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NEW TRENDS IN INSTRUCTION: THE ROLE OF THE LIBRARIAN IN COURSE DELIVERY

The purpose of this paper is to study the changing roles and challenges of librarians in our fast-paced world, when the technology and varied format of information is making new demands. Digital information is changing the role of librarians. Information providers or the "keepers of knowledge" in the digital age can no longer play the role of traditional maintainers of library collections, they became facilitators and instructors of the process of obtaining information via Internet services.

Key words: role of librarians; digital information; Internet access

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НОВІ ТЕНДЕНЦІЇ В НАВЧАННІ: РОЛЬ БІБЛІОТЕКАРЯ У ВИКЛАДАННІ ДИСЦИПЛІН

Метою даної роботи є дослідження нових завдань та викликів, які постають перед бібліотекарами у нашому швидкоплинному світі, де, завдяки високим технологіям та різноманітному формату інформації, до них висуваються вже нові вимоги. Інформація в цифровій формі змінює роль бібліотекарів. Постачальники інформації або "зберігачі знань" у цифрову епоху вже не можуть відігравати роль традиційних утримувачів бібліотечних фондів, вони набувають ролі фасилітаторів та інструкторів процесу отримання інформації через мережу Інтернет.

Ключові слова: роль бібліотекарів; цифрова інформація; доступ до Інтернет

Librarians have always played a key role in the process of education. Today, in the digital age, librarians can no longer be simply information providers or the "keepers of knowledge". It is vitally important to form relationships between libraries and subject specialists to support instruction in the classroom and provide possibility of instruction in the form of classes in libraries to assist students doing research by themselves. The changes in technology using electronically stored and retrieved information has changed the way patrons and students are able to access, retrieve and use information. Library collections are to be built around curriculum that is being taught at the time in the educational establishment, the books in library collections are to be published and purchased simultaneously with any changes of course curriculum. In most cases, this is limited and in most cases a librarian's role is a role of traditional maintainer of library collections.

The instantaneous access of information through the Internet has made vast amounts of information and data available to anyone with a computer, a modem and a provider. Digital

information is changing the role of librarians from a person who students ask for assistance in finding information in a place called a "library" to someone who needs to facilitate the process of obtaining information via Internet services and provide instruction regardless of place, time or format. The role of librarians is a role of active party of the educational process - instructional and participatory role. Librarians must be involved in creating independent thinkers. The digital information age has enhanced their roles to knowledge navigators and instructors implicitly teaching the discipline called information literacy.

With the growth of the Internet and availability of vast amounts of information in instant, a librarian's role must be one of teaching critical thinking and resource-based learning. Students need to acquire the skills of evaluating information. We no longer have the luxury of having professionals in subject areas to evaluate and filter information from information in journals and books with clear references to experts in a field. Valid information is "published" on the Web daily along with opinions and rumor.

Changes in education such as the infusion of instructional technology and the use the Internet to deliver instruction has also changed the way how libraries and librarians can provide and assist instructors in teaching in the digital age. An information society is one that enables most of its members to engage in pursuits that are knowledge-intensive, knowledge generating, and knowledge based. Information literacy and critical literacy – the ability to locate, evaluate and cite information became a crucial part of the educational process for students today. Resource based learning integrates both critical thinking strategies and the effective use of information into the learning process is being used effectively from first grade to the Universities. New skills such as problem-solving, information literacy and critical literacy are skills our students are required to have to function effectively in the current work environment.

The trend in education towards distance learning and web-based courses is providing new challenges for information professionals as service providers as well as instructors. Many educational establishments are now recognizing the necessity of an information literacy course as part of the curriculum in the digital age.

Knowledge, i.e. understanding - is the element that may be missing when simply accessing stored digital information. Using that information effectively in the educational process is the key. The challenge that librarians face as knowledge navigators is to link information to the process of acquiring knowledge from that information. "Information is Knowledge" is not completely true. Only when critical thinking skills are used in conjunction with all the instant information that is available on the Internet (for example), can we attach real value to information.

Michael Caine once said "I educated myself in the library, which means I found out for myself what I wanted to know".

There are several ways to meet these challenges brought on by electronic information and the explosion of the World Wide Web as a vehicle to make information available to the world. Many libraries are using a variety of tools and techniques to assist students in finding and evaluating information. The first task of educational establishment library is to provide organized access to information that is directly related to the courses offered at this establishment. It is an opportunity for collaboration between subject specialists and the librarians.

The second task of Educational establishment library is to provide instruction. Finding quality information is the biggest challenge that faculty and students are faced in the research and instructional process. With the vast amounts of information available on the Internet, it is essential that independent learners are skilled in locating information.

The third task of Educational establishment library is to provide instruction in the area of Information Literacy. Teaching Information Literacy in the electronic environment is a new and exciting role for librarians. Creating courses and formal instruction in the discipline of information literacy with the purpose of encouraging independent learners and critical thinkers to meet the challenges of the new information age is the role of the future for librarians. In today's workplace, employees are not only expected to work well with others, communicate well, find creative solutions to problems; they will also be expected to use the Internet and electronic information effectively to solve problems and conduct business. More and more businesses are moving towards conducting business on the Web for advertising, delivering services and products as well as using the Internet as a communication tool. Librarians must be involved in creating valuable employees with the current skills required to be successful on the job.

The evolution of the library and information technology has brought on new challenges for libraries and information access and delivery. No longer is the library a closed society with librarians and staff working solely with Library Technical Services for ordering, processing and cataloging of print materials. Librarians need to be managers of information access, designers of systems in conjunction with programmers and college technicians, and service providers when working with students. The library staff need to learn new skills: interfaces, electronic resources access, e-mail, a variety of other skills related to digital information to provide Internet service to students and employees. There is a need for more to be trained, but the issue of backfill of personnel has not always been successfully answered.

In conclusion, librarians have historically been the experts in locating, evaluating and making information available to the public. We have moved from books and print materials to

individual databases with the open environment of the World Wide Web. Librarians are the most appropriate professionals to lead the team of people in finding the answers to the challenges we are facing in the digital environments of electronic information and the Internet. Librarians have always been the experts at teaching people how to use the tools to locate that information regardless of format. They are the most effective searchers and researchers and their basic role of teaching those skills has not changed. The technology and varied format of information is changing and making new demands. In this fast-paced world it is important that we change with the changing roles and challenges.