Chapter 4: Modernization of Libraries

4.1: Introduction:

Modernization is a continuous process of change for the better through technological inputs, which is taking place in every field due to extensive use of ICT applications. LICs which are supporting to information services reap the benefits of applications of ICT. Libraries are backbones to all the activities carried out in education, research, training, etc. Libraries assist users in developing proper background and base for the development of information society.

4.2 Status of Libraries in Pre-industrial age:

Libraries in the pre-industrial period were generally called traditional libraries and mostly had the manuscripts and printed material which was kept in an organized manner in the libraries by using best practices available at that time, like cataloguing, classifying, indexing abstracting etc. The information available in the libraries was made available to the users on demand. But later, due to factors like information explosion, varied demands of users; changing media of publications and increase in R and D activities, the traditional practices used in libraries were not sufficient to manage the information in libraries. Libraries are thus facing challenges continuously and changing the practices to provide better services to the users. Industrialization increased the demands from the libraries and have to adapt new technologies to satisfy the needs of the users. The libraries are mainly function as store house of information and developed the information to users on demand.

4.3 Status of Libraries in Post Industrial age:

After the industrial age much importance was assigned to education and it is known as educational industry. Users of libraries having academic interests prefer the advanced tools to be used for educational purposes, which has entirely changed the traditional system of education. New subject areas like radio management, program anchoring, news anchoring, content writing, fashion designing, medical transcription, defence and many more management oriented courses etc have opened new avenues. The impact of ICT in education and academic field is massive and is being used extensively. The trend in educational system is changing fast and the formal
education system is taking shelter of ICT application to support online and distance learning,

e-learning programs, which are being introduced to develop the skills of the students in all fields. Academic users are interested in getting the e-publications and internet based resources which are convenient to use and publish. The library professionals have also noted these changes in the professional and academic environment. The librarians are adapting different policies to face the change in the profession to keep users updated in their field of interest.

### 4.4 Weakness of Traditional Libraries:

Traditional libraries were providing services based on the print media and the developments were based on the manual power. The traditional practices mainly influenced by cataloguing, classification and indexing and reference services etc. The main weakness of traditional libraries was:-

- Information sources available only in print
- Services based on available collection of a single library only
- Information access was through secondary sources only and have limited access points to search the information
- Maintenance of the physical library was a challenging task and costly affair involving manpower.
- Catalogue has limitations in its handling and using with limited access points
- More repetitive task involved in library functions and operations which need more staff
- It need more manpower and more finance for maintaining stack and providing services from the libraries.

To remove these barriers applications of new technologies are very effective and found suitable at later stapes.
4.5 Status of Libraries in ICT Era:

Academic libraries are treated as ‘Temples of knowledge’, which is a store house of information and the librarian as its ‘Custodian’. Today both libraries and librarians have witnessed a major transformation in their roles. The Library profession is constantly changing since the past two decades due to emerging trends, technologies and techniques which are used in libraries for information handling and providing services to users. It is possible for the libraries to use the information resources available over the internet in digital form. Users are benefited due to this new source of information collection and are relying on internet based information for their day to day tasks and spend considerable time in finding information. Books and journals are already available in electronic form along with other resources on the net. Due to this change, libraries are also shifting their collections, services, facilities and practices based on e-resources. Users are now happy in getting the information in digital form from digital libraries.

Information Technology changed the scenario and eliminated the weaknesses of traditional libraries to the maximum level. The major benefits of ICT to libraries and users are:-

