
Open Library And Librarianship

Zomuana Joute

Abstract

The paper is concerned about defining an open library, its technology, components, what it will have and provide with respect to the case study of www.openlibrary.org. The paper also concern about application of new technologies in the library, which resulted rapid increases and changes in the traditional functions and services of libraries, and the role and nature of works of library profession and the librarianship. The system of information processing, accessing, retrieving, and dissemination had been dramatically changed librarianship. Library had also been transformed into new open source center and open library, virtual library,. In such libraries, the librarianship had also been dramatically changed; qualities and competencies on the part of library management should also be improved. As well the skills and techniques of the library professionals must be update to cope up with new development in Library services.

Keywords: Open library, librarianship, content provider, internet archive, professional competency, infobase, information stakeholders, user account.

1. Introduction

New system of open library has come up, and library is no longer a mere collection of books, it is now a source of information of whether conventional or digital. The whole concept of information creation, storages, processing, and retrieval keep changing, which has greatly effected the working environment in the libraries.

To face such new challenges it is necessary to improved our professional knowledge, librarianship and skills by identifying and adopting to changes in the open library environment

Hence, the nature, system, understanding of library and its services, its management as well as the sources of information have changed with the utilization of new web technologies and services.

In the context open library, the library is no longer focusing only to its individual members, or a regular library user within a particular area. Instead, the library became open, and provides an exciting opportunity for all interested library professionals, sharing its catalogue to the public through internet archive as well as the library.

The collection and information resources in the context of open library covers different aspects of knowledge sources as well as its retrieval, storing and processing for different users and it became open to all users.

2. Defining Open Library

2.1 Open Library

Open Library is a concept to make libraries open to the world for open access. www.openlibrary.org is taken as a case study to discuss the issues related to open libraries. As it is seen, Open library, as a registered domain, is a project of the non-profit Internet Archive, and it is funded in part by a grant from the California State Library, USA. Open Library is an open project where the software is open, the website is open, and its data and documentation are also open. Its goal is to create an online catalogue that contains one web page for every book ever published. To do this, open library accepts data from a variety of sources: libraries, publishers, book sellers and individuals. Therefore, such an open library provides an exciting opportunity for the library professionals or librarians who want to add records of digitized books to the catalogues. Being an open source project, the Internet Archive provides resources or databases to the open library project.

Open library creates a catalogue to share with the public, with the aim of getting more people's involvement in library using. In its services, the open library lists every book—whether in print or out of print—available at a library. And open library scans or types the text of the documents and therefore, it provides them in the Internet Archive as well as the library.

2.2 Open Library Provides

Open library establishes a relationship with information stakeholders and the content providers like publishers, distributors, library software publishers etc. Open library provides access to—cover arts, summaries of the contents, scholarly reviews, popular reviews, full text version in many formats, contents rankings, discussion forum of different titles. Open library also provides links to library holdings, document scanning and printing on demand, the records, for inclusion with library catalogues or ability to buy new books. And it also provides access to citation management tools and easy work with Wikipedia. These provide a collaborative database environment where knowledge can be shared freely, and where text structure can be added as it requires. In that structured wiki, users can create wiki applications which are very specific to their needs.

3. Open Library may have the following features as specified in the site

3.1 User Account: User accounts are created in Open Library which is known as a graduated accounts system. An account is automatically created as soon as a user begins to have access to the site and is entered in the browser. If a user continues access to the site, the user can provide more information, username, password, email, etc.. In Open Library, users automatically get an account by taking an action and have access to the site.

3.2. Search engine: Open Library has a powerful search engine, which supports tags and defined collections and enables much of the users who want books to communicate, share knowledge and work effectively with other users?

