

COLLABORATION IN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT: - *In the past, the general trend for libraries and other cultural institutions was to assume that customers would come to them; most institutions are now looking at outreach and other ways to be more relevant to their communities and their customers' daily lives. The modern technologies have made it easier for libraries.*

Public Libraries can extend the library services up to the last person in the society. By serving the whole community a public library can play an important role in creating knowledge based society. It is a medium for social reformation. Partnerships of various kinds can help all the institutions fulfil these goals and serve the community to the best of their collective abilities. The implementation of ICT in the profession of library science has widen the areas of work and extended the library services at the outreach of users' daily lives.

KEY WORDS – Public Library, Collaboration, Needs for Collaboration, Networking between Public Libraries, Benefits of Collaboration.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan has given five fundamental laws for library professionals. The Fourth law is 'Books are for use'

Context to public library, we can say: books are for all. For each and every person of the society. The resources of public library should be utilized for total development of the society. Working of public library is different from other libraries. The range of its users is wide from children to senior citizens, from readers to authors, and researchers, and from regular to

casual visitors. The collection also is very much different from other libraries like academic or special libraries. With advancement of ICT, the expectations of users to a public library are also changed.

Some public libraries organize seminars, lectures, discussions on current events, literary programs. Author meets with users, and so on to develop the knowledge by joining hands with others. Some libraries have special departments for children, senior citizens, etc. To work as a librarian in this field, is not only bread and bitter

bit a responsibility to the society. A mission to serve the community also. Libraries deal with knowledge and the mission of libraries is knowledge development. By collaborating and networking with other libraries and other organizations, public libraries can do better for development of knowledge and better serve the community.

PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Public libraries are founded wholly with government grants in the developing countries in agreement with the UNESCO public library manifesto (1972) which states that: 'A public library should be maintained by public funds, and no direct charge should be made to anyone for its services. To fulfill its purposes, the public library must be readily accessible, and its doors open for free and equal use by all members of the community regardless of race, colour, nationality, age, religion, language, status, sex, educational attainment'

A public library is a library which is accessible by the public and is generally funded from public sources. Tax collecting bodies for public libraries may either be a local, national, central government or a public trust.

Library's Glossary Dictionary (1997) defines a public library as a library established by local, state or central government for the use of the general public. However, there are some individuals or organizations that establish library for the general use of the people. A public library is therefore a library that offers services to the

public free of charge and it also provides educational, social and political information to people in a particular community. Generally, public libraries are accepted as a public good.

In this age of ICT, the public library should have fundamentally changed. The public library has not only collection of books, magazines, audio, and video films or only to entertain its members but to serve the community in this ICT based environment. It should be well designed, well arranged, well maintained, well networked and best served by keeping the concepts of digital library and virtual library in mind.

NEEDS FOR COLLABORATION:

- Enlarge the collections.
- Extend library services.
- Better serve the community.
- Maximum utilization of library collection.
- Maximum satisfaction to user needs.
- Provide library services to the last man of the society.
- Maximum utilization of library resources for the total development of society.
- To establish latest technology based services in library.
- To extend benefits of technology up to the interior rural areas.
- To establish a proper networking between all public libraries on local, national, international level.

COLLABORATION POLICY:

A successful collaboration cannot be made in an unplanned manner-it needs to be managed well. For that public libraries and institutions that have joined hands for a specific target should first of all, decide a common frame of work.

Each partner should develop a policy specific to its own needs and objectives. This policy should define the goals, guidelines, collaborating institutions, schedules to be met, motivation, financial services, resources and promotional tools. These are briefly discussed here.

GOALS:

It should be clear that the goals of public library in collaborating are not profit but only to serve the society in a better way. All partners should be aware of this goal. Most of the activities will be organized from public or government funds, free for public and open to all.

GUIDELINES:

Guidelines for the total project should be decided in advance and commitment to work on these guidelines should be obtained from all partners.

BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE COLLABORATION:

Before partnering with others, public library should be familiar with the history, background, financial condition, reputation all collaborating institutions.

DECIDE THE MEETING SCHEDULES:

Regular meetings are very much essential for successful collaboration. Meeting schedules should be fixed in advance (quarterly, monthly, and so on) for the open communication, update with the results and progress of the work, to decide next programmed and troubleshoot problems.

MOTIVATION:

Public library should encourage partners to interact, to work together on projects and share their ideas for betterment of collaboration.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

The government funds for public library and for the collaborating parties will be utilized for the activities. Some organizations have their own funds of public trust, it should also be utilized. In any condition it will not be collected from users.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES:

The community hall of public library will be given preference for all activities done under collaboration. The areas and premises of other partners like laboratories, libraries, meeting halls are also useful for some activities.

BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION:

- Maximum utilization of financial resources.
- Enlarged collections.
- Extension of library services.
- Cost savings for all partners.
- Staff development.

- Attract more visitors and new visitors.
- Sharing resources even allows for implementation of new.
- Programmer of services that would be difficult for a partnering institution to operate alone can easily do with collaboration.

CONCLUSION:

By collaborations, in this age of ICT, public library can change the working of the library. The general impression of public library is that the job is very tedious and public attitude to the library is not so respectful. By collaboration and cooperation. We can create a confidence in public that any kind of information one is searching will meet with solution here or guidance to reach the way by which it can be gained will be provided here. The public should have trust that the public libraries are established for them and are very much available for public services.

By collaborating with other institutions, public library will give the public oriented programmes and services, and make itself a popular medium of public entertainment, education and development. By giving the education programmes it makes the illiterate to literate and literate to learned society. By organizing the literary and cultural programmes, it develops the knowledge of public and contributes to develop a knowledge based society. By collaborating and networking with other public libraries, it can extend the benefits of latest technologies at interior rural areas also.

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