

Developing an e-book collection.....

The e-books are not remained novelty for the librarians in the current scenario. The pros and cons of e-books are not now the hot topic of discussions. The e-books are accepted by the entire libraries world over and are becoming an indispensable part of most of the libraries. However, the print copy is still remaining the popular choice among the readers all over the world. It can't be a bold statement to say that the print copy as well e-book will remain in existence harmoniously and will complement each other. Under such circumstances, it will be a challenging task to develop an e-book collection of a library. To begin with, it will be attractive to add e-books, of which print versions already exist in the library. The popular or the books which remain always in demand throughout the year can be procured in their e-version. The publishers are also aware that there will be a good market if they launch e-books version which are already proving their worthiness. One of the import aspects of e-book is its cost, which appears to be reasonable. The libraries can assess the need of the users and destined to provide them choice of print or e- version of the book. It is always the choice of the readers, which influences the collection development; the librarian can only facilitate the process of collection development. To provide e-books or print books is not the domain of librarians, but to satisfy the readers need is the main domain of the librarian. The librarians need to look at it as media as a print or electronic media and not beyond it. The role of the library and librarian remain unchanged i.e. to collect, preserve for future use and disseminate information as per the needs of the users. The e-books are going to stay for a long time as the print version and will gain an important place in library collections in near future. The e-books will remain as a part of the library as like e-journals. Finally, a library is a collection of reading material preserved for present and future use, the mere change in medium of reading material will not shatter the concept of a library. The libraries have seen and experienced several revolutions in medium, right from the beginning as clay tablets, papyrus leaf to present electronic medium. The importance of a library as a source of reading material never diminished in under any circumstances. The Librarianship is becoming more and more challenging profession with a passage of time. The professionals who will accept the challenges will survive themselves, but the Librarianship will continue with the new emerging dimensions to take a new form.....as..... "The library is a growing organism".