- 3.3. Readers' Profile:** In Open Library, user can edit user pages, in which each page, book, author, and user is considered as a thing in the database, it contains ,the pages of comments, the pages of new collections, and latest contributions to Open Library. Further, a user can answer a series of questions to their profile page, which reflect their needs. Here, the readers' profile page becomes an independent workspace for the individual user.
- 3.4. Book viewer:** Open library also have advanced book viewer to handle documents with proof reading as well as translation and bookmark. In the open library, books will also be available as print on demand. Any user can edit the catalogue or review or rate or comment on a book The site used, an advanced wiki , allow users to modify the text and adds a new type of data.

4. Open Library is

- 4.1 Open library is on the Internet:** Open Library is on the Internet and accessible as a public website, like Wikipedia—a public resource where any user in any places could have an access and other user could process into different format.
- 4.2 Open Library is comprehensive:** In case of unavailability of the full form of a document, open library may collect or take catalog entries from every library and publisher and even from Internet user who want to contribute to the open library. Open library may link to the libraries from where such book could be bought, borrowed, or downloaded. Open library may also collect reviews and references and discussions and every other piece of data about the book. .
- 4.3 Open Library is fully open:** Open Library is open and free to the people, in the meantime it is the product of the people. The open library. This enabled the user to create and curate open library catalog, contribute to its content, participate in its governance, and have full, free access to its data. In Open Library, library data and Internet databases are ever to be open.

5. Open Library Technologies

Open Library requires a database that could handle tremendous records, which permit users to modify and added data entries and changes that occurs. All these works had been done by that database. To work out these, the following technologies are developed which helps reader to handle databases.

- 5.1 Infobase:** Infobase is a new database framework, and it is flexible database which stores a collection of objects. In the Open Library site, each page, book, author, and user is called as thing in the database. Infobase allows a reader or user to store full structured data, as well as to retrieve old versions of data. InfoBase also has a program, which can be used to build applications by using the Open Library data.

5.2 Infogami: Infogami may be known as a cleaner, simpler wiki, but unlike other wikis, infogami has the flexibility to handle different types of data. Infogami allows user to store structured data, i.e Infogami page. In infogami, space, editions, authors, or individual fields are considered as an object. Thus infogami is also open to expansion which has a rich plugin framework that enabled reader to build exciting site-.

5.3 Plug-in: Plug-in technology has also been developed to handle reviews, price checking, and other important features available in the website.

6. Open Library Components (architecture)

There are important components (architecture) in the Open library, such as Web Server (which runs Infogami), Web Templates, (static files which get edited through the wiki interface,) Info- Search Search Plugin (to get complete search results): Collected data: (catalog data and complete data acquired from various sources, usable in open library and these need to be documented.

Hence, open library is a new online techniques for finding information about books, titles that are out of print, scarce, or rare documents, here the user can read the book, and in some cases, and user can search the contents. Such Open library is a very large centralized library –a centralized repository of knowledge which demonstrates diverse sets of skills and cooperation to solve problems of different individual users

7. Librarianship In The Context Of Open Library

With the advent of tremendous explosion of ICT, Librarianship over the period of time has become an important profession. In the context of open Library, Library professional should be able to meet challenges as well as the changing environment in Library services. The role of librarian and Librarianship are continuing to change and evolve with the adoption of Internet and World Wide Web into the management of information. Though it is difficult to presume with certainty how active the role of librarians would be in this evolving and changing scenarios. It can be said with confidence that the services of librarian cannot be lost sight of and dispensed with because they have the necessary and relevant knowledge and the right to attend to the information needs of the seekers.

If the Librarian is not alert, competent and take up whatever is applicable, Librarianship will become less importance and it may ruin. The library profession may be replacing by those who are expert in handling applications of ICTs in information management. The following points may be discussed for development and enhancement for the Librarianship in the context of open Library:

7.1 Attitudes of Librarian

The personal qualities of Librarian like attitudes, habits, and social graces, willing to do the work should be developed and be user friendly. Besides Librarian should have receptive behavior to confront different types of users, he/she should also have an influential behavior

in the management and dissemination of information. The attitudes of the librarian here must be adjusted in conformity with new developments. In this context of open Library, Library profession and librarianship should be changed and developed to manage new developments.