- Pinpointed information delivery covering both current and retrospective information quickly in e-form various resources.
- More usage of internet and network based information sources.
- Development of databases and their integration for resource sharing
- Online search facilities of international databases.
- OPAC and Web OPAC development
- Preservation of the rare documents in e-from with hyperlinks
- Consortium and e-journal subscriptions at economical prices
- Better and efficient management of information and information services to users
ICT usage of in libraries has developed electronic and digital library systems and in the near future, the use of internet and virtual library systems may take positive shape. It is now observed that libraries are moving towards modernization due to its many benefits including cutting down of costs. Librarians are slowly shifting their roles from facilitator to service provider and information broker, supporting the needs of users, based on new practices. Librarians are handling the information in digital media and using web tools to provide instant access to information available. Use of internet, web tools, portals, gateways are properly managed to cater to present and future needs. Librarians educate users in searching information using modern tools and techniques. Librarians are now acting as website designers, blog builders, database managers, policy makers and even business managers while negotiating with publishers and aggregators. From time to time librarians have adapted new technology to cater to the user’s needs. To cope up with the changing digital and technological environment today’s librarians have to adapt new practices and competencies.

4.6 Future of the Libraries and Library Profession

The impact of all round technological development is visible in the academic, R and D and special library systems, where current and retrospective literature is provided for the research and educational improvements. User needs are now shifting and academic libraries have to play an important role in the educational process and independent learning methods, where more e-resources may need to support user needs. The new generation of users are ICT aware and need open access to information. Expectations of users from future of libraries can be predicted like

- Information but not in print form.
- Availability of information at one place, connecting different locations but away from home and workplace too.(car, restaurants, leisure time).
- Learning processes is changing from formal to informal online mode and has to support the course work.
- Availability of electronic media, internet based resources
- Digital Class room, Chat room, and discussion room as a part of Library.
To fulfill the expectation, there is an acute need for redesigning libraries which also supports to
information explosion, Development of new information resources and products and services, Technology at affordable cost and its increased use, User expectations and demand for e-literacy due to e-learning process etc.

Library profession is also becoming dynamic and with help of ICT and web 2.0 technologies becomes Librarian 2.0. Librarians perform all the tasks using technology and become a creator and re-packager of information to manage the user needs. To cope up with the changing trends in ICT environment, the librarian needs to develop competencies like, effective technology use, finding user needs, advance users centric services, development of library networks, library web page with links, use of web tools, DL and IR initiatives, library orientation and literacy programs, these may help in modernizing libraries. To improve overall quality and excellence in higher academic education and to advocate enhancement in the role of library and information services in improving the academic environment, support of ICT is vital.

Mallapur and Naik (2009) pointed out that the importance of the library is growing since use of ICT and modern technologies and a well established library is essential for any academic institution with suitable technology use for providing information services to users. As a focal point for teaching, learning, education and research, it is expected to provide standard information resources through library. Library is no longer considered as a trinity of books, reader and staff or a storehouse of knowledge, but in the age of information technology, libraries have turned into information centers, knowledge centers or learning resources centers in which the library professionals perform as information professionals.

Academic libraries no longer restrict themselves to print media services such as collection development, cataloguing and classification, circulation and reference services, current awareness, selective dissemination, and other bibliographic services, but have extended their efforts to interdisciplinary concepts like computer software, hardware, telecommunication and other technologies. Numerous creative and useful services have evolved within academic libraries in the digital age, providing quality learning spaces, creating metadata, offering virtual reference
services, teaching information literacy, choosing resources and managing resource licenses, collecting and digitizing archival materials, and maintaining digital repositories. Users prefer more computer or digital content, more and more digital repositories of articles, online access to data and newspapers, etc. Libraries also struggle with, when, how, and where to begin for modernization and digitization efforts. The consequence is a repositioning of academic libraries resources, operations, services and skills. Resources today in libraries are generally available in hybrid form, print, electronic, and therefore services provided and skills possessed by professionals in libraries should reflect that trend.

4.7 Vision of future Academic Libraries:

Education and education system is essential for the development of any nation and hence more care is taken to monitor academic developments everywhere. New projects through central organizations like UGC are implemented to improve the services provided through academic libraries and thereby to modernize them. The future of the academic libraries are predicted by many thinkers indicating that, more E-learning system may be practiced, use of multiple media, usage of visual infrastructure (like video display on wall, room theaters, learning cafeterias, and theme centered constructions etc), development of problem solving groups of library professionals through services, helps academics in better ways. To manage these changes library professional have to develop greater technical expertise. Future librarians have to exhibit research skills at an advanced, even Ph D, level of expertise, and have to perform collaborative work, team building competencies needs to be increased as well. Librarians change their role and work closely with other libraries, information technology and computer science departments, instructional designers, and information architecture specialists to service students and academicians needs in a better ways.

