

## Changing Dimensions of Librarianship in Digital Age

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### Abstract

Technological advancements are driving increasingly interconnected global landscape which contributes to rapid changes in all disciplines of knowledge. In the present scenario libraries are ever changing, growing and moving forward. As we know there is an urgent need for libraries to undergo transformation mainly because to remain relevant in an increasingly digital world. It is the fact that the transformation in libraries is driven by two important factors - rapid developments in ICT and the 'evolving needs of library users' and their expectations. In this paper an attempt has been made to describe the paradigm shift in libraries over a period of time. It focuses on changing dimensions of librarianship and it reveals with technical skills and professional skills are needed for modern librarianship.

**Keywords:** Paradigm Shift, Technological Development, Transformation, Digital Age

### Introduction

Libraries in the earlier period were considered as mere repository of books and other documents. Librarian was considered as the custodian of the documents. Information during earlier days was used to be stored on clay tablets, palm leaves and Papyrus. Nowadays With the advent of Information, Communication and Technology the functions of libraries are transformed drastically owing to global changes in ICT from storing books to learning and disseminating knowledge. The services of the libraries have taken a new shape in the light of developments in information and communication technologies. Now libraries are providing their end users with 24 x 7 access using internet technology. Now the user community is more techno- savvy and access information and resources on their fingertips.

All these transformations made the Library professionals to shift from the traditional library system to era of digital information. The availability of huge information on the internet and its widespread use really present the library professionals with an opportunity to play a crucial role in order to serve the Information Society in a better way than before.

### Objectives

1. To study changing dimensions of libraries
2. To study transformation in librarianship
3. To study paradigm shift in libraries
4. To adopt professional competencies

### Need for the study

1. To know the changing dimensions of librarianship
2. To adopt new technologies in libraries
3. To update the technical skills
4. To develop professional competencies among library professionals.

### Paradigm Shift in Libraries:

The mass development of internet, storage communication media and web technologies and effects of their conversance are ushering new era wherein the creation, organization and management of information and knowledge will be much faster and pervasive.

Palm leaf	To	Webpage
Print	To	Electronic
Holding	To	Access
Library Centered	To	User Centered
Closed Access	To	Open Access
Limited Access	To	Global Access

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Limited Hours	To	Round the Clock
Reference Desk	To	Virtual Reference Desk
Reference Service	To	Digital / Virtual Reference Service
Document Delivery	To	Electronic Delivery
Catalogues	To	OPACs/ Web OPACs/ Cloud OPACs
Indexes / Bibliographies	To	Online Databases
Standalone	To	Network / Consortia

### **Change in the Role of Library Professionals**

Huge technological developments and the use of electronically stored and retrieval information systems have changed the way students and researchers are able to access, retrieve and use information. The instantaneous access to information through the Internet has made vast amounts of information and data available to its end user. Digital information is changing the role of librarians radically. Their new role makes it imperative for them to provide services and instructions regardless of place, time or format. Library and information professional must be able to participate actively in the educational process rather than gathering and disseminating information to the public through workshops, orientations, training etc. They must ensure that there is effective and efficient flow of information from the generators to users of information in the digital environment.

1. Information Scientists
2. Educators and Advisors
3. Collaborators
4. Information Managers
5. Information Consultants
6. Content Managers
7. Knowledge Managers

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## Professional Competencies for LIS Professionals

Advancement of Information communication technology has made Library professionals should make well versed with sound knowledge about Information technology and Internet. To meet the challenges of digital era Library professionals need to acquire expertise in skills, technical skills and professional competencies.

1. Expertise to use Information, Communication and Technology
2. Information Resource Management
3. Knowledge of Open Source Software
4. Knowledge of Web technologies
5. Expertise in information resource management
6. Knowledge of user interaction with knowledge resources.
7. Web page development and Content Management
8. Ability to provide innovative library services
9. Providing awareness programs and orientation on new technology adopted.

### Conclusion

The ready availability of information on the internet, and its widespread use, really presents librarians with lot of opportunities to transform in the digital world. Library professional should perform the proactive role for optimal use of library resources and support quality enhancement in teaching, learning and research activities. Always keep pace with the developments in information, Communication and technologies. Library professionals should adopt new modes of information delivery and create continuous learning opportunities for the end users and make programs to encourage collaborations team-learning and shared learning.

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