7.2 Alertness of Librarian

Alertness is very important to be a good Librarian in this IT revolutionized library services. Librarian should be alert enough towards new challenges and he/she should possess the quality of adaptedness and preparedness. Librarian has to manage self regulation and organized performance to improved productivity. He should also be able to manage jobs, manage other, manage carrier while doing the duty. He/she should adopt progress and changes in the work and interacting others positively at the working places.

7.3 Professional Competency

Librarian in the context of open Library should have the skill of convincing, negotiating, decisive, listening, monitoring, understanding, communicating and socializing skill. Not only this he / she should have the skill of informative, instructive and explanatory. He should be adaptable to new technologies and skill, network resources and services comes up with the application of new information communication technology. Besides, a Librarian should be prepared for careful and timely prepared for new challenges, he should have depth content knowledge and its related skill, and should always be ready to re-position for new roles.

7.4 Applicability of new challenges (Tuning to local relevance)

To be applicable in new challenges, Librarian should have that knowledge and expert knowledge, effective communication skills and leadership quality, confidence and should be able to work with others and recognized the services of others within the information management. Librarian, in the open Library environment should have the knowledge of how to apply his acquired information tuning with local relevance and the quality of effective skills for practical aspects. The librarianship, in the context of Open library system should be hereby equipped with strong will power, assertiveness, creativity, self confidence and innovativeness. Hence, open Library, if being initiated and established; only such librarianship and Library professional could manage and contextualize it in tuning with local relevance.

8. Conclusion

Librarianship is, in these fast and rapid changing scenarios, continuously affected by the new system of information handling, processing, and its dissemination. With the emergence of open library system, the role and service renders by librarian and the library had been changed as well the need of information seekers also different. To face such new challenges, Librarianship needs update

ness, and preparedness in the day to day works in the library. New technology should be adopted whereas the skills of the library professional should be developed to be able to manage all those new developments. In the context of these new dimensions, the nature of library and its services are compelled to face and cope up with ever changing information and knowledge management system. To have an access to and to make use of rich open library resources through the web, Library and the librarianship must have enter into new ICTs environment. If the librarianship is keep away from and not aware of those scenarios, or library is not update, the importance and value of library services and librarianship may be easily lost, Library service may be snatched away by others who are expert in ICTs or even library may defunct. Hence, Librarianship should be continuously update, developed and alert in this IT revolutionized open library system.

References

1. Drotner, Kirshten : Library innovation for the knowledge society : Scandinavian Public Library Quarterly Volume 38 No. 2.2 drotner@lite sdu.dk December 2007
2. Joute, Zomuana. The Changing Scenarios of Library Services in Knowledge Society: International Conference on Library Professionals in Knowledge Society. NEHU. Shillong .2008
3. Koganuramath, MM , Kumbar, and Kademani BS. Library Information Science Profession in the knowledge Society. New Delhi, Allied Publishers Pvt Ltd. 2008
4. Murthy TAV. Chief Editor, Digital collection Development and E. Journal management in Libraries: Proceedings of third conventions and Networking in North Eastern Region (PLANNER 2005) INFLIBNET Centre Ahmedabad. 2005
5. Parera, Kamani : " Changing Roles of Library Professionals in the knowledge Society Regional Centre for strategic studies Colombo. K. Vithans @ yahoo.com
6. UNESCO. Towards Knowledge Soceities-ISBN.92-3-104000-3 UNESCO.2005
7. Wikipedia the free encyclopedia:Knowledge Society 2008, <http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/knowledge-Society>.12 December 2007
8. Internet Archive – <http://www.archive.org/> visit on 9/29/2008
9. Open Library - <http://demo.openlibrary.org/> visit on 9/29/2008
10. Open Content Alliance - <http://demo.openlibrary.org/> visit on 9/29/2008
11. <http://mylibrary.library.nd.edu/category/facets/>. visit on 9/29/2008

About Author

Mr. Zomuana Joute, College Librarian, Govt. Aizawl North College, Mizoram University.