

Implication of Ranganathan's 5th law to library and information profession in the 21st century

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***Abstract-**The paper discussed on how the Ranganathan's 5th law (library is a growing organism) influences the 21st century library and information profession in some areas. the paper examine the concept of 21 century library and information profession, laws of library science, element of Ranganathan' law, Ranganathan' 5th law, Ranganathan's contribution to the profession, the state of 21st library and information profession, as well as the implication of the 5th law to library and information profession, also conclusion were drown on how the profession have respond to paradigm shift in which the library is indeed a growing mechanism.*

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Introduction

The 21st century has virtually turned anything virtual. The 21st century library and information profession have also gone virtual, the 21st century library according to Reitz (2005) is the library “without wall” in which the collection do not exist in paper or other tangible physical location, but are electronically accessible in digital format via computer network. The fifth (5th) law of library science as formulated by Ranganathan as opined by Sen (2008) have with time and environment been changing the form of library and information professions. Ranganathan sees the library and information as an institution that is active in a constant changing environment, the profession changes and adapt itself with spirit of time and can serve the best to those who need it.

The fifth (5th) law proposed by Ranganathan. “The library is a growing organism is the most interesting in terms of understanding that it contribute to innovativeness and self creation as a survival reaction to the changing environment. It gives place for innovativeness and creativeness, as well as actual freedom to do so.

The state of library and information profession in the 21st century

The library and information profession has been largely devoted to task of organising and providing access to information. Librarian and library profession according to Gbaje (2011) are meant to cope with changing environment as the profession moves to digital age. The profession is meant to create effective collection, organisation, dissemination and preservation that will meet the information need of users in the 21st century.

However, according to Barner (2011) library and information profession offers a lot, some of their expertise within the field of information in 21st century include Retrieval skills, metadata, information and knowledge management and familiarity of using criteria in judging reliability and accuracy of quality of information.

Ranganathan and library and information profession

It can bibliometrically proved according to sen (2008) that Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan is the

greatest thinker in the field of library science that the world ever produced. The number of original contribution he made in the field of library and information profession fundamental ideas gave birth to, and the philosophy he advanced which are all unmatched in the world.

Ranganathan made contribution to many ideas in the profession, he wrote 60 books and about 2000 research article in his life. Dr Ranganathan Enunciated various laws, principles and theories e.t.c. in the library and information profession. His principles are base on scientific principles which are ideas and the light house of libraries, library and information science student and teachers. Even today when computers and other development in the field of telecommunication have change the scenario of the profession, even today when library and information centers face the problem of underused information resources as well as the challenge of implementing information and communication technology (ICT), Dr Ranganathan's philosophy is relevant as accepted up till today to overcome the problems.

Laws of library science

Dr S.R. Ranganathan (1892-1972) was considered the father of

library science in India. According to Alireza (2004) Ranganathan develop what has been widely accepted as a definitive statement of ideal library science literature as fresh today as it was 1931.these brief statement remains as valid- in substance if not expression –today as when they are promulgated, concisely representing the ideal service and organisational philosophy of most library today:

1. Books are for use
2. Every reader his or her book
3. Every book its reader
4. Save the time of reader
5. The library is a growing organism

In 1992, James R. Posited a 6th law an extension of Ranganathan's law that "every reader its freedom" as applicable only to the type of service (provision of information).

Element of Ranganathan's Law

The element of Ranganathan's Law according to Alireza(2005) include:

1. Book (object, information resources)
2. Readers (users, consumers, patrons)

3. Library (institution, organization, learning resource center)

Ranganathan's 5th Law in 21st century

The 5th Law proposed by Ranganathan "The library is a growing organism Bhatt (2011) opined that library and information profession require to employ actual creativity and new system which make use of tools, skills and the talent of librarian and libraries. However library as a growing organism, as the library grows in service, the skill necessary to deliver these new service will also grow, so both libraries and information profession are growing organism.

The 21st century library and information profession have transformed almost all its service to keep with the changing world. The library and information profession have adapt to new technologies like internet, computers to facilitate access to information, most of the library staff are now technological literate and the library and information science curriculum changes to meet users need of the 21st century.

Ranganathan's 5th Law and its Implications to library and information profession in 21st century

The 1931 5th law as proposed by Ranganathan is valid and acceptable in today's library and information profession. The library and information profession have been growing in which it's employ creativity and innovation in their activities and make use of technological tools and skills to meet with the changing information world. The implication of the 5th law to 21st library and information profession covers some of the following areas:

1. Library physical space
2. Innovation in imparting information literacy
3. Innovation in the field of reference services
4. Digital collection development
5. Contribution to knowledge through repository and core publishing of electronic journals.

