Need of the Sustainability Movement in Libraries

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Abstract: - *The paper focuses on what is green library, and being a library science professional what measures we should take to develop more green libraries to survive in today's environment.*

Keywords: Green Library, sustainable library, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), Green Library Movement. Sustainability Movement, Library.

Introduction

In the early 1990,'s the Green Library Movement emerged and around 2003 it got popularity in the library profession. A Green library is also known as a sustainable library. The term "sustainable" refers to the use and stewardship of resources today that preserves them for tomorrow, and a sustainable community is one that is healthy and prosperous over the long term. Three components of a sustainable community are defined: Economy, Ecology, and Equity. Economy is the management, or stewardship, of the resources; Ecology is the relationship of the community with its environment, particularly the natural environment; and Equity is fairness to all. For the purposes of this article on "green" libraries, the first two E's--Economy and Ecology will be considered.

Definitions

The new world encyclopedia defined "a **Green library**" as a library built with environmental concerns in mind. Green libraries are a part of the larger green building movement. Libraries, particularly public libraries, are lifelong learning centers for people of all ages in local communities. Libraries are not only repositories of knowledge, but are also important information resources for raising awareness about environmental concerns. Green libraries educate the public about environmental issues through their collections, sustainable and environmentally friendly facilities, and public library programs. Among other things, green libraries maximize the

effects of natural sunlight and natural airflow; green libraries are thoughtfully designed while taking into account site selection to structural design, energy use, materials used and human health effects." (www.newworldencyclopedia.org)

As per Wikipedia "a **green library** is designed to minimize negative impact on the natural environment and maximize indoor environmental quality by means of careful site selection, use of natural construction materials and biodegradable products, conservation of resources (water, energy, paper), and responsible waste disposal (recycling, etc.). In new construction and library renovation, sustainability is increasingly achieved through Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, a rating system developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)." (wikipedia.org)

In the Oxford English Dictionary (1989) the term "green" is defined as "pertaining to, or supporting environmentalism". The term "sustainable "relates to "forms of human economic activity and culture that do not lead to environmental degradation, esp. avoiding the long-term depletion of natural resources" (Oxford English Dictionary, 2008).

Implementation of green library concept by using following key areas:

To go green or to build a green library we can implement different ways as follows:

1. Site selection

According to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), before building a library it is important to check the location of the library. Natural sunlight, good quality air should reach the selected site. In addition, people should be able to reach the building via public transportation and the parking lots should give priority parking to those driving energy efficient automobiles. The heat island effect can be reduced by shading hard surfaces, putting them underground, or by implementing a vegetative roof or green roof.

2. Water conservation

Reduce potable water use by considering alternative on-site water sources (eg. Rainwater, storm water and air conditioner condensate) for custodial uses and toilet flushing, planting native and adaptable vegetation reduces the need for irrigation.

3. Energy conservation: Energy efficiency is considered by many to be the most important category in becoming sustainable. In the LEED rating system, it is the heaviest weighted of all the categories. On-site renewable energy systems, including solar, wind, and geothermal, provide an independent supply of energy.

4. Building materials: The primary responsibility in selecting materials for the library is to contribute as little waste as possible. Another responsibility is to choose materials that can be

produced without causing too much damage to the natural environment. Reusing and recycling are going to become increasingly necessary in the future. Another material option is using quickly renewable materials such as bamboo in place of wood whenever possible. The widening availability of green building materials, along with the development of non-profit watchdog groups are two important factors in the greening of 21st-century library buildings.

5. Indoor environmental quality: It includes air quality, but also access to daylight and views, pleasant acoustic conditions, and occupant control over lighting and thermal comfort. It may also include the functional aspects of space such as whether the layout provides easy access to tools and people when needed and whether there is sufficient space for occupants.

Conclusion

The role of the library is to serve its community. Communities need libraries and librarians to act as role models for sustainability by providing accurate information on all manner of green topics, from alternative building practices to renewable energy options. The time is also right for librarians to support and continue to grow the Green Library Movement. The green library or sustainable is a modern library where minimize electricity consumption and maximum use of renewable sources.

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