

Human Resource Development Centre
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
4th 3-Week Refresher Course in Library & Information Sciences
(10 February to 03 March 2015)

THEME NOTE

Libraries are the essential companion of educational journey and have a mission to act as dynamic instrument of quality teaching, learning and research. Academic libraries today are facing the challenges of ever growing, continuum, infinite, dynamic and multidimensional growth of knowledge, price rise of publications, shrinking budgets, increasing cost of maintenance of collection, shortage of space and trained manpower on one hand and the challenges to fulfill the varied demands of end users in networked environment on the other hand.

The increasing costs of access to academic journals, and the speed with which information resources are growing, suggests that academic libraries will not be able to maintain a traditional lending and accession model for much longer.¹ Academic libraries are exploring a new model for service delivery, known as "digital commons" and/or "scholars' commons," that focuses on access, information quality and information literacy as opposed to collecting a large number of print books and journals. Many campus libraries have remodeled their physical facilities in order to attract students, adding computers, cafes, classrooms, outlets and study areas.

Academic libraries are facing the challenge to serve groups of users with diverse information needs and research skills. In addition to the structural challenges facing all libraries, academic libraries must also confront a rapidly changing educational and publishing environment, in which the value and cost of a university education is being questioned. A higher demand for accountability means academic libraries must prove their value and the value of the university system.

Changing Role of Librarians

The migration of resources to online platforms and increasingly sophisticated cataloguing, referencing technology and open source libraries software's have the potential to free up both librarians' time and library space to be devoted to new initiatives. The internet is therefore growing rather than reducing the potential of – and the need for – libraries. So, the purpose of this programme is to sketch up and understand the role of Librarians in modern times and identify the challenges they face, the expertise they have, and the skills they need.

Many libraries are considering offering publishing services to academics under an open access mode. The growing demand for publishing services suggests new roles and responsibilities for academic libraries in the near future. The establishment or re-establishment of academic and university presses may offer a new economic model for academic libraries.

With changes on the horizon, the organizations that monitor academic library statistics are seeking new ways to assess value and impact. They no longer use monograph and serial costs as a metric, since "new data will be collected to more accurately reflect the modern environment of information management. While more statistical information is needed to assess the value of academic libraries, the speed of change has made it more difficult to establish metrics. A future in which circulation statistics and "gate counts" are only a partial measure of library usage is already here

Thus, there is an urgent need to transform our libraries in digital era to tackle these challenges, so as to make it, a SMART borderless library providing value added information services and round the clock access to global information resources with a single click.

The refresher course will discuss the issues like the new competencies of librarians which have to be strengthened, technical platforms for publishing and archiving which have to be developed, the finance management which have to be redirected from paying for getting access to paying for providing access.

The larger aim of the refresher course is to provide a common platform to LIS educators, practitioners and researches to make healthy discussions during brain storming sessions and drawing fruitful decision to reposition the librarianship towards a techno-oriented profession and to broaden the participants' understanding of library management in the context of the educational and research mission of the institutions. The format of programme would be presentations by library professionals, invited talks by experts and a panel discussion on the theme. The proposed output of the course will be a report presented by each or group of participants in the light of deliberation and discussion held.

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