

Green Library – An Overview

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Abstract: Green library means libraries, built with the intent to protect the environment and community. Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the natural environment on individual, organizational or governmental levels, for the benefit of both the natural environment and humans. Green Libraries can serve in the way libraries have always served as landmarks in their communities. Green Libraries give pleasant environment to the user community. This article depicts the importance of this task & various methods for libraries to go green.

Keywords: Green Library, Environmental protection, Environment Quality, Energy Efficiency, Panchamahabhutas, Sustainable Development.

1. Introduction:

Green library refers to library that contributes towards maintaining the natural ecological balance in the environment, and preserving the planet and its natural systems and resources. Green Library has many meanings, including preserving natural resources for the future, living in a carbon-neutral way, and meeting the needs of the community. For the purpose of this task is as living and working in a practical and environmentally responsible manner, to ensure the protection of the world's resources for future generations. It also improved day to day operations and procedures of the library, as well as educating the community about responsible environmental practices. Libraries are in a unique high profile position which enables them to be community role models by implementing sustainable strategies.¹

2. Green Library:

The Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science (ODLIS) defines green/sustainable libraries as A library designed to minimize negative impact on the natural environment and maximize indoor environmental quality by means of careful site selection, use

¹ Andrew Logan & Co, Tomorrow's Green Libraries,
http://www.libraries.vic.gov.au/downloads/Shared_Leadership_Presentations_2012/report_tomorrows_green_library.pdf

of natural construction materials and biodegradable products, conservation of resources like water, energy, paper, and responsible waste disposal recycling, etc.²

3. Importance of Going Green:

Environmental protection is an increasingly pressing issue all over the world. Ozone depletion, green house effect, global climate changes or global warming, etc, are the main issues in the environment. It is high time to take responsibility to protect the environment. Our natural resources are precious and limited. Everyone has a responsibility to leave a healthy planet for future generations. Libraries require a significant amount of energy, water and other resources.

The Five Element Theory – Panchamahabhutas Earth, and everything on it, is the product of different combinations of the five basic elements: earth, water, fire, air and space. Everything found on Earth can be classified into one of these five categories, based on their innate characteristics. The “five element” theory explains the similarity between humans and the natural world surrounding them. In our body, space/akasha is present wherever there is a cavity like in the nostrils, mouth, ears, throat, lungs, and stomach; air/vayu in the movement of the lungs, heart, stomach, intestines and joints; fire/agni in all metabolic activity, the eyes, intelligence and body temperature; water/jala in all plasma, blood, mucus, and saliva; and earth/prithvi in any solid structure like fat, muscles, skin, nails and hair. The basic elemental compatibility or similarity between Earth and humans clarifies why substances found in the natural world (plants, herbs, foods) are usually harmonious with the human system. They can be easily absorbed and cause no adverse reactions or side effects (if consumed in appropriate quantities) because they are fundamentally the same in character and composition. This is why foods and herbs are able to heal the human body. Vegetation can repair and restructure humans because they share a common elemental basis.³

So that, if any of these affected, future generation could not survive. Now itself, people are affected by various natural hazards like disasters, flood, no rain & so on. These will affect the human health, human life. This is very important to take steps for going green. Only that will ensure Sustainable Development. Ecological sustainability is one of the aspects of sustainable development. It refers to ensuring nature’s diversity and the viability of ecosystems as well as adapting people’s actions to it so that nature is not overburdened and the continued loss of natural resources is halted.

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_library

³ <http://www.jiva.com/ayurveda/about-ayurveda/31.html>

4. Methods for Libraries to go Green:

The library sector should create models and systems that facilitate sustainable development. Libraries have considerable opportunities to improve their customers' environmental awareness through communication and environmental education as well as acting as an example.⁴

There are many ways to go green, amongst few are as follows,

- Proper way of using electric power
 - Turning off lights during bright daylight, or whenever you will be away for an extended period of time.
 - Turning off fans, computers when not in use.
- Water Usage
 - Water should not be wasted unnecessarily. Taps should be opened little only. So that little water could be saved for future.
- Reducing pollution
 - Use public vehicles for transporting.
 - Avoid machines as much as possible.
- Effective way of Paper Usage
 - Papers are prepared from Woods. If single paper is saved, the Tree is saved. Papers should not be wasted. 2 sides of the paper should be utilized. Papers should be reused or recycled effectively.
- Cultivating more plants and trees in vacant lands
 - It helps to maintain the ecological balance of the earth.
- Recycling non-biodegradable products
 - Put a separate container next to your trash can or printer, making it easier to recycle your bottles, cans, and paper.
 - Plastics should be avoided. Reusable pens can be used instead of ball point pens. Polythene covers should be avoided consciously. This is also kind of saving earth.
- Wastage Management
 - Wastes should be thrown into dustbin only. Even people are in travel or outside, they should be conscious to not to throw the waste in common place.

Creating Awareness⁵

Libraries can inspire people by preparing & displaying charts on Conserving natural resources.

Programmes, Competitions can be organized for the users.

⁴ <http://sustainability.libraries.fi/G@Len.pdf>

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[http://www.ala.org/nmrt/sites/ala.org.nmrt/files/content/oversightgroups/comm/schres/endnotesvollis1/3greeningthe library.pdf](http://www.ala.org/nmrt/sites/ala.org.nmrt/files/content/oversightgroups/comm/schres/endnotesvollis1/3greeningthe%20library.pdf)

Provide open forums for greening earth & provide facilities for video on environmental issues.

Select collection materials on organic gardening and composting or green computing and energy conservation.

Set Library links to environment issue sites.

Forge outreach relationships with users interested in environment concerns.

5. Benefits of Going Green:

As Green Libraries give pleasant atmosphere to the users, readers will be attracted towards the library. Libraries can serve for the information needs of the users as well as the present & future of the users by saving environment.

- Beautiful & Pleasant World
- Better Quality of Life
- Better Health
- Saving Earth for Future Generation
- Improve mental health

6. Conclusion:

The current important issue of the world is environment issue that is to save earth & save life of the earth. Libraries can take good initiative to inspire people, individuals to work towards environment protection. Change can be possible when change comes from mind. Libraries can be inspiration for this change. Libraries are in an excellent position to be both an ecological operator and promoter of environmental awareness.

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