

## GO GREEN: LIBRARY'S INITIATIVES TO MAKE THE PLANET SAFE

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### ABSTRACT

*During this era, our planet is in risk by the human activities,. Nature is in dark condition. This article is discussing about how libraries can motivate people towards a green environment and what the roles of library professionals are. Discussion is done how by constructing a GREEN LIBRARY the human kind starts the go green project. The study is shading light on how library professionals can take part in green library movement and their social responsibilities. The one and only motto is to make people aware about making our planet safe.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Green Library, Sustainable, Green Movement*

### INTRODUCTION

Today is the era of LPG i.e. Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization. During this age, people are in need of everything in digital format. Libraries, also called as knowledge hub are the sources of dissemination of information. Libraries are liable to provide knowledge and to create responsibility in the society.

There are different types of libraries depending upon its services. One of the very important type is green libraries. Green libraries which are also called sustainable libraries have a great role towards society. Green libraries can motivate people towards green movement.

### WHAT IS GREEN LIBRARY?

Green libraries are those libraries which are built with environment concerns. Green libraries mostly use natural products. It increases use of natural sun light, allows natural air flow instead of ACs. It is designed to use natural products which are beneficial for human health. It allows for the use of renewable resources.

Green libraries are designed with most natural products. Plantation in and around the building is mandatory. Ecology and environment is the base thing to keep in mind while planning for green libraries.

Now-a-days, along with library 2.0, green library is also in trend. Many countries are practicing green libraries. This practice also helps in green building movement.

### HOW TO MAKE GREEN LIBRARY

First and foremost thing to make a green library is use positive impact towards the environment. The word "green" itself indicates the role of the library.

The library building should be designed in such a way that it should not hamper the ecology. Plantation should be there inside the library. Increasing use of Natural resources and energy leads to green libraries. Sunlight should be used instead of artificial light. Indoor air quality should be best practiced. Artificial air conditioning should be avoided. Main motto should be lowering the use of water and energy and maximising the use of natural and renewable resources.

## **REASONS TO BUILD GREEN LIBRARIES**

There are many reasons to build green libraries in today's context. First is green libraries are eco friendly. Secondly, green libraries can motivate society towards green building. Third is green library construction process is pocket friendly. This does not take so much cost which is difficult to bear. These libraries are totally eco friendly and reduce the carbon footprints to the air. Carbon footprint denotes to the total amount of green house gases (Carbon Dioxide and Methane) produced by human activities.

## **STEPS TOWARDS GREEN LIBRARY**

As we know, the main mission of library is to provide relevant information to right users in right time. Green libraries should also provide services to users keeping in mind that environment should not get affected and the people should also learn green movement from the library itself. To make a green library, there should be proper planning. It is a budget friendly process.

Even an existing general library can be converted to green library too. The design should follow LEED format. LEED is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design which works for green libraries rating system. There is a proper framework for healthy, eco friendly, budget saving and globally recognized library building by LEED. And to construct a green library, this should be followed.

### **International Standards**

There are some international standards like LEED *i.e.* Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and BREEM *i.e.* Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method for environment assessment. LEED is the green building g rating system in all over the world.

LEED allows some performance points while planning a green building. It provides a healthy and cost saving framework for constructing a good library. It is a point based system. The main credit categories for new construction of a green building are :

- Sustainable sites,
- Water efficiency,
- Materials and resources,
- Energy and atmosphere,
- Innovation in design &
- Indoor environmental quality.

BREEAM which was established in UK is a voluntary green building sustainability rating system to assess the environmental performance of buildings. It evaluates the environmental issues which are suitable for constructing a green building

The sustainability rating criteria provided by BREEAM are as follows:

- Energy and water use
- Internal environment
- Ecology
- Management processes
- Materials
- Waste
- Pollution &
- Transport

#### **The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**

In India, to form a green library or an green building, the IGBC permits and aided help. It was established in the year 2001. IGBC offers different training programmes to make green buildings. It also provides certification.

The council also organises Green Building Congress, its annual flagship event on green buildings. It closely works with several State Governments, Central Government, World Green Building Council, bilateral multi-lateral agencies in promoting green building concepts in the country.

#### **ROLE OF THE GREEN LIBRARIANS**

The main role towards greenery of the library is of the librarian. The main roles are:

1. Prepare self for green movement.
2. Making aware other staff of the library about green concept.
3. Divert administration towards go green movement.
4. Collect the ideas to make green library.
5. Main role is to popularise green library concept.
6. To follow different norms implemented by LEED for construction of green library.
7. Organise seminars, workshops, conference etc. Regarding green library

**Do's & Do Not's**

1. Natural products should be used.
2. Harmful chemical should be avoided.
3. For preservation and cleaning purpose natural products should be used.
4. Sunlight is preferable keeping in view that the UV rays are not damaging the resources.
5. UV protected glass should be used during construction.
6. Recycling is praised.
7. Eco friendly lighting and air products should be used.
8. All furniture must be comfortable and environment friendly.
9. Natural air should come in and for that proper ventilation and window should be there.
10. Instead of plastic materials, wooden or other eco friendly materials should be used.
11. Lesser energy consumption systems are preferred.
12. Advertise "go green" initiative.

**IFLA GREEN LIBRARY AWARD**

International Federation of library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) provide IFLA Green Library Award to motivate libraries and projects for environment that best communicate their commitment to environmental sustainability. The basic objectives for IFLA award are as follows

1. To reward a library for their steps towards to green initiative.
2. To aware libraries towards social and environmental responsibility.
3. To promote the development of green library initiatives locally, regionally and worldwide.
4. To present the libraries green initiative towards international society.
5. The prize is awarded in two categories:
  - **Category 1:** Best Green Library: In this category, the libraries which are initiated by green initiative and moved towards sustainability are awarded with this reward.
  - **Category 2:** Best Green Library Project: This is limited to one or more areas in library initiation towards green movement.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Our environment is degrading day by day due to human activities. Libraries should play a major role to make people aware about and to make them realize how the environment is getting destructed. Green libraries can take the initiative to run towards "go green". Environment sustainability is a must concept which only can keep the environment secure.

Green library can minimize the negative impact of humankind on nature and can turn to a green world. Libraries should be careful for the health of the planet by turning to green concept. Use of different harmful chemicals for cleaning, preservation etc. should be banned and instead different environment friendly products should be used. Eco friendly lighting and air products should be used in the library. Main point is we should keep our planet safe.

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