



### FUTURE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: THE NEED OF RESURGENCE AND TRANSFORMATION IN THIS PERVASIVE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

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#### Abstract:

*Libraries need to be more active and available online so that the community is aware of the resources that are available to them. Platforms for social media can be used to achieve this easily. Online social interaction is essential, as is reminding everyone of the core values that a library upholds. There would be more potential and return visitors as well as stronger ties with their local communities as a result. Several librarians emphasized the value of having access to e-books, tablets, and e-readers in a manner similar to this. In the upcoming years, the function of libraries will dramatically change due to demographic shifts, a rise in urban migration, and technological advancements. Under the burden of scarce resources, libraries will serve more physically dense and culturally varied communities in the future.*

**Keywords:** *Future Libraries, Technology and Libraries, Emerging Trends, Resurgence*

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#### Introduction:

Today's librarians must offer an ever-growing range of services to clients they hardly ever interact with. A completely new sort of library user the faceless patron is created through virtual world in all types of libraries. Despite a decline in patronage, libraries and librarians are being held to higher standards. The term "librarians" will no longer be used to refer to them as in tradition but now will be recognized as data miners, researchers, managers, internet and computer experts, multimedia specialists, and so on. This will be a career that embraces a set of principles and values that function effectively and effortlessly in a world that is

increasingly driven by technology. This profession will need to acquire skills including adaptability to change, a variety of training experiences, the capacity to adjust with the environment fast, and most importantly, the ability to collaborate across disciplines. Libraries have been under pressure to alter their typical practices due to two reasons. **First**, it is challenging to meet the growing demand for information services because of the rising prices brought on by inflation and the tight budget. The emergence of online databases and simple access to the information through internet has created rivals for libraries in the provision of information services. **Second**, non-library services become more



responsive and geared toward the needs of the user.

### Literature Review:

Many of these changes have raised concerns about the function of physical libraries in the twenty-first century. For instance, the idea of a "library without walls" (Weiss, 2004) has been proposed, allowing users to access the library's services from anywhere (Bilandzic and Johnson, 2013). The demise of the physical library has not materialised, despite the grim forecasts, and while attendance at libraries has decreased, it has stayed constant at academic libraries. Even while user behaviour, especially borrowing practises, have changed dramatically over the past 10 years, the number of students attending higher education institutions has led to a rise in foot traffic in academic libraries (SCONUL, 2015). The demographics of academic libraries' clients have also changed, as have the ways in which visitors interact with the actual space. Libraries are changing from being primarily places for gathering, preserving, and transmitting information to becoming places for social learning and places where knowledge is created and shared (Paulus, 2011). When we examine well-known examples of cutting-edge new library designs, we can see that they frequently fuse contemporary architecture and design with a more communal and collaborative method of service delivery (Arts Council England, 2013). Academic libraries have a long history and legacy and have always been crucial to scholarly communication, teaching, and research (Fjällbrant, 1997).

Academic libraries are seen as resilient institutions that have shown the ability to adapt to shifting social, political, and technological factors because they have changed and developed alongside the

higher education institutions of which they are a part (Gilmour and Sapp, 2002; Weiner, 2005). Academic libraries were obliged to further adapt as scholarly publication and access went even more towards electronic services in order to showcase the "value added" services that they could provide (Gilmour and Sapp, 2003). Although there are difficulties in organising, disseminating, curating, and providing electronic services in an academic setting, library professionals should be in the forefront of efforts to address these problems. Like in the past with earlier advancements, digital developments give academic library employees the chance to develop new positions and new methods of serving users. The development of seamless information architecture and knowledge organisation structures that enable simple access and retrieval via online tools is one obvious field. In an otherwise unregulated and unmediated digital environment, this technical infrastructure is crucial in helping users comprehend the integrity of scientific publication and information. Academic libraries in the twenty-first century go beyond the confines of their particular institutions to provide open access online information spaces that deal with sophisticated Internet sharing tools, online social communication tools, and networking technology. The personnel of academic libraries should be able to assist varied and international university learning communities as well as recognise and cater to the needs of all international patrons, ensuring that they all receive the same high level of service. Academic library staff faces new challenges in an environment where international education is expanding quickly, and these challenges necessitate investing in skill development and continuous improvement on the



basis of providing effective, meaningful, interactive, flexible, and culturally aware library services and programmes.

