Preface

Information has become a critical factor for political participation and social inclusion and the basis for competitiveness at the individual, organizational and national levels. Access to information has greatly improved with the convergence of information and telecommunication technology and the development of the Internet and the World Wide Web. More recently, the open access initiative has increased individuals capacity to access information from various media and in different formats. As the contemporary society gradually transforms into an information economy, our dependence on information becomes increasingly pronounced. One of the cardinal principles of practice for librarians and other information professionals is to ensure that everyone regardless of his ‘age, race, gender, religion, disability, cultural identity, language, socioeconomic status, lifestyle choice, political allegiance or social viewpoint’ has equal access to information. Nevertheless, billions of people across the world still experience information poverty despite the richness of the current information environment.

The digital age has transformed how information is accessed and retrieved. The library is now a part of a complex and dynamic educational, recreational, and informational infrastructure. The evolution of the library sciences maintains its mission of access equity and community space, as well as, the new means for information retrieval called Information Literacy Skills. All catalogues, databases, and a growing number of books are all available on the Internet. Information literacy is the ability to “determine the extent of information needed, access the needed information effectively and efficiently, evaluate information and its sources critically, incorporate selected information into one’s knowledge base, use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally.”

Collection development, or collection management as it has increasingly come to be called in libraries, has experienced a stunning growth in significance in the past 25 years. Some would put it at the core of what public libraries do. Ghikas says, “we can—and should—look at collection management as the fundamental integrating factor in the management of libraries, including in its scope collection development, presentation and preservation; collection organization and access; and, allocation of resources to development, presentation, preservation, organization and access, according to the principles of librarianship, the requirements of society, and the possibilities of present and envisionable tools (Ghikas, 1997).” Since the mid-1970s, many libraries of all types have reorganized functions to include the position of ‘collection development librarian,’ or ‘collection manager.’ Besides selection, deselection, and responsibility for collection evaluation, arrangement, and marketing, holders of these positions increasingly direct work such as acquisitions, circulation, cataloging, preservation, and serials, and operate at high levels in many institutions. Some libraries have renamed their technical services...
divisions to collection management and included centralized selection under this umbrella as well. This rapid growth in significance is even more remarkable given that, until 1976, the field did not even have its own specialized journal. It did not have its own distinctive subject heading in Library Literature until 1988 (Gabriel, 1995). Before that time, the subject was usually broken down into smaller areas such as selection, acquisitions, and weeding, and, indeed, those smaller pieces of the duties of the collection development role were commonly spread among most, if not all, of the professional librarians on a library’s staff, to be performed part-time along with their other responsibilities.

Ranganathan’s five laws (1931) cover, theoretically and practically, the activity fields of the library in general and those of the academic library in particular. Following are the laws:

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his or her book.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. The library is a growing organism.

In the digital era it might be useful replace the term “book” with the term “sources of information and knowledge” and the term “reader” with the term “user/consumer” Ranganathan’s choice of words offers the opportunity to consider a linkage to Darwin’s evolution theory which analyzing organisms. It is a linkage that hasn’t been found at any literature reviewed for this paper or exists to the knowledge of the writer but seems to be interesting enough to explore due to its merit to this discussion.

According to Darwin, evolution has no plan or purpose. Primary differences between organisms are accidental, and those who happen to be more adapted to their environment, survive and expand. However, sometimes the environment changes at a quicker pace than the living organism can adapt itself. In those cases the organism becomes extinct. If the library is the organism as Ranganathan put it, it should be careful, for if it does not change fast enough, it will become extinct. Darwin presented some basic arguments regarding the natural selection process that can be useful if they are adopted and taken into consideration planning the academic library future, in general, and coping with disintermediation, in particular. An argument like, every organism produces more offspring than those that can survive, can relate to the different organizational structure of academic libraries and/or the services they offer. There isn’t one best organizational structure for an academic library, or its services. It differs from one place to another, based on wants, needs and capabilities. In keeping with Darwin’s way of thinking it can be assumed that organisms differ and these differences are allowed to offspring. Those differences have an impact on the ability of the offspring to survive and reproduce. Therefore, the offspring that are, more environmentally-adapted, are the ones that produce more offspring, and they have the attributes that are best suited to the environment. (Darwin, 1996). The same logic guides Ranganathan’s fifth law of libraries: The library is a growing organism.

