

BEST PRACTICES AND ADVANCEMENTS IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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ABSTRACT:In the twenty-first century, academic libraries are playing an increasingly significant role. As academic libraries have exceptional information potential and follow best efforts or practices in knowledge generation and distribution, both society and the government predict them to provide the developing information they demand. Academic libraries have started helpful initiatives for those who have a strict grip on technologies related to computers. The environment of academic libraries has changed as a result of several innovations in library resources and service administrations, which are currently having a big impact on social and national development. There are various best practices and services currently being used in academic libraries to raise the level of professionalism and service quality while also incorporating programs and services that contribute to students' overall development.

KEYWORDS: Best Practices, Academic Library, Advancements.

INTRODUCTION:The current higher education system is undergoing fast change as a result of the knowledge gap and a cascade of information flow. Academic institutions have a duty to provide fundamental and cutting-edge intellectual data to their stakeholders for the advancement of both the individual and the nation. Academic libraries within these institutions have a great responsibility to satisfy users need for information as soon as possible and in the most efficient way possible. The advancement of information technology and information communication technology has undoubtedly given academic libraries a variety of tools to reach users with the desired information or assisted in the introduction of some creative and effective ideas in academic libraries to survive in the cutthroat competition between information institutions or internet-based databases. Realising the necessity of change in the practices given by libraries.

THE ROLE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Realising the educational objectives of the college or the parent organisation is the purpose of the library and information centre in a college. The college library and information resource centre serve as a channel for the exchange of information among its users as well as for the dissemination of information and related computer technologies through best practices for usage by its community of users.

DEFINITIONS:-

Best Practices According to the National Board of Accreditation and Assessment (NAAC) "Best practice may be innovative and be a philosophy, policy, strategy, program, process or practice that solves a problem or create new opportunities and positively impact

on organizations. Institutional excellence is the aggregate of the best practices followed in different areas of institutional activities.”

An academic library is a library that is a part of a higher education institution that serves the curriculum of the school as well as the research of the staff and students at the university or college. What Makes Academic Libraries Use Best Practises?

- Satisfy user need for information.
- To make library resources more widely known.
- To encourage the best possible use of library materials;
- To market library goods and services;
- To support library employees in providing library services;
- To link academic libraries with the general public; and
- To preserve the institution's intellectual output.

Best and Advancement Practices in Academic Libraries; -

1.Orientation Programme- At the beginning of each academic year, new students are introduced to the library's various divisions, resources, and services as well as its importance. The library provides creative activities and programmes to promote great reading habits and make the most of the library.

2-Demonstrations and Exhibitions -On significant occasions like the anniversaries of illustrious individuals' births, libraries ought to host demonstrations and exhibitions. By doing so, users can better understand the many kinds of collections the library has on offer. Libraries should host exhibits and demonstrations. The distinctive collection and literary works of a particular author or group of authors might be displayed individually inside the library.

3-Book Talk on My Favourite Book- Competitions on my favourite book, Book Talk, may be held. Students will be motivated by this to read more books and learn about new ones.

4-Library Best User Award-The visitor's register kept in the library can be used to collect information on library usage. As a result, users will visit the library regularly and will use library reference materials on a regular basis.

5-Staff Users Meet- Academic libraries should hold a range of activities, including workshops and seminars, that concentrate on topics including lectures on the contemporary digital environment, library consortiums, and open access publications. These kind of gatherings are useful for exchanging ideas about information sources, how to handle it, how to use technology, and how to close intellectual gaps. System built on knowledge, subject-based searches, etc.

6-User Feedback- Student complaints regarding the library's services and collection can be submitted using suggestion boxes or through email. Due to the improvement in the quality of library resources and services, feedback plays a crucial role in academic libraries. Both the Google form and the library's website accept feedback. The user can register his feedback using this way at any time and from any location. Academic libraries respond to input through this media in a prompt and accurate manner. Online reviews are crucial for academic purposes since they allow for the calculation of user responses and their analysis.

7-Web Based Services-The library website is constantly being updated with web-based features including virtual tours, full-text article access to open and subscribed resources, lectures, and notes, etc.

8. Book Bank Scheme- In the Book Bank Scheme textbooks are made available to needy but worthy students by college libraries and universities. Academic libraries that sell books for half off or on a deposit basis make it possible for all students to have access to textbooks. The Donation of Book/S Scheme encourages users to provide books to the library on important occasions like birthdays, weddings, or academic accomplishments. This idea encourages people to purchase and read books while also promoting reading.

9. Readers Club-Academic libraries are able to create reader's clubss that include outside users or groups focused on a particular topic or issue, allowing for useful conversation and producing academic output that is educational for all.

