

EDITORIAL

The increasing spectrum of ICT based applications are motivating libraries to develop new strategies for taking the library & information services to the door steps of users. The people across the world can now gain access to information and knowledge being provided by libraries. The same resources can be used simultaneously by a number of institutions. The user friendly interfaces have made the information retrieval more simple. It can now be claimed that we are in the digital age. But libraries are still behind in exploiting the ICT based applications. The number of libraries in India using blogs, application programming interface (API), library 2.0 tools etc. are still much less in number. The libraries are still behind in creating infrastructure which essential for exploiting the digital resources. The libraries should think of using mobile technology to reach more users as there is rapid increase in library users. The libraries can remodel their existing services by adopting the mobile technology.

The libraries should respond to the changes in the world. The libraries can also make use of the social networking sites to make their services popular and user friendly. Most social network services are web based and provide means for users to interact over the network. Social networking sites allow users to share ideas, pictures, posts, activities, events and interests with people in their network. Libraries can link the social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, You tube, library thing to send list of current acquisitions to users. The concept of library as physical space where one can visit to get information is rapidly changing to a social cyber space where users can access, communicate and contribute to existing knowledge. This is because the library of 21st century is characterized with collective knowledge creation and enabling technologies and also a movement away from the old stereotype conventional services to a more dynamic services. Libraries should respond to the popularity of social networking sites and their expanding role in the creation, use and sharing of information by engaging them as a central medium for interacting with library patrons and providing services to meet their information needs.

Libraries can connect social networking sites with their library websites to link their catalogue, chat, reference pages, research guides, calendar of events, news etc. In order to achieve the seinnovative goals, the people who are at the apex of library affairs should come forward to develop a collaborative mind set so that the professionals are able to work comfortably in a networked environment .

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