

## TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN TELANGANA FROM TRADITIONAL TO MODERN

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines the relationship between access and preservation in digitization projects conducted by public libraries in the Telangana. The main issues discussed are the impact of selection on access, the preservation of original material and digital objects, and the financial issues surrounding digitization projects. The article deal with the technical aspects of digitization. Although access is significantly increased, the range of material that has been digitized is very narrow and is driven largely by copyright restrictions rather than user demand. The survey also highlighted the disparity between funding for access to a very small portion of library holdings through digitization, and the funding of traditional preservation for the remainder of collections. I wish to concentrate on the future of public libraries that serve different communities by giving them access to a learning space and to a real public service. I will focus on the ground reality of publicly accessible libraries that strive to adapt to the digital era.

**KEYWORDS:** Relationship, Preservation in Digitization, Original Material and Digital Objects, Financial Issues

### INTRODUCTION

The Government of India launched the Digital India campaign, which aims to ensure that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by enhancing and extending internet connectivity. Naturally the initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high-speed data networks. If one reads through the goals and objectives of the program, it becomes clear that the idea is to transform India into a knowledge society. The government has plans to extend access to digital information to all by expanding the coverage of Common Services Centers. Perhaps the Government of India and the concerned ministries should also consider the existing network of public libraries in the country as gateways to provide access to digital information services and / or to locate Common Services Centers. Some of the states that have enacted Public Library legislation have reasonably good network of public libraries extending even to remote rural areas e.g., Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal, to mention a few. It will be a good and cost effective idea to use the available physical infrastructure in the form of public libraries to locate community service centers as part of the digital India initiative. Digitization helps in reducing drowsiness and boredom to a great extent, digital libraries are quite accessible, reduced barriers of distance, time sickness, shared resources, and content delivery. In digital library, collection must be selected, organized, made accessible and preserved and digitization provides a solution to rational library problem such as conservation and remote access to information collection and storage. Numerous rare and highly valuable manuscripts can be easily stored in digital format and made accessible to many individuals at the same time.

**Objectives**

- To ascertain the changing role of Public Libraries in the age of Information technology
- To study the impact of ICT on functioning of Public Libraries
- To highlight the mission of Public Libraries, this enables Public Libraries to act as a local gateway to knowledge
- To underline the importance of National Mission On libraries
- Better services providing for user communities

**Functions of a Public Library**

- Access to Tools of information and Education
- Instrumental in Informal Self-Education.
- To Promote Cultural and Social Actives
- Preservation of Local Material

**ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE SOCIETY**

The society is of multi-lingual and multi-cultural nature. In such type of respect and regard for other linguistic and cultural groups, it is essential to strengthen the cultural unity diversity. Hence, a public library needs to address itself in organizing functions and get-together meetings of different cultural groups to give vent to the aspirations and contributions of different cultures. Occasions like national festivals, religious festivals, and birthdays of national or religious leaders could be unitized to serve such an objective.

**Public Libraries in India**

India can now claim to be the world's largest democracy: its population growth has made it the second country in the world after China to cross the one billion mark (Arora, 2001). As its population grows, it is faced by enormous challenges in areas such as literacy and education, areas in which it has long been acknowledged that the public library has an indispensable role to play public libraries are almost wholly dependent on financial support from central or state government for their collection development, infrastructure and human resources, and as a result planning for modern tools and IT facilities in Public Libraries has not taken place. Though there are a number of constraints faced by Public Library system in India for effective dissemination of information, they are providing traditional library services with utmost care and trying to serve the community in the changing atmosphere also. A number of public libraries, especially in the urban sector have adopted Information Communication Technology (ICT), thanks for the help received from RRRLF. But despite these advances, majority of the population is still denied the benefits of the services.

**Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960**

Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948 come into force 1950 in 16 districts in Tamil Nadu area and 11 Districts in Andhra Area. Separate Andhra State was formed in 1953, with Kurnool as its capital city. The implementation of Madras Public Libraries Act was continued in Andhra State; consequently Hyderabad Public Libraries Act was passed in the year 1955 and come in to force in the same year in the Telangana area. When Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1<sup>st</sup> November,

1956 as per the recommendation of the state Reorganization Commission, the Madras Public Libraries Act was in force in Telangana area. There were same administrative difficulties in operation of both acts in one and the same state. So both the Acts were amalgamated, modified brought up to date and were passed as an integrated Act namely Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960. Which come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1960. In the entire Andhra Pradesh, comprising of Andhra and Telangana areas. The Act was later amended in 1964, 1969, 1987, and in 1989.

### **Hyderabad Public Library Act. 1955**

The second state that enacted library law in India was Hyderabad. This Act emerged in an atmosphere charged with enthusiasm for the library movement and it was the result of pressure exerted by a group of enthusiasts which included the State Minister of Education. The draft bill prepared by S.R. Ranganathan was discussed in a seminar directed by him in which members of the legislature Officers of government Education Minister and Chief Minister were present. Everyone including Education Minister was convinced with the bill. They presented it in the Legislature and the same was enacted in 1955.

### **Digital Library Initiatives in India**

In 21<sup>st</sup> century, Digital Technology is changing how citizens learn, share information, and stay connected. Indian Public Libraries can make the benefits of technology accessible to millions of Indians who do not currently have access to computers and the internet, and provide training on how to use technology to access information that improve lives. **NASSCOM**, Foundation, in such vast and diverse country like India, nothing short of a public movement can succeed in bringing a nationwide change. The Indian public library movement will draw strength from the presence of a strong public library network in India, the committed leadership demonstrated by partners, and the ongoing support for public access to technology through the Governments Digital India Initiative. **DELNET**, moving in Sync with the larger goals of **IPLM**, **IPLC 2016**, is providing for a platform the study global trends, issues and innovations that are shaping the future growth of public libraries. The purpose is to reposition public libraries in India without more experimentation and wastage of time and therefore we are engaging with experts from **Chile, US, UK, Kenya** and **IFLA** and try to create the best possible practices for Indian public libraries.

### **Public Libraries in Telangana to Go Digital**

Telangana Grandhalaya Parishad and state IT department will join hands to enable public libraries in the state go to digital. The inaugural session of **INDIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT (IPLM)** partners Meet at Hyderabad, **DILEEP KONATHAM, Director** – Digital Media State IT Department Said that the department would extend all possible cooperation to Telangana Grandhalaya Parishad in Digital enablement of Public Libraries. **IPLM** is a Multy-stakeholder movement hosted by **NASSCOM** Foundation and is working towards the vision of public libraries in to vibrant and inclusive knowledge spaces in India. Seeking at the session **DILEEP** outlined the various initiatives lunched by the state IT Department under the Digital Telangana initiative. He said that state government initiatives like fiber grid and Hy-Fi will be immensely helpful in democratizing access free Wi-Fi facility as part of the Hyderabad Wi-Fi project. **Dr. AYACHITAMSRIDHAR, Chairman of Telangana Grandhalaya Parshad** spoke about how the public libraries in the state are getting a new lease of life, due to timely help by the state government. He thanked **IT & municipal administration Minister KT. RAMA RAO** for releasing special funds to develop public libraries in GHMC limits.

## DEFINITION OF DIGITAL LIBRARY

A digital library is a library in which collections are stored in digital formats (as opposed to print, microform, or other media) and accessible by computers. The content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely. The first published use of the term may have been in a 1988 report to the Corporation for National Research Initiatives. The term was first popularized by the NSF/DARPA/NASA Digital Libraries Initiative in 1994. Bush (1945) created a vision based on experience (“Digital library.”)

### **The Digital Library Federation defines Digital Libraries as**

Organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily available for use by a defined community or set of communities. (Shiri 2003)

## WHAT IS DIGITIZATION?

Library is a growing organism; Fifth law of Library science by **DR. S.R. RANGANATHAN** must be willing to adapt to new conditions, if it to meet its good of maximizing accessibility and exposure while minimizing the users time and effort. Digitization is no longer a mere buzzword; it has become hard reality including in the library would. In the present era, the users have become more information conscious and prefer to access electronic information for fulfillment of their academic and research needs. User wants information reliably locatable and easily accessible.

