

S&T Libraries at Cross Roads

or

Cross the Road

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Abstract:

The Science & Technology (S&T) Libraries can play a vital role in promotion and popularization of Science. In the current circumstances, it is the best opportunity for S&T Libraries to take interest and devise new methods to promotion and popularization of Science. The S&T Libraries and Public Libraries can make better use of their existing manpower and infrastructure to achieve a common goal in this direction.

Kew Words: S&T Libraries, Public Libraries, Promotion and Popularization of Science

The S& T Libraries have commonly been among the early adopters of any technology that facilitated service to their clientele. However, the pace of technological innovation in recent years has created challenges for the almost all S& T Libraries. The promotion and popularization of Science is one of the activities that need to be undertaken by the S& T Libraries to strengthen their existence. and usefulness.

The promotion and popularization of Science began and advanced with the evolution of Science. Though work on science popularization is being carried out worldwide, it is still found to be less than the total recorded research found in scholarly journals. Scientific discoveries out number popularizing these discoveries in other words; more emphasis must be given to bring in trained science communicators in all scientific institutions and laboratories where work on scientific discoveries is taking place [1]. In the present circumstances, the S&T libraries have a great opportunity to exploit the possibilities of undertaking various activities that are aligned with their parent institution. The promotion and popularization of Science is one of such activities that need to be undertaken by S&T libraries. It is certainly possible for the S&T libraries to manage such activity independently; however, collaborating with the Public Libraries will make it more effective and fruitful. The Public Libraries may be considered as one of the best platforms to implement such activities.

The present state of affairs challenges to initiative the prospects of S&T Libraries in the promotion and popularization of Science through public libraries. While there is not much evidence in the literature about S&T Libraries and Public Libraries work together for any of such activities, hence the need of the study. It is also essential to make scientific and technological knowledge available to the ordinary citizen, in order to allow him or her to form opinions on such matters that can form part of daily conversations in the same way as politics and sport [2]. Otherwise, the modern scientific activity would then become similar to the activities of the medieval scholar-monks, who lived in monasteries recording texts handed down by their predecessors, and producing textual commentaries on them. The public at that time was entirely ignorant of what took place inside those monasteries [3]. In order to achieve the objective, renowned S&T Libraries and Public Libraries need to be identified. Their focus should be mainly on promotion and popularization of Science through public libraries, however, the possibilities of 'Library Exchange Programs' between these libraries are also play a vital role so as to redefining, their collection development policies, resource sharing mechanisms, new services and reconfiguring their space. Finally, the S&T Libraries need to cross the road and join together with the Public Libraries in the service of Science to the Society at large. The S&T Libraries can play an effective role in the promotion and popularization of Science.

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