Ranganathan sees the library as an institution that is active in a constantly changing environment, and according that, the institute should change and adapt itself with spirit of time so it can serve best those who need it. The two approaches, Darwin’s and Ranganathan’s, have much in common. Both consider change as an impetus for development. They differ, however, on a crucial point. Darwin speaks of a reality in which change and development are a reaction to the changing environment, whereas Ranganathan speaks of a constant aspiration for change and evolvement in library services, as a reaction to the changing environment. In the current reality, the practical interpretation of making the aspiration for growth and
progress of the library into a reality seems to be an optimal coping with disintermediation in information consumption. This might be carried out on two parallel axes. The first axis includes adapting and fitting into the new environment through proper translation of the classical librarian mediation functions into the changing environment, based on the principles embodied in the first four laws of Ranganathan. Those will not be discussed in this paper. The second axis is the focus of this paper. It refers to an inventive process, practically an act of creation, which is expressed by Ranganathan’s fifth law, “the library is a growing organism”. As the author understand it, at this point the academic library is required to employ actual creativity and innovativeness to craft unique services and new systems, which make use of the tools, the skills and the talents of the librarians and libraries.

The fifth law proposed by Ranganathan, “The library is a growing organism”, is the most interesting in terms of the understanding that it contributes to innovativeness and self-recreation as a survival reaction to the changing environment. It gives a place for innovativeness and creativeness, as well as actual freedom to do so. It opens the options not only for direct mediation between the consumers and the sources of information which is of course necessary, but also mediation which ensures the success of the independent information activities by imparting information literacy. By mediation that has involvement in creation and preservation of quality information and academic knowledge for researchers in the present and future through development of local digital projects. Another direction is the field of publication. All can benefit from the librarian heritage. Librarians have understanding and the experience in development of collections. Librarians have real recognition of metadata importance and practical ways of implanting it. They also have a close familiarity with academic knowledge, needs and personnel. All are advances that can contribute to better retrieval, to expending and deep the information sources available to the academic communities and all others. These are mere examples, but they accurately reflect the proactive approach necessary for the academic library in the new environment, in general, and it’s coping with disintermediation, in particular(Keren Barner, 2011).

The first chapter highlights the library professionals must possess sufficient knowledge of new ICT skills such as library automation, e-resources management, content management, organization of information on Internet and Intranet, developing and maintaining digital libraries/institutional repositories, web based library services etc. The sole aim of the survey is to understand and sketch a framework of information literacy level of library professionals of state universities in Tamil Nadu, in order to meet the ever changing demand of users. This study shows that those who graduated from library schools earlier did not have a chance to learn ICT skills. It is the responsibility of library schools and library professional associations to conduct regular training programs to meet their needs in the changing librarianship.

The second chapter focuses on the public libraries have to supplement their services through the latest information and communication technologies to educate their users living in remote areas and villages about the economic conditions, trend and development in all the areas of the country. The community development programmes, rural development programmes adult education programmes of the government and the concept of e-governance can achieve its goal with the help of the modern public libraries. The present government’s emphasis is on use of modern technology to serve the public. Public Libraries as institutions which serve the public should benefit and help bring India into the 21st century, while also helping to preserve the country’s rich cultural heritage. In the recent development that, to revamp the Library and Information Service Sector in India, the Ministry of Culture and the Government of India launched, the plan scheme of “National Mission on Libraries—Up gradation of Libraries provides services to the public” by Hon’ble President of India on 3rd February, 2014. Undoubtedly, this type of
innovations and plans will increase fruitful offers to the public library user community become more efficient and as developments in networked information will change the role of public libraries in the future considerable yielding both public well and merit benefits which are enjoyed by all ages and across all socio-economic groups.

The third chapter shows virtual libraries can offer resources from many sources and in many formats, including audio and video. The items in these virtual collections do not have to reside on one server, but they share a common interface to assist the user in accessing the collection. The emphasis in virtual libraries is on organization and access, not on physical collections. Libraries can exist in two different spaces, a physical space and a virtual space. Each space enables different learning activities and serves different purposes for learning. Many libraries exist only in one space, whereas others maintain a hybrid space, both a physical and virtual space, in recognition of the distinct information uses and learning activities that can occur in each environment.

The fourth chapter focuses role of Public Libraries in the society is an informal pathway to educate all. Public libraries provide learning opportunity to the common people in different ranges in the society. There is no restriction to the people to access the public libraries, as any citizen can avail the facility in the country. Social Websites are either one of the most important Internet developments of recent years, even if they have a lot of advocates; they also have a lot of detractors. It is claimed that Social Websites are empowering because ‘anyone’ or ‘any group of people’ can create a profile in Social Websites to share their thoughts and ideas with the world. Not only at academic library milieu, the Public Libraries also able to meet the patrons in their “social neighborhood”. If the library patrons are all using Facebook, creating a MySpace page for the library isn’t going to be a very effective means of communicating and connecting with them. The best way to meet the needs of our community is to find out what social media tools they prefer to use, and establish the library’s social media presence based on that.

