

University Librarian's Quality Improvement in the Information Age

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Abstract

University library is an important working place for teachers. University librarians in the information age, while enhancing professional competence and service awareness, should improve their quality. This paper, from the current status of university library, analyzes and proposes measures to enhance the quality of librarian.

Keywords: digital library, traditional library, qualities, skills

As an important part of university, library is getting more and more attention. How to build a better library to provide a better environment for students and academics has become the focus. The quality of library staff has become an important factor that affects the entire library system.

With the social development, computerization and informatization has become the development trend for all aspects of our society. University, as a place for young generation, needs to adapt to the trend as soon as possible in order to provide more convenient and comprehensive services for students. In recent years, many colleges and universities actively bring in information technology. Traditional library has gradually transformed to digital library. The rapid technological development raises new standards for university librarian.

1. Comparison between digital library and traditional library.

1.1: Convenience.

Smartphone is one of the greatest inventions of the century. It is a breakthrough of mobile phone technology, more importantly, it provides a convenient platform for all industries to better serve people. Traditional library requires readers go inside to find the information they need from thousands and millions of books. It is very time-consuming. Digital library virtualizes traditional library. All the books are

computerized. Readers no longer have to be present to search thick books. A simple click in front of their computers is all they need to get what they want. This greatly facilitates the readers, while reduces the workload of librarian.

1.2: Diversification.

Traditional library is constrained by its size and location. The amount of books collected is limited. Even our famous National Library cannot go over its own limit. On the basis of the traditional model, the only way to increase the limited amount of books is to expand its physical size, which is not possible due to land constraint, not to mention the huge amount of funds to be spent. Digital library provides a good solution to this problem. Combined with solid construction, it virtualizes traditional library. Where to put the increased collections is not to worry. Adding a digital version of the collections into the digital library is all needed. This greatly increases the library collections and diversifications.

1.3 : Sharing.

The number of copies of each book is limited with traditional library. Only one copy is available for a lot of books. They can only be read by one reader at a time. This greatly limits knowledge communication and literature development. Digital library is computerized. Each book is available for many readers at the same time. There is no single reader constraint like traditional library. Real resource sharing is achieved. The most convenient and timely services are provided to readers.

1.4 : Low Cost.

Traditional library collections are restricted by its physical locations. Many books are only in some libraries. University libraries rarely have the opportunity to get relatively precious books. With digital library and the help of internet, university can share their database. Through digital libraries, teachers and students can access books from other schools and even from famous schools of other countries. Database sharing will cost money. However, digital library, featuring database sharing, satisfy the demand most efficiently. The cost is minimum compared with the cost needed to expand the collection by a traditional library, especially to expand some precious collections.

2. Qualities University Librarians Should Achieve

2.1. Positive moral values.

University librarians work for school students most of the time. Young generation is our country's future. Their education is most important. For the students, their education will not be limited inside their classrooms. Everyone from their daily contact may affect them. Therefore, university librarians should maintain positive moral values, adhere to regulations and laws, and face all students and readers with a good attitude and good moral qualities. A good reading atmosphere should be fostered in the library.

2.2 Proficiency in computer skills.

The advent of the information age makes the traditional university library a self-study place for students, whereas digital libraries will gradually become the mainstream to achieve lending functions. This is to

provide readers convenience while actually reducing the workload of librarians, however, higher standard in computer operations is required. Librarians' work place will gradually shift from among traditional library bookshelves to a virtual book warehouse. The service librarians provide will be more to guide the use of the digital library. University librarians should therefore strengthen the skills to use computers and other related electronic products, understand digital library systems and be proficient in their application, in order to provide readers with a better service.

2.3 Clarify the difference between university library and the community library.

The biggest difference between university library and the community library is the readers. University library readers are mainly teachers and students. Community library readers are not so specific. The reader difference leads to different dependency on traditional library. Like traditional paper books, traditional library has been largely impacted by the virtualization of electronic products, especially in the younger generation. Traditional library is no longer the first choice for younger generation to search for reading materials. More convenient digital library becomes a better choice. Compared with university library readers, community library readers, as a more diversified group, are more dependent on traditional library. The role change of community librarians is not so obvious. University library, with a relatively specific group of readers, is more demanding on its librarians. They must be readily to accept new things and to master digital library system in order to provide better service.

2.4 To act as a third party to realize the integration of traditional library and digital library

Despite its rapid development, digital library cannot completely replace traditional library even among the younger generation. University library, in a sense, is also an important factor in assessing a school's overall capacity. One side is the rapid development of new things, while the other side is the traditional essence, which is impossible to be completely replaced. To achieve a common development and co-existence of both needs a third-party's coordination. That third party is librarian. University library will face the co-existence problem of those two sooner than community library. A digital library is able to achieve the preservation of an infinite number of books and resource sharing. But the preservation of its resources will face more risk than traditional library. With careful handling and proper storage, the paper books in traditional library can last forever. It is librarians' job to categorize what books should be only in the digital library and what books should be present in the traditional library based on actual reader requirements. Different universities have different characteristics, which should also be reflected in their library system. Science and engineering school should have science and engineering books more in paper format, more of those books should also in the electronic database. Liberal arts books should be mostly in digital format. As a third party, librarian's importance is to better integrate traditional library with digital library and to form a complementary situation with mutual benefit.

Because of the special reader group, university librarians face higher professional standards. People engaged in this profession should keep a good and positive attitude, devote themselves into their work, and do their part of the job in this library's important transition period.