### The basic elements Libraries should take care of:

- **Quality in accordance with user demand:** Every information center's main objective is to please its users. Therefore, it is necessary to define excellence in terms of what people believe. It is necessary to bridge the gap between expectations and perceptions.
- **Performance assessment:** Performance assessment must be based on quick action and feedback from superior information systems.
- **All employees must participate** if a library wants to accomplish its objectives. Each person must act on their own and without depending on others. Everyone in the organisation must be held responsible for continuous improvement. Continuous improvement is seen to be best accomplished through teamwork, education, communication, and training.
- **Error-free processes:** The library's main objectives can be achieved by focusing on reducing service costs, achieving error-free processes, and saving users' time.
- **Actual and potential users:** Staff members should be encouraged to identify clients who need a variety of sources and services and to educate them on how to get the most out of the library's offerings.

### Need of Resurgence and Transformation of Libraries:

In order to address new demands and issues and stay relevant, libraries must be adaptive. Creating maker spaces or workshops where library users can collaborate on projects is a good idea. Giving

visitors and library customers spaces where they are free to work on their own projects or business-related activities is crucial. By designing lounges or remodelling places that may be used as creative workspaces, you can encourage individuals to use your workstations. Making relevant workshops and courses for kids, teens, adults, and all library users would be another way to keep current.

Libraries need to be more active and available online so that the community is aware of the resources that are available to them. Platforms for social media can be used to achieve this easily. Online social interaction is essential, as is reminding everyone of the core values that a library upholds. There would be more potential and return visitors as well as stronger ties with their local communities as a result. Several librarians emphasised the value of having access to e-books, tablets, and e-readers in a manner similar to this. Another option to stay current is to update library's digital literary offerings. Library should make sure to expand selection of tablets, e-books, and e-readers.

### Some of the emerging trends libraries should look into:

**1. Technology Driven:** The most obvious direction libraries will likely take involves a faster, more advanced speed of technology integration that is more seamless than it is even now. They have lots of resources available to address community requests because there are so many innovative new technologies and ideas, including ebook readers, tablet computers, open source, and more. Sadly, books don't have the same allure as the newest and shiniest devices, but resourceful librarians know they can still use the public's passion for technology to spread literature to the masses.



**2. Automation:** The Internet of Things and intelligent robots will have a bigger impact on automated systems. Building-integrated networks of linked devices will increase automation and make it possible to interact with the environment more effectively. The use of programmed machines can optimise the architecture of archives, leading to space and energy savings as well as the optimization of retrieval systems, in response to the growing volumes of objects that need to be stored and the decreasing amount of available space.

**3. Emphasizing community:** In order to serve as a community centre with a focus on learning rather than just literature, libraries can start providing a wider range of programming. Participating in local communities can encourage this process. The usage of social media for community participation is also growing.

**4. More social media:** Social networking has already begun to establish itself as essential to the experience, much as the most recent literary technology that is slowly making its way into libraries. It provides a venue for discussing events, promotes them, responds to inquiries about them, and extends the reach of the community. Social media also makes it simpler than ever for libraries to get input on what kinds of programming the community prefers, tips for enhancing the services, and discussions on what books should be added to the shelves.

**5. Crowdsourcing:** Libraries should start using crowdsourcing to plan their future, organise focus groups, and be receptive to suggestions from experts, customers, and professional customers. More and more librarians are taking advantage of social media's ability to crowdsource valuable

information on digitised artefacts and open up previously closed archives to the public. As a result, the conversation is changing away from the challenges of digitization and towards potential for collaborative curation and creative reuse.

**6. New Learning Models:** Nowadays, most learning takes place informally outside of the classroom. E-learning can provide less resource-intensive solutions by, for instance, using less physical space and reducing the amount of trash from printed materials. With this change, the library's role could change from one of supporting learning to one of providing learning opportunities.

### Conclusion:

In the upcoming years, the function of libraries will dramatically change due to demographic shifts, a rise in urban migration, and technological advancements. Under the burden of scarce resources, libraries will serve more physically dense and culturally varied communities in the future. Libraries do, in fact, play a crucial part in enabling individuals without the means to access vital resources. They also give the chance to practise and experiment with cutting-edge technologies. Participating in the community will assist in creating services that are precisely aimed at the needs and goals of users. In order to promote social interaction and collaboration, library rooms will need to be adaptive and flexible, while also allowing for quiet thought and chance discovery. Although the future is largely uncertain, the research has shown that in a world of rapid and ongoing change, libraries and librarians will have a lot of chances in the future. Providing venues and services that meet user requirements and expectations while assuring sound and sustainable operation models both now



and in the future will require adaptability and flexibility.

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