of citizens by promoting digital literacy and access to various digital resources. This project stands on the nine pillars of broadband highway, universal access to mobile connectivity, public internet access programme, e-governance - reforming government through technology, e-Kranti - electronic delivery of services, information for all, electronic manufacturing, IT for jobs and early harvest programmes.

The paper pinpoints on the educational perspective of DII. This paper will discuss some of the educational projects under the Digital India Mission like e- Granthalaya which is an integrated library management software from National Informatics Centre, Sugamya Pustakalaya - a revolutionary online library for people with visual and other print disabilities from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with DAISY and SWAYAM by Ministry of Human Resource and Development for offstream students. Along with these, some other initiatives like e-Pathshala, Saransh, Shaala-Siddhi, Shaala-Darpan and GIS-Mapping are also briefly discussed. This paper explores the impact of these initiatives on India's educational scenario. There are various barriers to implement DII based educational initiatives such as, lack of basic infrastructure, shortage of financial support, digital illiteracy, conventional attitude of citizens against adapting latest technologies and improper management. This paper identifies such challenges in educational DII. Government need to play roles to overcome these complications. Research activities are inevitable to cope up with such issues. Here are also some suggestions to deal with the issues and challenges.

Keywords : Digital India, Educational Initiatives, e-Governance

DIGITAL INDIA CAMPAIGNING AND THE SKILL FOR LIS PROFESSIONALS IN TRANSFORMING INDIA INTO DIGITAL EMPOWER SOCIETY: A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

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Purpose : The purpose of the paper is to discuss the features of digital India campaign launched by the

Government of India and to show the importance of acquiring the skill of digital information literacy by the LIS professionals. This paper discusses the concept of digital information literacy in brief and also discusses its importance and significance in transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Methodology: Review of literature and content analysis were undertaken in the study. This theoretical study attempted to show how digital information literacy can be found as an important skill for the LIS professionals in transforming India into a digital empower society.

Findings: Digital India is a campaign launched by the Government of India to ensure that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or by making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology. It was launched on 2 July 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. Digital India consists of three core components i.e. development of secure and stable Digital Infrastructure, delivering government services digitally and universal Digital Literacy. Digital information literacy (DIL), as a component of information, is the most desired skill in this digital era. Digital information is becoming essential to almost every aspect of modern life which means that there is a need as never before, for learners and teachers who are information literate in a digital context. Digital Information Literacy (DIL) is the ability to recognize the need for, to access, and to evaluate electronic information. A digitally literate can acquire knowledge in e-learning process to a great extent and they can confidently use, manage, create, quote and share sources of digital information in an effective way. The concept of e-governance was initiated since mid nineties and it takes a broader dimension recently in the digital environment. The trend of digitization is hyped across the globe currently. Some significant efforts have already been made. Unless the LIS professionals acquired the required skill the trend of digitization will not be effective.

Originality: This paper is about an original initiative undertaken to develop a set of core values relevant to both people involved in e-governance and Indian library professionals in general.

Keywords : Digital India, Digital Literacy, Digital Information Literacy, Digital Divide, Digital Library, e-governance.

BUILDING DIGITALLY INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES: LIBRARY'S POWER TO EMPOWER

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Purpose: 'Digital India' (DI) has been ambitiously initiated by the Government of India with a vision to transform the entire ecosystem of public services for a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. At this juncture, the present study is to focus on policies and best practices around the globe to make the vision of 'Digital India Initiative' a reality with special emphasis on 'information for all'. The paper is to highlight the potential of libraries playing the role of catalyst in the process of equitable access to information and thus making digitally empowered India. Digital libraries enhance the scope for

digital empowerment. Government initiatives in this parlance like National Mission on Libraries, National Virtual Library of India and National Digital Library of India have much importance which leaves the scope of more discussion. The user-friendly portals of these projects are crucial in harnessing digital resources on education in an online environment. This paper is to address the problem of digital divide which forms a barrier to achieve digital empowerment.

Methodology: Being a theoretical study, content analysis technique has been adopted. Digital inclusion survey reports, performance evaluation reports of different projects of Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India have been studied and inferences drawn for the purpose.