4.8 : Learners Expectations from Academic Libraries:

The learners of the digital age expect the following:

- 24/7 services in digital form and deliverable at any suitable place
- E-resource information along with print
- Library 2.0 facilities
- Active learning facilities
- Wikis, IR’s, mega information storage at desk top
- User centric and customized services from libraries
- Access to information using portals, search engines, information gateways, web tools and IR
- Information gathering from any distributed learning centers

4.9: Efforts to Meeting Challenges.

Librarianship needs to function in different ways than in the past to manage the change in the profession.

- Revenue generation and marketing of information by developing information products and delivering need based information services
- Development of specialized databases in the institutions as well as institutional repositories
- Advanced services to the end users (alert, one window service, translation, etc)
- Convert libraries to gateways of information
- Conduct user surveys away others for assessing their needs to full fill them economically
- Follow best practices in the profession like academic audit, information / knowledge audit, information and technological literacy initiatives, applying management techniques (six sigma), lifelong learning etc
- Work as a team and collaborate away others
- Capacity building and acceptance of new skills

This can be only possible using ICT and applying modernized practices in libraries.

4.10: Modernization of Libraries:

Libraries are constantly facing challenges due to technology acceptance and are forced to adapt it for providing better services. To tune the libraries with the latest developments, modernizing libraries and using electronic information tools and techniques to provide services in digital form is an essential. This fact has brought a
major shift in the responsibilities of librarians and the libraries, they are not only engaged in collection development, and provide routine normal services to the end users but also to provide advanced services as well as generate financial resources for their respective institutions. This change has become easier in the electronic information era as information is treated as the resource of resources. Computer and library networks are expected to play an increasingly important role in the libraries for resource sharing and information management. Use of ICT is now treated as an essential technology for libraries.

Mallapur and Naik (2009) rightly point out that before the advent of information and communication technology (ICT), academic libraries were the sole custodians of information, which were predominantly involved in print media. ICT brought changes in practices and necessitated new information repackaging activities. Academic libraries are facing challenges with managing hybrid resources (print and electronic) and acquiring the necessary skills for modernizing the academic libraries. Electronic information resources and digital libraries are eroding the monopoly of academic libraries as these media are the sole access point for getting reliable information. Nevertheless, academic libraries can maintain their place by serving as an access point to both print and electronic resources and marching towards digital library development. Academic libraries have undergone revolutionary changes and during the passage of time shifted from closed access to open access; traditional libraries to automated libraries, electronic, digital and finally to virtual libraries. Future developments may occur as technology advances. Similarly librarianship has also changed from traditional practices and the role of the librarian is now redefined as that of an information mediator, media specialist, IT managers, curators and information manager. The future of libraries is digital and virtual practices may be based on these practices and technologies. Academic libraries in future have to face challenges to manage changing practices in the education system and accordingly user needs due to involvement of distance learning, e-learning etc.

4.11 : Need for Modernization and Restructuring of Academic Libraries:

Since the past two decades library professionals of all types of library were busy in automating their library using library application software’s. Automation of libraries
is the first step in modernizing the library due to its multifold advantages. It is observed that many libraries have been automated and many are in the process of completing automation as they felt its importance. Growing information, changes in user needs, use of technology, fast information delivery, are the basic factors which is the rationale for modernizing or restructuring libraries. The human element is a very important aspect in implementing new concepts like automated system and re-engineering the libraries. During the course of an automation project, it is crucial for any library to ensure a coordinating role and to be aware of what is going on at all times. Staff awareness and participation before installation is crucial for the successful implementation of new systems or services. The existing library staff should have computer literacy and professional experience and motivation for the involvement at all levels for developing new system/service. These are the prerequisites for the successful implementation of modern systems in any library. The trends in LIS are always inflating and new techniques and technologies are being implemented after completion of automation and more facilities like digital library development, e-journal and e-books subscriptions etc.

