

Redefining College Libraries in Today's 'Digital India': A Special Reference to the National Education Policy 2020

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Structured Abstract:

Purpose: This article tries to understand the impact of emerging digital technologies and effect of changing digital information landscape on the college libraries in today's "Digital India". It also tries to find out how the implementation of India's National Education Policy 2020 is going to affect the traditional college libraries and thus it tries to understand the essentiality of redefining the college libraries in all aspects.

Methodology: This article is based on the evaluation of the literature published on internet and on other media or platforms.

Findings: The article finds that the college libraries have to transform themselves in all aspects, from building to library management, from collection development to services, from preservation and conservation of reading materials to information retrieval. So, acceptance of digitalisation in college libraries is becoming inevitable to bring back the modern generation users to the library again. It also finds that under National Education Policy 2020 the college libraries have to use more digital resources than ever before.

Originality: A number of articles and research papers are published on use of digital technologies and its impact on academic libraries in general, but this article focused specifically on college libraries. This article has discussed about the impact of digital information landscape on college libraries and also has discussed about the effect of implementation of National Education Policy 2020 on college libraries which is limitedly dealt in other articles and research papers taking the whole academic library system. So, this article deserves the originality.

Keywords: Digital Technologies, Digital Information Landscape, College Libraries, National Education Policy 2020, Digital India.

Paper Type: Scholarly Article

Introduction

In today's digital age with ever changing technologies, countries all over the world are also shifting towards more and more use of digital technologies in every sphere of day-to-day activities which is leading to the digitalisation of them and India is no exception to this. Thus, to cope with the changing digital world, even in the new National Education Policy 2020 it is recommended for more use of Digital Resources and Digital Technologies in teaching-

learning process in the higher education sector of India. Here, comes the College Libraries which plays a pivotal role and co-ordinate the teaching-learning process in colleges. Therefore, college libraries are also have to be transformed to a new look, from traditional book storage to digital repositories, from physical buildings to hybrid models. They have to redesign themselves for the betterment of their institutions and also for the users. The dynamic characteristic of information and evolving user needs and demands for specific information, are also forcing them to redefine themselves with the need of the time.

We are living in 21st century India- a "Digital India". Continuous growth of digital technologies like 'Artificial Intelligence (AI)', 'big data', 'Social media' and other emerging technologies have made a tremendous changes in the education sector all over the world as well as in India. Emphasis has been given on the digitalisation in every sphere of daily activities. As a result, to cope up with this modern digital age, under 'New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)' more uses of digital resources and digital technologies are recommended for teaching-learning process in the higher education sector of India. Hence, more responsibilities are piling on the college libraries to organize and ensure access to the learning materials for both the teachers and students in the digital environment for betterment of the parent institution which will lead to quality development of education. Thus, college libraries can play a crucial role in successful implementation of the objectives of NEP 2020 in the higher education of India. Since technologies are increasingly affecting the curriculum, the teachers will have the opportunity to consult different array of resource materials to prepare their courses which in turn put great demands on the libraries to provide them requisite materials and support services. Now, in this context college libraries have to redefine themselves and the librarians also have to redesign their role to cope up with these demands. They have to provide more effective and supportive services not only to the faculty members also to the next generation of students who are better equipped with modern digital technologies than their predecessors.

Review of Related Literature

Martell (2007) studied on the Changing use pattern of academic libraries in U.S.A. He found that there are several Changes in the physical use of the academic library in the areas of circulation, collection development and in other areas due to the growth of digital technologies which is replacing the conventional methods.

Singh and Kaur (2009) made a study on the Future of academic libraries in India due to the emerging knowledge economy and also highlights the impact of changing digital information landscape owe to the growth of digital technologies on academic libraries. They found that there is a need for changes in academic libraries.

Saxena and Dubey (2014) observed the problems and prospects of impact of digital technology on the academic libraries of India and they found that there are many infrastructural barriers to cope up with the emerging growth of digital technologies in the academic libraries and therefore management should play a role in developing the academic libraries for future changes.

Kaur, Gurjeet (2015) analysed the future and changing roles of academic libraries in the digital age. She advocated for the change of roles for both the academic libraries and librarians are needed and the librarians should become arbitrary information scientists or gatekeepers.

Aniruddha (2017) studied on the challenges and opportunities of the impact of digital technologies on academic libraries. He observed that transformation of information sources and increasing complexity of information needs have forced to change the way academic libraries work.

Parmar and Pateria (2019) analysed the role of libraries in higher education system in India in 21st century. They observed that libraries in higher education have to change their traditional collection development, service hours and service periphery to give efficient and effective services to the users.

Singh and Asif (2019) have made a study on emerging trends and technologies for digital transformation of libraries in India. They advocated that there should be change in the workplace that affects product, process and services of traditional libraries.