The fifth chapter highlights the discovery tools are probably most recognizable by their use of faceted searching the fundamental categories, descriptors, or aspects of a cataloged item, which allows the user to easily add or remove multiple entries based on faceted criteria and thus expanding or narrowing searches in real time. In some discovery tools, the local library is able to define, weight, and/or customize wording for the facet as it relates to local material. Examples include scope of material such as peer-reviewed journals, full-text, newspaper articles, everything owned by the library, additional items beyond library licensed content; format such as DVD, online, streaming, downloadable, print, electronic, microform, etc; subject content like automatically generated by metadata from existing descriptors or subject analysis; dates, and/or ranges of dates; physical location which is critical for multi-branch sites and multi-type consortia; and language of origin, among others. The end-user is able to use these facets to adjust the content, age, and scope of the material. Numerous studies have contributed to our understanding of the effectiveness of faceted searching.

The sixth chapter reveals that digital libraries have to provide efficient information discovery solutions to adapt to the fast development of new technologies; they also have to cater the current generations of students. The research on the semantic web and the online social networks contributes to the digital libraries domain by supporting interoperability with formal semantics, improving interlinking of information and encouraging users to contribute and share knowledge. This paper discusses the concept of digital library, Necessity of digital library, Challenges and issues in creating digital library. It also highlights future of digital library.
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The seventh chapter highlights the innovations are drastically changing in information technology, information resources are migrating from print to electronic form. These days, literature on electronic format is more easily available than the printed versions with added features of search ability and availability. Hence for these two reasons, e-resources keep count over the printed material, though printed material, though printed materials has its own advantages. There has been an exponential growth in the use as well as number of electronic resources like electronic journals, CD ROM’s commercial and free databases, and resources available from the internet and other computer based electronic networks. Accessibility of e-resources has considerably changed the interactions between users and library staff. Since flexibility of accessing information resources through internet or web based is easier. User can access digital resources anywhere & everywhere, authorized, authenticated and multiple accessing of same resource simultaneously. This leads to shift of print resources to digitalized resources.

The eighth chapter attempts to analyse the overall performance of the authors and the citations received. The parameters such as form-wise, year-wise, subject-wise classification of published papers, most productive authors institutions etc are considered for the study. The Citation received were analysed including the local citation score and global citation score. The study reveals that Chemistry is the subject which produces more number of papers while the multi-authorship also possesses a lead role in this subject. Indian journals are the most preferred journals to publish the articles which are followed by UK. Collaborative Coefficient varies from subject to subject.

The ninth chapter focuses the information is needed everywhere and for everybody, but in a different way. Availability of information enables the individuals or groups to make rationale decision and reduce their level of uncertainty. However, women at the rural parts in Karaikudi highly depend on their friends and neighbors for the information they need in their day to day activities. Government of Tamil Nadu should concentrate on establishing public libraries in the rural areas. Academic libraries can also be established along with schools and colleges which will provide the necessary information for the individual development of the rural women as well as their family. Training on use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can be arranged in schools and colleges as well as in public libraries, especially for the women of rural area so that they can get access to quick and accurate information regarding every aspect of their daily lives.

The tenth chapter identify the development of open source software was a reaction to the existing legal instrument on software copyright from the software developper’s community. Open source softwares are available free of cost and users have the freedom to run and distribute the software without any restriction. Normally small and medium size libraries feel automation of house keeping operations as a financial burden due to the high price of Library Management Systems (ILS). An open system is a design philosophy antithetical to solutions designed to be proprietary. The idea behind it is that institutions, such as libraries, are can build a combination of components and deliver services that include several vendors’ offerings. Thus, for instance, a library might use an integrated library system from one of the major vendors in combination with an open source product developed by another library or by itself in order to better meet its internal or users’ requirements.

The eleventh chapter highlights the web-scale discovery services are able to index a variety of content, whether hosted locally or remotely. Such content can include library ILS records, digital collections, institutional repository content, and content from locally developed and hosted databases. Such capabilities existed, to varying degrees, in next-generation library catalogs that debuted in the mid 2000s. In addition, web-scale discovery services pre–index remotely hosted content, whether purchased or licensed by the library. This latter set of content—hundreds of millions of items—can include items such as e-books,
publisher or aggregator content for tens of thousands of full-text journals, content from abstracting and indexing databases, and materials housed in open-access repositories. Resource discovery tool not an equivalent to “Googling” something, but it is an evolved function that proposes better results for the library / information users.