10.Organise World Book and Copyright Day on 23 April- To give awareness about the copyright act must educate students about copyright, plagiarism, and intellectual property rights. A growing amount of academic and research activity necessitates the holding of sessions or programmes about intellectual property rights, copyright, or plagiarism. In this regard, academic libraries can take the lead and help users connect the concepts of intellectual property rights, copyright, its components, and the most recent advancements in this area. By implementing the software or system to detect plagiarism, academic libraries play a decisive role. Academic libraries can educate users who want to become researchers on the nature and norms of plagiarism and can make it easier to check users' research output for plagiarism.

11. Library Tour-The main purpose of a library tour is to connect users physically to reading resources. A librarian leads a small group of patrons on a tour of the library while ensuring that all of its sections are physically connected. Users who take a library tour are aware of the library's resources, which facilitates finding and using desired information resources. It is particularly helpful for new users of libraries.

12.Library Short-Term Course- The short-term library course provides knowledge on the library's operation, including how reading materials are acquired, how information is retrieved and disseminated, how library services are organised, and how IT-based tools and equipment are used. Students should take the course for one or two weeks to receive practical instruction or an introduction to library organisation. These programmes recognise users and connect them to academic libraries.

13.Theses, Dissertations, Reports Availability -Libraries ought to collect and keep theses, dissertations, papers, and other materials that consider the research interests of their patrons.s By completing the thesis writing, scanning, correction, plagiarism check, binding, and delivery tasks, this activity may be extended. In this regard, academic libraries must adhere to the professional standard.

14. Library Activity, Information Brochure-Library brochures give information on policy, collections, services, and facilities. Throughof library brochures, users are kept up to date on new library materials, library advancements, and forthcoming events.

15. E-Newspaper Clippings-Daily important events can be digitally captured, stored chronologically by date and event, and then clipped in electronic format.

16. Library Portal; -The library portal serves as a portal to online resources and services. Portals give high-quality, varied information and its resources. The portal links several real library resources and disseminates information about their services and resources. It is important to build portals that take into account how users perceive using e-resources.

18. Institutional Digitization of Manuscripts- Academic libraries can create a digital archive of scholarly work or institutional output. The output of the institution's manuscripts, rare books, reports, research papers, and yearbooks should all be stored digitally or kept in a distinct area of the library.

19. Web OPAC provides access to resources from remote places and others can access the library resources through M-OPAC.

20. Discussion Forums or Blogs- The creation of blogs offers the chance to bring together the user community dedicated to a certain problem or subject. Some academic libraries have blogs that contain details about the library and the organisation that houses it. The value of the dissemination of unique knowledge and perspectives to others is provided by the discussion forums.

21. Online Table of Content (TOC Service) – In this service the institution's faculty members and research students can benefit from the online table of contents service. The libraries offer the most recent information regarding the research topic or area of interest. Academic libraries are able to provide this service to other institutions' and libraries' external users on a professional level while raising money for the library.

22. SMS Service; -Academic libraries can provide alert services via SMS, a mobile-based library, on the addition of resources, books issued on accounts, the due date of books, and reminders. The home lending service offered by this company benefits libraries, and users receive up-to-date information on the services and resources offered by libraries. The SMS service is a practical way to acknowledge occurrences that take place in libraries.

23. Training Programme for Library Staff- The motivation of library staff members to participate in internal or outside training courses is high. The pursuit of higher degrees by library workers is also encouraged in order to advance professional skills that will be useful for current library operations.

24. Vendors Participation and Book Exhibition; - Publishers and merchants should take an active role in encouraging users to read a variety of materials. Publishers and sellers of books ought to be called on a regular basis for user-interactive sessions. The users' knowledge of newly released books in the field or genre of publishing and their characteristics is increased by these interactive. The very existence of vendors and publishers encourages library employees to question and dispel any doubts regarding the method used to compile and deliver library materials. In order to better understand users' needs, many vendors and publishers are eager to hold training sessions or practical sessions with library users. Additionally, users can achieve this by forming relationships with vendors and publishers for future use.

CONCLUSIONS: -The best practice is a philosophy or mind-set that focuses on the desire for on-going development and advancement. The purpose, aim of the college library is to give a variety of excellent services.

Currently, information and communication technology is speeding up the flow and utilisation of information in higher education significantly. Academic institutions now have

a huge responsibility for gathering this information and providing what is needed to the suitable person for national advancement. Information technology tools have the incredible potential to share an infinite amount of information.

Academic libraries are considered responsible for the administration, repackaging, and transmission of information. Academic libraries are required to enhance these services using information technology in creative ways or by implementing certain effective programmes or practices, rather than providing standard library services.

The development of search engines and databases has seriously put academic libraries' access to resources in risk, making it more important than ever to keep visitors, their love of reading, and their curiosity alive.

Change is the rule of nature and also applies to libraries. There is only one way that libraries may grow, and that is through the natural evolution of library management, employee behaviour, and reading materials. Academic libraries need to develop into well-rounded professionals with cutting-edge practices and programming for users on a regular basis. This would undoubtedly alter how academic libraries are thought of and seen by their patrons. The significant contribution of society to the development of information and communication technology will feed academic libraries or pave the way for a country's advancement.

CONCLUSION:

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