



## Changing roles of librarian

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### Abstract

Libraries are synonymous with education & offer countless learning opportunities that can fuel economic & socio- cultural development of any nation. Hence a librarian has to play the multiple roles. Besides lending books, librarian allows users to get involved in copying materials for research & private study purposes. His role as a librarian these days is challenged factors which are threatening to the growth of library. Technological inventions are surpassing & man -less libraries are very near. A librarian is in the risk of losing his career & job. In India consortia of library has become popular & users are viable to use books & e resources any where any time. The traditional concept of a library is changing drastically & innovative intervention of information technology is proving suicidal to library growth. A librarian has to strive to survive through innovative practices to keep himself as a role model. This paper focuses on the increasing pressures on multiple roles of librarian.

**Key words:** librarian, changing roles, need for commitment, self image building

**Introduction:** Students cannot afford to buy every book they need or pay for e -resource they want to use. They need to access varieties of sources for their studies. This makes them rely on library. Mahatma Gandhi always insisted on knowledge sharing. ( Thayer Mohammad & Davis Donald Gordon – Library ship & library science in India an outline of historical perspective ,New Delhi, Concept publications , 1991).



The stimulus to share & reuse knowledge information motivates to preserve culture for future generations which is why libraries gain significance in this era of information & technological revolution. ( Ravindra Sharma – Libraries In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Vol. 2 An International Perspective Mittal Publications New Delhi 2005). The internet has created tremendous opportunities in accessing knowledge World’s great libraries are made available to public use through large scale digitalization.(Thayer Mohammad & Davis Donald Gordon – Library ship & library science in India an outline of historical perspective ,New Delhi, Concept publications , 1991).

**The role of a librarian** – As the aim of public libraries is to provide easy access to information & knowledge resources the role of librarian becomes very important. A library without librarians is just a collection of books. A librarian has to help the library patrons keep the library neat & clean , promote the benefits of library in

community & lastly maintain a good collection of books & journal .( Rakesh Kumar Bhat – History & Development Of Libraries In India, Mittal Publications New Delhi 2005).

1. **Librarian & community contacts**

- A librarian has to make contact with local community groups such as craft sports, local history, guilds , youth health self help groups etc &make them aware of the library benefits.

2. **Librarian & motivation**

-A librarian can play the role of generating interests within community by arranging meeting of local leaders . He can hold a presentation of the stocks in the library . He can display neatly book in the stocks which will attract the visitors. ( Rakesh Kumar Bhat – History & Development Of Libraries In India, Mittal Publications New Delhi 2005).

3. **Librarian & local schools contacts**

-He can have good contacts with local schools



Children are always eager to learn new things. Hence they can be made to avail library stocks as a recreational experience. (Thayer Mohammad- Libraries In Indian National Development Perspective – A Saga Of 50 Years New Delhi, Concept Publications , 2000). A librarian can hold a competition on best user of the library , best book read ,my favorite book , my favorite author , my best write-up etc. Several of these competitions will draw the attention of the teachers & all stake holders of the school. A librarian can visit a local school invite them to visit his library & avail the resources needed for class projects. All the members of the community will be happy to extend support for such librarian. Volunteering activities for community elders also can be helpful. A librarian can hold talks by community members on their experiences with book reading. This will motivate others to join hands. A librarian can make the library with displaying job opportunities which will attract the rural youth to visit

library.(Thayer Mohammad- Libraries In Indian National Development Perspective – A Saga Of 50 Years New Delhi, Concept Publications , 2000).

4. **Librarian & local media -** A librarian can broadcast his views in local radio or TV this will ensure wildest publicity. Community members would be satisfied about the community welfare the library is offering & they are even motivated to support this endeavor .A librarian can publish any good work he is doing in the community this will be published in local newspaper . This will attract other to involve in community welfare activities.

5. **Librarian & best practices** -A librarian can maximize the impact of his library in his own o innovative ways. He has to draw the support from all stake holders. The Government, the service providers, peers, scholars, He should know that working together always draws strengths & support. He has to follow the



advice of these stake holders & follow the same.

**6. Librarian & local peer leadership-** today libraries might be changing in their traditional roles as a reading room, but running library needs local peer support. A librarian requires local support to promote the role of library as a knowledge center, hence a librarian should team up with local groups in making the library a community place. He has to attract the children, adolescents, youth, elders, senior citizens. Especially able people, women, peers, scholars, students, researchers etc.

**A librarian's challenges** -A librarian has to face the following challenges

1. Government driven policy attitudes which impact on the funding allocation pattern.

2. Community libraries are a neglected lot in rural India. Local Village assemblies always suffer from low

budgets or insufficient earmarked budgets for library maintenance.

3. There is a need to innovate & researching in librarians roles. The reduction in budgets towards library has cast its own impact on library growth.

4. Several deep rooted socio economic challenges towards library, library career , library man ship , etc influence his very role as a librarian.

5. He is in the hand of policy makers'. If the policy makers irresponsibility, grows then his career is at stake.

6. The service providers' negligence towards librarians has to be dealt differently.

Hence a Librarians' 'role in the community / campus / school / institution / organization is very challenging.

7. The reduction in budgets, deep rooted socio economic challenges, policy makers' irresponsibility, service providers'



negligence etc have to be met within limited jurisdiction of community

**Conclusion:** There is a need to innovative interventions librarian's role. In this era of information revolution, information sources are plenty with easier than ever accessibility modes & consortia. A librarian has to contemplate on challenging these technological interventions to survive his career in library. Besides the Librarian has to remould his thinking to make the users use library in its full capacity as a knowledge hub. A librarian has to help the library, its patrons, its stake holders to keep the library a great center of learning. He has to promote the benefits of library in community & lastly maintain a good collection of books & journals to attract all types of readers. His image as a knowledge provider will be boosted when he reaches out to readers with a smile instead of a scorn.

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