Now there is a need for the academic libraries to change the practices and maintain their status in the educational society and for this purpose modernization and re-engineering aspects are to be considered as a top priority. There is also a need to shift the activities from local to universal access to information so as to provide a strong base for developing the research concepts in users and increase use of libraries and this could be achieved using information technology freely in the area of LIS. The developments of electronic resources, internet use as information provider are very beneficial and economical for procurement and storage, as well information retrieval. The concept of OAI and IR is gaining momentum to disclose the information fast which is generated in a particular organization and area of interest and information generated is disseminated to the users, using net. Hence there is a need to apply ICT and needs to gain IT based skills for managing and handling information by both users and library professionals. The benefit of the web enabled resources including e-journals, e-books, e-resources and access to information over networks in the libraries help in proper usage of information and also access to information globally.
4.12: Factors Influencing Modernization of Libraries:

Following factors are considered for the modernization of libraries of all types:

- Increasing growth / information explosion of publications globally
- Rising cost of printing publications
- Limited and insufficient library budgets
- Increase in educational and research activities
- Increasing demands from users requiring pinpointed information on the subject of interest
- Availability of infrastructure supporting applications of IT in economical and affordable cost to libraries
- Globalization of the information and information resources, development of databases etc.

These factors made libraries and library personnel to accept new technologies for acquiring, storing and disseminating information and also providing better services to the users. To satisfy user needs and demands it is felt necessary to use information technologies. Re-engineering of library system is required to face the demands of the users, and a network based library system needs is to be developed to achieve resource sharing. Without modernization of libraries it is not possible to manage the libraries of any type and also to manage the needs of the users and resolve the problems like information product generation and provision of user centric services etc.

4.13: Resource Sharing through Library Networks:

Resource sharing has been discussed logically everywhere but using the ICT applications in LIC it was possible to develop library and information networks for achieving better resource sharing globally. E-publications made a revolutionary change in it. OPAC and Web OPAC, local database creation and IR developments helps in sharing the resources. Electronic resources have made revolutionary changes
in the LIC’s and changed the scenario of libraries. Consortium models for acquiring
digital resources for group of libraries are operating functionally to achieve financial
autonomy. This helps in building strong network of libraries in the same field or in
same department libraries. But it is observed that many libraries have not even
crossed the range of automation. Without automation it is not possible to develop the
future prospects for the library. Hence there is a need to develop the basic
infrastructure to initiate modernization. Without adapting the technologies it is not possible to take the advantages of the modern practices and the libraries have to face the traditional problems even if in the modern world. But looking at the developments one can see that now libraries are moving towards modernization and changing their practices to move towards use of technology.

The services provided from the libraries are advanced and enhanced as compared to past due to acceptance of ICT. The users are also getting new and enhanced services from the libraries including database searching either online or offline. Deep information gathering including current and retrospective data searching clubbing multiple database searching is also possible. (Mc Clure 1994). The main reason for the growth of network is building platform for information delivery and allows libraries to manage multimedia based information management. Internet based information services and network based information services are popularized in the ICT era. Home page development and highlighting the services provided with different activities of the libraries including OPAC are now very useful to the user community. The modernization of libraries provides many benefits to users and libraries achieve resource sharing at the highest level. From automated libraries the trends are shifting towards digital libraries, virtual libraries, web catalogues, databases of different kinds and resources, internet use, web technology, optical technology, digital media, consortium, networking, online searching, content management, are treated at priority level to serve users in better ways.

4.14: Modernization of Libraries: Trends

Libraries are changing their practices and processes using technological developments since past few years. Information technology made the drastic changes in the scenario of libraries. In the present context ICT, management techniques,
internet usage, networks and networking technology, digitization all such technologies made the library and its components to follow trends for the benefits to both libraries and users. Due to ICT application changes reported in the profession is development of electronic, digital and virtual libraries.