### **Some of the Common Factor which is influencing to change to Digital Mode, some other reasons are**

- To preserve the documents in order to read older or unique documents without damaging the originals.
- New generation needs
- Digital libraries prove to be more cost-effective.
- Cost reduction by using almost no raw material like paper.
- Searching problem in traditional library and information centers.
- It supports library functions, such as acquisition work, circulation, serial control stack maintenance and developing in-house database.
- Most important reason is the preservation of the virginity of environment. The slogan ‘**Burn a CD-ROM Save a tree**’ is alluring the people fast. According to the Environmental scientists, they have tried all over the world to reduce usage of paper for which the digitalized libraries are very much necessary.

## DIGITIZATION PROCESS

A tremendous quantity of information media and it is becoming increasingly difficult to remain oriented in this flood of information without the help of computer Technology. Digitization is the process of representing an object and image or a signal by a discrete set of its points or samples the result is called Digital Image for the object and Digital Form for signal An image of the physical object is captured using a scanner or digital camera and converted to digital format that can be stored electronically and accessed via a computer.

**It involves mainly the following phases in its processing**

- Identification of documents.
- XML Meta File, Creating using Dublin Core Slide.
- 'Centralized Server.
- Book Scanning Status.
- Scanned Image in TIFF Format.
- Software to divide even & odd maps.
- Batch cropping Cleaning.
- Optical Character Recognition
- Conversion to HTML.
- Uploading.
- All users accessing the data.

**PROBLEMS IN DIGITIZATION**

It is easy to digitize white, clean opaque paper whereas colored, damaged or thin papers are difficult to digitize. Simple, layout single columns, single sheets, straight text with heading, few pictures, standard computer typefaces, typewriting handwriting and so on, are easy to digitize whereas, computex, layout, multiple columns fragile heavy bindings, pictures, equations, tables, unusual typefaces and poor quality printing are difficult to digitize.

**CHALLENGE OF DIGITIZATION LIBRARY**

Following challenges are faced by libraries in Telangana as for as digitization is concerned.

- Lack of Technical Staff
- Copyright
- Inadequate finance and infrastructure
- Security
- Technical Change
- Information Explosion on the internet.

**ROLE OF LIBRARIANS**

Librarians need to possess the knowledge in the field of Information Technology i.e. computer networking information, analysis interest switching technology, digital resources and various website. Information is easily available through internet, but it is generally into the process and unorganized for. In order to face this problem the library professions and user needs to acquire detailed knowledge about the world.

## THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN TELANGANA STATE

Telangana has the expertise to meet the challenge and to set up digital libraries in the State. Through the internet is now become possible to be a part of Global Village and exchange information instantly. The World Wide Web plays an essential role in the process. New technologies have made it possible to provide services anytime and anywhere. Public Libraries are trying to utilize technologies to preserve and distribute valuable information for their users in the form of Digital Libraries. In the future there will be less need of paper for the library as it will digitized and through it the users can avail all information. Cataloguing done centrally prepared. Also there will be more chance to search information as per the requirement of the users. We can keep large content of books, journals, magazines etc. in digital library without using stack area in different types of libraries and societies for the users.

## CONCLUSIONS

The public library system in India is condemned to remain peripheral to the actual information needs of the masses; that it is a depressed state, and serves as little more than a warehouse of recreational reading materials, a majority of which are in regional languages. Traditional in-house library services themselves cannot be stretched to meet the material needs of patrons who face distinct and different challenges involving library access and information delivery. Special funding arrangements, proactive planning, and promotion are necessary to deliver equivalent library services and to achieve equivalent results in community teaching and learning and generally to maintain quality in public library services.

Christopher Edwards in his article has rightly pointed out "Providing access to information has traditionally been about buildings, based around institutions offering services to onsite users. Building tomorrow's libraries will not simply be a matter of installing rows of computers with Internet access: our users will increasingly be about developing electronic information services such as internet portals and acting as a broker between content providers and remote users" (Christopher,2001).

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