Best Practices in   College Libraries : A Study with Special Reference to Shri Mailarlingeshwar Post Graduate College Shorapur, Yadagir District. Karnataka State

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Abstract

Libraries are the repositories of the knowledge and form and integral part of any education system. Library and information services play an important role in the academic excellence of any institution. In order to bridge gap between library and users for the effective and maximum utilization of the resources, best practices adopted. An attempt has been made to highlight the best practices adopted in the Information and Knowledge Centre, Shri Mailaralingeshwar Post Grade College Shorapur, Yadagir District. Karnataka State.

Keywords : Best practices, College Library, Library and Information Services

Introduction

Libraries are the repositories of the knowledge and form and integral part of any education system. The present day libraries have undergone drastic changes over the years. Libraries innovated, invented and implemented variety of techniques and services. College libraries are not an exception which plays an important role in enhancing the quality of education   and research. The drastic development in the field of ICT and its adoption in the field of Library and Information Services have compelled the library professionals to adopt innovate new services and practices. They have to assess the academic community in getting relevant information using innovative methods.   The library professionals also have to play an important role to promote information literacy.

Best practices : Meaning and definitions

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines best practices as " quality of high standard, excellence, highly improved, outstanding, par excellence service".

Need for best practices in college libraries

- Rapid changes in the information seeking behaviour of the user community
- Continuous improvement in library services

- The tremendous growth of ICT and stress for adoption in the field of library and information services
- Availability of abundance information in the form of e-resources through Internet.

Library Profile

Shri Mailaraligeshwar Post Graduate College was established by the Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Vidya Vardhaka Sangh's at Shorapur in 2010-11. The Founder Secretary of DBSAVV Sangh's **Late Sri Bagappa Billav** was a visionary. He was aptly called as **Sagar Nadin Shikshan Shilpi of Hyederabad Karnataka Region & truly a great educationist** who brought revolutionary progress in educationally backward region of Hyderabad Karnataka. He had conceptualized the establishment of an institution of higher education at Shorapur, Shahapur, Devadurga and Kalaburagi and more than 35 Educational Institutions started. Our college is affiliated to Raichur University, Raichur and located at Shorapur Taluka, Yadagir District, Karnataka State The library collection 10 thousands includes general Reference books, Text books, Donated Books, CD's, Periodicals, Bound Volumes of the journals etc. It has different sections namely, Reference Section, Current affairs section, PG section and Subject reference section, Stack section, e-Resource Centre, Circulation section, processing section etc. The IKC is well equipped with 10 computers and other IT related facilities. Out of these about 08 systems with Internet facility for students to use the Internet and e-resources in the e-Resources Centre. Shri Mailaraligeshwar Post Graduate College library has adopted some of the best practices which can be highlighted as below :

- ❖ **Journals and Magazines Facility:** Our College Library subscribing more than 15 Journals and Magazines. Some are Weekly, Monthly and Quarterly also. Journals like a University News, Seminar, Teachers Movement, Yojana, Hosatu, Janapada.

- ❖ **Orientation Programme** : The librarian has been conducting orientation programme to the new students admitted every academic year both for PG students separately. The orientation programme includes the facilities and services available in the library , do's and don't, collection, Rules and regulations OPAC search, e-resources etc. Orientation will be arranged even for the newly joined Faculty members. This helps them to get acquainted with the library resources.

- ❖ **Internet and Wi-Fi facility** : All the 10 systems in the e-resource centre having internet connectivity with 100 mbps speed. Along with this the whole library is having Wi-Fi connectivity. Students and faculty members can make use of internet free of cost.

- ❖ **Annual best library user award**: Based on the registers and statistics maintained in the library and the observations of the library staff every year one students is given annual best library user award. The main objective of this practice is to develop library culture among students.
- ❖ **User feedback** : User feedback is collected on all aspects of the library facilities and services. Library maintains a Log Book and Suggestion box which is periodically checked in order to

ensure the effective utilization of library services. Feedback of library services is obtained in Student Council meetings and the same is shared with the librarians for further action. Now it is also started collecting the feedback from the participants of workshops and training programs. This will help the library staff to improve the services.

❖ **Organizing book exhibition** : Library is organizing book exhibition by the dealers every year.

❖ **Organizing various competitions** : On some special occasions like Librarian's day organizing various competitions for the users. The competitions like memory game, article browsing, pick and search, treasure hunt, quiz etc. The main purpose of all these competitions is to make aware of the resources available in the library. So that increases the use of library resources.

❖ **Current content display** : Content pages of the journals will be scanned and uploaded in digital display board.

❖ **New arrival notifications** : Other than New arrival books display, List of new arrivals will be sent to all the departments through departmental e-mail fortnightly.

❖ **E-mail reminders** : Circulation due reminders will be sent to the students as well as faculty members everyday through e-mail.

❖ **Digitization** : Previous years Question papers were scanned and uploaded in the software for students benefit.

❖ **Institutional repository** : Institution is taken for Institutional repository with Faculty publications and question papers and project reports are in developing stage.

❖ **LIBRARY - WHATSAPP (DAFGCR STUDENTS / STAFFS)**

1. Provide book reservation facility
2. Posting important instruction
3. Book due date extension
4. Posting new arrival list
5. Library holiday list
6. Posting various notice etc.

EXTENTION   SERVICES OF LIBRARIES

➢ User Education
➢ Information aids
➢ Library use statistics

- ➢ Library best user award
- ➢ User feedback practice
- ➢ Suggestion box and timely response
- ➢ Extended library opening hours
- ➢ Information Brochures
- ➢ Library Committee formation
- ➢ Membership
- ➢ Circulation
- ➢ Reprography
- ➢ Notice board display
- ➢ Reference service
- ➢ Thought of the day
- ➢ News Headlines
- ➢ Important of the day
- ➢ News paper clippings
- ➢ Book bank collection
- ➢ Computerization of library
- ➢ Career Guidance services

Dr S R Ranganathan 's Five laws of Library Science re-coined by Thaker and Rawal's thinker :

1. Software is for use
2. Every user his or her software
3. Every software its user
4. Save the time of the user
5. A software library is a growing organism

Conclusion

The concern of the librarian of these days to redefine the role of libraries in reaching out the right information to the right user at the right time. Librarians have faced new challenges to took for new ways to meet the user's new demands and expectations. Best practices should be adopted to address the demands of the user. Information services and knowledge services as potential sources of innovative reference programs in the digital environment. The dynamic environment of the library and information factor stresses the need for academic library professionals to remain flexible and adapted to change, effective organization of resources. To conclude the best practices mentioned above might have been practiced by many of the college libraries. In modern society there exists a gap between librarian and the user information needs. To bridge this gap they need to educate and educate them to acquire new skills and competencies for a new role and they need to cultivate the concept of lifelong learning for information literacy skills. LIS professionals need to play an important role in the education process by making people aware of a need and motivating the user of information.

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