Role of Library Schools in Bringing the Changes in Library Management

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ABSTRACT

Library and information centers are facing different changes especially due to the factors like use of ICT, information explosion, globalization, etc. To cope up with this change, the LIS professionals to be ready. The LIS education plays a vital role in this regard, as the LIS schools train up the future LIS professionals. This paper discusses the role of LIS schools in this regard with a case study of DLISc, Gauhati University, Assam.

Keywords: Change management, LIS education, DLISc-Gauhati University,

1. Introduction:

Change is dominant and it plays its role in every society in all times. Change is inevitable part of any growing organization. Change is making things different which will keep the organization in business and to face the competitors. There are some factors which force an organization to adopt the recent changing trends; these factors are like technology, knowledge explosion, economic instability, globalization, political change, social change etc.

In the field of library and information centers and its services also, the change is occurred due to different factors. Here, an effort is made to discuss the recent trends in the library management style.

2. Change in the management style of library and information centers: different issues behind it

The library and information centers are facing new challenges due to the changes occurred in this field of study. The fifth law of library science is 'library is a growing organism' and because of its growing nature, the library is changing time to time in its managerial style. These changes are there because of different factors. Some of these factors are highlighted here:

i. Information Technology: Information Technology and its effect on the library and information centers bring a tremendous change in the library management and its allied services.

ii. Globalization: Globalization is also a factor that brings changes in library management style. The globalization has imposed competition globally and to cope up with this competition environment, the library should have to change its managerial style.

iii. Information explosion: Information explosion floods the literature especially in the field of science and technology and it imposes the library to change its management style especially in its document management and the services it provides.

iv. Structure of workforce: Now in most of the library, the library and information professionals are expert with different technological skills. Therefore, the library has to change its working style as per the staff's proficiency.

v. Changing attitude of the users: The library and information centers are purely service based organization and the success of such organization is dependent on the users' satisfaction. Now, the library and information centers are facing challenges from the user community due to their diverse information

seeking behaviour. To satisfy this indeed demand of the user, the libraries are changing its management style.

These are some of the factors that impact directly on the changing management style of the library.

3. Recent trends in library management style:

From the above it is cleared that library is changing and there are different factors behind its changes. Information technology is the most effective factor and it impacts on all the other factors directly and indirectly. These factors have developed some trends in library and information service and systems which are mainly techno based.

From the Library point of view:
All the library and information centers are now partly and fully dependent on the information and communication technology. Availability of e- resources and using of new electronic storage mediums like CD ROM, DVD and Floppy Disc etc. are replacing books and journals in paper form day by day. Most of the reference books like encyclopedias, dictionaries directories, handbooks etc. are available in electronic form both in online as well as offline version. This aggressive contribution of information and communication technology has brought tremendous changes in the concept of traditional library as well as on its services. Libraries are first computerizes and then they are automated. After that, library collections are digitized and gradually the libraries become digital libraries. Now the digital libraries are turning towards virtual libraries as well as borderless libraries.

From the Staff point of view:
For working in such libraries, which are facing new challenges, new competitors, new demands, new expectations from user community, the library professionals are now to be more acquainted with the skill of handling new technologies related to collection, processing and dissemination of information. For working in such library environment, besides gaining the professional knowledge in library and information science (LIS), the library professionals should have the knowledge of information technology and its application in library operations and services, both in theoretical as well as practical level. With the changing role and responsibility of the librarians their professional identity is also changed, they are now known as Information Officer, Information Broker, Cybernarian etc. Moreover, in age of open and distance education, some library staffs are taking the opportunity to enrich their knowledge by participating in different library science related courses.

From the User point of view:
     As the technological advancement has changed the form of document available in the library, the way of services it provides, and the staff serving the users, in the present digital environment the library users expect:
     a. Pin pointed information.
     b. Speedy access of latest information on web or network.
     c. Opportunity to retrieve and access their required information 24 hours round the year.
     d.   Accurate information on all the disciplines.

4. Role of the library schools in bringing a change in library management:

          Library school means the institution, department of the university, colleges, autonomous organization, professional bodies running under government as well as in private sector that provides the library and information science education in regular as well as in distance mode. This school has a very important role in the development of the library and information science profession, as they have developed the professionals which are now engaged in different libraries and are developing the students as the future professional. As the library and information centers are now becoming more technology oriented, therefore the syllabus of various LIS courses, includes the different advanced topic on Information and communication technology.

          It is already mentioned that the recent trend is not only confined in the structure and nomenclatures of the library, but it touches in the point of the staff and the user also.

The library schools are playing a great role in bringing a change in library management style. As the information technology and its tools are applying in different stage of the functions and services of library, it changes its name to computerized library, automated library, digital library etc. The concept and development of all these types of library are impossible without the proper professional manpower from this field of library and information science.

To handle such types of library, the suitable manpower is required and these schools of library science develop the professional manpower who is serving in different libraries of the country.

As in the techno based environment, the working styles and technologies applied in library are changing frequently, to make conscious about the changes the library schools are arranging different short term workshop, refresher course, seminar, conference, hands-on training programme etc.

User education programme is a part of the library and science education programme, where the students are taught how to handle the users in the library, their information need and the information seeking behaviour of the users.

Thus the library schools are playing a principal role in library management style.

5. A case study:

Department of Library and information Science (DLISc), Gauhati University is the oldest library school in the North East India. This school has been producing a number of library professionals then and now those are serving in different organization of this region and other part of the country and abroad at different capacities. This Department is a leading school now providing MLISc and Ph D programme. From 2016, Department has started M Phil Programme too. It is noteworthy that in 2016 it has completed the glorious 50 years of its inception. Besides these, DLISc, GU arranges different training programme, refresher's course, seminar etc in collaboration with various organizations.

To cope up with the changing scenario of library management style, this Department is also changing the design of its course from the very beginning. This Department was started in 1966 with the B.Lib.Sc course only; later in 1979, M.Lib.Sc. course was also begun. As the demand of the information science prospect is raised, the course is then changed to BLISc and MLISc in 1983. From 2001/2, the BLISc course is abolished and the department started the integrated 2 year MLISc Course. From that, till 2010, the syllabus is revised many times. Now the topic like open source software is given more importance and during the 2 years some open source software are taught practically in the computer laboratory. DLISc, Gauhati University, Assam started Job diary and Internship Programme for 2nd and 4th semester students. Moreover, educational excursion to the library of repute in the country is also a part of this course. This is a very practical step in developing the LIS students to cope up with the practical working environment. Now, with due emphasis on practical classes, the course is become a total package to prepare the LIS graduate suitable for the LIS job and to cope up with all the exchanges occurred the working environment time to time.

6. Conclusion:

As the Library is an inseparable part of a higher academic institution, the UGC - NAAC also assesses it as a parameter for the over all assessment of a college. Therefore now proper importance is given on the overall development of the library. For achieving the desire goal, the 3 M is important i.e. Manpower, Money and Material. Now another M is also become very important in this process i.e. Mind setup. If the library personnel and the college authority do not support these things mentally, then the entire plan programme may become useless. The DLISc, Gauhati University is serving this NE Region of India as a leading school of LIS education and brings a trend in library and information center management.

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