Findings: Libraries need to be well equipped and librarians need to harness the skills and competencies required for the digital empowerment of the citizens. Libraries must repackage their services by customization according to the needs of both digital natives and digital immigrants. Imparting digital information literacy to the users will catalyse the process of Digital India in the making. The mission of libraries is to empower. The advocacy role of the libraries in the community-wide digital inclusion and nation-wide digital inclusion infographic is important. Public library system and library networks lead the way to digital inclusion.

Originality/Value: Public libraries have power to empower the citizens by imparting digital literacy program. Digital literacy has been deemed an "essential life skill". Libraries and library professionals can be of immense help if they teach their users in tapping the potential available in various portals, e-resources, online and virtual learning spaces and thus help building digitally inclusive communities. Digital inclusion would bridge the digital divide through various innovative and beneficiary schemes for the citizens under the flagship programme.

Keywords : Digital India, Digital Divide , Digital Empowerment , Digital Inclusion , Digital Literacy, Digitally Inclusive Communities, Digital citizenship, Digital Native and Digital Immigrants.

POSTER PRESENTATION

1.   Public Library Philosophy

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN INDIA IN 21st CENTURY

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Human civilization stands on information and knowledge. Libraries are developed to satisfy the need of the society for information. It serves the purpose of storing, preserving and catering information for the need of the society. Society has developed various types of libraries to serve its need. Among them public library serves the most important purpose of mass education. It serves as an important agent of democracy by performing a crucial role in building up an information citizenry. This article attempts to show the background of evolution of the Public Libraries of India. It emphasizes on some laws, manifestos/ manifest and acts conducive to the progression of public libraries in India. This article gives a brief description of the development of public library system in India starting from Maharaja Sayajirao of

Baroda to today's knowledge society library. Explaining Government efforts by appointing several committees, enacting library acts, including library in State list of Indian constitution this article shows the picture of positive development of public libraries in India. Apart from Government effort it also discusses individual efforts in adopting library acts; strengthening public library movement in different states of India. It also gives light on the objectives, functions and services of public libraries in India. It tries to explain how concept of library is changing, how the libraries become user friendly gradually. Public libraries need to adopt measures to match with today's knowledge society. It also focuses on modern technologies closely related to develop public libraries of India in 21st century. At the same time it shows the difficulties and opportunities of public libraries in this information age. Despite Government grant and support why public libraries are lacking users, why they cannot compete with the changing society-these aspects are too discussed here. Describing the role, this paper explained the background of public library development in India, mentioned important acts, laws, measures taken by India Government for strengthening public library system and service. This article also proposes some plans for the betterment of the libraries in 21st century for the common mass of India.

Keywords : Public Library, Library movement, Public Library in India, Twenty first century library, Model Library Bill, Library Legislations

2. Public Library Development

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN ASSAM HOW FAR PUBLIC? A STUDY OF TWO DISTRICT LIBRARIES

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Public library is considered an essential part of society. It can play an important role. The term 'Public Library' can refer to any collection including digital sources and services. A public library is available which is accessible by the public and it's generally funded from public sources (such as tax money) and may be operated by civil servants. S.R. Ranganathan defined public library as "An institution maintained by the community primarily for the social purpose of providing easy opportunity for self-education throughout the life of every person of the community". This paper describes the present condition of Dibrugarh district library and Dhubri district library. Describes the need of public library in a modern society. The paper also discusses the role of public library in moulding the society in right perspective. Traces the history of public libraries in Assam from the time of British period. Describes the document collection and physical facilities made available for the users. Critically examines the population pattern and registered members of these two libraries. Comparative method has been adopted to study the growth and development of two district libraries. Survey method and personal interview method are also applied for this paper. The study of two district libraries of Assam gives a grim picture of public library services in Assam. These two libraries are Dibrugarh district library and Dhubri district library. One located in the upper Assam bordering China and the other in the lower Assam bordering Bangladesh.

The scenario of other places is more or less similar. Only 1.40% in Dibrugarh and 0.83% in Dhubri district of literate population being member of public libraries which is a shameful facts showing reaching out of the public libraries. Excludes the illiterate population in both the districts from the purview of this study. Concludes that both the district libraries at Dibrugarh and Dhubri have not been able to reach a handsome portion of literate population with the library services. In spite of 65 years of establishment of this two district libraries the coverage of the library services are pitiably poor. Suggest some measures such as publicity drive, mobile library services, opening of extension services, personal visit by the library staff to the nearby important points of the locality for library campaigning etc. to be adopted by the authorities concern so as to get public support visa-vis for improvement of the libraries for reaching out the non reachable.