The twelfth chapter shows that the global changes particularly the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have impact on the functioning of academic libraries. The developments in ICT have changed the users’ expectation from the academic libraries in different ways. The ways to build collection and services to the end users vary from the recent past practices. To meet the end-users demands effectively, the academic libraries need to identify and adopt good practices and benchmarks. Thus, preparing guidelines in a standardized way based on the best practices employed by libraries is significant which will ultimately enhance the value based services of academic libraries. Thus NAAC has decided to identify the set of best practices in Library & Information Services, with the help of a few case presentations from few selected libraries of the accredited universities and colleges. This is a great initiative in promoting the libraries in identifying and sharing good or best practices that can be adopted in the Indian academic environment. Best Practice may be innovative and be a philosophy, policy, strategy, program, process or practice that solves a problem or create new opportunities and positively impact on organizations. Institutional excellence is the aggregate of the best practices followed in different areas of institutional activities. In general, the use of technology and innovative ideas lead to evolve best practices in library and information environment.

The thirteenth chapter focuses on Open access has changed the situation of libraries and their users. Libraries play an essential role in open access developments by their expertise in building infrastructure, in creating user-friendly services of high quality and in securing long-term access. Librarians have shown their support for open access by signing open access initiatives and petitions. Communication skills are very important for librarians in an open access environment. They need to direct students and faculty members towards open access resources. They have to educate faculty and administrators about evolving scholarly communication environment. Libraries have partnered with faculty and research managers to set up open access repositories and to help faculty and students deposit their research outputs. Librarians have to provide support in research data curation and sharing. They must help scholarly publishers to publish open access journals and books, and they need to work with educators to produce open educational resources ensuring the quality of digital content, its reuse and sharing. Open access has thus changed the profile of academic and research libraries. National libraries are involved in developing national open access policies and supporting national research infrastructures and open access to cultural heritage.

The fourteenth chapter highlights the roles of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) that brought about digital libraries. It is a collection of digital contents that is housed electronically and made available to users. The advantages of digital library were also discussed such as improved access, improved information preservation, it improved information sharing, it enhances library functions and services. Nigerian academic libraries has benefited from the enormous benefits of digital library. The chapter stressed that effort should be improved consortium building so as to improve the services Nigerian libraries render to their patrons. The chapter concludes that Digital library has come a long way in Nigeria, and 21st century libraries cannot afford to render services to users without digital contents added to the prints resources. Therefore, Nigeria libraries and information centres must cooperate in a formal consortia building; this will go a long way to reduce the burden of all participating libraries.

As libraries strive to become more user-centric, usability factor becomes increasingly important for the development of collection as well as services. The subscribing libraries, organizations and con-
sortia have been relying on metrics generated by the usage of electronic content to measure the same quantitatively as well as qualitatively. The chapter number fifteen discusses about the characteristics of electronic information, genesis of server logs and transformation into usage metrics and also the role of relevant standards in formatting the usage standards. Further significant applications of usage metrics in supporting the library management while taking right decisions and establishing the credibility of authors, institutions, journals or databases etc.

The sixteenth second chapter shows information is all round us and is the staple diet of human beings. Information is variously perceived as facts, intelligence, data, news and knowledge. Information has been a common ingredient to all areas of human endeavor, be it the day-today affairs of business, matters of life and death or the most trivial of pursuits. In a modern industrial society there are negligibly few individuals, who do not, from time to time, occasionally or frequently have any requirement for information. Libraries develop their collections, facilities and services to meet the information needs of their patrons. This study carried out about the use of ICT services to search the information. It is clear that most of the respondents 84.9% use to browse the internet for study purpose, 76.9% of the respondents use ICT services to use e-mail facility, 59.3% respondents use for to search online database, 46.9% of the respondents use ICT services for to access e-journal, 30.1% of the respondents use ICT services for to search CD-ROM database and 29.2% of the respondents use to use OPAC services. A few respondents use ICT for to scan/ print (29.2).