Goud B, Raja (2020) observed the impact of digital technology on in the academic libraries. He suggested that as the digital technologies revolutionized the all aspects of life and therefore changes in the form of traditional academic libraries are inevitable.

G T Mahesh and K V Jayamma (2020) analysed on the Re-engineering of academic libraries in India and a strategic approach regarding this. They advocated that re-structuring

of libraries are essential for present library system development, organization, management and services.

Narnaware, Sunil (2021) studied on the impact of National Education Policy 2020 on libraries and he suggested for changes in all the spheres of libraries.

Objectives

The main objective of a college library is to provide effective and efficient support services to the stakeholders to facilitate the teaching-learning process in the parent institution. The objectives of this study are as given below:

- To understand the impact of new emerging digital technologies on the college libraries and how it reshaped them to a new look.
- To understand why it is become essential to redefine college libraries in all aspects in today's 'Digital India'.
- To understand how the 'National Education Policy 2020' affects the traditional college libraries.
- To understand the changes are going to be occurred in different areas of a college library; such as its collection development, its type and mode of services to the users, etc.
- To discuss about changing digital information landscape and its impact on college libraries.
- To observe the changing role of the college librarians in this context.

Methodology

This study has been brought out on the basis of evaluation of current literature published on the internet and on other media and platforms. The compulsory secondary data was Collected from several journals, magazine, websites including thereof government of India, different government publications on the national Education Policy 2020, other publishing, etc.

Understanding "Digital India"

"Digital India" is a programme, initiated by the Government of India, to transform the nation into a knowledge economy with digitally empowered society. Digital is the outcome of advancements of digital technologies. There are nine major projects have been undertaken as a part of digital programme and they are as below:

- E-Governance : Reforming Government through technology
- E-Kranti : Electronic Delivery of Services
- Broadband Highways
- Public Internet Access Programme
- Electronics manufacturing
- Information for all
- Early Harvest Programmes
- Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity
- Information Technology for jobs

“Digital India” tries to provide digital empowerment to every citizen of India by bridging the gap of ‘Digital Divide’ with digital literacy.

Use of Digital Technologies and Resources in the higher education under National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)

To cope up with the pace and rapid advancement of new digital technologies worldwide, the New Education Policy 2020 has put emphasis in use of digital technologies and resources in school education as well as in the higher education sector of India. The followings are some key recommendations and initiatives of this policy regarding the use of digital technologies and resources in the field of higher education are:

- Creation of National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) for integrating technologies into multiple aspects of higher education
- Higher Educational Institutions should adopt digital technologies and invest in the building of digital infrastructure
- Blended models of learning should be implemented
- To bridge up the digital divide through “Digital India” campaign
- Enhancing the digital literacy of the teachers through appropriate training programmes so that they can become effective online educators
- Creation of online contents, digital repositories and digital tools with proper dissemination
- Creation of virtual labs using technology which are easily accessible to all the students
- Enhancement of online teaching-learning process

- A rich variety of educational software will be developed in all the major languages of India.
- Existing online learning platforms will be extended

Thus, under NEP 2020 impetus has been given on digital and online learning than offline traditional classroom learning and the college libraries as the facilitator of teaching-learning process in the colleges also have to evolve according to the need of the time and redefine their role and status.

Changing Scenario for College Libraries

New advancements of disruptive technologies like 'Artificial Intelligence (AI)', 'Big data', etc., shifting information seeking behaviour of users and new National Education Policy 2020 all these accumulate to the need of redefine of college libraries in this 21st century Digital India. Changing digital information landscape and evolving digital technologies have made a great impact on the college libraries.

Changing Digital Information Landscape and Evolving Digital Technologies: There are some strategic changes happened in the higher education and college libraries have to prepare themselves to influence the learning with digital information-centred and student-centred strategy. For this, they have to consider the following evolving information landscape and digital technologies:

- ❖ Open Access (OA) to various information with Open Educational Resources (OER) has brought the information equity by expanding access to the knowledge digitally which in turn somehow helped in bridging the digital divides.
- ❖ Changing to new kinds of user needs and expectations shifting demands towards new form and media of information access and emphasizing for personalized services.
- ❖ Due to information explosion there are information overload and misinformation are occurring.
- ❖ Emerging new technological innovations like 'Artificial Intelligence (AI)', 'big data', Social Media are affecting production, dissemination and consumption of information.
- ❖ Innovations of different Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS) like 'SOUL', 'Libsys', 'KOHA', etc. are affecting the management of libraries and Library automation are becoming inevitable.

- ❖ Emergence of various 'Digital Library Software (DLS)' like 'D-Space', 'Greenstone' which are enabling the libraries to create and maintain 'Digital Repositories' and to change from the paper-based traditional libraries to the 'Digital libraries' with digital content only.
- ❖ Emergence of 'Database Management System (DBMS)', 'Information Storage and Retrieval System' and various Multimedia tools have changed the scenario for college libraries.