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN MIZORAM

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Public libraries have been known as the 'Peoples University' throughout the world. Many societies around the world strive to develop their society by disseminating information using libraries. Mizoram, the 23rd State of India is still trying to tap the best resource through public libraries. The first library to every stand on the Mizo soil was the Aijal College Library and the first public library is the Aijal District Library which was established in 1969. The leading role in the public library development is taken by the government, YMA and The Mizoram Librarian Association. Library cannot be developed entirely without prior LIS education, the first sign of LIS education in Mizoram came from the initiatives of the Mizoram Library Association who introduce certificate course, later, LIS education was developed by introduction of Mizoram University.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT IN VARIOUS STATES OF INDIA : A STUDY

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India attained freedom in 1947 a became a republic in 1950. Out of 35 States and Unions only 19 have library act. North and North East States have not library act. Library is state subject. So there is variation in the acts. Only 5 states have provision in library cess. In the present library acts of the states, there is

a provision for cess on house and property tax among the acts. There shall be a fund to be called the State Library Development Fund for modernization and development of public libraries in the state. As the library act is the axis for the administration and management of state public libraries it should passed in every state and implemented. It should be noted that nothing can be achived only by constituting the library act. What is needed is the commitment of the state government and the Directorate of libraries for their services. People's awareness can contribute a lot to it. Otherwise the act shall remain only on the paper. Even in the existing acts the following short coming are to be found which should be removed and the following provisions should be made. (i) Where there is a tradition of Library Cess and where there is no provision of Cess such state government should make clear provisions for grants every year and on what rate it will be increased to it every year. (ii) Like the teachers of primary schools librarians should be appointed in all the rural libraries including grant in aid libraries they must be declared as government employees. Their salaries should be similar of primary teachers. In Gujarat the employees of Taluka Government Library are appointed by the government. This system should be extended to rural level. (iii) Library Council in all states should not remain only as adviser but it should be endowed with powers and provision should be made that its secretary should be the Director of the State Library/ State Librarian.

3.   Roles of Public Library

PUBLIC LIBRARY IN DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

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A public library is open for all public. It is building where people can read or borrow books without having to pay. It is the property of the general public. In the modern society and electronic age, it is essential that everybody gets correct information quickly. In the electronic era public library is collecting, organising and providing information to the users with the help of modern tools. The users want right information at the right time, which is possible only through the application of information communication technology (ICT) in library services. The Internet and web technology has changed the way people communicate, interact, acquire, share knowledge, search, investigate and participate in the creation and re-use of content. However, when the Web was created originally, it did not have features and facilities for users to interact. In electronic information age the modern society has become information oriented society which tries to gather information quickly and timely. In this regard digital technology and public library are providing information services to the people for development of the society. Public libraries with digital environment have their computers, internet and available for public use, also the valuable human resources. They provide libraries to help visitors find their way bring technology in to our communities in friendly and useful ways for workers who will not access to the internet in their homes or on their jobs. There is too much of information and the users are overwhelmed with it. At this juncture, the libraries have to play a significant role. They are required to tell the users that everything available on

the Internet may or may not be reliable. They have to teach the users how to navigate the internet and evaluate the quality of information which they find. Having internet access, people can reach to public officials to non-profit organizations to the public which they serve having provide quality of the public services provide to the community.

Keywords : Public Library, Library society, Computer, Internet, ICT, Digital environment, Digital era

4. Public Library Resources

PUBLIC LIBRARY AS LIFE-LONG LEARNING CENTRE THROUGH OPEN SOURCE VIRTUAL LEARNING TOOLS, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMES

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Internet has become a principal force in the development of repository, retrieval, and access to digital information resources. The augmentation of traditional classroom activities with electronic learning objects, and the rise of the free and open source software based course management system, is changing the way of interaction among faculty and students. The use of internet in the public library has remarkably grown during recent years. In this article, various open source tools, resources and programs are described in short. Objectives of the paper are to help the lifelong self-education of one and all, to furnish up-to-date facts and information about MOOC to all, to integrate Open Learning System with public library systems, to contribute the awareness of NMEICT through public library system and to developed open source movement with open mind initiative.

Methodology of the paper is limited to survey different governmental and non-governmental website and primary literature.