4.14.1: Electronic Libraries:

The process of automation i.e. uses of electronic media in libraries makes libraries amenable for transformation from traditional libraries to electronic libraries. Using computers and library management software, libraries become electronic libraries in which data is stored in computers and efficiently retrieved, whenever required. When routine work and housekeeping operations are automated, that saves manpower and could be used for proper management of libraries and making out policy decisions for effective management of library and building modern libraries. The automation phase is crucial and essential for the further growth, many libraries have completed the task but many are on the path of completion. Without automation it is not possible to modernize the libraries. Automation has many fold advantages like automating housekeeping operations, developing databases, saving manpower and maintenance etc. This could lead to Digital Libraries (DL).

4.14.2: Digital Libraries:

In the modern library, collection may be in any form but ensure efficient access to the best material from the collection. Automated libraries have developed fast using technology. Now libraries are trying to move towards advanced stages, crossing the levels of automation. The trends in LIS are now shifting towards digital library developments (not purely digital but Hybrid Libraries or multimedia libraries in countries even like India) and the print material is shifted to digital media because of its benefits. The digitization process and born digital material is growing day by day. The advantages gained due to shifting to DL are maximum use of e-publications, internet resource usage, resource sharing, library network development, online searching etc.
4.14.3: Virtual Libraries:

Use of internet and virtual imaging is progressing and advancement in web technology makes use of library modern. The real imaging is playing an important role and application of technology, in the field of library helps in data and information transfer over the net quickly. Use of web tools for teaching and learning are benefited. Virtual libraries are benefited in collecting information instantly. Thus information technology helps LIC’s and libraries of special, university, academic, and colleges are to be modernized and get the benefit of technology. It is also necessary in the era of information explosion that every library has to take the advantages of IT for providing economic, useful and resourceful information services to users through the collection of a set of libraries in their area. It is observed that library professionals are constantly facing the challenge of the technological change in their profession, Professionals are being trained and shifting their practices to keep abreast of the changes in the profession and use technology for betterment of the libraries and to provide services to the users.

The education and training libraries attached to the area of defence are special type of academic libraries where the education and training is provided to the special candidates in defence. It was thought to take a review of its current status by conducting a survey of the libraries established for this purpose in the nation. This helped in planning for the libraries to manage in the digital information age. Brief accounts of the status of these libraries are reported below.

4.15 : Status of Defence Training and Education Libraries in India: An overview

Defence training and education is an unique sector that holds great importance for national security. Its aim and objectives are different than the normal academic institutions. Proper education and training in defence sector develops the morale of the cadets and keeps them up-to-date with the war tactics and handling different weapons and tools comfortably and also face the emergency situation with equanimity. Defence education and training is a specialized branch and special education and training in defence is given to new entrants in different military colleges located at different places in India for all military / defence departments. The education and training system in defence is managed by the Government of
India and controlled by the Defence Ministry. Defence training and education has been rated very high in the educational sector and provides all the required education and training facilities to keep the personnel joining to the defence profession up-to-date with the knowledge in their field.

Libraries in DTE plays vital role in supporting education and training activities for defence personnel by collecting useful information resources available in different forms and formats and thereby support the defence educational system. The libraries in this sector are playing dual role as a special library and academic library also. The Ministry of Defence has made massive efforts and established libraries in the organizations attached to defence education and training and provides support for the requirement of education in this sector. However, there is a need to update the libraries in this area by using modern technology, tools and techniques. The information in this area is not only restricted (classified) but scant as well. It is used in the institute only to specific and designated officers.

In India, the defence forces are very well developed and advanced to protect the safety of the nation, and follow the advancement in the field continuously. The developments made so far in this area are at par with the developed countries and advanced countries of the world e.g. USA, UK, Russia, Germany, China and Japan etc. The research activities in the field of defence are continuously in progress and all the countries have developed defence system using modern requirements to protect the nation through proper education at entry level. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has been established as an institute for developing research activities and development towards new equipments required in defence. Research and development organizations are established throughout the nation to monitor the deference research. However this activity is a specialized activity and not related to activities of defence training and education.

