Changing Perspective of Library Space Management for Networked Society

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Abstract: *The critical issues discussed in library management are the physical space and its utilisation. As the Fifth Law of Library Science states, Library is a growing organism, and accordingly the growth is a constant phenomenon of the library. Over the years libraries have been thinking on conserving space to make room for new collection and additional reading space for readers. This concept is gradually getting transformed with the emergence microform collection in late 1990s and now with the e-resources and digital libraries. However virtual one may conceive of the technology infrastructure also needs space for equipments and accessories. So deliberations on Library Space and its proper utilization and conservation continue to be issues of library managers and of management. The paper emphasize some perspective views on space management is a changing environment in particular with the coming up of digital content and network access to this content.*

Keywords: Library Space Management, Digital Libraries, ICT Impact

1. Introduction:

Libraries have always been thinking about the space and its beneficial utilization. It is often of the considerable concern by the organization and management that libraries occupy space of enormous dimension and value. But Libraries have been in existence since ancient times and they are the only social institutions surviving all kinds of changes and calamities. The examples of Clay Tablet libraries, the Alexandria Library of thousands of papyrus rolls have not dissipated from the minds and today the thought of digital or virtual libraries has set in as it functions in virtual space. But it is necessary to understand this virtual space has

a physical dimension too in the form of "Servers" as storage and access points and the cost of such devises also adds in enormous value. All these innovations have been attempted to conserve space and its beneficial utilization. In this context this presentation also takes note of ongoing changes in the libraries in the context of Library space, changes in their contents and making them available to the stakeholders. This paper gives an overview of the changing paradigm of libraries since the advent of printing, and would bring about a comparative view on the merits and demerits of the two environments. It is to be noted here that, digital environment is not going void the library space and but it is going to supplement it to facilitate virtual global access, on the other hand the print media has the advantage there is no intermediary between the book and its user unlike in the case of digital environment wherein the user has an encounter with the machine and the machine serves as an interface between the book and its user. So the paper examines such and other aspects and tries to make a rational assessment of the dual media taking into consideration the user of the resources. The present developments in ICT have landscaped a network society and in this context the benefits the libraries derive in this changing situation can be a value addition to the library space concerns.

2. Phases of Changes in Space and Content Management:

The Libraries have always contemplating on the conservation of space, to accommodate new collection (Content), to facilitate new user areas and to admit new and friendly technology amenable to user benefits to "invite" them to exploit the vast resources of the libraries. This has been happening since the Print media emerged in the mid-15th Century.

In this phase the libraries adopted different shelving methods, and after the World War II there was a veritable formats of document and handling of these new forms was a task which gradually moved to the Microform. This was not only a space saving technology, which amounted to savings nearly to 90%, but the content management was highly restricted to special and sparingly used collection – Scholarly journals, catalogues, reports, research publications like theses and dissertations, and to save storage space of large size archival collection of the news papers.

3. Micropublishing:

The libraries saw the advent of Micropublishing as a great relief for space and content management. An overview of Micropublishing is presented here below how this helped the libraries in their task of handling the ever growing volume of documents especially the special collection like, Reports, Conference Papers, Journals and Research publication. The

micropublishing was also a great solution for Archival management – for National archives and Newspapers. A brief overview of Micropublishing which had mesmerized libraries and the publishing industry in the 1970s and 1990s has been presented here below. It is not a total obsolete technology, integrating it with Computer technology new innovations have been made possible, for example Panchromatic Micro Imaging abbreviated as PCMI.

The micropublishing was publishing of documents in microforms, particularly specialized documents. Advantages of Micropublishing being- Low production costs and distribution cost, Colour reproduction of art books, Compactness and Space saving Technological and other pre-requisite technologies facilitating micropublishing were -Computer composition, Text processing machines, Camera ready copy for printing /publishing and Printing on any surface

The main Reasons for micropublishing were a) Information Explosion b) Problems of printed form and c) Solution provided now is an holistic approach – combination of several technologies. The micropublishing included, .1 Original publishing of specialized documents research and development requirements 2. Practical publishing – On paper and in microforms for archival purposes, professional journals 3) Re-publishing traditional micropublishing 4) Selected titles of books 5) Serials and newspapers publishing and 6) Proprietary publishing

4. Panchromatic Micro-imaging (PCMI)

The then information explosion has made library collection management tougher than ever. The problems of book acquisition, budget allocation and shrinking shelf space are growing with the ever increasing demand for vast amounts of source material, much of it is unavailable, but of print and very expensive. Initial PCMI collection includes science and technology, social sciences, American Civilization Literature, Humanities, Government Publications, other collection such as those relating to Law, Medicine, Religion, Physics, Chemistry are in development. Now every Library regardless of size locale or budget can function as an active full-pledged research centre. As a space age library should. National Cash Register co., PCMI library and Information System, IPD Dept. Main 2-Street, Dayton Ohio, 45401. USA.