The findings of the study are lifelong learning initiative, virtual learning tools such as author POINT Lite, Course Lab, Easy Generator, exe, GLO Maker, iSpring, etc. The initiative of virtual learning resources and programs in India, such as A-VIEW, E-Grid, Ekalavya, NIOS, NROER, etc. is to be explained. It also found that the different government initiatives like Digital Library of India, National Virtual Library of India, e-Pathsala, e-pg pathsala, e-Gyankosh, Infoport, Vidya-mitra, Swayam, etc.

Keywords : UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, NMEICT, Lifelong learning initiatives, Open Educational Resources, NDL, DLI, e-Pathsala and e-PG pathsala, INFLIBNET, ODL, Vidya-mitra, NPTEL

5. Functions and Services of Public Library

STATUS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IN NORTH EAST INDIA : PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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The present paper deals with the public libraries in India as well as emphasizes on the public library system and services in the North East India. The study focusses on the present status of public library system in North East India. The study discusses about the importance of National Knowledge Commission (NKC) and National Mission on Libraries (NML) on the development of public libraries in India. Data have been collected from various primary and secondary documents, websites and personal interview. The study highlights the role of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) in the development of the public libraries all over India. The study tries to find out the problems and prospects of public library systems and services of North East India. The study tries to find out the prevailing problems for which the public libraries of this regions are not sufficiently able to satisfy the information needs of the various sections of the people. The study focusses on the role of public library as a community information centre in rural development. The paper analysed the status of public libraries in North East Indian states in respect to population, number of literate persons, number of districts and number of villages. The study recommends and suggests probable suggestions for the problems. The paper discusses about the necessity for enacting of library legislation and its implementation in these states. The states like Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have not enacted Library Act so far. The paper also discusses about Library Association of North East India. The study focusses on the total collections of books and total registered members of State Central Library of North East Indian states. The tremendous advancement in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and their applications in libraries have opened many new doors for the public libraries and also librarians in electronic age. The study focusses on the necessity and possibility of library automation through open source softwares like Koha and commercial software like Libsys. The study highlights the challenges and problems faced by the public libraries of today and tomorrow. The paper discusses about the changing face of public libraries in the region. The study also suggests the remedial measures and prospects for those challenges and problems.

Keywords : Public Library, North East India, Library Automation, Community Information Centre, Knowledge Society, RRRLF.

7. Public Library Users

SERVICES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF LUCKNOW

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India has approximately 150 million differently abled people who have the inalienable fundamental right to life as enshrined in the Constitution including the right to seek knowledge and education. Public libraries play a critical role in creating an enabling environment for citizens to gain knowledge, information and education. Services are to be offered as a part of the fundamental democratic rights. However, the

resources and services are not yet fully accessible to everybody. This is particularly true in the case of differently abled people. As an example, library buildings are often inaccessible for people in wheelchairs, and computers lack the equipment for visually impaired users. Also, most books and material need special adaptations to be available for users with writing and reading problems. Differently abled people have limited access to purchase books through mainstream shops due to various barriers including lack of physical access to shops, lack of availability of books in accessible formats like Braille, etc. So, public libraries should be made inclusive so as to become accessible by differently abled people. They should try to enhance the strength and potential of differently able users. Public libraries should create opportunities for differently abled people for learning and provide technologies in accessing all types of resources especially designed and developed for them.

To address these issues, this study aims to find out the services and facilities available for differently able people and barriers faced by libraries in providing services in public libraries of Lucknow. The study also tries to find out the attitudes of library professionals towards providing services to differently abled people. It is found that all the public libraries in Lucknow lacks dedicated budget and policy for differently abled people moreover there is not any specially trained staff for providing services to differently abled people. It is also revealed that all the libraries surveyed have no information material in accessible format and not any assistive technology. In essence there is an urgent need to improve the current level of library and information services available to the differently abled. Further the study provided some suggestions for providing services to differently abled people.

