

# Fundamentals of Librarianship, Information Technology and The Changing Nature of Libraries

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## Summary: -

In the last few decades information and technology has influenced every sphere of human life. Indian social system has undergone drastic changes over time. Generally, after 1980s, Indians started getting introduced to computers and information technology. Computer penetration which was initially only in defence and in certain areas gradually became inevitable in every field. Libraries are no exception. The needs of readers visiting the library have changed. Sources of information have changed. It is noticed that if library services are provided to these Netizens, with the help of computers, internet, library software, information retrieval systems, websites, databases, e-books, e-journals, digitization, cloud technology, social media etc., follow all the five basic principles of libraries very efficiently. The present research essay has studied how the five basic principles of librarianship can be fulfilled by analyzing the library services provided in the modern library with the help of information and technology. Also, the changing nature of libraries in the modern era has been reviewed.

**Keywords :-** Basic Principles, Panchasutras, Computer Services, Information Technology.

## Introduction :-

Libraries have as much history as our ancient culture. Libraries are the symbols of our glorious culture. In the world, where the culture took root and flourished, libraries of excellent quality are seen to be built. As the books were written on materials like precious metals, inscriptions, or vernaculars, their use was limited. However, the invention of the printing press was as revolutionary as the invention of the wheel. Hundreds of copies of books became easily available. New ideas began to spread throughout the world through books. The thinking of the world began to change. Many countries gained independence after freeing themselves from slavery. The pace of the world increased with the advancement of information technology. New branches of knowledge emerged, the desire to acquire the vast amount of knowledge available increased, and the efforts to increase the ability to acquire this knowledge began. There was an urgent need to find ways of rapidly disseminating this knowledge from the library, which was the only source of knowledge at that time. Basically, the five basic principles of librarianship on which the foundation of modern librarianship is built are still very useful today. These Panchasutras or five laws are based on the principles of disseminating the available knowledge everywhere, properly classifying and storing the knowledge, getting the available information to the right reader and providing reliable information to the right person without wasting time. Taking these Panchasutras as a basis and adding new techniques to them, there are drastic changes in libraries and library services. In the new information age, such sophisticated libraries have become the need of the hour. The present research paper has analyzed how modern library services can be provided with the help of information and technology, taking the principles of library science as a basis.

### First Law :-

(Books are for use). Books are for use. Earlier books were rare and were treasured. The level of education was very low. Only elite people of the society used to get education. Women did not have the right to study. Hence, books are considered to be an object of great care and little use. However, after the universalization of education, even after the availability of books increased, the tradition of keeping books under lock and key continued. Book knowledge should be free. Everyone has a right to it. People from all walks of life should get to read these books. The very important thought that books should be freed from the shelves of libraries is conveyed by the first sutra. Computers allow the information held in the library to be widely disseminated. INFLIBNET is an organization working at the national level to provide computerized library services and through this organization soul is provided to the libraries at a nominal cost. The information available in modern libraries is maximized by various library software like Readerware etc. SURPASS, Lucidea Integrated Library Systems, Koha, L4U, OPALS, Destiny Library Manager, Handy Library Manager, Insignia Library System, MODERN LIB, LIBRARIAN. The list of books available in the library is made available to the members at home on web Opac, what's app, Telegram, Instagram. The information of the newly released books is conveyed to the readers without delay through the online bibliography. Earlier, the information required by readers was provided through photocopy or Xerox. Now the members get the desired book excerpts, information from reference books, useful articles from journals through email. The concept of open access in the library has become a reality with full efficiency due to technology. This leads to maximum promotion and dissemination of books and reading material in the library.

**Second Law:-** Every Reader his/her book. Everyone should get a book in his/her favorite subject/desire. OPAC technique can be used instead of earlier bibliographic or catalogue method. Through this technique, the library members are given updated information about the database of books, periodicals, bibliographies available in the library. The bibliographic or catalogues had its own limitations. To find a book, one had to search for a book by title, author or subject table. If there is insufficient information about the book, there is no possibility of getting the book. Also, is the book available in the library? This information was not available. Through the new technique of OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue), the information about how many books the member wants and how many of these books are actually available in the library is available in a few moments. If a particular book is not available in the library, the member can reserve that book through OPAC. If a member remembers very little information about a book for ex. author's last name or first name, or publisher or a word in the book's name, even just the subject, the book can be searched through the OPAC. This ensures that every reader gets the book he wants. Display screens are now installed in libraries to provide Current Awareness Service or Selective Dissemination of Information. The covers of new books, magazines, periodicals, and other materials, and critical articles are visible in the library. Advertisements of books that are about to be published appear under the heading 'Upcoming Attracts'. Readers get instant information about new books. They are attracted to those books. Modern technology has made it possible to easily access information resources from other colleges and universities through online catalogs and MOUs.

**Third Law :-** Every book its Reader. Every book should find a reader. Books on various subjects are available in the library. Some valuable books are lying there for lack of readers. Often the readers are not aware that there are books on these subjects in the library. Such books can be promoted through available technology. Reviews of these books can be brought to the attention of readers through social media. The cover and back cover of the books are sent by which the readers are attracted. Many times, while studying a

particular subject, readers look for books by familiar titles or authors, while technology can bring books by other authors on those subjects to the attention of readers. The abstracting & indexing services provided by the publishers are provided to the readers to understand the contents of the books. What other books, periodicals, reference books are available on that subject can be seen from the computerized list. Information literacy classes are conducted by libraries to familiarize members with modern services, available information sources.

**Fourth Law :-** save the time of reader. The information, book or reference required by the member must be removed in the shortest possible time. Computerized libraries save readers time with their sophisticated services. Many software have been developed for this purpose. Through these software, the members not only get the information that the books they want are available in the library, but also get the information about which and how many books are there and where they are. If a particular book is not in the library, one can also request the book by knowing who borrowed it. Rare information is digitized. This information can be given to the readers in a moment. Many magazines and books are available online. The online platform has saved the time it takes to produce a book or magazine. Certain articles in these books or magazines can be emailed home to members.

**Fifth Law :-** Library is a growing organism. Libraries are great. Reading materials are constantly being added to the libraries. Old books have to be removed for new books, other reading materials after the earlier available space limit is exhausted. It also included rare books. Now every library must have a computer department. Free internet access, high speed broadband, WiFi facilities can be provided through this department. However, modern technology allows us to store huge amounts of data in devices like computers, CDs, pen drives, hard disks, smart phones. Various organizations create their databases, consortia and all this information is provided to the members through internet. Through Cloud technology, libraries can store large number of their library resources, database and other information. Old & rare reading materials in the library can be digitized and made available for reference as and when required. Stock verification is done by RFID. CCTV is used for security of libraries. Many libraries come together to contract. These libraries form a union catalog of information resources and share their information sources through internet, email etc. The traditional book exchange libraries have now transformed into knowledge resource centers offering advanced computerized library services.

### **Conclusion :-**

1. All five principles of librarianship are eternal. All these five principles can be followed very efficiently if the library services are equipped with modern technology.
2. There has been a complete change in the needs and tools of users accessing information in libraries.
3. Information technology has had the most positive impact on libraries and library services.
4. At present, books are not the only source of information in libraries, but information is available in the library through online journals, databases, consortia, union catalogue, e-books. This information is stored in very little space and can be made available in less time.
5. Preservation of rare books and making them available whenever required is easily possible through digitization techniques.
6. Modern technology has made it possible to easily access resources from other colleges and universities through MOU.
7. Modern technology has drastically changed the nature of libraries, library services and libraries have become more efficient.

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