The seventeenth chapter highlights the public library is largely regarded as the People’s University. It has tremendous developments in India from the early period to till date at various stages. Most of the Indian states now have free public library services to develop the people of India at different levels, which can be stated as below briefly. Majority of the users prefer to search documents directly from the stack room. The main purpose of visiting the library by the users is to prepare for competitive examinations and some other purposes are to study in the library and to update their subject knowledge. The general book services provided by the library are highly useful. The Reference services provided by the library are highly useful. The users are satisfied with the information provided in the library. All the services available on the library except latest collections are found to be at satisfactory level. Nearly 7.5 lakhs of collection of books are available in the library. Selection of books is done by book selection committee. Nearly four hundred books are issued daily to the public. The users can retain the book for a maximum of 14 days. The users can renew the books for another three times either through phone or in person. A minimum amount of Rupees two per week is charged as overdue charge.

The eighteenth chapter explains little disparity in achievement between distance and traditional learners, although using a multiplicity of media, both to deliver pedagogic material and to make smooth the progress of communication, does give the impression to boost up the learning. Similarly, outlook the studies appear to show that the greater number of channels offered, the more positive students are about their experiences. With regard to barriers to completing courses, the main problems appear to be family or work obligations. Current research being carried out by the authors should enhance the findings accrued by the literature, by exploring the impact of “on-demand” video material, delivered by something no previous research appears to have examined. Discusses different electronic systems and their exploitation for distance education, and cross-references these with several aspects evaluated in the literature: achievement, attitude, and barriers to take-up or success, to provide a holistic picture hitherto missing from the literature.
The nineteenth chapter shows our knowledge on the nature of digital reading and of the comparison between print and digital reading, is very limited. Most recent studies focus on digital reading under passive conditions, in which text comprehension is tested, without asking the reader to “act” on the text by editing, recognizing or correcting errors and improving the text’s quality. In light of the present-days increase in situations that require active digital text-reading in learning (e.g. grading students works or reviewing papers and books), there is a growing importance in shedding light on the comparison between print and digital reading under active conditions. In this pioneering study, we examined the active-reading abilities of students, who were asked to read, edit, recognize errors and improve the quality of short articles, in a print and in a digital format. Surprisingly, and in contrast to the common reported findings from print versus digital reading studies, no significant differences were found between the performances of participants in the two formats. A similar no-difference was found for all text-errors categories, as well as for gender differences. We found that digital readers completed their tasks earlier than the print readers, but their performance was not lower. We suggest that the absence of significant differences between print and digital formats indicates that digital reading becomes an everyday practice among users, who gain digital reading proficiency.

The twentieth chapter focuses information Technology has radically changed all aspects of modern human life. Information itself is so dynamic and its resources are unending. It helps in the educational process, research and developments. Technology also, in a broad sense, is very important to the development of information. Information Technology facilitates transfer of electronic data or information from one place to another, one person to another or one educational institution to another crossing all boundaries. It is the electronic means of capturing, processing, storing and communicating information. It covers any product that will store, retrieve, manipulate, transmit or receive information electronically in digital form. Modern information and communication technologies have created a “global village,” in which people can communicate with others across the world as if they were living next door. The findings show that Internet has become a significance source for the students as they use internet for education purposes, research work and updating knowledge. The study suggests that for the optimum utilization of e-journals, consortia’s and various other ICT based resources and services; library should undertake the literacy/orientation programs on regular intervals for their respective respondents.

The twenty-first chapter reveals the role of RFID in modern libraries, thus demonstrating the theoretical and practical concept of RFID; the utilization of RFID in global operations; RFID perspectives in modern libraries (i.e., operating cost, information technology infrastructure cost, skilled RFID workers, access rate, patron policy, data security, barcode factor, and patron issues); the applications of RFID in modern libraries (i.e., data management, circulation, inventory, assistance in searching and orientation, data accuracy and reliability, theft prevention, utilization statistics for serials, and personal service); and the significance of RFID in modern libraries. The types of operations that can be done by RFID technology and the benefits offered by that match the requirements of libraries and the perspectives of improvement in the field of library and information science that management have in mind. Successful implementation of RFID system will require a long-term strategic plan, careful planning at the tactical level to roll out deployment throughout organization, and a change in operational business processes. Since RFID will cut across organizational business functions, cross-functional teams will also be needed as well. The practice of RFID is crucial for in modern libraries that seek to serve academics and re-
searchers, increase academic performance, strengthen competitiveness, and achieve continuous success in global education. Therefore, it is necessary for modern libraries to examine their RFID applications, create a strategic plan to regularly monitor their functional advancements, and rapidly respond to RFID needs of academicians and researchers in global education.

This book is likely to prove useful and informative for LIS professionals, academicians, academic administrators, higher education researchers, students, and those interested in modern librarianship. This book also has been devoted mainly to developing countries irrespective of the regions of the world.

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