

Digital Transformation for Academic Libraries: An Opportunities and Challenges

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Abstract: *In a world in which the digital transformation is asserting itself with increasing impact, higher education and academic libraries do not escape this reality and have been playing an important role in supporting teaching and learning, contributing, through different means, for the training of students. The factors of information management and information use were presented as affecting a university's institutional readiness for the new requirements of digital transformation from the perspective of governance issues. The big challenge with digital transformation is 'how fast and how far should organizations go on their digital transformation path'. Digital transformation journey is complicated and involves varied objectives, complexities, and covers a vast area. It requires a coherent and well - organized digital strategy to effectively address technology and process transformation together with supporting governance and delivery models*

Keywords: Academic Library, Information Literacy, Digital Age, Academic Libraries, Digital Transformation.

1. Introduction

Within the expanding digital information arena, digital literacy is a highly sought competency among librarians, as library services are now offered through a range of media, including social network sites, mobiles phones or even virtual words. Digital transformation is the kind of change management incorporation of activities, processes, competencies and models to fully leverage the changes and opportunities of a mix of digital technologies and their accelerating impact across society in a strategic way, with present and future shifts in mind, while digital library transformation has predominantly have impacts on several types of libraries such as governments, public sector libraries and Institutional repositories, which are involved in tackling ICT challenges. The Libraries have dramatically changed with the pace of digital transformation and thus have changed the face of librarianship with the goals of digital transformation. Since people don't want 'digital' for everything and do value human and face - to - face interactions there will always be an 'offline' element, depending on the resources and usage There are many external factors forcing transformative change in libraries, such as shifts in scholarly communication and how research is published and disseminated, technology that allows users to access information without intermediation, user demands for access to new types of scholarly information (e. g. data sets, multimedia resources), and accelerated globalization. Learners and researchers have new demands due to the complexities of blended learning, experiential learning, distributed learning and the concomitant need for mobile content delivery, increased focus on research data management and data mining, and increased options for disseminating research. This all translates to changes in user demands for space and services, including decreased demand for print collections. The topic of collections can be difficult to tackle even though most faculty and students know how much they rely on online access to information resources. This will allow for the transformation of library

spaces to meet the needs of students, staff, and faculty in today's digital information age.

Need for Digital Transformation of Academic Libraries:

The Academic Library creates a sense of Community and fosters connectedness to enable and enhance learning and discovery in all areas. The library promotes engagement through collaboration, both formal and informal, to aid learners, teachers, researchers, and scholars in achieving their academic and research goals. The main objectives are;

- 1) Increase discoverability, availability, and accessibility;
- 2) Build and enrich Library collections and content to serve;
- 3) Develop staff capabilities with an emphasis on digital skills;
- 4) Invite curiosity and experimentation to meet evolving challenges;
- 5) To provide spaces to meet diverse user needs, with a focus on inclusivity;
- 6) To provide abundant user - friendly technology and IT resources, along with support for using personal devices, to allow for effortless access to information and virtual libraries.

Digital Transformation of Academic Library: The concept of DT in the literature is very often mentioned alongside digitization and digitalization. They are not identical because they refer to different levels of digital technology use. Digitization can be implemented by transforming a physical resource into a digital resource. The main component of DT is the need to use modern digital technologies to remain competitive. The idea is to provide online and offline services using digital platforms and the Internet. But it's not always easy, especially when technology continues to advance at an increasingly rapid pace. However, universities and colleges willing to take a new look at old buildings are not only making wise investments, but discovering untapped resources that are allowing them to advance the mission of the institution and improve market position. For the library to remain a relevant

part of the academic experience, it must be fully accessible, adaptable, entrepreneurial, digitally sophisticated, and focused on offering the blend of spaces and services demanded by its ever changing users.