5. CD Publishing

The advent of Optical Disc brought a new hope as it would not only store and play, static content but help to store and play "live" content, in audio, video and also integrated and concurrent multimedia – content, audio, video and also graphics and animation. Libraries considered this a great innovation. The initial cost of store and play factor gradually came down almost to naught. The management of content on Optical discs of variety also made advent of multimedia Reference books like the Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries and so on.

Now the world of libraries has moved to electronic and digital storage (Space) and to use of the resources (Content management and development). A brief overview of happening since the advent of first turning point the Microforms and then the impact of ICT and the presently the emergent digital era is given in this brief presentation.

6. Impact of ICT on Libraries:

The studies on impact of ICT on Libraries are not new. The implied changes due to the impact of computer and communication technology in document (content) creation and it use has been envisaged as below (Gopinath, 1984). It also indirectly reflects on the library space to facilitate them.

Table 1: Impact of ICT on Libraries and change in the work culture

Work	Technological Impact	
	Old	New
1. Communication	Personal Travel Postal Communication	Teleconferencing Teletext,Email, Satellite Transmission
2. Inputting Text (Primary Format)	Oral Presentation Writing and Typing	Word Processing Optical Scanning
3. Multiplication	Printing Processes	Computer Visuals Display Terminals Videodiscs, Cassettes Computerized printing
4. Storage	Book shelves, Pamphlet Cabinets, Microform Storage devices	Computer-based digital and Analog storage, Discs, Tapes, Drum
5. Information Retrieval	Browsing through the	Browsing through

	surrogates in a catalogue, and through the shelves	Online Terminals, Computerised databases

It is further stated that, "the data presented in the above table must interpreted to project a transition phase. In the total human civilization we always see old coexist with the new technologies". So it is happening all the times, as we still have palm leave manuscripts, printed books, microforms and now the digital content. But its impact is on library space, as more and more compartmentalization would be necessary to accommodate different media and innovative services in relation to new media. For example, the card catalogue is getting replaced gradually with OPAC but some libraries still maintain both. So additional space is required to accommodate both.

7. Library Space and Content in Digital Era:

The digital era has given a new frontage to Libraries, in particular the emergence of Digital Libraries and/or virtual Libraries. The physical space has now transformed into a virtual space, with the conceptualization of World Wide Web in the early 1990s. It has transformed in general the way of life even in the case of a common man and so every field of human activity. Libraries being so part of the society since long have also been affected by the digital scenario which is advancing day by day, moment after moment.

As it is remarked earlier the old and new technologies coexist – as we see there are manuscript libraries, libraries with enormous volume of print media, the intermittent microform and now the digital media. The Digital media has been one of the most aggressive entry in the library and has circumvented all assumptions in a shortest period. The content that is available in digital media has increased 200 times in the last 5 years, as most of the scholarly communication, books and media are not transformed into digital content. The impetus to this has helped due to the growth of computer and communication networks and access to information anytime, anywhere has been accomplished worldwide. The band width, mobile communication, cloud computing and internet protocol to deploy and deliver large chunk of information has been a matter of a fraction of a second. Hence more and more content is now being converted into digital form. The content is in variety now – Text, Audio, Visuals, Graphics, Images and so on.

In this context a comparison of old and new media, in the digital era, and paradigmatic change the new media has contributed can be visualized as presented in the table below:

Table 2: Old and New Concepts of Library, Space and Content

Old Values, Concepts and Objectives of Library	New Trends, Values, Concepts and Objectives of Library
Collection Development	Access Management
Printed Materials / Resources	Digital Resources
Limited Varieties of Resources	Numerous Varieties Resources
Storing Place More	Learning Space More
A Place for: Storing, Preservation and Archiving Study Refer Read & Write	**A Place for:** Study & Reflect, Think & Dream Getting Vision & Imagination Read & Become Samanahrudaya Creative Writing Platform for Exchanging Ideas Place for Expression & Exhibition Place for Read, Reflect, Discuss and Debate, Place of Vibrating Wisdom
Main tool for Retrieval is Catalogue	Retrieval By Search Engine
Learning Place is Reading Hall	Varieties of Learning Environments and Learning Commons
A Store with Records of Thoughts and Reference Place	A Thought Promoting Environment Filled with Accessibility of Thoughts

8. Conclusion:

The core concept of Library has been "recorded knowledge" as long as the process of recording knowledge as a human vocation continues, the civilization in the past, presently and in future is inclined to find ways and means to store, process, organize and deliver the content, via communication networks. What technology has to offer for the future can hardly be predicted with the best of expertise in computer and communication technological developments. Wait and watch is the main hope of the human being.

Reference:

1. Gopinath, M.A. (1984) Current trends in information sources and communication media: A working document. DRTC Refresher Seminar – 15. 12-14, December, 1984. pp.L17.