

Innovative Research in Library Field

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Abstract

The process of translating an idea or invention into a good or service that creates value or for which customers will pay is called an innovation; an idea must be applicable at an economical cost and must satisfy a specific need. It involves deliberate application of information, imagination and initiative in deriving greater or different values from resources, and includes all processes by which new ideas are generated and converted into useful products. In Libraries, innovation often results when ideas are applied by the Librarian in order to further satisfy the needs and expectations of the users.

Introduction

Despite representing more than 80% of occupation and more than half of user expenditures in the SAARC countries services have received little attention from the innovation community within professional institutes. While management specialists continue involved in innovation, much of their focus has been upon library services. Some management intellectuals have described services innovations as determination of users' needs and how effectively and efficiently their needs can be fulfilled in different innovative tools by the service provider. The subject, Service Innovation represents a major gap in the innovation literature, a gap which this paper addresses. Service Innovation in library services can improve the effectiveness of library knowledge management which ultimately helps not only to the students but also to the faculties, research scholars of various institutions as well.

"Service Innovation may be defined as

the use and improvement of various technologies to provide better and services to the users within a reasonable for the development of the users as well society as a whole." In today's world library system is not a job where only one professional person is appointed to handle all the activities of library but it has become a job with a variety of activities handled by many professionals Librarian, Librarian Administrator, Content Developer, Content Designer, Content Manager, Web Site operator, Data Entry operators etc. provide effective and efficient services to interested people. Libraries also require service innovations so that it can fulfil the needs of users. To understand the nuanced distinction between the physical services provided by library and the library services by Web 2.0, it is necessary to explain these two terms in detail for a better understanding to the readers.

Library Innovations:

- Innovation is a complex process of creation, distribution and usage of novelties
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- Order to enable library development as a social institute and enhancement of library Performance

- Library innovation is a system of new ideas proposed by creatively thinking professionals or by a team

Current technology trends in libraries

Previously we've looked at future technologies in libraries. This week guest writer John Garland, digital librarian and independent consultant, helps us look at how libraries are using technology to improve services for customers today. Innovative libraries are using digital tools to:

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INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

1. Robots

Libraries have been very important in the new era. Library has a lot of work. That's why there are many libraries now that have already implemented some kind of automation. There are a number of libraries who have already successfully implemented some kind of automated technology. For example, a more futuristic example is Connecticut's Westport library, which recently acquired two robots, Vincent and Nancy that will be used to help teach coding and computer-programming skills. Yes, it is a whole new level of social interaction, but it's a very good way to get people's attention and raise their interest in technology and most importantly in the library.

2. Functioning of Libraries with RFID Systems:

Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) is a wireless system of using electromagnetic fields. This System automatically identifies and tracks the chip attached with the books and materials of the library. It is one of the self-service scheme where a library user can take his required books and automatically the identity of the books, name of the user, date of issuing the book is recorded in the e-register of the library. The library using RFID system does not allow the users to take any book or material unless a proper procedure of recording of issued books and about its user, is followed which ultimately avoid the risk of theft. To avail the facilities of such library the users are required to be a member and the nominal charges for using the materials of library will be automatically deducted from the bank balance of the user. It also helps in proper arrangement of all materials of the library. Such system also needs less human resources and helpful in reducing the monotonous work of librarian.

3. Inter Library Loan System provided by DELNET:

DELNET was started at the India International Centre Library in January 1988 and was registered as a society in 1992. It was initially supported by the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research,

Government of India. It was subsequently supported by the National Informatics Centre, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. <http://www.delnet.nic.in/> It is not possible for any library to collect all types of materials and stored these under one roof. The major purpose of such establishment is to promote the sharing of resources among the libraries. A user of a library can use the study materials of another library by the use of DELNET. In this Inter Library Loan System one library on the request of a library user can bring resources from a library for a specified duration only. Such facilities are quite helpful specifically for the research scholars.

4. Development of Semi-Public Libraries:

Besides students, faculties and scholars there are many persons in the society like service-persons, homemakers, businessmen pursuing their higher education etc. are also interested to avail the facilities of libraries. As there is a lack of public libraries in every region it is quite a difficult task to avail the benefits of library services. The libraries of the universities are only used by the concerned students and faculties. The people of the particular locality and the students or scholars of other institutions are deprived of the facilities provided by the libraries. Conversion of libraries of various universities into semi-public libraries will be an innovative decision from which not only the interested library users of the locality but also the concerned universities will be benefited. The Universities' libraries can be converted into public libraries for limited hours per day only, in consideration of which the university can also charge a fairly high fees from the outside users as a result the university can get some extra funds for the maintenance and improvement of the libraries in future. Such facilities will be a large contribution to the nation as well to uplift the level of knowledge and learning of the societies. The innovation decisions will be helpful to achieve the objectives of the five laws of library given by S.R. Ranganathan

5. Mobile Apps

Mobile apps are a real trend right now, as people have access to their mobile devices constantly. Also, people are spending more time on mobile apps and less time on mobile browsers. A mobile app can extend the library's services outside their physical borders and facilitate the interaction with patrons. An app that offers functionalities such as a library catalogue, interactive library guides, a library virtual tour, an interactive calendar with all the library's events, the possibility to loan and read electronic books and articles, the possibility to reserve the library's resources or to pay for some services represent a real benefit for the patrons, facilitating their activities at the library.

6. Virtual reality app

Virtual reality is a new technology, and from medicines to gaming, people are interested in this application in different domains. So it does not even apply to the library and does not connect directly to the digital. In his article, Pior has described the concept of unrealistic imagination based on the image created by an Indian developer as a librarian. The library allows users to search for books with the virtual reality dialogue. The full idea of the app is based on localizing books on physical space and searching for relevant books.

7. 3D Printers

3D Computer graphics or three dimensional computer graphics are that use a three dimensional representation of geometric data that is stored in the computer for the purposes of performing calculations and rendering 2D images. Now one day the 3D printer will be very easy to access the public. There has been a lot of discussion about the topic of 3D printing in this past year and now the 3D printers have reached a lower price point. More educational libraries have proven this service. Here all the libraries giving a map of 3D printing can be found here. It is important to use different rules and students have really accepted it.

Conclusion

This has been just a glimpse of some of the fantastic digital projects going on around

the world. Libraries have always been about sharing knowledge, culture and skills and these new digital services are just one way of engaging with customers and providing them with services to help them and make their lives easier.

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