Opportunities:

Considering new uses for libraries can add value to proposed renovations. Many academic libraries are making available a number of essential student services such as a writing center, counseling and advising services, tutoring, disability services, enhanced technology lab spaces, multi - functional device (e. g., tablets, smart phone, etc.) and laptop lending services, practice presentation areas, group and individual work spaces, greater access to digital production facilities in video, audio, music, photography, distance learning course support and functional use of satellite and cable technologies. ” Libraries are among the first places prospective students and their parents visit in the academic institution. The library has the potential to create a positive and memorable first impression to promote institutional mission, academic culture and cater to the needs of today’s learner.

- 1) Crafting the user experience: Both seasoned researchers and newcomers need intuitive interfaces for navigating libraries' huge stores of data.
- 2) Delivering mobile content: Libraries adjust to the expectations of user’s accustomed consuming mobile - friendly websites, apps, and e - books.
- 3) Recording scholarly research: This becomes more complex as research encompasses datasets, visualizations, and other new media.
- 4) Managing N - List data: Thanks to electronic publishing, users are hungry to explore how content connects and interacts over time.
- 5) Providing open access e - resources: Major initiatives by the National Science Foundation and others show that open access is going main stream.
- 6) Rethinking design: Library environments are better reflecting how libraries are actually used by students and including areas for study and hands on work.
- 7) Online learning: A well - established pillar of higher education, libraries is increasingly playing a role in guiding faculty and developing their own online resources.
- 8) The Semantic web: A new computer science field that seeks to intelligently relate pieces of information online, the technology could allow for more accurate searches of library catalogs and databases.

Challenges:

The transformation of academic libraries, in this digital age has facing some hurdles. Although these challenges vary depending upon the individual university or college, several are common regardless of the institution.

- 1) The academic libraries may face is related to space. They shall have to extend more.
- 2) Academic libraries may face is regarding balancing their collection vis - à - vis print and online. In India, college students largely use print resources because of one or more reasons. These include reasons such as many Indian textbooks and study materials being available only in print format.

- 3) With the ascent of digital documents and digital libraries, library and information professionals’ role has expanded and challenges have increased many fold.
- 4) A clear understanding of their changing roles, from archivists to student resources with a blend of capabilities, library staff fails to buy into the vision. A successful renovation begins with everyone onboard from the beginning.
- 5) These challenges relate to collection management, knowledge organization, digital preservation, online searching, content management, knowledge management, and promoting the use of libraries and networks.
- 6) With library transformation, “timeless” quality of design is preferable to trendy styles that quickly become outdated.
- 7) Now 24×7 accesses to information are available round the clock and the traditional constraints of space and time stand collapsed.
- 8) Essential to this process of transformation is the selection of a planner/designer who can demonstrate the benefits of a library for the present and for the future life of the institution.

2. Conclusion

Technology has transformed additional services traditionally offered by libraries. For instance, online reading lists have been widely adopted by academic libraries as an effective means for creating, editing, personalizing, updating and integrating reading lists into online learning and teaching material, helping students to connect directly and seamlessly with the reading resources of their courses. In addition, academic library staff can readily address the needs of academics for ordering books, as well as their training needs for managing and maintaining their reading lists. This undoubtedly also creates new needs. Therefore, information skills instruction may require a better understanding of students’ contemporary information practices in everyday life and how this affects their approaches to academic information sources. Furthermore, it creates new roles for academic libraries in terms of advocating the development of information literacy in students and following more collaborative approaches with academics that will enable them to highlight its value by incorporating it within the learning objectives of different courses. This also means that libraries need to keep up - to - date with current research in the area of information literacy and develop more embedded relationships with academic staff. In particular, academic libraries have demonstrated tremendous adaptability for serving the needs of a larger and more diverse student body (including developments in distance and blended learning) and services are now much more user - driven and tailored in response to the demands of 24 - 7 access to resources across a wide variety of platforms. Furthermore, academic libraries have also played a key role in the implementation and governance of open access mandates and enabled researchers to widen the reach of their research by the management of institutional repositories and data management.

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