

Do you agree with the term 'LIBRARY' still holds the same meaning?

The term Library, traditionally, collection of books used for reading or study, or the building or room in which such a collection is kept. The word derives from the Latin liber, “book,” whereas a Latinized Greek word, bibliotheca, is the origin of the word for library in German, Russian, and the Romance languages. It is very well discussed on the website of [\[http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/339421/library\]](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/339421/library). Although libraries have changed significantly over the course of history, however, their cultural role has not. Libraries remain responsible for acquiring or providing access to books, periodicals, and other media that meet the educational, recreational, and informational needs of their users. As technology has changed and allowed ever new ways of creating, storing, organizing, and providing information, users' expectation of the role of libraries has increased. As libraries have changed, so, too, has the role of the librarian. Increasingly librarians have assumed the role of educator to teach their users how to find information both in the library and over electronic networks. The work of librarians has also moved outside library walls.

Under such circumstance the term library does not reflect the proper meaning and as well as its characteristics. The term information (center) needs to be added to make it more meaningful. We come across with several coined/joint terms such as 'Research and Development', 'Buying and Selling' and so on. The term research will lose its meaning if it is not coined with the term development. In a similar way the term 'Library' has to regard as 'Library and Information Centre' (LIC). We need to develop a practice to call, write and read it as a 'Library and Information Centre' and not to peruse the traditional term 'Library'. Naturally, then librarian as 'Library and Information Officer' or 'Library and Information Manager', and like. Some of the organizations in and around the world have accepted and practicing these terminologies, but still it is not universally accepted or practiced. We must create awareness about it and make an effort to accept it universally. The term 'Library' impresses the low profile in the present circumstances and not able to connote proper activities that are performed. Further, most of the activities are concerned with information and/or knowledge dissemination, which is progressively becoming a major thrust area. It is interesting to note that most of the universities are awarding 'Library and Information Science' post graduate as well as Doctoral degrees. In this context, it is surprising to find the unsuitable term 'Library' as well as 'Librarian'. So let us strengthen the term 'Library' with proper expression as 'Library and Information Center' and Librarian as 'Library and Information Officer' or 'Library and Information Manager'.

Editor
ITLIT