Defence training and education is also an essential part in developing manpower entering into the defence services. This activity is managed by the Ministry of Defence separately. All over India there are well established education and training institutes, providing necessary infrastructure for development of skills of manpower for the defence services purpose. DTE institutes are also well supported by the
library systems and services. The main function of the libraries in DTE is to assist the users to provide information required in this area and get trained the new entrants with current practices.

There are nearly 30 institutes empowered by Ministry of Defence to monitor education and training activity in defence for commission and non-commission entrants in defence services. All these DTE institutes are well supported by the library and information centers but among these, 20 major institutes are having well developed library and information system. The rest of the institutes are conducting physical training and hence library facilities are not so strong.

A survey was conducted to find the status of libraries from these institutes and it was found that the libraries are carrying out normal functions and supports the library activities imparting training and education in defence. The libraries are supervised by well trained and qualified library professionals. The survey of the DTE institute libraries revealed that there is a need to re-engineer these libraries to provide better facilities from library. It is observed that 60% libraries of this group of libraries are still in developing stage to face challenges and needs modernization and networking in DTE group of libraries. The present status of DTE libraries is briefly presented below:

4.15.1 Aim and Purpose of DTE Libraries:

The basic aim and purpose of DTE libraries is to support the defence training and education activity for defence or military personnel. A well developed library system is required to face the current needs of the users in this field as well as support the objectives of the defence institutes. The educational facilities are based on education and training for all the wings of defence i.e. army, navy and air force. These libraries supports to the mission and the vision of the defence training and education requirements.

4.15.2: General Library Background:

It is noticed that library has given importance and have separate library building in many libraries, and the services are made available to cadets during the general working hours of the institutes (minimum 42 hours in a week). All the libraries are
providing reading room facility to the users during office hours only for serious reading by the cadets. The DTE libraries (90%) have well qualified and library trained professionals to carry out the professional activities. The housekeeping activity is well monitored separating each function properly in a limited staff. The acquisition area deals with the procurement of documents (Books, and other materials); serials control department deals with periodicals subscription and maintenance (New periodicals and archival bound volumes); processing department is taking care of cataloguing, classification, and indexing etc.; organization of documents in the stack, and information retrieval through catalogue is well developed in major libraries only. Apart from these reference section, information service unit are also established in prominent institute libraries.

4.15.3: Library and Information Services:

Generally it is found that a academic libraries services like reference services circulation services ,information services, covering CAS SDI ,Newspaper Clippings , reading room etc are provided but in DTE very few services are provided to the users like article indexing, news paper clipping, bibliographies from catalogues, book bank, CAS ( Book display), internet resource awareness, reference service, reprographic services and in few cases SDI. This library are not developing any information products for the users of all the DTE institutes use but provides traditional information products which are prepared and circulated manually in the institutes like annual reports, library manuals, list of additions etc.

4.15.4: Use of ICT:

The status of automation is considerably achieved in most of the libraries as this is the base for the advancement of libraries. Using library management software they have made the databases of collection available in their libraries. But progress is slow and software’s are mostly developed in local base. Though the libraries are mainly acquiring print media more but digital information resource procurement is also initiated in few libraries which covers e-Book, e-Journals, internet based free resources, CD-ROM databases, offline searching etc. Use of internet is now initiated but IR and databases development is not geared up to the tune of requirement of the users. It is observed that very few software’s are available in these libraries including
library management software. Even free software are also not made available in many libraries which could be used for general purpose management e.g. pdf converter. Few software are available and reported in the survey are library application software, Adobe Acrobat, antivirus, web designing, windows, few places Software’s for digital library development like D-Space, Green Stone etc are being used.