Keywords : Differently abled, public libraries, library services, assistive technologies

USERS' STUDY AND EXPECTATION IN LABONY GRANTHAGAR, A GRANT GETTING PUBLIC LIBRARY : A CASE STUDY

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Information and Communication Technology has affected every spheres of life. It has affected the libraries and the ways in which they handle information. Internet, e-books, e-journals, optical storage media and digital library concept have brought complete changes in the field of library and information services. The public libraries are also responding to these changes. The users' expectations are also changing in this changing scenario. To identify the needs and expectations of the users of Labony Granthagar, a government grant getting library, situated in Salt Lake, Kolkata, a survey was conducted through questionnaire and interview methods. A total of 36 users were selected for the survey. Most of these users are either retired persons or housewives. They do not realize the utility of Internet and most of them are satisfied with the traditional setup. It has been found that out of 36 respondents, 32 come to the library to collect story books, 20 biographies 12 religious books, and 8 other types of book like travel books, books on hunting and reference books. It has also been found that 20 users prefer traditional library, no one prefers digital library, and 16 prefer hybrid library. It has also been found that 28 users want to avail library services at home. Younger generation of users, who seldom visit the library, will be attracted to the library if modern tools are introduced. But thorough user training is needed for the users to utilize such tools.

Keywords : Communication Technology, Handle information, Public library, User of public library, Changing scenario, Online book banking, Digital equipment, Beneficial aspect.

8   Future Strategies

IMPORTANCE OF ICT IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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The librarians in public libraries have to adopt ICT tools and techniques to meet the changing need of the users. Facilities of technology bring good user environment, free exchange of information, increase effectiveness and efficiency of the user, the staff and the library. Network services Barcode, intranet and similar tools of Information communication Technology (ICT) are not only providing access to information, but also disseminating information and fostering interaction. The services of the public libraries can be modernized with the help of ICT and such modern devices as Internet, I- POD, personal digital assistants, laptops etc. These modern tools have now replaced traditional methods of dissemination of information. Since public libraries are the main source of providing information, they are therefore required to make best possible use of ICT so that they may not fail in their primary objective of disseminating information. This paper shows the importance of ICT in the public libraries. it also discusses the various aspects of ICT in the public libraries .

Keywords : ICT, Information communication technology , information technology, library services, public library.

SIG02 : Computer Application in LIS

Theme : Digital India Initiative and Libraries

NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY OF INDIA : SOME IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

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The National Digital Library (NDL) is a recent initiative from the end of the Government of India to provide the quality resources of the higher education institutions mainly in India through internet connectivity to "ALL" belonging to the different levels of educational standard ranging from Primary to Ph D standard. In near future NDL will be more enriched by the varieties of resources and ultimately will become a large knowledge asset in the country. These varieties of e-contents can be accessed from anywhere in different file formats and in different languages also. Certainly it facilitates uniformity in the distribution of knowledge among "ALL" and works just like a bridge to minimize the gap of access of knowledgebase in digitized India. NDL will surely bring in a revolution in the gradual evolution of the

library services by ushering in a new education movement in the country covering all stages from kindergarten to cutting edge research to life-long learners. Technological innovations in new- age multi-media education will be exploited to render a personalized, self-paced learning platform which will help researchers to perform inter-linked exploration from multiple sources. IT will support the continual evolution of new pedagogy of learning and new avenue of opportunities to leverage Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education and thus can facilitate fundamental shift in the paradigm of education and research of the country. NDL use state-of-the-art analytics technique to facilitate resource discovery process and interaction for the users. The aim of shaping National Digital Library is to provide right information to the right person at right time and in right form. To make successful Project team of NDL has to overcome a lot of difficult issues such as copyright issue, intellectual property right issue, metadata issue, institutional digital library issue and others. In spite of all these problems NDL team would try to find out solutions. It is hoped that NDL will be dedicated to the service of nation by March, 2018.

Keywords : NDL, MHRD, DL, IDR, Metadata, OAI-PMH

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT OF CITIZENS

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Digital India is an initiative of the Government of India to transform India into a global digitized hub by improving digital connectivity and skill enhancement and various other incentives to make the countrymen digitally empowered. Many governments have understandably moved towards digital government to work more effectively. This includes educating citizens about the availability of and how to access these services. Digital India is the tool that bridges the distance between hope and opportunity. One of the important outcomes of digital empowerment is the good governance. One of the examples of citizen participation is My Gov. platform which was launched on 26thJuly 2014 as one of the largest citizen's engagement platforms having 1.77 million registered users. It is a fact that the digital India is results of many recent development, technologies and innovation. These changed the lives of people and empower the society as well.The programmed 'Digital India' is a 'Digital India' model which can prove to be an attraction for the investor to invest in the different sectors.

Keywords : Digital India, Digital Empowerment, Digital Technology, e-Governance, e-Kranti, Internet.

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