Impact on College Libraries: The effects of changing 'Digital Information Landscape' and of 'Evolving Digital Technologies' on college libraries are enormous. Digital technologies have made revolutionized changes in the higher education sector and thus made several impacts on college libraries as given below:

- It has made a huge impact on library space and services. Transformations happened from physical buildings to virtual and hybrid models; from book storage to data hubs and community centres.
- Advocacy and Digital outreach to the teachers and students and promoting the value of libraries in the digital age and addressing emerging ethical concerns.
- In this complicated information environment copyright issues and usage aspects of information are changed like 'Digital rights management', 'fair use' and new copyright laws are incorporated.
- Now-a-days college libraries are practicing Digital preservation and Digital archiving, shifting from the conventional methods of books preservation by using chemical agents.
- The role of college librarians is getting redefined, transitioning from information gatekeepers to information navigators, data curators and creators of digital solutions.

As the more and more digital technologies are introduced in the higher education, the library operations and services are also transformed accordingly as shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Types of Digital Technologies can be used in place of Traditional Methods for different Library Operations and Services

Sl. No.	Library Operations and Services	Traditional Methods	Digital Technologies
1.	Selection and Acquisition of Information	Paper-based writing/typing	Digital selection and ordering through library automation software under the 'Selection and Acquisition Module', Word Processing, Text editing, Character Recognition, Voice Recognition
2.	Organisation of Information	Accessioning, Classification	Electronic Data Processing, Artificial Intelligence/ Expert Systems
3.	Information Retrieval	Catalogues, Indexes	Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), Web OPAC, Database Management System, Information Retrieval off-line, online
4.	Circulation of Information	Charging and Discharging System, Manual Library Card, Book Card, Date Label, Lists, Bibliographies, Abstracts, Hardcopies	Automated Circulation through barcode, Electronic Mail, Computer Conferencing, Telefacsimile, View Data
5.	Reference Services of Information	Paper-Print Media, Reference Books	Online Databases, e-journal and e-books, Search engines, Digital information gateways
6.	Preservation and Conservation of Information	Manuscript, Paper-Print Media, use of chemical agents physically	Electronic Publishing, Magnetic Storage, Videotext, Tele-text, Computer Disk, CD-ROM, DVD
7.	Inter-Library Loan	Paper-based Document Delivery	Electronic Document Delivery, Common Communication Format(CCF)
8.	Discard of Information	Physical Weeding Out	Magnetic Erasers, Optical Erasers, Re-use of Medium

Challenges and Opportunities

The complexities of information needs rises due to change in information landscape and rising use of digital technologies in the higher education are throwing stiff challenges to the college libraries both in infrastructural aspects and library operational and services aspects as follows:

- To build suitable and adequate management support
- To make effective strategic planning for incorporating digital technologies in library activities.
- To arrange training programmes for library staffs to enable them to handle the digital technologies in library.
- To make enough financial allocations to implement the digital technologies purposefully in the library.
- To choose appropriate software as per the requirements of the library.
- To make awareness among the users about the uses of digital technologies and digital resources as adopted in the library.
- To develop policies for periodical evaluation and timely completion of the projects.
- To motivate library staffs to increase their willingness to accept the digital technologies in library.
- To enhance continuous learning of library professionals for adapting to changing technologies and user needs.
- To cope up with the ever changing digital technologies, the college librarians have to update themselves to the current state of the art, so that necessary adjustments can be made in the library.

Along with the above challenges digital technologies have also brought some opportunities for the college libraries which are to be grab in both hands. Some of the opportunities that can be availed by the college libraries as follows:

- ✓ Time of the users will be saved.
- ✓ Users will get hassle free quick and easy access to their information.
- ✓ Without going to the library physically, the users can access information from any place, at any time, having internet connection and computer or mobile.
- ✓ By undergoing the training programmes the skill levels of the library staffs will be enhanced.

- ✓ Library staffs will get motivation and their willingness will increase to give better services to the users.
- ✓ The library services will be faster and more effective.
- ✓ The librarians will have to be updated themselves to the current trends of technologies.
- ✓ Having acquiring the required skills after going through the training programmes, the library staffs will be able to facilitate quick and easy access to the remote digital resources.
- ✓ The space problem in the library can be solved by using of digital resources and digital technologies.
- ✓ Collaboration among the college libraries will be increased.
- ✓ Shifting from the stand alone college library to library and information networks.

Recommendation and Conclusion

Changes in Information landscape, user needs and in digital technologies are inevitable. These are affecting the college libraries in all aspects. They have to take action, so that, the users can come back to the libraries for their needs rather than going back to the Google leaving the library behind. In today's Digital India, the use of digital technologies has increased rapidly in day-to-day activities which prompts the use of these technologies in the higher education sector also. So, in this digital era of changing teaching-learning environment in the higher education and as a hub of the teaching-learning process in the colleges, the time has come to redefine the college libraries for their better future.

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