4.15.5: Modernization Activities:

It is found that modernization of these libraries is lacking but few libraries are trying to modernize the libraries by automating libraries, use of internet, use of Bar Code applications, web page library etc. Efforts need to modernize libraries. Few libraries like NDA, AFMC, DIAT have advanced equipments useful for networking and digitization but others are lacking and hence not in race of modernization of libraries. The equipments available are Xerox Machine, Scanner, Digital Camera, LCD Projectors, CD ROM Towers, CD/DVD Writers, Laser Printers, Bar Code Printers, UPS Back-up Facility and it indicated the beginning.

It is noticed that the libraries in the defence training and education are still in traditional base and in entering slowly in to developmental stages of modernization. It is necessary to improve the status of these libraries in the light of ICT applications to get the maximum benefit from the collection of these libraries for the education and training of defence personnel. Current developments in ICT, information storage and retrieval systems, use of internet, web technology have already indicated the future trends, but still more advanced factors need to be developed like use of open system, cloud computing, standardization, digital information services, development of digital and virtual libraries and networking of libraries at mega level using consortium etc. Simultaneously role of librarian is also changing and creating challenges in the profession. But professionals have to update themselves and accustom to new culture and change, their focus from organization to exploration of knowledge and its utilization by the user community is a basic goal. There is an urgent need to collect and manage information in electronic format in DTE libraries and set-up library and information networks through which access and sharing of information relevant to the development of the continent could be done.
4.16 How to Develop Modern Library:

The mission of any library is to deliver quality, user oriented services in response to information needs of the users, proper management of scholarly information and development of learning and information literacy skills. Based on the needs and trends an action plan is to be prepared for modernizing Library.

The action plan is a sequence of steps or activities taken in to consideration and must be performed well for a strategy to succeed. Action plan has three major elements and these are bellowed:-

1. Specific Tasks (What will be done and by whom)
2. Time Horizon (Time span when will be completed)
3. Resource allocation (fund requirement)

To suit the mission of the libraries there is a need to develop an action plan covering:-

- Visiting libraries and learning from the experiences of other professionals
- Review of present lay out of the existing library
- Group of experts from different libraries to contribute in preparation of functional model plan
- Modern layout of the library
- Develop modern library strategies(Desk Top Libraries)
- Development plan for reorganization, for e-library system using technology
- Implement a phased approach to modernize physical library. The phase are:
  1. Automation, RFID and infrastructure modernization Phase
  2. Digital Library Initiatives, digitization plan and Library portal
  3 Virtual Library and remote access
  4. Networked libraries and use of social media,
5. Advanced services and introduction of new services like TOC, ILL, EDDS, IR, additional services EDDS, Online services using e-resources etc.

- Analyze future trends in LIS and implementation of it
- Coordinated DTE libraries network and ensure access for its collection (stand alone to network services by developing IR)
- Library program evaluation (based on vision and goals, user types, organizational and user needs)
- Conducting information and technology literacy programs
- Development of ICT support policies and procedures
- Development of skilled and responsive manpower
- Follow best practices in the profession.

In other words a flow chart of a good action plan may be summarized as:

1) Analysis of existing library structure
2) Identified area to be modified
3) Define modernization strategy plan in phases
4) Estimate cost for management
5) Justify to authorities
6) Approval for the plan with monitory sanction
7) Actual implementation or working as per plan
8) Evaluate technology and library trends and adapt in practices
9) Estimate resources to be included
10) Floor plan
Thus for modernizing libraries few clues are presented which may be beneficial for modernizing libraries.

Summary:

Traditional libraries do not answer the needs of modern information society and particularly its needs on information provision. The information society of new quality has been developed. It could be characterized by the rapid growth of the amount and variety of information, development of the conception of information as a commodity, formation of knowledge and information industry, development of the information and communication technology, the impact of information and its technologies on all spheres of life including the nature of learning and work as well as on the style of everyday life. The existing libraries need to be re-engineered to suit the needs of modern society. This chapter highlighted the issues for modernizing and plan to modernize libraries in brief. The next chapters deal with survey and modernization of DET libraries in specific and action plan and best practices to be used for the same.

References:


Academic Libraries, Communication contributed to Conference held at Americas University of Puebla. Sep, 4-6