

THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S ROLE IN THE MODERN ELECTRONIC AGE

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Abstract:

The Librarian should have love for books and should be a voracious reader. He should have potentialities to inculcate the habit of lifelong reading in students. He should be hard working and possess charming and pleasing personality. Above all, the personality of librarian must be congenial, friendly and warm. A Librarian, therefore, must be calm, patient and relaxed with an understanding nature, encouraging the students, helping them to find out the books or information they require and ensuring that an atmosphere of peace and serenity pervades the Library and process of self-learning and discovering continues unimpeded.

The role of the teacher-librarian are not changing, but shifting to encompass new technologies. Today's teacher librarians must initiate collaboration in instruction, learning strategies, and practice in using the essential learning skills needed in the modern electronic age. To continue to exert a positive and significant effect on academic achievement, librarians must understand the benefits of integrating all forms of information technologies into their school.

Keywords: School Library, Information, Information-seeking, Resources, and Disseminating.

1.0 Introduction:

In modern electronic age is age of Automation & Digital Library. Librarians have lot of responsibilities & duties in work place and for the users (of library) & society. An academic library success of embedded librarians depends upon the librarian's ability to understand the characteristics of the students (community) they save in addition to their ability and willingness to become a community member. A librarian will be good knowledgeable, personality. He treats as a friend, philosopher, & guide of students.

As schools change from passive learning environments into active ones, the role of the librarian has to adjust as well. School restructuring requires that the librarian venture from the library to collaborate with teachers and administrators. The addition of technology into the learning environment enhances information retrieval and offers the librarian a new entree into the classroom curriculum. New, more student-centred teaching methods demand the support of information resources and training in their use. Library technology reaches beyond the library walls via computer networks to put information resources into the hands of end users at the point of need. With networks linking all areas of the modern school, the best place to access information may no longer be within the walls of the traditional library.

The School Library provides information, inculcates ideas, and develops knowledge that is so essential to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge based society. It is fundamental to school library to equip students with lifelong learning skills and develop in them creative thinking and imagination, and enabling them to live as ideal and responsible citizens.

2.0 Objectives:

The basic object of this investigation as follows

- Provide the students with appropriate library materials and service for the overall growth and development of the personality of the students as an individual.
- Develop reading ability and interest and inculcate love, enjoyment, and pleasures of reading among the students.
- Assist the student to become skilful and discriminating users of library.
- Academic library user's motive, requirement observation & understand to them.
- Support all students in learning and practicing skills for evaluating and using information, regardless of form, format or medium, including sensitivity of communication with the community.
- Stimulate and guide each student in the selection and use of books and other reading materials for the building of the taste at appropriate level of maturity.

3.0 Definition of School library:

The school library is a library attached to or associated with a school to support the education system of the school. It caters to all the informational needs of the students, teachers and staff of the school. In India, there are four levels of school: primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary. The government and the agencies responsible for developing and supporting school education in India, have a policy that the school of all levels should be supported by a school library.

