

Are the Libraries Social Institutions? Where do Libraries go from here?

Libraries are regarded as social institutions as they serve the all the sections of the society. The rationale for the paradigm was that the library ensured the survival of a society by having become the chief agency to make information easily accessible to the society's members. (Francis Miksa: The Cultural Legacy Of The "Modern Library" For The Future). Libraries exist in all the domains of knowledge and they sincerely serve to their clientele. However, due to advancement in Information and Communication Technology the place of the library as a social institution is weakening. Most of the libraries are becoming store houses of books and journals in printed form. The use of collection in print form is drastically decreasing every day, while the publishing in print form is increasing at its own speed. The resultant of such phenomenon may lead to no visitors to the libraries. However, additions to the library collection may continue as library is a growing organism. Already most of the libraries might have reached to such a state affairs and posing challenges to libraries as a social institution.

The rapid proliferation and also an exponential growth in electronic literature in every domain of knowledge in the form of e-books, electronic or online journals, open access collections, databases and like are the major factors that are challenging physical as well as social presence of libraries.

“Where do Libraries go from here?”

Out of the educational system or out of the society?

If you have an Answer to it, please send your views to editor.itlit@gmail.com

Editor