Department of Library and Information Science
Bharathidasan University
Tiruchirappalli-620024
Name of the Programme: M.Lib.I.Sc
Course - 3.5: Elective – III
(B) ELECTRONIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
Course Code: P21 MLS15B

Unit-V : Components of Information System: Libraries, Documentation Centres, Information centres, Data, Data Banks, Museums, Memories, Publishing Houses. Virtual Reference Desk

Dr. C. Ranganathan
Professor, DLIS, BDU

INTRODUCTION

- In the modern information society, libraries and information centres have a new role to play.

- This is due to increasing use of web-based information sources and electronic services.

- Libraries are also being managed in a more democratic way due to flexible communication system and efficient work organisation. Their services are also user-centric.

OBJECTIVES

➢ Define a library and an information centre;

➢ Describe the purpose and functions of a library and an information centre;

➢ Explain the role of libraries and information centres in modern society;

➢ List areas of activities of libraries/information centres;

➢ Explain the significance of libraries in education, culture and recreation; and

➢ Explain the role of libraries as repositories of knowledge.

Definition of a Library

- The word 'Library' is derived from the Latin word "**libraria"** meaning 'a book place'. It originates from the term **'liber'** which means 'a book'. According to the *Oxford Companion to the English Language* – *"Library is a collection of* **books, periodicals and/or other materials, primarily written and printed**."

- Harrod's Librarian's Glossary and Reference Book defines 'Library' as:

- 1.A collection of books and other literary material kept for reading, study and consultation.

- **2.A place, building, room or rooms set apart for the keeping and use of a collection of books, etc.**

- 3.A number of books issued by one publisher under a comprehensive title as the 'Loeb Classical Library', and usually having some general characteristic, such as, subject, binding, or typography.

- **4. A collection of films, photographs and other non-book materials, plastic or metal tapes, disks and programs.**

Functions

The functions of a library are given below :

➢Collect and provide books as well as other non-book materials to help the people to become aware of the thinking of others and to think and act independently.

➢Foster and promote the spread of knowledge, education and culture;

➢Provide facility for formal and informal life-long self-education in the community;

➢Preserve the literary and cultural heritage of humanity for posterity as vehicles of culture and material for research;

➢Provide reliable information for all kinds of users irrespective of age, caste,creed, colour, religion, sex, etc.;

➢Collect resources in order to promote an enlightened citizenship and to enrich personal life; and

➢Facilitate advancement of culture in the community

Cont..,

Functions of a library can be broadly grouped into following four areas:—

- ❖ *Education*
- ❖ *Information Dissemination*
- ❖ *Promotion of Culture*
- ❖ *Recreation*

INFORMATION CENTRES

- An Information centre is defined as an organisation that

  ➤selects, acquires, stores and retrieves information in response to requests,

  ➤ prepares abstracts, extracts, indexes of information, and

  ➤disseminates information in anticipation and in response to requests. Information centres are attached to highly specialised Research and Development (R&D) organisations.

  ➤ An Information Centre provides various services such as referral service, literature search, translations, bibliographies, abstracting, etc. to its users.

There are varied forms of information centres viz.

  ❖Information Analysis Centres

  ❖Clearing Houses

  ❖Data Centres and

  ❖Data Banks.

Information Analysis Centres

- They collect literature produced in a particular field, evaluate its utility and communicate to the specialists conducting research in directly usable form on request.

- The centre verifies the collected information for its validity, reliability and accuracy before dissemination.

- The reports of these analysis centres play an important role in strengthening research, pinpointing gaps in knowledge or shortcomings

Clearing Houses

- They are set up either on a cooperative basis or by a national or international agency.

- They provide a single point of access to information originating from different sources, countries and languages.

- They compile bibliographies of particular disciplines and circulate them to the organisations interested in them.

- A copy of the available document, if requested, is also provided.

Data Centres and Data Banks

- Data centres collect, organise and store numerical data pertaining to specific subject field to answer specific queries.

- They collect information in anticipation of future requirements of its users.

- Data Banks are usually concerned with a broader subject field.

- They extract and process raw data from the collected data sources and relevant literature.

- They keep these structured files ready to provide right answers to user's queries.

Publishing House

- A publishing house is a company that publishes books, pamphlets, engravings, and other materials. Some things that publishing houses do include:

  ➤ Finding authors

  ➤ Purchasing manuscripts from authors or agents

  ➤ Making editorial decisions about content and style

  ➤ Paying production and distribution costs

  ➤ Owning the copyright

  ➤ Receiving proceeds from book sales

  ➤ Paying royalties to authors if a contract warrants it

Role and objectives & Purpose

Role of a publishing house

- If an author signs with a publisher, they can expect that publisher to do everything; from copy editing, to media training authors and illustrators, creating marketing materials to promote the book, deciding which retailers to approach to stock the book, and persuading newspaper and magazine editors to run reviews.

Objective of a publishing house

- Finding writers and their manuscripts to develop and publish into books, journals, magazines, digital content, etc., is the primary goal of a publishing business

Main purpose of publishing

- Publishing is also undertaken by governments, civil society, and private companies for administrative or compliance requirements, business, research, advocacy, or public interest objectives. This can include annual reports, research reports, market research, policy briefings, and technical reports

Virtual Reference Desk

- The Virtual Reference Desk: Creating a Reference Future is a book published by Facet Publishing in London in 2006.

- It is intended for a wide audience, including library and information students who want to learn about digital reference services.

- Virtual reference, also known as digital reference, is a service that allows library users to communicate with reference staff electronically in real time.

- Users can use computers or other internet technology to communicate with reference staff without being physically present in the library.

Cont..,

- Virtual reference services are often an extension of a library's existing reference service program. They can be used for a variety of purposes, including:

  ➢Getting quick facts

  ➢Verifying references to published sources

  ➢Finding how to search for information in a database or on the web

  ➢Getting advice for in-depth searching

  ➢Some groups that have been involved in creating guidelines for virtual reference services include:

  ➢International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

  ➢Virtual Reference Desk (VRD)

  ➢National Information Standards Organization (NISO)

  ➢Machine Assisted Reference Section (MARS) of Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of American Library Association

Thank You