1. Physical space

The library serve as physical space to knowledge base information resources with the changing world, the library is now the centralized location where new and emerging information technologies is combined with traditional knowledge resources in a user focused service rich environment to support today's social and educational pattern of learning, teaching and research

According to Geoffrey (2005) libraries are in a period of rapid and profound change in the delivery of service and configuration of space that is there are no longer just print repositories with service built around paper collection but deliver information electronically regardless of physical space. libraries today are been renovated and expanded (growing).the library space are combine with technological facilities, like computers, printers, scanners, internet e.t.c to help student inquire and communicate in the 21st century information. The integration of this new technology has actually become a catalyst that transform the library into a more vital and critical intellectual center of life at colleges and universities today.

2. Imparting information literacy

Imparting information by professional librarian according to Nicholas and Herman (2009) is now a common innovation in the field of librarianship. Librarians act as mediators and provide a theoretical knowledge, tools, techniques and tip to users. Today the use of search engines offering keyword search-Boolean strategy make easy for successful retrieval in a keyword base query and provide high result than a random toss of keywords into a search engines.

Librarian use the command OR, which allow users to use various synonyms to ensure actual coverage of the field, this is not trival to a lay person, the understanding of Boolean operators such as AND, NOT e.t.c. is not common knowledge, imparting it to users in an attempt to improve information literacy by professional librarian can fill a void that exist among users.

3. Innovations in the field of reference services

These allow fewer opportunities for librarian to directly display their profession and skill due to intermediation. Library mediation is vital in providing answer to the need expressed in the field as a response to the changing environment which is a reactive action. libraries have now taken a proactive action creating a presence in itself which influences information arena and human behaviour, such proactive action is the use of social networking like face book for introducing reference services and other library activities, the social networking is a great place for popping the urgent question and need, that is a comfortable place for users to collaborate in an environment they use on a daily bases.

Also another proactive approach in the 21st century library and information profession according to Barner(2011) is the library visibility in the internet that help in creating the presence in the information arena, service reference through Email, chat, phone, online session are among the innovation of the 21st century.

4. Digital collection development

Library is such an organization that all collection are now scanned enriched with verbal metadata by professional librarian, cataloguers with marc field can be published online which ensure proper preservation for long term and kept in a digital repositories. Calhoun (2007) posited that the role of preservation in the digital era is a classic role in libraries as it is development of unique local content. The innovation is in organization of information in a database that allow search and retrieval using rich metadata that describe visual items that lack independent verbal information, also information accessibility have develop online browsing that able the users to discover, select and request desired material.

5. Contribution to knowledge through repository and co-publishing of electronic journal

Library and information profession have always been part of

academic communication system. The library according to Rao (2009) is the chain of information, and a link that is not only a mediating, but directly assists in the creation and distribution of highly quality, current and reliable information at lower price than market price. Cost, repository maintenance, editorial consideration, preservation and storage right are not simple issues, but proper solutions can be found and they are not enough to write off the opportunity for this valuable innovativeness. There are many examples of opportunities for innovative expression in the field of publishing. Publication among academic libraries is gaining momentum in digital space because of the cost-benefit advantages it offers to publishers coming from the academic field in publishing monographs, unique series and journal articles e.t.c.

In the 21st century ICT environment, library and information profession develop a computerised network capable of storing and providing access to full text scientific and social information to their users, a development that is infrastructure for repository those institutional archives of research product. The repositories have

significant advantage of maximum current and preservation of intellectual property right of the researcher and the institution they work out for. In the field of publishing, most institution support publishing in an electronic environment, the internet now allows direct distribution of the research product at a reasonable price than that which is charged by the commercial publishers. The library of 21st century that specializes in information takes the role and claiming power for researcher and the institution.

Also, according to Case (2005) publication that focuses on experimentation with innovative technological uses base on digital format-application that are not applicable for a printed format like possibility of magnifying and focusing pictures and text or searching within document using OCR, help grant professional, modern services and shared professional knowledge posed by libraries in favour of creating new knowledge, while guaranteeing preservation and accessibility of those material both in long term and short term.

Conclusion

Many have predicted that the library and information profession will become obsolete due to integration of information technology, but The 21st century library and information profession have responded to the paradigm shift in which the profession expanded its boundary and position

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itself as a significant player in the new information environment and as an important aid in the creation and distribution of information and knowledge to create reality in which the library is indeed a growing mechanism.

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