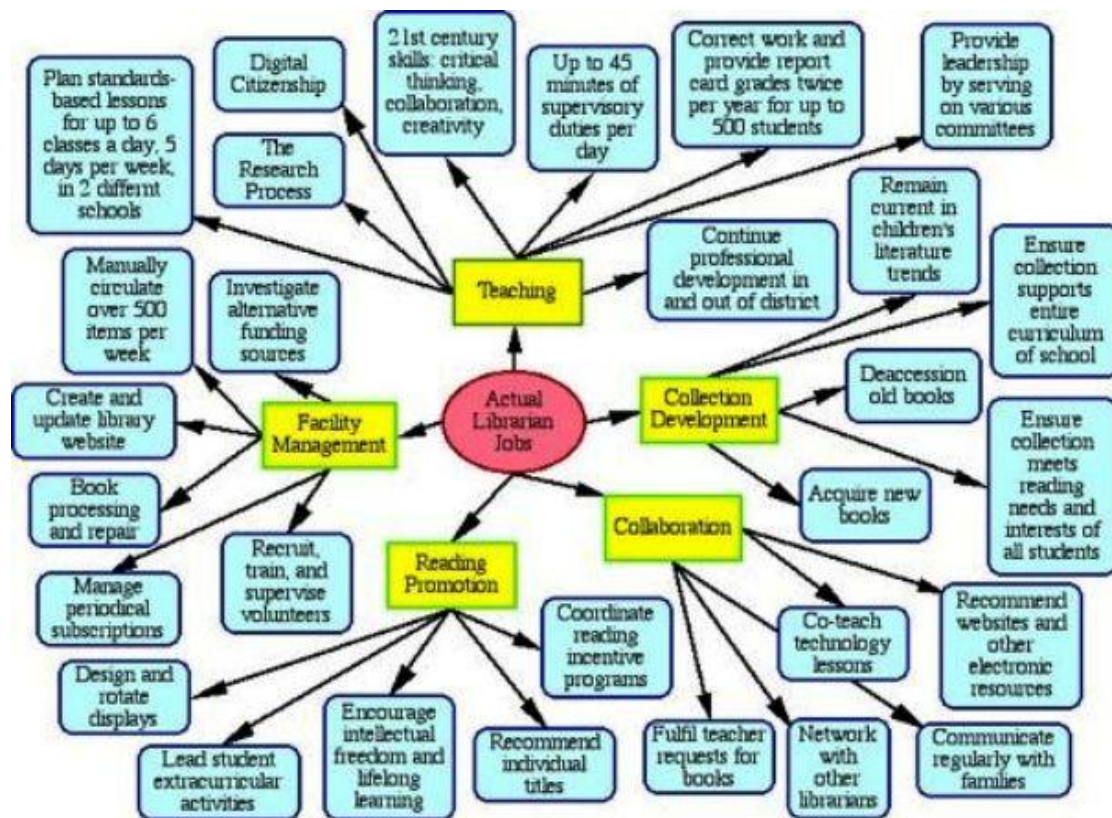


4.0 Roles and Responsibilities of Librarian:

4.1 Leader

As a leader the school librarian creates an environment where collaboration and creative problem solving thrive. The school librarian is an excellent communicator who instils enthusiasm in others by making them feel that they are important members of a team. Strong leaders foster an environment of creativity, innovation, and openness to new ideas, welcoming and encouraging input from others to create consensus. They anticipate future obstacles and continually retool to meet challenges. The school librarian demonstrates his or her role as a visible and active leader within the school community.

- Sharing with the learning community collaboratively developed and up-to-date district policies concerning such issues as materials selection, circulation, reconsideration of materials.
- Taking an active role in school improvement and accreditation activities.



4.2 Collection development & Access to information:

As more teaching supplements and topical information are made available in electronic formats, school libraries find themselves lagging behind in print acquisitions. Librarians look more too online and other electronic sources to meet the information needs of students and teachers. Access to information, whether by CD-ROM, DVD, Internet, online database, video, telefacsimile, microform or traditional print, is overtaking ownership of information as an evaluation benchmark. Acquisitions and selection criteria take on entirely new meaning when considering access to online services. Traditional materials evaluation measures have little meaning when applied to Internet sites. New paradigms of selection and evaluation evolve with new technologies and their application to the classroom and resource centre.

Even though many information and literature sites exist on the Internet, few believe that online data will take the place of all books and audio-visuais. Librarians seek out and evaluate appropriate information resources online. They also identify and select good age-appropriate and curriculum-specific literature. Knowledge of students and curriculum remains the foundation of good school library service regardless of the format of the information provided or the source. Librarians play an important role in the development of access policies and acceptable use agreements delineating how and when materials retrieved may be legally and properly used. Designing documentation and record-keeping systems to assist patrons in legal compliance is an important service and one that will become essential as copyright and license enforcement increase.

4.3 Information Centre Manager:

As information specialist, the school librarian provides leadership and expertise in the selection, acquisition, evaluation, and organization of information resources and technologies in all formats, as well as expertise in the ethical use of information. Hence the value of information is determined on the basis of providing it to the right user at the right time in the right form with precision. The school librarian ensures equitable access and responsible use of information by:

- Cooperating and networking with other libraries, librarians, and agencies to provide access to resources outside the school.

- Evaluating, promoting, and using existing and emerging technologies to support teaching and learning, supplement school resources, connect the school with the global learning community, communicate with students and teachers, and provide 24/7 access to library services.
- Providing guidance in software and hardware evaluation, and developing processes for such evaluation.
- Understanding copyright, fair use, and licensing of intellectual property, and assisting users with their understanding and observance of the same.
- Organizing the collection for maximum and effective use.



4.4 Always a teacher:

As a teacher, the school librarian empowers students to become critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information. The school librarian supports students' success by guiding them in:

- Reading for understanding, for exposure to diversity of viewpoints and genres, and for pleasure
- Using information for defined and self-defined purposes.
- Building on prior knowledge and constructing new knowledge.
- Embracing the world of information and all its formats.
- Working with peers in successful collaboration for learning.

4.5 Program Administrator:

As program administrator, the school librarian works collaboratively with members of the learning community to define the policies of the school library program, and to guide and direct all activities related to it. The school librarian maximizes the efficiency and effectiveness of the school library program by:

- Using strategic planning for the continuous improvement of the program
- Ensuring that school library program goals and objectives are aligned with school and district long-range strategic plans
- Using effective management principles, including the supervision of personnel, resources, and facilities, in developing and implementing program goals and objectives

4.6 Promote Reading habit:

In conceptual planning and development of school library services, the librarian is guided by the stated objectives of the school. These objectives mostly pertain to the provision of reading material, guidance in reading, reference service, instructions in the use of library catalogue and reading materials, personal and social guidance to students etc.

- Develop reading ability and interest, and inculcate love, enjoyment and pleasure of reading amongst the students.
- Assist the students to become skilful and discriminating users of library.
- Offer opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, information and enjoyment.

5.0 Conclusion:

School libraries are places of learning and exploration where teachers and professional school librarians help students develop essential information, reading, technological, visual, textual, and digital literacy's that are crucial to student success in the 21st century. Learners become skilled, ethical users and creators of ideas and information in many formats. They develop expertise in drawing conclusions and making informed decisions, and learn to participate effectively within the global community.

- Overall developed people can change economic, social, and cultural development of the country.
- A Librarian can take part to make good moral character build up in user's community.
- By this study users will skillful, active, mature and understandable.
- Library & Librarian profession will get good position in users mind and society.
- A good personality people will be good citizen & wealth of the country.

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