Impact Factor – 6.625 | Special Issue – 229 (B) | February 2020 | ISSN – 2348-7143

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWS ASSOCIATION'S

RESEARCH JOURNEY

Multidisciplinary International E-Research Journal

PEER REVIEWED, INDEXED AND REFEREED JOURNAL

SPECIAL ISSUE 229 (B)

INDIAN YOUTH :

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Dr. V. R. Kodape

- CHIEF EDITOR -
Dr. Dhanraj T. Dhangar

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Impact Factor – 6.625 • Special Issue - 229 (B) • February 2020 • ISSN – 2348-7143

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RESEARCH JOURNEY International Multidisciplinary E-Research Journal
Impact Factor (SJIF) - 6.261 | Special Issue 229 (B) : Indian Youth : Challenges and Opportunities
ISSN : 2348-7143
February 2020

Perspectives of Youth in Changing Era of Libraries

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Abstract:

Policy makers use the advantage of information and communication technology in every corner of the mankind. In the present scenario, Young generation is taking lead in this advance technology. Youth are the key user for any library & best placed to engage with new digital platforms. Information is collected from various sources. Digitalization of information provides better use and services to library. This paper throws light on modern technologies & services supported to the younger generation user.

Introduction :

India is becoming a superpower in the world. This is because of not only the technology used, economical and social reforms in the nation but also number of Youth representing in India relative to the world. India is expected to have 34.33% share of youth in total population by 2020. India is also seen to remain younger than many other populous countries. This has provided a great opportunity for the country to reap this demographic dividend for making rapid economic growth. As it is known to us that if young ones when nourished properly can grow like a huge redwood tree but if not controlled or neglected can explode like volcano.

It is always said that 'Knowledge is the power'. This Index of power leads to growth of that country. Information plays a vital role in educational and overall growth and development. It is what allows us to take better verdicts for ourselves and those around us, to innovate and to create. This information when provided in a meaningful way shows way to development, from individual to global level. This ensures that everyone can access, use, share and create the information. Libraries help to distribute this because they are having open spaces which are having full of information experts.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in their professional report published in 1996 mention the guidelines for library services to youths. These are as follows:

Goals :

1. The library has to establish clear policy statements concerning the right to free access by youths to library and information sources; and respect for the rights of youth to select resources appropriate to their needs without restriction.
2. The library program for Youths is effectively managed according to best practices.
3. There is impartial distribution of resources to support programs and services for Youths.
4. Library staff is knowledgeable about youth development and age appropriate resources for Youths, inclusive of those with special needs.
5. The library provides a wide range of current resources of needs specifying to Youths to encourage lifelong learning, literacy, reading motivation, and reader development.
6. The library provides resources to support the educational needs of Youths.
7. The library assists Youths in acquiring the skills to effectively access all library resources and become information and computer literate.
8. The library encourages youth development by providing opportunities for Youths to participate in planning and implementing library programs and services for themselves; and volunteer opportunities for helping others.
9. The library creates an area just for Youths that is attractive and that reflects their lifestyle.
10. The library works in joint venture with other community agencies and organizations to support all aspects of healthy, successful youth development.

Materials:

Provide useful Resources in the form of printed materials which can include:

- Books
- Magazines
- Brochures

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- Posters
- Comic books
- Graphic novels
- Other languages, including Braille and Sign language

Non-printed material which can include:

- websites
- Audio books
- Multimedia such as CD-ROMs, CDI
- Computer software
- Video-cassettes and DVD's
- Electronic networks and database products

Services:

- Free access to the Internet
- Providing reference information to support educational accomplishment and personal development.
- Arranging library tours that support self-sufficiency and comfort level in using the library.
- Training for literacy and information finding skills, using both print and electronic resources.
- Offering readers advisory services for individuals and groups
- Encouraging the use of the collection in all formats
- Providing finding aids and other supporting materials
- Facilitating access to resources outside the collection when necessary, such as referrals and inter-library loans.

