

RECENT TRENDS IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Dr. Vivek Sampatrao Sathe *

* Librarian

Kala Varishtha
Mahavidyalaya
Harsul Sawangi,
Aurangabad, Maharashtra,
India.

QR Code



Abstract: - Libraries are service providing intuitions. Due to the application of ICT, dramatic change is occurred in the functioning, operations & services of library. Libraries are transformed from print to electronic, electronic to digital, digital to virtual library. Now-a- day library professional are providing various ICT based services to their users. This paper deals with new developments and techniques that are evolving in libraries. This paper throws light on various recent trends in College Libraries & also discussed in briefly. Recent trend in College Libraries includes the integration of technology for improved access & engagement. Emphasis on digital resources, personalization etc. Transformation of library spaces to accommodate collaborative learning & interactive environment. Libraries were also focusing on information literacy programs to help students, navigate & evaluate information effectively.

Keywords: IT, ICT, College Libraries, Libraries, AI, QR code, BT, AR, VR, etc.

Introduction:

The rapid growth of ICT has major impact on libraries. It's influence has changed the way people think, behave, communicate and work. ICT & globalization have changed libraries from traditional to digital libraries where every work is done by computer. Therefore the function of the library has changed from completely service-oriented to user oriented, in which the library is maintained according to the needs of the user. New technology has been in-corporated into library. So digital library virtual library, hybrid library, library without walls, library 2.0 has

emerged. It has also changed the functions and designation of librarians as a information officers, information scientists, documentation officers etc. Libraries have come to our doorstep. You can use the library anytime as per your convenience. IT has changed all aspect of library such as acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval & dissemination of information. It has also changed the way people think & communicate with each other.¹

In the beginning, libraries just had print and non print collections. However libraries today are holding collections based on ICT. Numerous

new technologies have joined libraries starting with floppy discs, CDs, DVDs, online databases, consortium, cloud computing, QR codes, green libraries, artificial intelligence, augmented reality & virtual reality etc. By utilizing this new technology, libraries are continually enhancing their operations and giving their users the better services.²

Libraries are becoming increasingly important in India as the country continues to grow and develop in the digital age. In the recent years, there has been a significant investment in modernizing libraries across India, with a focus on a expanding digital resources, improving infrastructure and enhancing community engagement. Increased focus on digital resources such as libraries are increasingly expanding their digital collections which includes e-Books, e-Audio books, e-Magazines and online databeses, as well as streaming services for movies and music.³

With the advent of technology, the structure of libraries has also changed in terms of library material, media & access to information, form of buildings etc.⁴

This study is helpful for users to creating awareness about the current or emerging trends of libraries. Now many trends are emerging but libraries and users are not much aware about these things and some of these trends are not used in many college libraries, so the objective is to make everyone aware of these trends & college library may use this trends for providing better services to users.⁴

Some of the Emerging Trends in College Libraries:

1) Digitalization:

It is a very big and long process to reach the digitalized materials to the readers by considering legal issues. Today we are seeing the digital form of newspapers, periodicals, research journals etc. So that readers can see and study the articles they want at that moment. Today non-copyrighted books can be digitized and made available to the readers easily but in case of copyrighted books, this process is time-consuming. It is hard work. Therefore, it is easy to do this work through outsourcing, for that, expert in the field of digitization are expected to help in this, but once the reading material is digitized, it can be effectively delivered to the readers. It can be searched & studied and thus reader who is a researcher gets further direction for his research.⁵

2) Institutional Repository:

Repository is a crucial tool for libraries to manage their resources. The content of the institute might be kept in repositories to make the best use of the available resources. These archives provide simple access to material for all user and specially for researchers. We can kept the research publication of all faculty of our institutions on Institutional Repository.⁶

3) RFID Technology:

It can be used to speed up library services and give security to library books. This technology is very useful for speedy exchange of books as well as retrieval and location of books. But this technology is expensive for small

libraries, it is currently being used in special libraries.⁷ This is most recent wireless technology for use in library for theft detection. RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Technology) is more advantageous for libraries to protect books because it allows for open access to users.⁶

4) Social Networking:

One of the most used platform for libraries to offer services & promote themselves in social media. The library can use several social media platforms for a variety of purposes. Some of them include knowledge organization, content creation and information transmission. Facebooks, Whatsapp, Twitter, YouTube are most commonly used social media tools by the libraries for it marketing.⁸

Artificial Intelligence:

Artificial intelligence (AI) uses the power of robot or computer to try to perform tasks that are normally performed by humans. The most common application of AI in libraries is Chatbots that receive and resolve directional questions from users. They can alert the user about the due date of their book submission. Direct the user to the relevant library section and automatically schedule the appointment.⁹

Artificial intelligence is being used for language understanding, image analysis & policy making to increase the reading movement. By using this technology readers can get their doubts answered. Questions asked by the readers are answered through this technology. One of the major challenges in using AI in the context of libraries is that it makes, the consideration of

ethical, legal and social aspects secondary. Also there may be adverse effects on the manpower used in library services.¹⁰

6) Web Based Library Services:

Libraries are offering services to their users using Web 2.0 & 3.0 tools. Users of Web 2.0 have access to an improved form of two-way communication. It offers social networking features including wikis, blogs, tagging and user-generated movies. Google Scholar and Book search are Web 2.0 generation examples of digital libraries. Web 3.0 is a semantic web that allows for read, write and execution through impression process.¹¹

7) Mobile Based Library Services:

Many librarians have started mobile based library services keeping in mind that we can reach the library services to the readers in a better way by using this mobile phone. Therefore, it is possible to reach the readers in an effective manner, as there no restriction of place & time, the reader can search for the reading material they want also find out whether the required reading material is available in the library. All information and services related to libraries can be accessed using various mobile applications on Android phones.¹²

Libraries can create new services and offer speedier access to their collection with the use of mobile, technologies like SMS and Whats App. An OPAC Smart- phone app is highly popular mobile based library services.¹³

7) Electronic Resource Management:

Electronic resources refer to e-Journals, e-books, online databases and other materials in digital form, which are accessible electronically. E-resource management software can be used by the library to manage the collection, access, authorization, maintenance, use, evaluation, reservation and selection of the library's electronic information resources.¹⁴

8) Quick Response (QR) Code:

Quick Response Codes or QR Codes are two dimensional barcodes that can be scanned by cell phone with an embedded camera. In the default detection fields QR code has been widely used. These codes can be used to provide quick access to URLs, SMS messages, phone numbers, V-cards, any text & QR codes that can hold more information than usual barcode.¹⁵

9) Cloud Computing:

Digital libraries from different places can come together and start this service using the method Library management system. Due to this library reading material, infrastructure and manpower etc. can be used on sharing basis to provide maximum facilities to the readers. It is proved to be very effective in managing digital libraries & repositories.¹⁶

Libraries around the world are adopting cloud computing to make library services more streamlined and cost-effective. This library management system plays an important role in building digital libraries or repositories. Cloud computing ensures optimal utilization of library resources, infrastructure, human resources etc.

Moreover, the technology is also used for library automation and quick data retrieval. Additionally, in digital libraries, cloud Computing ensures that third-party service servers can manage, upgrade and create data backups.¹⁷

10) Internet of Things:

The best-integrated library software and LMS software have started using Internet of Things (IOT) to transfer data without human intervention. Libraries use IOT to control inventory, prevent theft and identify users. This circulation also helps in improving the quality and speed of desk activities. Furthermore, IOT streamlines book reservation, library, fire detection and prevention and e-library services.¹⁸

11) Open Access:

As stated by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, Open Access is important to ensure that reader can access their books as per the rules "A reader for every book and a book for every reader." Open access become important for this purpose as it understand the preferences of the readers. As the Internet expanded, every library became open access, making it possible to find out what books a library held remotely & it made easier to find the titles of the books before going to actual library.¹⁹

12) Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using someone else's ideas, words, theories, pictures or graphics, opinions or facts without giving credit. For students, copying the work of others undermines the intellectual integrity of their educational experience. Hence

avoiding plagiarism has become the need of the hour.²⁰

Day by day the number of research and researchers is increasing, policies are implemented at the government level to make excellent research and make it useful to the society. Even after research at the college and university level, different software are used to find its authenticity, including copyright, intellectual property right and plagiarism. A new trend in library has started to detect plagiarism at the college or university level and use it.²¹

13) Marketing of Library Services:

The aim of this service is to convey to readers that our library has excellent reading materials and also to increase the readership of the library.²¹

14) Integrated Library Works:

Librarians from different locations are being helped together to carry out their day-to-day work. Book Accessioning, Cataloguing, Indexing, Database Searching and Collection Development can be done together to save time and money. You can also search for reading materials that are not available and let your readers know where they are available.²¹

15) Facial Recognition:

The use of facial recognition technology in libraries could replace the usage of traditional library cards by detecting walk-in-patrons and providing information about them, such as who they are, where they live, what books they have checked out, whether any are overdue etc.²²

16) Block Chain Technology:

Block Chain Technology (BT) will develop into a helpful tool for saving, storing and distributing. Information in libraries. This technology also assists in the purchase of library resources that can promote user and research data privacy, secure user and patron information and improve collection maintenance. Additionally, this technology enhances staff and pattern collaboration in libraries.²²

17) Drones:

Drones are used in entertainment, research, delivery and conveyance, artistic creation, news reporting and coverage, law enforcement and surveillance. Libraries may gather and manage video or survey content created by drones. Drones can be used for a variety of tasks at the library, including content creation, data collection, delivery services for patrons who are unable to visit the library due to a disability or a long commute.²²

18) Makerspaces:

The ultimate goal of a library is not only to provide information to individuals but also to help them think about how they can use that information, why not give them a space in the library where they can express their ideas for testing? This idea informs the current proliferation of library makerspaces, which are exactly what they sound like: places where people can make things with the help of library-equipped machines.²³

Libraries also implement makerspaces to foster new literacies, provide open access to new technologies and foster a collaborative ethos of

making and to maintain the library's perception" as a leader in technological innovation."²³

19) Virtual Reality:

The three qualities of immersion, interactivity and imagination that virtual reality technology possesses along with a new way of multi-dimensional touch and human-computer interaction can be used broadly in library design, information resource creation and reader service. In order to maximize the educational function of libraries, virtual reality technology can be helpful in document retrieval and in displaying knowledge in books in virtual images based on digital library collections. More people will visit libraries to use the information resources. Three qualities of virtual reality make reading more enjoyable.²⁴

20) User Engagement:

20a) Digital Display:

Many eyes can be drawn to a digital display complete with graphics and the ability to scroll through multiple announcements that tells the users where to go to find what they want. There is so much attention on digital screens these days. It can make real library adventures.²⁵

20.b.) Gamification / Augmented Reality:

Game activities that promote reading, and augmented reality spots the patrons can access though there devices promote reading research and learning. Gamification is a strategy used to draw people in the library with the help of short games like puzzles, quizzes etc. and everything including changing actions and developing emotional connections with resources and

facilities. Gamification is one method that libraries can use to engage and motivate people to use it, but it is not a quick fix and must be used wisely.²⁵

21) Big Data and Data Visualization:

Big data and data visualization is the method of displaying large amounts of data through charts, graphs, maps and other visual forms. This makes it more natural for the human mind to understand information and makes it easier to spot trends, patterns and outlines in large data sets. This makes the library more accessible to readers who can have wealth of information at their fingertips.²⁶

26) Intelligent Library Search and Federated Search:

Federated search & intelligent library search are techniques for retrieving information from many different content locations with only one query and one search interface with federated search. This technology complements core libraries for quick information retrieval and make indexing seamless. Libraries also use this technology for descriptive cataloguing, database searching, subject indexing and collection development.²⁶

27) e-Audio books:

Libraries also offer e- Audio books, which are audio recordings of books that users can listen to on their devices.²⁷

28) Mobile Library Apps:

This trend of software applications designed to provide library services and resources on mobile devices, such as smart phones and

tablets. These apps may offer following features: Catalogue Search, Account management, Digital resources, Barcode Scanning, Notifications, GPS location, Events and Programming etc.

There are many free library apps available for download on app stores. Here are some examples: Libby, Over Drive, Hoopla, RBDigital, Knopy, Simply E, BiblioBoard etc.²⁸

29) Collaborative Spaes:

Many modern libraries will have collaborative spaces where users can work on projects, study or collaborate with each other.²⁹

Technology assistance: A modern library may provide assistance with technology such as help with using computers, tablets & other devices.

Virtual Programming: Modern libraries may offer virtual programming such as online book clubs, story times and author talks to reach users who cannot physically visit the library.²⁹

30) Community Partnerships:

Libraries are increasingly collaborating with other community organization such as schools, non-profits and local businesses to offer joint programming and services that meet the unique needs and interest of the community.

31) Library resources and services directly:

Libraries are developing outreach programs that bring library resources and services directly to underserved and marginalized communities such as seniors, people with disabilities and those who are homebound.³⁰

32) Multicultural Programming:

Libraries are developing programming that celebrates and represents the diverse cultures and perspectives of their communities such as cultural festivals, food tasting and language classes.³⁰

33) Spaces:

Libraries are embracing the maker movement by providing spaces and resources for people to create and make things such as 3D printing, sewing and wood working.³⁰

34) Digital Literary Training:

Libraries are offering digital literacy training and resources to help community members to develop the skills needed to navigate and use digital technology effectively.³⁰

What is mean by Modern Library?:

A modern library refers to a library that incorporates the latest technologies and trends to provide users with the best possible experience. Some characteristics of modern libraries may include:³¹

- **Digital resources:** A modern library will offer access to digital resources such as e-Books, e-Journals, e-Audio books, e-Magazines and online databases in addition to physical books.
- **Online catalogue:** A modern library will have an online catalogue that users can search to find materials, place holds and renew materials.
- **Mobile App:** some modern libraries may offer a Mobile App that allows users to access the library resources and services on their smart phones and tablets.

Conclusion:

Certainly libraries have been adopting to various trends in recent years. Some notable trends include Digitilization and E-resources, Institutional Repository, Social Networking, Artificial Intelligence, Web - based services, Mobile based library services, ERM, QR code, RFID technology, Cloud computing, Open Access, Academic Integrity and plagiarism, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, e- Audio books, Mobile Library Apps, Community spaces, Maker spaces and Innovation Labs, Diversity & Inclusion, Collaboration with Technology, Life long learning, Data Literacy, Environmental sustainability, Health and well-being, personalization etc.

These trends indicate how libraries are evolving to remain relevant and valuable in the digital age while continue to serve their communities in new and innovative ways. Several trends discussed above are shaping college libraries.

These emerging trends pose a challenge to library professionals which means that they must have proper knowledge of these technologies. So that they can use it easily. To reach these trends in every & each library, finance & awareness about these trends is required. By using above recent trends, manpower & time of library staff is saved.

Overall, libraries are constantly evolving to meet changing needs and interests of their users and these emerging trends reflect a commitment to innovation, creativity and community engagement.

By understanding these emerging trends, library professionals can actively respond to the evolving needs of users and provide effective and relevant library services to their users.

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