Programmes:

- Book talks, storytelling, and book promotion
- Discussion groups and clubs
- Information programs on topics of interest such as health, careers, and current issues
- Celebrity visits of authors, athletes, and persons of local interest
- Performances of a cultural nature such as music, art, and drama
- Co-operative programming with community institutions and groups
- Young adult productions (drama, publications, TV, video)
- Reading debates
- Book exhibitions

Staff:

- Staffs who work with Youths should have the following skills and competencies:
- Understanding of the unique developmental needs of Youths
- Admiration towards youth as individuals
- Respect Knowledge of young adult culture and interests
- Ability to create partnerships among other groups in the community that address needs of Youths
- Flexibility to follow the changing needs and interests of Youths
- Ability to advocate for Youths within the library and in the wider community
- Creative Thinking skills

Role of Library:

Explosion of information is the major attribute of this era. To cope up with this information explosion and to serve the users in minimum time library and information centers has to adopt new innovations in information and communication technology. Libraries have been slough from traditional to modern. Frequently, we have to keep updated to technological changes with our skill to work with. Youths in today's era are very smart and expect the smart services from the library. Today's generation is all about technosavy and expects user friendly technological services. Libraries will no longer remain far away from the use of this technology. Digital environment causes to reform libraries set up to support their parent organizations.

Today's youth is under pressure from family, academic and social expectations. Cut throat competition in each and every aspect of life creating stressful environment to do and achieve better for the future. During the stage of youth, he is engaged with any organization i.e. he is learning, working, researching or in search of job/work. In every aspect libraries play an important role to shape the youth and their future. Increasing demands of youths, mold library and information centers to work accordingly.

Library Management Software :

Libraries now strive for using software to housekeeping the mechanism of library to provide speedy services to users in minimum time. Use of software in the library is able to reach towards user's relevant content, quick access and provide value added services. There are many subscription based and free softwares i.e. SOUL, LIBSYS, LIBMAN, KOHA, e-granthalaya, Evergreen, Openbiblio, Newgenlib etc.

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) :

Traditional form of catalogue now converted into electronic format known as OPAC/WEBOPAC. Library

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software provides OPAC facility to its users on local intranet or internet. Users can access resources available in the library and save their time also they were able to know more about their required contents, authors, publications etc. OPAC facilitates to use at local level and WEBOPAC at global level.

Internet :

Libraries provide wi-fi /internet facility to its users free of cost to enable to search for e-books, e-journals, online databases, internet surfing for various academic websites related to their study. Users are in need of such facilities of remote access within the campus to continue their e-learning. Library supporting staff should acquire the skills to work with computer hardware and networking.

E-reference service :

Demand of reference from the users will be provided by the libraries via e-mail, WhatsApp, SMS, CD's, DVD's, pen drives etc. Librarians are able to provide links for reference, soft copies by sitting in the library.

Inter Library Loan :

Every library is unable to purchase all resources needed for library due to lack of funds. Inter library loan is a practice of sharing of library resources to another library. On demand of users library staff can provide such reading material either in book form or in electronic form.

Library Websites :

Website of a library provides information about available resources and services. It represents the organizations vision and mission. Links to various other websites on library's web page, compartment highlighting important information, symbolic presentation on website, graphics and pictures are the ornaments of a healthy library website which attracts the youths to access it. Youths in fact need information at their desktop at any time.

Social Media Networks :

Now a day's libraries use social media to reach its end user. Social media is a most interesting platform amongst the youth to share their views, ideas, expressions and talent. Library websites linked with face book, twitter, linkedin, WhatsApp, instagram, you tube etc.

Challenges :

Lack of ICT based services :

Though the libraries living in digital environment, till there are some libraries unable to implement ICT based services due to lack of budget, lack of skilled manpower and lack of infrastructural facilities. Technology developing rapidly, library personnel has to upgrade with this rapid growth. Administrative responsibilities, fear of technology use lagging library personnel to upgrade results in disappointing smart youths.

Lack of awareness in general users :

ICT illiterate Youths are unable to know about ICT based functions & services of library. Enrichment of library resources, services and programmes become fruitful when there is more use. Library personnel need to make awareness about library as a learning centre by arranging library orientation, library visits, book exhibitions, various programmes highlighting features of library.

Types of services and its challenges differ from library to library. It is the skill of Library professionals to attempt as per the need.

Conclusion :

Use of ICT is the primary need of the services in library. In present scenario youths are much better to use these modern tools. Identifying the expectations of youths, libraries need to change & provide quality services serve with the help of ICT. With multifaceted and embedded responsibilities in front, the significance of library management is increasing step by step and they should be well-trained in ICT to meet the demands of young generation users. Library personnel's should be well acquainted and educated with advance technology.

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